

Words on the Wire



Alisha Anker
General Manager

In this month's publication, we're sharing some features and pictures from the 2019 Annual Meeting of Menard Electric Co-op held June 14 in Petersburg. We had wonderful weather for the event and it was my pleasure to see and chat with so many members in attendance.

To provide you an insider's peek into the aftermath of an Annual Meeting, I spend close to the entire following day sending Thank Yous, speaking with folks who had questions, and taking in comments and reactions from those in the audience. This year, a common theme emerged in reaction to a statistic provided at the close of the meeting's reports. Members

Working safely is not only a key component of our overall mission, but a promise we make to you as members and to our local communities.

were in amazement that our co-op employees had not experienced a lost time incident in almost 7 years.

Those I spoke with described for me how their company or division can't go a year or even a few months without a lost time incident. My reaction -- utter shock. This spurred me to look for the Lost Work Day rate analyses for electric co-ops across the country. On average,

1.2 work days in 2018 were lost due to work-related accidents or injuries. The rates for this region and the state were slightly higher yet. Looking back 10 years, the trendline is fortunately downward sloping. As an industry, I consider this optimistic as the health of every electric co-op employee is of utmost importance.

For Menard Electric, I'm proud to tout the employees' strong safety culture, which has exemplified these past 7 years. We did celebrate the achievement and have set the goal to continue in good stride, for the families we all go home to every day and the hobbies we enjoy in our free time. Working safely is not only a key component of our overall mission, but a promise we make to you as members and to our local communities. Until next time, focus on safety in your lives and do enjoy the remains of the summer.

No Lost-Time Tracker

0 7

Years

0 0

Months

0 5

Days

For Sale



98 Transmission Crossarms

70 Crossarms at dimensions: 4 9/16" X 5 1/2" x 10 ft.

28 Crossarms at dimensions: 4 11/16" X 5 9/16" X 8 ft.

Must take all crossarms. Sealed bids should be received in the office by 4 p.m. on Thursday, August 29, 2019. Contact Operations Manager Dalton Whitley with questions at 800-872-1203.

Recap of 82nd Annual Meeting of Members

Meeting was held June 13 at PORTA High School. More information on what was discussed during the business meeting can be found on our website at www.menard.com/82nd-annual-meeting-recap



Face painting, balloon twisting and bucket truck rides are always family favorites.



Musician Avery Kern delighted audience members with a variety of music.



A record 405 members, along with their families, attended.



Through paper ballot, members elected Gary Holloway to serve District 1 on the Board of Directors. Dennis Ryan of District 4 and Steve Worner of District 6 ran unopposed and were re-elected.



Jay Frye recognized retiring Director Roy Seaney for more than 25 years of service.

Youth to Washington Tour



Annie Fulgenzi represented Menard Electric Cooperative in Washington, D.C. as part of the Youth to Washington Tour.

During a very busy week in June, Annie was able to visit our nation's capital, soak in its rich history and meet with local legislators including U.S. Senators Dick

Durbin and Tammy Duckworth and U.S. Representatives Rodney Davis and Darin LaHood. She also visited historical and cultural sites including Arlington National Cemetery, the Supreme Court, President Lincoln's Cottage at First National Cemetery, a variety of memorials and the U.S. Capitol.

Annie was chosen as Menard Electric's ambassador for the trip as part of our



U.S. Rep. Rodney Davis and Annie Fulgenzi

Youth to Washington Scholarship Program. One of the seven founding principles of Menard Electric is Commitment to Community.

This program is a small part of that commitment and as such, one of the criteria for the scholarship awards was an emphasis on community involve-

ments the applicants made or realized in their lives. In Washington, D.C., Annie was able to witness first-hand what serving others can do for our country. To learn more about our scholarship program visit www.menard.com.

To learn more about the Youth to Washington Tour visit youthtour.coop or facebook.com/ILYouthtoWashington.



Vogt completes apprenticeship

General Manager Alisha Anker congratulates Levi Vogt for completing his four-year apprenticeship to become a journeyman lineman with Menard Electric Cooperative.

Levi came to Menard Electric as a first-year apprentice lineman after graduating from the lineman training program at Lincoln Land Community College. He completed the remainder of his coursework at Northwest Lineman College.

Visit Illinois TSE co-ops at the Farm Progress Show

The Farm Progress Show is back in Illinois this year, and we want to see you there!

The nation's largest outdoor farm event will be held at Progress City in Decatur Aug. 27-29. Look for the Illinois Touchstone Energy® Cooperative's booth at its new location on Lot 217 on Second Street between Central Progress and East Progress Avenue, near Gates 7 and 8. You'll find us next to the new Grain System Inc. display.

Be sure to catch a Live Line Safety Demo, sponsored by Corn Belt Energy Corporation, where you'll learn from a safety expert about electricity and how to stay safe around electrical equipment. You can also see a pole climbing demonstration.

Stop by the booth to charge your phone at one of our charging stations. While you're there, play a game for a chance to win a prize. Cooperative members who present their Co-op Connections card or show the Co-op Connections app will receive a special gift.

Check out *Prairie Farmer Magazine* or visit farmprogressshow.com to learn more about the 2019 Farm Progress Show.

Board highlights

For full minutes visit www.menard.com or contact the office.
MAY 28, 2019

- Present were Directors D. Jay Frye, Warren Goetsch, Gary Martin, Donald McMillan, Michael Patrick, Dennis Ryan & Roy Seaney, Manager Alisha Anker & Attorney Charles Smith. Directors Jodine Tate & Steven Wornner were absent.
- Board approved Agreement Modifying Promissory Note Advance Period between FFB, RUS & Co-op.
- Anker: Discussed trouble shooting to determine cause of TWACS system not communicating properly to provide meter readings.
- Anker: Reviewed operating statement, balance sheet, budget, member services, irrigations, capital credit estate, safety & operations reports; tree related outage history & vegetative management program - tree contacts 75.9% of April outages; one employee slip/fall; staff & employee education courses; 2019 capital credit retirement to 7,053 members of \$597,937.33.
- Anker: Board accepted bid by Meyer Roofing to repair Co-op headquarters roof leaks.
- Anker: Gave report of Bylaws/Policy Committee Mtg; discussed recommended changes to policies of Budget Billing; Continuity & Disconnection; Sick Leave & Bereavement; Computer, Network, E-mail & Internet; ARC Rated Clothing. Board approved all changes; Anker to coordinate effective dates, as revised.
- Anker: Gave April financial report. Year to date margins \$1,158,317 compared to \$1,152,843 last year. End of April equity 40.74%. Served 10,926 accounts. Net utility plant \$49,625,131 compared to \$48,216,794 last year. Co-op meets requirements of RUS, FFB, NRUCFC & CoBank.
- Goetsch: Discussed AIEC activities; advised he was nominated to serve another term as Chairman of the Board; election will be at annual meeting 8/1/19.
- Martin: Reported on Prairie Power Inc.; advised annual meeting is 6/12/19.
- Manager Anker reviewed the monthly Capital Credit Estates Report.
- Board entered into executive session; reconvened.
- Next month's meeting 6/25/19.

Be BudgetWise

We now offer two ways you can even-out the fluctuations in your monthly utility bills.



Budget Billing:

This is our traditional budget program. You pay the same amount every month. The amount due is the average of your monthly bills for the most recent July through May. In June you will settle up with a credit if you used less than the estimated amount of electricity, or a balance due if you used more. We will periodically evaluate the account and may apply a one-time adjustment to keep you from having an excessive settlement amount.

Average Billing:

This is a new program. Your bill will reflect the average of your most recent 12 monthly billable amounts, rounded to the nearest \$5 increment. The amount due may fluctuate month-to-month based on your 12-month rolling average use of electricity. You won't face a settlement month each year, the 12-months just continue forward.

If either option interests you, email us at info@menard.com with your account number and the BudgetWise option you are interested in, or call Pam at our office at 800-872-1203.

Ways to pay your bill

Automatic Payment

We'll deduct the total due from your savings or checking account automatically on the 17th of each month. Coming in September, we will be able to offer additional dates to select from.



MyMEC App

Download the MyMEC App by searching for Menard Outage in the Google Play or iOS App store. See the new payments feature to log in to our secure payment portal.

Website

Visit www.menard.com to link to our secure online bill payment portal and pay with your credit or debit card.

Phone

Call us at 800-872-1203 Mon-Fri 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. to pay with a credit or debit card.

Drop Off

Stop in, or use our drop box anytime, at our office at 14300 IL St Hwy 97, Petersburg.

Mail In

Allow adequate time for delivery to PO Box 200, Petersburg, IL 62675.

New disconnect notice

Menard Electric Cooperative is implementing a **new disconnect policy**. This will go into effect with the July 7th bill. Bills are due by 4:30 p.m. on the 28th of each month. If payment is not received, a late fee will be assessed on the next business day and will appear on your next bill. If payment continues to not be received by the first business day of the following month, **a Disconnect Notice will be mailed** to those accounts **at risk of disconnection**; this will clearly state the Cooperative's intention to disconnect service if payment is not received.

We will no longer send out the second mailing of pink disconnect notices to these accounts.

2019

JANUARY

SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
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27	28	29	30	31		

FEBRUARY

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MARCH

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APRIL

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MAY

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JUNE

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JULY

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AUGUST

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SEPTEMBER

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OCTOBER

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NOVEMBER

SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
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DECEMBER

SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

No Past Due Notice on the 29th!

Disconnect Notice mailed on the 1st business day of the month!



1-800-872-1203
info@menard.com

14300 State Hwy 97
PO Box 200, Petersburg, IL 62675

www.menard.com