

Menard Electric Cooperative's

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76th Annual Meeting

Members heard reports from General Manager Lynn Frasco, Treasurer Roy Seaney and President Gary Martin during the 76th Annual Meeting held June 1 at PORTA High School.

General Manager Lynn Frasco spoke about several issues, including a nearly 400% increase in requests for irrigation systems this spring. Twenty miles of new three-phase distribution lines were built to power 135 new irrigation systems.

Frasco said the co-op now powers 1,130 systems, the largest concentration of agricultural irrigation systems of any co-op in the country, and a number likely to continue to increase as irrigation systems are added, or switched from diesel power due to new regulations.

He also told members that Prairie

State Power Plant is now online with Units 1 and 2, and are currently supplying more than half of the energy Menard's members require. "We can be confident that our power supply costs will be stable into the future, because Prairie State also owns and operates its own coal mine on site, which will help level the cost of fuel for the next 30 years," he said.

He also spoke of the co-op employees' achievement of the NRECA Certificate of Safety Achievement for 2012, the co-op's new tree trimming company methods of mechanical trimming, and recent employee changes.

In another report Treasurer Roy Seaney informed members that co-op margins for 2012 were \$1,209,189. "Of this amount, \$468,874 were the capital credits assigned to us from

Prairie Power, Inc., our wholesale power provider, and \$86,201 of capital credits assigned to us from CoBank. The remaining balance of \$654,114 was from normal operations of the cooperative," he said.

Seaney also said that approximately \$250,000 in capital credits for 1986 were recently refunded to members. Menard Electric has refunded a total of \$7,500,000 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.



Comedian Rik Roberts entertained members throughout the evening. He is shown here as Barney Fife, showing employee Sue Freeland the bullet in his pocket; and during a performance with an enthusiastic member volunteer.

Photo by Ben Kiningham



More than 300 members registered for the meeting and received a \$10 bill credit.



The pork chop dinner prepared by the Mason County Pork Producers is always popular. More than 650 dinners were served this year.



During the meeting members elected Jodine Tate, District 3, and re-elected Roy Seaney, District 1, Jerry Brooks, District 4 and Steve Worner, District 6 (not pictured) to the Board of Directors. Jodine was appointed earlier this year to replace retiring director Michael Carls.



Members voted paper ballots for their representative in District 4.



Lineman Jeremy Willis helps one of many kids who took the wiring challenge this year in the hopes of having the fastest time and winning a gift card.



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



The Menard County Health Department gave blood pressure checks again this year.



Representatives from Prairie Power Inc., our wholesale power provider, answered member questions about energy efficiency at The Energy Wall and handed out outlet sealers and weather stripping.



Warehouseman Casey Duncheon was honored for 25 years of service.

Prizes

The prize giveaway is a much anticipated part of our annual meeting. Thirty-two prizes were given this year, including gift cards, bill credits, a golf package and small appliances. Thanks to the following suppliers and businesses who donated gifts: ACLARA, Brownstown Electric, CoBank, Cox Industries, Drake Scruggs, HD Supply, L.E. Meyers, National Bank of Petersburg, Poor Boy Tree Service, Power Line Supply and U.S. Electric.

Grand Prize Winner

Michael Vig 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 or contact our office.

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

Kelso presented review of 2012 Financial Audit by Dreyer & Kelso.

Frasco discussed changes in the General Office functions and lines of responsibility; reviewed correspondence to staff advising Bart Bailey would be promoted to Office Manager, effective May 1. Bart would be responsible for all supervisory and current functions of the Office

including billing, collections, new accounts and member records.

Frasco asked Trish Michels to lead broad effort to help co-op better use existing ATS software, update member billing database, and other duties.

Co-op has hired two new janitors on a part-time basis.

Frasco advised there was a total of 135 irrigation service requests, 85 completed, 11 under construction and 12 late. Co-op could not guarantee systems would be completed by May 15.

Checks would be mailed before annual meeting to members due to receive more than \$50.00 in capital

credits. Those to receive less than \$50.00 would receive a bill credit. Co-op auditors approved changes co-op elected to make in manner of allocation of capital credits.

Labor committee discussed Union contract.

Year to date margins were \$20,366 compared to \$(428,818) a year earlier. Equity as of the end of March was 32.86% and the number of members served was 10,587 compared to 10,540 a year ago. Net Utility Plant at the end of March was \$ 39,482,960 compared to \$37,233,596 last year. The co-op continues to meet the requirements of the RUS, FFB and NRUFC.

Beyond the BULB

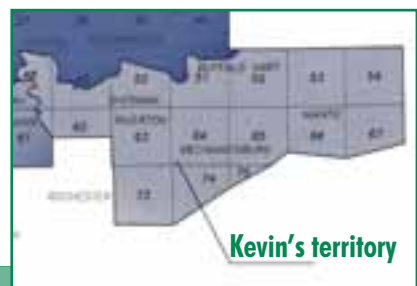
Water costs

After last year's drought, especially if you had to haul water all summer, you're probably just happy to see water coming out of your tap. (When this newsletter was printed we were all hoping the rains and water would stop!)

Even though you may not be paying to haul water this year, you're still paying to pump it and heat it. Your hot water heater continues to work no matter the outdoor conditions. Keep it set at 120 degrees or less for optimal savings, and to prevent scalds.

New Area Serviceman

Kevin Masten is now serving as Area Serviceman to the Southeastern area of Menard Electric. Kevin has been with the co-op 14 years. He replaces retired employee Mark Bradley. Take a look at the map here to see if he's your new serviceman.



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