

1941



2005



2026



Menard Electric Cooperative



Years of Service
1936-2026

1964



2023



1966



Happy 90th Anniversary!



Alisha Anker
General Manager

October is Cooperative Month, and we want to take the opportunity to celebrate Menard Electric Cooperative's 90th anniversary!

In 1936, as lights illuminated cities across Illinois, farmers and their wives were still completing chores as their great-great-grandparents had. Many rural residents longed for electricity and the lights, motors, pumps, irons, stoves and washers it could bring, saving them from hard, manual labor.

The companies that served the cities with electricity would not extend power lines into the countryside, because potential profits looked small. With the assistance of the federal government, a group of nine local men came together in September 1936 to incorporate Menard Electric Cooperative and were granted a loan and engineering assistance from the Rural Electrification Administration (REA).

The first pole was dug and set by hand in February 1937; putting up those first few miles of line was a tiresome job requiring a crew of many men and a great deal of physical

labor. In just five months, 116 miles of line were energized, and 348 members received the electricity they had waited so long for.

Today we have over 2,300 miles of line serving more than 10,900 meters. The work required to set poles and string lines is performed safer and more efficiently, but the dedication and goals of our employees remain the same as those original crews: to provide reliable and safe electricity to our members.

The following seven Cooperative Principles influenced our founders and continue to provide the guiding star for our operations today: Voluntary & open membership; Democratic control; Members' economic participation; Autonomy & independence; Education, training and information; Cooperation among cooperatives; and Concern for community.

So, during this Cooperative Month and at all times, we hope you are proud to be a member of this electric cooperative. Within the ever-changing world in which we live, you can rest assured that your cooperative still adheres to the goals of our founding members — to improve the lives of those we serve within our communities. In 90 years, the way we do things has changed, but not the why we do them.

Timeline of Electricity and Menard Electric



1879 Edison made public 1st Incandescent light bulb

1913

Electric refrigerator invented



May 11, 1935

Rural Electrification Administration established by Franklin D. Roosevelt

June 13, 1936

Menard Electric unofficially organized

February 26, 1937

First pole set near Tipton School in Sherman



1939 Televisions appear on market

1941

U.S. enters WWII. Line construction slows due to shortages of personnel, copper wire & other equipment

1945/46

Growth of co-ops takes off again

1879

1901

Radios invented



1919

Pop up toaster invented



September 12, 1936

REA loan approved to build lines. Bylaws adopted.

August 7, 1937

First lines energized

October 9, 1937

First annual meeting

1942

Moved to downtown Petersburg office

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH

THE SEVEN COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES



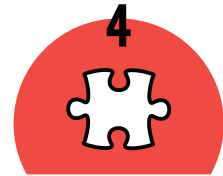
1
VOLUNTARY AND
OPEN MEMBERSHIP



2
DEMOCRATIC
MEMBER CONTROL



3
MEMBERS' ECONOMIC
PARTICIPATION



4
AUTONOMY AND
INDEPENDENCE



5
EDUCATION, TRAINING,
AND INFORMATION



6
COOPERATION AMONG
COOPERATIVES



7
CONCERN FOR
COMMUNITY

Led by the people we serve.



1950
Willie Wiredhand
created,
Air conditioners
appear in homes



1980
Home computers, cell
phones invented



1999
Joined Touchstone
Energy



1990's
World Wide
Web, DVDs,
Fuel Cells
invented



2020
Home offices
expand as
working
from home
increases

2008
Began
automated
meter reading

2026



1946
Microwave
invented

1970's

Irrigation
snowballs
Atari game
system
introduced



1996
Hired
meter
readers



2005
Moved to
current
headquarters



2012
LEDs become
popular home
lighting options



2022

Government tax
credits push rise
in residential
solar and
electric vehicles.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Don't let phantom energy haunt your electric bill this October. Many electronics continue using electricity even when they're turned off. TVs, gaming systems, coffee makers and phone chargers can quietly draw power around the clock. While each device uses only a small amount, the energy waste can add up over time. Before heading out for Halloween fun, unplug devices you don't use regularly or plug them into a smart power strip that automatically cuts power when equipment is off. It's a simple trick that can help keep phantom energy waste in check.

Source: Dept. of Energy



Board highlights

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

July 28, 2026

- All Directors present; also General Manager & Attorney.
- Approved Minutes of organizational mtg held 6/24/26.
- President Warren Goetsch announced appointments to standing committees for July 2026-June 2027 period.
- General Manager Alisha Anker shared findings of RUS External Compliance Review for period 7/1/19-4/30/26.
- After discussion of documents, voted to approve & affirm Certificate & Resolutions for RUS Loan; signing of loan documents set for 8/4/26.
- Reviewed June monthly & YTD financial trends. Operating margins \$1,127,211 compared to \$1,512,748 last year; equity at 42.41%; 12-mo TIER 2.53 & DSC 1.96.
- Reviewed operations report: 198 incidents; longest duration of outage 1,009 min. for single member & largest # affected by single outage 1,079, both due to June 10-11 windstorm/tornado.
- Anker reported on Annual Meetings, presented new billing statement format, announced posting for Field Engineer position, reviewed load control & advised MISO dispatched Load Modifying Resources July 15 4:00-8:00 p.m.
- President Goetsch certified primary delegate for NRECA Region 5 mtg & Director Dennis Ryan alternate.
- Next mtg 8/25/26.

LIHEAP

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) could help pay your electric, gas and propane energy bills. The new program year begins in October. Contact your local agency to confirm income eligibility requirements and application timelines.

- MCS Community Services-Cass/Morgan County
217-243-9404
www.morgancounty-il.com
- Community Action Partnership of Central Illinois-Logan/Mason/Menard County
217-732-2159
www.capcil.info/liheap
- Sangamon County
217-535-3120
www.co.sangamon.il.us
- Tazwood Community Services-Tazewell County
309-266-9941
www.tazwoodcs.org



Is your HVAC system ready for winter?

Schedule a professional inspection

- Have your heating system inspected by a qualified HVAC professional each year, preferably before winter weather arrives. A professional can check for worn parts, airflow issues, safe operation and other problems that may not be obvious to a homeowner.

Change or clean air filters

- Check your air filter regularly and replace or clean it as needed – usually every one to three months. A dirty filter can block airflow, make your system work harder and affect indoor air quality.

Check airflow throughout the home

- Ensure all registers and vents are clean and not blocked by furniture, rugs, curtains or other items. Closing vents in unused rooms may seem like a way to save energy, but it can disrupt airflow and make your system work harder.

Reduce heat loss

- Seal drafts around windows and doors with weatherstripping or caulk. Check insulation in attics, basements and crawlspaces.

Prepare outdoor HVAC equipment

- Remove leaves, branches, grass clippings and other debris around outdoor HVAC equipment. Trim shrubs and vegetation to maintain at least 2 feet of clearance around the unit. Remember to keep units and intake/exhaust pipes free of snow and ice this winter.

Know when it may be time for a replacement

- Watch for signs such as increasing run times, uneven heating, frequent repairs, unusual noises or a system that takes too long to heat your home.