

President's Report



William R. Dodds
President/CEO

Critical connections behind the power

By Adam Schwartz

April 11, 2016, is National Lineman Appreciation Day so it is appropriate that we take a moment to recognize the people that often work in brutal weather conditions to ensure we all have safe and reliable power. In fact, linemen are often first responders during storms and other catastrophic events, working to make the scene safe for other public safety officers. However, while linemen work in highly visible settings, there are many behind the scenes that also labor tirelessly to help keep the lights on. However, they do so with little or no public recognition or acknowledgement. While linemen can do their job out in the open—whether it is restoring power after a natural disaster, maintaining the lines or building new service—there is a lot more work taking place behind the scenes.

The power behind your power

The lineman out in the field works with thousands of volts of electricity high atop power lines 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, to keep electricity flowing and maintaining the energy infrastructure. Another “powerful” figure in the co-op is Bill Dodds, President/CEO. Similar to the head coach of a team, he ensures that all the players (employees) know their roles and perform them at a high level. He also must recruit and retain talent; this is especially challenging in today’s highly competitive hiring environment.

Promoting a culture of safety

The Operations and Engineering department ensures that the overall system is well maintained. This team is responsible for planning ahead for future needs and continually monitoring existing equipment and resources. An equally important area of focus is safety. Working with electricity is an inherently dangerous task, and helping to foster a culture

of safety for all workers is a major priority. Members can count on the Operations and Engineering department for everything from lighting, heating, cooling and so much more.

Calling for energy efficiency

The Customer Service Representatives (CSRs) answer calls and questions about billing and energy use. They work with members to identify high use periods and discuss ways to save on the monthly bill. The Member Services department is responsible for ensuring that you are treated appropriately, and it all starts at the time you sign up for membership. This department is also responsible for the co-op’s annual meeting and special outreach to community organizations, including schools and communications such as this newsletter.

Delivering timely savings

The Accounting and Finance department is responsible for the financial well-being of Spoon River Electric. It includes billing, collections and overseeing any loans the co-op has received. As you know, the co-op generates an electric bill that we send to you either electronically or through regular mail, often on a date that you have specified. We do so to ensure we can apply the latest technology, help lower your energy costs and send timely, accurate bills to you.

While we are a member-owned cooperative and operate differently than investor-owned utilities, we are still a business. As such, the accounting department ensures that revenue collected from the membership exceeds our expenses. Typical expenses include the money we pay for electric power, equipment, new technology, upgrades to the infrastructure, employees and other expenditures.

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Spoon River Electric Cooperative

930 South Fifth Ave, PO Box 340,
Canton, IL 61520
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
309-647-2700 • www.srecoop.org

President/CEO

William R. Dodds
bdodds@srecoop.org

Chairman

Bernard Marvel, Browning

Vice Chairman

Terry Beam, Cuba

Secretary

Jack Clark, Lewistown

Treasurer

Lyle Nelson, Abingdon

Assistant Treasurer

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Board of Directors

James Banks, Canton
Greg Leigh, Avon
JoDee Pedigo, Canton
John Spangler, Marietta

Editor of Spoon River News

Taryn Martin
tmartin@srecoop.org

Spoon River Electric Cooperative – By the Numbers

Miles of line energized: 1,271
Number of members served: 4,808
Number of power poles
in territory: 29,255



Thank you Spoon River Electric Linemen for all your hard work! Pictured (L to R) Dusty Wintermote, Bill Sego, Sean Koen, Donnie Schrodt, Paul Moffitt, Trent Ross and Rick Roudebush. Not pictured Paul Power.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Earth Day is April 22. Give back to the environment by planting a deciduous tree near your home. Deciduous trees lose their leaves during the fall, allowing sunlight to warm your home. The extra shade during summer months will keep your home cooler and give your AC a much needed break.



COMING

**June 16th - Annual Meeting of Members,
Farmington, Central High School,
Farmington, 6:30 PM**

Critical connections behind the power *(Continued from 16a)*

The Human Resources department is responsible for all personnel associated with our co-op. They handle the recruiting, hiring, retiring, benefits and initial orientation as well as training for all employees. Continual learning and training for co-op employees is crucial to having a skilled workforce that helps keep the co-op operating at an optimal level. This learning element is also one of the Seven Cooperative Principles and extends to our members. For example, Spoon River Electric provides three scholarships to sons and daughters of our members.

Staying in sync

Many different people and departments work closely together to serve you because you, the member, are at

the heart of everything we do. Unlike other types of businesses, as a cooperative, our concern for community is one principle that sets us apart from other businesses. From sponsoring a local school's baseball team to supporting new jobs and industry through our economic development efforts, we stand as a driving force in our community. The electricity we provide literally powers our communities. And it takes every person in the co-op, to deliver on this promise. Across the country, Spoon River Electric, together with 900 other electric cooperatives, provide safe, reliable and technologically advanced service to 40 million Americans while maintaining a unique consumer-focused approach to business.



ATTENTION 2015-2016 SENIORS!

Spoon River Electric Cooperative is Awarding Three \$1,000 Scholarships to High School Seniors

High school students who are seniors during the 2015-2016 school year, and are the son or daughter of a Spoon River Electric member are eligible to apply for a \$1,000 Scholastic Scholarship, a \$1,000 Honorary Scholarship, and the \$1,000 Scott Parrish Memorial Scholarship, which will be awarded at this year's Annual Meeting on June 16, 2016.

Please fill out the form at the bottom of the page and return it to the Cooperative to participate. Applications must be turned in by **May 31, 2016** to be considered. Please see official rules and descriptions of scholarships below.

OFFICIAL RULES

- **Applying students and their parent/legal guardian must be present at the Annual Meeting, June 16, 2016 to win.**
- Students must be a son or daughter of a Spoon River Electric Cooperative Member.
- Students must be a high school senior during the 2015-2016 school year and begin college undergraduate studies in the 2016-2017 school year. Students must plan on attending a two-year or four-year accredited college or university, including vocational/technical schools.
- Scholarship winners must be full-time students (at least 12 hours) during the 2016-2017 academic year.
- Scholarships are for one year and are non-renewable.
- Past Spoon River Electric Cooperative scholarship winners are not eligible.

SCHOLASTIC AND SCOTT PARRISH MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

- The Scholastic and Scott Parrish Memorial Scholarships will be awarded based on an application detailing GPA, college entrance test scores, work and volunteer experience, participation in school and community activities, and a biographical statement.
- Semi-finalists will be notified by mail with a time and place for a personal interview.
- Those not chosen as semi-finalists for the Scholastic and Parrish Scholarships will be automatically placed in the Honorary Scholarship drawing.

HONORARY SCHOLARSHIP

- The Honorary Scholarship will be awarded by a drawing as students are recognized at the Annual Meeting.
- All applicants are eligible for the Honorary Scholarship drawing except the Scholastic and Parrish Scholarship winners.



Scholarship Participation Request

Name of Student _____

Address of Student _____

Name of Parent/Guardian _____

Telephone Number _____

Return To: Taryn Martin
Spoon River Electric Cooperative
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Canton, IL 61520
647-2700