

Menard Electric Cooperative's



# Connect to MEC

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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

## Want to be a director?

*Nominating petitions due April 22 for Board of Directors*

Petitions are available now at the office for directors in districts 2, 5 and 9 on the Board of Directors of Menard Electric Cooperative. Petitions must be signed by no less than 10 members and must be received in the co-op's office by 4:30 p.m. on April 22.

One co-op member will be elected from each district to serve a three-year term. See a map of the districts at [www.menard.com](http://www.menard.com). Seeking re-election are incumbent directors Gary Martin of Alexander, District 2; Jay Frye of Easton, District 5; and Donald (Chuck) McMillan of Williamsville, District 9.

### **A good director must:**

- Receive electric service from the co-op at their primary residence within the district, be a member in good standing, and not have conflicting business interests. (They pay the same rates for service and follow the same policies as all other members.)
- Be able to spend adequate time on board work and attend most regular board meetings held the fourth Tuesday evening of each month for several hours at the co-op office.
- Attend our annual meeting each year and other special board meetings, committee meetings, director's conferences and educational seminars as necessary.
- Be accessible to members within the district and willing to represent all members of the co-op.
- Acquire knowledge about the electric utility including finances, management and public issues. (It takes time to learn the system and for that reason our directors have made long-term commitments to serving the co-op.)
- Establish policies and employ a general manager who is responsible for all operational details.

*Additional details can be found in our Bylaws.*



**Gary Martin**  
Alexander  
District 2



**Jay Frye**  
Easton  
District 5



**Donald (Chuck) McMillan**  
Williamsville  
District 9

# 78th Annual Meeting

## Saturday, June 6th

## Rate changes expected

At the time of this publication's deadline in late January, Menard Electric's Board of Directors were in the process of reviewing the Cost of Service Study recently completed by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. The study reviews all aspects of our power costs and rates to determine the best rate structures for fairly recouping power costs from all members and rate classes.

Menard Electric has not had a rate increase for three years and the new Cost of Service Study recommends a modest increase comparable to inflation cost increases.

The Board is reviewing the study and considering ways to implement the recommendations suggested. Any changes made to rates will likely take effect with March usage and appear on April 7th bills.

More details will be available in the next issue of Illinois Country Living.



## Tip of the Month

### Fridge tips

Add your fridge to your spring cleaning: vacuum coils once a year, clean gaskets around doors and check them for a tight seal. Keep the temperature at 37-40° and the freezer compartment at 5°; keep standalone freezers at 0°. Was your power out? The US Food Safety & Inspection Service says to discard foods kept above 40° more than two hours. Frozen foods still at 40° or below, or with ice crystals, can be refrozen. Visit [www.foodsafety.gov](http://www.foodsafety.gov) for more information.



## Spring storm outages

**A**t the time we were preparing this magazine issue it was early February, snow was on the ground, and the groundhog had just forecast six more weeks of winter. Hopefully as you read this the first signs of Spring are showing.

Regardless, we all know that Spring will come, even if it's later than we wish; and with it will come the potential for severe storms. We also know that power outages can happen as a result of those storms.

Below are a few things to keep in mind this time of year; see [www.safe-electricity.org](http://www.safe-electricity.org) for more.

- Stay away from all downed power lines; they could be dangerous even if the surrounding area does not have power.
- Call us to report your outage. If the outage is very large you may receive a busy signal. Please try again later. Do not report outages

via email or Facebook. Our operations manager uses information from our call center to gather information about outages quickly and sends out crews where they will be most effective.

- Like our Facebook Page at [www.facebook.com/MenardElectric](http://www.facebook.com/MenardElectric) now -- we will use it to keep you updated during a large outage.

- Look at your meter if you are unsure the cause of your power outage. If you don't see any numbers, it isn't receiving power from us and you need to call us to report it.

- During an outage unplug all unnecessary appliances and electrical equipment. Leave a light on to know when power is restored and turn appliances back on one at a time.

### 78th Annual Meeting

*Join us Saturday, June 6 at  
PORTA High School for  
an evening of dinner, entertainment,  
voting, prizes and gifts!  
Mark your calendar today!*



**Menard Electric Cooperative**



# Board Meeting Report

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

Present were Manager Lynn Frasco, Attorney Charles Smith and Directors Gary Martin, Jerry Brooks, Jay Frye, Warren Goetsch, Donald McMillan, Michael Patrick, Roy Seaney, Jodine Tate and Steven Worner.

Ben Hollis, Representative for the Menard County Fair Board, thanked the Directors and Staff for all of the work done in repairing and improving the fair's electrical system.

Board determined to participate in the 2014 Prairie Power, Inc. Revenue Deferral Plan as outlined by Chris Hinton, Manager of Accounting &

Information Systems, and Frasco.

Frasco advised that the Cost of Service Study was in final draft form to be presented to the Board at next month's meeting.

Frasco reported 37 additional members were using online bill pay in November for a total of 1,087. Twenty new members were added to the bank drafting program for a total of 1,389.

Frasco reported irrigation construction for 2015 would include eight new systems, including three diesel conversions and five new installations.

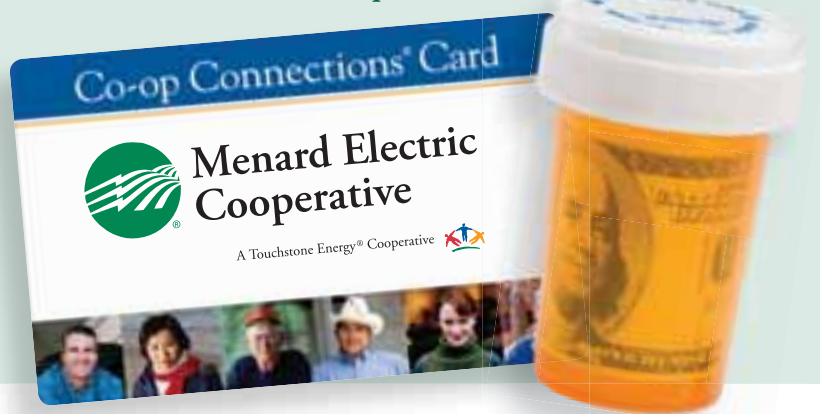
Frasco presented the Financial

Report for the month of November. Year to date margins were \$2,248,706 compared to \$2,597,085 a year earlier. Equity as of the end of November was 37.35% and the number of member accounts served was 10,782 compared to 10,727 a year ago. Net Utility Plant at the end of November was \$42,831,385 compared to \$41,154,684 last year. The cooperative continues to meet the requirements of the RUS, FFB and NRUCFC.

Frasco gave summary of 2014 Sick Leave Bonus Plan. Board voted to participate in the plan for 2015.

## Connections Card savings

Remember your Co-op Connections Card? Co-op members in Illinois have saved \$2 million on prescriptions with this program. The card also offers Healthy Savings discounts for some dental, vision, chiropractic, hearing aid and lab work. All of our members have received cards in the past. Visit the website at [www.connections.coop](http://www.connections.coop) for more details about all the benefits of using the card. Contact Michelle at our office at 800-872-1203 with questions.



## Rebates

Menard Electric offers several ongoing rebates to our members. Restrictions apply to each so see our website or call the office for more details.

Geothermal .....	\$300
Heat Pumps.....	\$200
Electric Water Heaters .....	\$100

We advertised last month a new Home 3.0 Rebate Program. As of the printing of this publication the program is on hold due to the State of Illinois freeze on all grants, which included the funding for this program. Any new information will be posted on our website and Facebook pages.