



YOUTH TOUR
2024
ILLINOIS

Courtney Maslana was among 54 high school students from Illinois to visit Washington, D.C., for the Youth to Washington Tour. The students visited major landmarks, such as Gettysburg, Arlington National Cemetery, the U.S. Capitol and the National Mall. They also visited several museums, including the Smithsonian, Air and Space Museum, and the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum. Youth Tour not only highlights the importance of electric cooperatives, but also fosters civic engagement and leadership skills. Courtney was awarded the trip as part of our scholarship program.

Remember to always call JULIE at 811 or visit illinois1call.com before digging. Give 2-3 business days' advance notice so all underground utility lines can be marked.

811

Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

Coffee
on the
CO-OP

Let us treat you to a cup of coffee!

8:00-9:30 A.M.

FRIDAY AUG 2	BUZZ'N BEAN COFFEE COMPANY 330 E Sangamon St, Petersburg
FRIDAY SEP 6	NOW & THEN 142 E Beardstown St, Virginia
FRIDAY OCT 4	ROASTED 205 W State St, Manito



86th Annual Meeting of Members

Powerful Past — Future Focused

More than 260 members and their families attended this year's meeting at Pleasant Plains High School. Each registered member received a \$15 bill credit and small bamboo cutting board and were entered into a prize drawing. Families enjoyed a grilled pork chop dinner, snow cones and visiting with neighbors and employees before the business meeting began.

In a video presentation, President Warren Goetsch discussed our Powerful Past and how the Co-op remains Future Focused. "Menard Electric Cooperative was founded in 1936. Since that time our goal has remained to provide safe, reliable and affordable electricity."

He reviewed how the co-op was formed when local community members came together. "As we look toward the future, you can be confident that we are committed to exploring new ways to best serve our members and our community."

Warren updated members on how the co-op is working with its power supplier and with co-op members to provide an ever-increasing mix of electricity from renewable energy sources while also utilizing traditional coal and natural gas-powered energy.

He discussed how the co-op's new SCADA system allows us to optimize system stability and power efficiency and can lead to faster response times.

Warren concluded by encouraging members to visit voicesforcooperativepower.com, a network of co-op

members, to influence the elected officials making decisions about energy policy and our way of life. "We have the ear of our legislators, but the message must not come from just the grass tops. Like the efforts which enabled the earliest members of Menard Electric to thrive and bring electricity to our service territory in the 1930s, we need your help from the grass roots."

In a video presentation, Treasurer Dennis Ryan walked through the financial reports printed for members in the June Illinois Country Living magazine, handed out to members at the meeting and available on our website. He also highlighted the co-op's recent \$922,000 Capital Credit General Retirement return to members who had service in 2002 and 2003. To learn more about capital credits, visit www.menard.com/capitalcredits.

Dennis also touched on how legislation affects the co-op in regards to wholesale power costs. "For every dollar we collected last year, almost 64 cents went towards power costs. The impact in 2023 was significant. Our 2024 budget predicts a conservative recovery; however, challenges in the wholesale energy markets continue as our electric generation supply sources are challenged by special interest groups."

General Manager Alisha Anker gave a live report to members. In it, she discussed the co-op's continued commitment



Families enjoyed a sweet treat from Kona Ice snow cones.



Members enjoyed a grilled pork chop dinner by the Mason County Pork Producers while visiting with friends and neighbors.

Ballot votes were cast for the Director Election.



to reducing line loss, stating the number was reduced by one-quarter of one-half percent. “Every tenth of a percent in reduction is savings,” she said, crediting much of the reduction to the co-op’s vegetation management program.

Other reasons for the reduction were credited to the multi-year work plan to upgrade conductor size and replace facilities. She cited that in 2023, the co-op welcomed 124 new member services, interconnected 51 member-owned solar systems, added 26 LED security lights, performed 382 work orders to upgrade or retire services, and installed 4.2 miles of underground line and 25.2 miles of overhead line.

Alisha discussed several powerful storms that affected the area and applauded co-op employees for their dedication, as well as members for their resilience. “The patience of our members during major events like these is a true blessing,” said Anker, who thanked members for the encouraging messages sent to co-op personnel.

“Our commitment to members is sincere as we apply centralized attention on fulfilling the co-op’s mission of providing high-quality electrical service at a reasonable cost with concern for the safety and well-being of you, the members, and also the employees and the communities we serve,” she concluded.

Your Board Of Directors. From left Gary Holloway, Dennis Ryan, Rex Muir Jr., D. Jay Frye, Michael Patrick, Gary Martin, Steve Worner, Jodine Tate and Warren Goetsch.

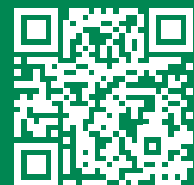


Director Election

Three Director Districts were up for election for 3-year terms. Running unopposed and reelected were D. Jay Frye, District 5, and Gary Martin, District 2. Running for District 9 were incumbent Donald McMillan and Rex Muir, Jr. Both candidates gave verbal remarks at the meeting, a ballot election was held, and Rex Muir, Jr. was elected to a 3-year term.

For more information

Find links to the president and treasurer videos and printed materials from the meeting at www.menard.com/annualmeeting.



Board highlights

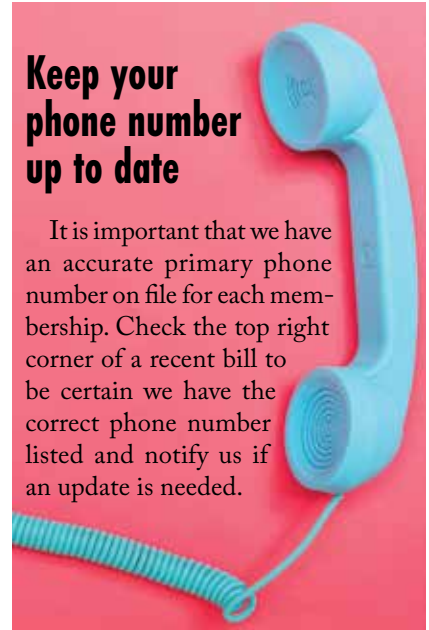
May 28, 2024

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

- All Directors & General Manager Present.
- Annual Review of Conflict of Interest Policy & Disclosures completed.
- Update of Strategic Planning Goal #3, renewables education & possible projects.
- General Manager Alisha Anker reviewed April monthly & YTD financial trends. Operating margins \$1,600,882 compared to \$1,202,796 last year; equity at 42.72%; 12-mo TIER 3.06 & DSC 2.23.
- Reviewed operations report w/70 incidents, longest duration of outage 659 min to single member & largest # affected by single outage 1,179 due to 4/18/24 tornado activity.
- Reviewed RESAP (Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program) audit.
- Discussed irrigation system load control; will go to Irrigation Committee.
- Discussed capital credit discount term annual adjustment; will go to Finance Committee.
- Director Michael Patrick gave summary of Labor Committee Meeting.
- Director Gary Martin selected voting delegate and Steve Worner alternate voting delegate to PPI Annual Meeting. Director Martin and General Manager Anker selected Directors and Worner Alternate Director for PPI.
- Next Mtg 6/28/24.

Keep your phone number up to date

It is important that we have an accurate primary phone number on file for each membership. Check the top right corner of a recent bill to be certain we have the correct phone number listed and notify us if an update is needed.



Ways to view & pay your bill



Online portal

- Access at www.menard.com or through our MyMEC App.
- View current and past bills.
- Select to receive emailed account notifications.
- Pay with an e-check or credit/debit card.



Automatic draft

- Submit a form (see page 6) to begin.
- Pay your bill automatically from a bank account or credit/debit card on a date you select.



Drop off

- Visit our office at 14300 IL State Hwy 97.
- Office hours are 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday.
- A drop box is available 24/7.



Call

- Call 800-872-1203.
- Pay with an e-check or credit/debit card.
- Call 24/7 — if our office is closed, our call center takes payments.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Placing heat sources, such as lamps, computers or TVs, near your thermostat can result in false temperature readings, increased energy use and inconsistent cooling/heating. Make sure your thermostat is installed in an area clear of obstructions, electronic devices, direct sunlight and drafts.

Ensuring your thermostat is free from these types of interferences optimizes energy efficiency, improves indoor comfort and reduces wear and tear on your cooling/heating system.

Source: energy.gov



Pay your bill the easy way

Automatic Bill Payment Authorization

Send us this form to have your bill automatically deducted from a bank account or credit card each month. The amount deducted from your account will be the total amount due on your bill. You will still receive a bill statement to know how much to deduct each month. Deductions are taken each month on the date you select.

This form must be received by the 28th of the month for your next month's bill to be drafted. Include it with your next payment or mail separately to PO Box 200, Petersburg, IL 62675

Name: _____ SS# last four digits _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ MEC Account # _____

Date payment will occur each month (choose one) ___10th ___17th ___24th

Bank Account Draft

Bank Name: _____

Bank Routing # _____ Account # _____
___ Checking acct. *You must include a voided check with this form.* ___ Savings acct.

Credit Card Draft

___ VISA ___ MASTERCARD ___ DISCOVER Card# last four digits _____
A member services representative will call you for the additional card number details.

I authorize Menard Electric Cooperative (MEC) to draw monthly bank/credit card drafts through the automatic plan (ACH) on the account shown above for the payment of my electric bill in full and any other services I authorize. I understand that I may discontinue my participation at any time by notifying MEC in writing. Both MEC and the bank may terminate this agreement with 10 days written notice. I understand that MEC reserves the right to limit participation in this program to members who are in good standing; that the full amount of my bill will be drafted on the date selected or next business day; and that if funds are not available in my account there will a charge posted to my account and it will be subject to the return payment policy.

Signature: _____ Date: _____