

Be ready for storm season

Spring is on our doorstep! With all the good that it brings — Hello, flowers! Gardening! Fishing! Baseball! — it also can mean severe storms.

Our crews are always prepared and standing by to respond should power outages occur in our area. Are you prepared? The Federal Emergency Management Agency recommends the items listed here in addition to those in the image below; visit www.ready.gov for additional resources.

- Stock your pantry with a three-day supply of nonperishable food, including canned goods, energy bars, peanut butter, powdered

milk, instant coffee, water and other essentials (i.e., diapers and toiletries).

- Confirm that you have adequate sanitation and hygiene supplies, including towelettes, soap and hand sanitizer.
- Set aside basic household items you will need, including flashlights, a manual can opener and portable weather radio. Gather all your emergency supplies in one place.



In the event of a prolonged power outage, turn off major appliances, TVs, computers and other sensitive electronics. This will help avert damage from lightning or surges and will also help prevent overloading circuits during power restoration. That said, do leave one light on so you will know when power is restored. Report outages on our MyMEC App and check our Facebook page for large outage restoration updates.

ARE YOU STORM READY?

Follow these safety and preparation tips during spring and summer storm season.

Be Prepared.

- Create an emergency kit with power outage essentials: batteries, power banks, flashlights, non-perishable foods, water, medical supplies and prescriptions.
- Develop an emergency family plan with meeting points, communication methods and evacuation routes. Share your plan with all family members.
- Monitor weather for important updates that could impact your emergency plan.

Stay Safe.

- Ensure a safe shelter: Stay away from windows and doors. In tornadoes, move to a basement or an interior room without windows.
- Use portable generators safely: operate outdoors in well-ventilated areas, place on a flat, dry surface, do not overload and always read the operating manual before use.
- Severe storms can bring down tree limbs and power lines. If you encounter a downed line, stay back. Always assume a downed line is live and dangerous.





What are capital credits?



Every member of Menard Electric Cooperative is an owner. We do not exist to earn a profit, and any revenues earned over and above the cost of doing business are considered margins. We allocate those margins as capital credits to the members who purchased electricity during the year they were earned. These credits are an interest-free source of operating capital by you and the rest of our members, which allows us to finance operations with the intent to return the credits back to members later as the board of directors authorizes.

Help us find members with uncashed capital credit checks!

In 2024, your board of directors authorized a general retirement of capital credits earned by members who had active service with us in 2002 and/or 2003. Active members received a bill credit or check, and inactive members were mailed a check.

Some of those checks were never cashed. Sometimes members move, and we don't have a good address; sometimes they pass away; and sometimes they simply overlook a check as junk mail or forget to cash it. Whatever the reason, we want to make sure every member gets the capital credits due to them.



Scan this QR code to visit our webpage at www.menard.com/capitalcredits, and view a listing of members with uncashed checks.

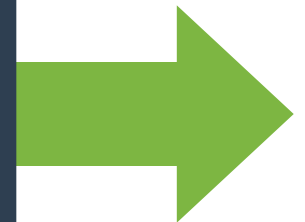
If you know someone, please ask them or their estate executor (if applicable), to email info@menard.com or call 800-872-1203.

Beneficiary form for capital credits

The Payable on Death — Designation of Beneficiary Form here allows you to designate who would receive any capital credits that remain allocated to your membership after your death. If we do not have this form on file, your executor will still be able to request capital credits, but will need to contact us and provide additional paperwork.

Please note you can find your account number on a recent bill (you may leave the customer number space blank).

If your membership is held jointly, the additional member's name will appear on the top right corner of the bill. If a membership is held jointly and one member dies, the membership is re-issued singly, and that member retains all rights to allocated capital credits. Contact us if a joint name needs added to or removed from the membership.



Payable on Death - Designation of Beneficiary

Illinois Uniform TOD Security Registration Act 815 ILCS 10/0.01 et. seq.



Member Information: <i>(Please print legibly)</i>			
Customer Number		Account Number	
Name		Email	
Name <i>(if joint membership)</i>		Email	
Address			
City, State, Zip		Phone	

I, _____ / _____, of
(Member Name) (Joint Member Name, if shared membership)

_____ , _____ pursuant to the terms of
(Address) (City, State, Zip)

the Illinois Uniform TOD Security Registration Act, designate the following as the beneficiary of my/our capital credit account with Menard Electric Cooperative (MEC) to be paid upon the death of both joint members, to:

Primary Designated Beneficiary:			
Name			
Address			
City, State, Zip			
Phone		Date of Birth	
Relationship		Email	

Secondary Designated Beneficiary: <small>(If the primary beneficiary predeceases the member/s, the secondary beneficiary accedes to the primary position. Optional.)</small>			
Name			
Address			
City, State, Zip			
Phone		Date of Birth	
Relationship		Email	

MEC is authorized to register ownership of my/our capital credit account with MEC in my/our name and pay on death to the primary beneficiary named above or the secondary beneficiary should the primary predecease me/us. This designation remains in effect until amended or revoked by member, or both joint members (if joint membership), in writing.

 Member Signature

 Date

 Member Signature *(if joint membership)*

 Date

Send completed form to: Menard Electric Cooperative, PO Box 200 Petersburg, IL 62675

Board highlights

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

Dec. 20, 2024

- All Directors present except Rex Muir Jr.; Attorney & General Mgr. Alisha Anker present.
- 2025 budget approved.
- Rate schedules & riders approved; updated from Nov. rate changes.
- Anker reviewed Nov. monthly & YTD financial trends. Operating margins \$3,035,794 compared to \$3,668,412 last year; equity at 42.35%; 12-mo TIER 2.89 & DSC 2.16.
- Anker reviewed operations report w/52 incidents, longest duration of outage 264 minutes due to bad transformer affecting 1 member; largest # affected by single outage 2,696 for 20 min due to 4 substations impacted by Ameren transmission.
- Approved chgs to fixed expenses for cell phone & block heater; increased one-time Retiree HRA contribution cap.
- Jodine Tate appointed delegate to NRTC Mtg. Jay Frye appointed voting delegate & Gary Holloway alternate to ICWCG Mtg. Warren Goetsch appointed voting delegate & Gary Martin alternate to NRECA Ann Mtg.
- Co-op staff & representatives from XXL Studio LLC joined mtg for presentation on crypto-currency mining opportunities for co-op territories. After discussion Anker to proceed w/investigation & negotiations regarding production center impacts.
- Next mtg 1/23/25.



Member Survey

You may receive an email invitation this month to take a member survey.

We know you're busy and an invite like this can be easy to ignore. We humbly ask that you complete the survey. Please know that we appreciate your time, and we take the results very seriously!

Surveys help us to know where we are doing well and where we can improve to meet our members' expectations.

Thanks in advance for taking the time to complete this important survey!

Yearly Director Election

Our Board of Directors is made up of nine Directors, each representing a Director District and serving a three-year term. Each year three Director Districts are up for election. Members at large will vote for representation in Districts 1, 4 and 6 at the Annual Meeting of Members June 18, 2025, at Pleasant Plains High School.

Members who reside in any of these three Districts may submit a petition for the election. If you are interested, please call our office at 800-872-1203 to briefly discuss the process of election and obtain a petition.

Petitions must be received in our office by 4:30 p.m. Friday, May 2, 2025.





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: _____