

## Thank You for being a part of this cooperative

We are thankful to be led by you, the consumer-members we serve.

Thank You for all the ways you stay involved by staying informed about and participating in this cooperative. We are thankful you read this newsletter, visit our website and like our Facebook posts. We were grateful to hold an in-person annual meeting again this year and appreciate all who participated.

And we are thankful for members who took the time to rally with us to Take Action Now and contact legislators

regarding the energy bill (see this month's Commentary for more details).

It has been a year full of ups and downs and we are thankful that as a Cooperative we can remain focused on you, our membership, and the ways we can best meet your need for safe, reliable energy.

We hope you have much to be grateful for this year as well. Happy Thanksgiving!



## Employee Changes

We welcomed Audra Sturgeon as our new Receptionist in late September. Audra comes to us after 19 years with the Illinois Trial Lawyers Association, a non-profit state association in Springfield, where she served as Receptionist and Membership/Depository Manager. She has driven past our office on her long commute each day from Havana to Springfield. She says she is happy to have found this position that cuts her daily drive time in half, giving her more time to spend with husband Chad and children Austin and Breanna. Please offer her a warm welcome when you call or stop in our office.



Alycia Clifton was promoted from Receptionist to Dispatcher, filling the position left open by a retirement. Alycia

began with the co-op in October 2019 as a part-time receptionist. One year later she became full-time and in September 2021 she took on the position of Dispatcher. Alycia will continue to assist members who call or come in to the office and will be responsible for communicating service changes and outages to the line crews.

## Apply Now for \$2,000 Scholarships

**13 College Scholarships** available through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives Memorial Scholarship Program. Scholarships are available for children of electric cooperative members and employees attending four-year colleges and universities or two-year community colleges.

**Deadline:** December 31, 2021

**1 Line School Scholarship** available through the LaVern and Nola McEntire Memorial Lineworker's Scholarship for Lincoln Land Community College. Available for children of co-op members, co-op employees or directors, those presently enrolled in the lineworker school, and those who have served/are serving in the U.S. Armed Forces or National Guard.

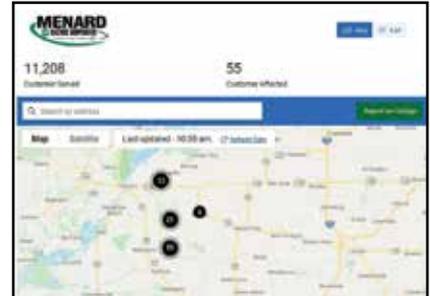
**Deadline:** April 30, 2022

**Visit [menard.com/scholarships](http://menard.com/scholarships) to apply.**



**Election Day is  
Tuesday, November 2.**

*Make your voice heard in any local elections!*



## Stay connected

Winter weather can include strong winds, heavy snow and ice that can lead to power outages. The easiest way to report and stay connected to us during an outage is through our MyMEC app. It also links to our secure online portal to manage your account.

## LIHEAP

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) could help pay your bill. Contact your local agency as soon as possible for eligibility requirements.

**MCS Community Services**  
Cass/Morgan County  
217-243-9404

**Community Action Partnership  
of Central Illinois**  
Logan/Mason/Menard County  
217-732-2159 • [capcil.info](http://capcil.info)

**Decatur-Macon County  
Opportunities Corporation**  
Macon County  
217-428-2193 • [dmcoc.org](http://dmcoc.org)

**Sangamon County**  
217-535-3120 • [co.sangamon.il.us](http://co.sangamon.il.us)

**Tazwood Community Services**  
Tazewell County  
309-694-4391 • [tazwoodcs.org](http://tazwoodcs.org)



***Our office will be closed  
Nov 11 for  
Veterans Day and  
Nov 25-26 for Thanksgiving.***

# BudgetWise Budget Billing fall cycle begins

With Budget Billing we average the last 12 months of usage and determine a budget amount. Members pay that same amount each month for 11 months and on the 12th month settle up with a credit or additional balance due depending on actual electricity used for the year. The fall cycle true up is November bills. Email [info@menard.com](mailto:info@menard.com) or call 800-872-1203 with your account number for details.



## Pay automatically

Sign up for Automatic Payment to process your payment through your checking or savings account on the 10th, 17th or 24th of each month. You'll still receive a bill each month to know how much to deduct.

Sign up on the back of your payment stub this month and never worry about forgetting to pay, possible mail delays, or other payment snafus again!

## Paperless billing

It is fast and reliable to receive notification of your bill by email. You'll receive notification as soon as your bill is ready to view. Then you can pay online, call to pay, mail your check or log the amount for automatic payment. Log onto your account through our MyMEC app or our website portal at [menard.com](http://menard.com) and select Account Management/Paperless Options/check mark email and paperless.



## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Fall is the perfect time to prep your home for the upcoming winter chill. One of the best ways you can save energy and stay comfortable is to caulk and weatherstrip areas that typically need sealing. Start by sealing around windows and doors. Seal plumbing, ducting, and areas where electrical wiring comes through walls, floors and ceilings for additional energy savings.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)



## Board highlights

For full minutes visit [menard.com](http://menard.com) or contact the office.  
August 24, 2021

- All Directors present, also General Manager Alisha Anker & Attorney Charles Smith.
- Anker reviewed series of documents related to pending RUS Restated Mortgage & Security Agreement. Resolution passed.
- Adopted Organizational Certification of Bylaw changes made at Annual Mtg.
- Approved Alliance Community Bank Cash Management Agreement.
- Reviewed 2020 Key Ratio & Trend Analysis Summary.
- Anker reviewed monthly & YTD financial operating report, balance sheet & financial trends. Operating Margins YTD as of 7/31 were \$1,028,622 compared to \$785,740 last year; equity at 42.98%; 12-mo TIER 3.26 & DSC 1.87.
- Reviewed Member Svs report w/173 Aug cutoff tickets generated; \$239.65 in write-offs. Reviewed Operations report w/106 incidents; longest outage 445 minutes; largest outage 765 members. Reviewed Safety report & Load Control report.
- Appointed McMillan Delegate & Ryan Alternate Delegate to Federated Director Election. Cast ballots for Robert McLennan for CoBank Director & Shane Larson for CFC Director.
- Next mtg 9/28/21.

## Congratulations

Director Dennis Ryan has earned his Board Leadership Certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). An ever-changing business environment has imposed new demands on co-op directors, requiring increased knowledge of changes in the electric utility business, new governance skills and a solid knowledge of the co-op principles and business model. Our directors have committed to sharpening this body of knowledge for the benefit of you the members!

## KiloWatt Korner

*Welcome to a new feature we hope you like. Each month the KiloWatt Korner will highlight a different device used around most homes or small businesses. We have used our Kill-a-Watt devices to provide you with the energy used by each of these devices, as tested in our own homes and at the co-op.*



According to the Department of Energy, you can save energy by more efficient use of your small appliances. We start this month with a Keurig K-Elite coffee maker.

This model brews a single cup of coffee and holds a 1/2 gallon reservoir of water. Water temperature settings are available from 187 to 192 degrees F. We identified that when the device is turned from OFF to ON, it drew 250 watts for a short duration, then settled out at 3 watts during the dispense cycle after we inserted a coffee pod and selected our cup

size. When the dispense cycle completes, this model heats water for the next ready cup, during which it draws 1,485 to 1,500 watts depending on desired water temperature. We add cream and sugar to enjoy our cup of joe, yet during the idle time the unit draws a steady 1.7 watts. Throughout the day, this unit will reheat the reservoir water occasionally, resulting in a total daily energy usage of 0.412 kilowatt-hours (kWhrs).

Used for a month as described, 2 cups per day, the unit consumed 12.36 kWhrs, costing us about \$1.53. This unit offers an auto-off feature which cycles the unit OFF after 2 hours of non-use. This setting disengages the occasional water heating but continues to draw 1.6 watts per hour. Used for a month with the auto-off setting engaged, the unit consumed 2.6 kWhrs, costing us \$0.33.

*Korner Recommendation:* A \$1.20/month savings is had by using the auto-off feature.

**KW**



# Veterans, we honor you!

“As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.”

*John Fitzgerald Kennedy*



# Message received loud and clear

**THANK YOU TO THOSE** electric cooperative members across Illinois who over the last few months visited the Voices for Cooperative Power website

agricultural co-op, credit union, telephone cooperative or your electric co-op, they are all based on the same seven cooperative principles and



## Voices for Cooperative Power

*United for Stronger Communities*

and took action to send an email to their elected officials. Our collective voices made a difference and resulted in more than 40,000 emails to Governor Pritzker, Senate and House members through the Voices for Cooperative Power website – all within a few months.

This was true grassroots support and advocacy at its best, at a time when we needed it most while energy legislation was actively considered in Springfield.

Your actions helped convey electric cooperative support for a reasoned transition to lower carbon sources of electricity while maintaining grid reliability. Together we emphasized to our legislators that policy objectives must not get ahead of today's technology, and our voices were heard.

Our goal throughout was to protect affordability for our rural electric cooperative member-consumers and the local communities they serve. Your actions helped make the final omnibus energy bill better as passed by the legislature and signed by the Governor. It provided a pathway for our diverse

energy resources, protected good paying jobs, the livelihood of families, the tax base many rural schools depend upon, while adding reliability protections which reduced risk to the electric cooperative membership.

It is that grassroots support and engagement that sets co-ops apart. This is particularly fresh because throughout October electric cooperatives in Illinois joined co-ops nationwide in celebrating Cooperative Month. Whether it is an

depend on the engagement of their members to be successful.

For your electric cooperative, being a grassroots advocate helps tell our story and express to elected officials the importance of a particular issue in front of them that directly impacts your co-op.

As Louis Finkel, senior vice president of government relations at the National Association of Electric Cooperatives (NRECA), shared in his July column, "Speaking up on issues that impact electric co-ops sends a message to elected officials about the needs of our communities – and their constituencies. Voices for Cooperative Power gives a platform to talk about the many ways your electric co-op supports your community. Beyond delivering electricity, co-ops provide jobs, stability and economic growth – all while ensuring that energy affordability and reliability remain foundational advantages of electric co-op membership."

If you have not signed up yet, I encourage you to visit [voicesforcooperativepower.com](http://voicesforcooperativepower.com) today to get involved.

Thanks again for making your voices heard. It is valuable to know we can count on so many co-op members to advocate for safe, affordable and reliable energy. We will continue to keep you informed as we advocate for issues important to co-ops in the ever-evolving legislative landscape at federal and state levels. 💡



**Duane Noland** is the President/CEO of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives and a member of Shelby Electric Cooperative.

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