

Menard Electric Cooperative's

Connect to MEC



inside

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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73rd Annual Meeting

Great Crowd!

We had more than 350 registered members and their families, over 700 people in all, attend the annual meeting Saturday, June 5. The Mason County Pork Producers prepared just over 700 porkchops! We heard many comments that this year's meal was the best ever and we thank all who helped to prepare and serve it.

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Office Closings

Independence Day.....July 5

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

1-800-872-1203
 217-632-7746
www.menard.com

73rd Annual Meeting

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Family fun!

Also for the first time we had a children's carnival. Over 70 children played games, picked prizes (including the slime shown here) and ran around having fun this year. We always give bucket truck rides but this was the first time we've had other kids activities. That being said, we learned a lot and already have some new ideas for next year.



Energy wall

Many of our members visited the energy efficiency wall display brought by our power provider Prairie Power Inc. (PPI). The wall was a replica of an actual stud construction outside wall of a home and featured ductwork to show members exactly where air enters their homes. The energy experts manning the wall answered lots of questions and many members went away with ideas about improving their home's construction.

Home

Tim Shafer gave a lot of information on the Home program he is currently working with at the co-op. It provides rebates to members making energy saving improvements. See page 16e for more information on that program. Also check out our Web site for more information on our other rebates.



Energy workshop

Brian Kumar conducted an Energy Efficiency Workshop for members this year. He spoke with a lot of members both during and after the workshop about what energy improvements give the most bang for their buck. He also gave some great examples of what the problems members are seeing in their homes might really mean, like too much humidity, cold rooms, or sweaty windows. The first 100 members to attend the workshop received a free energy efficiency starter kit from Menard Electric and TogetherWeSave.

Business meeting

During the business meeting members re-elected Jerry Brooks of Oakford, Roy Seaney of Tallula and Steve Worner of Manito to the co-op's board of directors. They also heard reports from the co-op's Board President Gary Martin, Board Treasurer Roy Seaney and General Manager Lynn Frasco.

Manager Lynn Frasco told members, "The co-op has always encouraged using energy efficiently because it is simply the right way to be economically prudent and good stewards of our natural resources."

Along with some specific energy-saving measures and mention of Menard Electric's rebates that the co-op has provided for years, Frasco discussed the co-op's new HomE program (see page 16e for more information).

"We expect that 50 to 60 of our members will be able to participate in this program before the Illinois Dept. of Commerce & Economic Opportunity funds are fully expended," said Frasco.

He also discussed with members new technologies the co-op will be implementing to make the distribution system more efficient thanks to a \$400,000 Federal Government Dept. of Energy Smart Grid Grant for the installation of new automated capacitor bank controls. Because of the co-op's high concentration of irrigation systems, large commercial loads and general seasonal services, the co-op has a large seasonal load capacity.

Currently, capacitor banks must be manually turned on and off to meet that seasonal load. This results in line loss when the capacitors are not needed but are still on. Automated capacitors will turn on and off as needed and will reduce line losses and improve voltage levels on the system.

Frasco also updated members on the Prairie State Power Plant in Washington



County. Through their ownership in Prairie Power, Inc., Menard Electric is part owner in the plant. "This plant will deliver nearly 60 percent of all the energy Menard Electric members will need in future years, from the most energy efficient and environmental clean conventional coal fired power plant in the country," said Frasco. The plant will operate with as little as one-fifth the regulated emission rates of existing U.S. plants.

Two years into construction the plant is 50 percent complete and on target to be operational beginning in 2011. It is among the largest privately funded construction projects in the country today with a budget of nearly 4.4 billion dollars and a manpower count of nearly 3,000 construction workers.

In another report Treasurer Roy Seaney informed members that co-op margins for 2009 were \$1,033,460. He also said that approximately \$410,000 in capital credits for 1984 were refunded to members in May. Menard Electric has refunded a total of \$6,336,116 in capital credit funds to date.

Capital Credits are unique to electric cooperatives. Revenues above and beyond the cost of doing business are considered "margins" and the amount is allocated to members as capital credits based on their electric usage. The co-op returns these capital credits to its member-owners when the board of directors determines it is financially feasible to do so.



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Annual Meeting Prize Winners



Grand Prize Winner

Sandra Colavecchi of Petersburg won a \$500 Gift Certificate for an Energy Star Appliance of her choice.

Supplier Gifts

Thank you to our suppliers who donated gifts for this year's meeting!

- Don Collier of Springfield, Karen Degener of Cantrall, R. Martin Turasky of Petersburg, and Mary S. Whitaker Trust of Petersburg: \$100 gift cards to Books Garden Center donated by Burton Tree
- Chas. D. Wubker of Beardstown: \$50 gift card to Lowes donated by Brown Wood Preserving
- Walter Wm. Killen of Manito: a spice set donated by Brownstown Electric
- Dennis M. Irwin of Pleasant Plains: slow cooker donated by Central IL Reclosers
- Thomas M. Schaddel of Petersburg: electric griddle donated by Central IL Reclosers
- James Winkelman of Easton: \$30 Wal-Mart gift card donated by Drake-Scruggs
- Robert R. Sampson of Petersburg: folding chair donated by Fletcher Reinhardt
- William E. Theobald of Buffalo: Proctor Silex 4-slice toaster donated by HD Supply
- Carol A. Kolves of Bath: 52-in Westinghouse ceiling fan donated by U.S. Electric
- Ronald D. Moore of Greenview: \$25 Sears gift card donated by United Utility
- Daniel Cornwell of Petersburg: \$50 Lowes gift card donated by White Hawk Enterprises

Menard Electric Prizes

These prizes were all supplied by Menard Electric Cooperative

Early Bird Prize Winner

Roger & Julie Seifert of Petersburg won a food processor and \$20 Wal-Mart gift card

\$50 Bill Credit

- James E. Baughman of Havana
- Linda Entwistle of Petersburg
- Robt. D. Lyons of Green Valley
- Greg Noll of Petersburg
- Wayne Bridgewater of Dawson

\$20 Wal-Mart Gift Cards

- Melvin J. Nall of Bath
- Eugene Joseph Ahmann of Petersburg
- Vernon D. Heye of Bath

Gifts

- David Banister of Mason City: Presto electric griddle
- William E. Beatty of Petersburg: 100 ft. extension cord
- Judith E. Becker of Jacksonville: Black & Decker coffeemaker
- Glenn Dambacher of Middletown: 35-piece tool kit
- E. Gary Ebken of Petersburg: 36-can cooler
- Stephen G. Fricke of Petersburg: fluorescent work light
- J. Michael Gronewold of Petersburg: Black & Decker dust buster
- Arch Harmon of Dawson: wireless thermometer
- Eric & Sarah Heikes of Petersburg: Paula Deen 2 1/2 quart covered casserole

- Kathryn A. Howard of Sherman: Black & Decker hedge trimmer
- George Kistler of Tallula: food chopper
- Patricia Lee Marshall of Petersburg: set of two folding lawn chairs
- Weidhuner Farm, Inc. of Greenview: folding lawn chair

Proxy Prizes

These five members were selected from among all members who submitted proxies and did not attend the meeting. They each won a \$10 credit on their electric bill. Timothy L. Becker of Alexander, Mrs. Donald Henrikson of Springfield, Norman Horn of Greenview, James W. Robinson of Pekin and Jason L. Traylor of Arenzville.



Home rebates

\$1,500	Geothermal heat pumps closed loop (14.1 EER or 3.3 COP)
\$1,500	Geothermal heat pumps open loop (16.2 EER or 3.6 COP)
\$1,000	Air source heat pumps (16 SEER)
\$350	Natural Gas or LP furnace (95% efficiency)
\$350	Central air conditioner (16 SEER)
\$250	Heat pump water heater (2.0 Energy Factor)
max of \$500	30% of cost of insulation and weatherization
<i>Maximum rebate per household is \$1,500. Rebates began May 10, 2010, and will continue until the money is exhausted.</i>	

How to claim a rebate

1. Contact our office to set up a personal Energy Assessment of your home. This program is conducted on a first come, first served basis. We'll verify your eligibility and take your name and contact information and the date of your request.
2. We'll schedule a time for someone to meet with you at your home to perform the assessment and tell you where you can save money with energy efficiency improvements. The cost of the assessment is \$25. We'll conduct these Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. as scheduling allows.
3. Based on the recommendations we make, you decide what improvements you wish to make. You'll submit a proposal form to us and we'll send you a signed copy letting you

know that we are setting aside funds for you for 60 days.

4. Once you have completed your project, you'll send us a completion form and receipt. We'll verify the work and send you a rebate check.

Who's eligible?

You must be a member of Menard Electric and live in the home as your primary residence. You must not qualify for the Low Income Community Weatherization Program through your local Community Action Agency. The Weatherization Program provides more assistance than this program, if you think you may qualify, contact your local Community Action Center or visit www.pcapil.org for more information.



Combine your rebates to save big

Tax Credit:

You could be eligible for a federal tax credit of 30 percent of your project, up to \$1,500. Tax credits include geothermal, air source heat pumps, central air conditioners, insulation and more. Ask your tax preparer for the specifics of this program.

Menard Electric Cooperative Rebates:

- \$600 – Geothermal heat pump
- \$200 – Air source heat pump
- \$75-\$100 – Electric water heater

Call and ask us about the specifics of each rebate or visit www.menard.com.

Co-op Connections Card



Are you using yours?

Is your Co-op Connections Card stuck somewhere in the back of your wallet? Why not give it a whirl? Here are some great reasons to dig out your card and start using it.

If you have a discount you frequently use call Michelle at the office or e-mail mmcneal@menard.com and tell us about it. If you've lost your card let us know that too and we can send you a new one.

Prescriptions

From January to May this year, our members have saved more than \$5,450 on 412 filled prescriptions. That's a huge savings!

The card is not insurance and you can't combine savings with your insurance, but some members have discovered that using the card instead of their prescription insur-

ance actually saves them more money! Have you tried it yet?

Local Discounts

Dining

Have you tried your card at your favorite local restaurant yet? More than 20 local restaurants offer deals! If you're in Havana the Main Street Chuckwagon and Kracker's Korner both offer discounts. Or try Godfather's Pizza in Springfield and Jacksonville.

Shopping

And how about the craft store you frequent? Salt Creek Attic in Mt. Pulaski and Country Pickens II in Petersburg both offer discounts. More than 20 stores selling a variety of merchandise offer our members discounts.



Services

How about A.C. Jones, Inc. crane service in Beardstown, J&J Electric Motor Repair Shop in Springfield or Canine Camp in Jacksonville? They all offer discounts too, as well as 20 other service providers.

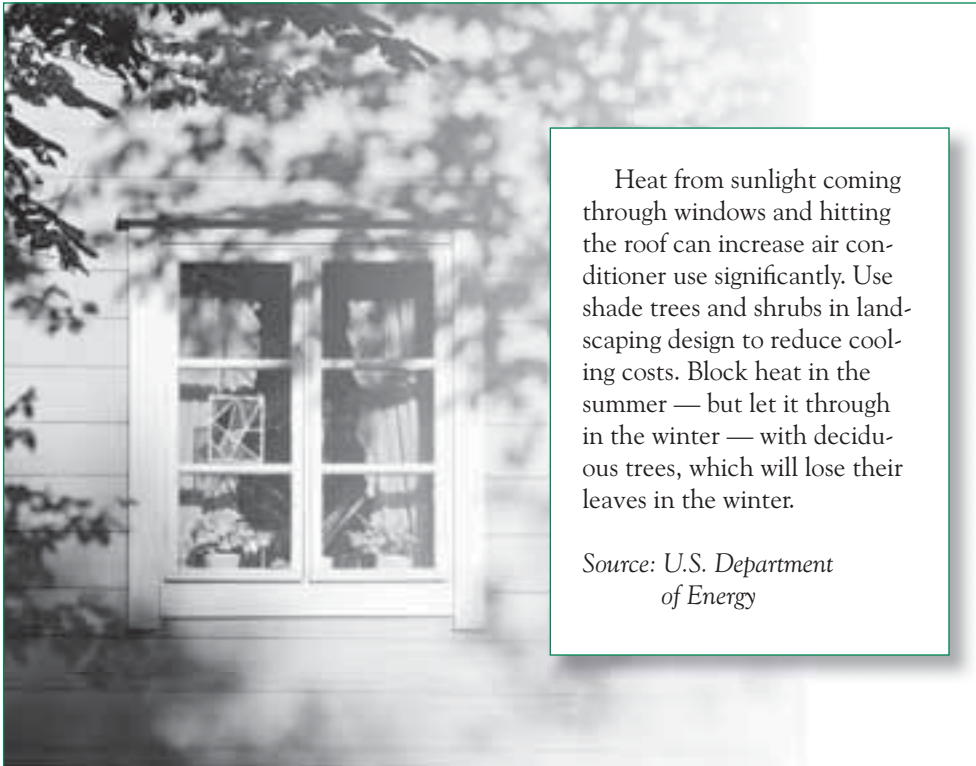
Find the listings

A listing of more than 80 local businesses, as well as a link to thousands of other deals across the country is available at www.menard.com.

If your favorite restaurant or shop doesn't take the card, tell them about it. They can contact us and easily sign up to provide a discount.

Keep track of your electric usage

An easy way to keep track of the electrical usage a particular appliance uses is to use a Kill-A-Watt Meter. You simply plug your appliance into the meter and then into the wall and it will measure how much power that appliance uses. Menard Electric has these meters available to loan to our members. Just contact our office to sign up to borrow one of these handy devices.



Heat from sunlight coming through windows and hitting the roof can increase air conditioner use significantly. Use shade trees and shrubs in landscaping design to reduce cooling costs. Block heat in the summer — but let it through in the winter — with deciduous trees, which will lose their leaves in the winter.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy



For Sale: MEC Service Truck

2005 Chevrolet
2500HD 4X4
with a fiberglass utility body
115,714 miles

All sealed bids should be received before
4 p.m. in the office on July 20, 2010.

Board Meeting Report

Menard Electric Cooperative
From the Board Room
May 4, 2010

The monthly Board Meeting of the Board of Directors of Menard Electric Cooperative was called to order by President Gary L. Martin at 6:00 p.m. at the headquarters of the cooperative, 14300 State Highway 97, Petersburg, County of Menard and State of Illinois.

On roll call the following Directors were present: Jerry W. Brooks, Michael L. Carls, D. Jay Frye, Gary L. Martin, Donald E. McMillan, Michael E. Patrick and Roy H. Seaney. Directors Warren D. Goetsch and Steven L. Wornor were absent. Also present was Manager Lynn A. Frasco and Attorney Charles K. Smith.

President Martin reviewed the Consensus Agenda. There were two changes to the March 23, 2010, minutes, being the change from Director Goetsch to Director Brooks on the first paragraph on page two and Director Brooks to Manager Frasco on the second paragraph on page two. It was moved and seconded that the Consensus Agenda be approved with the changes to the March 23, 2010, minutes. Motion carried.

President Martin introduced General Foreman Bob Burris, to discuss issues with regard to the repair of Gum Town Road. Mr. Burris discussed the damage that had occurred to the road and the cooperative's proposal to provide rock to the Road District for the repair of the road. Manager Frasco advised that he would attend the next Road District meeting and the Board gave him discretion to resolve the matter with the Road District.

President Martin introduced Manager of Accounting & Information Systems Chris Hinton to dis-

cuss the memorandum from John Dalton of Prairie Power, Inc. with regard to an error in billing from Prairie Power due to a misinterpretation of the calculation of the incremental demand charge for the years 2008 and 2010. There was discussion by the Board and no action was taken due to the fact that the matter had not yet been discussed by the Prairie Power Board. Manager Frasco introduced Cooperative Auditor Kevin Kelso to present the 2009 Financial Audit.

Manager Frasco thanked the Board for delaying the normal April 27, 2010, Board Meeting to May 4, 2010, due to his illness during the past week. Manager Frasco then presented the Manager's Report for the month of March 2010. He reviewed the Balance Sheet, Budget, as well as the Outage Summary and Safety Report.

Under the Operations Report, Manager Frasco discussed the HomE Program. He reviewed the rebate program with the Board and advised that every member of Menard Electric was eligible to apply for a rebate under the program, so long as there was money available and they could qualify for up to \$1,500 in rebates. Manager Frasco also reviewed the 2010 Residential Bill Comparison, which was an analysis of the rates of Illinois cooperatives and investor-owned utilities. It was moved and seconded the Manager's Report be approved. Motion carried.

Manager Frasco presented the Financial Report for the month of March. Year to date margins were \$303,427 compared to \$132,857 a year earlier. Equity as of the end of March was 34.48% and the

number of members served was 10,478 compared to 10,462 a year ago. Net Utility Plant at the end of March was \$35,338,379 compared to \$35,044,340 last year. The cooperative continues to meet the requirements of the RUS, FFB and NRUCFC.

Director Brooks reported on AIEC Activities.

Director Carls reported on Prairie Power, Inc. and reviewed the March Energy Charge, as well as the President's Report. Manager Frasco advised that correspondence had been received from Prairie Power indicating that there was an allocation to Menard of patronage capital of \$1,837,716.00, resulting in capital credits to Menard of \$256,880.35.

Manager Frasco reviewed the Dreyer & Kelso two-year audit agreement for 2010 and 2011. It was moved and seconded that the President and Secretary be authorized to enter into the agreement on the terms set forth therein. Motion carried.

Director Brooks reported that there was no Annual Meeting committee meeting, but discussed plans for the Annual Meeting.

Manager Frasco reviewed the Capital Credit Estate Refunds Report.

President Martin advised that the next Board Meeting was scheduled for May 25, 2010, at 6:00 p.m.

There being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved and seconded the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried.