

Scholarship and Youth to Washington Tour winners

Now in its sixth year, our scholarship program has grown, which has enabled us to increase awarded amounts. Once again, it also includes selection of an Ambassador to the Youth to Washington Tour who will join rural students from throughout the country to meet with elected officials and tour Washington, D.C.

We are honored to again play a small part in helping these students achieve their goals. Commitment to Community is one of the pillars of our cooperative, and community service was a key component of the scholarship application.

**\$2,000 4-year University/
College Scholarship**
Madelyn Cox
Lutheran High School
Attending St. Louis
University



**\$1,500 Tech Program
Scholarship**
Nathan Kleiss
Athens High School
Attending LLCC's Aviation
Mechanics program



**Youth To Washington
Tour Ambassador**
Ripley Zanger
PORTA High School

**\$1,500 2-year Community
College Scholarship**
Clay Aylesworth
Mount Pulaski High School
Attending Lincoln Land
Community College

Photos provided by winners.

Members who will have a high school senior next fall should keep an eye out for announcements in January next year. Details can be found at www.menard.com/scholarships and in local school guidance counselor materials.

Welcome our new employees!

Renee Becker, Receptionist

Renee has a Bachelor's degree in Finance from Western Illinois University and has worked the past eight years as a remittance processor for Springfield Clinic. She lives in Pleasant Plains with her husband Brett and son Charlie. Renee has family who are members and says she made the move to Menard Electric because she heard we were a good company with a family atmosphere.



Chelsey Brown, Accountant I

Chelsey has a Bachelor's degree in Accounting from Midstate College and more than five years' experience in corporate accounting, most recently with Komatsu in Peoria. Chelsey and her husband Jamie live in Havana. Chelsey is looking forward to working on new projects and being in a smaller office that is closer to home.



Stay safe and cool this summer

Signs on poles

Never post advertisements or other signs on our poles; staples/nails/fasteners damage poles and endanger the safety of our linemen.

Pools & hot tubs

Be certain you have ground fault circuit interrupter protection on underwater lighting as well as for pumps and lighting around pools/spas. Watch for overhead lines with long-handled skimmers.



Boating & swimming

Never swim near boats plugged into shore power or docks with an electrical source — faulty wiring can energize the water and cause electric shock drowning. Never go swimming/boating/fishing when lightning is present.

High-flying toys

Drones, remote-controlled planes, kites or other high-flying toys should be used in wide open areas only. If an object were to get stuck in a power line or in a substation do not go near it. Give us a call to safely take care of anything that makes contact with our equipment.

Tree climbing

Make sure climbing trees are planted in wide open spaces without overhead

power lines nearby. Limbs can sway under the minimal weight of a child or wind to make contact with nearby lines.

Summer storms

Take angry clouds and storm threats seriously; lightning can occur 10 miles away from the heart of a storm, so if you hear thunder, it's time to take cover. According to the National Lightning Safety Council, approximately 400 people are struck and killed by lightning each year. After a storm, watch

Ensure CO detectors are working correctly in your home and look for generators that shut off automatically when high levels of CO are present. Never connect directly to home wiring unless you have an appropriate transfer switch installed; power could backfeed along power lines and electrocute linemen making repairs.

Keep the hot air outside

Weatherstrip and caulk around windows, doors and openings, and close curtains and blinds during the sunniest part of the day.

Avoid heating up your home

Use the clothes dryer or oven during the coolest parts of the day, or better yet, install an outdoor clothesline and cook outdoors.

A/C maintenance

Have your air conditioner inspected yearly, and change the filters as needed. Keep the outdoor condenser unit clean and free of debris. Consider shading the unit. Keep indoor vents unobstructed and check ductwork for leaks.

Use fans

Try turning on a fan before lowering your thermostat. Remember that fans make you feel cooler by moving the air but do not cool down a room, so turn them off when leaving.

Visit SafeElectricity.org for electrical safety tips and touchstoneenergy.com for energy efficiency saving tips.

for downed power lines that could be hidden by debris; even if power is out, the lines could be energized. Do not step into flooded basements or standing water that could be covering electrical outlets, appliances or cords.

Portable generators

Generators produce carbon monoxide (CO) and should always be well maintained, used according to manufacturer directions, and placed outdoors at least 20 feet from your home (or other location, such as a camper).



Make Paying Your Electric Bill Easy

Sign up today for our Automatic Payment, BudgetWise and Paperless Billing programs, and rest easy knowing your electric bills are taken care of.



BudgetWise

Now is the perfect time to sign up for this summer's budget billing cycle!

Pay the same amount each month beginning with July's bill.

True-up your account on your June 2024 bill.

Email info@menard.com or call 800-872-1203 for details.

Automatic Payment

Pay your bill automatically from a credit card, debit card or bank account on the 10th, 17th or 24th of each month. Visit www.menard.com/waystopay to download the form.



Paperless Billing

Eliminate paper clutter and view your monthly bill online. Sign up through our online bill payment system in the MyMEC app or at www.menard.com.



CONSIDERING SOLAR?

All that summer sun might have you considering solar. We encourage you to contact us early in your decision-making process. We can ensure you are well informed about our policies and procedures, our Net Billing versus Net Metering options, and your home's energy needs, before you contact an installer. Call 800-872-1203 or email info@menard.com. Also, visit our website at www.menard.com/distributedgeneration, where we have broken down the process of installing solar with us into five simple steps.



Board highlights

For full minutes visit menard.com or contact the office.

March 28, 2023

- Present were Directors Warren Goetsch, Jay Frye, Gary Holloway, Gary Martin, Michael Patrick, Dennis Ryan & Steve Worner; Don McMillan & Jodine Tate absent. Also present Director of Accounting & Finance Julie Atwater, Director of Member Services Trish Michels, Engineering Manager Brady Smith, General Manager Alisha Anker, Attorney Charles K. Smith.
- Eric Hobbie, President & CEO of Prairie Power, Inc. discussed energy forecasts, capacity market concerns & transmission line build impacts; answered questions & exited meeting. Michels exited.
- Approved Electric System Construction Contract & Power Line Right of Way Clearance & Vegetation Management Contract. Smith exited.
- Frye gave Annual Meeting Committee Report. Discussed Director election: incumbents Goetsch, District 8 & Patrick, District 7; open seat for District 3.
- Anker reviewed monthly & YTD financial operation report, balance sheet & financial trends. Operating margins as of 02/28/23 were \$1,053,965 compared to \$1,511,559 last year; equity at 42.29%; 12-mo TIER 2.21 & DSC 1.64.
- Anker reviewed 2022 Alternate Energy Summary. Reviewed Operations report w/ 27 incidents; longest outage 160 min affected 7 members due to broken poles/wind storm; largest # affected by single outage 956 for 60-90 minutes due to loss of transmission to 2 substations/wind storm.
- Advised had received equipment needed to build new irrigation services.
- Discussed winners of college scholarships & Youth to Washington Tour trip.
- Discussed personnel changes.
- Atwater discussed 1099s & exited.
- Appointed AIEC voting delegate-Goetsch; Alternate-Ryan. Director candidate Goetsch; Alternate-Worner.
- Appointed PPI voting delegate – Martin; Alternate-Anker. Board CEO position-Anker; Director-Martin; Alternate Director-Worner.
- Next mtg 4/25/23.

SAVE THE DATE



BETTER
Together

2023 Annual Meeting
Wednesday, July 12, 2023
Athens Christian Church
1411 IL Hwy 29, Athens, IL

Kilo Watt Korner

Treadmill



KwK

Treadmills remain a popular piece of exercise equipment in gyms and homes alike. Chances are, you've used one at one time or another in your life. New models come with many settings and options. The model we used has incline capability, electronic monitoring of everything you'd want to track, and an integrated fan.

Our user plugged her treadmill into our Kill-a-watt meter for 33½ days. She classifies herself as a regular user but doesn't have a set schedule, enjoying outdoor exercise as well. The total electricity used during the time period was 11.03 kilowatt-hours, equating to just \$1.35 in electric charges. Here we'll break down some details.

When actively exercising, our user sets what she calls a "running-walk" pace of 4.5 mph. During that time, the unit uses 160 watts. If incline settings are selected, the wattage increases to 310

watts briefly while the machine raises or lowers. If the workout gets intense, an integrated fan can be turned on, adding just 6 watts of energy use.

Just before and after a workout, the electronic screen continues to use about 5 watts. After a time, the system enters sleep mode and usage decreases to under 3 watts.

Although an off switch is provided, our user allows the treadmill to remain in sleep mode whenever it is not in use, stating the convenience of having the electronic data saved is worth the minimal electric use.

Korner recommendation: If your treadmill is covered in dust from lack of use, it might be worth making sure the unit is turned off or unplugged. Otherwise, the cost of using a treadmill in your home is minimal and far outweighed by the convenience of enjoying a walk or run when outdoor conditions are prohibitive.

MENARD
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



BETTER
Together

2023 Annual Meeting

New Location

Athens Christian Church
1411 IL Hwy 29, Athens, IL

Wednesday July 12, 2023
Registration begins at 4:30 p.m.

Look for your Official Notice in
the mail later this month.

- \$20 Bill Credit Registration Gift
- Snow Cones
- Grilled Pork Chop Dinner
- Director Election
- Business Meeting/Cooperative Leader Reports
- Prizes