



Mike Smith
President and CEO

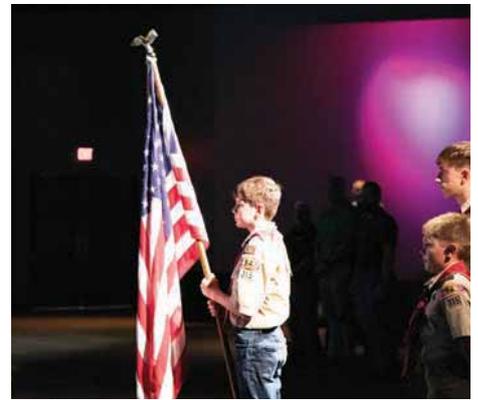


McDonough Power hosts 2025 Annual Meeting of Members

McDonough Power Cooperative hosted its members Wednesday, Aug. 13 at The Crossing in Macomb for the co-op's 88th Annual Meeting of Members, themed "Amplify." Cooperative members enjoyed a pork chop dinner grilled by the West Prairie FFA and served by the Scotland Clever Clovers 4-H Club, as well as live music by KuhnTree Jerry. All registered members received a gift and a \$10 bill credit. 5327D8-260B

Board Chairman Walt Lewis called the meeting to order, and McDonough Power President Mike Smith delivered the invocation. Boy Scout Troop #315 presented the colors and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. Steve Hall, Secretary of the Board, read the Official Notice of the Meeting, which included the minutes from the 2024 Annual Meeting. The minutes were approved, and Treasurer Mike Cox presented the Treasurer's Report.

Terry Thompson, Nominating Committee chair, reported to audience members that the committee met June 5 to nominate candidates for election to the board. Those nominees included Michael



Cox (District 1), Walter Lewis (District 3) and Steve Hall (District 7).

The election of directors was conducted by Attorney John D. McMillan. Cox, Lewis and Hall were reelected to represent their respective districts for another term.

Following the election Lewis presented the Chairman's Report. "You heard from Treasurer Mike Cox that we had a good year financially in 2025, and by all appearances, we are off to a good start this year as well," he said. "The last few years we have

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Congratulations to our lucky GRAND PRIZE WINNERS, each receiving \$250 in bill credits!

- Martin Kimberlee
- Michael Connor
- Beverly Lutz



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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
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Protect yourself and your medical devices during a power outage

Use this guide to plan ahead and stay safe

If you or a loved one relies on an electric medical device, a power outage isn't just an inconvenience — it could be life-threatening. Severe weather or equipment failures can knock out electricity without warning, so it's essential to have a plan in place to stay safe. **11128B4G-1004A**

While utilities work hard to restore power as quickly as possible, even priority customers may face delays during widespread outages. That's why it's so important to be prepared.

Follow these tips to prepare medical equipment for a power outage:

- **Document your devices.** Keep a file that includes the device's manufacturer, model, serial number, instruction manuals and a photo. This information can be useful for repairs, replacement or communicating with your utility or insurance provider.
- **Know your backup options.** Find out if your device is compatible with backup power like batteries or a generator. Check how long it can operate during an outage. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations and keep device-specific supplies on hand.
- **Keep devices maintained.** Make sure equipment is clean, calibrated and working properly ahead of time.

Routine maintenance helps prevent surprises during emergencies.

- **Charge up.** Keep your cell phone, backup power sources and battery-powered medical devices fully charged. Keep extra batteries on hand, especially during storm season.
- **Create an evacuation plan.** Have a plan in case you need to leave your home. Identify locations of emergency shelters and power stations in your area. Talk with family or friends about places you can go that have power and are accessible.
- **Stock up for two weeks.** Keep a two-week supply of medications, medical accessories and essentials like coolers and refrigeration packs for temperature-sensitive medicine.
- **Consider manual alternatives.** Look for portable, dependable alternatives to electronic medical devices — for example, a manual wheelchair, walker or cane as a backup for an electric scooter.
- **Review your insurance coverage.** Before disaster strikes, talk with your insurance provider so you know what's covered if your medical device is damaged during a weather event or power outage.

Mutual aid in the electric utility industry and why it matters to you



From trimming trees to maintaining equipment to updating the grid — utilities work hard to reduce the likelihood of a power outage. But, when severe weather strikes, power outages can disrupt daily life in an instant. That's when a powerful network of cooperation known as mutual aid springs into action — helping communities recover faster.

It's not unusual to see utility trucks from a dozen different states lined up in a parking lot in the aftermath of a major storm. These lineworkers leave their families and travel long distances to help strangers, working in tough conditions to restore power, safety and a sense of normalcy.

For residents, knowing that help is coming — from near and far — can be a source of comfort during difficult moments. 6213D3-108C

What is mutual aid?

Mutual aid is a longstanding system of collaboration in which electric utilities help one another during major, multi-day outages to restore power quickly and safely.

Think of it like neighbors helping neighbors, but on a national scale. If a storm knocks out power in your area and your local crews can't reach everyone fast enough, utility companies from nearby states — or even across the country — may send lineworkers and other utility personnel, trucks and supplies to lend a hand. This support continues until everyone's power is restored.

How it works

Even with year-round preparation, major weather events can still cause widespread outages. That's when mutual aid is activated.

Mutual aid agreements are not spontaneous offers of help. They're part of a well-organized system that allows utilities to quickly request and receive help when disaster strikes, and are most often used after:

- Hurricanes or tropical storms
- Ice storms or blizzards
- Tornado outbreaks
- Wildfires
- Earthquakes or other large-scale emergencies

When a utility anticipates a major weather event, it can prearrange support. Crews can be staged nearby and ready to respond as soon as conditions are safe. Once deployed, they help assess damage and replace poles and lines to get the lights back on as quickly and safely as possible.

In Illinois, the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) maintains detailed emergency work plan information for member co-ops. This statewide coordination helps arrange mutual aid quickly and ensures crews and resources are dispatched efficiently where they're needed most.

Why mutual aid matters

Mutual aid dramatically shortens the time it takes to restore power after a disaster. But mutual aid isn't just about speed — it's a powerful example

of compassion, resilience and unity. It ensures that no matter a utility's size or location, customers can count on timely service during critical times, and entire communities can recover more quickly.

Thank you, lineworkers

Mutual aid works because of the dedication, courage and selflessness of lineworkers nationwide.

We owe a deep debt of gratitude to the crews who answer the call — not just in their own communities, but wherever they are needed.

So, the next time the lights go out, remember: you're not alone. There's a powerful team ready to help. In the utility world, mutual aid means everyone is part of the same family.

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.



dealt with rising inflation and longer material lead times. Despite these pressures that still exist today, we continue to be on solid financial footing.” He went on to mention a new software platform provided by NISC currently being implemented to improve membership experience, as well as a new bill format and an app for reporting outages that will be rolled out in the near future.

President Mike Smith then took the podium to introduce guests and employees, present service awards and deliver the President’s Report, during which he emphasized the importance of education and training within the industry. Smith also announced the return of capital credits to the membership, scheduled for later this year. “I’m pleased to report that last month, our board approved the retirement of \$301,311,” he said. “This is the 19th year that the board has approved [the return of] capital credits.” He mentioned that the credits will be applied to September bills as a cost-saving measure.

Smith later sat down with Prairie Power’s Eric Hobbie to discuss important work happening at the cooperative’s

wholesale power supplier. The two spoke at length about the state of the utility industry, from the deregulation of electricity in Illinois to challenges balancing renewable and dispatchable power in the face of increased demand. “Where power is going to come from in the future, we don’t know,” said Hobbie. **525HH5-951B**

The meeting adjourned following the drawing of prizes, including three grand prizes of \$250, for active members of the cooperative.

