

Menard Electric Cooperative's

# Connect to MEC



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## 77th Annual Meeting

We hope you and your family were able to join us for this year's meeting held June 7th at PORTA High School. Here is a recap of the information General Manager Lynn Frasco, Board President Gary Martin and Treasurer Roy Seaney provided to members.



*The Mason County Pork Producers always prepare an amazing meal! This year we served nearly 700 pork chop dinners.*

### Member Advocacy—[Action.coop](#)

General Manager Lynn Frasco reported a recent member survey indicated 74% of members were concerned about EPA regulations affecting their bills and 68% were willing to contact Congress. He reminded the audience of a letter they received a couple of months ago urging them to do just that by contacting [www.action.coop](#), an initiative through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. Nearly 1,400 members have responded to date.

The initiative urges Congress to support a national energy policy that includes coal as well as renewable, gas and nuclear generation resources and to consider the cost impacts new regulations will have on electric bills.

President Gary Martin and Treasurer Roy Seaney both urged members to participate in the initiative as well. Martin said the Board believes “a diversified portfolio of

energy resources results in a more stable pricing structure.” Seaney said the Board is concerned regulations will raise wholesale power costs for the co-op, which already represented 69% of 2013 expenses.

### Online Features

Frasco noted the addition of the co-op's new Facebook page, launched as a result of a member survey indicating 2/3 of our membership would like one. See it at [www.facebook.com/MenardElectric](#).

By pulling up graphs of a geothermal-heated home's electrical usage this winter, Frasco demonstrated the online bill pay application that allows you to

**Continued on 16b** ▶



*More than 340 members registered for the meeting and received a 15-foot extension cord.*

**Annual Meeting continued from 16a**



*We utilized a new digital barcode scanning registration process this year that proved to be much faster, and popular with members. Those who brought their registration card received a \$10 bill credit.*

*General Manager Lynn Frasco, along with the members of the Board of Directors, spoke to members about the EPA's new proposals.*



view detailed information about your electric use. “These graphs show how weather-dependent electric usage can be; they are also great tools to help members analyze the reasons for unusual patterns of electric consumption,” he said. You can access the information through the online bill payment portal on our website [www.menard.com](http://www.menard.com).

**Ownership**

Martin reminded the audience that although they may view themselves as simply a customer of the co-op, they are a member with an ownership stake in the cooperative.

Seaney said, “You, the members, owned 34.9% of total assets in this cooperative at the end of 2013. The remaining 65.1% represents our mortgages and other liabilities. That means

that the members’ equity was over \$20,000,000 in 2013.”

Seaney reminded members that equity is returned in the form of capital credits and \$300,000 in capital credits was recently refunded to members from the years 1986 through 1990 and a portion of 1991. To date the co-op has returned more than \$7.9 million in capital credits.

**Continued on 16c ▶**



*High Road III, a Nashville gospel recording group, gave an outstanding performance.*



## Annual Meeting continued from 16b



He also said margins for 2013 were \$1,966,932. "Of this amount, \$1,347,414 were the capital credits assigned to us from Prairie Power, Inc., our wholesale power provider, and \$215,010 of capital credits assigned to us from CoBank and other sources. Just like you, we'll receive those capital credit retirements at a later date. The remaining balance of \$404,508 was from normal operations of the cooperative."

### More Details

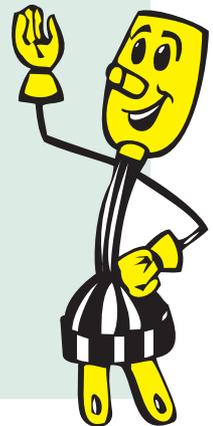
Details about the co-op's financials, along with President Martin's full report, were printed in the Official Notice booklet, which can be found at [www.menard.com](http://www.menard.com) or by calling the office. You can also see more photos of the event at [www.facebook.com/MenardElectric](http://www.facebook.com/MenardElectric).

## Prizes

What would our annual meeting be without a few prizes? Menard Electric and our suppliers provided more than 30 prizes this year, including gift cards, bill credits, small electrical appliances and more. Thanks to the following suppliers and businesses who donated gifts for this year's meeting: Aclara, CoBank, Cox Wood Industries, Drake Scruggs, DUECO, HD Supply, Milsoft, National Bank of Petersburg, U.S. Electric and United Utility Supply.

### Grand Prize Winner

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

Kelso presented 2013 Financial Audit.

Frasco discussed the donation presentation to Cass County Food Pantry.

Frasco reported 25% of members using bank drafting or credit cards to pay bills.

Prairie Power, Inc. allocated MEC 2013 patronage allocation of \$821,495.00.

Staff completed the RUS work plan and loan application for submission.

A second L.E. Myers Crew was hired for a couple of months to do

specific projects.

Employees held a fundraiser for the American Cancer Society and obtained donations of \$3,200.

Motion approved to use co-op employees' continued work at the Menard County Fairgrounds to rewire and update the electrical system for an in-kind donation from the Co-Bank Share the Success Program again this year.

Frasco reported on information obtained from a member about a phone scam.

He advised capital credit checks would be sent to members prior to the Annual Meeting.

He reported on the status of irrigation construction.

He reported on the response from the membership to the Action.Coop letter.

Motion carried to pay the Missouri Electric Work Site for the co-op's proportionate share of costs of clean up at the site.

After discussion, two proposed policies, regarding concealed carry firearms and medical marijuana usage, were referred to the policy committee.

March year to date margins were \$278,039 compared to \$246,887 a year earlier. Equity as of the end of March was 34.86% and the number of members served was 10,722 compared to 10,587 a year ago. Net Utility Plant at the end of March was \$41,589,069 compared to \$39,482,960 last year. The cooperative continues to meet the requirements of the RUS, FFB and NRUCFC.

## Tip of the Month

### Kids water safety

Are your kids enjoying the warm weather? Be sure they know to keep radios and other electronics at least 10 feet from pools, sprinklers, slip n slides and squirt guns. Teach them not to touch any appliance when wet. And help keep them safe by installing GFCI outlets outdoors.



## Did you know...?

Our linemen take care of more than 2,590 miles of line? We have an average of just over 4 members per mile of line. In contrast, Investor-owned utilities average 34 customers per mile of line and municipals average 48.