



Mike Smith
President and CEO



Annual Meeting
Wednesday, Aug. 7
at The Crossing Macomb



Lobbying nationally and locally

Recently I attended the 2024 National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. I joined over 2,000 fellow cooperative attendees who gathered to effect a positive impact for the energy industry through information and education. We met with federally elected officials and staff to encourage support for several key issues facing electric cooperatives today.

In meetings held with U.S. representatives, senators and staff, electric cooperative delegates took time to introduce, clarify and recommend remedies to mitigate burdens experienced by McDonough Power and other cooperatives. The co-ops called for action to improve several primary concerns when meeting with elected officials. **101E6A7-408C**

EPA's power plant rule

EPA's power plant greenhouse gas rule jeopardizes co-ops' ability to keep the lights on. It mandates unproven technologies and unachievable emissions limits on an unworkable timeframe in violation of the law and Supreme Court decisions. The rule will force the premature closure of always available power plants while also making it harder to build critical new power plants, just as Americans increase their dependence on electricity.

Protect USDA funding for co-ops

In 2022, Congress created a new voluntary grant and loan program at USDA designed specifically for electric co-ops pursuing energy innovation. This "New ERA" program helps co-ops adopt new energy systems in ways that make economic

Continued on 18C ▶



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Nominating Committee will meet

Members of the 2024 nominating committee have been appointed by the McDonough Power Cooperative board of directors. The committee will meet on June 5th at 6 p.m. in Macomb to nominate candidates for election to the board of directors at the 2024 annual meeting of members to be held Aug. 7 at The Crossing in Macomb.

District 2 — (composed of all Lamoine, Bethel and Industry Townships in McDonough County and parts of Brooklyn, Littleton and Oakland Townships in Schuyler County): Lisa Hood, 870 E. 1450th St., Industry, and Roger Oliver, 10111 N. 550th Road, Macomb.

District 5 — (composed of the East half of Scotland and all of New Salem, Eldorado and Mound Townships in McDonough County and parts of Harris, Farmers and Vermont Townships in Fulton County): Wanda Carson, 14085 E. 2000th St., Macomb and Ashley Swedell, 9435 E. 1750th St., Macomb.

District 8 — (composed of all Biggsville in Henderson County and Tompkins, Ellison, Roseville, Lenox, Monmouth and Spring Grove Townships in Warren County): Dan Byers, 940 105th Ave., Berwick and Lynn Shimmin, 733 90th Ave., Roseville.

The bylaws of the cooperative provide that nominations to the board of directors may be made by (1) the Nominating Committee or, (2) a petition signed by 15 or more active members. The petition must be received at the principal office of the cooperative at least 30 days before the annual meeting.

The terms of directors from Districts 2, 5 and 8 expire this year. Directors presently serving on our board of directors are: District 1, Michael D. Cox; District 2, Jerry Riggins; District 3, Walter Lewis; District 4, David Lueck; District 5, Steven L. Lynn; District 6, Jeffrey N. Moore; District 7, Steve Hall; District 8, Robert Dwyer; and District 9, Courtney Chandler.

It shall be the duty of the board to appoint, not less than 40 days nor more than 120 days before the date of a meeting of

the members at which board members are to be elected, a committee on nominations consisting of two members from each district in which a director is to be elected. No member of the board may serve on such committee. The committee shall prepare and post at the principal office, at least 30 days before the meeting, a list of nominations for directors, which shall include at least one or more candidates for each board position to be filled by the election.

The secretary shall be responsible for mailing with the notice of the meeting or separately, but at least seven days before the date of the meeting, a statement of the number of board members to be elected and the names and addresses of the candidates nominated by the committee on nominations. **5326C9-260B**

Any 15 or more members acting together may make other nominations by petition and the secretary shall post such nominations at the same place where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted. Nominations made by petition, in order to be valid, must be received at the principal office of the cooperative at least 30 days before the meeting.

Any nomination by petition which meets the requirements of the bylaws shall set forth in the annual meeting notice as nominations made by petition and any such nominations shall appear on the official ballot.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Did you know ceiling fans can help you save energy? Ceiling fans create a windchill effect on your skin to make you feel a few degrees cooler. Raise the thermostat a few degrees and turn on fans to reduce air conditioning costs.

Set fan blades to rotate counterclockwise during summer months and clockwise during winter months. Remember, ceiling fans cool people but don't actually lower the indoor temperature. Turn them off when you leave the room.

Source: energy.gov



“Lobbying” continued from 18A

and technological sense for the local community.

Safeguard rural electric infrastructure

A reliable broadband connection is vital for a modern electric grid and creates new ways to live, learn and earn in rural America. Electric poles are important to efforts to deploy rural broadband. However, legislative or regulatory proposals to alter communications provider access to co-op electric poles can jeopardize safety and reliability while driving up costs for rural electricity.

Alleviate supply chain challenges


As demand for electricity increases, co-ops continue to face challenges in procuring grid components in a timely way at a reasonable price. Unfortunately, DOE’s recently proposed transformer efficiency rule would have exacerbated these existing challenges and driven up cost — for minimal efficiency gain. Instead, because of co-op advocacy and congressional pressure, DOE’s final rule is much improved over its initial proposal. The final rule provides stability for most of the market, while affording a more gradual shift toward tighter efficiency standards for transformers used to meet larger commercial loads.

Locally, more than 50 electric cooperative leaders from across the state of Illinois convened at the State Capitol in Springfield on April 16 for Electric Cooperative Lobby Day, sponsored

by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. District 1 Director Mike Cox, Energy Services Manager Kelly Hamm and I represented McDonough Power. **9228C8-314B**

Electric cooperatives have made long-term investments in Illinois generation resources to supply our member-consumers with safe, affordable and reliable power, creating jobs and stimulating local economies. With the mission to fly the co-op flag and build important relationships with local legislators, co-op representatives discussed various pieces of legislation currently being debated in Springfield, sharing how those proposals could impact cooperatives and their members. We also invited legislators to attend the upcoming annual meeting and visit the cooperative to tour the facilities and meet the employees.

Electric cooperatives provide power to millions of Americans, and we at McDonough Power Cooperative are committed to member satisfaction in the communities we serve. With the support of our elected officials, electric cooperatives will continue to thrive in our state and in our nation.



Member Prizes

Every month we will have four map location numbers hidden throughout The Wire. If you find the map location number that corresponds to the one on your bill (found above the usage graph), call our office and identify your number and the page that it is on. If correct, you will win a \$10 credit on your next electric bill.

Operation Round-Up surpasses \$200,000 mark

Three local organizations recently received grants totaling over \$9,000, courtesy of the McDonough Power Operation Round-Up program. Those recipients include The Warren County Agricultural Fair, United Intermediate School and The Samaritan Well, Inc. Thanks to our generous members who choose to round up their bill, organizations throughout our service territory have received a total of \$205,862 since the inception of our program in 2016.

The next round of funding will occur in July, with applications due by July 1. For further details, click on Operation Round-Up at mcdonoughpower.com.



United Intermediate School received \$290 for an outdoor volleyball court.



The Warren County Agricultural Fair received \$5,000 towards the purchase of a speaker system for the grandstand.



The Samaritan Well, Inc. will utilize \$3,919.71 for their Resident Room Optimizations and Storage Project.

Congratulations to scholarship winners

We are proud to announce that Madilyn Stephens of Abingdon-Avon High School is one of 16 winners of this year's Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship. She is the child of Jay and Dusty Stephens of Avon. Madilyn competed for the scholarship with 285 other students from across the state. The \$2,000 awards are given each year to 16 children of electric co-op members, employees or directors. A 17th scholarship is reserved for a student interested in lineworker's college and will be announced at a later date. Madilyn will be recognized during the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives' annual meeting on Aug. 1, 2024, in Springfield.

Candidates were judged on grade-point average, college entrance exam scores, work and volunteer experience, school and civic activities, and a short essay demonstrating their knowledge of electric cooperatives. **4233D4-538C**

Come this fall, Madilyn will attend Western Illinois University to pursue a degree in nursing. McDonough Power Cooperative is honored to have a scholarship recipient and is excited to see how she will represent the community.

