

## President's Report



Josh DeWees  
President/CEO



## Spoon River Electric's Operation Round Up program donates \$5,000 to local organizations

The Spoon River Electric Operation Round Up Committee recently donated \$5,000 to three local organizations within our service territory: \$1,500 to The United Way of Fulton County for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library project, \$1,500 to the Ingersoll Middle School for their incentive trips and \$2,000 to The Shelf in Astoria for their mini-split project.

These donations are made possible by the generous members of Spoon River Electric who voluntarily make the decision each month to "Round Up" their electric bill to the next dollar and donate this "extra change" directly to the Operation Round Up program. All the funds collected are donated back into our communities as charitable grants. The average donation a member makes annually ranges from \$6 to \$12.

For more information about the Operation Round Up program, visit our website at [srecoop.org](http://srecoop.org) under the Operation Round Up tab or call Taryn at 309-647-2700.

# 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

Josh DeWees  
jdewees@srecoop.org

## Chairman

Bernard Marvel, Browning

## Vice Chairman

Wesley Strode, Marietta

## Secretary

Jack Clark, Lewistown

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Lyle Nelson, Abingdon

## Board of Directors

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Kurt Duncan, Lewistown  
JoDee Pedigo, Canton  
Dan Williams, Smithfield

## Editor of Spoon River News

Taryn Mellert  
tmellert@srecoop.org

## Spoon River Electric Cooperative – By the Numbers

Miles of line energized: 1,272  
Number of members served: 5,022  
Number of power poles  
in territory: 29,361

# STORM SAFETY FILL-IN-THE-BLANK

Spring is a wonderful season, but it can bring powerful storms.

Read the clues below, then use the word bank to complete the storm safety tips.



1. Keep a \_\_\_\_\_ handy in case of a power outage.
2. Be watchful for signs of a thunderstorm, including dark skies, flashes of \_\_\_\_\_ or strong winds.
3. If a \_\_\_\_\_ is issued, seek shelter in a centrally-located room in your home, a basement or storm cellar.
4. If you're outside and hear \_\_\_\_\_, go indoors immediately.
5. Practice a tornado \_\_\_\_\_ with your family once a year.

### WORD BANK

- thunder
- drill
- flashlight
- tornado warning
- lightning

Answer Key: 1. flashlight 2. lightning 3. tornado warning 4. thunder 5. drill

## 3 Ways to Help Limit Tree Trimming

Did you know electric utilities are required to trim trees and other types of vegetation that grow too close to overhead power lines? We know you love your trees, and we will do everything we can to avoid trimming them. Here's how you can help:

1. Plant trees in the right place. Trees that will be <40 ft. should be planted at least 25 ft. away from power lines (>40ft. should be at least 50 ft. away).



2. Don't block pad-mounted transformers. Plant shrubs at least 10 ft. away from transformer doors and 4 ft. from transformer sides.



3. Report dangerous branches. If you spot a tree or branch that is dangerously close to power lines, please let us know.



Trimming improves safety for all.

Let's work together to enjoy the beauty of trees and reliable electricity.

# A balanced team for reliability

The winningest basketball teams in history are ones that are consistent and have players with varying abilities. Some are better at shooting three-pointers; some are best at defense. Having a balanced mix of skills makes the team a powerhouse on the court. The way to keep electricity reliable is a bit like that, too.

The power team first requires a foundation of consistent sources that can be put in the game any time they're needed. Having enough "always available" fuel sources like natural gas and coal can ensure consistent power generation.

Just like a team needs different players for different situations, our power grid requires multiple sources to keep the grid running. Relying solely on one player to win every game is not an effective strategy — if they get injured, you'll likely lose. Similarly, using a single fuel source for electricity generation poses a significant risk to energy reliability. Natural disasters, geopolitical tensions or

unforeseen disruptions can severely impact the supply chain of a particular fuel. A diverse mix of energy sources acts as a safeguard, ensuring that the grid remains operational even in the face of unexpected challenges.

A diverse energy mix also enhances grid flexibility by accommodating the intermittent nature of renewable energy sources like solar and wind. Think of solar power like a team's inconsistent three-point shooter. It's awesome when the sun is shining bright, but what if it's nighttime or a cloudy day? That's where the other players, like wind, hydro, nuclear, natural gas and coal, can step up and keep the team scoring.

Diverse fuel sources contribute to the stability and reliability of the electric grid. The different sources have varying characteristics, including generation patterns, responsiveness and storage capabilities. This diversity allows for a more balanced and resilient energy system that can adapt to

fluctuating demand and unforeseen circumstances. Having a mix of these energy sources is like having a team with different skills to handle various situations and scenarios.

A diverse set of energy sources is essential, but that's not the only thing we need to have reliable electricity — or a winning team. Basketball teams are always trying out new plays or training rookies to create a versatile lineup. Similarly, electric cooperatives are constantly innovating to maintain reliability for tomorrow, but creating new ways to make our power sources more efficient and reliable takes time, money and advances in technology that aren't necessarily ready yet.

As we continue to work on the innovations of tomorrow, the key to keeping our electricity reliable right now is ensuring a diverse "team" of fuels. Each one brings something special to the table, and together, they make sure we have the power we need, whenever we need it.







# ATTENTION 2023-2024 SENIORS!

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

High school students who are seniors during the 2023–2024 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.

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 10, 2024** 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 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 2023–2024 school year and begin college undergraduate studies in the 2024–2025 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 2024–2025 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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