

Sharing Success 2021

Commitment to Community is a core founding principle of cooperatives. Each year, we ask organizations to submit projects for CoBank's Sharing Success Program. Through the program, our board of directors can select a few projects to submit to CoBank, a cooperative lending facility, that matches

our donations. These four organizations received 2021 Sharing Success donations. The amounts noted are the full amount of donation, half came from Menard Electric Cooperative and half from CoBank. Look for information next spring to submit project applications for the 2022 program.

Virginia Christian Women's Fellowship—\$500 to support its free summer lunch program providing five lunches each week to 93 children in the Virginia school district. Director Jodine Tate and Manager Alisha Anker presented the check to the group of dedicated volunteers who plan, purchase, organize and package the lunches. Anyone was eligible to enroll in the program and families and day care providers were able to pick up lunches every two weeks at the local store. Contact Virginia School at 217-452-3085.



Central Illinois Services—\$2,000 for the Menard County Back to School Supply Program for backpacks and supplies for more than 300 youth. Manager Alisha Anker and Director Warren Goetsch presented the donation to CEO Anne Smith during our Annual Meeting of Members. Contact Smith at 217-632-7723 for details.



Community Action Partnership of Central Illinois (CAPCIL)—\$6,250 to support the Dignity Aisle Food Pantry Co-op. Director Gary Holloway and Manager Alisha Anker presented the check to Food Pantry Coordinator Kerianne Short at the newly opened Menard County pantry in Petersburg. The pantry is open to anyone in the county to shop a selection of fresh, frozen and pantry foods and other household supplies with points they earn by volunteering their time. Call 217-871-2491 for details.



Sangamon County Rescue Squad Foundation—\$6,250 to be applied toward the purchase of a gently-used response vehicle that can be used at local disaster scenes. Squad members provide additional support to first responder agencies in Sangamon County and surrounding areas. Director Warren Goetsch and Manager Alisha Anker presented the check to a few of the organization's representatives during our Annual Meeting of Members. From left are Chad Walton, Anker, Robin Smith, Terry Nydegger, Craig Bangert and Goetsch. Find more information about the Rescue Squad at facebook.com/SCRS1958.



The 2021 Annual Meeting of Members was held August 5 at PORTA High School. In keeping with tradition, members entered the event under Old Glory.

83rd Annual Meeting of Members

Election of Directors

The cooperative is governed by a Board of Directors made up of nine members elected from and by the membership to serve three-year terms. This year Gary Martin, District 2, D. Jay Frye, District 5 and Donald McMillan, District 9, ran unopposed and were re-elected to three-year terms. In addition,

as a result of the cancellation of last year's annual meeting due to statewide COVID regulations, Jodine Tate, District 3, Michael Patrick, District 7, and Warren Goetsch, District 8, ran unopposed and were re-elected to serve the remaining two years of a three-year term which commenced in 2020.

Bylaw Amendments Approved

Members voted to approve four Bylaw Amendments, the primary focus of which was to allow for an annual meeting to be held in a non-traditional format if the need would arise.

President's Report

Board President Jay Frye thanked co-op employees for providing excellent service as they navigated the difficulties and uncertainty of 2020; he noted that their completion of a four-year comprehensive work plan, a 10-year financial forecast, and a cost-of-service study will aid the Board of Directors as they make decisions moving forward.

General Manager's Report

General Manager Alisha Anker discussed the co-op's focus on safely providing reliable service and talked about improvements to reliability due to the construction of substations and new transmission lines in the co-op's territory by Prairie Power, Inc.



Area Serviceman Dwaine Heyen assisted with registration; members received an extension cord attendance gift and were entered into a drawing for bill credits.



Members look forward every year to the delicious pork chop dinner prepared by the Mason County Pork Producers.



Forester/Field Technician Ross Cloninger and Senior System Engineer Dustin Crosier answered questions from members about a variety of topics such as solar, generators, tree trimming and new services.



Brice Bailey, a recent graduate of PORTA High School and daughter of Engineering/IT Coordinator Bart Bailey, entertained members as they waited for the business meeting to begin.



Field Engineer Tim Schafer assisted members who were encouraged to Take Action Now! against impending energy legislation.

She focused much of her comments on important pending legislation that would prompt the closing of energy generation resources, including the co-op's largest source of power, Prairie State Energy Campus.

“By disallowing the use of coal and natural gas to source electric generation, a significant threat to the reliability of

the electric grid across the State is at risk. Estimates indicate the impact of this plant's closure could result in a 20-25 percent rate increase for cooperative members,” warned Anker. She discussed a coalition formed to fight this issue, saying, “Together we hope to beat back this legislation with real action.” Asking for help from members to

contact their legislative representatives and the Governor's office, she encouraged those who had not yet registered their support or sent letters to reference information printed in the August Illinois Country Living magazine and at www.menard.com/takeaction.

Board highlights

For full minutes visit menard.com or contact the office.
June 22, 2021

- All Directors present in person & remotely except D. Jay Frye & Steve Worner. Present General Manager Alisha Anker & Attorney Charles Smith. Mtg conducted by Vice-President Warren Goetsch.
- Motion carried to authorize President to accept & acknowledge loan from RUS, designated AY8, in amount of \$23,476,000.00 for projects in 2020-2023 Work Plan.
- Approved DCEO LIHEAP vendor agreements with Community Action Partnership of Central Illinois, MCS Community Services, Tazwood Community Services & Sangamon County Resources.
- Approved monthly board mtg dates July 2021-June 2022 per Bylaws. Reviewed Conflict of Interest Policy; submitted Certification & Disclosure forms.
- Anker reviewed monthly & YTD financial operating report, balance sheet & financial trends. Operating margins YTD as of 05/21 were \$634,306 compared to \$657,385 last year; equity at 42.57%; 12-mo TIER 2.35 & DSC 1.55.
- Anker informed SBA PPP loan booked as forgiven. Gave summary of funds made available through state utility disconnect assistance program. Safety report included lost time & reportable incident; Board entered into executive session; reconvened. Reviewed Vegetation Management Report & correspondence from impacted member.
- Discussed Sharing Success Program applications; motion carried to submit application to CoBank for matching donations of \$250.00 to Virginia Christian Women's Fellowship, \$3,125.00 to Community Action Partnership of Central Illinois, \$1,000.00 to Central Illinois Services NFP & \$3,125.00 to Sangamon County Rescue Squad Foundation.
- Next mtg 7/27/21.

TAKE ACTION
NOW!

Visit menard.com/takeaction

to send a message to State Legislators and Governor Pritzker concerning proposed legislation mandating the closure of coal-fueled power plants.

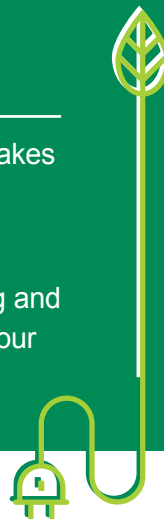


Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Energy used for cooling and heating your home makes up the largest portion of your monthly energy bills.

By combining regular equipment maintenance and upgrades with recommended insulation, air sealing and thermostat settings, you can save about 30% on your energy bills while helping our environment.

Source: energy.gov





Stay alert to power lines this harvest

Don't take shortcuts with safety as the rush to harvest begins

- Stay alert to power line locations around fields and storage facilities.
- Keep equipment at least 10 feet from power lines – at all times, in all directions.
- Inspect the height of farm equipment to determine clearance.
- Always remember to lower extensions when moving loads.
- Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.
- Use a spotter when operating large machinery near power lines.
- Use care when raising augers or the bed of grain trucks around power lines.
- If a power line is sagging or low, call us immediately at 800-872-1203.

What to do if you make contact with a line:

- Stay on the equipment.
- Warn others to stay away and call 9-1-1.
- Do not leave until the utility crew tells you it is safe to do so.
- The only reason to leave the equipment is if it is on fire. When that is the case, jump off the equipment with feet together. Do not touch the ground and the equipment at the same time. Keeping feet together, hop/shuffle to safety.

We wish our members a safe and abundant harvest season

