

## MEC Director Warren Goetsch elected to NRECA Board

MEC Board Vice President Warren Goetsch will serve a two-year term as Illinois' representative on the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Board beginning March 2022.

Upon his election Warren said, "I have had the honor of serving on the Menard Electric Cooperative board for just over 34 years and serving on the AIEC Board for over 21. I have found the experiences serving on those boards to be some of the most rewarding of my professional life. I view election to the NRECA board as a continuation of that service and a way to express one of the seven cooperative principles, Commitment to Community. I look forward to working with other board members at NRECA as we tackle the many modern-day challenges facing electric cooperatives across the country."



NRECA represents the interests of more than 900 cooperatives and 42 million members across the country, as well as public power districts and public utility districts. The board is composed of one representative from each of the 48 states served by electric cooperatives.

## Accounting department changes

We recently welcomed Brian Hartsock as Director of Accounting & Finance and Julie Atwater as Controller/Accountant.

Brian lives in Concord with his wife Katrina and children Ava and Evan. A Certified Public Accountant (CPA) with a MBA from Benedictine University, Brian was Director of the Accounting Division at Passavant Area Hospital in Jacksonville. Why the move to Menard Electric? "I was ready for a change and this was a great opportunity," he says.

Julie lives in Petersburg with her husband Randy and children Haley and Drew. She has a degree in accounting from Illinois State University and was previously the Accounting Manager at Farm Air, Inc in Astoria. As a member, Julie was already familiar with the cooperative and says, "I was excited for a professional opportunity in my hometown."





We were pleased to welcome Senator Sally J Turner, R-44, to our office in early September to discuss our cooperative, our members, and the big issues currently affecting both. Director Warren Goetsch and General Manager Alisha Anker spoke with Senator Turner and her Legislative Aid Casandra Blue about a variety of topics including proposed energy legislation, the REDLG program, and more. We were happy to also introduce them to employees and showcase our building. Pictured here, Storekeeper Leadman Erik Raikes points out the inventory and equipment we keep on hand to provide new and repair existing services as needed. From left are Blue, Goetsch, Anker, Senator Turner and Raikes.

## LIHEAP

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) could help pay your bill. Contact your local agency as soon as possible for eligibility requirements.

### MCS Community Services

Cass/Morgan County  
217-243-9404

### Community Action Partnership of Central Illinois

Logan/Mason/Menard County  
217-732-2159 • capcil.info

### Decatur-Macon County Opportunities Corporation

Macon County  
217-428-2193 • dmcoc.org

### Sangamon County

217-535-3120 • co.sangamon.il.us

### Tazewood Community Services

Tazewell County  
309-694-4391 • tazewoodcs.org

## 4 SAFETY TIPS

### TEEN DRIVERS NEED TO KNOW



## 1 THAT TEXT CAN WAIT

When texting while driving, the shortest amount of time a person takes his or her eyes off the road is five seconds. At 55 mph, that is like driving the length of a football field with your eyes closed.

## 2 DON'T GET OUT

If you are in a car accident involving a power line or padmount transformer ("green box"), stay inside the vehicle and call 9-1-1. Unless the car is on fire or giving off smoke, do not get out. If there is a fire, make a solid jump from the vehicle without touching it and hop with your feet together as far away as you can.

## 3 RESPECT WORK ZONES

One work zone crash occurs every 5.4 minutes. Remind teen drivers to consider anyone doing their job in or near the road as someone they know and love. Encourage them to move over and slow down for workers.

## 4 DON'T DRIVE DISTRACTED

Texting is not the only form of distracted driving. Driving and doing anything else is multitasking. Eight deaths occur EVERY DAY due to drivers who drive distracted.

Learn more:  Safe Electricity.org®



Community born.  
Community led.  
Focused on YOU.

October is  
National Co-op Month!



## PASSWORD DOS AND DON'TS

A strong password can make all the difference in protecting your personal information. Follow these tips for stronger passwords.

### DO:

- Change the manufacturer's Wi-Fi password on your router.
- Use two-factor authentication.
- Use unique phrases (like lyrics to your favorite song) to remember passwords.

### DON'T:

- Don't use common words or numbers like "password" or "1234."
- Don't use personal details like your date of birth in a password.
- Don't use the same password for multiple accounts.

October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month.

Do Your Part. #BeCyberSmart

# Board highlights

July 27, 2021

- All Directors present, also General Manager Alisha Anker & Attorney Charles Smith.
- Approved Agreement for Station Power Service w/Lincoln Land Wind, LLC.
- Approved Retiree HRA Plan.
- Approved Alliance Community Bank Cash Management Agreement Schedule F.
- Anker reviewed monthly & YTD financial operating report, balance sheet & financial trends. Operating Margins YTD as of 6/30

For full minutes visit [menard.com](http://menard.com) or contact the office.

- were \$763,667 compared to \$746,106 last year; equity at 43.14%; 12-mo TIER 3.06 & DSC 1.80.
- Reviewed Member Svcs report w/194 July cutoff tickets generated; \$2,172.97 in write-offs.
- Reviewed Operations report w/114 incidents; longest outage 498 minutes, lightning strike affecting 1 member; largest outage 239 members, tree in 3-phase line in storm.

- Reviewed Safety Report w/monthly mtg topics, recovery of injured lineman update & recent training/education events of directors & employees.
- Discussed 3 load control events this season.
- Appointed Ryan as Delegate & Goetsch as Alternate to NRECA Region 5 mtg.
- Entered into executive session; reconvened.
- Next mtg 8/24/21.

## BudgetWise Budget Billing fall cycle begins



With Budget Billing we average the last 12 months of usage and determine a budget amount. Members pay that same amount each month for 11 months and on the 12th month settle up with a credit or additional balance due depending on actual electricity used for the year. The fall cycle true up is November bills. Email [info@menard.com](mailto:info@menard.com) or call 800-872-1203 with your account number for details.

## ARE HOME ELECTRONICS AND APPLIANCES DRAINING YOUR ENERGY?

If you collect your spare change in a jar, all those coins add up over time, usually to a larger amount than you expect.

Small amounts of consumed energy throughout your home add up as well, so plug "energy vampires" into a smart power strip that detects dormant devices or unplug items when not in use, especially those with illuminated controls.

## TOP NINE ENERGY VAMPIRES





## *Happy Cooperative Month*

**T**his month, we celebrate the more than 40,000 cooperatives across the country supporting jobs that provide more than \$25 billion in wages. In addition to electricity, your life likely depends on other products or services from cooperatives. These products can include banking services from credit unions, products from hardware and grocery stores, agricultural products, dairy products, orange juice, meat, sugar, grapes, beets, rice, grain for baked products and cereal, and even pumpkins.

So, celebrate and support all your local not-for-profit cooperatives. For more information about us visit [www.menard.com](http://www.menard.com).

