



Mike Smith
President and CEO

Giving back is the cooperative way

The holiday season brings a spirit of generosity and compassion. It's a time to reflect on our many blessings and uplift those in need. While this is certainly a special time of year, cooperatives like McDonough Power are deeply rooted in giving back to their local communities year-round.

Our mission is reliable power. Our purpose is people — the members we're proud to serve. That's why we organize a Coats for Kids program, support various initiatives throughout our service territory, and volunteer to make a positive, meaningful impact for our community. You help us power that purpose, too. McDonough Power's Operation Round-Up program is made possible through members' participation in "rounding up" electric bills to the next dollar amount. Your generous contributions help less fortunate families in our community and support local charitable organizations and community services.

This quarter, our Operation Round-Up program provided a total of \$6,125 to three local organizations. The recipients include:

- Mosaic of Macomb, which received \$1,500 for their Partners in Possibilities initiative.
- Regional Office of Education #26, awarded \$500 for their truancy intervention program, Stay In.
- West Prairie Jr. High School, which received \$4,125 for the Ron Clark Academy.



Another way McDonough Power gives back is by investing in tomorrow's leaders. Through presentations at elementary schools, investment in the McDonough County CEO program, scholarship opportunities and the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour program, we aim to empower students for a brighter future. When we invest in our local youth, we strengthen the fabric of our community. **6322B3-212B**

As a not-for-profit electric cooperative, we believe in giving credit where credit is

- Continued on page 18B ▶



Mosaic of Macomb



Regional Office of Education #26



West Prairie Jr. High School



1210 West Jackson Street
P.O. Box 352
Macomb, Illinois
61455-0352

24 hour pay-by-phone
844-405-1145

www.mcdonoughpower.com

Office hours:
7 a.m. - 4 p.m. - Weekdays

Find us on Facebook:
@McDonough Power

Find us on X:
@McDonough Power

DIRECTORS

Walt Lewis, Chairman

David Lueck, Vice Chairman

Mike Cox, Treasurer

Steve Hall, Secretary

Courtney Chandler

Bob Dwyer

Ryan Litchfield

Jeff Moore

Bryson Bedwell

John D. McMillan, Attorney

**All Co-op Electric
Outages 309-837-1400**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
The power of human connections



“Giving back” continued from page 18A

due — to the members who shape our co-op. One of the ways we do this is through capital credits. Because McDonough Power operates at cost, we give cash back to our members rather than outside investors or shareholders.

Here’s how capital credits work: McDonough Power members use the electricity we provide and pay their monthly bills, and we track their business with the co-op over time. McDonough Power pays all operating expenses throughout the year, and if any operating revenue is left over, we allocate it as capital credits. In August, the board of directors allocated the 2023 margins in the amount of \$834,114. When financial conditions permit, the co-op’s board of directors votes to pay capital credits back to the members.

In October, McDonough Power distributed \$305,002 to members who received electric service in 2003 and 2004.

Capital credits are just one of the many benefits of co-op membership. Giving back to our local members instead of outside parties is one of the many aspects that set cooperatives apart from other types of businesses. **91E19A2-464B**

Our members guide every decision we make and are the reason our co-op exists. To us, you’re more than a customer. This holiday season, we hope you’re proud to be part of a community-focused co-op that puts people before profits.

From your friends at McDonough Power Cooperative, we hope you have a bright, blessed holiday season.



Our next Operation Round-Up application deadline is January 6, 2025.
Full details at mcdonoughpower.com.

OUR OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED
FOR THE HOLIDAYS:
CHRISTMAS - DECEMBER 24 & 25
NEW YEAR'S DAY - JANUARY 1



Safety Tip

Lint buildup in your dryer can be a serious hazard, as it can easily catch fire if not cleaned regularly. By taking a few moments to clear out the lint trap before each use, you not only improve the efficiency of your dryer, but you also greatly reduce the risk of a potentially dangerous dryer fire.



Safe Electricity.org®





Keep your family safe and your holiday season merry with these fire safety tips

Be aware of holiday fire risks. The combination of candles, fireplaces and flammable decorations increases the risk of fires during the holidays. On average, fire departments respond to 150 Christmas tree-related fires and 790 decoration-related fires annually, according to the NFPA.

Candle safety

- * Only burn candles where you can keep an eye on them.
- * Extinguish candles before going to bed, leaving the room or leaving the house.
- * Use heat-resistant surfaces for candles, placing them out of reach of children and pets.
- * Keep candles away from flammable items like trees, decorations, curtains and furniture.
- * Opt for battery-operated candles near flammable objects.

Christmas tree fire prevention

A beautiful Christmas tree adds to the festive spirit, but it's essential to ensure it's safe.

- * Choose a fresh tree. Fresh trees have needles that are hard to pull from branches and have a sticky trunk bottom.
- * Keep the tree away from heat sources such as fireplaces, space heaters and vents. **6129D1-164C**
- * Check the water level daily to prevent the tree from drying out.

- * Place the tree away from high-traffic areas and doorways.
- * If using an artificial tree, ensure it is labeled as fire-resistant.
- * When discarding a real tree, place it far from your home and other combustible objects, as dried trees are highly flammable.

Holiday lighting safety

Decorative lights add cheer to the season, but safety is key.

- * Purchase lights from reputable retailers and ensure they are approved by recognized testing labs like UL or CSA. **10134D6-460C**
- * Only use lights designed for outdoor use when hanging outside.
- * Use circuits equipped with ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) for outdoor lights.
- * Avoid water and snow when using extension cords and outdoor lights.
- * Stay at least 10 feet away from power lines while hanging lights.
- * Check for broken sockets and frayed wires before use.
- * Avoid plugging too many devices into a single outlet.
- * Turn off indoor and outdoor decorations when going to bed or leaving the house.

Fireplace safety tips

A cozy fireplace is a holiday favorite, but it requires careful handling.

- * Decorate wisely. Avoid hanging flammable decorations like stockings and greenery directly on the mantel.
- * Perform annual maintenance. Have your chimney and fireplace checked and cleaned at least once a year.
- * Use a screen. Install a screen to prevent embers from landing on floors or carpets.
- * Burn responsibly. Never burn trees, wreaths or wrapping paper in the fireplace, as they can ignite rapidly and cause flash fires.

By following these fire safety tips, you can enjoy a joyful and safe holiday season with your loved ones.

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.

HOLIDAY FUN WORD SEARCH

Can you find all the words associated with holiday fun in the puzzle below? Use the word bank to check your work.



WORD BANK

Jingle bells	Santa Claus	Snowman
Candy cane	Mittens	Hot Chocolate



N	H	C	H	P	B	D	H	S	V	G	Z	H	T	M
A	C	C	F	Z	Z	A	T	F	N	V	D	Q	Z	Y
M	H	L	V	Y	M	J	N	P	D	E	T	V	F	S
W	P	W	H	F	W	I	H	K	S	C	T	G	B	K
O	Z	K	D	Z	L	N	O	K	K	H	Q	T	C	F
N	F	I	O	U	R	G	T	F	C	L	P	E	I	L
S	S	V	S	U	A	L	C	A	T	N	A	S	C	M
Z	C	V	P	C	E	E	H	R	P	W	U	A	Z	Z
F	C	F	J	C	H	B	O	G	C	Y	N	G	V	E
G	M	V	X	D	L	E	C	V	N	D	T	S	F	W
Y	A	X	V	N	U	L	O	H	Y	V	C	L	U	A
H	G	V	L	L	X	L	L	C	M	J	M	C	I	U
P	J	Y	F	E	R	S	A	Q	E	Y	G	H	C	A
D	W	O	R	D	T	N	T	Y	H	X	Q	L	E	S
U	W	H	R	U	E	V	E	B	Y	B	F	L	W	R



Happy Holidays
from the Energy
Explorers!