

President's Report



Josh DeWees
President/CEO



Spoon River Electric amplifies service, innovation and community at annual meeting

Spoon River Electric Cooperative (SREC) consumer-members gathered at the Fulton County Fairgrounds in Lewistown on Thursday, June 5 for their electric co-op's 88th Annual Meeting of Members. Attendees received bill credits, enjoyed a dinner from Bucher Boys BBQ, and had the opportunity to talk with SREC board members and employees.

During the business meeting, SREC CEO Josh DeWees delivered a message centered around the theme "Amplify" — a word he said reflects the co-op's growing commitment to reliability, innovation and community service.

"Amplify" means to increase in size, effect or intensity," he said. "It's about making our service stronger, our infrastructure smarter, and our community support even more impactful."

DeWees reminded members that SREC was founded because traditional utilities weren't willing to serve rural areas. "Our cooperative exists because rural people stood up and built a system of their own. That spirit of self-reliance and collaboration continues to guide us."

Today, SREC is investing heavily in system reliability — clearing overgrown rights-of-way, replacing aging poles and rebuilding critical lines. In partnership with Prairie Power (the co-op's generation and transmission cooperative), SREC is also supporting new transmission infrastructure to strengthen the regional grid.

"We're not just maintaining — we're planning for the future," DeWees said while addressing recent state-level legislation that could have imposed costly new requirements on cooperatives. "Thanks to efforts from the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives and members like you using Voices for Cooperative Power, we helped stop that legislation." He encouraged members to stay engaged in the months ahead.

DeWees also emphasized SREC's mission that goes beyond delivering power. Through programs like Operation Round Up, members gave \$28,000 back to local causes in 2024 alone, bringing the program's lifetime total to more than \$177,000. The co-op is also helping to launch

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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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Chairman

Bernard Marvel, Browning

Vice Chairman

Wesley Strode, Marietta

Secretary

Jack Clark, Lewistown

Treasurer

JoDee Pedigo, Canton

Board of Directors

Gary Bowman, Maquon
Joe Davis, Canton
John Disharoon, Cuba
Kurt Duncan, Lewistown
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

WATER SAFETY WORD SCRAMBLE



Outdoor water activities and electricity never mix because water is a powerful conductor of electricity. When electrical devices or cords come into contact with water—like at a pool, lake or beach—it can cause serious electric shocks. Keep all electrical items far away from water and always follow safety rules when you're outside near water.

Read the sentences below, then unscramble the bolded letters to complete the safety tips.

1. Never touch electrical **csevi ed**, switches or plugs when your hands are wet.
2. Always place **lacertce il** items like radios, speakers or lights at least 10 feet away from the water's edge.
3. After using outdoor electronics, **ngulup** them and store them away from water to prevent accidents.
4. Keep extension **dsroc** far away from water sources to prevent tripping hazards.
5. Always pay attention to “no **wmsinimg**” signs, whether at the pool, beach or lake.



Answer Key

1) devices 2) electrical 3) unplug 4) cords 5) swimming



Annual Meeting continued from 18A

the new Spoon River CEO program to mentor high school entrepreneurs.

Looking ahead, DeWees stated, "We will continue to grow, improve and embrace change. ... Together, we can build a future that's brighter, stronger and more connected than ever before. Thank you for your trust, your support and your dedication to this cooperative. Let's amplify our voices and take action today for a better tomorrow."

State Representative Norine Hammond (R-94) was in attendance and provided a legislative update. She highlighted a close call on an energy bill that would have negatively impacted electric cooperatives, calling it poorly planned and lacking input from key stakeholders. Despite these challenges, she praised the efforts of electric co-ops and their members for staying engaged and making their voices heard in Springfield.

"The majority of the bill's sponsors don't represent electric co-ops,"

Hammond said. "They have no idea what an electric co-op even is, or who it serves. But your co-ops were everywhere in Springfield, letting your voices be heard — and that made all the difference."

Board Director John Disharoon announced \$1,000 scholarships awarded to recent high school graduates from within SREC's service territory. "We had a great crew apply for scholarships this year," he stated. "It really gives us faith in the up-and-coming generations. When you see kids of this caliber, you know our future is in really good hands." The recipients included Casey Carithers, Alyssa Corsaw, Lydia Payne, Garrett Sego and Lane Wheelwright.

SREC's 2025 Annual Meeting marked new three-year terms for three members on the board of directors. Members voted to reelect Jack Clark of Lewistown, John Disharoon of Cuba and Kurt Duncan of Lewistown. The election was not contested.

SREC service awards were presented to the following employees and board members for their milestone service years. David Whitehurst and Jared Lascelles, 5 years; Chrissy Reed, Brandon Hebb and Drew Harmon, 10 years; Jake Watson, 15 years; and Paul Moffitt, 35 years. Directors Joe Davis and Kurt Duncan both celebrated 5 years. Lyle Nelson was also recognized with 31 years of service after stepping down earlier this year.

Spoon River Electric Cooperative is a member of Touchstone Energy — a national alliance of local, consumer-owned electric cooperatives providing high standards of service to members. SREC is committed to providing superior service based on four core principles: integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community. The co-op serves nearly 5,000 meters over 1,287 miles of line in parts of Fulton, Knox, McDonough, Peoria and Schuyler counties. For more information visit srecoop.org.



2025 Fulton County Fair

GRANDSTAND SCHEDULE

Lewistown, Illinois

◆ Monday, July 21 ◆

Queen Contest • 6:30 p.m. – \$5.00
Carnival Monday Special – 5 tickets for \$10.00

◆ Tuesday, July 22 ◆

Arm Band Day – 6:00 p.m.–10:00 p.m. • \$25.00
Rodeo • 7:00 p.m.
Beer Tent • 8:00 p.m. – Karaoke with Ted Martin



◆ Wednesday, July 23 ◆

Motocross Races – Grandstand \$10.00, Pit Pass \$15.00
Gates Open – 12:00 p.m. • Practice – 1:00 p.m.–4:30 p.m. • Entry Fee \$15.00
Sign-up – 5:00 p.m. • Practice – 6:00 p.m. • Races Start – 7:00 p.m. • Entry Fee \$25-\$30
Beer Tent • 8:00 p.m. – Karaoke with Ted Martin

◆ Thursday, July 24 ◆

Kids Day • Rides 1:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m. • Armbands \$20.00
Horse Races – 1:00 p.m.
Livestock Auction – 3:00 p.m.
Candy Scramble – 5:30 p.m. • Scrambles – 6:00 p.m.
Grandstand \$5.00
Top Gun Versatile Speed Horse (after Scrambles)
Beer Tent • 8:00 p.m. – Karaoke with Ted Martin

◆ Friday, July 25 ◆

Kids Rides Friday Evening • 6:00 p.m.–11:00 p.m. • Armbands \$30.00
Tractor Pulls • 6:30 p.m. – Grandstand \$10.00, Pit Pass \$15.00
Beer Tent • 8:00 p.m. – Elderly Brothers TM



◆ Saturday, July 26 ◆

Kids Tractor Pull – 11 a.m.
Power Wheels – 6:30 p.m.
Demo Derby – 7:00 p.m. • Grandstand \$10.00, Pit Pass \$15.00
No Buddy Day – Rides Open 4:00 p.m. – Close
Beer Tent • 8:00 p.m. – TBA

CARNIVAL – BODEN AMUSEMENTS

Rides begin each night @ 6:00 p.m. • 4:00 p.m. on Saturday
Tickets – \$3.00 each or 10 for \$25.00