

President's Report



Josh DeWees
President/CEO

Spoon River Electric holds 89th annual meeting of members



Spoon River Electric Cooperative (SREC) members gathered at the Fulton County Fairgrounds in Lewistown on Thursday, June 4 for the cooperative's 89th Annual Meeting. While conducting cooperative business, attendees received bill credits, enjoyed a dinner from Bucher Boys BBQ, and had the opportunity to talk with SREC board members and employees.

SREC President/CEO Josh DeWees welcomed members to the meeting, which was themed "Member Powered." During his remarks, he thanked members, directors and employees for their continued support of the cooperative and reflected on the cooperative's founding principles.

"Electricity is more important to our families now than it ever has been," he said. "As we see dramatic growth in the demand for electricity, we know that it will bring both challenges and opportunities. I want to reassure you that your cooperative will be here to supply your needs now and in the future."

He added that the co-op maintains financial stability and continues its commitment to provide safe, reliable and affordable power. Additionally, he said the co-op will continue to work on legislative issues and make sure co-op voices are heard in Springfield and in Washington, D.C.

He also encouraged members to participate in Voices for Cooperative Power, a grassroots advocacy program that helps keep members informed on legislative issues affecting electric cooperatives and provides opportunities to communicate with elected officials.

During the meeting, members elected three directors to the board, including returning directors Wesley Strode, District 2, and Joe Davis, District 3. Ty Putnam was elected to represent District 1, filling the seat previously held by Lyle Nelson.

Cooperative leadership also recognized Gary Bowman for serving in an interim capacity following Nelson's departure from the board due

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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
jdewees@srecoop.org

Chairman

Bernard Marvel, Browning

Vice Chairman

Wesley Strode, Marietta

Treasurer

JoDee Pedigo, Canton

Board of Directors

Joe Davis, Canton
John Disharoon, Cuba
Kurt Duncan, Lewistown
Ty Putnam, Gilson
Tom Shafer, 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



to health concerns. The cooperative also welcomed Tom Shafer, who recently joined the board representing District 5. His predecessor, Jack Clark, passed away in November 2025.

Several employees were honored for their years of service to SREC. Jenna Jarvis, head of the billing department, was recognized for five years of service. Journeyman lineman Tyler Girard was also honored for five years with the co-op, while journeyman lineman Louis Gray was recognized for 10 years of service.

The cooperative awarded scholarships to several outstanding students in the cooperative family pursuing higher education. Scholarship recipients included Scholastic Scholarship winner Christopher Denning, SREC Scholarship winners Kolby Cleer and Jackson Gronewold, Scott Parrish Memorial Scholarship winner Griffin Schauble, and the inaugural Jack Clark Memorial Scholarship winner Easton Orwig.

Cooperative officials congratulated the recipients and thanked the Parrish and Clark families for supporting educational opportunities through the memorial scholarships.

The annual meeting wrapped up with prize drawings. Congratulations to winners Lee Shoemaker, Richard Davidage and Monte



Crossman for winning the three \$100 bill credits.

“I want to thank you for coming tonight,” DeWees concluded. “You have taken your time to be part of this meeting to add your voice to the election of directors and to participate in your electric cooperative. You are Spoon River Electric, and we are still member powered.”

\$4,500 donated through Spoon River Electric's Operation Round Up program



The Spoon River Electric Operation Round Up Committee recently donated \$4,500 to three local organizations within our service territory: \$1,500 to The Fulton/Mason County Farm Safety Day; \$1,500 to The Canton FFA Alumni & Supporters; and \$1,500 to The Shelf in Astoria.

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 srecoop.org and click the Operation Round-Up tab or call Taryn at 309-647-2700.

Applications are being taken now through July 6.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Running multiple major appliances at the same time—like your dishwasher, laundry machines and oven—can spike energy demand and strain the electric grid, especially during peak hours (typically late afternoon to early evening). Instead of stacking appliance use, spread it out throughout the day or shift chores to off-peak hours when energy demand is lower. This not only helps improve overall efficiency but can also reduce your energy costs. A simple habit change, like doing laundry in the morning and running the dishwasher overnight, can make a meaningful difference for both your wallet and energy reliability.

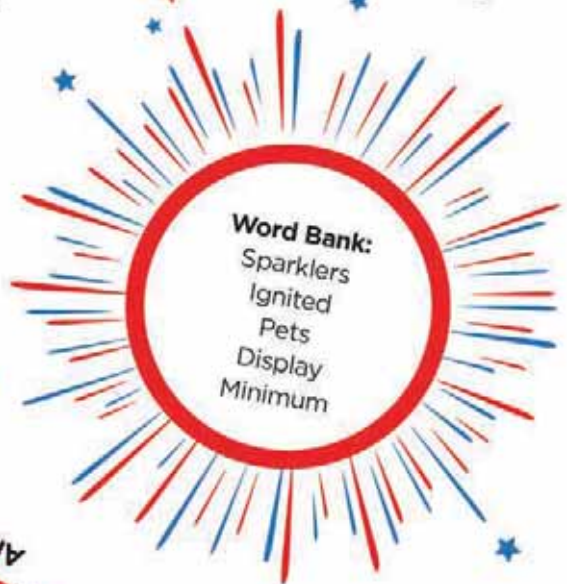


Fill-in-the-Blank: Fireworks Safety Tips

Holidays like the Fourth of July and other celebrations can be fun times with great memories. But everyone should practice safety near fireworks. Read the safety tips below, then fill in the blanks with the correct answer in the word bank.



1. The best way to stay safe is to never use fireworks at home. Instead, attend a public _____ and leave fireworks to the pros.
2. Watch fireworks from a _____ of 500 feet away from where they are launched.
3. Never touch or pick up pieces of fireworks or duds as they may still be _____ or could explode at any time.
4. Remember, _____ are not toys and can reach 2,000 degrees F. Use glow sticks instead.
5. Think about _____ when fireworks are nearby. It's best to leave them indoors to reduce the risk of them running away or being injured.



Answer Key: 1) display 2) minimum 3) Ignited 4) Sparklers 5) Pets

