

## Your Credit is Coming



**Alisha Anker**  
General Manager

Menard Electric Cooperative is unique because we belong to the communities we serve. We are led by our members, which gives us a unique understanding of the needs of our local communities. Because we answer to local members (that's you!) rather

than far-away shareholders, we're more nimble and able to respond quickly to the changing needs in our communities. One way we support those communities is to share excess revenues with the consumer-members we serve.

We know times are tough right now and we want as many members as possible to experience the benefits of capital credits. Both our long time and newest members will receive capital credits this year. If you had service with us in 1996 and/or 2018, look for your bill credit on this month's billing statement. We estimate that returning capital credits to the membership this year in accordance with this revised methodology will reduce the volume of unclaimed

capital credits ultimately held by the cooperative and put more dollars over-all into our active members' pockets.

Inactive members with more than \$2.50 in capital credits will receive a check. Later this year we will be asking for help to find some of these Inactive members, stay tuned for the list.

We here at Menard Electric Cooperative appreciate our members and the hard work and sacrifices each of you have made this year. We are all in this together. Rest assured the co-op continues to work hard every day to efficiently deliver the most affordable, reliable and safe energy you have come to depend on.

### More about capital credits

When Menard Electric closes its books at the end of each year, after all the bills have been paid and all the expenses calculated, we plan to have a little



left over. Like all utilities, we require working capital to operate our business and provide services to our members. We reinvest that capital into our operations. Some businesses would call those leftovers their profit, but that's the cooperative difference.

Since the cooperative belongs to its members, we call the leftovers our margins and those margins are allocated back to you and eventually retired.

The amount allocated to each member is based on how much electricity they used during the year. We call the retirement of those allocations your capital credits.

Each year, the board of directors carefully analyzes the financial condition of the cooperative and authorizes capital credit retirements. When credits are returned for a specific year, they will be paid to every member who had service with us and an electric bill that year. Check out our website or call the office if you want more details about your capital credits.



## Celebrate Flag Day

COVID-19 has caused a great deal of uncertainty, but through acts of kindness, generosity and sacrifice we've seen how Americans have come together in our time of need. Though this virus has caused us to be apart physically, it will never divide who we are together. We are the United States of America.

On June 14, proudly fly your flag, the symbol of the enduring strength of this great country.

# Youth to Washington Scholarship Winners



Commitment to Community is one of the pillars of our cooperative. We again offered our Youth to Washington Scholarship this year to help area youth who share our passion for community service.

The scholarship originally offered three cash scholarships with one recipient also awarded an all-expenses paid trip on the Youth to Washington Tour. However, that tour of Washington, D.C. was canceled this year, and an additional scholarship was added.

We are honored to play at least some small role in helping these four students reach their future goals!

## \$1,000 4-year University/College Scholarships



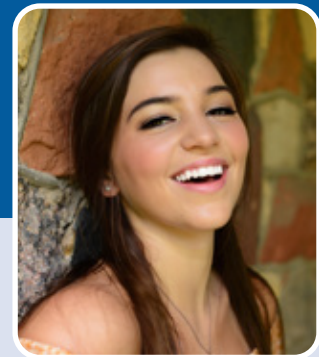
***Carter Martin of Mason City***

- Recent graduate of Illini Central High School
- Attending University of Illinois to study agriculture consumer economics
- Quote from application: “Without making my mark and leaving an impact, I would feel as if I failed my duty as an agricultural enthusiast and American.”



***Addison McMahan of Petersburg***

- Recent graduate of PORTA High School
- Attending Southeast Missouri State to study pre-law/history
- Quote from application: “Some acts of service may go unnoticed but in the long run, without service, a community would not be able to function at its best, nor would positive spirit be maintained.”



***Hayley Rapp of Sherman***

- Recent graduate of Williamsville High School
- Attending Southern Illinois University in Edwardsville to study nursing
- Quote from application: “It is especially important that young adults serve their community so they can help set a standard for the generations to come.”



## \$500 2-year Community College Scholarship

***Rachel Fishburn of Mechanicsburg***

- Recent graduate of Tri-City High School
- Attending Lincoln Land Community College to study agriculture education.
- Quote from application: “The most important skills that I have learned from participating and leading community service activities is patience, caring and a better understanding for my community.”

*Members who will have high school seniors this fall should keep an eye out for applications to be available in January next year. They can be found at [www.menard.com/scholarships](http://www.menard.com/scholarships) and in local school guidance counselor materials.*



## BudgetWise

Choose the option best for you!

### Budget Billing

Pay the same amount each month. Once a year 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’ll periodically evaluate the account and apply a one-time adjustment if needed to keep you from having a large settlement amount.

### Average Billing

This uses a 12-month rolling average to even out monthly fluctuations. We will bill a dynamic average amount that will fluctuate monthly. This option does not have a settlement month.

Email [info@menard.com](mailto:info@menard.com) or call 800-872-1203 with your account number and the option you are interested in. We’ll let you know all the details and what your payment would be.

June is a great time to start!



## EFFICIENCY

### Thermostats

Set at 78° or ↑

## Pay Automatically , Choose Your Date

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 [www.menard.com](http://www.menard.com) and select Account Management/Paperless Options/ check mark email and paperless.



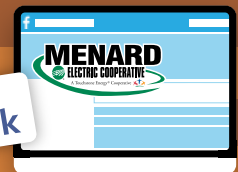
## WHAT SHIMMERS And Shines

Use **SUMMER OUTDOOR LIGHTING** Safely

- Only use lighting approved for outdoor use.
- Make sure lighting has a reputable seal of approval, such as UL.
- Use outdoor-rated bulbs.
- Use recommended bulb wattage.
- Inspect all cords and lights for damage or wear before using them.
- Only use outdoor-rated extension cords and do not overload them.
- Do not use nails or metal tacks to hang light strands. Make sure your outlets are GFCI-protected and test regularly.

For more information: [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org)

Stay up to date on cooperative news, outages, events, and more!



# Board Highlights

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

**March 24, 2020**

- Meeting held telephonically due to COVID-19. Present were Directors D.Jay Frye, Warren Goetsch, Gary Holloway, Gary Martin, Donald McMillan, Michael Patrick, Dennis Ryan, Jodine Tate & Steven Worner; Manager Alisha Anker & Attorney Charles Smith.
- Motion carried to postpone 2020 Annual Meeting from original date of 6/4/2020. Manager Anker to explore venues & dates & work w/Annual Meeting Committee.
- Anker: Discussed Families First Coronavirus Response Act wage & salary implications; Emergency Family Medical Leave Expansion Act & Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act. Discussion tabled until further information could be obtained.
- April Board Meeting date changed to 4/28/2020 – likely held telephonically.
- Anker: Reviewed operating statement, balance sheet, budget, losses analysis for Mason City sub, member services report, operations & reliability report, irrigation report, Connect newsletter, & advised Village of Riverton Service Area Agreement approved by Illinois Commerce Commission.
- Anker: Gave February financial report. Year to date margins were \$726,107 compared to (\$42,307) last year. End of February equity 40.47%. Net utility plant \$51,517,634 compared to \$49,352,257 last year. Co-op meets requirements of RUS, FFB, NRUCFC & CoBank.
- Goetsch: Gave AIEC report.
- Martin: Gave Prairie Power Inc report.
- Entered into executive session; reconvened.
- Next Board Meeting 4/28/2020.



## Employee Favorite RECIPES



### Broccoli Cheese Soup

*Dalton Whitley,  
Operations Manager*

- 1/4 cup butter
- 1/2 cup diced onions
- 1 cup shredded carrots
- 2 1/3 cups broccoli florets
- 1/4 cup flour
- 1 1/2 cups chicken broth
- 1 cup milk
- 1 cup heavy whipping cream
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- Pinch of crushed red pepper flakes
- 2 cups shredded cheddar
- Additional cheese and bacon to garnish, opt.

Melt butter in a large pot over medium heat. Add onions, carrots and broccoli. Cook 5 minutes to soften. Sprinkle flour, stir. Cook 1 minute. Add broth, milk and cream. Add salt, pepper and red pepper flakes. Continue stirring over medium heat until thick (10 to 15 minutes). Add cheddar cheese and stir until melted. Serve with crumbled bacon and shredded cheese to garnish.

*Dalton says, "This is my wife Lindsey's recipe. She says it is quick and easy to make on chilly days."*

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

