

NEWS

President's Report



Josh DeWees
President/CEO

Find us on 



Spoon River Electric lineworker competes in Lineman's Safety Rodeo

Spoon River Electric Cooperative's Tyler Girard participated in the annual Lineman's Safety Rodeo coordinated by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) on Thursday, Sept. 25. Eighteen teams from 13 electric co-ops and two municipal electric utilities participated in the friendly competition. Ten competed individually. The event was held at the LLCC Line School yard in Springfield.

Spoon River Electric's Girard joined Adams Electric Cooperative lineworkers Grady Kurfman and Dustin Waddell to represent their respective co-ops as a team at the rodeo. They competed against other teams from across Illinois in events using skills that focus on agility, speed and accuracy. While these skills are part of the judging criteria, above all, participants are judged on safe work practices.

Line personnel competed in an armor rod install, cutout change, hurt man rescue, 40-foot transition climb and transition climbing challenge.



Scores for each event are based on completion time, proper execution of the task and safety. Deductions were made to a team or individual's overall performance score due to mistakes such as slipping when climbing poles, dropping tools or executing inappropriate procedures or methods.

Congratulations to the lineworkers on their team and individual efforts.



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

jdewees@srecoop.org

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
tmellert@srecoop.org

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

FALL SAFETY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Fall is in full swing, and that means the leaves are changing, the weather is crisp and the holiday season is just around the corner! But the fall season also brings a higher risk of home fires and electrical safety hazards. Read the safety tips below and use the clues to complete the crossword puzzle.

Check your work in the answer key.

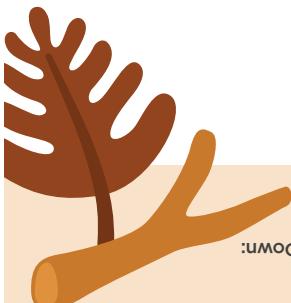
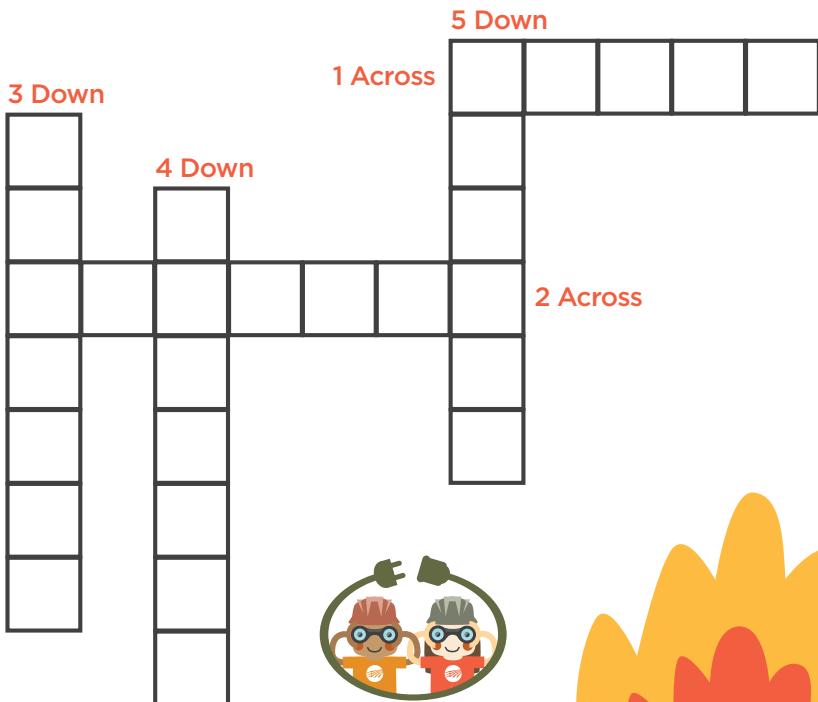
1 Across: An _____ should always be in the kitchen when something is cooking.

2 Across: Keep any items that can burn away from the stove, _____ and other cooking appliances.

3 Down: Candles and _____ should only be used by adults.

4 Down: Make sure all _____ are blown out before leaving a room.

5 Down: Smoke _____ should be tested every month to ensure they are working properly.



Answer Key: 1 Across: adult; 2 Across: toaster; 3 Down: matches; 4 Down: candles; 5 Down: alarms

Preparing for the big hunt: Look out for power lines

Quick tips: Electrical safety for hunters

- Never install stands or blinds on utility poles or near electrical equipment.
- Stay at least 10 feet from overhead power lines when climbing or placing a tree stand.
- Stay a minimum of 50 feet from a downed power line and call 911 to report it.
- Don't aim or shoot near power lines, poles or substations.
- Always assume power lines are live and dangerous, even if they appear inactive.

As hunting season approaches, excitement builds for time outdoors. But before you head into the woods, make sure electrical safety is part of your preparation checklist.

Power lines and utility equipment are often out of sight — and out of mind — especially in wooded or rural areas. Ignoring them can lead to serious injuries or even death.

Before you climb that tree stand, look up and out

Never install a tree stand near a power line or on a utility pole. Electricity can arc — jump through the air — up to 10 feet from high-voltage lines. This means you don't even have to touch a wire to be at risk of electrocution.

Never shoot near or toward power lines, utility poles, transformers or substations. Stray bullets or pellets could damage equipment, possibly interrupting electric service. Even more concerning, they could drop a power line to the ground, causing a hazardous scenario: Those who get within 50 feet of a downed line could be shocked or electrocuted.

Stay safe and avoid costly or dangerous incidents

- Scout the area. Before hunting, take time to scout your

area during daylight. Look for power lines, poles and electrical equipment. Note their locations to avoid them later.

- Power safely.** If you're using a portable electrical generator on your hunting trip, don't use it inside a cabin or RV, or in a confined area. Make sure it's used outside where there is plenty of ventilation.
- Avoid aiming toward power lines or equipment.** Never fire near or toward poles, lines, substations or transformers. A stray bullet could knock down a line, interrupt power or create a deadly hazard.
- Keep your distance.** Always stay at least 10 feet away from overhead lines, poles and other electrical infrastructure when setting up or taking down tree stands.
- Never climb a utility pole.** Even if it looks like the perfect vantage point, don't do it. Poles carry high-voltage lines and climbing them can be deadly.
- Don't use utility poles for support.** Tree stands or blinds should never be attached to or supported by power poles or electrical equipment.

Know the danger of downed lines

If you come across a downed power line or damaged electrical equipment, stay at least 50 feet away, even if it doesn't appear to be live. Power lines can still carry electricity when on the ground, posing a risk of shock or electrocution. Call 911 or your utility right away to help prevent a dangerous situation.

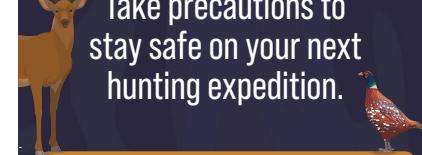
Whether you're a seasoned hunter or heading out for the first time, staying aware of your surroundings could save your life.

For more tips on staying safe around electricity, visit SafeElectricity.org.

STAY SAFE ON THE

HUNT

Take precautions to stay safe on your next hunting expedition.



Know the signs of a heart attack or other life-threatening condition.

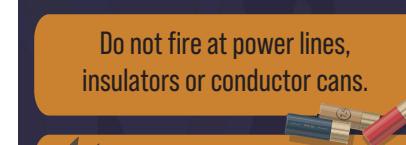


Have a way to get in touch with the outside world.

Always implement firearm safety techniques.



Do not lean a tree stand against a utility pole.



Do not fire at power lines, insulators or conductor cans.



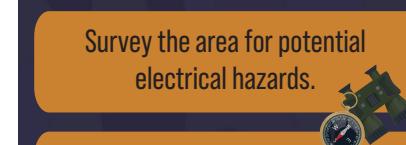
Carry a first aid kit.



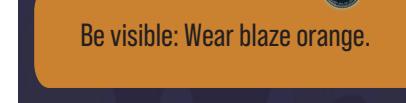
Check the weather in advance and be prepared.



Check tree stands regularly for stability.



Survey the area for potential electrical hazards.



Be visible: Wear blaze orange.

Learn more at:  [Safe Electricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The main responsibility of a Spoon River Electric Director is to provide oversight of the Chief Executive Officer/President who manages the staff and operations of the cooperative.

To better understand the cooperative business model and contribute effectively to the development of the cooperative, directors are offered training. Trainings are held throughout the year for directors to participate in to further support the cooperative. State, national, and affiliated organizations have meetings during the year that directors may attend.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS?

The Board of Directors is responsible for the safe and sound operation of Spoon River Electric and ensuring the cooperative fulfills its mission. The board also:

- **Develops** and **oversees** the strategic direction and objectives of the cooperative.
- Oversees the **organizational leadership performance** of Spoon River Electric.
- Provides for **competent leadership and management** of Spoon River Electric.
- Ensures **appropriate risk oversight** including sound internal controls and compliance.
- Exercises **independent judgment**.
- **Remains loyal** to the interests of Spoon River Electric.
- Works cooperatively with management and for the **good of all members** of the cooperative.
- Performs the duties of director **diligently** and **impartially**.

WHAT IS THE TIME COMMITMENT?

- Directors are elected to a **3-year term**.
- **Board meetings** are held the fourth Monday of the month, lasting 2-3 hours on average with dinner served beforehand.
- **Preparation** for board meetings can take 1-2 hours to review the board packet and other materials provided.
- Each director is asked to serve on a committee or two. **Committees** meet on an as needed basis.
- Each June, the cooperative hosts an **Annual Meeting** where members participate in director elections and attend to any other business pertaining to the cooperative.
- Once every few years, directors meet for **strategic planning**. These sessions are typically scheduled for a couple days to set long-range goals for the cooperative.
- There may be additional time commitments for director **trainings and conferences**.

WHO CAN BECOME A DIRECTOR?

Members are eligible to serve as a director if they:

- **Live** and are **being served** in Spoon River Electric territory.
- Have **no financial interest** in a competing enterprise or business.
- Have **not been a current or past employee** of the Cooperative or a Close Relative of a current or past employee or current Member of the Board of Directors.

FAST FACTS ABOUT SPOON RIVER

MEMBERS	3,908
SUBSTATIONS	10
ACTIVE METERS	5,052
METERS PER MILE	2.65
MILES OF LINE	1,339
MEMBERS PER MILE	3.42
YEAR ENERGIZED	1938
EMPLOYEES	27

BOARD MAKEUP

Spoon River Electric's members are represented by a Board of Directors consisting of 9 members, one from each of our nine districts that make up the cooperative's service territory. Each year the membership elects three directors nominated by the nominating committee or by 15 signatures by petition at least 75 days before the Annual Meeting of Members.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF BEING A DIRECTOR?

- **Serving** your community and the membership
- **Traveling** to regional and national meetings to represent Spoon River Electric
- **Being paid** a per diem rate plus mileage reimbursement for most meetings

HOW THE ELECTION PROCESS WORKS

The director nomination/election process takes place in conjunction with the Annual Meeting. Director candidates must submit paperwork to be eligible to run in the director election. The Annual Meeting mailer is sent to the membership the beginning of May.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED AND WOULD LIKE MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT TARYN AT 309-647-2700.