

President's Report



Josh DeWees
President/CEO

\$7,300 donated through Spoon River Electric's Operation Round Up program

The Spoon River Electric Operation Round Up Committee recently donated \$7,300 to six local organizations within our service territory: \$500 to the 1st United Methodist Church Snacks for Students Program; \$1,000 to the Spoon River CEO Program; \$2,000 to the Loving Bottoms Diaper Bank; \$1,500 to the Lewistown Association of Churches Food Pantry; \$1,500 to the Canton FFA Program; and \$800 to the Cuba Community Signers.

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 sre-coop.org under the Operation Round-Up tab or call Taryn at 309-647-2700.

Applications are being taken now through Jan. 6, 2025.



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
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Bernard Marvel, Browning

Vice Chairman

Wesley Strode, Marietta

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Kurt Duncan, Lewistown
Lyle Nelson, Abingdon
Dan Williams, Smithfield

Editor of Spoon River News

Taryn Mellert
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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

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!

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

Cooking safety in the kitchen

The kitchen is often the heart of holiday celebrations, but it can also be a hot spot for fires. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), cooking equipment is the leading cause of home fires, accounting for nearly 20% of holiday-related incidents. Here's how to stay safe.

- * Never leave burners or the oven unattended. Keep a fire extinguisher nearby for emergencies.
- * Ensure children stay away from the kitchen, where hot appliances and sharp utensils can pose risks.
- * Install smoke detectors at least 10 feet away from cooking appliances and test them monthly to ensure they're working.

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.
- * 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.
- * 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.

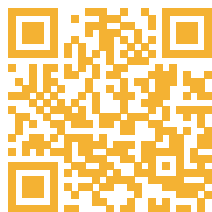


POWERING YOUR FUTURE

17 SCHOLARSHIPS
\$2,500 EACH

The electric cooperatives of Illinois are proud to offer scholarships to deserving students in our co-op family. Whether you're a high school senior planning to attend college or interested in a career as a lineworker, there's a scholarship opportunity for you.

Applications are now open for the 2025 Illinois Electric Cooperatives Memorial Scholarships. Apply by December 31, 2024, for most scholarships, or by April 30, 2025, for the lineworker scholarship. Scan the QR code or go to <https://bit.ly/IECScholarships> for more details.



**IEC MEMORIAL
SCHOLARSHIPS**