


Menard Electric Cooperative's

# Connect to MEC

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



## Together We Serve & Together We Save

### *Food drive a success*

**M**ore than 200 food items were donated by members and employees of Menard Electric to the Menard County Food Pantry during the month of December. All members who brought in a non-perishable food item for the pantry received a LED holiday light string courtesy of Menard Electric and Touchstone Energy.

It was a win-win situation for members, who were able to serve their community and at the same time save on their holiday lighting costs: Together We Serve and Together We Save.

Members went above and beyond, most bringing in more than the required one item donation. One man brought in five sacks of canned goods. Another woman gathered many County Market penny pincher coupons from family members that enabled her to buy several sacks full of goods.

"We wanted to help out those in need in our community while at the same time giving something back to our members. Our members who gave did so with abundance and we had a lot of items to give to the food pantry. In times like these it's important that everyone work together. That's the way this cooperative has always operated and it's obvious the community does as well," said General Manager Lynn Frasco.



*Menard Caring Board Member Anne Smith met with co-op Manager Lynn Frasco to receive more than 200 food items donated by members and employees of Menard Electric.*

12/30/10  
Dear Friends,  
Thank you very much for all  
the food you collected and  
donated to the Men. Co. Food  
Pantry. We are very grateful  
for your support!  
Happy New Year!  
Mary Jane Hume  
Men. Caring Pres.



# Board Meeting Report

For full minutes please visit our website at [www.menard.com](http://www.menard.com) or contact our office.

**P**resent were Manager Lynn Frasco, Attorney Charles Smith and Directors Michael Carls, Warren Goetsch, Gary Martin, Donald McMillan, Michael Patrick, Roy Seaney and Steven Worner. Directors Jerry Brooks and Jay Frye were absent.

76 member audits completed thus far through HomE Program. Rebates in process total \$39,800.

2011 health insurance plan proposal discussed in executive session.

Frasco advised that Williamsville was annexing some services currently served by MEC. He expects will have franchise agreement for approval next month.

Reviewed current results of the member installed alternative energy facilities.

Continued discussion of rate lock on CoBank loan for Prairie State

Project. Additional equity contribution for Prairie State locked in on November 5, 2010, at 3.70%.

Discussed tree trimming work being done by Travis Massey.

Co-op giving away LED lights in December to members who donate non-perishable food items for the Menard County Food Pantry.

Frasco advised the co-op was continuing with its software evaluation and that various presentations were scheduled by software vendors for evaluation.

Frasco advised center section in Illinois Country Living to be four pages full color.

Approved Veloxinet pole attachment agreement.

Adopted the amended and restated Wholesale Power Contract with Prairie Power, Inc., the amended

and restated Transmission Services Agreement, and the rescission of the Class A Member Agreement with Prairie Power, Inc.

Adopted a contract with USIC Locating Services, Inc.

Proposed 2011 financial budget discussed.

Voted to adopt a modification to Rate 31, Large Power Service and a limit on the coincident peak demand adjustment credit.

Martin and Goetsch reported on NRECA Class 939.1 that they attended.

Year to date margins were \$1,234,072 compared to \$1,294,355 a year earlier. Equity as of the end of October was 35.4% and the number of members served was 10,527 compared to 10,519 a year ago. Net utility plant was \$35,471,722 compared to \$35,373,683 last year.

## Mark the Date

**74th Annual Meeting  
of Members  
Saturday, June 4, 2011**

14300 State Hwy 97  
P.O. Box 200  
Petersburg, IL 62675

1-800-872-1203  
217-632-7746

[www.menard.com](http://www.menard.com)

## Make One Change

*We encourage you to make one small, no-cost change each month to save energy. To find out how all the little changes add up visit [www.togetherwesave.coop](http://www.togetherwesave.coop).*



### Reset your thermostat

Go to your thermostat right now. Is it set at 68 degrees? If not, try turning it one or two degrees cooler. Chances are you won't notice a big difference. If you have a programmable thermostat let your home get a few degrees cooler at night and while you're away as well. (If you have a heat pump, it's best to let your home stay the same degrees to prevent your strip heating from turning on.)

# Attention parents of juniors:

**H**as your teen ever seen the Washington Monument? Toured the Smithsonian museums? Visited face to face with a congressman? Well, here's an opportunity to send them, all expenses paid, to Washington D.C..

Menard Electric Cooperative is sponsoring two students on the 52<sup>nd</sup> annual Youth to Washington Tour, June 10-17, 2011.

Students must be a junior in high school and attend Youth Day in Springfield on April 6, 2011, to be eligible to win. You can find application forms and more details on our website at [www.menard.com](http://www.menard.com), by calling our office at 217-632-7746, or ask your child to visit his/her guidance counselor. You and your teen can also view a video at [www.youth-tour.coop](http://www.youth-tour.coop).

## Youth Day-April 6, 2011

Nearly 300 Illinois students will tour the State Capitol and spend the morning meeting with legislators. Students attending with Menard Electric Cooperative will be interviewed and two will be selected to attend the Youth to Washington Tour with all expenses paid.

## Youth Tour-June 10-17, 2011

More than 60 students from Illinois will meet with Illinois congressmen, tour many historic sites, receive information on career paths, learn about cooperatives and make life-long friends. It is a remarkable trip packed with fun.



*Grant Leinberger of Petersburg and Nathan Ring of Virginia represented Menard Electric Cooperative on last year's Youth Tour to Washington D.C.*

## Monthly Safety Tip

### Have an aquarium?



Make sure you create a drip loop on every electrical cord that enters the tank. This will prevent water from running down the cord and into the electrical outlet. To be sure the cord stays looped, stick a cord clip on the wall just below the outlet and thread the cord into the clip.

## LIHEAP

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) provides a one-time lump sum payment directly to us on behalf of qualified individuals. Payment is based upon household size and combined gross monthly income. For more information contact the agency in your county.

Cass County .....	217-243-9404
Logan County .....	217-732-2159
Macon County .....	217-428-0155
Mason County.....	309-543-2594
Menard County.....	217-632-3878
Morgan County.....	217-243-9404
Sangamon County....	217-535-3120
Tazewell County.....	309-266-9941

## Automatic Payment: One less thing to worry about!

You can have the net amount of your bill automatically deducted from your checking or savings account on the 17th of each month. Just get us this form by the 20th of the month prior to when you wish payments to begin.

**Mail with a voided check** to Menard Electric Cooperative, PO Box 200, Petersburg, IL 62675.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ SS No. \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Map Location No. \_\_\_\_\_

Bank Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Bank Account No. \_\_\_\_\_

Checking acct.     Savings acct.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, authorize Menard Electric Cooperative (MEC) to draw monthly bank drafts through the automatic plan (ACH) on the account shown above for the payment of my electric bill in full and any other services I authorize. I understand that I may discontinue my participation at any time by notifying MEC in writing. Both Menard Electric Cooperative and the bank may terminate this agreement with 10 days written notice. I understand that MEC reserves the right to limit participation in this program to customers whose accounts are in good standing. I understand the amount of my bill each month will be drafted on the 17th or next business day after. I understand that if funds are not available in my account for the draft to clear, there will be a charge posted to my MEC account, for NSF, and I will still be required to make full payment before the due date of the bill.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_