

## We serve others – Cooperation Among Cooperatives

In September, six of our linemen were called to provide mutual aid assistance and help restore power to co-op members affected by Hurricane Florence. A two-man crew was dispatched to Virginia and a four-man crew to North Carolina before the hurricane made landfall to be in place to begin power restoration as soon as the weather would allow.

They worked 16-17 hour days alongside hundreds of other crews to restore power to thousands of members.

Community Electric Cooperative in Windsor, Virginia was spared the damage they anticipated. Troy Shafer and Seth Parker were released from the requesting cooperative after just a few days.

At South River EMC in Dunn, North Carolina, Jeremy Willis, Jason Beggs, Kyle Hill and Erik Raikes were in place to witness first-hand the winds, rains and flooding brought by Florence.

"I've never seen rain like that in all my life," says Willis.

"It was unreal," agrees Raikes, "and it just kept coming."

The men were gone seven days. A couple of those days they saw a bit of sunshine, but even then they were never dry. They worked in flooded areas where the water was above their knee boots as they sought to creatively find ways to access areas to restore power. On one occasion, Willis said a local co-op lineman swam across the waters to a nearby tree to remove it from a line; trees were the cause of many outages as the men worked in largely wooded areas.

But trees they know how to handle. The crocodile that walked across a roadway a mile from where they worked is a whole other issue, as were the fire ants that, unfortunately, Willis got into a nest of. "That was awful," he says.

These two co-ops may have been thousands of miles away from us,



*Employees aiding with Hurricane Florence storm restoration were Area Servicemen Troy Shafer and Seth Parker, Leadman Jeremy Willis, Linemen Jason Beggs and Kyle Hill and Storekeeper Erik Raikes.*



featuring different challenges to power restoration, but co-ops are united in many things: linemen work together long hours to serve their members and restore power as quickly and safely as possible; and wherever you go, members show their appreciation with kind words, prayers, food and more. It's all about being part of a co-op is all about.

"This kind of service isn't new to us. Our linemen are heroes in our eyes and in the eyes of those less fortunate than us who are impacted by these emergency

events. We sent a crew last fall to aid cooperatives in need after Hurricane Irma, and when possible, we'll send crews again. The decision is certainly never taken lightly and many factors are considered. With Florence, we were in a great position to send crews to help others without causing any hardships here at home. If we are ever in need, we trust help from other cooperatives will head our way, it's the co-op way" says Menard Electric Manager Alisha Anker.

# We are thankful for your membership

*"Feeling gratitude and not expressing it is like wrapping a present and not giving it."*

In the spirit of this quote by author William Arthur Ward, we want to take this opportunity to express our gratitude for our members.

## Thankful for your participation

Reading this newsletter shows you are an active member of this cooperative. When you attend our annual meeting, alert us to problems, and provide suggestions online or to our employees, you help us improve operations and thereby better serve the larger co-op membership.



## Member Angel Tree

We are now accepting Angels for our Menard Electric Member Angel Tree. Be sure to check out page 13 in this issue for details, or visit [www.menard.com](http://www.menard.com) and [facebook.com/menardelectric](https://facebook.com/menardelectric).

## Thankful for your directors

Because we are locally governed by a board of directors made up of members of our community and elected by you, we are able to get a first-hand perspective on community priorities, thereby enabling us to make more informed decisions on long-term investments.

We are thankful for these board members who carve out time to attend important training sessions, participate in planning meetings and keep abreast of industry trends. This investment in time results in better informed advisors that serve the co-op's interests in a way that our members expect and deserve. Directors Dennis Ryan and Steven Worner recently completed the training

necessary to earn their Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificates and Director Don McMillan earned his Board Leadership Certificate. Both certificates are provided through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

## Thankful for your kindness

We also appreciate the countless acts of kindness our lineworkers and other employees receive when they are working in severe weather and dangerous conditions. Our employees are thankful for your patience and consideration when we are trying to restore power during challenging situations and prolonged periods.



**Election Day is November 6**

*Visit [vote.coop](http://vote.coop) for information*



# Prepare now for winter storm outages with MyMEC

Winter weather is on the way and sometimes snow and ice storms can cause outages. Have you downloaded our MyMEC app yet? You can report outages and other electrical issues, view an outage map, keep updated on power restoration and more.



Download MyMEC by searching for Menard Outage in the Google Play or iOS App store on your mobile phone.

You'll need to input the account number (which can be found on a recent bill) or your meter number (located under the digital digits and above the barcode).

Having trouble with any of the app features not working? We would appreciate your letting us know by emailing [info@menard.com](mailto:info@menard.com) with the issue, whether it's persistent or the date/time noticed, and whether you are an Apple or Android phone user. Also note that any security light outages still need to be called in to the office.

**Did you know you can pay your bill automatically from a checking or savings account each month? See the back of your bill stub for an automatic payment form. Ask us about budget billing as well to make paying your bill even easier.**

## Powering Up

When electricity goes out, most of us expect power will be restored within a few hours. But when a major storm causes widespread damage, longer outages may result. Co-op line crews work long, hard hours to restore service safely to the greatest number of consumers in the shortest time possible. Here's what's going on if you find yourself in the dark.

### 1 High-Voltage Transmission Lines

Transmission towers and cables that supply power to transmission substations (and thousands of members) rarely fail. But when damaged, these facilities must be repaired before other parts of the system can operate.

### 2 Distribution Substation

Each substation serves hundreds or thousands of consumers. When a major outage occurs, line crews inspect substations to determine if problems stem from transmission lines feeding into the substation, the substation itself, or if problems exist down the line.

### 3 Main Distribution Lines

If the problem cannot be isolated at a distribution substation, distribution lines are checked. These lines carry power to large groups of consumers in communities or housing developments.

### 4 Tap Lines

If local outages persist, supply lines, called tap lines, are inspected. These lines deliver power to transformers, either mounted on poles or placed on pads for underground service, outside businesses, schools, and homes.

### 5 Individual Homes

If your home remains without power, the service line between a transformer and your residence may need to be repaired. Always call to report an outage to help line crews isolate local issues.

graphic by Funnel Inc.

## Board highlights

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

**August 28, 2018**

- Present were Directors D. Jay Frye, Warren Goetsch, Gary Martin, Donald McMillan, Michael Patrick, Roy Seaney & Steven Worner, Manager of Accounting & Information Systems Chris Hinton, Manager Alisha Anker & Attorney Charles Smith. Directors Dennis Ryan & Jodine Tate absent.
- Anker: Introduced Mayor of Williamsville to speak regarding proposed ForeFront Power Solar Farm involving territory served by Menard & Ameren. Board authorized Manager to discuss with Ameren.
- Hinton: Presented review of 2017 IRS Form 990.
- Board: Approved Switching Arrangements Agreement.
- Board: Approved LIHEAP Program Agreements.
- Anker: Reviewed balance sheet, budget, rebates, irrigations, safety, reliability, operations, IT security, capital credits & member newsletter.
- Anker: Reviewed CoBank Director Election vote.
- Board: Appointed Goetsch Delegate to Region V Federated Insurance Exchange Mtg.
- Board: Approved transfer of Co-op information after Auditor Kevin Kelso sold to national firm Jackson Thornton & Co., P.C.
- Anker: Gave July financial report. Year to date margins \$1,654,670 compared to \$2,281,189 last year. End of July equity 39.84%. Served 10,887 member accounts. Net utility plant \$48,858,158 compared to \$46,988,992 last year. Co-op meets requirements of RUS, FFB, NRFC & CoBank.
- Anker: Reviewed NRECA/CFC Governance Task Team Report, Series Part 1 of 4.
- Goetsch: reported on AIEC Activities; recognized for election as President of AIEC Board.
- Martin: Reported on Prairie Power, Inc.
- Goetsch: Reported on Bylaw/Policy Committee Meeting. Motion carried to approve as presented Metering Equipment Policy, Interconnection and Parallel Operation of Distributed Generation Policy, Interconnection of and Service to Qualifying Facilities under PURPA Policy, & Mileage Compensation for use of Employee-Owned Vehicles and Commuting Rule for Company Vehicles Policy.
- Anker: Presented Capital Credit Estate Refunds Report.
- Board: Entered into Executive Session; reconvened; motion carried to confirm & ratify action taken.
- Next Board Meeting October 2. Strategic Planning Session is December 4-5.

## LIHEAP

We urge you to contact your local office as soon as possible if you believe you may qualify for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Qualifications are based on income and household size.

Cass/Morgan

Counties ..... 217/243-9404

Logan/Mason/Menard

Counties ..... 217/732-2159

Macon County ..... 217/428-2193

Sangamon County .... 217/535-3120

Tazewell County ..... 309/694-4391



## \$2,000 Scholarships



### 11 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, 2018**



### 1 Line School Scholarship

available through the LaVern and Nola McEntire 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, 2019**

Visit [www.menard.com](http://www.menard.com) for more details or call Michelle at the office at 800-872-1203.



Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Account # or Meter #: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender: \_\_\_\_\_

Age (12 or under): \_\_\_\_\_

Coat Size: \_\_\_\_\_

Pant Size: \_\_\_\_\_

Shoe Size: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Wish Item: \_\_\_\_\_

## Menard Electric Cooperative's **Member Angel Tree**

Is your child dreaming of a new LOL doll or a super hero action figure? Maybe they need a new coat or pair of boots? We want to make Wishes come true for our members' children aged 12 years old or younger this Christmas. If you need help fulfilling your child's Christmas Wish, please submit this Angel to us by November 30.

We'd like to fulfill as many Wishes as possible, so we ask that you list only one Wish item per child and that the expected value be \$30 or less.

Menard Electric's Christmas Committee is comprised of employees who hold fundraising events throughout the

year. These donations will be used to fulfill the Wishes. Sadly, we cannot guarantee we will have the funding to fulfill each and every Wish. We will do our best.

If any members want to fulfill an Angel's Wish, we welcome the assistance. Please contact the Co-op at 800-872-1203. Wishers must fill out all the information on the Angel and return to the Co-op by November 30. Santa and his reindeer will be delivering Wishes the week of December 17.

We suggest you mail Wishes with your bill, however you can also use the drop box at the Co-op office or mail separately to PO Box 200, Petersburg, IL 62675.