

Celebrating 75 years

President's Report



William R. Dodds
President/CEO

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Thanks to all of you who attended our 75th Annual Meeting of Members on June 14. It's always encouraging to see how many of you are engaged in the cooperative and care about being a part of the Annual Meeting. We were fortunate to have several special guests take time to attend the meeting, including U.S. Congressman Bobby Schilling, Illinois State Senator Dave Koehler and Illinois State Representative Mike Unes.

We had some fun that night by playing a trivia game, giving away gifts and enjoying dinner and cake. The "After Hours" barber-shop quartet impressed us with their musical talent. We also took care of some business, the most important of which was an election. John Spangler of Marietta was elected by the membership to represent District 7. I know John looks forward to serving his friends and neighbors on the cooperative board, and his fellow directors look forward to hearing his ideas.

I also updated the membership in attendance with some financial and operational information. Our recent facilities charge increase of \$6 per month was part of that discussion. 2011 saw our Cooperative paying more for power, largely due to increasing regulations. We are working hard to keep our costs down, offering an early retirement incentive to some employees and not replacing employees who do retire. This

has led to everyone else in the office having to step up and do more, which they have all done a great job at.

Something we enjoy at our Annual Meetings is awarding scholarships. This year we awarded three \$500 scholarships and five \$100 scholarships to high school seniors who are children of our members. Several of those students have expressed their gratitude for the money that will help pay for their college this Fall.

As we kick off a celebration of 75 years, we're looking back

at what hasn't changed here, and ahead at what's in store. We still exist to serve our rural membership with power that is safe, reliable and affordable. Increasing government regulations have made it costlier to do that. But our focus remains on you, our members.

If you didn't attend the Annual Meeting, I hope you'll consider coming next year. You don't have to wait that long if you have anything to discuss with us, though. You are always free to reach us at the office at (309) 647-2700.

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John Spangler of Marietta was elected to represent Spoon River Electric Cooperative's District 7 at the Annual Meeting.

Students Tour Cooperative



((Above) Spoon River Electric Cooperative Operations Manager Frank Romane demonstrates equipment for Illini Bluffs students during a tour he gave of the Cooperative.



((Right) Spoon River Electric Cooperative Journeyman Lineman Paul Moffitt shows his work equipment to a group of students from Illini Bluffs who toured the Cooperative on a summer field trip.

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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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

(Continued from p16a)



Illinois State Senator Dave Koebler, center, presents a Senate Proclamation celebrating 75 years of service to Spoon River Electric Cooperative President/CEO Bill Dodds, left, and Board Chairman Jack Clark.



U.S. Congressman Bobby Schilling addressed the crowd at the Annual Meeting. He also spent time talking with members during dinner prior to the meeting.



Illinois State Representative Mike Unes, left, talks to Spoon River Electric Cooperative Chairman Jack Clark at dinner preceding the Annual Meeting.



Several high school seniors in the Cooperative's service territory won college scholarships at the Annual Meeting.



Spoon River Electric Cooperative Journeyman Lineman Donnie Schrodt, right, hands a gift to a member at the Annual Meeting.



The "After Hours" barbershop quartet entertained the crowd with several songs prior to the start of the Annual Meeting.



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