

Menard Electric Cooperative's

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Great Turnout at 80th Annual Meeting of Members

This was the first year we've held our annual meeting on a Thursday evening, and we had a record number of members attend compared to recent years. We registered more than 380 members and served over 800 pork chop dinners. Best of all, we saw a lot of new faces of members who came for the first time.

Our employees and board members enjoy meeting with members face to face, answering questions, hearing your suggestions, and just getting to know you better. It's important to us that our members are engaged, and the annual meeting is a great way to learn more about what it means to be a member,

not just a customer! We want to say THANK YOU! to everyone who made it to the meeting, and we hope to see more new faces in the future.

Don't miss the fun at next year's Annual Meeting Thursday, June 14, 2018



Bucket Truck Rides

All ages of members were drawn by the gorgeous evening and plentiful sunshine to see things from a bird's eye view in a bucket truck ride.



Photo by Ben Kinningham

Fun for All



Thanks to Sunshyne the Clown, the building was full of beautiful mermaids and butterflies and fearsome pirates and ninjas. Tim the Twister added swords and dinosaurs, puppies and bows/arrows. No matter what they chose, the kids all enjoyed their time with the pair again this year.



Pork Chop Dinner

We hear that some have tried, unsuccessfully, to replicate the deliciousness of the pork chops prepared each year by the Mason County Pork Producers volunteers. One volunteer claimed the chops are world famous – we can't vouch for that – but we do know many of you look forward to them each year. The group prepared over 800 dinners this year! It's worth noting that all proceeds they earn are used to provide scholarships to youth in the Mason County area.



President's Report

The complete President's report was printed in the Official Annual Meeting Notice you received in the mail prior to the meeting. It is still available on our website at www.menard.com.

President Jay Frye spoke of several reasons for the co-op's continued success, focusing on financial stability and a dedicated staff. He proudly told members "we are consistently among the leaders of Illinois' co-ops in paying out these credits, having returned more than \$9.1 million in the co-op's 80-year history." You can read more about capital credits on our website.

Jay was also proud to report that on the most recent American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI) survey, we earned a score of 85, our highest yet, which is 10 points higher than the average for municipal and investor-owned utilities. We scored highest in three areas: knowledgeable employees, excellent customer service, and prompt response to outages. We always carefully review the survey and value the feedback we receive from you, on what we are doing well and where we can improve.

General Manager's Report

After telling a little about herself, General Manager Alisha Anker told members, "My basic philosophy about staying competitive in the electric utility industry is achieved by managing the three Rs – Rates, Risks and Reliability - tweaking one will certainly impact the other two."

She said one of her roles at Prairie Power was to secure contracts for Prairie Power's power portfolio. Our wholesale power costs from Prairie Power made up 65 percent of every dollar spent last year. Alisha told members that with her intimate knowledge of that portfolio, "I have confidence we at Menard can move a larger share of your dollar to operations, maintenance and member services here at home, and better yet, to operating margins that are returned to you as capital credits."

Alisha also highlighted achievements by the co-op last year that have improved the electrical system and increased service reliability. She noted substation upgrades to ensure adequate capacity, reliable voltage levels, and continued system reliability, as well as IT and cyber security service improvements.

Alisha also gave details about the co-op's centralized Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system that gives the co-op real-time information from the field that is essential for reliable operations.

In closing, Anker remarked, "This industry is about improving quality of life. I look forward to working on your behalf to enhance existing programs and develop new ones that will improve the quality of your lives."



Board of Directors and General Manager



Our Board of Directors is made up of nine members elected from and by you, our members, to serve three-year terms. Directors Warren Goetsch of District 8, Mike Patrick of District 7 and Jodine Tate of District 3 ran unopposed and were re-elected.

Just after the meeting, the Board reorganized and Jodine Tate stepped down as Treasurer; Dennis Ryan was elected to the position.

Jodine Tate, Gary Martin, Secretary Mike Patrick, President Jay Frye, Roy Seaney, General Manager Alisha Anker, Steve Wörner, Chuck McMillan, Treasurer Dennis Ryan and Vice President Warren Goetsch.

Board highlights

For full minutes visit www.menard.com or contact the office.

May 23, 2017

- Present were Directors Jay Frye, Warren Goetsch, Gary Martin, Donald McMillan, Michael Patrick, Dennis Ryan, Roy Seaney, Jodine Tate & Steven Worner; Manager Alisha Anker & Attorney Charles Smith.
- Anker: Discussed the balance sheet, budget, outage summary, safety report & general retirement summary.
- Anker: Co-op hired Ross Cloninger as Forester/Field Technician & 2 summer help employees; discussed union employees switch to 4 10-hour days for daylight savings time.
- Anker: Gave April financial report. Year to date margins \$1,302,355 compared to \$1,434,711 last year. End of April equity 39.50%. Served 10,872 member accounts. Net utility plant \$49,297,316 compared to \$44,199,678 last year. Co-op meets requirements of RUS, FFB, NRUCFC & CoBank.
- Smith: Discussed headquarters tax assessment history & information from Menard County Tax Assessor; Anker to look in to obtaining appraisal.
- Reappointed Goetsch AIEC delegate & director; Worner alternate.
- Voted to contribute \$250 to CFC Integrity Fund.
- Patrick: Plans for annual meeting committee meeting June 12 & 80th Annual Meeting June 15.
- Goetsch: Discussed AIEC activities.
- Martin: Discussed Prairie Power, Inc. & Prairie State.
- Anker: Gave capital credit estate refunds report.

Incentives

\$100 – Electric Water Heaters

\$200 – Air-Source Heat Pumps

\$300 – Geothermal Heat Pumps

Incentives are available one time per service location to the member who initially installs the unit. Heat pumps must be part of a whole-house heating/cooling system. Water heaters must be 40 gallons and enrolled in our load management program. Additional restrictions apply – see our website or contact our office for details.



Bright Options SOLAR



In the heat of August, the sun's rays certainly feel powerful, and it isn't hard to imagine how those rays can be used to generate electricity.

You can purchase solar-generated electricity through the Bright Options Solar program from our wholesale power provider, Prairie Power, Inc. (PPI). All without the risks, hassles or costs of having solar panels at your home.

The program offers blocks of solar energy generated from two 500kw Illinois solar farms operated by PPI subsidiaries. The Shelby Solar Farm is in Shelbyville and the Spoon River Solar Farm is near Astoria.

How does it work?

You choose one of three block options to purchase:

200 kwh - \$12/month

400 kwh - \$24/month

600 kwh - \$36/month

The cost is added to your monthly electric bill in addition to all other normally billed charges.

To learn more, visit www.ppi.coop/brightoptions or call us at 800-872-1203.