

Menard Electric Cooperative's

# Connect to MEC

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



21

## 76th Annual Meeting

Saturday, June 1 at PORTA High School in Petersburg

### Activities for the whole family!

- Comedian Rik Roberts
- Free pork chop dinner prepared by Mason County Pork Producers
- Unique face painting by Sunshyne the Clown and balloon twisting by Tim the Twister
- Bucket truck rides and hard hats
- Energy Wall shows where you can improve the energy efficiency of your home
- Free blood pressure and glucose screenings from Menard County Health Department
- Attendance gift of \$10 bill credit
- Grand Prize: \$300 bill credit

*Keep an eye out for your Annual Meeting Official Notice booklet to arrive in the mail later this month for details.*

**Come early! Registration begins at 4 p.m. You'll have plenty of time to register and eat dinner before Rik's show begins at 5:30 p.m.**



### Comedian Rik Roberts

Rik delivers a 100% clean comedy show that is sure to delight your entire family. He's appeared on *The Bananas Family Comedy Show*, CMT's *20 Greatest Redneck Moments*, American Family Network's *Laugh Out Loud*, NPR's *Car Talk*, and Sirius/XM Radio's *Laugh USA* and *Blue Collar* channels.

Rik also delivers a variety of Keynote speeches and is a member of the National Speaker's Association. When he's not performing, Rik enjoys spending time at home in Nashville with his wife and two kids.

## Pool Efficiency

The initial purchase price and cost of water isn't all that's involved in enjoying a pool all summer. As pool owners well know, maintaining a pool with the right chemicals and the right pump adds to the cost.

A typical in-ground pool can increase utility bills about \$400 a year; above-ground pools cost about \$100. Most pools rely on a single-speed, 1.5- to 2-hp pump that runs at full speed for eight hours a day or more.

Using a more efficient pool pump could help reduce costs. Consider a high-efficiency single-speed pump, using 8-10% less energy and costing just a bit more than a regular pump; a two-speed pump, using 60-70% less energy and costing an extra \$100-\$150; or a variable-speed pump, saving nearly 90% of energy usage but costing \$650 more.

You can also consider using a larger filter, bigger pipes, or a smaller pump (.075-hp-1 hp).

You can also experiment with your pump's running time. The goal is to cycle the pool's volume through the filter one-two times daily. Try fewer hours to see if the pool stays clean and consider using a timer.

*Source: Brian Sloboda, Cooperative Research Network*

  
**Memorial Day**  
**Office Closing**  
**Monday, May 27th for**  
**Memorial Day**

## Safe Swimming

We all know water and electricity don't mix. Protect your family while enjoying your pool this summer with these tips from [www.SafeElectricity.org](http://www.SafeElectricity.org).

- Watch the clearance between a pool and overhead lines (and underground lines if the pool is permanent). As a general rule, keep pools 22-25 feet away from all overhead lines and in-ground pools and decks five feet from underground lines. It may seem like a large distance, but long-handled pool skimmers, other tools and even pool toys could come into contact with lines. We encourage you to call Menard Electric to speak with our staking engineers

about specific guidelines.

- Do not place electrical appliances within five feet of a swimming pool.
- Equip any electrical outlets within 20 feet of a pool with a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI).
- Use battery operated, rather than electrical, appliances near pools.
- When you leave the pool, don't change the radio station or touch any electrical appliances until you are dry - never touch any electrical appliances when you are wet or standing in water.
- If your children wish to play with sprinklers or hoses, set them up well away from any electrical outlets or appliances.



## For Sale

1. **2004 Chevrolet K15/auto/air/4-wheel drive/177,000 miles. Sold as is.**
2. **1994 single axle pole trailer. Sold as is.**

Sealed bids accepted through 4:30 p.m. on May 20.

1-800-872-1203  
 217-632-7746  
[www.menard.com](http://www.menard.com)

## Irrigation Systems

A portion of Menard Electric Cooperative's service territory is in the Mason County area, a region heavy with irrigation due to specialty crops and the natural aquifer that exists below the sandy soil.

We currently serve more than 1,000 irrigation systems and are adding 135 this year. That's four times our normal number of additions.

It's not hard to guess the reason for the increased number. Last year's drought certainly made the value of irrigation systems more readily apparent.

Our crews are hard at work to provide the new systems with electricity before summer.

## Tree Trimming

### New crew and standards

Poor Boy Tree Service of Missouri submitted the low bid for tree trimming services this year. You may notice them near your home if you live along the circuits emanating from the Poplar City, Salisbury, Middletown, Oakford and Petersburg substations (see our website for a map of the area).

Poor Boy is implementing a more comprehensive trimming standard this year, pruning trees 10 feet from lines and clearing a bit more overhang. This slightly larger clearance area will improve reliability and provide more time before trees grow back into lines.

We seek to trim each portion of our service territory on a four-year rotation in order to provide safe, reliable service for our members. Trees can cause outages and create unsafe situations if they come into contact with lines due to natural growth or because of storms.

For more information or to notify us of a tree that needs trimmed call System Engineer Brady Smith.



## Wayne Jones Retires

Office Manager Wayne Jones retires this month after more than 33 years of service with Menard Electric.

"I thank John Root for hiring me and giving me the chance to work here all those years ago," he says.

Wayne has overseen all the duties of the general office; if you've called in about your account you may have spoken with him.

"Wayne has been part of the fabric of Menard Electric since 1979 and has always run the general office efficiently and with the attitude of giving our members the

best possible service," says General Manager Lynn Frasco.

He has also been past Board President of Menard Rural Water Cooperative and currently serves the co-op in a manager role. He's worked with the co-op since it began in 1994 to bring water to rural residents in Menard County and plans to continue with his work there.

An avid golfer, Wayne plans to spend some additional time on the course in retirement, along with traveling more and keeping up with his 15 grandchildren.

## Ways to pay your bill

1. Sign up for automatic payment and have your bill deducted from your checking or savings account on the 17th of each month. See our website for a form or call the office for more information.
2. Pay your bill online and view your historical usage through our website. Just click on the link at [www.menard.com](http://www.menard.com) to register and get started.
3. Drop in during business hours; we'd love to see you. Or use the drop box across from our front entrance. We are on Route 97, just south of New Salem State Park.
4. Mail us a check or call us with a credit card payment.

And don't forget our budget billing program. For 11 months, you'll be billed the same amount each month.

Then, in the 12th month, you'll receive a bill containing either a credit (if you used less kilowatt-hours than expected during the previous 11 months) or an amount due (if you used more kilowatt-hours). The next budget billing cycle begins with our July 2013 bills. Call the office for more information or to sign up.

# 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, Michael Patrick, Roy Seaney, Jodine Tate and Steven Worner. Director Donald McMillan was absent.

Frasco advised three L.E. Myers crews working on line construction for new irrigation services and a fourth crew would start in March.

Frasco advised discussing with staff proposed changes and a possible reorganization of office staff as a result of Wayne Jones' retirement in May.

Engineering Contractor Timothy Mason Consulting Service hired to assist with large number of new irrigation services.

PORTA High School student Brent Turasky hired to work in store-room part-time.

Approximately 40-45 members present at irrigation clinic held February 7.

Frasco advised 135 irrigations on construction schedule; 123 expected to be completed before growing season; other 12 were informed co-op would do its best to get systems constructed before season. 31 of the 135 systems currently complete. Will be approximately 18 miles of new line for all systems.

Approximately eight applicants for Home Lite Program and several additional members in the process.

Reviewed new website in beginning stages of development.

Discussed need to take \$2,000,000 advance from existing RUS Work Plan Loan. Reviewed history of co-op loans and principal and interest rates for loans through RUS, CFC, FFB and Co-Bank.

Dryer & Kelso will be engaged to complete testing of NRECA Insurance and R&S Plan for compliance.

Year to date margins were \$(232,376) compared to \$(105,582) a year earlier. Equity as of end of Jan. was 33.95% and members served was 10,545 compared to 10,530 a year ago. End of Jan. Net Utility Plant was \$38,778,998 compared to \$36,947,866 last year. Co-op continues to meet requirements of RUS, FFB and NRUCFC.

## Beyond the BULB

A monthly tip to help you use electricity safely and efficiently. See [safeelectricity.org](http://safeelectricity.org) and [togetherwesave.com](http://togetherwesave.com) for more ways to go "beyond the bulb" to keep your family using energy wisely every day.



The kids will be out of school before you know it—keep them safe and using energy wisely all summer.

Remind kids about electrical safety, including the dangers of climbing trees near power lines, never playing on pad mounted transformers or near substations, and never touching electrical appliances when wet.

Pool filters, game consoles and air conditioners running overtime can lead to higher bills over the summer. Remind your children of basic energy-efficiency advice and get them involved by visiting [www.kidsenergyzone.org](http://www.kidsenergyzone.org) and [www.togetherwesave.coop](http://www.togetherwesave.coop). Keep an eye on phantom loads as well; things like phone and game chargers, video game consoles and more that draw power even when not in use.