



Spoon River News

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President's Report



William R. Dodds
President/CEO

It's time for high school seniors to apply for scholarships awarded by Spoon River Electric Cooperative at the Annual Meeting of Members. The Cooperative awards three \$500 scholarships annually; two are based on academic merit and one is honorary.

One of the academic scholarships is made possible by the family of former Spoon River Electric Cooperative Director Scott Parrish. We are honored that Scott's family sees fit to remember him by helping a student in need attend college.

To receive an application or have any questions answered, please call Brenda Rothert at (309) 647-2700. Good luck to all of this year's applicants.

Here are the rules for those interested in applying for a scholarship:

- Spoon River Electric Cooperative Scholarships are awarded to high school seniors who are the son or daughter of a Spoon River Electric Cooperative member.
- Applicants must be enrolled full-time for undergraduate studies at an accredited two-year, four-year, or vocational/technical school the following academic year.
- Three \$500 scholarships are awarded, two based on academic performance and community involvement and the other is honorary.
- All applicants must be present with a parent or guardian at Spoon River Electric's Annual Meeting June 13, 2013 in order to be eligible for a scholarship.

Watch for co-op crews working in your area

Spoon River Electric Cooperative employees and contractors work throughout our service territory, including on the rights-of-way and easements, and across your private property and driveways. Our efforts to ensure reliable power for you and your neighbors mean we must cross your property from time to time.

You may see us:

- Making routine repairs
- Restoring power outages
- Replacing meters
- Maintaining vegetation in rights-of-way
- Locating buried utilities for construction and digging projects
- Working to upgrade poles, wires, transformers and equipment
- Inspecting lines, power poles, transformer boxes and equipment

Field work, except emergency power restoration, is done during normal working hours, 6:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Every effort is made to avoid damage and unnecessary intrusion. There are times we need to access areas that are secured by locked gates. If you need to have a locked gate for security, please call our office so we can make arrangements for access. The need for access is not always planned, as there are times we need to access areas for power restoration or other emergencies.

If you have concerns about our work on your property, contact our office at (309) 647-2700. We appreciate your cooperation.





I RECYCLED MY OLD FRIDGE AND FOUND LEFTOVERS IN MY WALLET.

I'm saving \$146 a year now that I've recycled my old fridge. What can you do? Find out how the little changes add up at TogetherWe-



TOGETHERWESAVE.COM

Mark your calendar!



Spoon River Electric Cooperative's Annual Meeting of Members is June 13, 2013 at Canton High School.

Dinner and registration are from 5 p.m. – 6:30 p.m., and the business meeting begins at 6:30 p.m.

We'll have prizes and entertainment by Impressionist Brandon Styles.

Please RSVP to the Cooperative by June 1, 2013.

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

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Editor of Spoon River News

Brenda Rothert
brothert@srecoop.org

Spoon River Electric Cooperative – By the Numbers

Miles of line energized: 1,249 • Number of members served: 4,944
Number of power poles in territory: 29,255

Swimming in savings

By Brian Sloboda
Cooperative Research Network

Swimming pools and hot tubs are fun toys, but accompanying high electric bills are not inevitable. A number of relatively simple changes can cut operating costs by half or more.

At about \$400 per year, the typical residential in-ground pool can account for one-quarter of a household's annual utility bill. Hot tubs cost just a bit less to operate—about \$300 per year. Electricity for above-ground pools runs about \$100 per year.

Most pool energy goes to power the circulating pump, with much smaller amounts needed for cleaning and water treatment. In heated pools (which make up only 10 percent to 20 percent of all residential pools), energy use varies widely depending on climate and use patterns. The most common heat source is natural gas, followed by propane and electric resistance systems. Solar heating and electric heat pumps are gaining ground as high-efficiency options but are still not widely used.

Pumps are the heart and soul of any pool. Most pools rely on a single-speed, 1.5- to 2-hp pump that runs at full speed for eight hours a day or more. More efficient pool pump options include:

- **Replace an existing single-speed pump with a high-efficiency single-speed pump.** High-efficiency pumps use 8 percent to 10 percent less energy and are only marginally more expensive than standard pool pumps—about \$10 to \$20 above the normal pump cost of \$350.
- **Replace an existing single-speed pump with a two-speed pump.** Two-speed pumps are more efficient because they don't go "full throttle" all of the time. By running at a lower



speed for 16 hours per day, you can save 60 to 70 percent on electric bills. A two-speed pump will cost an extra \$100 to \$150.

- **Replace an existing pump with a variable-speed pump.** The most efficient pumps can vary speed. Although a variable speed pump will cost about \$650 more than a basic pump, it saves the most energy by far—nearly 90 percent—and offers the greatest operational flexibility.

In addition to replacing an inefficient circulating pump, other measures to consider are:

- **Use a bigger filter.** An oversized filter will result in less pressure loss on the pumping system, enabling greater water flow with less energy.
- **Use bigger pipes (typically, 2 inches in diameter instead of 1.5 inches) and large-radius elbows.** Making the flow path smoother and wider reduces pressure loss and pumping power.

- **Downsize the pump.** Going from a 1.5-hp or 2-hp down to a 0.75-hp or 1-hp model can reduce pumping energy by half or more, often with no loss of performance.

- **Control pump run time.** It may be possible to save a significant fraction of pumping energy just by running the pump less. The normal target is to cycle the pool's volume through the filter one or two times per day. But you could try fewer hours and see if the pool still is acceptably clean. Although this no-cost measure is appealing, it will not save as much money and energy in the long run as replacing an inefficient pump with an efficient, two-speed or variable-speed pump.

Brian Sloboda is senior program manager specializing in distribution operations and energy efficiency for the Cooperative Research Network, a service of the Arlington, Va.-based National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.



ATTENTION 2012-2013 SENIORS!

Spoon River Electric Cooperative is Awarding Three \$500 Scholarships to High School Seniors

High school students who are seniors during the 2012-2013 school year, and are the son or daughter of a Spoon River Electric member are eligible to apply for a \$500 Scholastic Scholarship, a \$500 Honorary Scholarship, and the \$500 Scott Parrish Memorial Scholarship, which will be awarded at this year's Annual Meeting on June 13, 2013.

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 **June 1, 2013** 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 13, 2013, 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 2012/2013 school year and begin college undergraduate studies in the 2013/2014 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 2013-2014 academic year.
- Scholarships are for one year and are non-renewable.
- Past Spoon River Electric Cooperative scholarship winners are not eligible to receive another one.

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 _____

Scholarship Applying For: Scholastic* _____ Honorary _____

Return To: Brenda Rothert
Spoon River Electric Cooperative
PO Box 340
Canton, IL 61520
647-2700

*Those applying for the Scholastic Scholarship will receive an additional form in the mail regarding scholastic achievement.