

Menard Electric Cooperative's

# Connect to MEC

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



## 75th Annual Meeting Recap



*The Touchstone Energy hot air balloon was slated to give tethered rides to members but the wind speeds of the afternoon prevented this. But young and old alike were still able to enjoy the view up high with bucket truck rides.*

General Manager Lynn Frasco addressed members at the 75th Annual Meeting held on June 2. Frasco spoke about the co-op's new online bill paying system [see page 9 of this issue] and of the Prairie State Power Plant, which is now online, and is the cleanest conventional coal-fired power plant in the country. A coal mine is located adjacent to the plant with 30 years of coal reserves. "The new plant will provide 60 percent of Menard members' energy needs for the next 40 years at very stable rates. While the rates in the future will be stable, they are higher in the short run than current market prices.

As a result, the Board voted earlier this year to adjust electric rates effective in September by an average of an additional 7 percent," stated Frasco.

He noted that some rate classes may be higher or lower than that percentage. [See the chart on page 16d]

He told members one of the goals of the new rates is that all members are paying their fair share for the cost of service they receive. He also informed members that Menard Electric remains competitive in their rates compared to the 25 other Illinois electric cooperatives, with nearly two-thirds of co-ops today having higher billing for the same services. After the increase Menard will be approximately mid-range.

He reminded members that the board is seeking to keep rates as low as possible while collecting the dollars necessary to pay bills, meet financial ratio required by the Federal Rural Utilities Service and our lenders, as

well as providing the best possible electric service to our members.

"I believe the Board has done a good job of striking a proper balance that will serve the membership's best interests in the future," he concluded.

Board President Gary Martin spoke to members about the past 75 years of the co-op and concluded with, "Menard Electric and the electric cooperative system were founded on the idea of providing a service to rural America that was a great value and improved our member's lives. Even though there have been many changes over those years, that mission has not changed. While we have much to be proud of and celebrate, we also realize we must look forward to the next 75 years and the challenges they will present."

## Office Closing

Wednesday, July 4 - Independence Day.



Illinois Country Living • July 2012 • 16a



\$75 Bill Credits were given to the three oldest memberships present at the meeting. They were: St. Lukes Lutheran Church, Feb. 1938; George Meeker, Dec. 1938; and Newmansville Township, Dec. 1940. Shown here are Wayne Jones, left, and Lynn Frasco, right, meeting with Kenton Bottens, who attended the meeting this year at 99 years old--he became a member in Sept. 1945.



Over 900 pork chop dinners were served. The Mason County Pork Producers prepared the meal and OMGosh Bakery prepared the cake.



Nearly 400 members registered for the meeting; each received a 75th anniversary cookbook, spatula and insulated bag. Cookbooks are available at the co-op for \$10 as supplies last.



Members enjoyed a display of photos and antiques showing how electricity improved the lives of early members, and were able to discuss our services with employees.



*Tim the Twister and Sunshyne the Clown provided elaborate face painting and fun balloon animals.*



## Prizes

What would an annual meeting be without prizes supplied by Menard Electric Cooperative and our suppliers? Forty prizes were given this year, including quite a few gift cards, some worth \$75, a Kindle Fire, some small electric appliances and more. Thanks to the following suppliers and businesses who donated gifts for this year's meeting: Aclara, Applied Technology Solutions, Brownstown Electric Supply, Burton Tree, CoBank, Drake Scruggs, Dueco, HD Supply, Milsoft, Powerline Supply, The L.E. Myers Co., and U.S. Electric.

## Grand Prize Winner

David Williams of Petersburg won the grand prize of a \$300 Bill Credit.

# 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, Michael Carls, Jay Frye, Warren Goetsch, Donald McMillan, Michael Patrick, Roy Seaney and Steven Worner; also co-op auditor Kevin Kelso and Manager of Accounting & Information Systems Chris Hinton.

Kelso presented and answered questions about 2011 Financial Audit.

Frasco advised 40 of 43 irrigation systems to be constructed were

completed and that L.E. Meyers Builders had been instrumental in getting so many systems completed in a timely fashion.

Frasco reviewed the 2012 Electric Rate Comparison Study.

He discussed request from a member to consider changes in the Net Metering Policy. After discussion, the Board reaffirmed the fact that the Board was very much in favor of renewable energy, but it was the consensus that there was no need for changes in the policy.

Frasco advised on status of installation of the new ATS software, staff training, and testing of electronic bill paying.

Year to date margins were \$428,818 compared to \$189,499 a year earlier. Equity end of Mar. was 33.12% and number of members served was 10,540 compared to 10,507 a year ago. Net Utility Plant end of Mar. was \$37,233,596 compared to \$35,625,633 last year. Co-op continues to meet the requirements of the RUS, FFB and NRUCFC.

## Rate Changes Per Class

Effective September 1, 2012

Current		New	
<b>Rate 10, 10S Farm &amp; Residential</b>			
First 1,000 kwh	\$0.115	First 1,300 kwh	\$0.122
Over 1,000 kwh	\$0.090	Over 1,300 kwh	\$0.097

Current		New	
<b>Rate 11, 11S Electric Water Heater</b>			
First 700 kwh	\$0.115	First 1,000 kwh	\$0.122
Next 300 kwh	\$0.090	Next 300 kwh	\$0.097
Over 1,000 kwh	\$0.090	Over 1,300 kwh	\$0.097

Current		New	
<b>Rate 17, 17S Electric Heat</b>			
Summer (June-Sept)			
First 1,000 kWh	\$0.115	First 1,300 kWh	\$0.122
Over 1,000 kWh	\$0.090	over 1,300 kWh	\$0.097
Winter (Oct-May)			
First 1,000 kWh	\$0.115	First 1,300 kWh	\$0.122
Next 5,000 kWh	\$0.071	Next 5,000 kWh	\$0.077
Over 6,000 kWh	\$0.090	Over 6,300 kWh	\$0.097

Current		New	
<b>Rate 18, 18S Electric Heat and Water Heater</b>			
Summer (June-Sept)			
First 700 kWh	\$0.115	First 1,000 kWh	\$0.122
Next 300 kWh	\$0.090	Next 300 kWh	\$0.097
Over 1,000 kWh	\$0.090	Over 1,300 kWh	\$0.097
Winter (Oct-May)			
First 700 kWh	\$0.115	First 1,000 kWh	\$0.122
Next 300 kWh	\$0.090	Next 300 kWh	\$0.097
Next 5,000 kWh	\$0.071	Next 5,000 kWh	\$0.077
Over 6,000 kWh	\$0.090	Over 6,300 kWh	\$0.097

Current		New	
<b>Rate 20, 21 Commercial and Power Service</b>			
Demand charge	\$4.50	Demand charge	\$4.95
First 200 kWh/kW	\$0.105	First 200 kWh/kW	\$0.116
Over 200 kWh/kW	\$0.070	Over 200 kWh/kW	\$0.082

Current		New	
<b>Rate 19, 19S Geothermal Heating with Electric Water Heater</b>			
Summer (June-Sept)			
First 700 kWh	\$0.115	First 1,000 kWh	\$0.122
Next 300 kWh	\$0.090	Next 300 kWh	\$0.097
Over 1,000 kWh	\$0.090	Over 1,300 kWh	\$0.097
Winter (Oct-May)			
First 700 kWh	\$0.115	First 1,000 kWh	\$0.122
Next 300 kWh	\$0.090	Next 300 kWh	\$0.097
Next 5,000 kWh	\$0.067	Next 5,000 kWh	\$0.077
Over 6,000 kWh	\$0.090	Over 6,300 kWh	\$0.097

Current		New	
<b>Rate 30 Non-Interruptible Large Power Service</b>			
Demand charge	\$11.50	Demand charge	\$12.25
First 200 kWh/kW	\$0.069	First 200 kWh/kW	\$0.075
Next 200 kWh/kW	\$0.056	Next 200 kWh/kW	\$0.064
Over 400 kWh/kW	\$0.054	Over 400 kWh/kW	\$0.062

Current		New	
<b>Rate 31 Interruptible Large Power Service - Less CPDA</b>			
Demand charge	\$11.50	Demand charge	\$12.25
First 200 kWh/kW	\$0.069	First 200 kWh/kW	\$0.075
Next 200 kWh/kW	\$0.056	Next 200 kWh/kW	\$0.064
Over 400 kWh/kW	\$0.054	Over 400 kWh/kW	\$0.062

Current		New	
<b>Rate 50/52 Irrigation</b>			
Demand Charge	\$4.50	Demand Charge	\$4.95
Billing months	\$0.065	Billing months	\$0.076
Non-billing months	\$0.070	Non-billing months	\$0.082

Current		New	
<b>Rate 60 Commercial and Power Service-No Demand</b>			
First 1,000 kWh	\$0.115	First 1,300 kWh	\$0.122
Next 2,000 kWh	\$0.105	Next 2,000 kWh	\$0.100
Over 3,000 kWh	\$0.090	Over 3,300 kWh	\$0.092

Current		New	
<b>Rate 61 Commercial and Power Service w/Water Heater-No Demand</b>			
First 700 kWh	\$0.115	First 1,000 kWh	\$0.122
Next 300 kWh	\$0.090	Next 300 kWh	\$0.097
Next 2,000 kWh	\$0.105	Next 2,000 kWh	\$0.100
Over 3,000 kWh	\$0.090	Over 3,300 kWh	\$0.092



**Harvey Black** of Williamsville is the winner of the May Trivia Question. His entry was drawn from all correct answers submitted. Question: What new technology in the 1960s greatly increased our electric load? Correct answer: irrigation. Harvey will receive a \$75 bill credit. Thanks to all who entered.