



Mike Smith
President and CEO



The power of political engagement

Co-op leaders converge on Washington, D.C., for annual Legislative Conference, April 27-30

American families expect the lights to stay on at a cost they can afford. But with the demand for electricity skyrocketing and the supply of always-available power sources at risk, the need for smart energy policies that bolster reliability and affordability are more critical than ever before.

As your electric provider, McDonough Power Cooperative is committed to reliably powering our local communities. Beyond routine maintenance and updates that improve the reliability of the grid, we work in other ways to ensure our members' needs are addressed. One of the ways we do this is through proactively engaging elected officials to ensure our members are well represented in Washington, D.C. This April, we took that commitment to Washington, D.C., where representatives from McDonough Power — President and CEO Mike Smith, Energy Services Manager Kelly Hamm and Director Mike



Cox — joined nearly 2,000 electric cooperative leaders from across the country at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Legislative Conference.

During our time in Washington, we met directly with members of Congress and their staff to discuss the pressing energy issues that impact our communities

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- David Lueck, Vice Chairman
- Mike Cox, Treasurer
- Steve Hall, Secretary
- Courtney Chandler
- Bob Dwyer
- Ryan Litchfield
- Jeff Moore
- Bryson Bedwell
- John D. McMillan, Attorney

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The power of human connections



“The power” continued from page 18A

here in Illinois. We shared the unique story of how electric cooperatives are working hard to ensure reliable, affordable power through a diverse mix of energy resources to meet growing demands.

Key topics of our meetings included the need to streamline environmental permitting processes, reduce burdensome regulations such as the EPA Power Plant Rule, and accelerate the deployment and upkeep of essential electric infrastructure.

We advocated for continued support and funding of federal programs tailored to rural energy needs, such as the USDA Rural Utilities Service electric loan program, the Empowering Rural America loan and grant initiative, energy tax credits with direct pay options for co-ops, and FEMA public assistance. **5312D5-956C**

Engaging directly with elected officials helps ensure that the voices of our members are heard as national energy policy is developed. Our conversations were productive, and we left encouraged by



the understanding and support shown by lawmakers for the unique challenges and opportunities facing electric cooperatives.

While you may not consider it on a daily basis, electricity is essential and underpins nearly every aspect of modern life. Understanding today’s evolving energy landscape is important as it shapes how electricity is produced, delivered and consumed.

We remain committed to advocating for policies that keep electricity reliable and affordable for the communities we serve.

Thank you for your continued support as we work on your behalf — not just here at home, but on Capitol Hill.



McDonough Power hosts McDonough County CEO students for hands-on learning experience

McDonough Power Cooperative recently had the pleasure of hosting students from the McDonough County CEO program, offering them an inside look at how a not-for-profit electric cooperative operates and serves its members.

During their visit, students learned about the history of McDonough Power, our cooperative principles, and how we differ from traditional for-profit utility companies — highlighting our mission to serve members rather than shareholders.

The group also explored the critical work of our line crews, getting a

close-up look at the safety gear and equipment used in the field. Our team provided a live line safety demonstration, showing just how vital safety protocols are in our daily operations.

In addition, we discussed the importance of inventory management and the supply chain challenges that impact infrastructure projects and service delivery.

We’re proud to support the next generation of leaders through programs like CEO, and we appreciate the opportunity to share our story with these future entrepreneurs and professionals.

McDonough Power Operation Round-Up Program awards nearly \$10,000 to local community projects

McDonough Power Cooperative is excited to share the latest recipients of its Operation Round-Up program, a member-driven initiative that continues to make a meaningful difference in west-central Illinois. Through the generous support of co-op members who round up their electric bills to the next dollar, \$9,700 in total funding has been awarded this quarter to four outstanding community-focused projects. 5322C2-252A

This quarter's grant recipients include:



■ **Memorial Hospital Association - Youth on the Move - \$1,500**

Memorial Hospital Association will use the funds to support "Youth on the Move," a wellness initiative geared towards getting kids within the Colchester area to become more active.



■ **Bushnell-Prairie City CUSD #170 - Literacy Lift - \$2,200**

This grant will enhance reading and literacy programs throughout the district, helping to create stronger academic foundations for students.



■ **Immaculate Conception School - Playground Equipment - \$4,000**

Students in Monmouth will benefit from a new playground that encourages social interaction, physical activity and overall well-being. Due to the construction of a new gym on the previous playground, students are currently utilizing the school/church parking lot for recess.



■ **Loving Bottoms Diaper Bank - Kirkland Diaper Donation - \$2,000**

Serving families across the region, this Galesburg-based nonprofit will use the funding to provide diapers and hygiene products to those facing economic hardship.

Get involved or apply for the next round

Operation Round-Up is made possible through the power of small change creating big impact. Every month, participating McDonough Power members round up their bills — typically less than a dollar — helping fund vital programs and projects across the region.

The next application deadline is Monday, July 7.

Community organizations interested in applying can find full application details and eligibility requirements at: www.mcdonoughpower.com/community/operation-round-up

McDonough Power Cooperative extends a heartfelt thank-you to its members for their continued support and generosity. Together, we're lighting the way to a stronger community.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY
TIP OF THE MONTH

Take advantage of the warmer weather to reduce home energy use. Avoid using your oven and use a grill instead. Not only will cooking outdoors eliminate the energy used to power the oven or stove, but it will also avoid raising the temperature inside your home, reducing the need for additional air conditioning.

You can also avoid using the oven with tasty no-bake recipes. Get creative in the kitchen and explore new ways to save energy!

Source: energy.gov

Nominating Committee will meet

Members of the 2025 nominating committee have been appointed by the McDonough Power Cooperative board of directors. The committee will meet on June 5th at 6 p.m. at the Sports Corner 124 in Macomb to nominate candidates for election to the board of directors at the 2025 annual meeting of members to be held August 13th at The Crossing in Macomb. **535BP16-266B**

District 1 - (composed of the west half of Scotland Township and east half of Chalmers Township in McDonough County): Terry Thompson, 8495 E. 1000th St., Macomb, and Brian Waller, 11238 E. 1000th St., Macomb.

District 3 - (composed of all Hire, Tennessee, Colchester and the west half of Chalmers Townships in McDonough County and parts of Fountain Green and Hancock Townships in Hancock County): Scott Schwerer, 2120 N. 1500th Road, Blandinsville, and Ray Watters, 3530 N. 1200th Road, Colchester.

District 7 - (composed of all Raritan and Media Townships in Henderson County and Point Pleasant, Swan Creek and Greenbush Townships in Warren County): Jim Grant, 497 20th Ave., Roseville, and David Livermore, 175 60th Ave., Smithshire.

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 1, 3 and 7 expire this year. Directors presently serving on our board of directors

are: District 1, Michael D. Cox; District 2, Bryson Bedwell; District 3, Walter Lewis; District 4, David Lueck; District 5, Ryan Litchfield; 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.

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. **10220C7-302C**

5 WAYS to Reduce Use During Extreme Heat

During periods of extreme heat, the demand for electricity can skyrocket, placing additional strain on the grid. By working together to lower our electricity use, we can reduce pressure on the grid.

Here are five effective ways to lower use at home.

1. **Raise your thermostat** setting a few degrees higher than usual. Every degree can reduce cooling energy consumption.
2. **Cook with smaller appliances** to save energy and reduce heat gain in the kitchen.
3. **Keep blinds, curtains and shades closed** during the hottest part of the day to block direct sunlight.
4. **Use fans** to circulate air, which can make you feel cooler without needing to lower the thermostat.
5. Shift activities that require a lot of energy consumption to **off-peak hours** when demand is lower.

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.