



ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, August 5, 2021

A few reasons to attend

- Dinner is on us
- Receive an attendance gift
- Be entered to win bill credits
- Elect Directors
- Hear about your co-op
- Meet employees
- Visit with neighbors and friends

Registration 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.
Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Watch your mailbox for the Annual Meeting booklet later this month. It will contain your registration card, proxy card and other important information.

Won't make it?

We hope to see you at the meeting! But if you cannot make it on August 5, please make your vote count by returning your proxy card. You will find details and your card on the back of the Annual Meeting notice mailed this month. All members who sign and return their proxy to be used at the meeting will be entered into a drawing for bill credits.



Stay vigilant against utility scams

Every day, millions of Americans are targeted by scammers through phone calls, emails, text messages, online or in person. Scammers' tactics can change daily.

Be aware of two trending scam tactics. One is the overpayment trick, where a scammer contacts you and claims that you have overpaid your utility bill. The scammer will say they need your personal banking information to deposit the credit back to your checking account. Do not fall for this scam! If you make an overpayment on your energy bill, we apply that credit to your account, which will carry over to your next billing cycle.

Another trending scam is smishing (short for SMS phishing). Many consumers know to watch out for suspicious emails, but we tend to trust text messages sent to our smartphones. Always question suspicious texts, especially from someone claiming to represent a utility.

Here are a few tips to take control when you have been targeted by a scammer:

- **Take your time.** Utility scammers try to create a sense of urgency so that you will act fast and hand over personal information, especially over the phone. Take a moment to think before acting.
- **Be suspicious.** Scammers typically request immediate payments through prepaid debit cards or third-party apps. Unusual requests like this should raise red flags. Remember, if the request seems strange and out of the ordinary, you are likely being targeted.
- **Confirm before you act.** If you are contacted by someone claiming to represent MEC or another utility but you are unsure, just hang up the phone and call the utility directly. Our increasingly connected world provides scammers with more opportunities to connect with unsuspecting consumers. Be vigilant!

Source: NRECA

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

During summer months, run large appliances that emit heat (like clothes dryers and dishwashers) during the evening when it's cooler.

This will minimize indoor heat during the day when outdoor temperatures are highest.



**Our office will be closed July 5th
in observance of Independence Day**

Work zone safety

Slow down and move over

Sometimes our crews need to work near roadways to maintain or repair power lines. Please slow down and move over for utility crews just as you would for police, fire or other emergency crews working on the roadside. We care about everyone's safety and these precautions ensure a safer work environment.

Stay back and stay safe

From time to time our crews might have to be on or near your property. We appreciate members' kindness towards and interest in the work of our crews, but we ask that you stay back and let them focus on their tasks.

Even routine work has the potential to be dangerous and requires every crew member's full attention. Please allow them ample room to work and take pets inside.



BudgetWise

Take the guesswork out of monthly budgeting with our Budget *Wise* program options.

See details at www.menard.com, email info@menard.com or call 800-872-1203 for details.

Contact us today to be added to our Budget Billing summer cycle!

STORMS CAN BRING



Outside

Severe weather can sometimes cause damage to overhead power lines. That damage could be noticeable — a downed line across an open road, for instance. However, it may not be as obvious if it is camouflaged by storm damage.

In either case — whether you see a downed line or you suspect one could be hidden under debris or standing water — do not go near the area. Stay away and call 9-1-1, and a crew will be dispatched to deenergize the line. Warn others to stay away as well.

Power lines and other electrical equipment do not have to be sparking, arcing (giving off a flame), or on fire to be energized.

At Home

Never step into a flooded basement or other standing water. The water could be covering electrical outlets, appliances, or cords.

If your home's electrical system has been damaged, water-logged or otherwise compromised, have it thoroughly inspected by a professional electrician before using any electricity (inside or out).

Learn more at:



Board highlights

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

April 27, 2021

- All Directors present in person & remotely except Steve Worner. Present General Manager Alisha Anker & Attorney Kim Smith.
- Anker updated RUS work plan loan application progress; environmental report was recently approved.
- Approved CoBank Multiple Advance Term Promissory Note.
- Approved Power Vision Loan Agreement between co-op & National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation & the Certificate of Resolution & Incumbency.
- Anker reviewed monthly & YTD financial operating report, balance sheet & financial trends. Operating margins YTD as of 3/31 were \$565,351 compared to \$549,523 last year; equity at 41.74%; 12-mo TIER 2.29 & DSC 1.54.
- Anker reviewed Member Svcs report & NRECA Customer Segmentation survey results. Reviewed operations report w/55 incidents; longest duration outage 358 minutes; largest # affected by single outage 168.
- Warren Goetsch gave Bylaw/Policy Committee report. Board approved Paid Time Off & Short-Term Sick Bank policy. Approved several Bylaw changes; discussion of changes requiring membership approval tabled to next month.
- Jodine Tate gave Annual Meeting Committee report; Annual Meeting is 8/5/21.
- Next mtg 5/25/21.

Ways to save energy this summer

- Replace indoor air filters as needed.
- Keep your air conditioner outdoor unit free of debris.
- Use fans to circulate air and make you feel cooler.
- Turn off lights and fans in rooms you aren't using.
- Unplug chargers and turn off office equipment/electronics when not in use.
- Let dishes in the dishwasher air dry.
- Use cold water when washing clothes; hang to dry.
- Close shades/drapes in the hottest parts of the day to keep sunlight from warming up your home.
- Keep warm air out and cool air in by weather stripping and caulking windows/doors/pipes and other openings to your home.
- Grill out or enjoy simple sandwiches and salads that don't require indoor cooking.
- Set your thermostat as high as is comfortable – energy experts recommend 78 degrees.

Find more ways to save at touchstoneenergy.com/efficiency



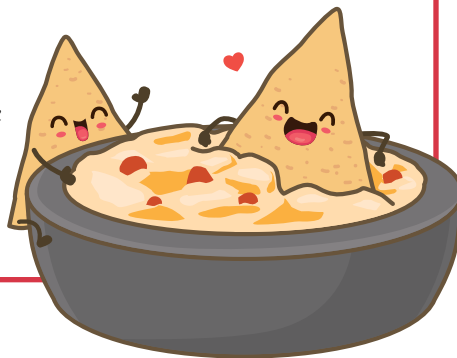
Trish Michels
Director of Member Services

Taco Dip

- 16 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 16 ounces sour cream
- 4 tablespoons taco sauce
- 1 package taco seasoning
- Toppings as desired: shredded cheese, lettuce, tomatoes, olives, onions
- Tortilla chips to dip

Mix all ingredients together and spread into a 9x13-inch pan. Sprinkle toppings as desired.

Trish says, "This is an easy dish to take to a summer picnic or potluck. For a 4th of July event, you can arrange the tomatoes, cheese and olives on top to look like a flag."





2021 Annual Meeting

JOIN US

Thursday, August 5, 2021

Registration begins at 4:30 p.m.

**PORTA High School
Petersburg, IL**

HEAR co-op news

ELECT your directors

RECEIVE a gift

WIN bill credits

VISIT with friends

MEET the employees

ENJOY pork chop dinner

