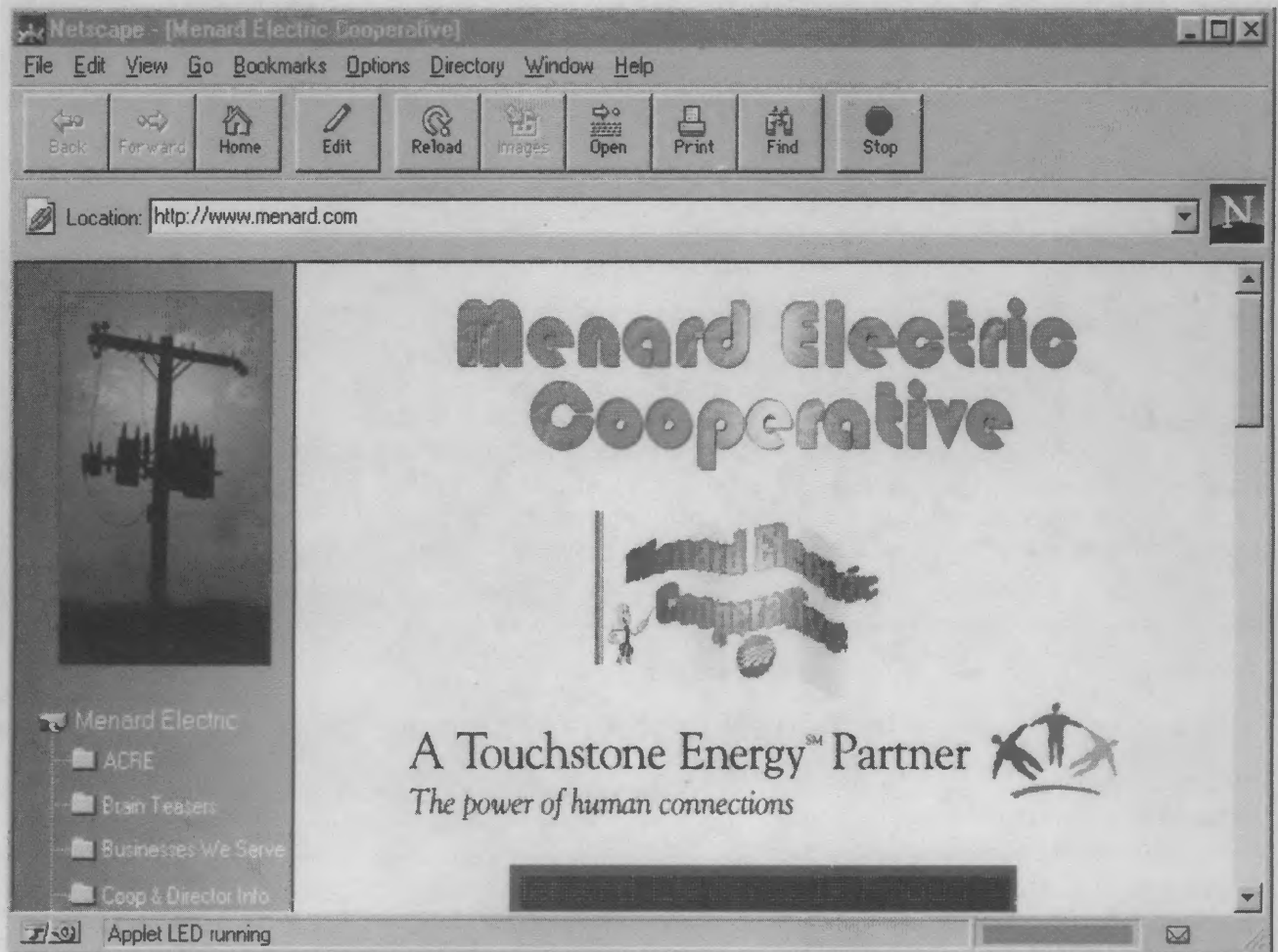




# Menard Electric News

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<http://www.menard.com> • PETERSBURG, ILLINOIS 62675

## Keeping in touch with your cooperative

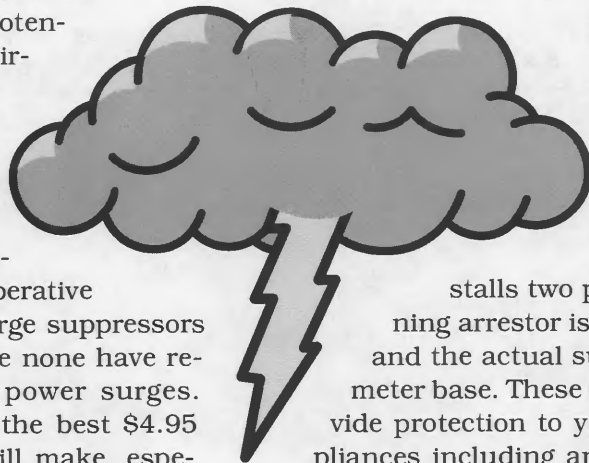


Your cooperative has had a homepage for three and one-half years. In that time it has been expanded and improved upon. The homepage has a great deal of information about your cooperative, from rebate programs to employee information, and links to informative sites for all members of your family. The next time you are surfing the net check out your cooperative's homepage. Visit the homepage regularly to keep in touch with what is going on at your cooperative. We will see you soon at:

**[www.menard.com](http://www.menard.com)**

# Lightning strikes again — any time

Most of us associate thunder and lightning with the hot summer months, and it's true that most thunderstorms occur then. Even so, Mother Nature may have some surprises in store. Even with winter, we have the threat of storms and the potential for damage from voltage irregularities associated with lightning strikes. Your cooperative has a program called Suppression Plus which is designed to protect you from these problems. Approximately 85 cooperative members have installed surge suppressors in the past year and to date none have reported any damage from power surges. Think about it. It may be the best \$4.95 monthly investment you will make, especially if you have experienced damage of this kind in the past.



with a guarantee that your appliances will not be damaged, but in the unlikely case that they are damaged the program provides you with first dollar insurance coverage with no deductible involved. This of course is subject to the conditions of the limited warranty. The Suppression Plus program offers three stages of protection. For the \$4.95 per month, which is added to your electric bill, the cooperative installs two pieces of equipment. A lightning arrestor is installed at the transformer and the actual suppressor is installed in the meter base. These two pieces of equipment provide protection to your major motor driven appliances including any electronic components of these major appliances.

Today our homes are filled with sophisticated electronic equipment and expensive appliances that are more sensitive to irregularities in electricity than ever before. Not only are these appliances subject to being damaged by surges, but if they are damaged, homeowners insurance will only pay for your loss after the loss has exceeded the amount of your homeowners insurance deductible. Suppression Plus not only provides you

with a guarantee that your appliances will not be damaged, but in the unlikely case that they are damaged the program provides you with first dollar insurance coverage with no deductible involved. This of course is subject to the conditions of the limited warranty. The Suppression Plus program offers three stages of protection. For the \$4.95 per month, which is added to your electric bill, the cooperative installs two pieces of equipment. A lightning arrestor is installed at the transformer and the actual suppressor is installed in the meter base. These two pieces of equipment provide protection to your major motor driven appliances including any electronic components of these major appliances. To provide protection for your more sensitive appliances such as VCRs, Microwaves, Satellite TV Systems, etc., you must purchase an individual protection device for the price indicated in the accompanying chart. With these three devices installed your sensitive electronic equipment will be protected. The first dollar insurance coverage will kick in if these devices fail according to the terms of the limited warranty. If you have any questions please call the cooperative.

Transformer arrestor and meter socket protector..... \$4.95 per month

## Individual protection devices

Two outlet protection.....	\$51.88 plus tax
Two outlet with telephone protection.....	\$62.81 plus tax
Two outlet with co-ax protection.....	\$62.81 plus tax
Eight outlet protection.....	\$74.06 plus tax
Eight outlet with telephone protection.....	\$78.75 plus tax
Eight outlet with co-ax protection.....	\$86.25 plus tax

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*The power of human connections*





# Credit Card Convenience



Beginning January 1, 2000, your cooperative will be accepting payment for electric accounts and other invoiced amounts by VISA or MasterCard. The Cooperative will charge a \$3.00 transaction processing fee to accept payment by VISA or MasterCard. You may either stop in the office or you may authorize the cooperative to charge your monthly bill to your credit card by telephone or in writing. There are three ways to pay with your credit card:

1. You may come into the office.
2. You may call the cooperative and give your credit card number and expiration date of the card.
3. You may sign the authorization form below and we will charge your credit card as you like, either every month or just one time. If you are interested in the third option, please fill out the form below and return it to the office.

## Menard Electric Cooperative Credit Card Authorization

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Menard Electric Account No. \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

YES NO

Charge My Credit Card One Time Only \_\_\_\_\_

Charge My Credit Card Each Month \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Card (Circle One ) VISA MC

Credit Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: Month \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print)

***I acknowledge and agree to have the transaction processing fee charged to my VISA or MasterCard.***

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Board meeting report



Menard Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 23, 1999, in the office at Petersburg. The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m., Central Standard Time, by President Warren D. Goetsch. Directors present in addition to President Goetsch were: Edward L. Allspach, Morris L. Bell, Jerry W. Brooks, Michael E. Carls, James G. Graff, Gary L. Martin, and Roy H. Seaney. Director Meredith L. Worner was absent. Also present were Manager Lynn A. Frasco, Attorney Charles K. Smith and Staff Assistant Gerald E. Hedberg. After roll call, the agenda for the meeting was approved as prepared and Director Graff was appointed acting Secretary for the meeting.

Minutes of the Oct. 26, 1999 board meeting were approved as presented.

The Inventory of Work Orders in the amount of \$71,336.00 were reviewed and approved.

The board reviewed General Fund checks #128674 through #128929 amounting to \$1,891,219.14. After discussion, the payment of bills was approved.

The board approved 54 Membership Applications, 11 Membership Permits and one Agreement for Electric Service for the month.

Manager Frasco reviewed the Financial Reports for October. Purchased power and sales for the month and year-to-date continue to exceed budget. Power costs for the month of October exceeded budget by \$58,638. The amount of power purchased exceeds year-to-date budget by 4,720,898 kWhrs. Operating expenses for the month not including power cost are greater than budget by \$32,566. Year-to-date margins exceed budget by \$442,000. Key financial ratios for the month meet required levels and exceed the ratios at this time last year. The ownership equity ratio is 35.9 percent. There were 111 more meters billed this month than the number billed in October of last year. Average residential energy used

and amount of charge are lower than in October 1998. The balance sheet shows \$812,596 greater investment in the utility than at 1998 year end. The amount of long-term debt has increased to \$585,569 more than the amount at 1998 year end. Year-to-date margins are greater than during the most recent five years. The number of outages during October is fewer than those occurring in October 1998, but the number of outage hours is greater. Year-to-date outage hours per meter are approximately 4 hours. No employee injuries were reported this month. Manager Frasco reported that a meeting with FS is planned. He also reviewed with the board, post Strategic Planning Meeting activity. The option of paying electric bills by credit card was reported to the board.

Departmental budgets for Year 2000 were presented by the Staff. Estimates for purchased power and sales reflect recent growth in energy use.

The board approved the Director's Special Occasion Vouchers for the month.

Director Bell reported on the activities of The Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives.

Director Carls and Manager Frasco reported on the activities of Soyland Power Cooperative.

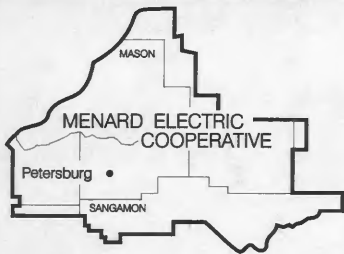
Attorney Smith reported on the recent activity of the By-Law Committee.

Director Seaney chaired a discussion to determine the level of capital credit payments for year 2000.

Report of capital credit estate refunds was given by Staff Assistant Hedberg.

The board approved changes in the SelectRE Pension Plan (401K) for employees.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 p.m. The next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Dec. 28, 1999 at 7 p.m.



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## Low Income Home Energy Assistance

If you need assistance to pay your electric bill, you may be eligible to participate in the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). For details of this program you may wish to contact an agent in your area.

Logan, Mason and Menard county residents should contact:

**Central Illinois Economic Development Corporation**  
1800 5th Street Rd.  
Lincoln, IL 62656  
Phone (217) 732-2159

Macon County residents should contact:

**Decatur-Macon Community Opportunities Corporation**  
1122 East Marietta Street  
Decatur, IL 62521  
Phone (217) 428-2193

Cass and Morgan county residents should contact:

**MCS Community Services**  
345 West State Street  
Jacksonville, IL 62651  
Phone (217) 243-9404 or  
(888) 288-4413

Sangamon County residents should contact:

**Sangamon County Department of Community Resources**  
200 South 9th Street, Room 311  
Springfield, IL 62701  
Phone (217) 535-3120

Tazewell County residents should contact:

**Tazwood Community Services, Inc.**  
2005 S. Main Street  
Morton, IL 61550-1540  
Phone (309) 266-9941

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# Tampering with your electric service is illegal and dangerous

Throughout the nation many people have come to believe that cheating the power company is okay. They believe that since you cannot see the electricity it is fine to steal it. Some have come up with ingenious ways to reduce the accurate operation of a utility meter. Every method of tampering with wires, meters, or other service equipment, which belong to a utility, is a crime. Not only is tampering with an electric service a crime, but it can be extremely dangerous.

The electric utility industry is concerned about this problem, not only from a lost revenue standpoint, but from the standpoint of safety. The electric service equipment is designed to be operated and maintained by qualified personnel who are trained to work on energized electric equipment. Tampering with any part of an electric service will expose an individual to live electrical parts. Contact with these parts can cause serious injury. The

electric wires, meters, and other equipment that comprise an electric service are the property of the electric utility.

Criminal law places stiff penalties on tampering and current diversion. Tampering with components of an electric service leaves a specific trail of evidence that is quickly identified by trained personnel.

The cooperative is concerned about trends in the utility industry which indicate tampering is on the rise. Menard Electric Cooperative is comprised of members who also are the owners of the cooperative. Any theft of electricity is a crime against you and your fellow members. The costs associated with theft of electricity is passed on to other members as part of the cost of doing business. The penalty in Illinois for utility meter tampering is up to six months in jail and a possible \$500 fine.

## Shed some light on the subject of energy efficiency

Here's a surprising fact: one 100-watt bulb gives off 50 percent more light for the same energy than four 25-watt light bulbs. If you need more light in an area, try using one higher-wattage bulb rather than several smaller lights.

To get even more light for less money, keep the bulbs and lampshades clean. Simply removing dust and dirt can provide one-third more light!

**Source:** Entergy

## Home sweet home office - keep it safe

With the growth of telecommuting, more Americans are setting up shop at home and equipping their home offices with computers, fax machines, modems and other office equipment. However, many homes — especially older ones — are not really equipped for all these heavy-duty electronics. Look carefully around your home office for these hazards:

- Insufficient outlets. Don't resort to a tangle of extension cords to hook up all your equipment. Use a safety-rated power strip or surge suppressor to connect and protect your computer, fax machine, copier and printer.
- Ungrounded outlets. Many older homes may not have three-prong outlets to ensure that your equipment is safely grounded. Make sure to have an electrician come in and install grounded outlets where

they're needed. Do not cut off the third prong to make the plug fit!

- Don't overload the circuits. Check your breaker or fuse box to determine which outlets are on the same circuit, and be sure that all the equipment you have on a single circuit draws no more than 1,500 watts.
- In a lightning storm, unplug your computer directly from the wall outlet. Also, unplug and unhook your modem.
- If you lose power while working on your computer, turn the computer off. When the power comes back on, a voltage spike could damage your equipment.

**Source:** National Electrical Safety Foundation



# Credit Card Convenience



Beginning January 1, 2000, your cooperative will be accepting payment for electric accounts and other invoiced amounts by VISA or MasterCard. The Cooperative will charge a \$3.00 transaction processing fee to accept payment by VISA or MasterCard. You may either stop in the office or you may authorize the cooperative to charge your monthly bill to your credit card by telephone or in writing. There are three ways to pay with your credit card:

1. You may come into the office.
2. You may call the cooperative and give your credit card number and expiration date of the card.
3. You may sign the authorization form below and we will charge your credit card as you like, either every month or just one time. If you are interested in the third option, please fill out the form below and return it to the office.

## Menard Electric Cooperative Credit Card Authorization

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Menard Electric Account No. \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

YES                      NO

Charge My Credit Card One Time Only      \_\_\_\_\_      \_\_\_\_\_

Charge My Credit Card Each Month      \_\_\_\_\_      \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Card (Circle One )                      VISA                      MC

Credit Card No.      \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date:      Month \_\_\_\_\_                      Year \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print)

***I acknowledge and agree to have the transaction processing fee charged to my VISA or MasterCard.***

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_                      Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Board meeting report



Menard Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 28, 1999, in the office at Petersburg. The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m., Central Standard Time, by President Warren D. Goetsch. Directors present in addition to President Goetsch were: Edward L. Allspach, Morris L. Bell, Jerry W. Brooks, Michael E. Carls, James G. Graff, Gary L. Martin, and Roy H. Seaney and Meredith L. Worner. Also present were Manager Lynn A. Frasco, Attorney Charles K. Smith and Staff Assistant Gerald E. Hedberg. After roll call, the agenda for the meeting was approved as adjusted.

Minutes of the Nov. 23, 1999, board meeting were approved as presented.

The Inventory of Work Orders in the amount of \$68,528.59 were reviewed and approved.

The board reviewed General Fund checks #128940 through #129153 amounting to \$1,807,860.50. After discussion, the payment of bills was approved.

The board approved 53 Membership Applications, 17 Membership Permits and one Agreement for Electric Service for the month.

Manager Frasco reviewed the Financial Reports for November. Purchased power for the month and year-to-date continue to exceed budget. Power costs for the month of November exceeded budget by \$40,000. The amount of power purchased exceeds year-to-date budget by four million kWhs. Operating expenses for the month not including power cost are less than budget by \$6,767. Year-to-date margins exceed budget by \$390,000; however, margins for the month are \$52,000 less than budget. Key financial ratios for the month meet required levels and exceed the ratios at this time last year. The ownership equity ratio is 36.1 percent. There were 132 more meters billed this month than the number billed in November of last year. Average residential energy used and amount-of-charge are lower than in November 1998. The balance sheet shows \$756,814 greater investment in the utility than at 1998 year end. The amount of long-term debt has increased to \$461,000 more than the amount at 1998 year-end. Year-to-date margins are greater

than during the most recent five years. Both the number of power outages and outage hours are fewer than those occurring in November 1998. Year-to-date outage hours per meter are approximately four hours. No employee injuries were reported this month. Manager Frasco reported on coordination plans to handle year 2000 issues. He informed the board the agreements have been completed with PowerNet Global. He also reported on a meeting held with FS. He also reviewed with the board, post Strategic Planning Meeting activity. The board was informed about plans for providing electric power for the Farm Progress Show being hosted by Illinois in August 2000. Manager Frasco explained that studies for unbundling and rate studies have begun.

The board approved the Director's Special Occasion Vouchers for the month.

A list of uncollectible accounts was approved for write-off after review by the board.

Director Bell reported on the activities of The Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives.

Director Carls and Manager Frasco reported on the activities of Soyland Power Cooperative.

Budgets for operation and cash flow for year 2000 were reviewed and approved by the board.

Report of the employee sick leave bonus program was reviewed and program for 2000 approved. An opportunity for supporting the Touchstone Energy promotion program for a three-year period was discussed and approved. The board also approved adjustments needed to account for the physical count of the cooperative's inventory.

The board discussed the reduction of the power cost adjustment from \$0.008 to \$0.002 to reflect the expected savings in wholesale power costs in 2000.

Attorney Smith reported on the recent activity of the by-law committee.

Report of capital credit estate refunds was given by Staff Assistant Hedberg.

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 p.m. The next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Jan. 25, 2000 at 6 p.m.





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## Directors Recognized

Recently, Directors Gary Martin, District No. 2-Alexander; Roy Seaney, District No. 1-Tallula; Meredith Worner, District No. 6-Manito; Michael Carls, District No. 3-Virginia; James Graff, District No. 7-Middletown; and Jerry Brooks, District No. 4-Oakford; were presented certificates for

the completion of required training of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) — Credentialed Directors Program. The NRECA is the national association that represents cooperatives around the country and also provides training and other services to its member organizations.

## Annual Meeting Scheduled for June 10, 2000

The 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the cooperative is scheduled for Saturday, June 10, 2000 at PORTA High School in Petersburg, Illinois. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend. Cooperatives are owned by those they serve. The Annual Meeting is your op-

portunity to participate directly in the operations of the cooperative by electing directors and voting on other issues that arise at the meeting. As in the past registration begins and exhibits will open at 4:00 p. m. We look forward to seeing you there.

## Power cost adjustment for the Year 2000 to decrease 75 percent

Your cooperative's board of directors recently voted to reduce the Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) in the year 2000 to \$.002 per kWh from the \$.008 per kWh level billed in 1999. This is a decrease of 75 percent. Power costs for the year 2000 are lower due to a new wholesale power contract negotiated between Soyland Power Cooperative and AmerenCIPS. The savings in power costs are being passed along to members

beginning with the bills you will receive in February 2000. This decrease in the PCA should save the average residential member about \$5.25 per month and about 5 percent for larger commercial accounts.



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*The power of human connections*



# Train your kids to operate farm equipment safely

Training adolescent kids to operate farm equipment properly -and safely - is important. Consider age, size and ability when determining what and when to teach them. In cases where people are being trained to operate machinery, it may be necessary to have an instructor riding with the trainee. In this situation, special caution should be taken to ensure that everyone involved pays close attention to safety.

The Farm Safety 4 Just Kids Foundation recommends the following guidelines for helping provide a safe environment for novice drivers - your kids.

- Provide instruction in proper driving procedures.
- Enroll adolescent-aged kids in tractor certification classes.
- Do not allow friends of your children to ride with young operators. Be a role model yourself and don't ride as a passenger; refuse to allow children to ride as passengers.
- If your tractor has a buddy seat, follow



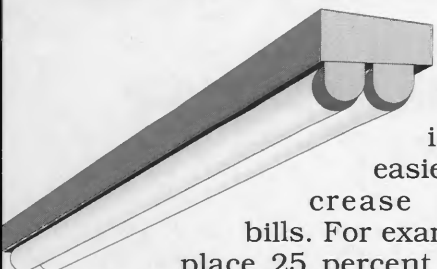
all the manufacturer's safety guidelines.

- Consider safety when assigning machinery to young operators. Older tractors without rollover protective structures (ROPS) or cabs can be especially dangerous.

If you would like more information about Farm Safety 4 Just Kids, call (800) 423-5437.

**Source:** *Farm Safety 4 Just Kids*

## More efficient lighting lowers electric bills



Increasing your lighting efficiency is one of the easiest ways to decrease your energy bills. For example, if you replace 25 percent of your lights in high-use areas with fluorescents, you can cut your lighting energy bill by about 50 percent. Remember to review your indoor lighting and, if applicable, your outdoor lighting as well, and always look for the Energy Star® label when shopping for lighting products.

The U.S. Department of Energy offers these money-saving tips for your home or office.

**Indoor Lighting** — Use linear fluorescent and energy-efficient compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) in fixtures to provide high-quality and high-efficiency lighting. Fluorescent lamps are much more efficient than incandescent bulbs and last six to 10 times longer. Although fluorescent and

compact fluorescent lamps are more expensive than incandescent bulbs, they pay for themselves by saving energy over their lifetime.

**Outdoor Lighting** — Many home and business owners use outdoor lighting for decoration and security. When shopping for outdoor lights, you will find a variety of products, from low-voltage pathway lighting to high-pressure-sodium, motion-detector floodlights. Some stores also carry lights powered by small photovoltaic (PV) modules that convert sunlight directly into electricity; consider PV-powered lights for areas that are not close to an existing power supply line.

Would you like more information on how to cut your electric bill? Contact your Menard Electric Cooperative for more information. As a consumer-owned utility, we are committed to providing you with high-quality energy service at the lowest possible price.

**Source:** *U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Project*

*Now available — Long distance*

# **Business and Residential long distance phone service**

Billed by Power Net Global Communications utilizing the Qwest Long Distance Network (The nation's 4<sup>th</sup> largest carrier)

**4.9¢**      **6.9¢**

All calls in Illinois

All calls out of state

**24 hours a day — 7 days a week  
plus 6 Seconds increment billing**

- Free to join • No monthly fees
- No monthly premiums
- No term agreements
- Major carrier
- 800 Number 4.9¢ — 6.9¢ per minute — no fees
- Free calling cards 13.9¢ per minute (No surcharge)
- NO CODES TO DIAL

**Overseas calling e.g. United Kingdom 12 cents per minute.  
No fees or service charge**

Menard Electric Cooperative is offering long distance telephone service through Power Net Global Communications. This long distance service is one of the lowest-cost long distance services available. As you can see, you can call anywhere in the State of Illinois for a low \$0.049 per minute or anywhere out of state in the continental United States for \$0.069 per minute. In addition, you can have your own personal 800 number to receive calls from family members or acquaintances. Incoming calls on your 800 number are billed at the same rates noted above. All rates are the same 24 hours a day — 7 days a week. There are no monthly fees, no minimums, or long-term agreements. For additional information or to sign up, call the cooperative office at 1(800)-872-1203.





Menard Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 25, 2000, in the office at Petersburg. The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m., Central Standard Time, by President Warren D. Goetsch. Directors present in addition to President Goetsch were: Edward L. Allspach, Morris L. Bell, Jerry W. Brooks, Michael E. Carls, James G. Graff, and Roy H. Seaney and Meredith L. Worner. Director Gary L. Martin was absent. Also present were Manager Lynn A. Frasco, Attorney Charles K. Smith and Staff Assistant Gerald E. Hedberg. After roll call, the agenda for the meeting was approved as presented.

Minutes of the Dec. 28, 1999 board meeting were approved as presented.

The Inventory of Work Orders in the amount of \$60,204.14 were reviewed and approved.

The board reviewed General Fund checks #129154 through #129364 amounting to \$1,305,475.88. After discussion, the payment of bills was approved.

The board approved 36 Membership Applications, 13 Membership Permits and 13 Agreements for Electric Service for the month.

Manager Frasco reviewed the Financial Reports for December. Purchased power for the month and year-to-date continue to exceed budget. Power costs for the month of December exceeded budget by \$67,000. The amount of power purchased exceeds year-to-date budget by more than 4-million kWhrs. Operating expenses for the month not including power cost are less than budget by \$55,000. Margins for the month are \$127,000 less than budget. Margins for 1999 are \$671,000, which exceed the annual budget by \$263,000. Key financial ratios for the month meet required levels and exceed the ratios at this time last year. The ownership equity ratio is 35.6 percent. There were 99 more meters billed this month than the number billed in December 1998. Average residential energy used and amount of bill is greater than in December 1998. The balance sheet shows \$771,114 greater

investment in the utility than at 1998 year-end. The amount of long-term debt has increased to \$452,000 more than the amount at 1998 year-end. Year-to-date margins are greater than during many of the most recent five years. Both the number of power outages and outage hours are greater than those occurring in December 1998. Year-to-date outage hours per meter are approximately four hours. No employee injuries were reported this month. Manager Frasco reported issues involved in refinancing the Cooperatives long-term debt to the Rural Utility Services. He informed the board that promotion of long distance telephone service through PowerNet Global has begun. He reported that the building owned by the Cooperative at 104 S. Sixth Street would be rented. Attendance plans were reviewed for the annual meeting of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

The board approved the Director's Special Occasion Vouchers for the month.

Director Bell reported on the activities of The Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives.

Director Carls and Manager Frasco reported on the activities of Soyland Power Cooperative.

The board approved reduction of the power cost adjustment amount from \$0.008 to \$0.002 for Year 2000.

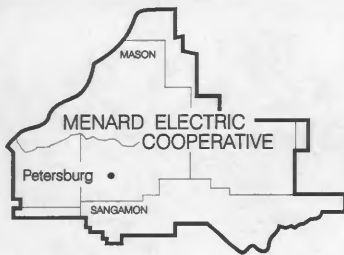
A resolution declaring capital credits payable in 2000 was made.

Director Brooks reported on plans for the 63<sup>rd</sup> membership meeting planned for June 10, 2000.

Changes in retail rate schedules were approved for those rates having interruptible clauses, to coincide with recent changes made by Soyland Power Cooperative in the wholesale rates.

Attorney Smith reported on the recent activity of the By-Law Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 10 p.m. The next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 22 at 6 p.m.



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## Changes in the definition of Peak Period for rate schedules "I", "LMS", "LP" & "WH"

Due to changes in the wholesale power contract with Soyland Power Cooperative, the peak period, as defined in the contract for the year 2000, has been changed. The peak period will run from 12:00 to 22:00 hours Monday through Friday for the period June 1, through Sept. 15, 2000. Two exceptions to this period will be Tuesday, July 4 and Monday, Sept. 4. These two days will not be included in the peak period.

**Schedule "I" Irrigation:** Members on this rate may be interrupted at the discretion of the Cooperative on any day during the peak period for up to 10 consecutive hours.

**Schedule "LMS" Load Management Service:** Members on this rate may be interrupted at the discretion of the Cooperative on any day during the peak period for up to 10 consecutive hours.

**Schedule "LP" Large Power Service:** The member's maximum demand will be measured during the peak period as defined in the first paragraph above.

**Schedule "WH" - Water Heater Rider:** Members on this rate may be interrupted at the discretion of the Cooperative on any day during the peak period for up to 5 hours.

If you are a member who is receiving electric service under one of the rate schedules above and would like a copy of the actual rate schedule, please call the office and we will be happy to send you a copy.

## Office closing

Menard Electric Cooperative's office will be closed on Friday, April 21, in observance of Good Friday. The cooperative will resume normal business hours on Monday, April 24.



# Credit Card Convenience



Beginning January 1, 2000, your cooperative will be accepting payment for electric accounts and other invoiced amounts by VISA or MasterCard. The Cooperative will charge a \$3.00 transaction processing fee to accept payment by VISA or MasterCard. You may either stop in the office or you may authorize the cooperative to charge your monthly bill to your credit card by telephone or in writing. There are three ways to pay with your credit card:

1. You may come into the office.
2. You may call the cooperative and give your credit card number and expiration date of the card.
3. You may sign the authorization form below and we will charge your credit card as you like, either every month or just one time. If you are interested in the third option, please fill out the form below and return it to the office.

## Menard Electric Cooperative Credit Card Authorization

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Menard Electric Account No. \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

YES NO

Charge My Credit Card One Time Only \_\_\_\_\_

Charge My Credit Card Each Month \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Card (Circle One ) VISA MC

Credit Card No. \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date: Month \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print)

***I acknowledge and agree to have the transaction processing fee charged to my VISA or MasterCard.***

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Train your kids to operate farm equipment safely

Training adolescent kids to operate farm equipment properly -and safely - is important. Consider age, size and ability when determining what and when to teach them. In cases where people are being trained to operate machinery, it may be necessary to have an instructor riding with the trainee. In this situation, special caution should be taken to ensure that everyone involved pays close attention to safety.

The Farm Safety 4 Just Kids Foundation recommends the following guidelines for helping provide a safe environment for novice drivers - your kids.

- Provide instruction in proper driving procedures.
- Enroll adolescent-aged kids in tractor certification classes.



• Do not allow friends of your children to ride with young operators. Be a role model yourself and don't ride as a passenger; refuse to allow children to ride as passengers.

• If your tractor has a buddy seat, follow all the manufacturer's safety guidelines.

• Consider safety when assigning machinery to young operators. Older tractors without rollover protective structures (ROPS) or cabs can be especially dangerous.

If you would like more information about Farm Safety 4 Just Kids, call (800) 423-5437.

**Source:** Farm Safety 4 Just Kids

## More efficient lighting lowers electric bills

Increasing your lighting efficiency is one of the easiest ways to decrease your energy bills. For example, if you replace 25 percent of your lights in high-use areas with fluorescents, you can cut your lighting energy bill by about 50 percent. Remember to review your indoor lighting and, if applicable, your outdoor lighting as well, and always look for the Energy Star® label when shopping for lighting products.

The U.S. Department of Energy offers these money-saving tips for your home or office.

**Indoor Lighting** — Use linear fluorescent and energy-efficient compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) in fixtures to provide high-quality and high-efficiency lighting. Fluorescent lamps are much more efficient than incandescent bulbs and last six to 10 times longer. Although fluorescent and compact fluorescent lamps are more expensive than incandescent bulbs, they pay for themselves by saving energy over their lifetime.

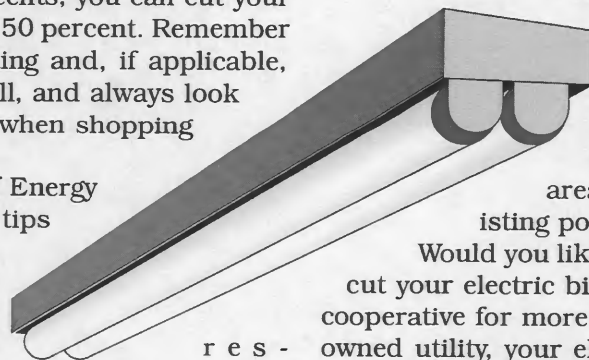
**Outdoor Lighting** — Many home and business owners use outdoor lighting for decoration and se-

curity. When shopping for outdoor lights, you will find a variety of products, from low-voltage pathway lighting to high-sodium, motion-detector flood-

lights. Some stores also carry lights powered by small photovoltaic (PV) modules that convert sunlight directly into electricity; consider PV-powered lights for areas that are not close to an existing power supply line.

Would you like more information on how to cut your electric bill? Contact your local electric cooperative for more information. As a consumer-owned utility, your electric co-op is committed to providing you with high-quality energy service at the lowest possible price.

**Source:** U.S. Department of Energy, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Project



# Board meeting report



Menard Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 22, in the office at Petersburg. The meeting was called to order at 6 p.m., Central Standard Time, by Vice President Gary L. Martin. Directors present in addition to Vice President Martin were: Edward L. Allspach, Morris L. Bell, Jerry W. Brooks, James G. Graff, Roy H. Seaney and Meredith L. Worner. President Warren D. Goetsch and Director Michael E. Carls were absent. Also present were Manager Lynn A. Frasco, Attorney Charles K. Smith and Staff Assistant Gerald E. Hedberg. After roll call, the agenda for the meeting was approved as presented.

Minutes of the Jan. 25, 2000 board meeting were approved as presented.

The Inventory of Work Orders in the amount of \$108,949.20 were reviewed and approved.

The board reviewed General Fund checks #129365 through #129575 amounting to \$1,379,849.50. After discussion, the payment of bills was approved.

The board approved 31 Membership Applications, 20 Membership Permits and one Agreement for Electric Service for the month.

Manager Frasco reviewed the Financial Reports for January. Purchased power for the month was 11 percent below budget. Revenue amounts were 6 percent below budget for January. Operating expenses for the month not including power cost are less than budget by \$23,000 or 5 percent. Margins for the month are \$18,000 less than budget. Key financial ratios for the month meet required levels and exceed the ratios at this time last year. The ownership equity ratio is 34.7 percent. There were 153 more meters billed this month than the number billed in January 1999. Average residential energy used and amount of bill is less than in January

1999. The balance sheet shows \$23,000 greater investment in the utility than at 1999 year end. When January financial data is compared to the same month in the recent four years, the amounts are mid range. Both the numbers of power outages and outage hours are less than those occurring in January 1999. No employee injuries were reported this month. Director Carls joined the meeting. Manager Frasco reported to the board that promotion of long distance telephone service through PowerNet Global has shown good results. Attendance plans were again reviewed for the annual meeting of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

The board approved the Director's Special Occasion Vouchers for the month.

Director Bell reported on the activities of The Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives.

Director Carls and Manager Frasco reported on the activities of Soyland Power Cooperative. The Board was informed about a regional meeting scheduled for March second and Soyland's annual meeting planned for March 15<sup>th</sup>. President Goetsch arrived and took charge of the meeting.

Vice President Martin reported on plans for the 63<sup>rd</sup> membership meeting planned for June 10, 2000.

Annual review was made of the Cooperative's Safety Program policy.

Manager Frasco reported on the status of notes and contracts held with subdivision developers. The policy governing this activity was reviewed.

Attorney Smith presented Bylaw amendments reviewed by the Bylaw committee and Board over recent months, for approval.

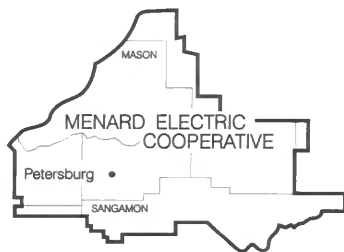
The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m. The next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 28 at 7 p.m.

## Menard Electric Cooperative

122 South Sixth Street  
P.O. Box 200  
Petersburg, Illinois 62675-0200  
(217) 632-7746 or (800) 872-1203

Office hours: 8 a.m. — 4:30 p.m.  
Web address: [www.menard.com](http://www.menard.com)





Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

# Menard Electric News

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<http://www.menard.com> • PETERSBURG, ILLINOIS 62675

## Annual Meeting scheduled for June 10, 2000

The 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the cooperative is scheduled for Saturday, June 10, 2000 at PORTA High School in Petersburg, IL. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend. Cooperatives are owned by those they serve. The Annual Meeting is your opportunity to partici-

pate directly in the operations of the cooperative by electing directors and voting on other issues that arise at the meeting. As in the past registration begins and exhibits will open at 4 p.m. We look forward to seeing you there.

## Advantages of an electric water heater

- Heating water with electricity is seven times safer than gas. A study by the National Fire Protection Agency has found that gas water heaters cause seven times as many home fires as electric water heaters.

- Electric water heaters require no flue or vent. They can be placed virtually anywhere.

- Electric water heaters do not use air for combustion. Indoor air quality is not compromised by the water heater and there is no danger of explosion.

- Electric water heaters require less maintenance. There is no pilot light, no vent, no flue or heat exchanger to corrode.

- Electric water heaters have more insulation. They can be insulated on all sides, including top and bottom.

- Electric water heaters are more efficient. The heating elements are in direct contact with the water so they are nearly 100 percent efficient. A gas water heater loses 40 to 60 percent of its heat energy up the flue.

## Recipe for electrical appliance safety

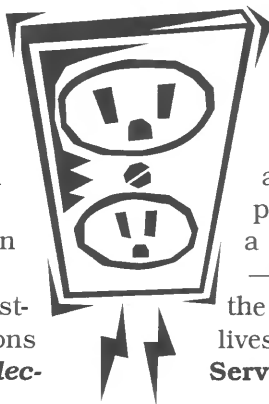
**Preparation Time:** 5 minutes.

**Ingredients:** Cords, hair dryers, curling irons, plugs, radios, toasters, microwaves, fuses and circuit breakers.

**Directions:** — Check all power cords and plugs for breaks or damaged insulation.

— Check plugs to be sure they are in good condition.

— Keep all appliances such as toasters, microwaves, hair dryers, curling irons and radios away from sinks and water. **Electricity and water do not mix.**



— If a circuit breaker keeps tripping or fuses keep blowing, first check to see if you have too many appliances on the circuit. Inspect cords and outlets. If the problem persists, have appliances inspected by qualified service personnel or have the wiring checked by a qualified electrician.

— Mix all ingredients together following the directions and cook up a recipe to save lives.

**Serves:** Everyone.



# Credit Card Convenience



Beginning January 1, 2000, your cooperative will be accepting payment for electric accounts and other invoiced amounts by VISA or MasterCard. The Cooperative will charge a \$3.00 transaction processing fee to accept payment by VISA or MasterCard. You may either stop in the office or you may authorize the cooperative to charge your monthly bill to your credit card by telephone or in writing. There are three ways to pay with your credit card:

1. You may come into the office.
2. You may call the cooperative and give your credit card number and expiration date of the card.
3. You may sign the authorization form below and we will charge your credit card as you like, either every month or just one time. If you are interested in the third option, please fill out the form below and return it to the office.

## Menard Electric Cooperative Credit Card Authorization

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Menard Electric Account No. \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

YES                      NO

Charge My Credit Card One Time Only                      \_\_\_\_\_                      \_\_\_\_\_

Charge My Credit Card Each Month                      \_\_\_\_\_                      \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Card (Circle One )                      VISA                      MC

Credit Card No.                      \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date:                      Month \_\_\_\_\_                      Year \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Please Print)*

***I acknowledge and agree to have the transaction processing fee charged to my VISA or MasterCard.***

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_                      Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Now available — Long distance*  
**Business and Residential**  
**long distance phone service**

Billed by Power Net Global Communications  
 utilizing the Qwest Long Distance Network (The nation's 4<sup>th</sup> largest carrier)

**4.9¢**      **6.9¢**

All calls in Illinois      All calls out of state  
**24 hours a day — 7 days a week**  
**plus 6 Seconds increment billing**

- Free to join • No monthly fees • No monthly premiums
- No term agreements • Major carrier
- 800 Number 4.9¢ — 6.9¢ per minute — no fees
- Free calling cards 13.9¢ per minute (No surcharge)
- NO CODES TO DIAL

Overseas calling e.g. United Kingdom 12 cents per minute.

**No fees or service charge**

Menard Electric Cooperative is offering long distance telephone service through Power Net Global Communications. This long distance service is one of the lowest-cost long distance services available. As you can see, you can call anywhere in the State of Illinois for a low \$0.049 per minute or anywhere out of state in the continental United States for \$0.069 per minute. In addition, you can have your own personal 800 number to receive calls from family members or acquaintances. Incoming calls on your 800 number are billed at the same rates noted above. All rates are the same 24 hours a day — 7 days a week. There are no monthly fees, no minimums, or long-term agreements.



**For Additional Information Call: 1-800-872-1203, or**

**Mail Application to: Menard Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 200, Petersburg, IL 62675**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ Estimated Monthly Usage \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Current Carrier \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Numbers: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Services Desired:  Outbound  800  Travel Cards    Number Requested \_\_\_\_\_

800 Service:  New  Existing      To Ring To: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby authorize PowerNet Global Communications, or its designator, to transfer my long distance service. I agree to financial responsibility for all charges arising from all long distance services provided. The service requested will be provisioned only on the approval of credit for the application. A service charge may be accessed by the local telephone company when they make the carrier change.

Customer Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Board meeting report



Menard Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 28, 2000, in the office at Petersburg. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m., Central Standard Time, by President Warren D. Goetsch. Directors present in addition to President Goetsch were: Edward L. Allspach, Morris L. Bell, Jerry W. Brooks, Michael E. Carls, James G. Graff, Gary L. Martin, Roy H. Seaney and Meredith L. Worner. Also present were Manager Lynn A. Frasco, Attorney Charles K. Smith and Staff Assistant Gerald E. Hedberg. After roll call, the agenda for the meeting was approved as adjusted.

The board heard a review of the 1999 audit presented by Office Manager, Wayne E. Jones. After review and discussion the audit report prepared by the firm, Quint-Dreyer & Co., P.A., P.C., the board accepted the audit.

Minutes of the February 22, 2000 board meeting were approved as presented.

The Inventory of Work Orders in the amount of \$63,148.12 were reviewed and approved.

The board reviewed General Fund checks #129576 through #129758 amounting to \$1,501,666.01. After discussion, the payment of bills was approved.

The board approved 39 Membership Applications, 10 Membership Permits and 11 Agreements for Electric Service for the month.

Manager Frasco reviewed the Financial Reports for February. Purchased power for the month and year-to-date are very near amounts budgeted. Power costs for the month are less than budget. The amount of power purchased year-to-date is less than budget by more than 2 million kWhr's. Operating expenses for the month not including power cost are less than budget by \$56,000. Margins for the month are \$114,000 less than budget. Key financial ratios continue to meet required levels. The ownership equity ratio is 35.4 percent. There were 137 more meters billed this month than the number billed in February 1999. Average residential energy used and amount of

bill is greater than in February 1999. The balance sheet shows \$63,000 greater investment in the utility than at 1999 year end. The amount of long term debt at 1999 year-end has decreased by \$135,000. Year-to-date margins are greater than during any of the most recent five years. Both the numbers of power outages and outage hours are greater than those occurring in December 1998. Year-to-date outage hours per meter are approximately 4 hours. Two employee injuries were reported this month. Manager Frasco reported that the long-distance telephone options advertised have resulted in a large number of inquiries. He informed the board that the cooperative's workers' compensation experience has resulted in reduction of insurance premiums. He reported the results of collection attempts on some long-term accounts receivable. A summary of the savings from change in the supplier of employee major medical insurance was reviewed with the board.

The board approved the Director's Special Occasion Vouchers for the month.

A list of Uncollectible Accounts was reviewed and approved for write-off.

Director Bell reported on the activities of The Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives.

Director Carls and Manager Frasco reported on the activities of Soyland Power Cooperative.

Director Martin reported on his committee's preparations for the June 10<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the members. Members of the nominating committee were appointed.

An agreement for construction of underground electric services in a new subdivision was approved after review.

Those directors and employees who attended the recent meeting of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association made their report.

Plans for attending the Legislative Conference was discussed.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m. The next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 25, 2000 at 7 p.m.

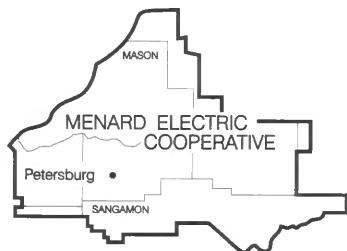
### Office closing

**Your cooperative office will be closed  
Monday, May 29,  
in observance of the  
Memorial Day holiday.  
The cooperative office will open for  
normal business hours  
on Tuesday, May 30.**

### Menard Electric Cooperative

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# Menard Electric News

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## Annual Meeting scheduled for June 10, 2000

The 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the cooperative is scheduled for Saturday, June 10, 2000 at PORTA High School in Petersburg, Illinois. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend. Cooperatives are owned by those they serve. The Annual Meeting is your opportunity to participate directly in the operations of the cooperative by electing directors and voting on other issues that arise at the meeting. As in the past registration begins and exhibits will open at 4 p.m. We look forward to seeing you there.

## Budget billing begins in June Sign up now

Your cooperative will once again offer budget billing to all Rate A (Farm & Residential) single phase services. The budget billing plan is a method where the member is rendered equal bills for a maximum of 11 months. The budget billing cycle will begin with the June 30 bill and end with the April 30 bill. The May 30 bill will show debits and credits, depending upon whether the member's usage was higher or lower than the estimated amount of the bill over the previous 11 months.

The monthly amounts are determined by estimating the average kilowatt-hours used based on the actual usage of the previous 12 months. For new members the budget amount will be determined from an estimated usage based upon the best available data.

If you have any questions or would like to sign up for the budget billing plan, please contact the cooperative office and we will be happy to send you the necessary information.

## Used vehicle sale

The cooperative is accepting bids for the following vehicles through the close of business June 16, 2000. The vehicles will be available for inspection at the cooperative's office in Petersburg, Illinois from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. until Friday, June 16, 2000 at 4:30 p.m..

- 1995 Chevrolet 2500 4X4 Cab & Chassis with 130,000 miles.
- 1994 Ford F250 4X4 with a utility body and 135,000 miles.
- 1993 Dodge D150 2WD Pickup with 80,000 miles.



## Youths take part in Springfield tour



High school students from across Illinois met their state legislators in Springfield during "Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives Youth Day" on Wednesday, April 12. The tour was an opportunity for the students to learn more about the co-ops' democratic business model, as well as their state government. During their trip to the capitol, the students met with Secretary of State Jesse White. Twelve area students representing Menard Electric Cooperative, Petersburg, met with Sen. Larry Bomke at the State Capitol. Nearly 300 students and chaperones also toured the Illinois Supreme Court, the State Capitol, Lincoln's Tomb, and the Executive Mansion. Representing Menard Electric Cooperative were, front row from left: Stu Churchill, chaperone, Beth Boatman of New Berlin, Sen. Bomke, Kimberly Duntun of Topeka and Kirsten Knutilla of Lincoln. Back row from left: Chris Meyer of Lincoln, Joshua Lowe of Green Valley, Matthew Hitchcock of Petersburg, Brian Cox of New Berlin, Melissa Llano of Petersburg, Ashley Taylor and Daniel Wilcoxon of Havana, Ann Sanner and Kip Hayden of Illiopolis.

## Tampering with your electric service is illegal and dangerous

Throughout the nation many people have come to believe that cheating the power company is okay. They believe that since you cannot see the electricity it is fine to steal it. Some have come up with ingenious ways to reduce the accurate operation of a utility meter. Every method of tampering with wires, meters, or other service equipment which belong to a utility is a crime. Not only is tampering with an electric service a crime, but it can be extremely dangerous.

The electric utility industry is concerned about this problem, not only from a lost revenue standpoint, but from the standpoint of safety. The electric service equipment is designed to be operated and maintained by qualified personnel who are trained to work on energized electric equipment. Tampering with any part of an electric service will expose an individual to live electrical parts. Contact with these parts can cause serious

injury. The electric wires, meters, and other equipment that comprise an electric service are the property of the electric utility.

Criminal law places stiff penalties on tampering and current diversion. Tampering with components of an electric service leaves a specific trail of evidence that is quickly identified by trained personnel.

The cooperative is concerned about trends in the utility industry which indicate tampering is on the rise. Menard Electric Cooperative is comprised of members who also are the owners of the cooperative. Any theft of electricity is a crime against you and your fellow members. The costs associated with theft of electricity is passed on to other members as part of the cost of doing business. The penalty in Illinois for utility meter tampering is up to six months in jail and a possible \$500 fine.

# Surge Suppression Program Expanded

Beginning April 1, 2000 Menard Electric Cooperative is expanding its surge suppression program to include a premium monthly service in addition to the existing basic whole house protection service. The cooperative will continue to provide whole house protection for white appliances at a monthly cost of \$4.95 as it has in the past. In addition to this basic service you can now protect the sensitive electronic devices in your home in addition to the electromechanical appliances for a minimal investment of \$49.95 and a monthly cost of \$5.95.

Today, more than any time in the past, our homes are filled with sophisticated electronic equipment and expensive appliances that are more sensitive than ever before. As a result, voltage irregularities due to lightning can easily damage appliances, televisions, stereos, telephones and other electronic devices resulting in costly repairs. It is for this reason your cooperative has expanded its program even further in reducing this type of expense and allowing members a choice in the coverage they purchase.

For members who want to protect the major electromechanical appliances in their home such as the refrigerator, washer, dryer, range, dishwasher, etc. the cooperative will continue to offer the Basic Surge Protection Plan. For \$4.95 per month on your bill we will install a whole house surge protector on your electric meter which offers excellent protection for these white appliances. This is less than 17 cents per day and not only covers the cost of the surge protector and installation, but also all future maintenance.

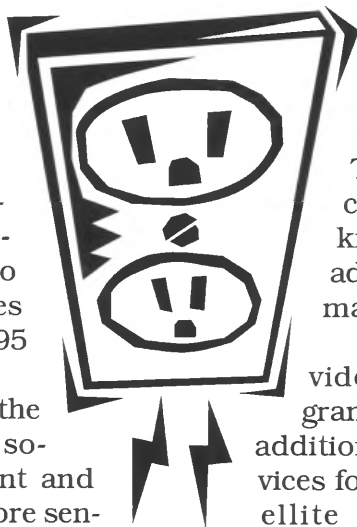
For members who want to go one step further and protect the sensitive electronic equipment in their home such as a computer, television, stereo, telephone, answering machine, clock radio, etc. the cooperative is now offering the Premium Surge Protection. For an initial investment of \$49.95 and a monthly payment of \$5.95 on your bill, you will receive a point of use surge protection pack-

age in addition to the installation of the whole house surge protector. This package includes four individual point of use surge protectors that can be used to protect a television, entertainment center or computer center, along with a cordless phone or answering machine and two or three other pieces of electronic equipment. This kit also includes a handy circuit receptacle tester to let you know if your home grounding is adequate or if changes need to be made to assure proper protection.

In addition to the devices provided with the two monthly programs, the cooperative will be selling additional point of use protection devices for your computer, television, satellite dish and other electronic equipment. These devices can be purchased from the cooperative at very reasonable prices. All surge protection devices come with a lifetime warranty on the device as well as repair or replacement warranties for the equipment they are protecting.

Remember, lightning is very unpredictable and can enter your home not only on the electrical service, but also through a phone line, cable television line, satellite dish or antenna. With these individual devices installed on your telephone, computer, television, etc., in addition to having protection at the electric meter, you will be able to rest easy the next time a storm is in the area.

For more information about this and other Value Added Services call the cooperative office.



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Web address: [www.menard.com](http://www.menard.com)

## Board meeting report



Menard Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 25, 2000, in the office at Petersburg. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m., Central Daylight Time, by President Warren D. Goetsch. Directors present in addition to President Goetsch were: Edward L. Allspach, Morris L. Bell, Jerry W. Brooks, Michael E. Carls, James G. Graff, Gary L. Martin, and Roy H. Seaney. Director Meredith L. Worner was absent. Also present were Manager Lynn A. Frasco, Attorney Charles K. Smith, Director of Member Services Stuart W. Churchill and Staff Assistant Gerald E. Hedberg. After roll call, the agenda for the meeting was approved with additions.

Minutes of the March 28, 2000 board meeting were approved as presented.

The Inventory of Work Orders in the amount of \$117,430.75 were reviewed and approved.

The board reviewed General Fund checks #129759 through #129979 amounting to \$1,478,252.84. After discussion, the payment of bills were approved.

The board approved 50 Membership Applications, 26 Membership Permits and six Agreements for Electric Service for the month.

The board approved an agreement for the East Bluffs subdivision after review.

Manager Frasco reviewed the Financial Reports for March. Purchased power amounts for the month and year-to-date are near 10 percent below budget. Power costs for the month are \$48,000 less than budget. The amount of power purchased year-to-date is less than budget by nearly four million kWhr's. Operating expenses for the month not including power cost are less than budget by \$18,000. Margins for the month are \$10,000 less than budget. Key financial ratios continue to meet required levels. The ownership equity ratio is 35.2 percent. There were 116 more meters billed this month than the number billed in March 1999. Average residential energy used and amount

of bill are less than in March 1999. The balance sheet shows \$133,000 greater investment in the utility than at 1999 year end. The amount of long term debt at 1999 year end has decreased by \$144,000. Year-to-date margins are greater than during any of the most recent five years. Both the number of power outages and outage hours are less than those occurring in March 1999. Year-to-date outage hours per meter are approximately 13 minutes. No employee injuries were reported this month. Manager Frasco reported that the long-distance telephone options advertised have resulted in a more than 700 applications. A summary of the savings from change in the supplier of employee major medical insurance was reviewed with the board.

The board approved the Director's Special Occasion Vouchers for the month.

A list of Uncollectible Accounts was reviewed and approved for write-off.

Director Bell reported on the activities of The Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives.

Director Carls and Manager Frasco reported on the activities of Soyland Power Cooperative.

Director Martin reported on his committees preparations for the June 10<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the members.

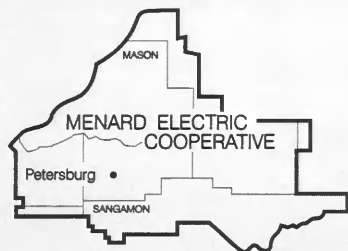
Director Michael E. Carls was appointed as Director and Manager Lynn A. Frasco was appointed as Alternate Director to the Continental Cooperative Electric Service board of directors.

Director Seaney made inquiry into the Cooperatives participation in the State of Illinois, Renewable Energy Program. After research for more information, the issue will be revisited.

Participation in the CFC Integrity Fund was reviewed. After discussion the board decided to contribute a lesser amount than in past years.

The meeting adjourned at 10 p.m. The next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 23, at 7 p.m.





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# Menard Electric News

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## Members learn of expanded services



Two area men were re-elected and one area man was elected to the board of directors of Menard Electric Cooperative at the organization's 63<sup>rd</sup> annual meeting held Saturday, June 10, at PORTA High School, Petersburg. Re-elected to the board were Gary L. Martin of Alexander and Edward L. Allspach of Mt. Pulaski. D. Jay Frye of Easton was elected to his first term. These men are included in the full board photo. Left to right back row, Frye, Michael E. Carls of Virginia; Warren D. Goetsch of Williamsville; Roy H. Seaney of Tallula, treasurer; and Jerry W. Brooks of Oakford, vice president. Left to right front row, Allspach, James G. Graff of Middletown; Meredith L. Worner of Manito, secretary, and Martin, president.

One area man was elected and two area men were re-elected to the board of directors of Menard Electric Cooperative at the organization's 63<sup>rd</sup> annual meeting held Saturday, June 10, at PORTA High School, Petersburg. Gary L. Martin of Alexander and Edward L. Allspach of Mt. Pulaski were re-elected, and D. Jay Frye of Easton was elected to the cooperative's board.

Speaking to some 700 members and guests, Warren D. Goetsch of Williamsville, president, welcomed the group and spoke of several pro-

gressive programs and alliances the cooperative has begun working on in the past year. He reported first on the strategic planning session that was held by the cooperative's board and staff in the fall of 1999. The plan included: hiring a consultant to study service rates and respond to the board with findings by late summer; redesigning member bills; studying the sale of long distance telephone service statewide; assisting Alert Security, a subsidiary of Soyland Power Cooperative, in marketing in the cooperative's service



Morris Bell, left, received a plaque in recognition of his many years of service to Menard Electric Cooperative and the rural electrification program. Warren D. Goetsch, president, right, made the presentation.

Manager Lynn Frasco speaks.



area; and conducting member meetings throughout the cooperative's service area to discuss deregulation and other issues.

Goetsch then talked about the alliances that have been created by cooperatives to help lower costs and bring new services to members. This past March, Soyland Power Cooperative, Menard Electric's power supplier, formed a strategic alliance with Allegheny Electric Cooperative in Harrisburg, Pa. The new alliance is called Continental Electric Cooperative Services (CCS), and it will be comprised of 27 member cooperatives serving 300,000 members in Illinois, Pennsylvania and New Jersey. This alliance will save its members an estimated \$1.4 million to \$2.8 million annually.

Another cooperative alliance Menard Electric has joined is Touchstone Energy<sup>o</sup>. Menard Electric is one of 600 electric cooperatives nationwide which have formed the Touchstone Energy alliance. By working together, this new alliance, which collectively serves more than 15 million members, will provide more power nationwide than almost any other utility.

Goetsch and Lynn Frasco of Sherman, cooperative manager, honored retiring long-term board member Morris Bell of Chandlerville, with a plaque for 24 years of service. They also honored Randy Avery of Petersburg, co-op crew leader, for 25 years of service. Avery was given a gold watch and praised for his contributions over the years.

The co-op is also expanding its services. One

such service is the co-op's Website, which allows members to look up a variety of items, such as: rates and rebates, co-op programs, the current level of capital credits paid to date, a list of co-op directors and employees, links to other sites, and an area for paying bills by credit card.

The long distance telephone service, which has been possible through an agreement with PowerNet Global and Quest Communications, was added this year. Rates are 4.9 cents per minute for all in-state long distance calls and 6.9 cents per minute on all out-of-state long distance calls. Frasco stated, "Most of our members have noted as much as a 30-40 percent reduction in their monthly long distance charges." The co-op has already signed up nearly 1,000 residential and business accounts.

Frasco said Soyland Power built new generation resources to serve its 12 Illinois distribution member cooperatives. A new gas turbine was added to the Alsey station last month. The Alsey site now has five simple cycle gas turbines capable of producing up to 125 megawatts of electric energy. "Since the Soyland generation equipment can meet more than one half of its 12 cooperatives' peak demand, it was able to nego-



Menard Electric employee Janey Ames, left, registers a member.

Warren Goetsch, president, addresses the audience.



tiate a very favorable three-year power supply contract with Ameren Energy." He added, "The result for Soyland members will be a reliable energy supply at the lowest possible price available, through the year 2002."

Frasco closed by detailing plans for the Farm Progress Show, which will be held in Menard Electric's service territory on September 26-28. The show, which will attract more than 200,000 visitors, will be served by facilities provided by Menard Electric, Central Illinois Public Service Co. and Springfield's City, Water, Light & Power.

Treasurer Roy Seaney of Tallula also reported that Menard Electric enjoyed a good year. He said the quantity of electricity sold or used by the co-op in 1999 increased 2 percent over 1998. He also stated that the co-op finished 1999 with margins of \$685,218, which was an increase from the 1998 margins of \$397,935. Total equity increased \$355,000 in 1999. All these factors allowed the co-op to meet the financial requirements of its lenders, the Rural Utilities Service and the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation.

Seaney reported that the cooperative was able to retire \$349,944 in capital credits to members who received service from the second half of 1974 and all of 1975. Through 1999 Menard Electric has returned \$2,477,092 to its members. In addition, several weeks ago, the co-op mailed capital credit checks for the year 1976, totaling \$325,606.

After some discussion and a voice vote, the members adopted three by-law amendments. The first amendment will reduce the number of members present either in person or by proxy necessary to constitute a quorum at the annual

meeting from 5 percent to 4 percent. The second will delete the provision for nominations by a nominating committee and nominations from the floor, thus leaving nomination by petition the only method by which any candidate can be nominated to serve on the co-op's board. The third amendment addressed the ability of the board of directors to change boundaries of districts to better equalize the number of members in each district.

In a re-organizational meeting held following the annual meeting, board officers were named as follows: Gary L. Martin of Alexander, president; Jerry Brooks of Oakford, vice president; Seaney, treasurer and Meredith Worner of Manito, secretary.

Menard Electric Cooperative provides services to more than 9,500 farms, homes and businesses in the rural areas of all or parts of eight central Illinois counties over 2,520 miles of energized line. Members live in mainly rural areas of Cass, Logan, Macon, Mason, Menard, Morgan, Sangamon and Tazewell counties.

## Board meeting report



Menard Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, May 23, in the office at Petersburg. The meeting was called to order at 7 p.m., Central Daylight Time, by President Warren D. Goetsch. Directors present in addition to President Goetsch were: Edward L. Allspach, Morris L. Bell, Jerry W. Brooks, Michael E. Carls, James G. Graff, Gary L. Martin and Meredith L. Worner. Director Roy H. Seaney was absent. Also present were Manager Lynn A. Frasco, Attorney Charles K. Smith, and Staff Assistant Gerald E. Hedberg. After roll call, the agenda for the meeting was approved as presented.

Minutes of the April 25, 2000 board meeting were approved as presented.

The Inventory of Work Orders in the amount of \$333,610.69 were reviewed and approved.

The board reviewed General Fund checks #129980 through #130189 amounting to \$1,208,457.02. After discussion, the payment of bills were approved.

The board approved 48 Membership Applications, 15 Membership Permits and one Agreement for Electric Service for the month.

Director Seaney joined the meeting.

Manager Frasco reviewed the Financial Reports for April. Revenue and kWh sales for the month are less than budget. Year-to-date sales are less than budget by \$97,000 and 1.9 million kWh. Purchased power amounts for the month and year-to-date are also below budget. The amount of power purchased year-to-date is less than budget by 4.3 million kWh's. Operating expenses for the month not including power cost are less than budget by \$11,000. Margins for the month are \$17,000 less than budget. Margins for the year are a positive \$137,000, however. Key financial ratios continue to meet required levels. The ownership equity ratio is 35.2 percent. There were 100 more meters billed this month than the number billed in April 1999.

Average residential energy used and amount of bill are less than in April 1999. The balance sheet shows \$173,000 greater investment in the utility than at 1999 year end. Year-to-date margins are near equal to those during any of the most recent five years. Both the number of power outages and outage hours are greater than those occurring in March 1999. Year-to-date outage hours per meter are approximately 70 minutes. No employee injuries were reported this month. Manager Frasco reported that the long-distance telephone options advertised have resulted in a more than 900 applications. He reported on the activities needed to prepare for electric service needs at the September 2000 Farm Progress Show. The Board was informed that the cooperative has completed the requirements to be recognized as Safety Accredited by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

The board approved the Director's Special Occasion Vouchers for the month.

Director Bell reported on the activities of The Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. A director and alternate director were selected to represent Menard Electric Cooperative on the AIEC Board of Directors.

Director Carls and Manager Frasco reported on the activities of Soyland Power Cooperative.

Director Martin reported on his committee's preparations for the June 10<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the members.

Directors Graff, Brooks & Bell, and Manager Frasco reported on their attendance to the NRECA Legislative Rally.

The Cooperatives participation in the State of Illinois, Alternative Energy Program was discussed and decision was made not to participate at this time.

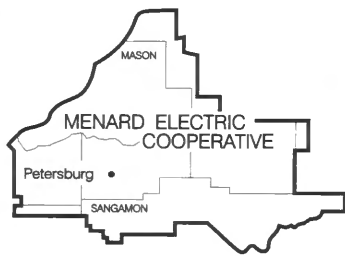
The meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m. The next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 27 at 7 p.m.

### **Menard Electric Cooperative**

122 South Sixth Street  
PO. Box 200

Petersburg, Illinois 62675-0200  
(217) 632-7746 or (800) 872-1203

Office hours: 8 a.m. — 4:30 p.m.  
Web address: [www.menard.com](http://www.menard.com)



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

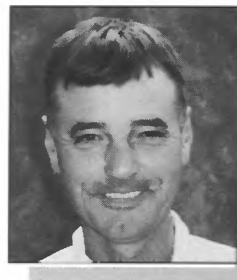


# Menard Electric News

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## Avery feted for 25 years of service

Randy Avery of Petersburg, crew leader for Menard Electric Cooperative, was honored at the co-op's 63rd annual meeting Saturday, June 10, at the PORTA High School. Randy has been employed by MEC for 25 years, and received a watch in recognition of his dedication over the years. Warren Goetsch, president, made the presentation.



## Is your crop dryer ready?

Don't wait 'til you start harvesting to find out if your crop dryer is going to operate properly. Take a few minutes now and run through the following checklist. It may save you hours or even days of harvest delay.

- Inspect all wiring and panels for worn insulation, loose connections and worn-out circuit breakers. Also, check to be sure grounding wires are properly connected and not broken.
- Make sure all guards, shields and overcurrent devices are properly installed and secured.
- Check for worn bearings, pulleys, gear boxes, belts, shafts, etc. Pay particular attention to excess play in motor bearings. Bad bearings can ruin a motor.
- Lubricate all equipment before you start it. If you are not sure of where to lubricate or what type of lubrication to use, consult your equipment dealer.
- Test it. Run through a complete drying cycle to see that all timers and switches operate properly. Let the motors run for several minutes to heat and distribute the new lubricant. Start the dryer at least twice to be sure the starting capacitors perform properly.
- If you have added motors, it would be a good idea to check with the Engineering Department of Menard Electric Cooperative to make sure the electrical service is adequate to handle the additional load.
- Don't forget to check over any fossil fuel-fired equipment used in conjunction with the dryer.

## Your Cooperative must have access to its equipment!

It has been brought to our attention that access to Cooperative equipment is becoming difficult in some locations. This equipment includes meters, underground cable, transformers and in some cases, overhead lines.

In situations where equipment cannot be reached because of overgrown trees, newly built fences, patios, etc., Menard Electric Cooperative may have to enforce its "Right of Access" policy. This policy states that authorized representatives of the Cooperative shall have the right of access to the premises of the member at all reasonable times for the purpose of reading, testing or inspecting meters, connecting or disconnecting service, in-

spection of wiring and apparatus, and making repairs on lines or rights-of-ways. Unreasonable deterrents to access of Cooperative facilities shall cause the service to be disconnected.

In order to avoid this situation, please take a moment to look around and be sure that the flowers, bushes and/or trees you are planting will not interfere in overhead lines and are not in the right-of-way. Foliage that is planted in the right-of-way may be damaged in the event Cooperative facilities need to be worked on or inspected in the future.

Should you have questions or concern, please feel free to contact the Cooperative office.

# Attendance prizes – 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting

## Menard Electric Cooperative

### June 10, 2000

#### SUPPLIER GIFTS

**BROWNSTONE ELECTRIC** – Assortment of spices – Albert Glasscock, Springfield  
**BURTON TREE** – Golden crab tree – Edward L. Brown, Cantrall  
**BURTON TREE** – Pink crab tree – Charles Reichart, Tallula  
**BURTON TREE** – Tina crab tree – Walter Jurgens, Petersburg  
**DRAKE-SCRUGGS** – Portable work lamp – Robert Zook, Athens  
**ELECTRIC LAB & SALES** – Rival 1-quart slow cooker – Randall Throckmorton, Petersburg  
**U.S. ELECTRIC** – Ceiling fan – Michael Vig, Petersburg

#### MENARD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE PRIZES

Kenton Bottens	Chandlerville	Proctor Silex Steam Iron
Robert A. Dunton	Topeka	Proctor Silex Electric Knife
Donald Gilroy	Forest City	Rival Micro-Seal Bag Sealer
Edward Hagvall	Easton	West Bend 4-Quart Slow Cooker
Charles E. Hawk	Buffalo	500-Watt Halogen Power Light
Edward Hawk	Buffalo	Rival Electric Ice Cream
Glenn & BJ Herzberger	Bluff Springs	Rival 4-Slice Toaster
Lloyd Holliday	Petersburg	Rival Fold-Up Food Slicer
Joseph M. Hunsaker	Petersburg	West Bend Electric Skillet
W. Dale Keltner	Jacksonville	Fluorescent Work Light
Gary Kleinschmidt	Petersburg	1-Yr Whole House Surge Suppressor – <i>Early Bird</i>
Marvin Lascelles	Bath	Rival Crock Grill
Melford McCoy	Petersburg	Proctor Silex Electric Knife
George Meeker	Mason City	Hamilton Beach Hand Blender
Paul D. Messersmith	Petersburg	Rival Chef Griddle
Mary Catherine Miller	Mt. Pulaski	Waterwick 3.5 Gallon Humidifier
Newmansville Township	Chandlerville	West Bend 14 inch Griddle
Kenneth Reimer	Tallula	West Bend Coffeemaker
Wayne & Lois Shanle	Petersburg	West Bend 4-Quart Hot Air Popper
Richard L. Showalter	Easton	Hamilton Beach Can Opener
Garland Winkelman	Virginia	West Bend 4-Quart Slow Cooker

#### PROXY PRIZES

Larry Edwards	Petersburg	West Bend Iced Tea Maker
Mike & Diane Hopp	Petersburg	West Bend Iced Tea Maker
Harold C. Osland	Manito	West Bend Iced Tea Maker
Gladys M. Shelton	Middletown	West Bend Iced Tea Maker
Wayne F. Vanderveen	Havana	West Bend Iced Tea Maker

## Building a new home? Go electric!

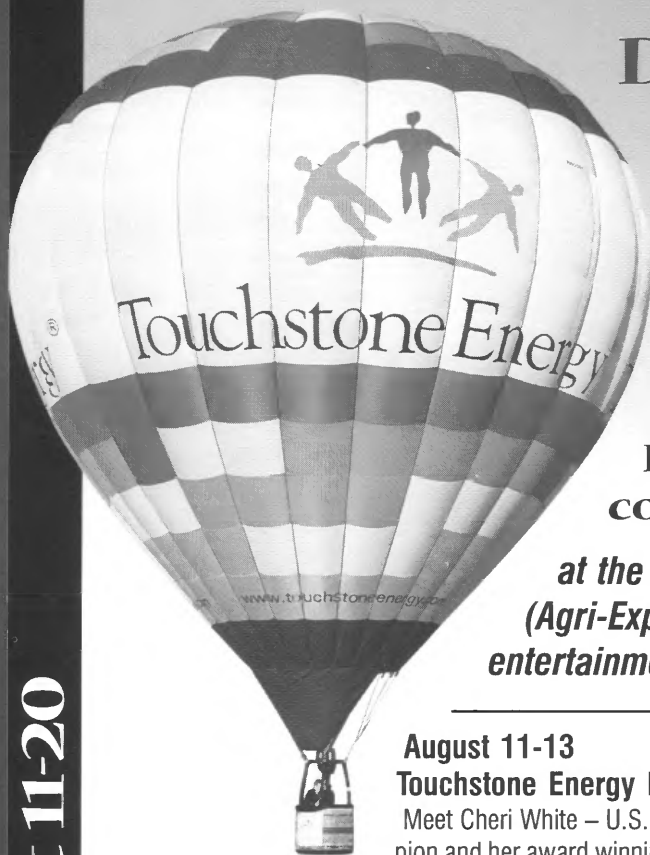
To avoid high energy bills, build an airtight home with proper insulation and install an efficient heating, cooling and hot water system.

The best heating and cooling system that you can purchase is GEOTHERMAL. Depending on the season, it uses the constant warmth within the soil to move heat in or out of your home as well as provide a significant portion of your domestic hot water needs. One piece of equipment does it all and it can save up to 60 percent or even more on your monthly energy costs.

MEC is offering a \$333/ton rebate for installing a geothermal system.

# Illinois State Fair

## August 11-20



Do we  
have fun  
planned  
for you!

Join Illinois'  
Touchstone  
Energy® electric  
cooperatives

at the Illinois State Fair  
(Agri-Expo area) for fun,  
entertainment and prizes

**August 11-13**

### **Touchstone Energy Hot Air Balloon**

Meet Cheri White – U.S. Hot Air Balloon Ladies' Division Champion and her award winning crew.

### **Kyle Finley's Live Line Safety Demo**

During several 30-minute daily shows, using live electric wires, Kyle will educate spectators on how to protect themselves and others from injuries or even death caused by electricity.

### **Touchstone Energy booth**

See the latest products and services offered by Illinois' electric cooperatives, and pick up your **free gifts**.

*Complete the attached registration form, bring it to the Touchstone Energy booth and you could win a Touchstone Energy T-shirt or a Char-Broil® Patio Bistro electric grill.*

### **Registration for Char-Broil Patio Bistro electric grill**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Electric Provider \_\_\_\_\_

*Must be 18 to enter.*

*Bring registration form to the Touchstone Energy booth at the Illinois State Fair, August 11-20.*

*Names will be drawn daily for Touchstone Energy T-shirts. Final drawing for the grill is on August 20.*

*Grill valued at \$325 • T-shirt valued at \$11*



## Board meeting report



Menard Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, June 27, 2000, in the office at Petersburg. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m., Central Daylight Time, by President Gary L. Martin. Directors present in addition to President Martin were: Edward L. Allspach, Jerry W. Brooks, Michael E. Carls, D. Jay Frye, Warren D. Goetsch, James G. Graff and Meredith L. Worner. Director Roy H. Seaney was absent. Also present were Manager Lynn A. Frasco, Attorney Charles K. Smith, and Staff Assistant Gerald E. Hedberg. After roll call, the agenda for the meeting was approved as presented.

Minutes of the May 23, 2000 board meeting were approved as presented.

The Inventory of Work Orders in the amount of \$181,145.42 were reviewed and approved.

The board reviewed General Fund checks #130190 through #130389 amounting to \$2,026,513.83. After discussion, the payment of bills were approved.

The board approved 48 Membership Applications, 16 Membership Permits for the month.

Manager Frasco reviewed the Financial Reports for May. Revenue and kWhr sales for the month are greater than budget. Year-to-date sales are less than budget by \$67,000 and 1.7 million kWhr. Purchased power amounts for the month are greater than budget but year-to-date purchases are also below budget. The amount of power purchased year-to-date is less than budget by four million kWhr's. Operating expenses for the month not including power cost are greater than budget by \$23,000. Margins for the month are \$7,000 less than budget. Margins for the year are a positive \$81,000, however. Key financial ratios continue to meet required levels. The ownership equity ratio is 33.9%. There were 156 more meters billed this month than the num-

ber billed in May 1999. Average residential energy used and amount of bill are less than in May 1999. The balance sheet shows \$360,000 greater investment in the utility than at 1999 year end. Year-to-date margins are lower than those from many of the most recent five years. Both the number of power outages and outage hours are greater than those occurring in May 1999. Year-to-date outage hours per meter are approximately 90 minutes. No employee injuries were reported this month. Manager Frasco reported that the long-distance telephone options advertised have resulted in a more than 1200 applications. He reported on the activities needed to prepare for electric service needs at the September 2000 Farm Progress Show. The Board was informed that management has met with subdivision developers to resolve special issues.

The board approved the Director's Special Occasion Vouchers for the month.

Director Brooks reported on the activities of The Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives.

Director Carls and Manager Frasco reported on the activities of Soyland Power Cooperative.

The board heard a report of recent activity with capital credit refunds.

President Martin led a discussion about the June 10<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the members.

Manager Frasco reviewed with the Board issues involving expansion of electric needs by one of the present large accounts.

The Board made the annual review of appointments to various committees, making changes as needed. They also reviewed Board meeting dates for the next twelve months.

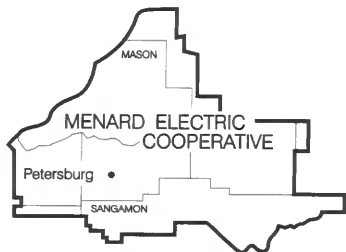
Manager Frasco reviewed activity involving the Labor Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 p.m. The next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 25, 2000 at 7:00 p.m.

### Menard Electric Cooperative

122 South Sixth Street • P.O. Box 200 • Petersburg, Illinois 62675-0200  
(217) 632-7746 or (800) 872-1203 • Office hours: 8 a.m. — 4:30 p.m. • Web address: [www.menard.com](http://www.menard.com)





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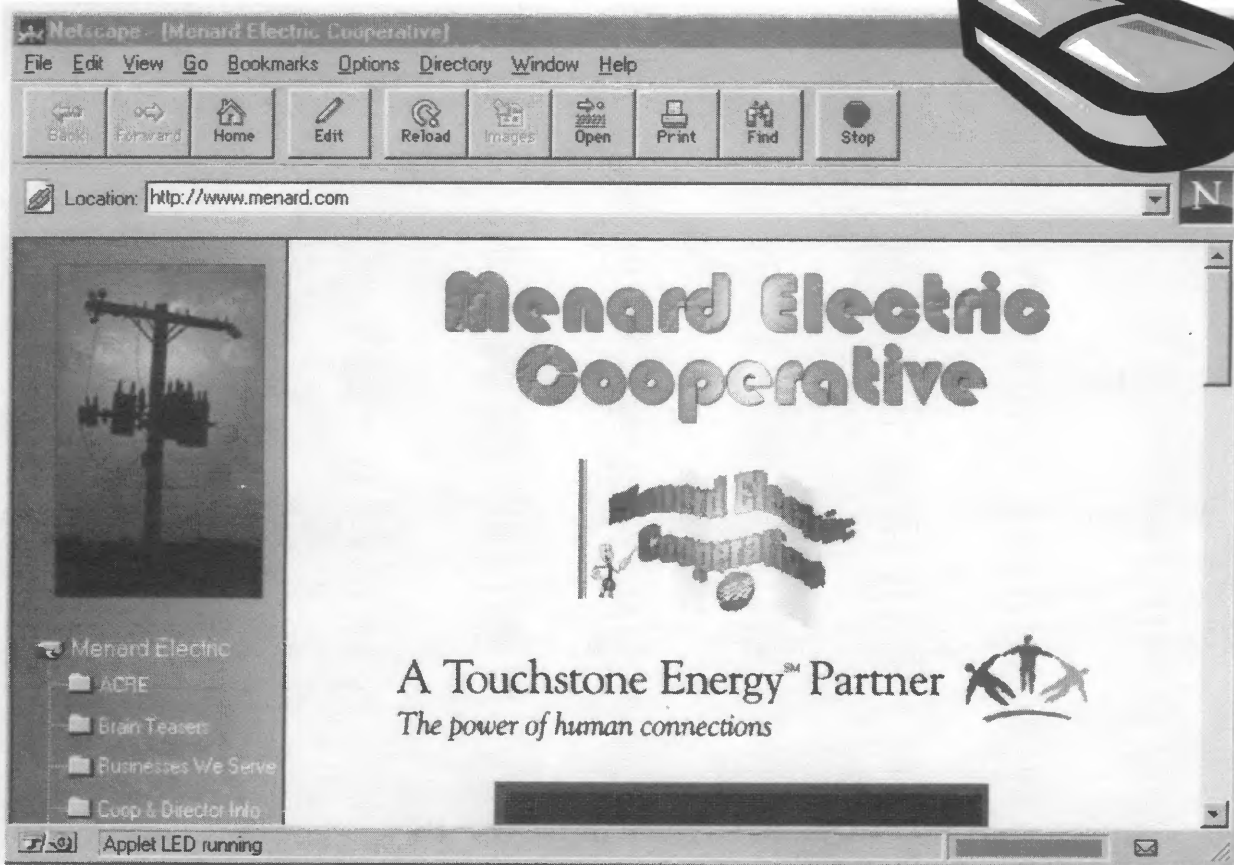
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## Keeping in touch with your cooperative

Your cooperative has had a homepage for four years. In that time it has been expanded and improved upon. The homepage has a great deal of information about your cooperative, from rebate programs to employee information, and links to informative sites for all members of your family. The next time you are surfing the net check out your cooperative's homepage. Visit the homepage regularly to keep in touch with what is going on at your cooperative. We will see you soon at:

[www.menard.com](http://www.menard.com)



# School days

It's back-to-school time across America. For parents it's a bitter-sweet reminder of the passage of time as we watch our children grow and become increasingly independent. It's also a time when we think about their safety.

Menard Electric Cooperative shares that concern. That's why so many are looking out for the safety of our children. With the beginning of every school year, your co-op linemen are keeping an eye out for children on their way to or from school. Sometimes it means helping a disabled school bus. Frequently it means using their mobile communications to report a problem or a suspicious occurrence in a neighborhood. Always it means being there to lend a hand, whatever the problem.

Being committed to the community you serve means making the decision that service to the community involves more than just making sure your electric service is reliable. Even now when electric utilities are faced with competition that's getting tougher every day, going the extra mile in consumer and community service is standard operating procedure for Menard Electric Cooperative.

Every day we hear reports of other utility



companies closing their local offices and moving out of town in order to save money. When that happens, their customers have to do business long distance, frequently talking to people hundreds and sometimes thousands of miles away. Your local electric cooperative is different. Our first obligation is to our consumers. You can still stop by the local office and talk to someone you know

about any part of your service. And when you call Menard Electric Cooperative, you'll speak to someone close-by who knows your community and what's happening in it.

Being a local cooperative means doing business close to home. Because our consumers are also our owners, we give first consideration to what's in our consumers' best interest.

At first glance, it may seem that there is little connection between school kids waiting for their bus and the line crew in the local co-op's truck. Look again! Those line crews working on utility poles probably have kids waiting for their school bus alongside yours. Making sure all our children stay safe is part of what holds local communities together and it's part of the work your local electric cooperative takes pride in every day.

## Don't let your cooling system rob you this winter!

Those window air conditioners may have helped you keep cool this past summer, but they can heat up your winter energy bills if you're not careful. Before heating season begins, check all around the top, bottom and sides of the window unit to determine if warm

air will leak from your house and if cold air will seep inside. Ask at your local hardware store about air conditioner covers and other easy, inexpensive ways to stop air leaks.

*Source: Today's Homeowner Website*

### Menard Electric Cooperative

122 South Sixth Street • P.O. Box 200 • Petersburg, Illinois 62675-0200

(217) 632-7746 or (800) 872-1203 • Office hours: 8 a.m. — 4:30 p.m.

Web address: [www.menard.com](http://www.menard.com)

**Now available — Long distance**  
**Business and Residential**  
**long distance phone service**

Billed by Power Net Global Communications  
utilizing the Qwest Long Distance Network (The nation's 4<sup>th</sup> largest carrier)

**4.9¢**      **6.9¢**

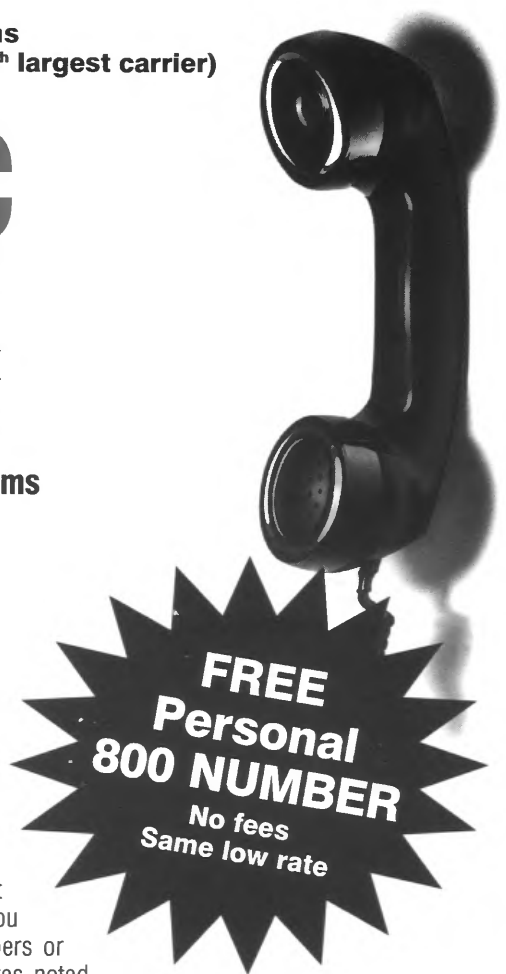
All calls in Illinois      All calls out of state  
**24 hours a day — 7 days a week**  
**plus 6 Seconds increment billing**

- Free to join • No monthly fees • No monthly premiums
- No term agreements • Major carrier
- 800 Number 4.9¢ — 6.9¢ per minute — no fees
- Free calling cards 13.9¢ per minute (No surcharge)
- **NO CODES TO DIAL**

Overseas calling e.g. United Kingdom 12 cents per minute.

**No fees or service charge**

Menard Electric Cooperative is offering long distance telephone service through Power Net Global Communications. This long distance service is one of the lowest-cost long distance services available. As you can see, you can call anywhere in the State of Illinois for a low \$0.049 per minute or anywhere out of state in the continental United States for \$0.069 per minute. In addition, you can have your own personal 800 number to receive calls from family members or acquaintances. Incoming calls on your 800 number are billed at the same rates noted above. All rates are the same 24 hours a day — 7 days a week. There are no monthly fees, no minimums, or long-term agreements.



**For Additional Information Call: 1-800-872-1203, or**

**Mail Application to: Menard Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 200, Petersburg, IL 62675**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Street \_\_\_\_\_ Estimated Monthly Usage \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Current Carrier \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone Numbers: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ (     ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
Services Desired:  Outbound  800  Travel Cards    Number Requested \_\_\_\_\_  
800 Service:  New  Existing                      To Ring To: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
I hereby authorize PowerNet Global Communications, or its designator, to transfer my long distance service. I agree to financial responsibility for all charges arising from all long distance services provided. The service requested will be provisioned only on the approval of credit for the application. A service charge may be accessed by the local telephone company when they make the carrier change.  
Customer Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Board meeting report



Menard Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, July 25, 2000, in the office at Petersburg. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m., Central Daylight Time, by President Gary L. Martin. Directors present in addition to President Martin were: Jerry W. Brooks, Michael E. Carls, D. Jay Frye, Warren D. Goetsch, James G. Graff, Roy H. Seaney and Meredith L. Worner. Director Edward L. Allspach was absent. Also present were Manager Lynn A. Frasco, Attorney Charles K. Smith, and Staff Assistant Gerald E. Hedberg. After roll call, the agenda for the meeting was approved as presented.

Minutes of the June 27, 2000 board meeting were approved as presented.

The Inventory of Work Orders in the amount of \$126,080.87 were reviewed and approved.

The board reviewed General Fund checks #130390 through #130753 amounting to \$1,494,056.52. After discussion, the payment of bills were approved.

The board approved 63 Membership Applications, 12 Membership Permits for the month.

The board heard a report of the recently completed Cost of Service and Unbundled Rate Study. The report was presented by vice President/Engineering, Carl D. Dufner of The Association of Illinois electric Cooperatives.

Manager Frasco reviewed the Financial Reports for June. Revenue and kWhr sales for the month are greater than budget. Year-to-date sales are less than budget by 267,000 kWhr. Purchased power amounts for the month and year-to-date are less than budget. The amount of power purchased year-to-date is less than budget by more than four million kWhr's. Operating expenses for the month not including power cost are greater than budget

by \$52,000.

Margins for the month are \$158,000 greater than budget. Margins for the year are \$183,000. Key financial ratios continue to meet required levels. The ownership equity ratio is 34.3%.

There were 143 more meters billed this month than the number billed in June 1999. Average residential bill amount is less than in June 1999 by \$7. The balance sheet shows \$489,000 greater investment in the utility than at 1999 year end.

Both the number of power outages and outage hours are less than those occurring in June 1999. Year-to-date outage hours per meter are approximately 104 minutes. One employee injury was reported this month.

Manager Frasco reported that the long-distance telephone options advertised have resulted in a more than 1400 applications. He reported on the activities needed to prepare for electric service needs at the September 2000 Farm Progress Show. The board approved the Director's Special Occasion Vouchers for the month.

Director Goetsch reported on the activities of The Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives.

Director Carls and Manager Frasco reported on the activities of Soyland Power Cooperative.

Manager Frasco reviewed activity involving the Labor Committee.

Details of extension of a subdivision agreement was presented by Manager Frasco.

Report of capital credit payments to estates was presented by Staff Assistant Hedberg.

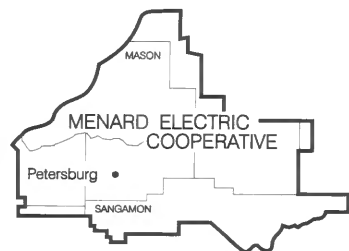
Attendance at conferences and training seminars scheduled over the next few months was reviewed.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m. The next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 22, 2000 at 7:00 p.m.

# OFFICE CLOSING

Our offices will be closed Monday, Sept 4, in observance of Labor Day. Enjoy your holiday!





Your Touchstone Energy® Partner



# Menard Electric News

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# October is cooperative month

Today many electric cooperative consumers don't remember the first day electricity came to their homes. In fact, your electricity was probably already there when you moved in — one of those automatic things like the telephone line and running water.

The day you joined your electric cooperative, you became a member of a unique organization. An electric cooperative is different.

Your electric cooperative is not-for-profit and consumer owned, like the local credit union or food cooperative. That means any revenue above expenses is eventually returned to the member (you) in the form of capital credit payments.

Your electric cooperative is committed to providing the best possible service at the lowest possible cost. We take pride in our cooperative — a grassroots system of service started by pioneers like those who settled this area.

There is some thing different about receiving your electricity from an electric cooperative. We think it's a difference you can be proud of.

## Rebates Anyone?

### Water heater rebates

So far in 2000 your cooperative has given 12 rebates to members who have installed an electric water heater and have agreed to have a load control switch installed on the new water heater. This water heater rebate program is available to all members on a one-time basis who agree to install electric water heater which has at least a 40 gallon capacity. If the new electric water heater is installed in a new structure or replaces a fossil fuel-fired water heater you will receive a \$175 rebate. If the new electric water heater replaces an existing electric water heater you will receive a \$150 rebate. To qualify for the rebate you must sign up for the cooperative's load management program. In addition to the rebate above you will qualify for a 3 cent per kilowatt-hour rate reduction on kilowatt-hours used between 600 and 1,000 every month of the year. This could

save you up to \$144 each year in addition to the rebate.

### Geothermal rebates

The rebate is for the installation of a geothermal heating and cooling system as your primary source of heating and cooling. The rebate is \$333 per ton based on the cooling capacity of the unit installed. The unit can be installed in either a new or existing home. If you install a geothermal heating and cooling system you will also be eligible for your cooperative's geothermal rate. Under this rate you will be billed 5 cents per kilowatt-hour for all kilowatt-hours used between 1,000 and 6,000 for the billing months of October through May each year.

If you have any questions on these rebates give the cooperative a call at (800) 872-1203.



# Start winterizing your HOME now

Even though we may have a few more relatively warm fall days ahead of us, now is the best time to start planning for the cold winds of November and the subsequent central Illinois winter weather. Since many of us haven't used our furnaces since, oh, perhaps last April, this may be the best place to start.

## Heating systems and humidifiers

If you have a humidifier attached to your furnace, it should be cleaned and chlorinated. Replace filters, making sure the water is turned on and the drain is clear. Make sure the humidifier is not leaking into the furnace.

Check all furnace filters to make sure they are clean. If not, either clean them or replace them. In some systems, filters should be replaced on a monthly basis during the regular heating period. Check your owner's manual for recommended replacement time and other maintenance requirements.

If you have a wood-burning stove, check all ductwork for possible leaks. Do not vent a wood-burning stove or fireplace in the same flue as a gas, or oil burner, or space heater. Check fireplace chimney for obstructions or creosote buildup, and clean it at least once a year. Leave the damper slightly open at all times if you have a gas log or gas starter.

## Plumbing and water heaters

Locate your main water shut-off valves and know how to use them.

Turn off any water lines going to outside faucets and drain the pipes to prevent winter freeze up.

Insulate water lines in your basement or outer walls exposed to cold drafts; however, do not use heat tapes in hard-to-reach areas.

Install a temperature pressure relief valve and metal overflow line on your electric water heater. Consider insulating your water heater to prevent unwanted heat loss.

## Snow Birds

If you plan on taking an extended vacation over a period of months, consider draining your entire water system and shutting the water off to your home until you return.

Unplug any large appliances not in use: range, washer, dryer, refrigerator (if empty and defrosted, leave door ajar), television, etc.

Set your thermostat at a minimum of 45 degrees to prevent freeze up.

Ask a friend or neighbor to periodically check your home in case of some unforeseen emergency.

Call the Menard Electric Cooperative office for more winterizing tips.

By reviewing your winterization needs now, you'll be ready later — as Old Man Winter is knocking on your door.

## Incentive rates begin with SEPTEMBER meter reading

Members using electric heat or a geothermal heating system in their home, will find that their bills for the next few months will be calculated in a different manner. Beginning with the September meter reading, the geothermal rate and electric heat rate go into effect and will continue until the meter reading in May.

As a reminder for those members using geothermal systems, kilowatt-hours used over 1,000 during this period will be billed at 5

cents per kilowatt-hour. For members utilizing electric heat as their primary source of heat, kilowatt-hours used over 1,000 during the winter period, will be billed at 6 cents per kilowatt-hour.

If you have electric heat or a geothermal system and are not currently enrolled in these two incentive rates, please contact the cooperative office to find out details and requirements.

*Now available — Long distance*

# Business and Residential long distance phone service

Billed by Power Net Global Communications  
utilizing the Qwest Long Distance Network (The nation's 4<sup>th</sup> largest carrier)

# 4.9¢      6.9¢

All calls in Illinois      All calls out of state  
**24 hours a day — 7 days a week  
plus 6 Seconds increment billing**

- Free to join • No monthly fees • No monthly premiums
- No term agreements • Major carrier
- 800 Number 4.9¢ — 6.9¢ per minute — no fees
- Free calling cards 13.9¢ per minute (No surcharge)
- **NO CODES TO DIAL**

**Overseas calling e.g. United Kingdom 12 cents per minute.**

**No fees or service charge**

Menard Electric Cooperative is offering long distance telephone service through Power Net Global Communications. This long distance service is one of the lowest-cost long distance services available. As you can see, you can call anywhere in the State of Illinois for a low \$0.049 per minute or anywhere out of state in the continental United States for \$0.069 per minute. In addition, you can have your own personal 800 number to receive calls from family members or acquaintances. Incoming calls on your 800 number are billed at the same rates noted above. All rates are the same 24 hours a day — 7 days a week. There are no monthly fees, no minimums, or long-term agreements.



**For Additional Information Call: 1-800-872-1203, or  
Mail Application to: Menard Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 200, Petersburg, IL 62675**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street \_\_\_\_\_ Estimated Monthly Usage \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Current Carrier \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone Numbers: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ (     ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
 Services Desired:  Outbound  800  Travel Cards Number Requested \_\_\_\_\_  
 800 Service:  New  Existing To Ring To: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
 I hereby authorize PowerNet Global Communications, or its designator, to transfer my long distance service. I agree to financial responsibility for all charges arising from all long distance services provided. The service requested will be provisioned only on the approval of credit for the application. A service charge may be accessed by the local telephone company when they make the carrier change.  
 Customer Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Board meeting report



Menard Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, August 22, 2000, in the office at Petersburg. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m., Central Daylight Time, by President Gary L. Martin. Directors present in addition to President Martin were: Edward L. Allspach, Jerry W. Brooks, Michael E. Carls, D. Jay Frye, James G. Graff, Roy H. Seaney and Meredith L. Worner. Director Warren D. Goetsch was absent. Also present were Manager Lynn A. Frasco, Attorney Charles K. Smith, and Staff Assistant Gerald E. Hedberg. After roll call, the agenda for the meeting was approved as presented.

Minutes of the July 25, 2000 board meeting were approved as presented.

The Inventory of Work Orders in the amount of \$47,744.47 were reviewed and approved.

The board reviewed General Fund checks #130754 through #130950 amounting to \$1,536,899.68. After discussion, the payment of bills were approved.

The board approved 54 Membership Applications, 20 Membership Permits for the month. One Agreement for Electric Service was approved.

Manager Frasco reviewed the Financial Reports for July. Director Goetsch joined the meeting. Revenue and kWhr sales for the month are less than budget. Year-to-date sales are less than budget by 4,061,000 kWhr. Purchased power amounts for the month and year-to-date are less than budget. The amount of power purchased year-to-date is less than budget by more than three million kWhr's. Operating expenses for the month not including power cost are greater than budget by \$28,000.

Margins for the month are \$299,000 less than budget. Margins for the year are \$274,000. Key financial ratios continue to meet required levels. The ownership equity ratio is 34.2%. There were 113 more meters billed this month than the number billed in July 1999. Average residential bill amount is less than in July 1999 by \$14.49. The balance sheet shows \$543,000 greater investment in the utility than at 1999 year end.

Both the number of power outages and outage hours are less than those occurring in July 1999. Year-to-date outage hours per meter are approximately two hours. No employee injuries were reported this month. Manager Frasco reported that the long-distance telephone options advertised have resulted increasing numbers of applications. He reported on the activities needed to prepare for electric service needs at the September 2000 Farm Progress Show. He reported on activity involving a number of the subdivision agreements for underground electric service.

The board approved the Director's Special Occasion Vouchers for the month.

Directors Goetsch and Brooks reported on the activities of The Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives.

Director Carls and Manager Frasco reported on the activities of Soyland Power Cooperative.

Manager Frasco reviewed activity involving the Labor Committee.

Issues affecting the cooperatives power line extension policies was discussed with the board.

Report of capital credit payments to estates was presented by Staff Assistant Hedberg.

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m. The next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 26, 2000 at 7:00 p.m.

### Menard Electric Cooperative

122 South Sixth Street • PO. Box 200 • Petersburg, Illinois 62675-0200 • (217) 632-7746 or (800) 872-1203  
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# Menard Electric News

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## Surge suppression program expanded

In April 2000 Menard Electric Cooperative expanded its surge suppression program to include a premium monthly service in addition to the existing basic whole house protection service. The cooperative will continue to provide whole house protection for "white" appliances at a monthly cost of \$4.95 as it has in the past. In addition to this basic service you can now protect the sensitive electronic devices in your home in addition to the electromechanical appliances for a minimal investment of \$49.95 and a monthly cost of \$5.95.

Today, more than any time in the past, our homes are filled with sophisticated electronic equipment and expensive appliances that are more sensitive than ever before. As a result, voltage irregularities due to lightning can easily damage appliances, televisions, stereos, telephones and other electronic devices resulting in costly repairs. It is for this reason your cooperative has expanded its program even further in reducing this type of expense and allowing members a choice in the coverage they purchase.


For members who want to protect the major electromechanical appliances in their home such as the refrigerator, washer, dryer, range, dishwasher, etc. the cooperative will continue to offer the Basic Surge Protection Plan. For \$4.95 per month on your bill we will install a whole house surge protector on your electric meter which offers excellent protection for these "white" appliances. This is less than 17 cents per day and not only covers the cost of the surge protector and installation, but also all future maintenance.

For members who want to go one step further and protect the sensitive electronic equipment in

their home such as a computer, television, stereo, telephone, answering machine, clock radio, etc. the cooperative is now offering the Premium Surge Protection Plan. For an initial investment of \$49.95 and a monthly payment of \$5.95 on your bill you will receive a point of use surge protection package in addition to the installation of the whole house surge protector. This package includes four individual point of use surge protectors that can be used to protect a television, entertainment center or computer center, along with a cordless phone or answering machine and two or three other pieces of electronic equipment. This kit also includes a handy circuit receptacle tester to let you know if your home grounding is adequate or if changes need to be made to assure proper protection.

In addition to the devices provided with the two monthly programs the cooperative will be selling additional point of use protection devices for your computer, television, satellite dish and other electronic equipment. These devices can be purchased from the cooperative at very reasonable prices. All surge protection devices come with a lifetime warranty on the device as well as repair or replacement warranties for the equipment they are protecting. Remember, lightning is very unpredictable and can enter your home not only on the electrical service, but also through a phone line, cable television line, satellite dish or antenna. With these individual devices installed on your telephone, computer, television, etc. in addition to having protection at the electric meter, you will be able to rest easy the next time a storm is in the area.


For more information about this and other "Value Added Services" call the cooperative office.



# OFFICE CLOSING

Your cooperative office will be closed on Friday, Nov. 10, 2000 in honor of **Veteran's Day**.

The Cooperative office will also be closed on Thursday and Friday, Nov. 23 and 24 to observe the **Thanksgiving Holiday** with family and friends.

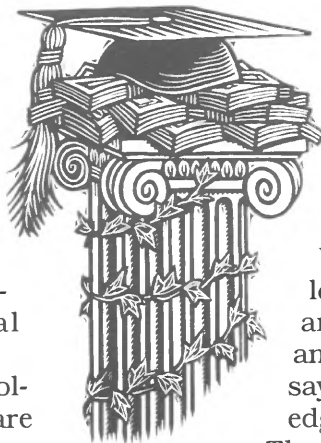


# Students encouraged to apply for 2001 IEC Memorial Scholarship

Lynn Frasco, manager of Menard Electric Cooperative, has announced that for the sixth consecutive year the Illinois electric cooperatives will award academic scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each to three high school seniors. The scholarships are being awarded through the Illinois Electric Cooperatives Memorial Scholarship program.

High school seniors pursuing a college education in the state of Illinois are eligible to participate in the program and must be a child of an electric cooperative member, director or employee. Deadline for applications is Jan. 1, 2001.

"The purpose of the scholarship program is to assist electric cooperative youth while honoring past rural electric leaders through memorial gifts," Frasco said. "Menard Elec-



tric Cooperative and the other Illinois electric cooperatives want to make a difference in their communities. One of the best ways we can do that is by lending a hand to our youth."

Candidates are judged on the basis of grade point average, college entrance exam scores, work and volunteer experience, school and civic activities, and a short essay that demonstrates their knowledge of electric cooperatives.

The IEC Memorial Scholarship program was established in 1994 by the board of directors of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. For further information on the IEC Memorial Scholarship program, contact Menard Electric Cooperative at (800) 872-1203.

## Used vehicle sale

The cooperative is accepting bids for the following vehicles through the close of business Friday, November 17, 2000. The vehicles will be available for inspection at the cooperative's office in Petersburg, Illinois from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm until Friday, November 17, 2000 at 4:30 am. Bids will be opened at

4:30 pm on November 17, 2000.

- 1995 Chevrolet 2500 Pickup, Cab & Chassis with 126,000 miles.
- 1992 GMC TopKick 2.5 Tons with 107,000 miles.

## How to calculate capital credits

Menard Electric is a member-owned cooperative, and thus assigns margins (income minus expenses) to members on a prorated basis. For the fiscal year 1999, the allocation factor is .0423740825. To determine the amount of capital credit on an individual account, multiply the allocation



factor by the amount paid for electricity excluding tax. As an example, energy payments of \$1,000 x .0423740825 = \$42.37. If you would like to know more about the assigned capital credits to your account, please contact the cooperative office.

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# **4.9¢      6.9¢**

**All calls in Illinois**

**All calls out of state**

**24 hours a day — 7 days a week  
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- Free calling cards 13.9¢ per minute (No surcharge)
- **NO CODES TO DIAL**

**Overseas calling e.g. United Kingdom 12 cents per minute.**

### **No fees or service charge**

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**Mail Application to: Menard Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 200, Petersburg, IL 62675**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_

Street \_\_\_\_\_ Estimated Monthly Usage \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Current Carrier \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Numbers: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Services Desired:  Outbound  800  Travel Cards    Number Requested \_\_\_\_\_

800 Service:  New  Existing    To Ring To: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby authorize PowerNet Global Communications, or its designator, to transfer my long distance service. I agree to financial responsibility for all charges arising from all long distance services provided. The service requested will be provisioned only on the approval of credit for the application. A service charge may be accessed by the local telephone company when they make the carrier change.

Customer Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Board meeting report



Menard Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, September 26, 2000, in the office at Petersburg. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m., Central Daylight Time, by President Gary L. Martin. Directors present in addition to President Martin were: Jerry W. Brooks, D. Jay Frye, James G. Graff, Roy H. Seaney and Meredith L. Worner. Directors Edward L. Allspach, Michael E. Carls and Warren D. Goetsch were absent. Also present were Manager Lynn A. Frasco, Attorney Charles K. Smith, and Staff Assistant Gerald E. Hedberg. After roll call, the agenda for the meeting was approved as presented.

Minutes of the August 22, 2000 board meeting were approved as presented.

The Inventory of Work Orders in the amount of \$173,462.47 were reviewed and approved.

The board reviewed General Fund checks #130951 through #131146 amounting to \$1,919,106.11. After discussion, the payment of bills were approved.

The board approved 52 Membership Applications, 13 Membership Permits for the month. One Agreement for Electric Service was approved.

Manager Frasco reviewed the Financial Reports for August. Director Carls joined the meeting. Revenue and kWhr sales for the month are less than budget. Year-to-date sales are less than budget by 5,271,000 kWhr, and equal to approximately 5% of total kWhr sold. Purchased power amounts for the month and year-to-date are less than budget. The amount of power purchased year-to-date is less than budget by 1.6 million kWhr's. Operating expenses for the month not including power cost are less than budget by \$29,000. Margins for the month are \$89,000 less than budget. Margins for the year are \$548,000. Key financial ratios continue to meet required levels. The ownership equity ratio is 35%. There were 94 more meters billed this month than the number billed in August 1999. Average residential bill amount is less than in August 1999 by \$20. The balance sheet shows \$570,000 greater investment in the utility than at 1999 year end. Total assets are equal to assets re-

corded at the end of August 1999. Both the number of power outages and outage hours are less than those occurring in August 1999. Year-to-date outage hours per meter are approximately three hours. One employee injury was reported this month. Manager Frasco presented a summary of the 2 mil power cost adjustment presently included in each member electric bill. He reported on the progress of the work plan. Changes in power line for the Jake Wolf Fish Hatchery was discussed. Report of possible changes in office facilities as made. The board approved the Director's Special Occasion Vouchers for the month.

Director Carls and Manager Frasco reported on the activities of Soyland Power Cooperative.

A report of the capital credit payments to estates was heard by the board. They moved to extend additional funds for payments for the remainder of year 2000.

Manager Frasco reviewed activity involving the Labor Committee. Director Goetsch arrived.

Director Goetsch reported on the activities of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. The board took action to continue participation in the AIEC Continuing Education program.

After review the board approved the recently prepared Motor Fuel Tax Refund Claim.

The board reviewed a draft of a new power line extension policy for the irrigation rate class. President Martin delegated the matter to the irrigation committee.

Extension of an agreement for underground electric service to the 'Lincoln View' subdivision was approved.

Manager Frasco reported on the activities of the Illinois Cooperative Workers Compensation Group.

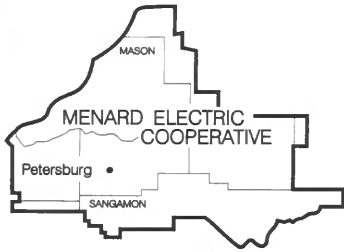
Directors Graff and Martin and Manager Frasco reported on the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association regional meeting they attended last week.

Resolution was made approving changes in employee pension plans.

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 p.m. The next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 31, 2000 at 7:00 p.m.

### Menard Electric Cooperative

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# Menard Electric News

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## Season's Greetings



### Board of Directors

Gary L. Martin, *President*  
 Jerry W. Brooks, *Vice President*  
 Meredith L. Worner, *Secretary*  
 Roy H. Seaney, *Treasurer*  
 Edward L. Allspach  
 D. Jay Frye  
 Michael E. Carls  
 James G. Graff  
 Warren D. Goetsch

### Cooperative personnel

Lynn A. Frasco, *Manager*  
 Janey L. Ames  
 Randolph J. Avery  
 Brandon Blair  
 Mark A. Bradley  
 Cheryl Buerkett  
 Robert P. Burris  
 Stuart Churchill  
 Terry L. Cutright  
 W. R. (Casey) Duncheon  
 Terry W. Entwistle  
 M. Suzanne Freeland

James T. Haddick  
 Gerald E. Hedberg  
 Dwaine E. Heyen  
 Christopher P. Hinton  
 Alan D. Horn  
 Wayne E. Jones  
 M. Orene Lynn  
 Darlene M. McGee  
 James K. Masten  
 Brock D. Meyer  
 John D. (Dan) Morgan

Seth Parker  
 Douglas S. Pettit  
 Larry D. Power  
 Judith A. Powers  
 James Rechner  
 Rhonda K. Satorius  
 Leo. P. Savage  
 Timothy Schafer  
 Troy S. Shafer  
 Corey M. Stone  
 John H. Whitehurst

## Linemen take part in safety rodeo



Pictured above are Menard Electric Employees Kevin Masten, Troy Shafer and Corey Stone. They participated a recent statewide Lineman's Safety Rodeo.

The fourth annual Safety Rodeo, held at Lincoln Land Community College (LLCC) in Springfield, Illinois on Friday, October 6, 2000, coincided with a series of courses designed to help electric line personnel improve their work skills in safe and efficient ways. Several electric suppliers joined the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC), the Illinois Municipal Utilities Association and LLCC in co-sponsoring the event. The AIEC and LLCC are also working together to develop an associate's degree in power line technology.

Line Personnel from 19 Illinois electric cooperatives and one municipal utility competed in five team events and two individual events. Team events included transformer changeout, cross arm change, hurt man rescue, performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), and egg climb. The egg climb consists of linemen climbing a 30 foot pole with a raw egg in their mouths without breaking it. The cooperative's team faired well since it was their first time at the Safety Rodeo.

## MEC linemen in hotline training



Three MEC linemen took part in comprehensive training, including a week-long session in lineman rubber gloving and first year distribution on October 9-13, at Lincoln Land Community College (LLCC) in Springfield. The sessions, which were hosted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, were part of a five-week lineman training program teaching proper work techniques, electrical theory and safety. Pictured from left are Terry Cutright, Troy Shafer and Brandon Blair.

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**Business and Residential**  
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**4.9¢**      **6.9¢**

All calls in Illinois      All calls out of state  
**24 hours a day — 7 days a week**  
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- Free to join • No monthly fees • No monthly premiums
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Name \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street \_\_\_\_\_ Estimated Monthly Usage \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Current Carrier \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone Numbers: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ (     ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
 Services Desired:  Outbound  800  Travel Cards    Number Requested \_\_\_\_\_  
 800 Service:  New  Existing      To Ring To: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
 I hereby authorize PowerNet Global Communications, or its designator, to transfer my long distance service. I agree to financial responsibility for all charges arising from all long distance services provided. The service requested will be provisioned only on the approval of credit for the application. A service charge may be accessed by the local telephone company when they make the carrier change.  
 Customer Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Board meeting report



Menard Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, October 31, 2000, in the office at Petersburg. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m., Central Standard Time, by President Gary L. Martin. Directors present in addition to President Martin were: Jerry W. Brooks, D. Jay Frye, Warren D. Goetsch, James G. Graff, Roy H. Seaney and Meredith L. Worner. Directors Edward L. Allspach, and Michael E. Carls were absent. Also present were Manager Lynn A. Frasco, Attorney Charles K. Smith, and Staff Assistant Gerald E. Hedberg. After roll call, the agenda for the meeting was approved as presented.

Minutes of the September 26, 2000 board meeting were approved as presented.

The Inventory of Work Orders in the amount of \$74,427.97 were reviewed and approved.

The board reviewed General Fund checks #131148 through #131380 amounting to \$1,720,462.50. After discussion, the payment of bills were approved.

The board approved 56 Membership Applications, 11 Membership Permits for the month. Two Agreements for Electric Service were approved.

Rural Utilities Service (RUS), General Field Representative, Aaron Johnson presented a review of key financial ratios calculated from 1999 accounting information by the Rural Utilities Services. Director Michael E. Carls joined the meeting. Upon completion, Mr. Johnson left the meeting.

Stuart W. Churchill, Terry W. Entwistle, Wayne E. Jones and James Rechner entered the meeting and the staff members made budget presentations for anticipated expenditures in year 2001. After discussion with the board, these staff members left the meeting.

Manager Frasco reviewed the Financial Reports for September. Revenue and kWhr sales for the month are greater than budget. Year-to-date sales are less than budget by 4,328,000 kWhr, and equal

to approximately 3.5% of total kWhr sold. Purchased power amounts for the month exceed budget but year-to-date amounts are less than budget. Operating expenses for the month not including power cost are less than budget by \$28,000. Margins for the month are \$73,000 greater than budget. Margins for the year are \$974,000. Key financial ratios continue to meet required levels. The ownership equity ratio is 36%. There were 99 more meters billed this month than the number billed in September 1999. Average residential bill amount is greater than in September 1999 by \$9. The balance sheet shows \$599,000 greater investment in the utility than at 1999 year end. Both the number of power outages and outage hours are greater than those occurring in September 1999. Year-to-date outage hours per meter are approximately two hours forty-five minutes. Manager Frasco summarized information resulting from the two peak alert periods called by Soyland. Expenses and revenues realized from participation in the recent Farm Progress Show were reviewed. A review was made of progress with goals identified in the Board/Management Strategic Plan.

The board approved the Director's Special Occasion Vouchers for the month.

Director Goetsch reported on activities of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives.

Director Carls and Manager Frasco reported on the activities of Soyland Power Cooperative.

A report of the capital credit payments to estates was heard by the board. A date was set for meeting of the Capital Credit Committee to organize retirement plans for year 2001.

The board heard a report of the recent meeting of the Irrigation Committee.

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m. The next board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 28, 2000 at 6:00 p.m.

## OFFICE CLOSINGS

Menard Electric Cooperative will be closed December 25 and 26 in observance of Christmas. The office will also be closed on January 1 for the New Year's Day holiday.



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