

President's Report



William R. Dodds
President/CEO

Electric co-ops and a culture of safety

By Adam Schwartz

There is a children's book titled *Safety 1st, Safety Always*. As you can imagine, it encompasses many of the traditional safety lessons parents should teach their children. We drill youngsters about safety from an early age because we know how important it is to protect ourselves and those we care about. In the spirit of May being National Electrical Safety Month, let's take a look at how electric cooperatives have been stepping up to the plate when it comes to safety at the co-op.

Up until 2007, there was an alarming national trend among electric co-ops, which was the fact that the number of "lost time" accidents was increasing. Lost time is defined as anything resulting in an employee missing time at work; these accidents could range from a sprained ankle to the ultimate tragedy of a fatality.

This is why Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange, which insures the vast majority of electric co-ops nationwide, initiated a campaign called a "Culture of Safety." It was designed to create a much greater awareness about safety issues at all electric co-ops.

Through the use of strategy labs across the country, Federated brought together co-op CEOs and general managers, operations supervisors, safety directors and linemen to better understand how each group viewed safety. In doing so, differences in perceptions regarding safety within cooperatives were identified, allowing for much needed conversations and evaluations of how to raise awareness and improve local safety cultures. The "Speak Up, Listen Up" program is designed to empower anyone who sees a potentially unsafe situation to Speak Up and encourages everyone to



Listen Up to their concerns. The results have been dramatic, with more than a 30 percent decline in the number of accidents over the past nine years.

As a member, you too have a role. If you see any potential dangerous situations or practices, you should report them as soon as possible to Spoon River Electric.

The implementation and success of the Culture of Safety program demonstrates a very important point. If we are intentional about our actions, we can indeed change the culture in our organizations. The same is true for our families, our teams and any groups we may belong to.

We also know that living our cooperative principles and values is equally important. We have the best business model because it puts you, the member-owner, at the center of our efforts.

We look forward to being your safe electricity provider and energy advisor long into the future.

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

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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

2016 Art on Main Fine Arts Festival planned for June 4-5 in Canton

Canton Main Street will host the fourth annual Art on Main Fine Arts Festival on June 4-5, in Jones Park in downtown Canton. The event has grown from 21 exhibitors in 2013 to 35 expected in the park this year, with as many as 3,000 visitors expected over the two-day festival. Local musicians and food vendors will also contribute to making the festival a colorful, vibrant experience. Kickapoo Creek Winery will be hosting a wine garden during the event, wine for sale by the glass or bottle, and local restaurants and organizations will provide a wide variety of food choices. The event will be open from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. on Saturday, and 10:00-4:00 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is free and the Festival is open to the public.

Cheryl Bielema and Loren Blackfelner have served as the festival's co-chairs and say they are expecting a great event. "The feedback we have had from the artists who have participated in the past has been exceptionally positive," Bielema says. "We are very excited about all the new artists we have coming this year, and we think this festival is growing into a truly regional event."

Loren Blackfelner's efforts at

fundraising over the past three years have allowed the festival to expand and grow, and he says the support has been outstanding. "The Festival has become an event that is supported by all facets of the community," he says. "Citizens, businesses and community leaders all have stepped up with cash donations, in-kind donations and items for our silent auction. They really want this kind of event to be a part of our community." The Festival has also received support from the City of Canton, and local and regional art councils.

Categories that will be represented at the festival include painting/drawing, jewelry, glass, photography, clay/ceramics, sculpture, and wood. The Art on Main Fine Arts Festival is a juried show, and the Art on Main committee, which is made up of artists, art patrons, designers and other volunteers, reviewed work submitted for consideration.

For more information on the Art on Main Fine Arts Festival, to volunteer, or to become a sponsor, please contact Dana Smith at (309) 647-2677 or dsmith@cantonillinois.org





2015 Farmer's Market to open Saturday, May 28

Canton Main Street's Farmer's Market, in collaboration with Spoon River College, will be back in Jones Park in downtown Canton this summer. The market will begin May 28, and take place each Saturday through September 24, from 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Local growers, as well as agricultural students at the college, will sell fruits, vegetables, baked goods, fresh flowers, jams, honey, herbs and other locally grown items. This will be the fifth Farmer's Market sponsored in Jones Park by Canton Main Street, which has included producers selling fresh-from-the-farm sweet corn, melons, potatoes, green beans, squash varieties, fresh herbs, local honey, beets, carrots, lettuces mixes and more. Most of the vendors who set up for the 2015 market will be back with a wide variety of food items for sale, as well as several newcomers.

Carol Kohler, Promotions Chair for Canton Main Street, is excited

about the growing popularity of the weekly event. Expanded entertainment this year will include music from Nathan Taylor and Friends. Food demonstrations are planned, as well as at least one kid's day and other attractions. "We are also working with local food pantries to see how growers can help by

donating surplus items after each Saturday," Kohler noted. Kohler says they are actively looking for more growers to set up for the markets.

For more information, or to receive a vendor application, please contact Dana Smith at dsmith@cantonillinois.com, or call her at (309) 647-2677, Extension 1.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Avoid placing lamps or TV sets near your room air-conditioning thermostat. The thermostat senses heat from these appliances, which can cause the air conditioner to run longer than necessary.

Source: energy.gov



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
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647-2700