

President's Report



William R. Dodds
President/CEO

You are a member, not a customer

That's the co-op difference!

Many businesses use the word “member” to describe their customers. Places like Sam’s Club or Costco and even American Express like to refer to their customers as members. You pay a fee to buy their goods and services, but that is really all you get for the “membership.” No right to vote for the Board of Directors or to participate in any meaningful way in the organization.

In cooperatives like Spoon River Electric, membership really does mean something more than just the right to buy electricity. Co-ops of all types are founded on seven cooperative principles that give us guidance and strategic direction. Membership also gives you rights as an owner of this co-op. Brett Fairbairn is the director of the Center for the Study of Co-operatives at the University of Saskatchewan in Canada. He makes the case that member relations is not just part of what co-ops should be doing, but in fact is the fundamental core business of the cooperative.

He further lays out the three strategic concepts that any co-op must get right in order to survive and thrive:

Economic linkage

Spoon River Electric is connected to you. There is a business relationship that serves you (the member) and the co-op. Since co-ops are solely owned by people in the community, they have a mutual interest to ensure that both the co-op and the member do well and prosper.

Transparency

As an owner of the co-op, you have a right to know how it operates and how decisions are made that directly impact you. If the co-op is transparent and combines this trait with integrity and fairness, it will build trust with the members.

Cognition

In this case, cognition is best defined as how your co-op thinks. It includes the current and historical identity, the mission and the sense of shared values with co-op members. Research, education and training are critical functions that Spoon River Electric must conduct on an ongoing basis to ensure that we always have the best information to make decisions.

The cooperative business model is the best one on earth, but like any enterprise, it is up to the human beings who work at the co-op, who serve on the board and the members like you to ensure that the principles and values do not fade over time.

First and foremost, Spoon River Electric strives to be thought of as a member-owned cooperative that gives you the best value of any utility. If we succeed, our community thrives and you will always value being a member – not a customer.

Spoon River Electric Cooperative

930 South Fifth Ave, PO Box 340,
Canton, IL 61520
8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
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President/CEO

William R. Dodds
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Chairman

Bernard Marvel, Browning

Vice Chairman

Terry Beam, Cuba

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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
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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

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Use small electric pans, toaster ovens or convection ovens for small meals rather than your stove or oven. A toaster or convection oven uses one-third to one-half as much energy as a full-sized oven.

Source: energy.gov



IF IT'S NOT INSULATED,
NEITHER ARE YOU.

REPLACE, NEVER REPAIR DAMAGED EXTENSION CORDS.

Helping members use electricity safely, that's the power of your co-op membership. Learn more from the experts themselves at TogetherWeSave.com.



Plan for a safe and happy Fourth

By Meghaan Evans

The month of July has always been a favorite of mine. It's the middle of summer, the kids are out of school and of course, we celebrate Independence Day! Typically on the Fourth, we celebrate our nation's independence with grilled hamburgers and hot dogs, homemade ice cream and other sweet treats, and last but not least, fireworks. This is a time for fellowship with family and friends, but at Spoon River Electric, we also want to make sure our members focus on safety.

To ensure you have the best Fourth of July possible, we would like to remind you about a few important safety tips from The American Red Cross.

Nothing says "Fourth of July" like a spectacular fireworks display! The safest way to enjoy this part of the celebration is to head to a local fireworks show. But, if you want to put on your own show at home, be sure to follow these safety tips:

- Always follow the instructions on fireworks' packaging and never give fireworks to small children.
- Keep a supply of water close by as a precaution.
- Make sure to wear protective eyewear when lighting fireworks.



- Light only one firework at a time and never attempt to relight "a dud."
- Store fireworks in a cool, dry place away from children and pets.
- Never throw or point a firework toward people, animals, vehicles, structures or flammable materials.
- Supervise your grill at all times.
- Use the proper tools for cooking on a grill.
- Never add charcoal starter fluid when the coals have already been ignited.
- Always follow the manufacturers instructions when using grills.

Cookouts are a great way to bring folks together on the Fourth. Whether you are grilling in your back yard or at a community park, make sure your feast includes a generous portion of fun and a side helping of safety! We recommend the following safety tips:

Fireworks and cookouts wouldn't be complete without a sunny day. Here's hoping we have good weather, and if we do, make sure you are practicing sun safety:

- Use a broad spectrum SPF sunscreen and reapply often.
- Protect your eyes by wearing sunglasses.
- Drink plenty of water.
- Be on the lookout for signs of heat stroke (hot red skin; changes in consciousness; rapid, weak pulse; rapid, shallow breathing).

However you choose to celebrate, Spoon River Electric wishes you a safe and Happy Fourth of July!



2016 Fulton County Fair Grandstand Schedule

Lewistown, Illinois

Monday, July 25

Queen Contest, 7 p.m. - \$5
Balster Magic Production, 8 p.m.

Tuesday, July 26

Harness Races, 5 p.m. - Free
Illinois Wineries - Wine Tasting, 4 p.m.-?
Beer Tent • 8 p.m. - Karaoke with Ted Martin

Wednesday, July 27

Motocross Races, - Grandstand \$6, Pit Pass \$10
Gates Open • 12 p.m., Practice • 1-4:30 p.m., Entry Fee \$15
Sign-up • 5 p.m., Practice • 6 p.m.,
Races Start, 7 p.m. Entry Fee \$25-\$30
Beer Tent • 8 p.m. - Karaoke with Ted Martin

Thursday, July 28

Kids Day, Rides 1 - 4 p.m. - Armbands \$12
Livestock Auction, 3 p.m.
Candy Scramble, 5:30 p.m. • Scrambles, 6:30 p.m. •
Draft Horse Show - Grandstand \$5
Beer Tent • 8 p.m. - Karaoke with Ted Martin

Friday, July 29

Kids Tractor Pull, 2:30 p.m.
Kids Rides Friday Evening, 6 - 11 p.m. - Armbands \$15
Tractor Pulls, 6 p.m. - Grandstand \$6 • Pit Pass \$10
Garden Tractor Pulls, 6 p.m. - Grandstand
Beer Tent • 8 p.m. - Ultra Violet

Saturday, July 30

Beef Cook-Off Contest, Judging at 11 a.m.
Demo Derby, 6:30 p.m. - \$6 • Pit Pass \$10
Buddy Day - Buy a Ticket and Your Buddy Rides FREE - 1 to 4 p.m.
Beer Tent • 8 p.m. - Erich Thompson & The Stone Cold Cowboys

CARNIVAL - BODEN AMUSEMENTS

Rides begin each night @ 6 p.m. • 1 p.m. on Saturday
Tickets - \$2.50 each or 10 for \$22