

Menard Electric Cooperative's

Connect to MEC

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



\$1,500 scholarships available

Eight scholarships of \$1,500 each will be awarded in 2013 through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.



Four scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors who are the sons or daughters of an Illinois electric cooperative member receiving service from the cooperative.

The Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship will be awarded to a student who is the son or daughter of an Illinois electric cooperative employee.

Two scholarships are reserved for students enrolling full-time at a two-year Illinois community college who are the sons or daughters of Illinois electric cooperative members, employees or directors.

The LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker's Scholarship will help

pay for costs to attend the lineworker's school conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield, Ill. Sons and daughters of co-op

members; relatives of co-op employees or directors; individuals enrolled in the Lincoln Land lineworker's school; and individuals who have served or are serving in the armed forces or National Guard are all eligible for the lineworker's scholarship.

Applications can be submitted electronically from our website www.menard.com or call the office at 217-632-7746. Information is also being sent to area high school guidance counselors. Deadline for the lineworker scholarship is April 30, 2013. Applications for all other scholarships are due December 31, 2012.

Together We Serve & Together We Save

Help us serve others and we'll help you save!

This is our third annual food drive. Help us make it more successful than ever by bringing a non-perishable food item to our office by December 21st. We'll donate it to the Menard County Food Pantry and in return give you a free LED light strand. (While supplies last, limit one per membership.)

The LED lights will help you save on your holiday bills this year. The strands feature 70 multi-colored lights. The strands are the same as the last two years and can connect to those strings. LED lights provide thousands of hours of illumination, won't fade and can save 75-95 percent over the costs of traditional strings.

Our office is located at 14300 State Hwy 97 in Petersburg, just one mile south of New Salem State Park. Hours are 8 a.m. to 4:30 pm. Monday through Friday.



New area serviceman



Dalton Whitley is now serving as Area Serviceman to the northernmost area of Menard Electric. Dalton has been with the co-op five years. Take a look at the map here to see if he's your serviceman.



Mark us off your to-do list

The hustle and bustle of the holiday season is approaching fast! Sign up now for automatic payment and mark paying your electric bill off your to-do list this holiday season—and for good!

All completed forms for new automatic payment accounts received in our office by November 28th will be placed in a drawing to win one of two \$25 bill credits to appear on the December 7th bill.

The net amount of your bill will be automatically deducted from your checking or savings account on the 17th of each month, beginning in December (if received by November 28th).



Automatic Payment - *one less thing to worry about*

The net amount of your bill will be automatically deducted from your checking or savings account on the 17th of each month. Just get us this form by the 28th of the month prior to when you wish payments to begin.

Mail with a voided check to Menard Electric Cooperative, PO Box 200, Petersburg, IL 62675.

Name: _____ SS# _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone#: _____ Map Location # _____

Bank Name: _____

Bank Account # _____

Checking acct. Savings acct.

I, _____, authorize Menard Electric Cooperative (MEC) to draw monthly bank drafts through the automatic plan (ACH) on the account shown above for the payment of my electric bill in full and any other services I authorize. I understand that I may discontinue my participation at any time by notifying MEC in writing. Both Menard Electric Cooperative and the bank may terminate this agreement with 10 days written notice. I understand that MEC reserves the right to limit participation in this program to customers whose accounts are in good standing. I understand that the amount of my bill each month will be drafted on the 17th or next business day after. I understand that if funds are not available in my account for the draft to clear, there will be a charge posted to my MEC account, for NSF, and I will still be required to make full payment before the due date of the bill.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

New offer for Co-op Connections Card members

Cut out the cards here to use at any Office Depot store or use the account number online at

www.connections.coop/OfficeDepot.

Savings include up to 80% off preferred products, 15% off retail web pricing of more than 3,000 items, 93,000 products discounted, and next-day delivery with free shipping on orders over \$50.






Store Purchasing Card
SPC Account # 80119158675

CARDHOLDER INSTRUCTIONS:
Present this card to an associate at your local Office Depot Store. You must pre pay when using self service copiers. To order online, go to www.connections.coop/OfficeDepot and click Shop Online.



OFFICE DEPOT ASSOCIATE INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Begin sale transaction as normal. Self Service copy transactions must be paid for at the register.
2. Press, "Total" and then select, "Charge" or, "F1>SPC Account" (*touch screen only*).
3. Enter SPC# and wait for register to re-price.
4. Purchases made using the card do not qualify for Worklife Rewards®.

Office Products = Pricing adjustments in accordance to national program's contract terms Version 10/10

Black & White copies = 2.5¢, Color copies = 22¢, Binding, Folding, Cutting 35% off retail.

FREE

Lamination of your Discount Card

Valid in store only. Must present this original coupon to cashier at time of purchase. Photocopies/reproductions no valid. Not valid for purchases made in Office Depot outlet/clearance stores. Cannot be combined with Store Purchasing or Procurement Cards. Coupon is good for one-time use only, is not transferable, is not for resale or auction and cannot be combined with other offers or promotions. While supplies last. No rain checks. No cash back. Void where prohibited. Limit 1 coupon per household/business.

Coupon Code 263212698



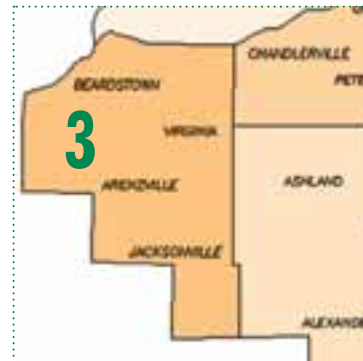
Board vacancy

Mike Carls, Board Member for District 3 for 25 years, will be retiring from the Menard Electric Cooperative Board of Directors.



Michael E. Carls

If you are a member living in District 3 (see map here) and have an interest in serving on the cooperative Board please call the office at 217-632-7746 to speak with General Manager Lynn Frasco.



Office closings

Veterans Day
Monday, Nov. 12

Thanksgiving
Thursday and Friday, Nov. 22, 23



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, and Directors Gary Martin, Jerry Brooks, Michael Carls, Jay Frye, Warren Goetsch, Donald McMillan, Michael Patrick, Roy Seaney and Steven Worner.

Frasco advised the co-op was in the process of meter testing large accounts. He also said pole testing contractor and crews were testing poles.

Frasco reported on increased use of automated bill payment and electronic

bill paying service. He advised approximately 235 members signed up to pay bills with a credit card and 1,400 were paying in an automated fashion.

He discussed the Load Control Summary and advised that Menard had hit a new system peak load of 75.539 MW on July 6, 2012

Frasco reviewed a news article about Beardstown's participation in municipal aggregation.

Goetsch reported on Bylaw Policy review. Two policies were presented, reviewed and approved: Section V -

Weekly Income Accident & Sickness Benefit Plan and Section V - Use of Garage, Vehicles & Equipment.

Year to date margins were \$1,024,736 compared to \$362,725 a year earlier. Equity as of the end of June was 34.07% and the number of members served was 10,570 compared to 10,525 a year ago. Net Utility Plant at the end of July was \$38,184,093 compared to \$36,037,698 last year. The cooperative continues to meet the requirements of the RUS, FFB and NRUCFC.

Need help paying your electric bill?

If you qualify, the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) would provide a one-time lump sum payment directly to us on your behalf. The payment is based upon the number of people in your household and their combined 30-day gross monthly income. Family of one-\$1,396; two-\$1,891; three-\$2,386. Call your local office for additional amounts and information.

Community Action Partnership of Central Illinois (CAPCIL)
www.capcil.org
Logan County - 217-732-2159
Mason County - 309-543-2594
Menard County - 217-632-3878

MCS Community Services (Cass & Morgan County)
217-243-9404;
www.morgancounty.il.com/MCS-Community-Services

Sangamon County Dept. of Community Resources
217-535-3120;
www.co.sangamon.il.us/departments/resource

Decatur-Macon County Opportunity Corp.
217-428-0155 ext. 219; www.dmcoc.org

Tazwood Community Service, Inc. (Tazewell County)
309-266-9941

Beyond the
BULB

A monthly tip to help you use electricity safely and efficiently. See safeelectricity.org and togetherwe-save.com for more ways to go "beyond the bulb" to keep your family using energy wisely every day.

As you break out your recipe cards for the upcoming holiday season keep these safety and efficiency tips in mind. The number of cooking fires doubles on Thanksgiving--keep a fire extinguisher in the kitchen, stay nearby, use a timer and wear close-fitting sleeves. To cook efficiently remember to use the right sized burner, keep burner pans shiny, defrost in the fridge, don't preheat unless baking, keep the oven door closed, turn off the heat a few minutes before the food is finished if your stove/oven is electric, and use your slow cooker, toaster oven and microwave when you can.