

## Annual Meeting 2009

Members of McDonough Power Cooperative learned about the role they could play in climate change legislation and they re-elected three area men to three-year terms on the co-op's board of directors at the organization's annual meeting Thursday, Aug. 27, in Macomb. Members re-elected Steve Lynn of Macomb, Jerry Riggins of Macomb and Bob Dwyer of Roseville.

President and CEO Steve Epperson reported on the challenges facing the cooperative in regards to climate change legislation, which will have a direct impact on electric bills.

"Some changes would be great, some very bad; quite honestly, there are versions of proposed legislation being discussed by the Senate that target the middle of our country, especially rural America, and attempts to impose a disproportionately heavier burden onto our backs," Epperson said. "Our state as well as the other 47 states where rural electric cooperatives exist would like to speak with one voice. We want to be heard. We want a seat at the table so that we can be involved in structuring reasonable solutions. You, the membership, standing united and speaking out, are a formidable force ... Please help us advocate on your behalf."

NRECA (National Rural Electric Cooperative Association) President and CEO, Glenn English addressed the audience through video. "Directors across the country are fighting to keep your costs down. It's the elected officials who will help make the decisions that will affect your rates.



**Above**  
Board of Directors -- left to right: Stan Prox, Walt Lewis, Bob Dwyer, Jeff Moore, Steve Lynn, Mike Cox, Jerry Riggins, Steve Hall, Steve Youngquist



**Left**  
John Freitag of the statewide association talks with members about the plug-in hybrid electric car.

We have a collective 42 million cooperative members nationwide," he said. "Use

our democratic process to reach your legislators with one voice. Take part in the Our Energy. Our Future campaign."

While McDonough Power Cooperative employees distributed "Our Energy. Our Future" postcards to member/owners of the cooperative, Epperson encouraged them to complete two cards. "The cards are addressed to each of your two Senators and will be hand-delivered and placed on their desks."

"While we remain concerned about the future price of power and attempt to influence a positive outcome, there is something

else we, as a cooperative, can do ... that is investing in and equipping ourselves for energy efficiency. Energy efficiency makes sense from a stewardship perspective."

McDonough Power Cooperative continues to provide energy efficiency information and help to their member/owners. "I hope many of you were able to see our energy efficiency display tonight and were able to ask questions about how to better equip your homes to save money and electricity," said Epperson. More details about energy efficiency and other cooperative programs can be found on the co-ops newly designed Web site at: [www.mcdonoughpower.com](http://www.mcdonoughpower.com). 5119B7-1132A

*Continued on page 16c.*



# McDonough Power Cooperative

1210 West Jackson Street  
P.O. Box 352  
Macomb, Illinois  
61455-0352

309-833-2101

www.mcdonoughpower.com

Office hours:  
7 a.m. - 4 p.m. - Weekdays

## DIRECTORS

Michael Cox, Chairman

Steve Lynn, Vice Chairman

Steve Youngquist, Secretary

Stan Prox, Treasurer

Robert J. Dwyer

Steve Hall

Walter Lewis

Jeffrey Moore

Jerry Riggins

John D. McMillan, Attorney

**All Co-op Electric  
Outages 837-1400**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative  
The power of human connections



## October is Co-op Month Membership Has Its Privileges

I'm often asked why we call those who purchase electricity from McDonough Power "members" and not "customers." The answer is simple.

Some of my friends are members of Rotary and Lion's clubs. And you're a member of McDonough Power Cooperative.

Service clubs have a common mission – together the club accomplishes more than an individual could. The same holds true for high school clubs; they pool resources and work together to help each member succeed.

Membership at McDonough Power Cooperative offers many of the same benefits as clubs do, but with a big extra. You and the rest of our more than 5,000 members own the co-op! That means we answer to you, not investors who've never walked our streets or spent time in our schools. This structure harkens back to our origins.

McDonough Power was organized by farmers and rural residents from this area in 1938, with support from the federal Rural Electrification Administration (REA). At that time, investor-owned utilities said there wasn't enough profit to be made to warrant the expense of building power lines into the countryside.

REA offered low-cost loans for bringing electricity to unserved homes and farms. So folks began forming electric cooperatives to meet the need. A fee of \$5 was collected from each family – making them co-op members and owners – to generate capital



**Kelly Hamm,  
Energy Services  
Manager**

for borrowing. The rest is history.

You should be proud of what McDonough Power has accomplished. We are an economic driver in the communities we serve. A 2009 study funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture found electric co-ops across the U.S. employ 130,000 Americans, both directly and indirectly, with revenues topping out at \$45 billion.

Best of all, every co-op operates on a not-for-profit basis. McDonough Power doesn't offer profits to investors – we return money over and above operating costs to you, our members, based on electricity consumption. Annually, electric co-ops nationwide return \$545 million to members through this "capital credits retirement" process; this year McDonough Power members received \$238,000.

Electric co-op membership remains as important today as it was in the late 1930s. And all of the nation's 900-plus electric co-ops in 47 states share a common mission: to keep energy safe, affordable, and reliable. **5315C2-260B**

Working together through efforts like the Our Energy, Our Future™ grassroots awareness campaign, we're keeping our needs at the top of Congress's agenda. We're part of something special – a nationwide network owned and controlled by people like you and me. That's why membership matters.

## Map Location Game

Every month we will have four map location numbers hidden throughout The Wire. If you find your map location number, 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.





Board Chairman Michael Cox highlighted events of the past year. "In December we experienced the worst ice storm in McDonough Power history. If you recall, after the ice accumulated we had a couple of days with high winds, creating more outages, making power restoration very difficult," he said. "We do appreciate your patience during that trying time. Spring brought with it wind and lightning storms, broken poles, damaged equipment and conductor on the ground. We are committed to restoring power as quickly as possible when these unfortunate events occur."

Cox also told members that the cooperative installed automated meter reading (AMR). This allows the co-op to acquire outage information electronically, which allows for more efficient deployment of resources so that power can be restored more rapidly. AMR also is more convenient for the members and more accurate in the readings. 4120D4-1122C

Other highlights mentioned at the meeting include the successful replacement of a switching station, remodeling of the co-op offices and importantly, Cox said, capital credit retirement checks were recently distributed. "The cooperative retired \$238,000 of allocated margins to members for 1979, 1980 and part of 1981," he said.

Kelly Hamm, Energy Services Manager, reported that McDonough Power Cooperative is now providing its members with the Co-op Connections Card. The card gives members discounts to a number of national and local businesses, including discounts on prescriptions. "We continue to work with area businesses and intend to add names to this list on your behalf," she said. "The Co-op Connections card will give you access to more than 60,00 national and regional pharmacy chain stores including CVS, Walgreens and Wal-Mart."



**Above**  
Members visiting our new energy efficiency display received tips on how to make their home more energy efficient.



**Left and Below**  
Members taking the opportunity to converse with neighbors and friends.



Members also had an opportunity to see the plug-in hybrid electric car that employees of the statewide electric cooperative office drove over from Springfield. "This vehicle is part of a national research project sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy and our national association's Cooperative Research Network," said Epperson in closing remarks. "There are 15 of these co-op owned plug-in hybrids being operated across the country."

Also included in the evening line-up was a video presentation featuring the 2009 Youth to Washington winner, Mark Sullivan of Rushville-Industry High School, who represented the Cooperative during a week-long Co-op sponsored trip to Washington, D.C. The annual event closed with recognition of McDonough Power Cooperative employees, including special recognition for years of service.



# Discover the value of co-op membership and save

As a card-carrying member, you can use your Co-op Connections Card or key fob at any participating business and receive discounts at restaurants and retail shops, hair salons, video stores, services, hotels and much more. Spotting a participating business is easy. Look for the Co-op Connections Card sticker on the business'

door or cash register. McDonough Power will also periodically publish an updated list of participating businesses. Deals, though, are added all the time. So, the best spot to find the latest deals is online at [www.mcdonoughpower.com](http://www.mcdonoughpower.com). Simply click "Show Me the Deals." 4127A6-1150B



**All About You** .....(309) 833-2294  
Macomb

10% off any hair/nail product. Buy a spa pedicure, get a free upgrade to the ultimate pedicure which includes a warm stone massage for feet and legs.

**Lora's Bookkeeping** .....(309) 734-7115  
Monmouth

10% off income tax prep. Not valid with any other offer.

**Amana Bear Plumbing,**

**Htg. & Electric** ..... (309) 833-5446  
Macomb

10% off all parts and labor. Not valid with any other offer.

**Michael's Hair Designers**..... (309) 837-6411  
Macomb

\$2.00 off hair cut & \$5.00 off color. Not valid with any other offer.

**Café Aroma** .....(309) 837-2233  
Macomb

10% off total bill on Monday's & Tuesday's. Excludes Cappi Hour and other coupons.

**Minus Muffler**.....(309) 837-6444  
Macomb

Buy 5 oil changes, 6th is free (same vehicle only); \$10 off power steering, transmission, or coolant flush; 10% off brake & trans. service.

**Cedar Creek Candles** ..... (309) 734-8166  
Monmouth

10% off any purchase. Not valid with any other offer.

**Organize U** .....(309) 255-1428  
Macomb

10% off services. Not valid with training or any other offers.

**Cerar's Barnstormer Steakhouse.** (309) 734-9494  
Monmouth

10% off total bill. Excludes alcohol. Not valid with any other discount.

**Prmission Auto & Tire** .....(309) 772-3333  
Bushnell

Buy 4 oil changes, 5th is free. Not valid with any other offer.

**Culligan Water of Macomb**....(309) 833-5537  
Macomb

10% off new equipment purchases such as softeners, automatic filters & drinking water systems as well as a \$25 discount on installation charge.

**Quick Print & Signs**..... (309) 833-5250  
Macomb

Order 250 or more in-house printed business cards & receive 100 of same card free.

**Drs. Distin and Doyle**.....(309) 734-3108  
Monmouth

10% off frame with purchase of lenses. Not applicable with insurance. Not valid with and other offer except 5% payment on order discount.

**Quinn's Corner**.....(309) 462-2377  
Abingdon

10% off on purchases every Tuesday. Not valid with any other offer.

**Duffie's Pub** ..... (309) 652-3822  
Blandinsville

Buy any 2 dinners, get 1 free appetizer. Not valid with any other offer.

**Sugar Hollow Studios** ..... (309) 333-4436  
Colchester

10% off any reg. priced items. Not valid with any other offer.

**Enchanted Florist**.....(309) 837-9159  
Macomb

10% off wrapped flowers. Excludes holidays and other coupons.

**Sunrise Family Restaurant** .... (309) 836-2938  
Macomb

10% off total bill. Not valid with any other offer.

**Encore Consignment** .....(309) 833-3006  
Macomb, Monmouth.....(309) 734-4411

10% off items. Excludes sale items.

**The New Image**

**Hairstyling Salon** .....(309) 426-2458  
Roseville

10% off all salon products. This excludes sale items and all other offers.

**Envy** ..... (309) 836-3689  
Macomb

20% storewide discount Sundays and Mondays on reg. priced items

**The Pot Shop**.....(309) 653-2371  
Adair

10 % off green wear (unfired clay). Not valid with any other offer.

**EPH- Electrical, Plumbing, & Heating**.....(309) 837-3830  
Macomb

10% off labor. Not valid with any other offer.

**The R & R Spa** .....(309) 833-3401  
Macomb

10% off all services & retail products. Excludes spa pkgs., sale items, and other coupons.

**Family Chiropractic & Occ.**

**Health Svc**.....(309) 837-2567  
Macomb

20% off spinal manipulation & 30% off initial exam (excludes PT, nutritional supplies, and orthopedic supports)

**The Scrapbook Nook**.....(309) 776-3890  
Colchester

10% off all reg. priced items. Not valid with any other offer.

**Grand Escape Day Spa**

**& Salon**..... (309) 833-2020  
Macomb

10% off all spa services. Not valid with any other offer.

**The Wine Sellers**.....(309) 836-9463  
Macomb

10% off any purchase over \$15.00. Not valid with any other offer.

**Inselhaus Bed & Breakfast**.... (309) 833-5445  
Macomb

10% discount off room rate. Not valid with any other offer.

**Ultimate Shape & Fitness** .... (309) 734-8644  
Monmouth

50% off enrollment fee. Not valid with any other offer.

**J B & D Siding**.....(309) 837-7733  
Macomb

30% off windows, 38% off siding, & 15% off roofing. Not valid with any other offer.

**Uppercase Living**..... (309) 331-4192  
Macomb

Free gift with purchase. Not valid with any other offer.

**Larry A's Pizza**.....(309) 837-4999  
Macomb

\$2.00 off any large or family size pizza at reg. price. Not valid with any other offer.

**Vision Consultants, Ltd**.....(309) 833-5557  
Macomb

20% off frames. Excludes already discounted frames and other coupons.

**Lil' Stitches** .....(309) 837-2909  
Macomb

10% off Tuesdays. Not valid with any other offer.

**Yen Ching** .....(309) 836-6616  
Macomb

Free fried Pot stickers or Crab Rangoon with cash purchase of \$18.00 or more; dine in or carry out.