

# MENARD



**Menard Electric Cooperative**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

122 SOUTH SIXTH STREET • P.O. BOX 200 • PETERSBURG, ILLINOIS 62675 • 1-800-872-1203 • 217-632-7746

<http://www.menard.com>

## Programs and Services

### ■ GEOTHERMAL RATE:

Members who have an all electric home and use a Geothermal heating system are eligible for our G.T. Rate. This rate provides our members with a substantial savings from the September meter reading through the May meter reading. All kilowatt-hours used over 1000 in each billing month will be charged at 5 cents per kWh.

### ■ ELECTRIC HEAT RATE:

Members who use electric heat as their primary source of heat in their home are eligible for our electric heat rate. Under the rate all kWhs used over 1000 in the billing months of October through May are billed at 6 cents per kWh.

### ■ GEOTHERMAL REBATE:

Heating and cooling your home with a Geothermal system is the most efficient and cost effective way to enjoy year round comfort. In addition to its low operating cost to heat and air condition your home, the system can provide up to 60 percent of your domestic hot water requirements. For members who install the system, the Cooperative will provide a one-time rebate of \$333 per ton.

### ■ ELECTRIC WATER HEATER REBATE:

Members who install an electric water heater with a 40-gallon storage capacity or larger and enroll in the Cooperative's load management program are eligible to receive a one-time rebate. If the new electric water heater is installed

in a new structure or if it replaces a fossil-fired unit the rebate amount will be \$175. If the new electric model replaces an existing electric unit the rebate will be \$150.

### ■ ADD-ON HEAT PUMP & HEAT PUMP REBATE

Members who install an Add-On Electric Heat Pump or an Electric Heat Pump will receive a \$200 rebate. It will apply to any size heat pump installed as part of the central heating & cooling system.

### ■ WATER HEATER LOAD

#### MANAGEMENT PROGRAM:

Members who allow the Cooperative to control the heating elements of their water heater during peak periods only (for no longer than 5 hours in a given day) between June 1<sup>st</sup> and September 15<sup>th</sup> will receive a 3 cent per kWh rate reduction from kWhs 600 to 1000, every month of the year. This could mean a savings of up to \$144 a year.

### ■ CERTIFIED COMFORT HOME:

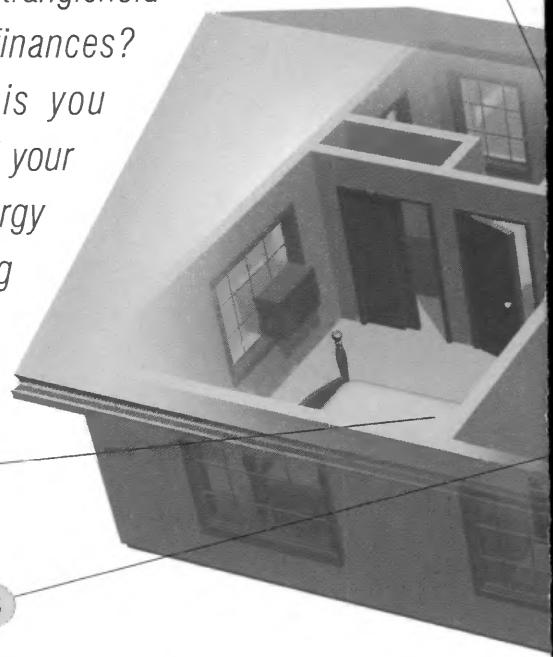
Members who are building a home and follow the building techniques described in the certified Comfort Home Booklet could receive a \$500 rebate from the Cooperative. To find out more about how your home can be built energy efficiently please contact us at your convenience.

**MENARD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ■ OFFICE HOURS: 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. ■ WEB ADDRESS: [www.menard.com](http://www.menard.com)**

A room by room look at

# energy efficiency

**D**o energy bills have a stranglehold on your family's finances? The good news is you can offset some of your costs by using energy more wisely. The following is a room-by-room look at measures that may help.



## 1 bathroom

**Bathing:** Fifteen percent of a typical energy bill goes to heating water. It takes about 30 gallons to fill the average tub and a shower with a flow of 3 gallons a minute uses only 15 gallons in five minutes. A water-saving showerhead reduces usage even more.

**Faucets:** Fix leaky faucets. A leaky faucet dripping 30 times a minute wastes 50 gallons of water and \$1 a month in energy if it's hot water.

## 2 bedroom

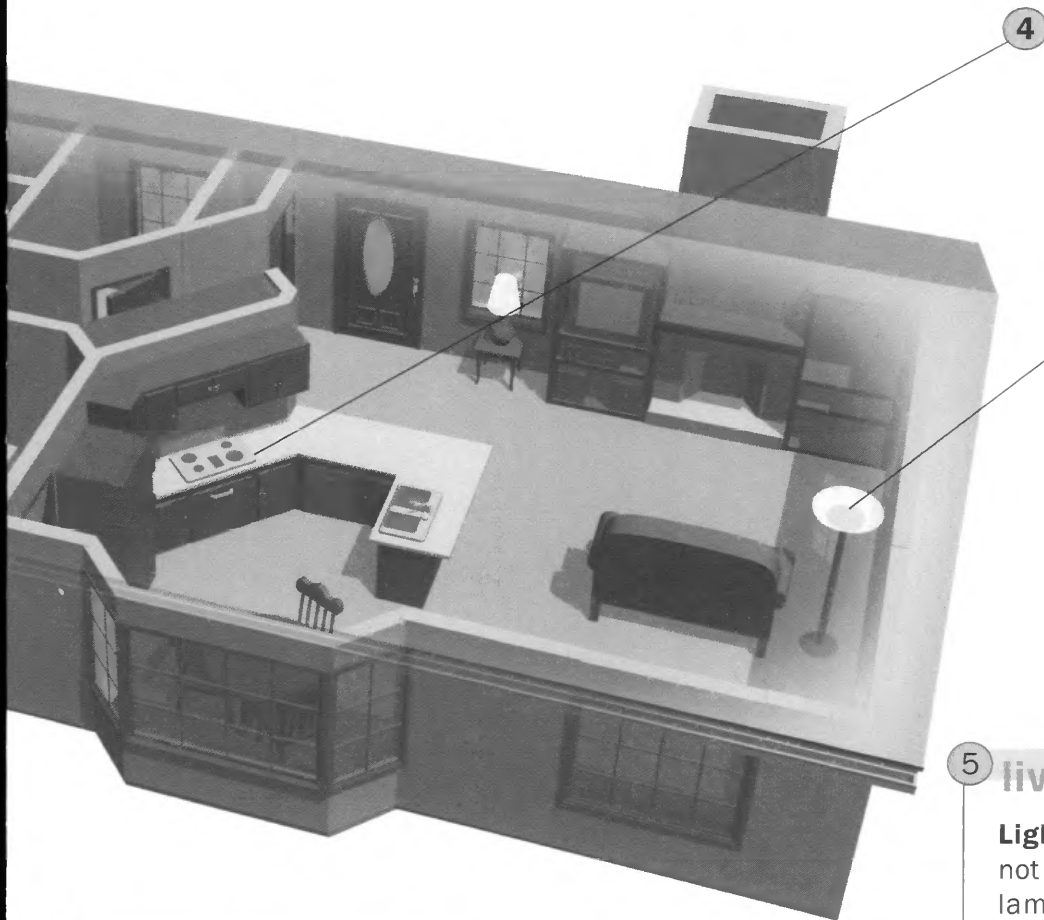
**Waterbed:** A waterbed heater can use more electricity than a refrigerator or water heater. Keeping a comforter on your bed can cut heat loss 30 percent. Use a timer to turn the heater on.

**Washing:** Of the energy used in doing laundry, 90 percent goes to heating water. Use cold or warm water instead of hot and use the right amount of water to fit the load size. Rinse with cold water.

## 3 laundry room

**Water Heating:** Reduce the water heater to 115 degrees. Insulate the water heater tank unless the manufacturer advises you not to. Check the heating elements for mineral buildup. If you will be away for several days, turn the water heater off at the breaker panel.

**Drying:** Clothes dryers account for about 5 percent of the electricity used in most American homes. Hang clothes, if possible. Dry full loads but don't overload the dryer. Clean lint from traps often.



#### 4 kitchen

**Cooking:** Don't open the oven while cooking; up to 20 percent of the heat will escape. Defrost food before cooking which saves up to 50 percent on cooking time. An electric skillet uses half the energy of a typical range. Slow cookers use one-third the energy of an oven and toasters are three times as efficient.

**Dishwasher:** Run full loads using the shortest wash cycle possible. Avoid the rinse and hold cycle, which uses about eight gallons of water just to pre-rinse dishes. Air-dry or use an energy-saver setting.

**Refrigerator/Freezer:** Set the refrigerator to 38 to 40 degrees and stand-alone freezers to 0 degrees. Cool foods before putting them in the refrigerator, and cover liquids to stop evaporation. Place refrigerators and freezers away from heat registers and stoves. Leave 2 to 3 inches clearance around the appliance to allow for air circulation and clean

#### 5 living room

**Lights:** Turn off lights when not needed. Use fluorescent lamps, which produce four times more light per watt than incandescents.

**Fireplace:** Keep the flue closed when not in use, and install glass doors. For gas logs, choose sealed vent models that don't pull air from the room. Better yet – install an electric fireplace with realistic flame effects!

**Heating:** Set your thermostat as low as you can while maintaining comfort. Every degree you raise the temperature adds about 2% to your heating costs. Don't block heating vents or return air grilles. Change your furnace filters to maintain good airflow, and have regular heating system checkups to maintain peak efficiency.

# BOARD MEETING REPORT

**Menard Electric Cooperative  
From the Board Room  
September 24, 2002**

Menard Electric Cooperative's board of directors held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, September 24, 2002, in the office at Petersburg. President Gary L. Martin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Directors present in addition to President Martin were: Michael E. Carls, James G. Graff, Roy H. Seaney, Jerry W. Brooks, Steven Worner, and D. Jay Frye. Directors Edward L. Allspach and Warren Goetsch were absent. Also present were Manager Lynn A. Frasco and Attorney Charles K. Smith. After roll call, the agenda for the meeting was approved.

Minutes of the August 27, 2002, regular board meeting were reviewed and approved. The inventory of work orders for August 2002, in the amount of \$67,302.40 was approved.

President Martin reviewed committee appointments in light of Steven L. Worner's appointment as Director for District No. 6. It was moved and seconded that Director Worner be appointed to serve on the capital credits committee, the irrigation committee, and the labor committee. Motion carried.

The board reviewed general fund checks #136182 through #136414 amounting to \$2,210,318.79. After discussion, the payment of bills was approved.

The board reviewed 54 membership applications and 13 service permits for the month. The membership applications and service permits were approved and accepted.

Manager Frasco reviewed the financial reports for August 2002. Revenue for the month was more than budget by \$177,462. Purchased power amounts for the month were less than budget by \$14,386. Operating expenses for the month not including power cost were less than budget by \$28,473. Margins for the month were \$489,327.

Year-to-date kWh sales were 6,889,034 kWh more than budget. Actual year-to-date margins were \$944,068. Key financial ratios continue to meet required levels. The ownership equity ratio was 38.84 percent. There were 89 more members served this month than in the same month a year ago. The average residential bill amount was more than in the same month a year ago by \$9.55. The balance sheet shows \$505,879 greater investment in net utility plant the end of this month than at 2001-year end. The safety reports and outage summaries were reviewed.

Two electric service agreements for Patty L. Ward and Steven R. Donaldson were reviewed and both were approved as presented. Correspondence received by the IBEW pertaining to the Burton Tree Service tree trimming operations was discussed.

Representation of the cooperative by Attorney Warren Krebbs with regard to Missouri Electric Works was discussed. Mr. Krebb's services were terminated. Manager Frasco is now serving on the executive committee for Missouri Electric Works. There would be a final report possibly in November 2003, for submission to the EPA (Environment Protection Agency) concerning the Missouri Electric Works. The manager has advised that DNT Speednet had informed the cooperative that they were no longer interested in a Lease Agreement. Manager Frasco advised the board that he reviewed the CFC Capital Credit Report and the cooperative had received a capital credit check from CFC in the amount of \$17,377.17. The Manager reviewed the water withdrawal report from the Department of Interior with regard to Imperial Valley. He also reviewed the 2002 load management report with the board. The Manager's report was approved as presented.

There were no Director's special occasion vouchers for the month.

Director Brooks advised that there was no Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives board meeting for the month of September.

Manager Frasco reviewed the report of the labor committee. He advised that it was his recommendation that a cost of living wage adjustment should be given to all non-union employees effective October 1, 2002, and that he be given permission to grant up to five single step salary adjustments. It was moved and seconded by the board to accept the recommendations of the manager.

The manager reviewed the guest list for the upcoming sporting clays program.

Manager Frasco reviewed the language of the Cooperative Policy Section V - Group Hospitalization and Major Medical Payments of Employees on LTD (long-term disability). He advised that he had been contacted by representatives from the union asking for some clarification of the language in that policy. After discussion by the board, Manager Frasco was asked to clarify that language and present the proposed revised policy to the board at next month's meeting.

President Martin adjourned the regular meeting and called the Board into executive session. President Martin reconvened the monthly board meeting.

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, October 22, 2002, at 7:00PM. There being no further business to come before the board, it was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

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## 2003 "YOUTH TO WASHINGTON" TOUR



Does your high school junior or senior have an interest in government and American history? Every June, the electric and telephone cooperatives in Illinois sponsor a group of young people to Washington, D.C. on the "Youth to Washington" program. During a full week in the nation's Capital, these students get an up-close look at democracy in action and get to meet with their downstate Illinois members of Congress.

Since 1957, hundreds of future leaders have been introduced to Government and the legislative process through this program. Many alumni of the program have gone on to leadership positions in our communities and government. Two current members of the Illinois

you the member is \$850. This cost includes all travel, lodging, meals and tickets. Souvenirs and incidental items will be the only participants' expenses.

The "Youth to Washington" Tour is recognized as one of the best youth tours of Washington, D.C. The tour is well organized with good chaperones and is a bargain. Participants will see monuments and memorials, visit historical places and government offices and meet Illinois Congressmen and Senators and their staffs. Several fun and exciting activities are scheduled, and your student will meet others from across the nation. For more information, contact the cooperative office.

## ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 7, 2003

The 66<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the cooperative is scheduled for Saturday, June 7, 2003, 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 this year's annual meeting, directors will be elected in districts 2, 5, 6 and 9. Petitions for candidates for these districts must be submitted to the cooperative's office by April 23, 2003. Petitions are available at the cooperative's office. If you are interested, please drop by and pick one up.

**MENARD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ■ OFFICE HOURS: 8 A.M. — 4:30 P.M. ■ WEB ADDRESS: 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 \_\_\_\_\_

**MENARD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ■ OFFICE HOURS: 8 a.m. — 4:30 p.m. ■ WEB ADDRESS: www.menard.com**



# BOARD MEETING REPORT

**MENARD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE  
FROM THE BOARD ROOM  
OCTOBER 22, 2002**

**M**enard Electric Cooperative's board of directors held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, October 22, 2002, in the office at Petersburg. President Gary L. Martin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Directors present in addition to President Martin were: Michael E. Carls, James G. Graff, Roy H. Seaney, Jerry W. Brooks, Steven Worner, Edward L. Allspach, and D. Jay Frye. Director Warren Goetsch was absent. Also present were Manager Lynn A. Frasco and Attorney Charles K. Smith. After roll call, the agenda for the meeting was approved.

Minutes of the September 24, 2002, regular board meeting were reviewed and approved. The inventory of work orders for September 2002 in the amount of \$84,692.77 was approved.

The board reviewed general fund checks #136415 through #136620 amounting to \$1,957,761.17. After discussion, the payment of bills was approved.

The board reviewed 47 membership applications and 12 service permits for the month. The membership applications and service permits were approved and accepted.

Manager Frasco reviewed the financial reports for September 2002. Revenue for the month was more than budget by \$17,156. Purchased power amounts for the month were less than budget by \$5,854. Operating expenses for the month not including power cost were less than budget by \$32,372. Margins for the month were \$302,085.

Year-to-date kwh sales were 6,525,234 kwhs more than budget. Actual year-to-date margins were \$1,246,153. Key financial ratios continue to meet required levels. The ownership equity ratio was 39.90 percent. There were 60 more members served this month than in the same month a year ago. The average residential bill amount was more than in the same month a year ago by \$10.71. The balance sheet shows \$531,548 greater investment in net utility plant the end of this month than at 2001 year-end.

Staff members of the cooperative presented their proposed 2003 budgets. Terry Entwistle presented the operations department report. Wayne Jones presented the general office budget. Stuart Churchill presented the employee benefit budget and the member services budget. Chris Hinton presented the accounting and information services budget. He and Manager Frasco discussed with the board the ATS conversion. Manager Frasco advised the board that there was a training session scheduled for October 23, 2002, for training with regards to the financials portion of the ATS conversion. He advised that in the next month or two the cooperative would be making a conver-

sion for all financials. James Rechner presented the engineering budget. Manager Frasco reviewed the manager's budget and the director's budget.

Manager Frasco presented the manager's report for the month of September. He reviewed the balance sheet, budget, as well as the outage summary and safety reports. Manager Frasco discussed with the board a billing policy issue with regard to the new farm cooperative, Sunrise Ag Service Company, formerly Mason County Service Company. After discussion, he advised that he would present to the board at next month's meeting, a proposed change to the policy. He reviewed with the board the AIEC Memorial Scholarship Fund information. He also discussed with the board the AIEC Continuing Education Program. Manager Frasco advised that employee Don Rector had resigned on October 9, 2002. Manager Frasco advised the board that Patricia Michels was beginning her employment on November 1, 2002. He discussed with the board what she would be doing as an employee of the cooperative. The manager's report was approved as presented.

There were no director's special occasion vouchers for the month.

Manager Frasco reviewed with the board the 5-year renewal of the lease with the Illinois Midland Railroad Company. It was moved and seconded that the renewal be approved.

Director Brooks and Manager Frasco reported on the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives board meeting for the month of October.

Attorney Smith reviewed with the board revisions to the real estate purchase agreement between the cooperative and the owners of the land. He discussed with the board the changes requested by the landowners attorney. It was moved and seconded that the board approve the changes to the contract as revised.

Manager Frasco discussed with the board the CFC Interest Rate Conversion savings.

Manager Frasco reviewed with the board the Capital Credit Report for 2002.

The board had the first reading of the revised Policy Section V – Group Hospitalization & Major Medical Payment of Employees on LTD.

Manager Frasco reviewed with the board the Sporting Clays Event held on October 12, 2002, in Mason City.


The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, November 26, 2002, at 6:00 p.m. There being no further business to come before the board, it was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.



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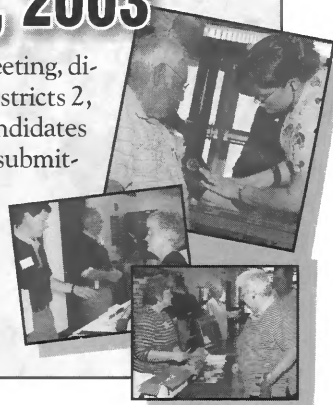
<http://www.menard.com>

## Annual meeting scheduled for June 7, 2003

The 66<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the cooperative is scheduled for Saturday, June 7, 2003, 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 this year's annual meeting, directors will be elected in districts 2, 5, 6 and 9. Petitions for candidates for those districts must be submitted to the cooperative's office by April 23, 2003. Petitions are available at the cooperative's office. If you are interested, please drop by and pick one up.



## Have you ever attended your cooperative's annual meeting?

If you have not attended your co-op's annual meeting, you're missing a great experience. At the annual meeting you will learn about your cooperative's plans for the future, elect your board representation, receive an attendance gift, get a chance at some great prizes, enjoy a delicious meal, delight in some entertainment and have a chance to visit with old friends and the cooperative's employees.

And this experience is unique to cooperative members because cooperatives follow a set of seven principles that differentiate them from other electric utilities. These principles are:

- 1) Voluntary and Open Membership.** Cooperatives are open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.
- 2) Democratic Member Control.** Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. The elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In electric cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one vote per member).
- 3) Members' Economic Participation.** Members

contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital is the common property of the co-op.

**4) Autonomy and Independence.** Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain the co-op's autonomy.

**5) Education, Training and Information.** Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their co-ops. They inform the general public about the nature and benefits of co-ops.

**6) Cooperation Among Co-ops.** Cooperatives serve their members most effectively by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

**7) Concern for Community.** While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.

**MENARD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ■ OFFICE HOURS: 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. ■ WEB ADDRESS: [www.menard.com](http://www.menard.com)**

Available from Menard Electric  
**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)



**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
- Free 800 number, no fees, same low rate
- Free calling cards 13.9¢ per minute (No surcharge)
- **NO CODES TO DIAL**
- Overseas calling e.g. United Kingdom 12¢/minute
- **6 second increment billing**

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.

**4.9¢**

All calls in Illinois

**6.9¢**

All calls out of state



**For additional information, call (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 number  New  Existing To Ring To: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
 Travel Cards Number Requested \_\_\_\_\_

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 assessed by the local telephone company when they make the carrier change. PowerNet Global will reimburse any such charges if you enclose a copy of said charge when remitting payment to PowerNet Global.

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

**MENARD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ■ OFFICE HOURS: 8 a.m. — 4:30 p.m. ■ WEB ADDRESS: [www.menard.com](http://www.menard.com)**

# Credit Card Convenience

**M**enard Electric Cooperative accepts VISA or MasterCard payments for all electric bills. A \$3 transaction processing fee will be charged for bills up to \$200.

All electric bills more than \$200 will be charged 3% of the bill amount.

## THREE WAYS TO SIGN UP:

1. Come into the office and sign up
2. Call the cooperative and give your information
3. Fill out the authorization form below and mail to the office.



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

### 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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# BOARD MEETING REPORT

**Menard Electric Cooperative  
From the Board Room  
November 26, 2002**

**M**enard Electric Cooperative's board of directors held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, November 26, 2002, in the office at Petersburg. President Gary L. Martin called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Directors present in addition to President Martin were: Michael E. Carls, James G. Graff, Roy H. Seaney, Jerry W. Brooks, Steven Worner, Edward L. Allspach, D. Jay Frye and Warren Goetsch. Also present were Manager Lynn A. Frasco and Attorney Charles K. Smith. After roll call, the agenda for the meeting was approved.

Minutes of the October 22, 2002, regular board meeting were reviewed and approved. The inventory of work orders for October 22, 2002, in the amount of \$283,657.89 was approved.

The board reviewed general fund checks #136621 through #136807 amounting to \$1,904,161.99. After discussion, the payment of bills was approved.

The board reviewed 61 membership applications and 14 service permits for the month. The membership applications and service permits were approved and accepted.

Manager Frasco reviewed the financial reports for October 2002. Revenue for the month was more than budget by \$125,865. Purchased power amounts for the month were more than budget by \$131,069. Operating expenses for the month not including power cost were less than budget by \$20,966. Margins for the month were (\$46,991).

Year-to-date kwh sales were 8,049,208 kwhs more than budget. Actual year-to-date margins were \$1,199,162. Key financial ratios continue to meet required levels. The ownership equity ratio was 39.76 percent. There were 85 more members served this month than in the same month a year ago. The average residential bill amount was more than in the same month a year ago by \$8.98. The balance sheet shows \$545,249 greater investment in net utility plant the end of this month than at 2001 year-end.

Agreements for Electric Service for Bernice Hahn (Irrigation) and James P. Raftis (Rate A) were both approved as presented.

Manager Frasco presented the manager's report for the month of October. He reviewed the balance sheet, budget, as well as the outage summary and safety reports. Under the operations report he presented an update on the modifications to the Blue Cross Blue Shield Health Insurance Plan. He advised that Memorial Medical Center was no longer participating in the PPO Network and he discussed the effect it would have on the cooperative's employees. He reviewed with the board the revised credit card authorization form that came about as a result of a change in the transaction-processing fee. He discussed the building project and discussed the schedule. He also reviewed the progress of the

CIPS/Thompson Case. He discussed the ATS Software conversion and advised that during the week of December 9<sup>th</sup> through 13<sup>th</sup>, the cooperative would be going live with its financial package, and would do the first payroll the week of December 15<sup>th</sup>. The Manager discussed correspondence received from the AIEC in connection with the LI-HEAP Program. He also reviewed correspondence from the State of Illinois/Illinois Department of Natural Resources requesting a new license fee for a cooperative line extending over State property. He advised that the State was requesting a license fee of \$6,350. Manager Frasco indicated that he would investigate this matter further and report back to the board.

There were no director's special occasion vouchers for the month.

Manager Frasco reviewed a proposed underground service agreement for Grant Estates. It was moved and seconded that the agreement be approved.

Director Goetsch reported on the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives board meeting for the month of November.

Director Carls reported on Soyland/CCS activities.

Manager Frasco reviewed with the board the preliminary 2003 Budget.

Manager Frasco recommended that the board adopt the AIEC Safety Manual, subject to the cooperative's safety committee recommendations which would be made a later date. It was moved and seconded that the AIEC Safety Manual be approved, subject to modifications as adopted by the safety committee.

The board discussed capital credit retirements for the year 2003. Manager Frasco reviewed a report with the board showing capital credits retired to date. He proposed 2003 capital credit retirements as follows: Total retired amount \$420,000, Estate Retirement \$120,000, General Retirement \$300,000. The board concurred with the proposal.

The Manager reviewed a proposed policy revision to Section VIII "Petty Cash." The policy as proposed to be revised will be placed on next month's agenda for a second reading and approval.


President Martin presented the second reading of the policy change to Section V "Group Hospitalization and Major Medical Payments." It was moved and seconded that the policy as revised be adopted.

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, December 17, 2002, at 6:00 p.m. There being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

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<http://www.menard.com>

## Surge suppression program expands

**M**enard Electric Cooperative has a 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 as well as 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, 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

(Continued on page 16b) ►



## OFFICE CLOSING

Our offices will be closed Friday, April 18, in observance of Good Friday. We will resume normal business hours on Monday, April 21.

**MENARD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ■ OFFICE HOURS: 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. ■ WEB ADDRESS: [www.menard.com](http://www.menard.com)**

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 tele-

phone, computer, television, etc. to offer 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 at (800) 872-1203 or (217) 632-7746.

## Programs and Services

### GEOTHERMAL RATE:

Members who have an all electric home and use a Geothermal heating system are eligible for our G.T. Rate. This rate provides our members with a substantial savings from the September meter reading through the May meter reading. All kilowatt-hours used over 1,000 in each billing month will be charged at 5 cents per kwh.



### ELECTRIC HEAT RATE:

Members who use electric heat as their primary source of heat in their home are eligible for our electric heat rate. Under the rate all kwhs used over 1,000 in the billing months of October through May are billed at 6 cents per kwh.

### GEOTHERMAL REBATE:

Heating and cooling your home with a Geothermal system is the most efficient and cost effective way to enjoy year round comfort. In addition to its low operating cost to heat and air condition your home, the system can provide up to 60 percent of your domestic hot water requirements. For members who install the system, the Cooperative will provide a one-time rebate of \$333 per ton.

### ELECTRIC WATER HEATER REBATE:

Members who install an electric water heater with a 40-gallon storage capacity or larger and enroll in the Cooperative's load management program are



eligible to receive a one-time rebate. If the new electric water heater is installed in a new structure or if it replaces a fossil-fired unit the rebate amount will be \$175. If the new electric model replaces an existing electric unit the rebate will be \$150.

### ADD-ON HEAT PUMP & HEAT PUMP REBATE

Members who install an Add-On Electric Heat Pump or an Electric Heat Pump will receive a \$200 rebate. It will apply to any size heat pump installed as part of the central heating & cooling system.

### WATER HEATER LOAD MANAGEMENT PROGRAM:

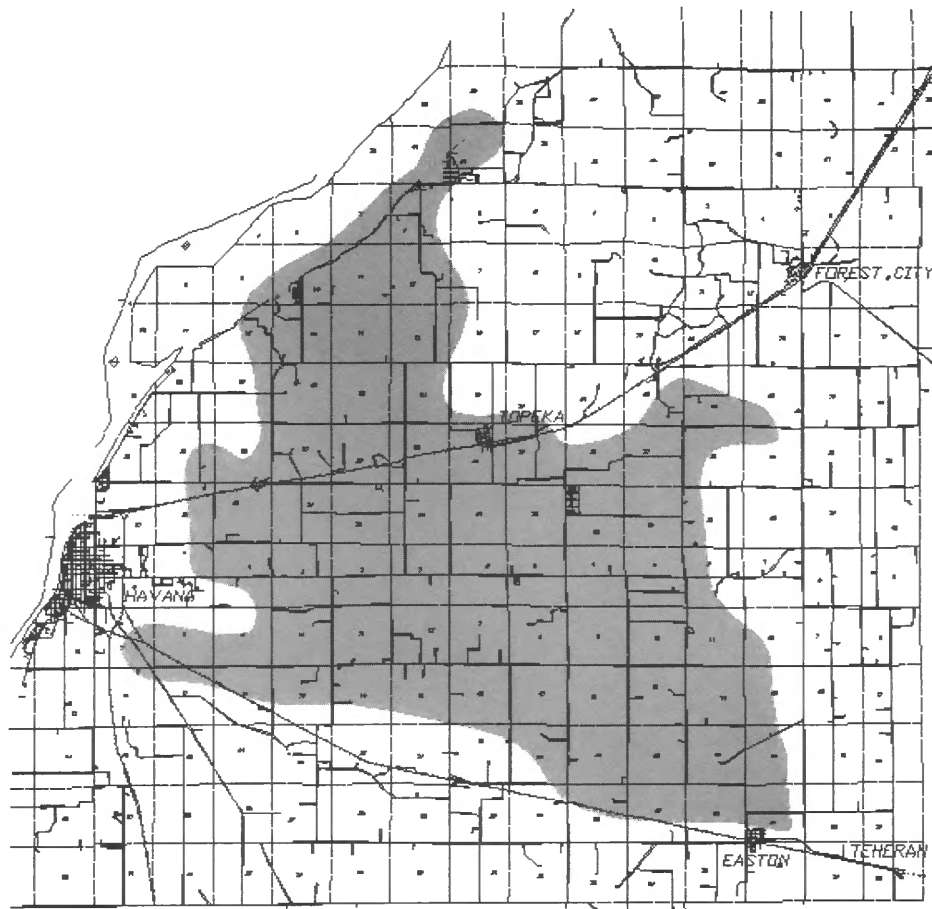
Members who allow the Cooperative to control the heating elements of their water heater during peak periods only (for no longer than 5 hours in a given day) between June 1<sup>st</sup> and September 15<sup>th</sup> will receive a 3 cent per kwh rate reduction from kwhs 600 to 1,000, every month of the year. This could mean a savings of up to \$144 a year.

### CERTIFIED COMFORT HOME:

Members who are building a home and follow the building techniques described in the certified Comfort Home Booklet could receive a \$500 rebate from the Cooperative. To find out more about how your home can be built energy efficiently please contact us at your convenience.



## Trimming contract to begin in Topeka area



In an effort to provide a safe environment and reliable electric service for our members, Menard Electric Cooperative administers a four-year tree line clearance program for all of its distribution lines. We have recently engaged the services of a tree trimming contractor to begin pruning trees in the area southeast of the Illinois River roughly bordered by a line from Havana, through Easton and Bishop, to Goofy Ridge. This work is scheduled to commence the beginning of April. The contractor will be pruning larger trees back at least eight feet from our lines while removing smaller trees within eight feet of our lines to eliminate existing and future

problems. All trimming will be done according to guidelines established by the American National Standards Institute to assure the continued health of the trees. Smaller branches and brush will be chipped and removed. Larger wood will be cut into manageable lengths, for disposal by the member or other local parties. Circuit maps showing locations of trimming have been submitted to your local county board chairman. For more information on the tree trimming program please visit our Web site at [www.menard.com](http://www.menard.com) or call Jim Rechner or Doug Pettit at the cooperative office at (800) 872-1203.

## Annual meeting scheduled for June 7, 2003

The 66<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the cooperative is scheduled for Saturday, June 7, 2003, 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 this year's annual meeting, directors will be elected in districts 2, 5, 6 and 9. Petitions for candidates for these districts must be submitted to the cooperative's office by April 23, 2003. Petitions are available at the cooperative's office. If you are interested, please drop by and pick one up.





# MENARD



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## Co-op receives safety award at state conference

**M**enard Electric Cooperative received a “best lost-time accident record” safety honor recently during the Safety/Supervisory Technical Conference held in Springfield. The conference is sponsored annually by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC). From left are Mechanic-Groundman Dan Morgan, Lineman Brandon Blair and Area Serviceman Mark Bradley.

## Annual meeting scheduled for June 7, 2003

**T**he 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the cooperative is scheduled for Saturday, June 7, 2003 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 this year's annual meeting, directors will be elected in districts 2, 5, 6 and 9.

**MENARD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ■ OFFICE HOURS: 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. ■ WEB ADDRESS: [www.menard.com](http://www.menard.com)**

## Pool Safety

Spring is prime time for installing swimming pools. So if you're considering adding a pool this year, make sure that you choose your site carefully, with an eye to any power lines that may be overhead or underground. When doing so, consider these key safety points:

- Make sure overhead electrical lines do not pass over the pool. In fact, it's best to keep your pool at least 25 feet away from power lines in all directions.
- Allow at least 18 feet of clearance between overhead power lines and a diving board, deck, platform, slide or

observation area.

- Never build an in-ground pool or set up an aboveground pool over underground electric cables. Pools and pool decking should be installed at least five feet away from all underground utility lines.
- Except for specially designed lighting fixtures, don't put electrical fixtures or receptacles within five feet of a pool. Any electrical wiring that is within 20 feet of a swimming pool should have protection from a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter.

## Substitute meter reader applications now being taken

Menard Electric Cooperative is currently taking applications for substitute meter readers throughout our service area. As you may recall, meter reading takes place each month during a prearranged five day period. If you are interested, please complete the following information and return it to the Cooperative office. Once we have received the information, we will forward an application to you.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

MEC Account Number \_\_\_\_\_

# WARN CHILDREN to stay away from substations

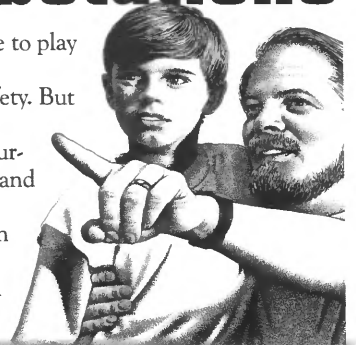
Summer is a time for children to explore and play, but they need to know how and where to play safely. Teach your children to respect electric substations.

Your cooperative has posted warning signs on all substation fences for your family's safety. But do your children understand these signs and the dangers within the high-voltage area?

Warn your children not to play near substations, and never to climb on or over the surrounding fences, even if their favorite football was thrown inside it. Leave the ball alone and call your local co-op.

Remember, your cooperative's linemen have the proper gear and are trained to work in dangerous high-voltage situations.

At your cooperative, we care about your family's safety. Please warn children about all the dangers of electricity.



For more safety tips, go to [www.safeelectricity.org](http://www.safeelectricity.org)

MENARD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ■ OFFICE HOURS: 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. ■ WEB ADDRESS: [www.menard.com](http://www.menard.com)

# Credit Card Convenience

**M**enard Electric Cooperative accepts VISA or MasterCard payments for all electric bills. A \$3 transaction processing fee will be charged for bills up to \$200. All electric bills more than \$200 will be charged 3% of the bill amount.

## THREE WAYS TO SIGN UP:

- 1.** Come into the office and sign up
- 2.** Call the cooperative and give your information
- 3.** Fill out the authorization form below and mail to the office.



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

### 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: \_\_\_\_\_

I acknowledge and agree to have the transaction processing fee charged to my VISA or MasterCard. (Please Print)

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

**MENARD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ■ OFFICE HOURS: 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. ■ WEB ADDRESS: [www.menard.com](http://www.menard.com)**

# BOARD MEETING REPORT

**Menard Electric Cooperative  
From the Board Room  
January 28, 2003**

**M**enard Electric Cooperative's board of directors held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 28, 2003, in the office at Petersburg. Vice President Jerry W. Brooks called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Directors present in addition to Vice President Brooks were: Michael E. Carls, James G. Graff, Roy H. Seaney, Steven Worner, Edward L. Allspach, D. Jay Frye and Warren Goetsch. President Gary L. Martin was absent. Also present were Manager Lynn A. Frasco and Attorney Charles K. Smith. After roll call, the agenda for the meeting was approved.

Minutes of the December 2002 regular board meeting were reviewed and approved.

The board reviewed December 2002 general fund checks #9000 - #9011 and #10000 - #10156 amounting to \$1,244,392.02. After discussion, the payment of bills was approved.

The board reviewed 28 membership applications and 12 service permits for the month. The membership applications and service permits were approved and accepted.

Manager Frasco introduced Director of Member Services, Stuart Churchill. Manager Frasco reminded board members that they had discussed having a staff member present at board meetings to review and discuss duties and responsibilities. The staff member could give the board an update as to what matters he was handling for the cooperative. Churchill discussed the June 2003 annual meeting and which directors were up for election. He also discussed his duties for payroll and other employee benefits.

It was moved and seconded that the four agreements for electric service for Lincoln Land Communications, Kent Breedlove, Bret Farmer and Larry Garlisch be approved as presented.

Manager Frasco presented the manager's report for the month. He reviewed the balance sheet and budget as well as the outage summary and safety reports. Under the operations report he reviewed the CFC interest rate comparison. He advised that he would be going to the Williamsville City Council to discuss with them the cooperative's request for a franchise. He reviewed with the board a need for a franchise agreement. He advised that the cooperative has up to 16 new irrigation service requests with another two possible in the future.

Manager Frasco discussed with the board the situation with Turriss. He advised that Attorney Smith engaged the services of Attorney Douglas Logsdon in Kentucky to represent the cooperative in the Horizon bankruptcy proceedings. Manager Frasco advised the board that they were short an apprentice lineman and that Terry Entwistle had an application from an apprentice that was currently working for Corn Belt Energy. Manager Frasco discussed the purchase of land for the new headquarters building. Attorney Smith advised the board that the landowner had met with him to discuss

the Right Of First Refusal Agreement. Manager Frasco discussed the land survey and the problems associated with the survey. Manager Frasco advised that he would discuss the matter with the landowner to see if there could be resolutions of the issue with regard to the survey. It appeared that the surveyor would have to redo the survey.

Manager Frasco reviewed recent materials received with regard to Low Income Energy Assistance Program. He advised that there were a couple of cooperatives that elected to participate in the program. The board discussed it and it was the consensus not to participate. Manager Frasco reviewed with the board the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) statistical profile. He also discussed with the board the large power service minimum billing methodology. He had advised that this had become an issue with Taloma Grain. He discussed with the board the present rate and its effect on Taloma Grain. He advised the board that there was an Irrigated Growers Association Meeting scheduled for February 6, 2003. He discussed with the board the status of the ATS conversion. He advised that the conversion was on schedule, but there had been some problems with the transfer of employee information. The manager's report was approved as presented.

There were no Director's special occasion vouchers for the month.

Director Goetsch reported on activities of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives for the month of December, and that the January meeting was canceled due to bad weather.

Director Carls reported on Soyland/CCS board activities. Director Carls reviewed in detail the history of CCS Financial Planning and its impact on Soyland.

Vice President Brooks reported on the meeting of the annual meeting committee. He advised that the meeting was scheduled for Saturday, June 7, 2003, at PORTA High School. Other details of the meeting were discussed.

The board passed a resolution to declare a general retirement of capital credits for the balance of year 1980 and part of 1981 totaling an amount not to exceed \$300,000 and the amount remaining for the retirement of estates up to \$120,000 during calendar year 2003.

Manager Frasco reviewed with the board the proposal by one of the cooperative's tree trimming contractors for an increase in prices by 3.5 percent. It was the manager's recommendation to the board to agree to the increase for the first three months of 2003 and thereafter the tree trimming services be let for bids for a lump sum and hourly line clearance. The board approved the manager's recommendation.

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, February 25, 2003, at 6:00 p.m. There being no further business to come before the board, it was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

**OFFICE CLOSED**

Your cooperative will be closed Monday, May 26 in observance of the Memorial Day holiday. The cooperative office will be open for business hours on Tuesday, May 27.

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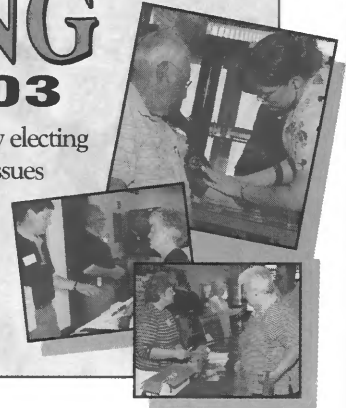
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## ANNUAL MEETING scheduled for June 7, 2003

The 66<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the cooperative is scheduled for Saturday, June 7, 2003 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 op-

erations of the cooperative by electing directors and voting on other issues that arise. At this year's annual meeting, Directors will be elected in Districts 2, 5, 6 and 9. We look forward to seeing you there.



## Purchase of land for new headquarters facility

The cooperative has purchased approximately 10 acres of land south of Petersburg, near Lincoln's New Salem Historic Site, at the intersection of Coal Mine Road and State Route 97. The cooperative will develop a new headquarters facility to serve our members for many years into the future.

The cooperative's operations are currently spread out between seven different sites in the Petersburg area. By combining all our operations into one site, considerable efficiencies

will be realized.

The move is also a sign of the genuine desire our board has toward providing the best possible service to our members for the long term, as well as our commitment to the Petersburg and Menard County community.

Adams & Associates from Neveda, Missouri, an architectural firm with considerable cooperative headquarters design experience, has been selected to complete the Phase One design of the facilities.

## 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 through 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.

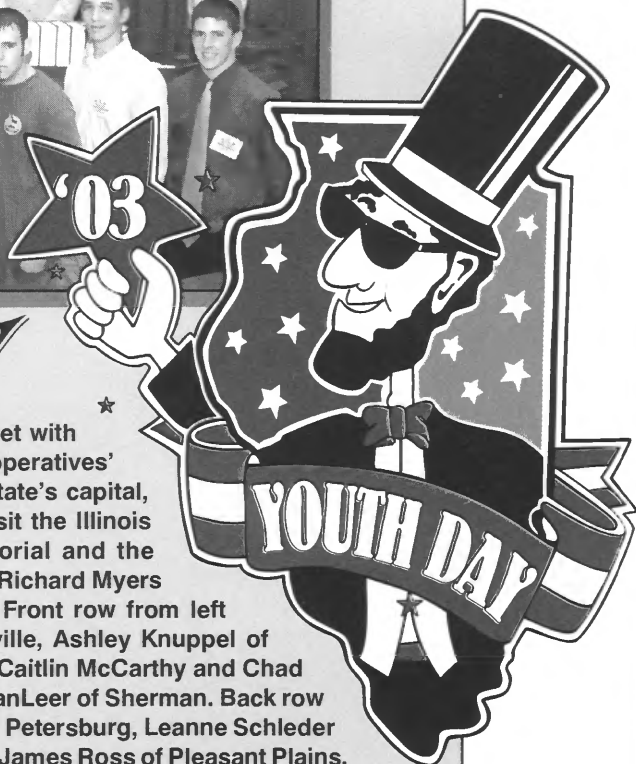
**MENARD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ■ OFFICE HOURS: 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. ■ WEB ADDRESS: [www.menard.com](http://www.menard.com)**





## YOUTH DAY

Fourteen students representing Menard Electric Cooperative met with area legislators during the Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives' Youth Day on Wednesday, April 2, in Springfield. While in the state's capital, students had an opportunity to watch government in action, visit the Illinois Supreme Court, and tour Lincoln's Tomb, the Vietnam Memorial and the Governor's Mansion. Students are pictured with Representative Richard Myers of Colchester and Representative Rich Brauer of Petersburg. Front row from left are Kristin Blatchford of Havana, Amanda Turner of Chandlerville, Ashley Knuppel of Petersburg, Kiersten Hannel of Dawson, Representative Myers, Caitlin McCarthy and Chad Kamerad of Dawson, Charlie Thompson of Buffalo and Joseph VanLeer of Sherman. Back row from left are Heather Goetsch of Williamsville, Benjamin Rowe of Petersburg, Leanne Schleder of Green Valley, B.J. Riekeling of Havana, Representative Brauer, James Ross of Pleasant Plains, Jesse Haskett of Manito and chaperone Trish Michels. The day was sponsored by the electric and telephone co-ops in the state in an effort to introduce young rural leaders to state government.



## Used vehicle sale

The cooperative is accepting bids on the following vehicles. The vehicles are available for inspection at the cooperative's office. Bids should be submitted prior to June 18, 2003. The bids will be opened at 4:00 p.m. on this date.

1995 Chevrolet 4X4 pickup with 106,458 miles.

1999 Chevrolet 4X4 Cab Chassis with 99,980 miles.

1993 GMC Truck with a 1993 Telecon II Digger Derrick unit with a fiberglass utility body. 115,483 miles.

## 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.



**MENARD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ■ OFFICE HOURS: 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. ■ WEB ADDRESS: [www.menard.com](http://www.menard.com)**

# BOARD MEETING REPORT

**Menard Electric Cooperative**  
**From the Board Room**  
**February 25, 2003**

**M**enard Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 25, 2003, in the office at Petersburg. President Gary L. Martin called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Directors present in addition to President Martin were: Michael E. Carls, Jerry Brooks, James G. Graff, Roy H. Seaney, Edward L. Allspach, D. Jay Frye. Steven Worner and Warren Goetsch. Also present were Manager Lynn A. Frasco and Attorney Charles K. Smith. After roll call, the agenda for the meeting was approved.

Minutes of the January 2003 regular board meeting were reviewed and approved, after correction.

The board reviewed January 2003 general fund checks #10157 - #10364 amounting to \$1,933,315.80. After discussion, the payment of bills was approved.

The board reviewed 35 membership applications and 10 service permits for the month. The membership applications and service permits were approved and accepted.

It was moved and seconded that the agreements for electric service for Elizabeth Armbrust, Todd L. Mendenhall (2), Thomas & Fletcher Partnership, John Ermerling, N. Korsmeyer Farms, M. Kent Johnson, Rick and Ron Vance, and Borzynski Farms be approved as presented.

Manager Frasco presented the manager's report for the month. He reviewed the balance sheet and budget as well as the outage summary and safety reports. Under the operations report he reported that the cooperative had a new employee, Robert Hanner, a lineman. He advised that there would be a meeting with Blue Cross/Blue Shield to review options for the health insurance program. He advised that he would be attending a training class on March 18, 2003, so that he could stay in compliance with EPA.

Manager Frasco advised that the farmer's drainage district had paid in full the note they had with the cooperative. He advised that the district had wanted to add additional pumps and that with the addition of these new pumps, the district would be the second largest customer of the cooperative.

He advised that Illinois Power filed a motion to withdraw its Transelect Filing before the Illinois Commerce Commission. It was anticipated they would re-file their pleadings with modifications at a later date. Manager Frasco advised that Corn Belt and Wabash had agreed to own 76 percent of the Coal Plant located at Turriss. He advised that EnerStar had the option to buy 12 percent and the other 12 percent was still available for purchase.

He reported that Michael Hastings had informed the Worker's Compensation Group that

ICWCG was going to use Federated instead of Gallagher-Bassett, with a possible savings of \$1,000,000. He discussed the status of the ATS Conversion and advised that the cooperative would be going "live" with the customer information system in August. He also stated that the first bills with the new software would be in September.

He reviewed the Irrigated Growers Meeting and advised that he received many good comments on the meeting. He discussed with the board the utilization of Adams & Associates to do some planning work for the new cooperative headquarters. After discussion by the board, it was the consensus to proceed to utilize the services of Adams & Associates.

He discussed his meeting with the Williamsville Village Council with regard to the cooperative's request for a franchise. He advised that he had received a good reception and that the Mayor had stated that he would contact Manager Frasco on the next step to move forward with the franchise. Manager Frasco stated that he had not heard from the mayor and would be contacting him again in the near future. He reviewed with the board the RUS Form 7.

Director's special occasion vouchers for the month in the amount of \$1,551.60 were approved as presented.

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

Director Carls reported on Soyland/CCS board activities.

Manager Frasco reviewed the capital credit estate refund report.

The manager discussed the changes and increases to the underground service construction rates. He reviewed the new rates, which were approved by the board to take effect April 1, 2003.

The board approved the policy change to Section IV, security deposit.

The board reviewed the voting credentials for the ICWCG. It was moved and seconded that the voting credentials for the ICWCG be approved for Director Goetsch as Delegate and Manager Frasco as Alternate. Motion carried.

The board passed a resolution to establish a line of credit and authorize borrowing from CFC in an amount, which shall not at anytime exceed \$3,000,000.

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, March 25, 2003, at 6:00 p.m. There being no further business to come before the board, it was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.



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## Cooperative tells members of upcoming changes

**A** new headquarters and a new billing format were the topics of discussion at Menard Electric Cooperative's 66<sup>th</sup> annual meeting held Saturday, June 7, at PORTA High School in Petersburg. President Gary L. Martin told members the cooperative will be moving to a new site located on Route 97, just South of New Salem State Historic Site. "This new building will enable the cooperative to consolidate all of its operations onto one site to improve efficiency," said Martin. The cooperative now has seven separate facilities scattered throughout the Petersburg area.

General Manager Lynn A. Frasco said contractors should begin construction on the new headquarters later this year, with completion scheduled for the fall of 2004. Frasco stated that although the building is moving along at a rapid pace, the board has been discussing the project for many years. "The board's main objective was to improve efficiency while not impacting rates. We estimate that our overall operating expense will remain nearly constant," said Frasco. He stated the cost of the new building would be offset by sales of the current facilities and lower building maintenance fees.

*continued on 16b*



John Whitehurst, center, speaks with members about some of the services the cooperative provides. The annual meeting is a great time to ask questions about your cooperative.



Manager Lynn Frasco is pictured with the board members elected at the meeting. From left are Frasco, Edward Allspach of Mount Pulaski, Gary Martin of Alexander, Jay Frye of Easton and Steven Worner of Manito.

**MENARD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ■ OFFICE HOURS: 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. ■ WEB ADDRESS: [www.menard.com](http://www.menard.com)**



Tim Schafer, left, explains the finer points of the cooperative's surge protection program.

A member discovers his blood pressure is in great shape. Jeanie and Ron Pettit provided the free blood pressure checks.



The Menard County Singers entertained members this year with some favorite musical numbers.

Frasco also told members that in the next few months, they would notice a new billing format. Currently, members receive a postcard bill, and the new 8 1/2x11-inch bills will give the co-op the opportunity to display more information on the larger bill. The new bill format will be described in full detail in the cooperative's monthly *Illinois Country Living* magazine.

Treasurer Roy Seaney reported that the cooperative has experienced constant growth the last few years and finished 2002 with margins of \$759,825, an increase over the \$555,000 margins from last year. These margins allowed the cooperative to retire \$396,828 in capital credits to members receiving service in 1979 and 1980. Through 2002, Menard Electric has returned \$3,374,313 to its members.

During the meeting, Gary Martin of Alexander, Jay Frye of Easton, Steven Worner of Manito and Edward Allspach of Mount Pulaski were elected to the board of directors.

Menard Electric Cooperative provides services to 10,784 accounts in the rural areas of all or parts of eight central Illinois counties over 2,540 miles of energized line. Members live in mainly rural areas of Cass, Logan, Macon, Mason, Menard, Morgan, Sangamon and Tazewell counties. The cooperative is also a member of Touchstone Energy — an alliance of more than 600 local, consumer-owned electric utilities around the country, committed to providing superior service based on four core principles: integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community.



More than 600 members and their families enjoyed the grilled pork chop dinner. This family enjoys its ice cream desert.

*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**

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.



**FREE  
Personal  
800 NUMBER**  
No fees  
Same low rate

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

**MENARD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ■ OFFICE HOURS: 8 a.m. — 4:30 p.m. ■ WEB ADDRESS: [www.menard.com](http://www.menard.com)**

# BOARD MEETING REPORT

**Menard Electric Cooperative  
From the Board Room  
March 25, 2003**

Menard Electric Cooperative's board of directors held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 25, 2003, in the office at Petersburg. President Gary L. Martin called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Directors present in addition to President Martin were: Michael E. Carls, Jerry Brooks, James G. Graff, Roy H. Seaney, Edward L. Allspach, D. Jay Frye. Steven Worner and Warren Goetsch. Also present were Manager Lynn A. Frasco and Attorney Charles K. Smith. After roll call, the agenda for the meeting was approved.

Minutes of the February 2003 regular board meeting were reviewed and approved after correction.

The board reviewed February 2003 general fund checks #10365 - #10524 amounting to \$1,362,670.67. After discussion, the payment of bills was approved.

The board reviewed 38 membership applications and 10 service permits for the month. The membership applications and service permits were approved and accepted.

It was moved and seconded that the agreements for electric service for William Moldenhauer, Matthew Friend (2), Hoe Handle Produce, Inc. (2), William H. Lane Trust (2), Dale R. Heye, J. D. Proehl, and the City of Athens be approved as presented.

Manager Frasco presented the manager's report for the month. He reviewed the balance sheet

and budget as well as the out-age summary and safety reports. He advised that the cooperative selected Pitney Bowes as bill printing and mail provider. He discussed this selection and how it related to the ATS conversion.

He reported that the cooperative made another change to the CFC interest rate and he had locked in a short-term interest rate for a three-year period at 3.75 percent on \$3,500,000. He reported that the cooperative was receiving a proposal from Health Alliance with regard to the cooperative's health insurance. He discussed the initial inspection from the Illinois EPA with regard to the Menard Rural Water Cooperative.

Attorney Smith discussed with the board the status of matters with regard to the Horizon/Turriss bankruptcy. He advised that the attorney hired by the cooperative with regard to this matter had advised that Illinois Power had filed a Motion of Adequate Assurance and that the motion was set for hearing on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

Manager Frasco and Attorney Smith reviewed with the board the implications of the Chapter 11 bankruptcy proceedings and the possible effect of pre-petition debt unpaid by Turriss, as well as the amounts still owing with regard to line charges. Manager Frasco advised of the decision made by the cooperative's auditors with regard to the Turriss pre-petition debt. He

discussed the effect this had on the cooperative's margins.

Director's special occasion vouchers for the month in the amount of \$6,221.63 were approved as presented.

Director Goetsch reported that there was no meeting of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives for the month.

Director Carls reported that there were no Soyland/CCS board activities for the month.

Manager Frasco reviewed the capital credit estate refund report.

Manager Frasco discussed bids that had been submitted for the Topeka Substation Area. He advised that Burton Tree Service had submitted, by far, the lowest bid. He also discussed the 2003 tree trimming rates that had been submitted. It was moved and seconded that the Topeka Substation Tree Trimming Contract with Burton Tree Service be approved and that the 2003 tree trimming rates submitted by Burton Tree Service be approved and accepted. Motion carried.

Those directors who attended the 2003 NRECA Annual Meeting gave their report. Manager Frasco discussed the upcoming legislative rally May 5 - May 8.

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, April 22, 2003, at 7:00 p.m. There being no further business to come before the board, it was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

# MENARD



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A Touchstone Energy<sup>®</sup> Cooperative 

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<http://www.menard.com>

## Employees honored

Two Menard Electric employees were honored for 25 years of service at the June 7, 2003, annual meeting. Judy Powers has been the Receptionist for most of her career at the cooperative. She is the friendly face at the front desk that greets members as they enter the building. Her other duties include helping members with billing questions and receiving member's payments.



Judy Powers

Sue Freeland has also completed 25 years of service this year. Sue works behind the scenes in the Data Processing Department. Among her duties, Sue posts member's payments and pays the cooperative's bills. Each month Sue prepares the handheld computers for use by the cooperative's meter readers and downloads data from these computers after all meters are read. She is also currently the City Clerk of Petersburg.



Sue Freeland

## Students represent Menard Electric

Leanne Schleder of Green Valley, Amanda Turner of Chandlerville and Joseph Van Leer of Sherman represented Menard Electric Cooperative June 13-20 in Washington D.C. The students met with Illinois congressional leaders and learned about their government during the annual "Youth to Washington" Tour. This event, sponsored by the electric and telephone cooperatives of Illinois, began in the late 1950s to introduce rural youths to our democratic form of government and cooperatives.

They met with Senator Dick Durbin on Capitol Hill and were among 60 rural Illinois youth leaders selected for the trip. In addition to the Capitol, students also visited the White House, Arlington National Cemetery, the National Cathedral, the Smithsonian Museums, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and a number of other historical sites.

In addition to taking in the sights and sounds of the nation's capitol, all the state



groups convened for Rural Electric Youth Day to learn from public figures and other inspirational speakers. This year's Youth Day agenda included keynote speaker Lt. Col. Brian Birdwell, a survivor of the terrorist's attack on the Pentagon, September 11, 2001.

Pictured are Van Leer, Senator Durbin, Schleder and Turner.

**MENARD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ■ OFFICE HOURS: 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. ■ WEB ADDRESS: [www.menard.com](http://www.menard.com)**

# ATTENDANCE PRIZES

## 66<sup>th</sup> annual meeting

Menard Electric Cooperative • June 7, 2003

### Supplier gifts

AREA GLASS - Igloo Cooler - Alden Barton, Mason City  
BURTON TREE - Crimson Frost Birch Tree - Gail A. Skiles, Virginia  
BURTON TREE - Magnolia Tree - Darrell Holliday, Petersburg  
CAPITEL COMMUNICATIONS - Fishing Rod & Reel - Anna K. Murdock, Havana  
DRAKE-SCRUGGS - Portable Work Lamp - Karl Beaty, Petersburg  
INTERNATIONAL PAPER - Sunbeam Toaster Oven - Gerald Grigg, Springfield  
PSG ENTERPRISES, INC. - Surge Protective Device - Robert Albers, San Jose  
PSG ENTERPRISES, INC. - Surge Protective Device - Dewey Dunaway, Springfield  
WIRELESS USA - 1 Dozen Titliest Golf Balls - Wayne Theobald, Buffalo

### Menard Electric Cooperative prizes

Charles & Joyce Adkins	Havana	\$50 Credit to Electric Account
Dean Broughton	Petersburg	\$50 Credit to Electric Account
James Elmore	Petersburg	\$Surge Suppressor
Norma J. Guilliams	Havana	\$50 Credit to Electric Account
Donald Hamblin	Kilbourne	DVD Player
Earl W. Henrikson	Springfield	\$50 Credit to Electric Account
Robert L. Jones	Springfield	Surge Suppressor
Lewis Lanham Jr.	Buffalo	\$50 Credit to Electric Account
Robert D. Lyons	Green Valley	Personal Organizer
Daniel & Carol Mapes	Kilbourne	\$50 Credit to Electric Account
Charles W. Mayfield	Cantrall	Surge Suppressor
Phyllis A. McCoy	Petersburg	\$50 Credit to Electric Account
Charles Nebel	Topeka	\$50 Credit to Electric Account
Lucille C. Reed	Chandlerville	Surge Suppressor
Priscilla H. Reynolds	Tallula	\$50 Credit to Electric Account
Kenneth Sampson	Greenview	25 inch Color TV - <i>Grand Prize</i>
Don Semple	New Holland	\$50 Credit to Electric Account
Don D. Stephenson	Beardstown	Surge Suppressor
Fred Thomas	Petersburg	DVD Player - <i>Early Bird</i>

### Proxy prizes

Bruce R. Harris	Alexander	Proctor Silex Electric Knife
Mary A. Homer	Dawson	Proctor Silex Electric Knife
Clint Liesman	Mason City	Proctor Silex Electric Knife
Roscoe Reichert	Virginia	Proctor Silex Electric Knife
Benjamin E. Wheat	Topeka	Proctor Silex Electric Knife

# PowerConnect

PowerConnect is the new Internet product from PowerNet Global. Designed for residential customers seeking Internet connections from their home computer, PowerConnect offers fast and reliable connections, valuable add-ons, and technical support that delivers a robust Internet service at a very reasonable monthly price. You do not have to be a member of Menard Electric Cooperative to sign up for this Internet Service.

- \$12.50 per month
- Unlimited Access
- Speeds up to 56K
- 5 Email Accounts
- 10 MB of WebSpace
- Free Technical Support
- One bill for Long Distance and Internet
- Optional Filter Protection

Visit <http://support.pngusa.net> for local access numbers and more information. Some access numbers are listed below. PowerConnect utilizes a nationwide network providing extensive U. S. residential coverage.

## CURRENT PNG CUSTOMERS:

Call (877) 599-2295 to sign up for service. Current availability is limited to those who can dial the access numbers listed below as local calls. All others may have to pay long distance charges to access PowerConnect.

## NEW PNG CUSTOMERS:

Current availability is limited to those who can dial the access numbers listed below as local calls. All others may have to pay long distance charges to access PowerConnect. Please call Menard Electric Cooperative at 1.800.872.1203 to receive an application for this Internet Service.

## ACCESS NUMBERS:

Peoria – (309) 219-0005  
Bloomington – (309) 831-0005  
Springfield – (217) 303-0002  
Lincoln – (217) 838-0005  
Decatur – (217) 619-0005.



# BOARD MEETING REPORT

**Menard Electric Cooperative  
From the Board Room  
April 22, 2003**

**M**enard Electric Cooperative's board of directors held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 22, 2003, in the office at Petersburg. President Gary L. Martin called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Directors present in addition to President Martin were: Michael E. Carls, Jerry Brooks, James G. Graff, Roy H. Seaney, D. Jay Frye and Warren Goetsch. Directors Edward Allspach and Steven Worner were absent. Also present were Manager Lynn A. Frasco and Attorney Charles K. Smith. After roll call, the agenda for the meeting was approved.

Minutes of the March regular board meeting were reviewed and approved as presented.

The board reviewed March 2003 General Fund Checks #10510 - #10738 amounting to \$1,490,091.77. After discussion, the payment of bills was approved.

The board reviewed 46 membership applications and 22 service permits for the month. The membership applications and service permits were approved and accepted.

It was moved and seconded that the agreement for electric service for Daniel D. Meeker was approved as presented.

It was moved and seconded that the inventory of work orders for the month of February 2003 in the amount of \$13,304.72. Motion carried. It was moved and seconded that the inventory of work orders for March 2003, in the amount of \$197,393.42 be approved as presented.

Manager Frasco presented the Manager's report for the month. He reviewed the balance sheet and budget, as well as the outage summary and safety reports. He reported that he had tentatively scheduled the Auditor to make a presentation to the board during the May board meeting. It was the consensus of the board to have the presentation at that time.

The Manager advised that there were 25 new irrigation accounts. He also discussed the need to change from Pager Program to the cooperative employee's cell phones in lieu of the pagers.

The Manager reported that 14 new irrigation systems have been built long with 1,300 feet of underground service and four security lights have been installed. He advised that

there was a lot of capital construction projects completed in March. He reported that the closing on the land acquisition with Mr. Sampson had been completed.

The Manager reported that he had only received one call about the land purchase and that had been from a non-member. He reviewed with the board the news releases that had been placed with regard to the land acquisition and new headquarters construction in the newspapers.

The Manager reported that Adams & Associates had sent a lengthy questionnaire to cooperative personnel. He also advised that a topography survey was being conducted by Ron Moss, and that Carl Dufner was doing the environmental report. He advised that there was a tour planned for the building committee on March 28th through the 30th.

He reviewed with the board the Youth Day press release and discussed the AIEC Manager's meeting. It was moved and seconded that the Manager's report be approved as presented.

Director's special occasion vouchers for the month in the amount of \$184.56 were approved as presented.

Director Goetsch and Director Brooks reported on the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives meeting for the month.

Manager Frasco reported on the Soyland/CCS Board activities for the month.

Manager Frasco presented the ICWCG report for 2002.

Manager Frasco reviewed the capital credit estate refund report.

The Manager discussed the NRECA Legislative Conference scheduled for May 5th through the 8th.

It was moved and seconded that Manager Frasco be named the Delegate with Jim Rechner as Alternate Delegate for the United Utility Supply annual meeting. Motion carried.

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, May 27, 2003, at 7:00 p.m. There being no further business to come before the board, it was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.



# MENARD



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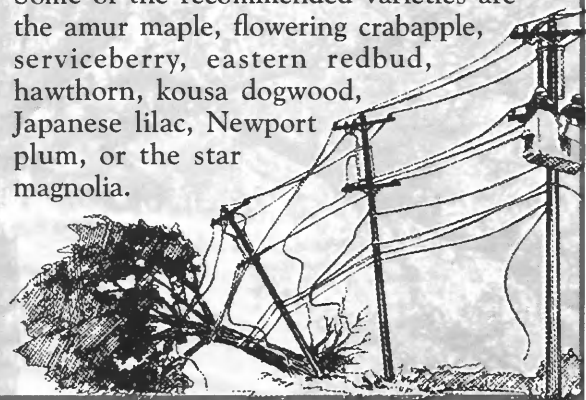
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<http://www.menard.com>

## Tree trimming and line clearance

Trees coming in contact with energized lines can create safety hazards to both life and property as well as cause electric service interruptions to cooperative members. Menard Electric shall have the right to trim, or where necessary, remove, any trees under or within the general vicinity of its distribution lines. Members should take this into consideration when planting new trees. If planting below or adjacent to the cooperative's lines cannot be avoided, trees planted should be of a variety that grows to a limited height.

Some of the recommended varieties are the amur maple, flowering crabapple, serviceberry, eastern redbud, hawthorn, kousa dogwood, Japanese lilac, Newport plum, or the star magnolia.



## 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.



## OFFICE CLOSING

Our offices will be closed Monday, Sept. 1 in observance of Labor Day. Enjoy your holiday!

## LABOR DAY

MENARD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ■ OFFICE HOURS: 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. ■ WEB ADDRESS: [www.menard.com](http://www.menard.com)

# Available from Menard Electric 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)



**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
- Free 800 number, no fees, same low rate
- Free calling cards 13.9¢ per minute (No surcharge)
- NO CODES TO DIAL
- Overseas calling e.g. United Kingdom 12¢/minute
- 6 second increment billing

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.

# 4.9¢

All calls in Illinois

# 6.9¢

All calls out of state

**FREE**  
Personal  
**800 NUMBER**  
No fees  
Same low rate

**For additional information, call (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 number  New  Existing To Ring To: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Travel Cards Number Requested \_\_\_\_\_

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 assessed by the local telephone company when they make the carrier change. PowerNet Global will reimburse any such charges if you enclose a copy of said charge when remitting payment to PowerNet Global.

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

**MENARD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ■ OFFICE HOURS: 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. ■ WEB ADDRESS: www.menard.com**

# Credit Card Convenience

**M**enard Electric Cooperative accepts VISA or MasterCard payments for all electric bills. A \$3 transaction processing fee will be charged for bills up to \$200. All electric bills more than \$200 will be charged 3% of the bill amount.

## THREE WAYS TO SIGN UP:

1. Come into the office and sign up
2. Call the cooperative and give your information
3. Fill out the authorization form below and mail to the office.



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

### 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: \_\_\_\_\_

I acknowledge and agree to have the transaction processing fee charged to my VISA or MasterCard. (Please Print)

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

**MENARD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ■ OFFICE HOURS: 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. ■ WEB ADDRESS: [www.menard.com](http://www.menard.com)**

# BOARD MEETING REPORT

**Menard Electric Cooperative  
From the Board Room  
May 27, 2003**

**M**enard Electric Cooperative's board of directors held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, May 27, 2003, in the office at Petersburg. President Gary L. Martin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Directors present in addition to President Martin were: Michael E. Carls, Jerry Brooks, James G. Graff, Roy H. Seaney, D. Jay Frye, Edward Allspach and Warren Goetsch. Director Steven Worner was absent. Also present were Manager Lynn A. Frasco and Attorney Charles K. Smith. After roll call, the agenda for the meeting was approved.

Minutes of the April 22, 2003, regular board meeting were reviewed and approved as presented.

The board reviewed and approved inventory of work orders for the month of April in the amount of \$138,274.14.

The board reviewed April 2003 general fund checks #10739 - #10997 amounting to \$1,220,397.47. After discussion, the payment of bills was approved.

The board reviewed 49 membership applications and 20 service permits for the month. The membership applications and service permits were approved and accepted.

It was moved and seconded that the agreements for electric service for Robert A. Williams, Marvin D. Lascelles and Paul J. Halpin were approved as presented.

Manager Frasco presented the Manager's report for the month. He reviewed the balance sheet and budget as well as the outage summary and safety reports. The Manager advised that Taloma Grain had filed an application for the optional peak adjustment. He reviewed with the board the Blue Cross/Blue Shield Insurance changes. He advised that overall, there was a 12 percent increase in the premium. He advised that the deductible had been increased from \$100 to \$250. He also advised that about 60 percent of the irrigation radio controls had been

checked. He discussed the meeting of the Lincoln Land Community Advisory Board. The Manager presented an update on the Chalmers account. He reviewed materials from the National Propane Gas Association with regard to their lobbying efforts to prevent electric cooperatives from getting into the propane business. It was moved and accepted that the Manager's report be approved as presented.

Director's special occasion vouchers for the month in the amount of \$478.46 were approved as presented.

Director Goetsch reported on the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives meeting for the month.

Manager Frasco reported on the status of matters with regard to the upcoming annual meeting. He reported that there would be a meeting of the annual meeting committee on June 4, 2003, at 9:00 a.m. It was moved and seconded that a resolution be adopted appointing Wayne Jones as designee to be responsible for registration of members and/or proxies of members at the 66<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the cooperative. Motion carried.

Director Carls reported on the Soyland/CCS board activities for the month.

Manager Frasco reviewed the capital credit estate refund report.

Manager Frasco discussed the status of plans for the new cooperative headquarters. He advised that a building tour was scheduled for May 28 through May 30. He discussed with the board the plans for the building tour.

Director Graff and Manager Frasco discussed the NRECA Legislative Conference.

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, June 24, 2003, at 7:00 p.m. There being no further business to come before the board, it was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

# MENARD



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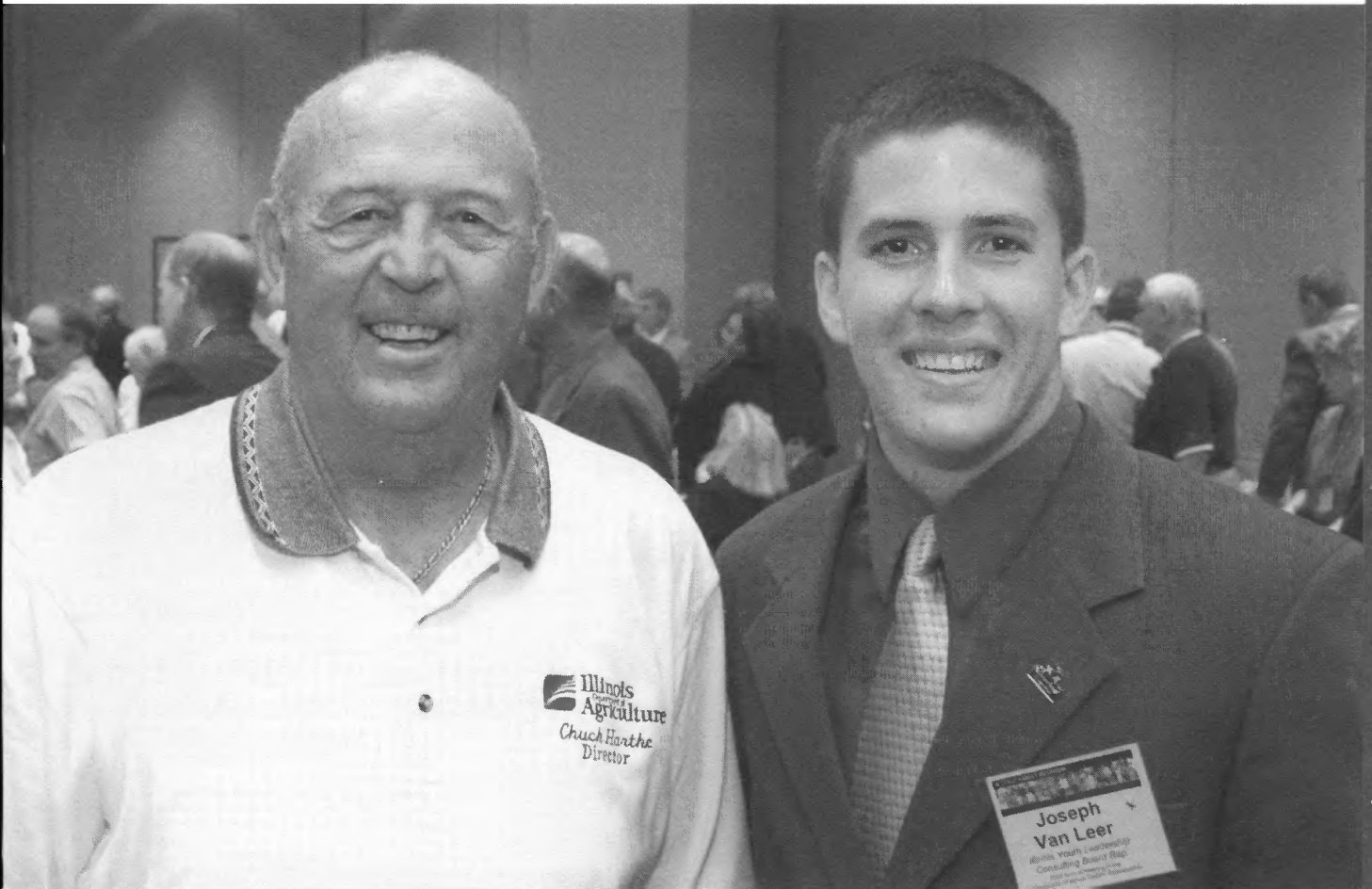
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## Joseph Van Leer is Illinois delegate

Joseph Van Leer of Sherman had the opportunity to visit with Director of Illinois Department of Agriculture, Chuck Hartke, Friday, August 1, during the 62<sup>nd</sup> annual meeting of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC). Van Leer and Hartke were both guest speakers at the event. Van Leer spoke of his experience as a Menard

Electric Cooperative's representative on the "Youth to Washington" tour in June. He was elected by the 60 member group as the Illinois delegate to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Youth Leadership Council. Van Leer will go on to represent Illinois at the NRECA Annual Meeting in New Orleans.



**MENARD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ■ OFFICE HOURS: 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. ■ WEB ADDRESS: [www.menard.com](http://www.menard.com)**

# Start winterizing your **HOME** now

**E**ven 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 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

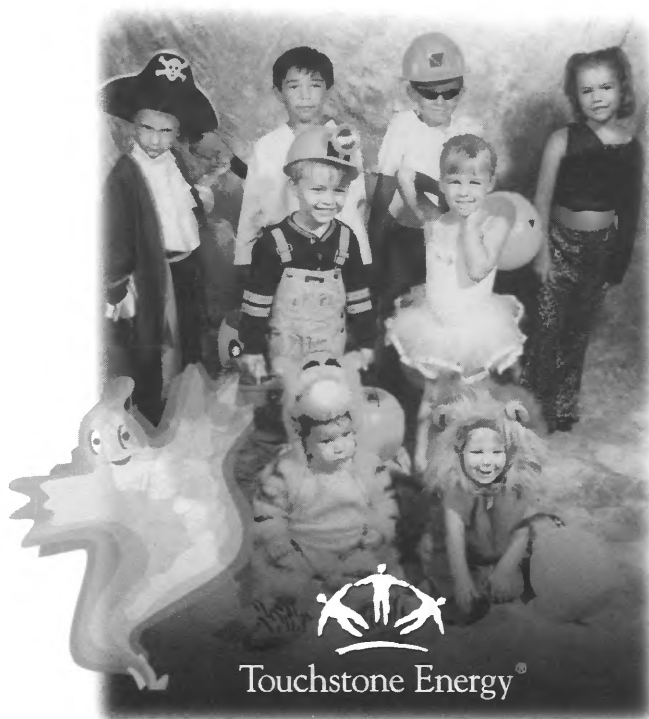
If you plan on taking an extended vacation over a period of months, consider draining your entire water system and shutting the water off to your home until you return.

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.

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



## Keep those who matter safe with security lighting

**D**on't let your little ghosts and goblins be left in the dark this Halloween. Light their way with a safe and inexpensive security light from your local electric cooperative. Call today for lighting sure to keep the "Boogey Man" away.

**MENARD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ■ OFFICE HOURS: 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. ■ WEB ADDRESS: [www.menard.com](http://www.menard.com)**

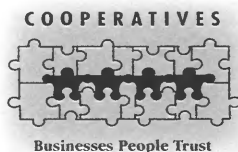


## October is cooperative month

Today many electric cooperative members 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 a credit union or



your local FS plant. That means any revenue above expenses is eventually returned to the members 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 something different about receiving your electricity from an electric cooperative. We think it's a difference you can be proud of.

## How to calculate your capital credits

For the fiscal year 2002, the capital credit allocation factor is .04634874. To determine the amount of capital credits on your account, multiply the allocation factor by the amount paid for electricity

excluding tax. For example, energy payments of \$1,000 X .04634874 = \$46.34. Please contact the co-op office for more information.

# PowerConnect

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- \$12.50 per month (recently reduced!)
- Unlimited Access
- Speeds up to 56K
- 5 E-mail Accounts
- 10 MB of WebSpace
- Free Technical Support
- One bill for Long Distance and Internet
- Optional Filter Protection

Visit <http://support.pngusa.net> for local access numbers and more information. PowerConnect utilizes a nationwide network providing extensive U. S. residential coverage. PowerConnect, the Internet product from PowerNet Global (your long distance service), is available to all eligible residents, not just to Menard Electric members.

- If you already receive PowerNet Global long distance, sign up for service at (877) 599-2295.
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# BOARD MEETING REPORT

**Menard Electric Cooperative  
From the Board Room  
June 24, 2003**

**M**enard Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, June 24, 2003, in the office at Petersburg. President Gary L. Martin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Directors present in addition to President Martin were: Michael E. Carls, Jerry Brooks, James G. Graff, Roy H. Seaney, D. Jay Frye, Edward Allspach, and Steve Worner. Director Warren Goetsch was absent. Also present were Manager Lynn A. Frasco and Attorney Charles K. Smith. After roll call, the agenda for the meeting was approved.

Minutes of the May 28, 2003, regular board meeting were reviewed and approved as presented.

The board reviewed and approved Inventory of work orders for the month of May in the amount of \$162,113.27.

The board reviewed May 2003 general fund checks #10909 - #11109 amounting to \$1,852,420.44. After discussion, the payment of bills was approved.

The board reviewed 66 membership applications and 13 service permits for the month. The membership applications and service permits were approved and accepted.

It was moved and seconded that the agreements for electric service for Neumiller Farms, Lawrence B. Meyer and Franklin P. Williams were approved as presented.

Manager Frasco presented the manager's report for the month. He reviewed the balance sheet and budget as well as the outage summary and safety reports. The manager advised that employees were going through ATS training and that next month the cooperative would be sending three employees to North Carolina for additional training. The manager advised that cooperative crews were very busy and had installed 400 feet of underground along with 13 new services, 10 temporary services, and five new irrigation systems had been completed. He reported

on the damage to the cooperative's system from the severe storms in Mason County. He discussed the NRECA Region V meeting in September in Springfield, Illinois. He reported on Adams & Associates with regard to Phase I of the new building construction and also reported on the rate comparison report prepared by the AIEC. He advised that he had offered a position to Pam Davis who was currently employed by the National Bank of Petersburg. Mrs. Davis will replace Judy Powers when she retires early next year. The Manager also reported that the summer worker was doing well. He reviewed outage data for the period 1998 through 2002. The Manager's report was accepted as presented.

Director's Special Occasion vouchers for the month in the amount of \$2,070.24 were approved as presented.

Director Brooks reported on the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives meeting for the month. The AIEC 2003 annual meeting was scheduled for July 31 through August 1, 2003.

The Board discussed the June 2003 Annual Meeting.

The Manager reviewed the Capital Credit Estate Refund Report. He reviewed the 2002 Capital Credit Allocation Factor.

The Board considered board meeting dates and times for 2003/2004. It was moved and seconded that the meeting dates and times, as presented, be approved. Motion carried.

Director Allspach and members of the Committee presented their report of the trip to view various cooperative headquarters. The Board reviewed in detail their findings and recommendations.

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, July 22, 2003, at 7:00 p.m. There being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.



# MENARD



## NEWS

**Menard Electric Cooperative**

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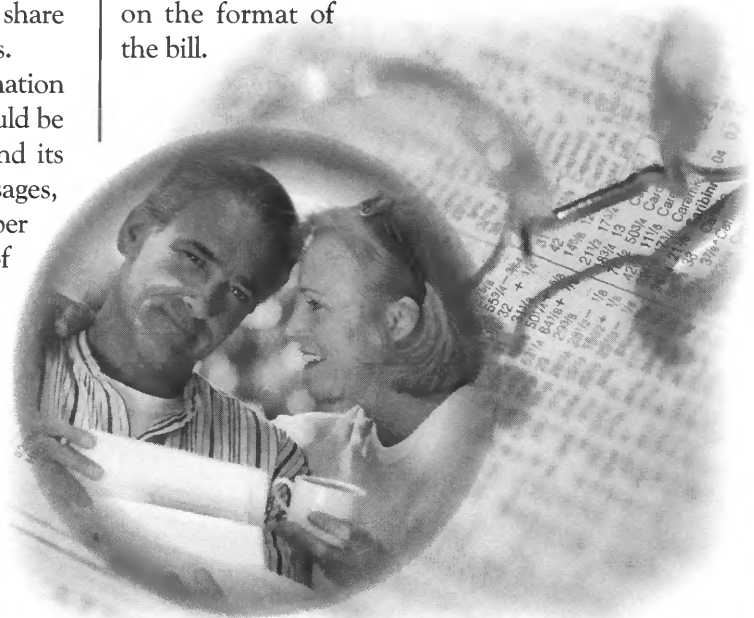
## New bill

For the last several months the cooperative has been working on a new monthly bill. For many years the cooperative has been sending a bill to its members in a post card format. Needless to say, it has been difficult to include a lot of information on such a small bill. Within the next few months the cooperative will be introducing a new letter sized bill. This new bill will give the cooperative an opportunity to share additional information with its members.

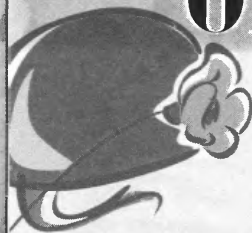
The bill will include detailed information about electric usage and charges. It should be easier to read due to the large print and its layout. It will include a space for messages, which will be directed at particular member areas or rate classes. The reverse side of the bill will provide information about the definition of rate classes and the terminology used on the front of the bill. Messages on the front of the bill will change periodically to advise you of upcoming events at the cooperative. A section of the bill will include historical data related to your account. For those

members that have more than one account, we hope to be able to group bills into one envelope, which will make your record keeping easier, and decrease the cooperative's mailing costs.

You should be receiving the new bill by the end of the year. Should you wish additional clarification, we welcome you questions on the format of the bill.



## OFFICE CLOSING



Your cooperative will be closed Tuesday, November 11 in honor of Veterans Day.

The Cooperative office will also be closed on Thursday and Friday, Nov. 27 and 28, to observe the Thanksgiving Holiday with family and friends.



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# Students encouraged to apply for 2004 IEC Memorial Scholarships



**M**enard Electric Cooperative Manager Lynn Frasco has announced that for the ninth consecutive year, the Illinois electric cooperatives will award \$1,000 academic scholarships to high school seniors. The four scholarships are being awarded through the Illinois Electric Cooperative (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

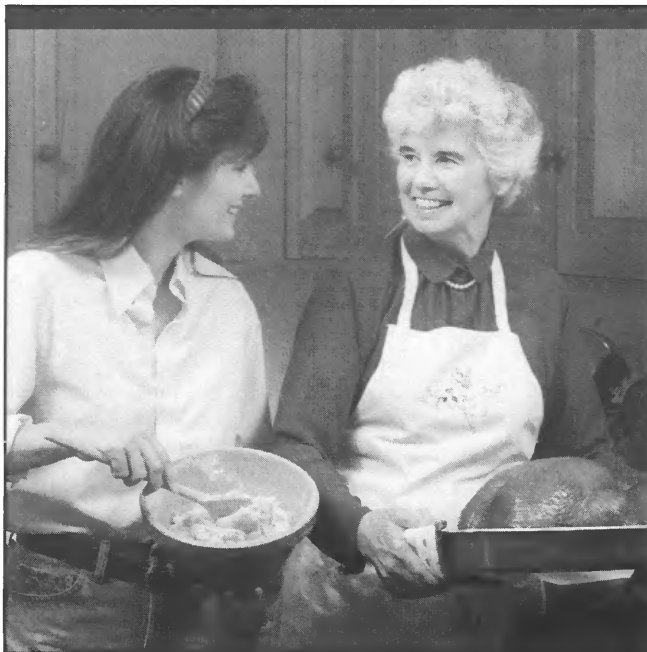
High school seniors pursuing a college education in the state of Illinois are eligible to participate in the program. Three of the four scholarships will be awarded to the child of an electric cooperative member. The other \$1,000 award will go to the child of an electric cooperative director or employee. Deadline for applications to be returned to the cooperative is January 1, 2004.

“The purpose of the scholarship program is to assist electric cooperative youth while honoring past rural leaders through memo-

rial gifts,” said Frasco. “Menard Electric 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, which 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 at (800) 872-1203, or ask your high school guidance counselor.



The power of human connections is a powerful thing. We give thanks to you our co-op members, our family.



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# BOARD MEETING REPORT

**Menard Electric Cooperative  
From the Board Room  
July 22, 2003**

**M**enard Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, July 22, 2003, in the office at Petersburg. President Gary L. Martin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Directors present in addition to President Martin were: Michael E. Carls, Jerry Brooks, James G. Graff, Roy H. Seaney, D. Jay Frye, Edward Allsach, Warren Goetsch, and Steve Worner. Also present were Manager Lynn A. Frasco, System Engineer Jim Rechner and Attorney Charles K. Smith. After roll call, the agenda for the meeting was approved.

Minutes of the June 24, 2003, board meeting were reviewed and approved as presented.

The board reviewed and approved inventory of work orders for the month of June in the amount of \$63,032.63.

The board reviewed June 2003 general fund checks #11110 - #11348 amounting to \$1,200,654.31. After discussion, the payment of bills was approved.

The board reviewed 61 membership applications and 20 service permits for the month. The membership applications and service permits were approved and accepted.

It was moved and seconded that the agreements for electric service for Anna Lou McGrew, Ann M. Kolaz and W. Thomas Strode were approved as presented.

Jim Rechner presented the Engineering Department Report.

Manager Frasco presented the Manager's Report for the month. He reviewed the Outage Summary and Safety Reports. The Manager advised that the RUS Field Representative would be in the office to put together a preliminary loan package for the cooperative's new headquarters building. The Manager advised that at the Manager's conference there had been discussions with regard to the new regulations involving drug and alcohol regulations for CDL drivers license. He also reported that the AIEC is still putting together the survey results from the survey distributed to the members at the annual meeting.

He advised that the new employee, Pam Davis, started July 17, 2003, and was doing a good job. He reported during the Manager's conference that Federated Insurance reported that Menard was leading the state in Workers Compensation claims.

Attorney Smith reported on actions taken by Attorney Logsdon with regard to the motion for Adequate Assurance in the Horizon Case. Details of the case were discussed. There was a discussion by the board about changing deposit requirements for cooperative members.

The Manager discussed with the board the status of the design plan for the cooperative's new headquarters building. He advised that the architect was coming to the cooperative's office on July 30 to meet with various employees to discuss floor plans. The architect was also planning to meet with the board on July 31 to discuss the new building plans.

The Manager discussed with the board the possibility

of having a strategic planning session. After discussion by the board it was decided not to schedule a strategic planning session this year, but wait until next year. It was the opinion of the board that there were too many things going on this year with the new building and the new member billing system.

The manager discussed the status of the customer information system installation. He advised that the installation was proceeding and that several employees had gone to North Carolina for extensive training. He also reported that everyone in the office was going to a cooperative in Indiana, which already had the ATS system, to discuss the system with the employees of that cooperative.

He advised that there had been some errors in the conversion and that the "go live" date had been moved back to September. He advised that the first billing using the new system would be October 1.

He discussed scheduling the Sporting Clays event. It was the consensus of the board to schedule the event for early November.

The Manager presented the financial report for the month of July 2003. Year to date margins totaled \$50,583 compared to \$454,741 for the same period in 2002. Equity as of July 31, 2003, was 36.62 percent and the number of members served was 10,043 compared to 9,869 a year ago. The average Farm and Residential bill was \$133.91 compared to \$149.33 a year ago. Net Utility Plant at the end of July 2003 was \$25,907,855 compared to \$25,136,296 a year ago. The cooperative continues to meet the requirements of its lenders RUS, FFB, and NRUCFC. The Manager's report was accepted as presented.

There were no director's special occasion vouchers for the month.

Director Goetsch reported on the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives meeting for the month.

Manager Frasco reported on the Capital Credit Estate Refund Report.

The NRECA Region V Meeting in September and the possible attendees were discussed.

The Manager discussed with the board the recent correspondence from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources with regard to the new utility license for the Sangamon Valley Trail property. Recent correspondence indicated that there would be an annual fee of \$35 or a full term payment of \$75. After discussion by the Board, it was the consensus not to pay these fees, since they had already been paid.

Director Carls reported on Soyland/CCS activities for the month.


The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, August 26, 2003, at 7:00 p.m. There being no further business to come before the board, it was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

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# Season's Greetings

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

## COOPERATIVE PERSONNEL

Lynn A. Frasco, Manager	James T. Haddick	Seth Parker
Janey L. Ames	Robert Hanner	Douglas S. Pettit
Randolph J. Avery	Dwaine E. Heyen	Larry D. Power
Brandon Blair	Christopher P. Hinton	Judith A. Powers
Mark A. Bradley	Alan D. Horn	James Rechner
Cheryl Buerkett	Wayne E. Jones	Rhonda K. Satorius
Robert P. Burris	M. Orene Lynn	Leo. P. Savage
Stuart Churchill	Darlene M. McGee	Timothy Schafer
Terry L. Cutright	James K. Masten	Troy S. Shafer
W. R. (Casey) Duncheon	Brock D. Meyer	Corey M. Stone
Terry W. Entwistle	Trish Michels	John H. Whitehurst
M. Suzanne Freeland	John D. (Dan) Morgan	

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You can help make the lineman's job safer by following these simple suggestions:

- Don't hang birdhouses or basketball goals on electrical poles. The lineman will have a hard time climbing around them, even though you think they're perfectly placed.
- Don't landscape around poles with flower boxes or birdhouses. Keep the area free of obstacles.
- Don't hang or post signs on utility poles. These could cause the lineman to slip while climbing.
- Don't use electrical equipment for your target practice. The damage done not only could harm you, but also could cause an outage affecting hundreds of people.

Also, when the opportunity comes, please let a lineman know you appreciate his efforts.



## Happy Holidays from your electric cooperative

Our members are part of our family  
We shine as one



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The power of human connections

## OFFICE CLOSINGS

Menard Electric Cooperative will be closed December 24 and 25 in observance of Christmas. The office will also be closed on January 1 for the New Year's Day holiday.



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## **ACCESS NUMBERS:**

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Bloomington – (309) 831-0005  
Springfield – (217) 303-0002  
Lincoln – (217) 838-0005  
Decatur – (217) 619-0005.

# BOARD MEETING REPORT

**Menard Electric Cooperative**  
**From the Board Room**  
**September 1, 2003**

**M**enard Electric Cooperative's board of directors held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, September 2, 2003, in the office at Petersburg. President Gary L. Martin called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Directors present in addition to President Martin were: Michael E. Carls, Jerry Brooks, James G. Graff, Roy H. Seaney, D. Jay Frye, Warren Goetsch and Steve Worner. Director Edward Allspach was absent. Also present were Manager Lynn A. Frasco, Manager of Accounting & Information Systems Chris Hinton and Attorney Charles K. Smith. After roll call, the agenda for the meeting was approved.

Minutes of the July 22, 2003, board meeting were reviewed and approved as presented.

The board reviewed and approved inventory of work orders for the month of July in the amount of \$49,848.94.

The board reviewed July 2003 general fund checks #11349 - #11504 amounting to \$1,456,498.23. After discussion, the payment of bills was approved.

The board reviewed 41 membership applications and 14 service permits for the month. The membership applications and service permits were approved and accepted.

It was moved and seconded that the agreements for electric service for Richard Knackmuhs was approved as presented.

Chris Hinton presented the Accounting and Information System Department Report as well as to review the CFC Key Ratio Trend Analysis and RUS Borrower Profile.

Manager Frasco presented the manager's report for the month. He reviewed the outage summary and safety reports. He reminded the board that it was time to consider the non-union salary adjustments and such were considered during the month of September. It was the consensus of the board that the full board would address this matter. Manager Frasco reviewed with the board the reasons for east coast blackout and the potential ramifications of the investigation related to the blackout.

He advised that there were still a few employees that had not received the ATS training and the cooperative was scheduled to go live on September 15, but that might be pushed back another week. He stressed to the board that the coop was getting close to going live and would have a sample bill, probably next month for the board to review.

Manager Frasco reviewed the load control summary and advised that it had been discovered that there were problems with the load control signals reaching certain irrigation systems. He discussed the need for changes in the load control system. Manager Frasco advised that cooperative employees had discovered that many irrigation systems were not shutting off and apparently the signal was not reaching those systems.

The manager reviewed plans from Adams 7 Associates with regard to the cooperative's new headquarters building.

He reviewed the plans for the building, both interior and exterior. He reviewed with the board, Adam's proposed agreement for professional services and discussed the terms of that agreement. After review and discussion of the terms of the agreement, the board directed Manager Frasco to negotiate the terms with Adams & Associates.

Manager Frasco reviewed with the board the Certified Comfort Home Rebate Program. He discussed the terms and provisions of that program. After discussion by the board, it was the consensus to review that rebate program and possibly revise it.

The manager presented the financial report for the month of August 2003. Year to date margins totaled \$250,690 compared to \$944,068 for the same period in 2002. Equity as of August 31, 2003 was 37.29 percent and the number of members served was 9,989 compared to 9,893 a year ago. The average farm and residential bill was \$135.59 compared to \$153.98 a year ago. Net utility plant at the end of August 2003 was \$25,990,497 compared to \$25,147,936 a year ago. The cooperative continues to meet the requirements of its lenders RUS, FFB, and NRUFCF. The manager's report was accepted as presented.

It was moved and seconded that director's special occasion vouchers in the amount of \$1,374.96 as presented be approved.

Due to the length of the meeting, the AIEC Report was postponed until next month.

Manager Frasco reported on the Capital Credit Estate Refund Report.

Manager Frasco reminded the board that the NRECA annual meeting was scheduled for New Orleans on February 15 - 18, 2004. There was a discussion about those directors who might attend the meeting.

Manager Frasco reviewed with the board the application of the RE Safety Accreditation. It was moved that the application be approved.

Manager reviewed correspondence he has received from the Illinois Midland Railroad with regard to the extension of the cooperative's lease for the pole yard at Petersburg. It was moved and seconded that the lease extension be approved on the terms as set forth therein.

Director Carls reported on Soyland/CCS activities for the month.

President Martin advised that representatives of Illinois Rural Electric Cooperative and Adams Electric Cooperative to discuss cooperative matters had approached him. It was the consensus of the board that President Martin advises that Menard would consider participating in any such meeting.

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, September 28, 2003, at 7:00 p.m. There being no further business to come before the board, it was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.