

Menard Electric Cooperative's

Connect to MEC

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



www.menard.com

Thursday, June 15

Join us for our 80th Annual Meeting of Members
at *PORTA High School, Petersburg*

We hold an annual meeting of members each year. Please note that this year the meeting is on a Thursday evening. We hope this change works out well both for our regular attendees (it wouldn't be the same without you!) and members who haven't been able to attend in the past due to busy summer schedules.

We want as many members as possible to attend the meeting. Why? This is YOUR electric cooperative – you are a member-owner, not just a customer. We want you to learn a little about your co-op and participate in the democratic process by electing your directors. We also want to meet you face to face and show you our appreciation!

Watch for your annual meeting notice to be mailed to you late this month with all the details you need to know. You'll want to bring along the registration card included with it. And stay tuned to www.menard.com and www.facebook.com/MenardElectric for details leading up to the event.

Some Highlights of the Evening

Registration 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.
\$15 bill credit and LED nightlight attendance gift

Bucket Truck Rides
Weather permitting

Pork Chop Dinner
Served from 4:30-6:30 p.m.

A Short Business Meeting with Director Election
Begins at 7:00 p.m.

Prize Drawings
Including a \$300 Bill Credit Grand Prize

Power strips and surge protectors

Power strips are inexpensive strips providing extra outlets while surge protector strips provide protection for electronics



- Look for power strips with a built-in circuit breaker; it will trip if you connect more devices than your main outlet can handle. Remember, strips do not provide more power to a location, only more access to the same limited capacity of the circuit to which they are connected.
- Smart power or surge protection strips can save energy: one outlet receives power all the time and the other outlets don't turn on until the master device is turned on.
- Some surge protectors include cable and internet connections; be sure it is designed for digital television signals
- not just analog or pixilation can occur.
- An indicator light can notify you if the surge protection has burned out.
- Pay attention to a surge protector's joule rating, the measure of how much energy it can withstand. Some cheap protectors only handle very small surges.

Electrical Safety Month

Check these 10 items to stay safe around electricity in your home

Electricity is such a part of our everyday lives that it is easy to forget it can be dangerous if we don't take measures to use it safely. In honor of Electrical Safety month we offer this checklist to help you keep your family safe. See more tips at www.esfi.org or www.safeelectricity.org.

- ☑ Verified no electrical cords are frayed or damaged; no extension cords are being used to provide power on a long-term basis; and all cords are in good condition, placed out of walking areas, and free from furniture resting on them.
- ☑ Checked all lighting - lamps are located on level surfaces away from flammable items, no lights flicker or dim (if so contacted an electrician), and no bulb wattages were rated too high for the fixture.
- ☑ Moved all appliance cords away from hot surfaces. Moved all countertop appliances away from the sink.
- ☑ Checked all outlets. Replaced missing/broken cover plates; called an electrician to check out any non-working, unusually warm, or crackling/buzzing outlets.
- ☑ Verified fuse box/circuit breaker box is appropriately labeled. Consulted with an electrician if circuits frequently need reset.
- ☑ Verified outdoor outlets had covers installed.
- ☑ Tested all GFCI outlets in the bathroom, kitchen and outdoor outlets near the pool. No GFCIs? Contacted an electrician.
- ☑ Watched closely to ensure young children are not plugging in/unplugging items themselves. Verified all receptacles are tamper resistant; if not, contact an electrician.
- ☑ Talked to kids about water and electricity - emphasized the importance of never touching an appliance when wet and locating sprinklers and water balloon wars away from outlets and appliances.
- ☑ Reviewed with kids never to climb trees or fly kites near lines, and not to play on or near pad mounted transformers (big green boxes) or utility substations.

EFFICIENCY

Ceiling fans



Running a fan when you are in a room makes you feel cooler. Turn it off when you leave.

NO MORE SURPRISES

with Budget Billing



Details at www.menard.com or call 800-872-1203

Students meet with local legislators during Youth Day

Samantha Fischer of Topeka and Kyle Worner of Manito met with their local legislators, Senator Jil Tracy and Representative Norine Hammond, during the Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives' Youth Day.

Fischer and Worner were among 240 students from 24 Illinois co-ops who visited the State Capitol, met with local legislators, heard from Comptroller Susana Mendoza and toured the Old State Capitol.

Senator Tracy spoke with a group of students and emphasized the importance of the students' roles in their communities of being good citizens and staying informed about local issues. She encouraged the students to contact their local legislators by email or phone about the issues they care about. "We want to hear from you," she said.

Fischer and Worner will represent Menard Electric on the Youth to Washington Tour this summer; a weeklong tour of Washington, D.C. featuring visits with Illinois Congressmen and Senators, and tours of many of the city's sites.

From left are Kyle Worner, Senator Jil Tracy, Representative Norine Hammond and Samantha Fischer



Board highlights

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

March 7, 2017 (February meeting)

- Present: Directors Jay Frye, Warren Goetsch, Gary Martin, Donald McMillan, Michael Patrick, Dennis Ryan & Roy Seaney; Interim Manager Lynn Frasco, new Manager Alisha Anker, Attorney Charles Smith. Absent: Directors Jodine Tate & Steven Worner.
- Frasco: Discussed balance sheet, budget, outage summary, safety report, rescheduled irrigation committee meeting for March 16, LIHEAP program, bad debts status, Missouri Electric Works site cleanup status, nominee sent for Co-Bank No Barriers Program was unable to participate.
- President authorized to sign executor form 790 for L.E. Myers Company.
- Frasco: Co-Bank Patronage as of 3/15/17 totals \$172,953.45 & cash of \$129,715.09; future stock to be paid equaled \$43,238.36.
- Frasco: Gave January financial report. Year to date margins \$102,314 compared to \$(4,378) last year. End of January equity 38.11%. Served 10,862 member accounts. Net utility plant \$45,779,808 compared to \$43,852,654 last year. Co-op meets requirements of RUS, FFB and NRUCFC.
- Patrick: Discussed plans for 2017 Annual Meeting to be held Thursday, June 15, 2017.
- Goetsch: Discussed AIEC activities, executive summary & requested Resolution entitled "Authorize Management to Implement a Disconnect Moratorium for LIHEAP Recipients for the Period Ending March 31, 2017, and the Summer Period when the Temperatures were Forecasted to Exceed 95 Degrees." Resolution adopted.
- Martin: Gave Prairie Power, Inc. & Prairie State report.
- Anker: Additional Prairie Power, Inc. report.
- Directors who attended reviewed 2017 NRECA Annual Meeting.
- Board entered into executive session; reconvened & adopted actions taken.

GENERATOR SAFETY TIPS



Never connect a standby generator into your home's electrical system. There are only two safe ways to connect a standby generator to your equipment.

Stationary Generator:

An approved generator transfer switch, which keeps your house circuits separate from the electric co-op, should be installed by a professional.

Portable Generator:

Plug appliances directly into the outlet provided on the generator.

Set up and run your generator in a well-ventilated area outside the home. Make sure it's out and away from your garage, doors, windows and vents. The carbon monoxide generated is deadly.

Use a heavy-duty extension cord to connect electric appliances to the outlet on the generator.

Start the generator first before connecting appliances.

Source: SafeElectricity.org



DANGER! Outlet Overload

Every year, U.S. fire departments respond to an estimated **25,900 home electrical fires**. These fires cause an estimated **280 deaths, 1,125 injuries** and **\$1.1 billion in property loss**.

Thirty-nine percent of home electrical fires involve outlets and receptacles, and other electrical wiring.

To ensure safety, you should only use about 80 percent of the available current for each electrical outlet in your home.

Are you overloading outlets?
Use this formula to find out:

WATTAGE/VOLTS=AMPS

Example:

Let's say you are using 2,000 watts of power (for one outlet). Divide the watts by the volts in your home (typically 120), and you come up with 16.6 amps of current being used. With a 20 amp electrical outlet, you are using about 80 percent of the available current.

Source: U.S. Fire Administration, Home & Garden