

Seven 2010 IEC Memorial Scholarships Available

McDonough Power Cooperative President and CEO, Steve Epperson, has announced that for the fifteenth consecutive year the Illinois electric cooperatives will award academic scholarships to high school seniors.

Seven scholarships of \$1,250 each will be awarded in 2010 to eligible high school seniors through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

Four scholarships will be awarded to students who are the sons or daughters of an Illinois electric cooperative member receiving service from the cooperative. A fifth scholarship, the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship, will be awarded to a student who is the son or daughter of an Illinois electric cooperative employee. The sixth and seventh scholarships are reserved for students enrolling full-time at a two-year Illinois community college who are the sons or daughters of Illinois electric cooperative members, employees or directors. 5312CPT63-950A

"We hope to assist electric cooperative youth while honoring past rural electric leaders with this scholarship," says Epperson. "McDonough Power and the other Illinois electric cooperatives are always seeking ways to make a difference in our communities. One of the best ways we can do that is by helping our youth through programs like this one."

Candidates are judged on the basis of grade point average, college entrance



exam scores, work and volunteer experience, school and civic activities, and a short essay that demonstrates their knowledge of electric cooperatives.

For more information contact Kelly Hamm at McDonough Power at 309.833.2101 or ask your high school guidance counselor.



**Our office will be
closed Nov. 26 & 27
in observance of
Thanksgiving**



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

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Co-ops Could Go Far with Better Batteries

From an outside perspective, generating and distributing electricity may look a little like herding cats. When power is needed, it must be instantly on hand. When it's created, it must be immediately moved to where it can be used. And because it can't be easily stored, supply and demand must be kept in perfect balance — a precise dance where a misstep could lead to an outage.

Unlike other utilities that manage tangible resources like water or natural gas, electric co-ops can't keep extra electricity on hand — power can't be stored in a warehouse or a large tank. It's safe to say that if we could — for example, if massive batteries were designed that allowed us to keep reserve megawatts at the ready — providing power reliably and safely would be significantly easier, and kilowatt-hours would be more affordable.

Stored electricity has several valuable uses. For one, renewable energy sources like wind and solar aren't always at the ready when electricity is needed. Wind often blows strongest at night when electricity demand is low. But if that unused energy could be stored and put to work the next day, a wind farm would be much more productive and cost effective.

Stored energy could also give the electric grid a needed boost during periods of peak demand — the electric utility industry's equivalent of rush hour traffic, when

people come home in the late afternoon and turn on lights, dishwashers, and all the other comforts of home. That spike in demand is currently met by switching on natural gas-fired generators, which are expensive to operate. A battery could do the same job for a lot less.

And a battery tucked beside the local substation serving your home could keep lights on should a power line leading into that substation fail. The whole process would likely happen without so much as a lightbulb flickering, keeping you warm and comfortable while repairs are made. **7429D7-606B**

Because of these potential benefits, electric co-ops are leading the way in searching for a better battery. The Cooperative Research Network (CRN), an arm of Arlington, Va.-based National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, is looking to put large-scale batteries to the test through three projects (in South Carolina, Alaska, and Hawaii) that could win federal funding before the end of the year. Each would demonstrate how batteries could be used in different ways.

Success could lead to major breakthroughs. If the technology proves effective and affordable, electric co-ops could better stabilize the price of electricity and increase reliability. Herding those cats may one day be a little less complicated.

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.





Fight Like a Girl

October 2009 marked the 25th anniversary of Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Almost everybody knows someone who has been affected by breast cancer, and the employees of McDonough Power showed their support by wearing their Fight Like a Girl t-shirts on Friday's during the month of October. 5310D2B-260A



Pictured L to R: Steve Epperson, Amy Warrington, Kelly Hamm, Cynthia Rigg, Dawn Beck, Debbie Fowler

Stay Clear!

A downed power line may not be a dead line. It could cause serious injury or death.



FOLLOW THESE TIPS FROM YOUR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE TO STAY SAFE:

- **Assume all power lines are energized and dangerous.** Even lines that are de-energized could become energized at any time.
- **Never touch a downed power line!** And never touch a person or object that is touching a power line.
- **If someone is injured as a result of contact with electric current, do not try to assist him or her.** You could be injured or killed. Call 911.
- **If a power line falls across your vehicle while you are in it, stay inside until help arrives.**
- **Call 911 immediately to report a downed power line.** Then call your electric cooperative.



Online Bill Presentment & Payment



**Kelly Hamm,
Energy Services
Manager**

McDonough Power Cooperative is working to meet your needs and paying or viewing your bills is simple at www.mcdonoughpower.com.

In May 2009 we launched our online bill payment product and it has been very well received by the many members who have chosen to use it. If you're not yet utilizing it, I encourage everyone to try it out.

The secure site is operated by our billing software contractor, Southeastern Data Cooperative (SEDC), and maintained independently of McDonough Power. It meets all security regulations to ensure that your financial information is protected by the highest industry standards. 542WPE6-270C

Here's how you can take advantage of electronic bill presentment and easy payment method:

1. If we have your current email address and phone number on record you may sign up online. Follow these simple instructions:
 - Log on to www.mcdonoughpower.com
 - Click on **Online Bill Payment**
 - In the **Customer Login** section click on **New User**
 - This will walk you through step-by-step instructions – please have your account number handy (can be found on your billing statement in the upper left-hand corner—do not include the (-) dash)
 - Once you have completed the necessary information you will receive an activation email with a link to activate your account

If you receive the following error message this indicates that we do not have your email address on record. You may either call us at 309.833.2101 or click *Contact Support* to send us an email message.

ERROR MESSAGE

We do not currently have your e-mail address on record. Your request cannot be processed. Please call us or click *Contact Support* for further assistance, regarding your problem.

2. If you know that we do not have your email address on record or you do not have an email address simply call us at 309.833.2101 or click on the *Online Bill Payment* link on our homepage then click *Contact Support* to send us an email.

E-bill Notification

You may also choose to be notified via email when statements and notices are cycled. Choosing this option will allow you to continue receiving a paper statement as well as an email notification with a link directly to your most recent statement/notice. Please contact us enroll.

We hope you enjoy the convenience of viewing and/or paying online for your electricity. Our Member Service department will be happy to answer any questions you might have about the system – stop by our office or give us a call at 309.833.2101.

ATTENTION Businesses



Do you own a local business? Give us a call today to sign up for this free program. You can offer any discount you'd like to McDonough Power's more than 5,000 members and in return we'll advertise your business in this magazine and on our Web site. It's a great way for us to encourage local businesses while at the same time aiding our members.



**Contact McDonough
Power intern,
Abby Ala, for more
details – 309.833.2101.**