

## We pay you back

Menard Electric Cooperative will return approximately

**\$1 Million in capital credits in 2022**  
*to members who purchased electricity in 1999 and/or 2000.*

Instead of returning profits to investors and stockholders we return Capital Credits to our members.

Watch for your bill credit or check to arrive soon!

We have paid out a total of more than \$12,800,000 in Capital Credits to members!



## What are capital credits?

- 1 Co-op members use electricity and pay bills.
- 2 At the end of the year, the co-op determines if there was a profit (margin).
- 3 The co-op allocates margins to members to be repaid later as capital credits.
- 4 If the co-op's financial condition permits, the Board of Directors determines retirement (payment) of capital credits.
- 5 Members receive capital credit payments.

## Work Zone Safety



### Slow down and move over

Slow down and move over for utility crews just as you would for police, fire or other emergency crews working along a roadside. This will ensure a safe environment for everyone.

### Stay back and stay safe

Please stay back and let crews focus on their tasks. Even routine work has the potential to be dangerous and requires the full attention of our crews. Please allow them ample room to work near your property and take pets indoors.



**Menard Electric will be closed July 4 for Independence Day.**

## Youth to Washington Scholarships Awarded

Commitment to Community is one of the pillars of our cooperative. This is the 5th year we have awarded scholarships to students who share our passion for community service. Once again, we are honored to play a small part in helping these students achieve their goals.

### \$1,000 Scholarship



#### Ben Snider

Graduate of Havana High School  
Attending Brigham Young University

**Quote from application:** *"When we serve others with real intent to help and with a loving heart, we are made better ourselves."*

### \$500 Scholarship



#### Amber Teimeyer

Graduate of PORTA High School  
Attending Heartland Community College

**Quote from application:** *"Community service and volunteering is the best way to show your appreciation for the community you call home."*

### \$500 Scholarship

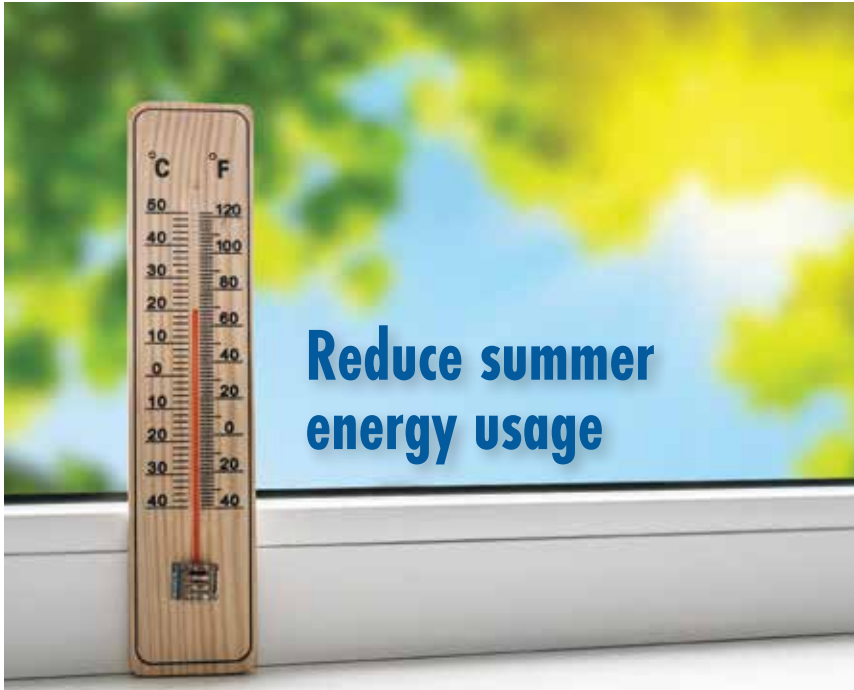


#### Ross Bodine

Graduate of Williamsville High School  
Attending University of Illinois

**Quote from application:** *"Community service makes you a better person by teaching humility and selflessness...becoming better people can help us all create a better society."*

Members who will have a high school senior this upcoming fall should keep an eye out for applications to be available in January next year. They can be found at [menard.com/scholarships](http://menard.com/scholarships) and in local school guidance counselor materials. We have scholarships for 4-year, 2-year and technical programs.



## Reduce summer energy usage

According to the Department of Energy, a typical home uses 48 percent of energy expenditures on the heating, ventilation and air conditioning system (HVAC) system. Although most of that percentage is spent on heating expenses, Americans still spend \$29 billion every year to power air conditioners. Aside from replacing your air conditioner with a higher-efficiency model, Safe Electricity offers the following tips to help reduce energy bills this summer.

- Weatherstrip and caulk around windows and doors.
- Close curtains, blinds and shades during the hottest part of the day. Not only is about one-third of a home's energy lost around windows, but about 76 percent of sunlight that falls on standard double-pane windows enters the home to become heat, according to energy.gov.
- Consider a programmable or smart thermostat. Energy.gov says you can save energy by adjusting your thermostat 7 to 10 degrees from its normal setting for 8 hours a day.

- Clean the filter and get your unit inspected by a HVAC professional.
- Consider landscaping changes to include shade trees and greenery that insulates the foundation.
- Consider ventilating the attic and check insulation levels.
- Make sure your outdoor condenser unit is clean and free from debris. Ideally, the unit should be in the shade.
- Use your clothes dryer and oven during the cooler parts of the day.
- Consider a professional energy audit to reveal where your home is inefficient, including air leaks and exposed duct work.

Increased summer electric demand can also seriously strain your home's electrical system. Flickering or dimming lights or frequent circuit breaker trips are signs of an overloaded electrical system or faulty wiring that should be checked immediately by a qualified electrician.



## Storm safety

- Ensure all members of your family know the dangers of severe storms, the differences between warnings and watches and when and where to take shelter.
- Prepare/update your storm kit. See [ready.gov/kit](https://www.ready.gov/kit) for a list of items to include.
- See [ready.gov/power-outages](https://www.ready.gov/power-outages) for recommendations on what to unplug during an outage and how long refrigerated/frozen food is safe in an extended outage.
- Stay away from downed lines; they could still be energized. Lines could be hidden by storm damage.
- Never step into a flooded basement or other standing water that could be covering electrical outlets, appliances or cords. If your home's electrical system has been damaged, water-logged or otherwise compromised, have it thoroughly inspected by an electrician before using electricity. See [safeelectricity.org](https://www.safeelectricity.org).
- Report outages via MyMEC App, [menard.com](https://www.menard.com) or 800-872-1203. Report any storm damage to our equipment at your location.

# Board highlights

APRIL 26, 2022

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

- All Directors present in person & remotely except Steve Worner. Present also were General Manager Alisha Anker & Attorney Charles Smith.
- Adopted Strategic Planning Session goals.
- Discussed the Removal of Inactive Facilities policy; no chgs made.
- Approved Electric Service Agreement w/ United Regional Water Coop (URWC).
- Operations Manager Dalton Whitley gave Building Committee mtg. report. Additional project bids for expansion of warehouse and yard facilities requested.
- Anker reviewed monthly & YTD financial operating report, balance sheet & financial trends. Operating margins YTD as of 3/31 were \$1,272,366 compared to \$565,351 last year; equity at 44.71%; 12-mo TIER 4.13 & DSC 2.17.
- Anker reviewed operations report w/46 incidents; longest duration outage 425 min affecting 1 member due to underground replacement; largest # affected by single outage 542 due to loss of transmission to substation. Still waiting for official FEMA determination of Dec. storms.
- Certified Goetsch as AIEC Director & Ann mtg Delegate & Worner as Alternate Director & Alternate Delegate.
- Certified Martin as PPI Director & Ann mtg Delegate, Worner as Alternate Director & Anker as Mgr-Director & Ann mtg Alternate Delegate.
- Next Mtg 5/24/22.

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See [menard.com/waystopay](http://menard.com/waystopay) email [info@menard.com](mailto:info@menard.com) or call 800-872-1203 for details.

## Kilo Watt Korner

Air fryer popularity has increased the past couple of years, and we all surely know someone who has raved about the foods they prepare in their units. From fish and pizza to broccoli and French fries, the recipes abound online.



An air fryer uses a heating element, much like any oven, and a fan, like a convection oven. Its smaller size and the air circulation cooks foods quickly. Its high temperatures cause the edges of foods to cook faster, giving foods that crispy fried taste and leading to the popularity.

One hot summer evening while burgers filled the outdoor grill we tossed some

zucchini in a 6-quart Gourmia® digital air fryer for 15 minutes at 400 degrees F. A second evening when rain thwarted grilling plans, chicken thighs were loaded into the 400-degree fryer for 30 minutes.

At full power at that heat setting the device consumes 1,457 watts. Total usage of the two days was 0.91 kWh, costing about 11 cents. If we used it every day of the month for 15 minutes it would use just over 9 kwh and cost about \$2.25.

By comparison, a standard electric stovetop would use about the same wattage, and an electric oven would on average draw twice the wattage. Air fryers have the advantage of heating up faster, using quicker cooking times, and not putting out much heat into the kitchen.

**Korner Recommendation:** The air fryer is another great option for quick summer meals that won't heat up the kitchen and burden the air conditioner.

**KWK**

# JOIN US!

## Annual Meeting

**Thursday, August 4, 2022**

**Registration 4:30-6:30 p.m.**

**Meeting 7:00 p.m.**

*Watch your mailbox for the Annual Meeting booklet later this month. It will contain your registration card, proxy card and other important information.*

- Meet with us in person and ask questions
- Hear about what is happening with the co-op
- Elect your directors
- Cool off with a Kona Ice snow cone
- Enjoy a grilled pork chop dinner
- Receive an attendance gift
- Be entered in our Bill Credits Prize drawing -  
Grand prize is a \$300 Bill Credit

