

MENARD

Menard Electric Cooperative



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



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Thanksgiving Storm

About noon on Wednesday, November 24, 2004, a winter storm hit Central Illinois. Several inches of heavy wet snow that turned to ice blanketed the area. Winds with gusts in excess of 50 mph and temperatures dropping into the mid-teens hampered recovery efforts. Roads became dangerous with downed power lines, trees, and power poles adding to the misery. This storm struck on the eve of Thanksgiving, interfering with the holiday plans of many people in Central Illinois. There were many plans changed or canceled altogether due to this storm.

At the height of the storm on Wednesday evening, up to 4,500 members were out of service. Initially, the problems were caused by Ameren Transmission Lines damaged by the storm. The transmission line failure cut power to several Menard substations, shutting off power to large areas of our system.

By midnight on Wednesday, crews from four other electric cooperatives began to arrive to assist the crews from Menard already on the job restoring service to our members. By Friday morning four additional contract tree trimming crews from Burton Tree Service were helping to remove fallen trees throughout the service area. In addition to restoring power to Menard members, our crews were responding to numerous calls from public safety personnel to remove downed power lines, which were safety hazards and were blocking roads throughout the area.

At one point during the storm we had 100 reports of lines down and broken cross arms. In addition there were reports of 40 broken poles. This has been the worst storm since the Ice Storm of 1978.

We would like to thank crews from the following organizations for their assistance during this storm:

- Farmers Mutual Electric Company, Geneseo, Illinois
- Monroe County Electric Cooperative, Waterloo, Illinois



- Southeastern Illinois Electric Cooperative, Eldorado, Illinois
- Soyland Power Cooperative, Jacksonville, Illinois
- Burton Tree Service, Roodhouse, Illinois

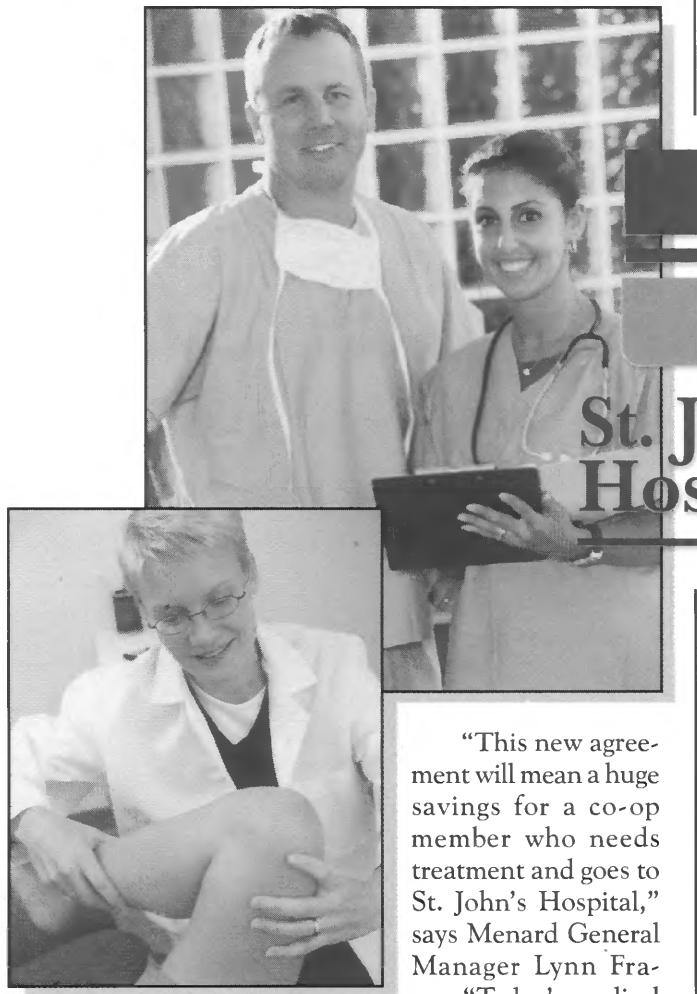
We also want to acknowledge all the employees of Menard Electric Cooperative who worked throughout the restoration efforts to bring electric service back to our members. Particular thanks to be given to our line employees who worked many long hours in difficult weather conditions and who missed the holidays with their families in order to rebuild the damaged portions of our electrical distribution system as quickly as possible.

The Board would like to thank our members for their patience and understanding. We would also like to thank the many members who called the office reporting lines down and broken poles.

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

St. John's Hospital offers savings to Menard members

Members of Menard Electric Cooperative who have no medical insurance are eligible to save on the cost of services from St. John's Hospital in Springfield. The savings are being offered by St. John's to help those who, for whatever reason, are uninsured and are not eligible for healthcare benefits such as Medicare or Medicaid.



“This new agreement will mean a huge savings for a co-op member who needs treatment and goes to St. John’s Hospital,” says Menard General Manager Lynn Frasco. “Today’s medical procedures are often expensive, but this plan makes them more affordable for the consumers who may be most vulnerable to a financial hardship.”

A 30 percent discount is available to active co-op members and their spouses and dependents. It applies to inpatient and outpatient charges from St. John’s Hospital, but not to physicians’ charges or services from other companies. Examples of covered outpatient services include Home Health Care, Home Infusion Therapy, Ath-

letiCare, Wellness Care, and the Mind/Body Medicine Program.

St. John’s is offering the savings to active members of Menard Electric Cooperative. Patients covered by insurance typically receive a negotiated discount on medical services provided by hospitals. St. John’s also offers a prompt payment discount and will work with the uninsured patient to set-up an affordable monthly payment plan.

Co-op members can bring a copy of a recent electric bill to the hospital upon registration to show their membership. The hospital will then issue a member card, to be used for subsequent visits. The 30 percent discount will automatically be applied to any charges billed for St. John’s Hospital.

“St. John’s has a long tradition of providing quality health care services to the people of central Illinois. We are pleased that we were able to work with the Cooperative to offer a special savings plan to its members,” said

Richard Carlson, FACHE, executive vice president, St. John’s Hospital. “We hope this agreement will serve as a model for other organizations. These types of arrangements help us fulfill our commitment to providing the very best health care to all our patients.”

Members with questions on eligibility or services included in the discount program can call (217) 544-6464, ext. 55615 at St. John’s Hospital. Taking a recent electric bill is the easiest, fastest way to show membership when registering at the hospital, located at 800 E. Carpenter Street, just north of downtown Springfield.

More information about the hospital can also be found on their web site at st-johns.org. The Patient Services tab located at the top of the opening page includes a complete listing of services offered at St. John’s. A Quick Links area explains services offered at the Bone and Joint Institute, the Carol Jo Vecchie Women and Children’s Center, Prairie Heart Institute and the Cancer Institute at St. John’s Hospital.

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MENARD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

APPLICATION AUTOMATIC PAYMENT PLAN

If you would like to sign-up for the automatic payment plan, then fill out the following form. Send form and a VOIDED CHECK or DEPOSIT SLIP to Menard Electric Cooperative, PO Box 200, Petersburg, Illinois.

NAME: _____ SS#: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE# _____

MAP LOCATION# _____

BANK NAME _____

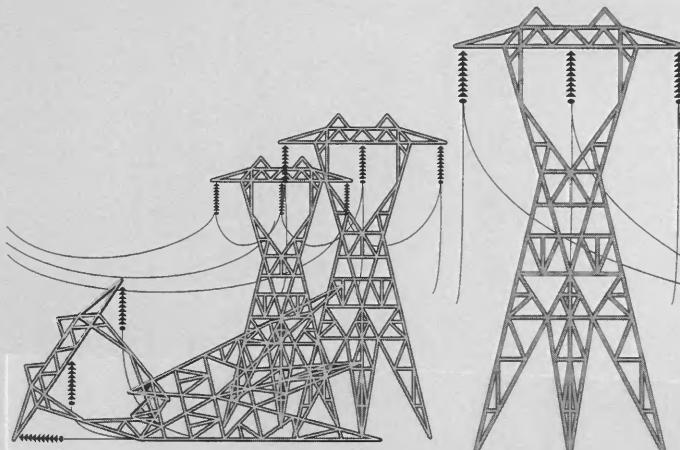
BANK ACCOUNT# _____

TYPE OF ACCOUNT Checking Savings

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

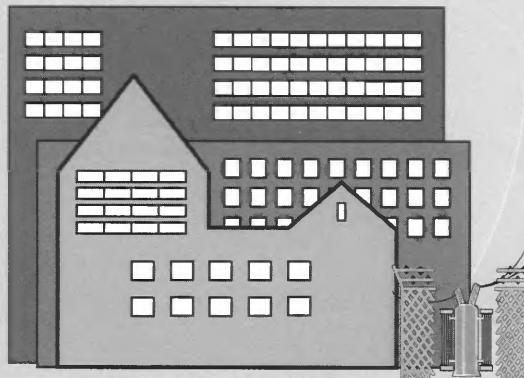
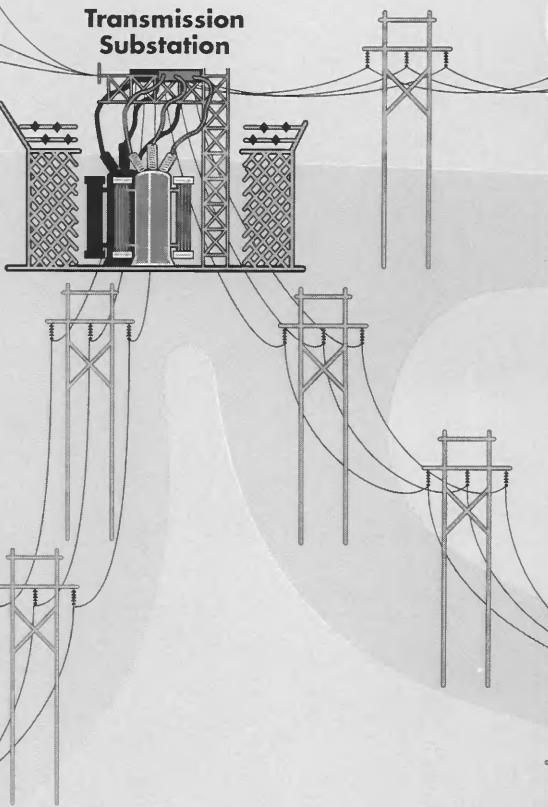
Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

What happens



High-Voltage Transmission Lines

1. Transmission towers and lines that supply power to one or more transmission substations rarely fail. However, when damage does occur-usually due to high winds or ice buildup-these towers and lines must be repaired before other parts of the distribution system are inspected, because they serve thousands (or tens of thousands) of people.

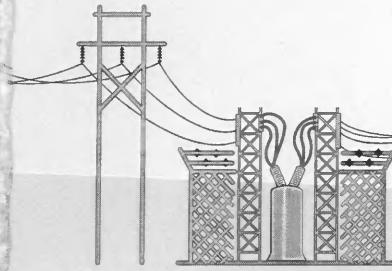


Large Industrial User

Restoring the power after a thunderstorm, tornado, ice storm or flood involves much more than just flipping a switch at a substation or pulling a tree off a downed power line. Highly trained workers from your rural electric cooperative, crews from neighboring co-ops and even specialists from the Illinois Association of Electric Cooperatives will work together around the clock to restore service in areas affected by severe weather.

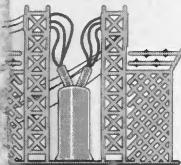
Shown here are the steps co-ops follow in restoring power. At each stage, the primary goal is getting the greatest number of co-op members back on line in the shortest time possible.

What happens during a power outage?



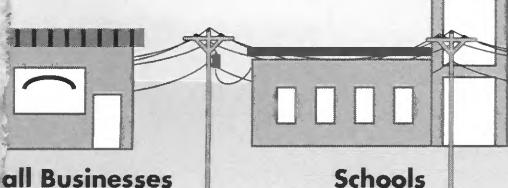
Local Distribution Substation

- 2.** A co-op usually has several local distribution substations, each serving hundreds or thousands of co-op members. When a major outage takes place, these substations usually are checked first to see if the problem is in the transmission system to the substations or the substations themselves.



Local Distribution Substation

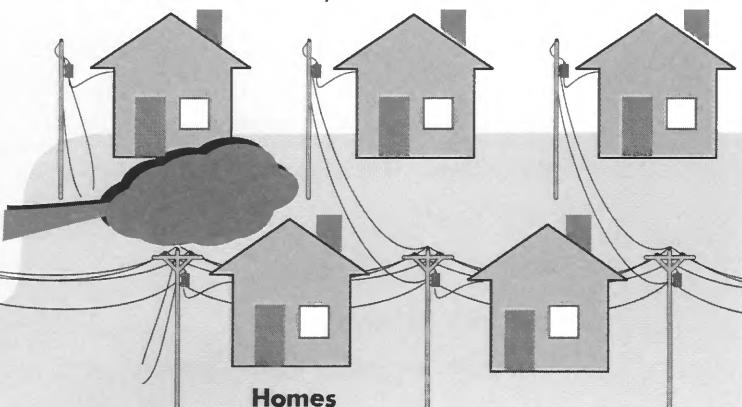
- 3.** If the problem cannot be isolated at a local distribution substation, the next step is to check the distribution lines that carry power to groups of customers such as towns or housing developments. In Illinois, the largest cause of outages is fallen trees, which is why your co-op has an ongoing right-of-way maintenance program.



Small Businesses

Schools

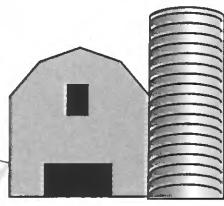
- 4.** Then, line crews work on outages that are more localized by inspecting the final supply lines-called tap lines-that carry power to utility poles or underground transformers outside small businesses, schools and homes.



Homes

- 5.** Finally, isolated outages-caused, for example, by a damaged service line between a transformer and an individual home—are repaired. If you or a family member depend on life support, call your co-op before an outage occurs. Then your co-op can make every effort to prioritize power restoration to you—or can advise you to seek shelter elsewhere.

Make sure you report any outage to your electric co-op. This will help line crews isolate the problem and repair it as soon as possible.



Farms

Credit Card Convenience



Your cooperative is accepting payment for electric accounts and other invoiced amounts by VISA or MasterCard. The cooperative is charging a \$3.00 transaction processing fee to accept payment by VISA or MasterCard for amounts up to \$200. Payments more than \$200 will be charged a transaction fee of 3 percent of the payment amount. You may either stop

in the office or you may authorize the cooperative to charge your monthly bill to your credit card by telephone or in writing. There are three ways to pay with your credit card:

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



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

VISA or MasterCard

Signature: _____ Date: _____

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



REBATES

■ Water Heater Rebates and Rate

This water heater rebate program is available on a **one-time** basis to all members who agree to replace an existing fossil fuel fired water heater with an electric water heater that has at least a 40-gallon capacity. If the new electric water heater is installed in a new structure or replaces a fossil fuel fired water heater you will receive a \$100 rebate. For the second new water heater you will receive \$75. If the new electric water heater re-

places an existing electric water heater you will receive a \$75 rebate. To qualify for the rebate you must sign up for the cooperative's load management program. In addition to the rebate above you will qualify for a 3 cent per kilowatt-hour rate reduction on kilowatt-hours used between 600 and 1,000 every month of the year. This could save you up to \$144 each year in addition to the rebate.

■ Geothermal Rebates & Rates

The rebate is \$600 per unit regardless of the size of the unit installed. The unit can be installed in either a new or existing home. If you install a geothermal heating and cooling system you will also be eligible for your cooperative's geothermal rate, if

you have an all electric home. Under this rate you will be billed 5 cents per kilowatt-hour for all kilowatt-hours used between 1,000 and 6,000 for the billing months of October through May each year.

■ Heat Pump Rebates

Your cooperative is offering a \$200 rebate regardless of the size of the unit installed.

■ Certified Comfort Home Rebate

If you build a new home to the standards described in the Certified Comfort Home book you will receive a one-time \$100 rebate.

If you have any questions on these rebates give the cooperative a call at (800) 872-1203 or check out the cooperative's Web site at www.menard.com.

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 26, 2004**

Menard Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, October 26, 2004, 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: Edward Allspach, Michael E. Carls, Roy H. Seaney, D. Jay Frye, Warren Goetsch, Steven Worner, James Graff and Jerry W. Brooks. 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 28, 2004 board meeting were reviewed and approved as presented.

The board reviewed September 2004 General Fund Checks #14039 - 14230 amounting to \$1,965,264.36. After discussion, the payment of bills was approved.

It was moved and seconded that the Inventory of Work orders for the month of September in the amount of \$65,425.84 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Manager Frasco reported that there were 53 Membership Applications and 16 Service Permits for September. Agreements for Electric Service for Mathew Swain, David & Terri Rush, the Correctional Center, and for Rodney L. Stock were approved as presented.

Manager Frasco asked the Staff to present their 2005 Budgets. Each staff member presented their budgets for next year and answered questions concerning their budgets.

Manager Frasco presented the Manager's Report for the month. He reviewed the Outage Summary and Safety Reports. Under the operations report the Manager discussed the Geo Thermal Open House and the Lineman Rodeo. He discussed the status of the building project and acknowledged that the cooperative was finalizing an Acknowledgement of Letter of Credit with its Contractor. He advised that he believed the project was coming along very well. He discussed with the Board a possible tour of the building if desired by any of the Board Members. He discussed the meeting he and Attorney Smith had with Realtors Peter and Judy Oleson and Patricia VanEtten. He advised that the meeting had gone well and the cooperative would co-list its seven properties with those realtors. He discussed the manner of marketing the properties as proposed by the Realtors and the commission to be charged. He advised that the work was still on going with regard to the Sherman Franchises and he was going back to the Sherman City Council on November 2, 2004 to review with the Board a modified draft of the proposed Franchise Agreement. He discussed the Dispute Resolution Meeting on October 5, 2004 with regard to the Latham case with CIPS. He advised that the meeting had gone well as moderated by retired Judge, Robert Welch. He advised that Judge Welch had prepared a proposed Agreement reflecting the Agreement reached in the Dispute Resolution. Manager Frasco advised that it was a rough draft and would be revised, but Manager Frasco felt that the Dispute Resolution had worked very well. He discussed the terms and provisions of the Memorandum of Agreement from the Dispute Resolution Meeting. Manager Frasco and Attorney Smith discussed with the Board the status of the matters with regard to Turris. Manager Frasco advised that the cooperative was receiving a check in payment of utility services from an entity called ICG,

LLC that stood for the International Coal Group a Limited Liability Company. He also discussed conversations he has with representatives from the former Turris Coal Company. There was discussion about the need for negotiating a new contract with the new entity and obtaining a membership from the new entity. Attorney Smith advised that he had a discussion with the cooperative's attorney in Kentucky, Douglas Logsdon. Mr. Logsdon indicated that he had been attempting to negotiate an agreement with Horizon with regard to pre-petition and post petition debt owed to Menard. Horizon's attorneys had made an offer to pay all the pre-petition debt. Most of the post petition debt was related to late payment penalties. Attorney Logsdon will continue discussions with Horizon. Attorney Smith advised that he had discussed with Attorney Logsdon whether or not the cooperative would now enter into negotiations with ICG as to a new contract. Attorney Logsdon advised that he would look into this matter further, but felt that it was possible the cooperative could proceed with negotiations for a new contract. Manager Frasco discussed with the Board the possible terms of the contract with regard to a security deposit. Attorney Smith advised that there were still concerns as to whether or not the new entity had assumed the previous contract with the cooperative.

The Manager presented the Financial Report for the Month of September 2004. Year to date margins were \$613,480 compared to \$626,937 the previous year. Equity as of the end of September was 38.96% and the number of members served was 10,092 compared to 10,098 last year. Net Utility Plant at the end of September was \$26,817,262 compared to \$26,005,834 a year ago. The cooperative continues to meet the requirements of RUS, CFC and the FFB.

There were no Directors' Special Occasion vouchers for the month.

Director Brooks reported on AIEC activities for the month of September.

Director Carls reported that there were no Soyland/CCS activities. Manager Frasco reported on the RUS meeting on October 7th, which he had attended.

The Manager reviewed the Capital Credit refund report.

The Manager presented the second reading of a proposed policy with regard to System Reliability – End Gun. After review the board approved the new policy.

Manager Frasco presented to the Board the first reading of a revised policy related to the Area Serviceman's Phone Reimbursement. The Board agrees to have the second reading of the policy next month.

The Board approved the CFC loan documents for the new headquarters building and the accompanying resolutions.

President Martin discussed whether the Board was interested in scheduling a meeting with the Board of Corn Belt Energy. A suggestion was made that rather than Corn Belt that the Board schedule a meeting with the Board of Spoon River Electric Cooperative.

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, November 23, 2004 at 6:00PM. There being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

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

MENARD



NEWS

Menard Electric Cooperative

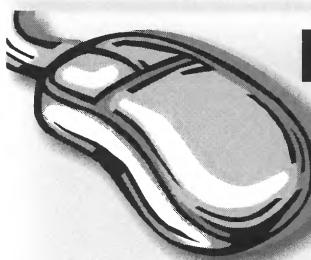
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2005 ANNUAL MEETING

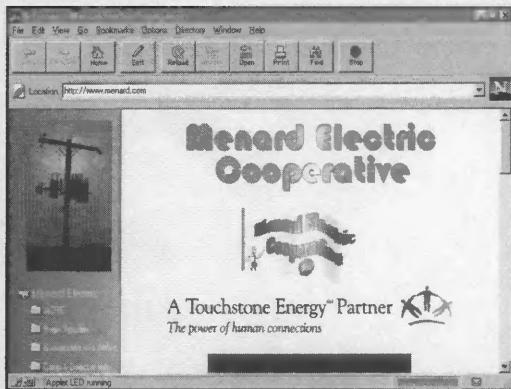
The 2005 Annual Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, June 4 at PORTA High School in Petersburg, IL. A free pork chop dinner will be served beginning at 5:00 p.m. and the business meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m. There will be an election of directors from districts 3, 7, and 8. The incumbents in these districts are Michael Carls, James Graff, and Warren Goetsch, respectively.



Keeping in touch with your cooperative

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

www.menard.com



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

We're Improving Your Electric Service's Reliability

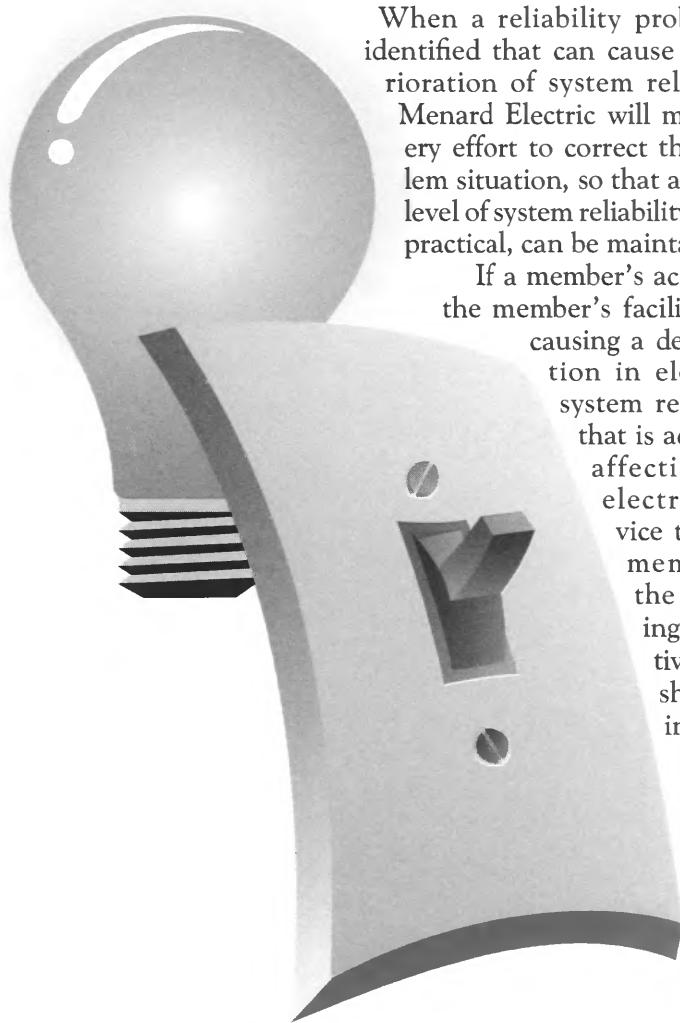
Below is a new Policy adopted by the Cooperative designed to improve system reliability.

ELECTRICAL SYSTEM RELIABILITY

Menard Electric Cooperative strives to maintain the highest possible electric system reliability for our members. System reliability standards require that Menard Electric Cooperative deliver energy service at acceptable voltage levels, over a distribution system that is properly sized to meet the load requirements of our members, and to provide continuous service so that any outages or interruptions are kept to a minimum.

When a reliability problem is identified that can cause a deterioration of system reliability, Menard Electric will make every effort to correct the problem situation, so that as high a level of system reliability, that is practical, can be maintained.

If a member's actions or the member's facilities are causing a deterioration in electrical system reliability that is adversely affecting the electric service to other members, the following corrective action should be initiated.



Step 1: Verbal Request

A Menard Electric employee will contact the member to discuss the nature of the reliability problem and the perceived cause, so that the member can be fully informed as to the need for corrective action, as well as what corrective action the member is required to complete. The member is expected to commit to a reasonable schedule that fully addresses the action the member needs to complete in order to correct the member caused reliability deficiency.

Step 2: Written Request

Should the member not agree with the need for corrective action, or fails to meet the initial schedule for completing corrective action, then an employee on the Menard Electric staff will provide the member with a written outline of the nature of the electrical reliability problem, the corrective action that the member was requested to complete, and a revised schedule that the member is expected to meet that should solve the member caused reliability deficiency.

Step 3: Cost to Member of Menard Electric's Modifications

In the event that the member fails to take the necessary corrective action that was directed in the written request, Menard Electric Cooperative will notify the member of the modifications to the Cooperative's facilities that Menard Electric will make to correct the electric reliability problems being caused by the member. The cost of the modifications performed by Menard Electric to correct the member caused electric system reliability deficiency will be billed to the member.

MENARD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

APPLICATION AUTOMATIC PAYMENT PLAN

If you would like to sign-up for the automatic payment plan, then fill out the following form. Send form and a VOIDED CHECK or DEPOSIT SLIP to Menard Electric Cooperative, PO Box 200, Petersburg, Illinois.

NAME: _____ SS#: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE# _____

MAP LOCATION# _____

BANK NAME: _____

BANK ACCOUNT# _____

TYPE OF ACCOUNT Checking Savings

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

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

BOARD MEETING REPORT

**Menard Electric Cooperative
From the Board Room
November 23, 2004**

Menard Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, November 23, 2004, 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, Roy H. Seaney, D. Jay Frye, Warren Goetsch, Steven Worner, James Graff and Jerry W. Brooks. Director Edward Allspach 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 October 26, 2004 board meeting were reviewed and approved as presented.

The board reviewed October 2004 General Fund Checks #14231 - 14302 amounting to \$1,820,286.11. After discussion, the payment of bills was approved.

It was moved and seconded that the Inventory of Work orders for the month of October and a Supplemental Inventory of Work orders in the amount of \$166,717.55 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Manager Frasco reviewed the Membership Applications and Service Permits for October. Agreements for Electric Service for Floyd Bauser, Stephen Wise, and the Sierra Land Co. II were approved as presented.

Manager Frasco presented the Manager's Report for the month. He reviewed the Outage Summary and Safety Reports. Under the operations report the Manager discussed a Health Savings Plan and a Health Retirement Plan. He reviewed the provisions of each plan and advised that the Staff would be meeting with the Union to discuss implementation of one or both of said plans. He discussed the status of the building project. He advised that some interest had been expressed in the cooperative's properties around the square. Manager Frasco discussed those individuals who had expressed interest in those properties. Manager Frasco gave the Board an update on the Horizon Bankruptcy/Turris proceedings. Attorney Smith advised that the cooperative's attorney was recommending that the Board accept the counter offer to resolve the cure issue as to the Horizon bankruptcy proceedings. Manager Frasco expressed the desire to obtain those funds prior to the end of the year. Attorney Smith discussed with the Board the pending adversary proceedings whereby the liquidating trustee was bringing suit against Menard and 600 other entities on the alleged preferential transfers. Attorney Smith indicated that the cooperative would be receiving a complaint whereby the Trustee was contending that the monies paid to Menard by

Turris, within 90 days of the filing of the Horizon Bankruptcy, were preferential transfers and therefore, the Trustee was requesting that Menard be required to return those funds to the Bankruptcy Trustee. Attorney Smith advised that Attorney Logsdon felt that Menard did have certain statutory defenses to this claim, but could possibly have to settle the matter for some sum of money to resolve the issue with the Trustee. It was moved and seconded that the cooperative accept the offer to resolve the cure dispute with Horizon. Manager Frasco reviewed the AIEC Meeting Survey Summary

The Manager presented the Financial Report for the Month of October 2004. Year to date margins were \$636,053 compared to \$687,567 the previous year. Equity as of the end of October was 39.11% and the number of members served was 10,108 compared to 9,969 last years. Net Utility Plant at the end of October was \$26,932,635 compared to \$26,220,201 a year ago. The cooperative continues to meet the requirements of RUS, CFC and the FFB.

Directors' Special Occasion vouchers for the month in the amount of \$3,434.21 were approved.

Director Goetsch reported on AIEC activities for the month of October.

Director Carls reported on Soyland/CCS activities.

The Manager reviewed the Capital Credit refund report.

The Manager discussed the approval of the NRECA 401k Adoption Agreement. The Board approved it.

The Manager reviewed the preliminary 2005 Budget.

The Board had the second reading of the Area Serviceman Telephone Policy and Telephone Reimbursement Policy. The Board approved it.

The Board passed a Resolution to apply to the CFC Integrity Fund for \$20,020.

Manager Frasco reviewed the Sherman Franchise Agreement. After discussion by the Board the Franchise Agreement was approved.

Manager Frasco reviewed with the Board the CFC Training held on November 3rd at the AIEC.

The Manager reviewed the 2003 RUS Borrower Statistical Profile with the Board.

President Martin discussed the proposed meeting with Corn Belt Energy. It was the consensus of the Board to schedule the joint meeting.

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, December 28th 2004 at 5:00PM. There being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

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NEWS

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2005 ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, June 4, 2005 ■ PORTA High School

The 2005 Annual Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, June 4, 2005, at PORTA High School in Petersburg. In addition to the election of three Directors, one each from Districts 3, 7, and 8, there will be door prizes and a free dinner. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m.



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

Credit Card Convenience



Your cooperative is accepting payment for electric accounts and other invoiced amounts by VISA or MasterCard. The cooperative is charging a \$3.00 transaction processing fee to accept payment by VISA or MasterCard for amounts up to \$200. Payments more than \$200 will be charged a transaction fee of 3 percent of the payment amount. You may either stop

in the office or you may authorize the cooperative to charge your monthly bill to your credit card by telephone or in writing. There are three ways to pay with your credit card:

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



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	_____	_____

Credit Card No. - - -

Estimated Date Month Year

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: _____

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

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 ■ 10 MB of WebSpace
- Unlimited Access ■ Free Technical Support
- Speeds up to 56K ■ One bill for Long Distance and Internet
- 5 Email Accounts ■ 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.



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

LONG DISTANCE SERVICE

Available from

Menard Electric Cooperative

Sign up today for Menard Electric's long distance business and residential phone service and call someone you love for less. Fill out the form below to get started today!

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

4.5¢ 4.9¢

All calls in Illinois

All calls out of state

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

- 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 12.9¢ 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.

**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

MENARD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

APPLICATION AUTOMATIC PAYMENT PLAN

If you would like to sign-up for the automatic payment plan, then fill out the following form. Send form and a VOIDED CHECK or DEPOSIT SLIP to Menard Electric Cooperative, PO Box 200, Petersburg, Illinois.

NAME: _____ SS#: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE# _____

MAP LOCATION# _____

BANK NAME _____

BANK ACCOUNT# _____

TYPE OF ACCOUNT Checking Savings

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

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

Tampering with your electric service is illegal and dangerous

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

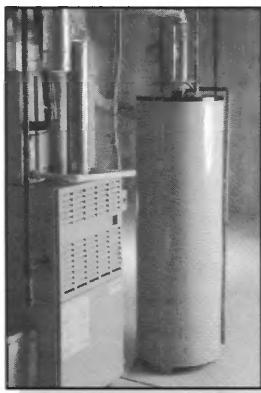
Your electric cooperative is concerned about this problem, not only from a lost revenue standpoint, but from the standpoint of safety. The electric service equipment is designed to be operated and maintained by qualified personnel who are trained to work on energized electric equipment. Tampering with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

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

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

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

Advantages of an electric water heater



- Heating water with electricity is seven times safer than gas. A study by the National Fire Protection Agency has found that gas water heaters cause seven times as many home fires as electric water heaters.
- Electric water heaters require no flue or vent. They can be placed virtually anywhere.
- Electric water heaters do not use air for combustion. Indoor air quality is not compromised by the water heater and there is no danger of explosion.

- Electric water heaters require less maintenance. There is no pilot light, no vent, no flue or heat exchanger to corrode.
- Electric water heaters have more insulation. They can be insulated on all sides, including top and bottom.
- Electric water heaters are more efficient. The heating elements are in direct contact with the water so they are nearly 100 percent efficient. A gas water heater loses 40 to 60 percent of its heat energy up the flue.

Recipe for electrical appliance safety

PREPARATION TIME: 5 minutes.

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

DIRECTIONS:

- Check all power cords and plugs for breaks or damaged insulation.
- Check plugs to be sure they are in good condition.
- Keep all appliances such as toasters, microwaves, hair dryers, curling irons and radios away from sinks and water. Electricity and

water do not mix.

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

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

SERVES: Everyone.

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

St. John's Hospital offers savings to Menard members

Members of Menard Electric Cooperative who have no medical insurance are eligible to save on the cost of services from St. John's Hospital in Springfield. The savings are being offered by St. John's to help those who, for whatever reason, are uninsured and are not eligible for healthcare benefits such as Medicare or Medicaid.

"This new agreement will mean a huge savings for a co-op member who needs treatment and goes to St. John's Hospital," says Menard General Manager Lynn Frasco. "Today's medical procedures are often expensive, but this plan makes them more affordable for the consumers who may be most vulnerable to a financial hardship."

A 30 percent discount is available to active co-op members and their spouses and dependents. It applies to inpatient and outpatient charges from St. John's Hospital, but not to physicians' charges or services from other companies. Examples of covered outpatient services include Home Health Care, Home Infusion Therapy, AthletiCare, Wellness Care, and the Mind/Body Medicine Program.

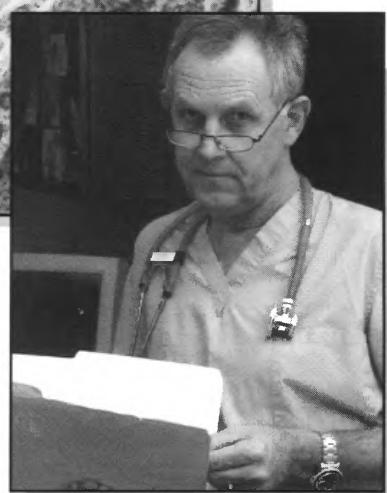
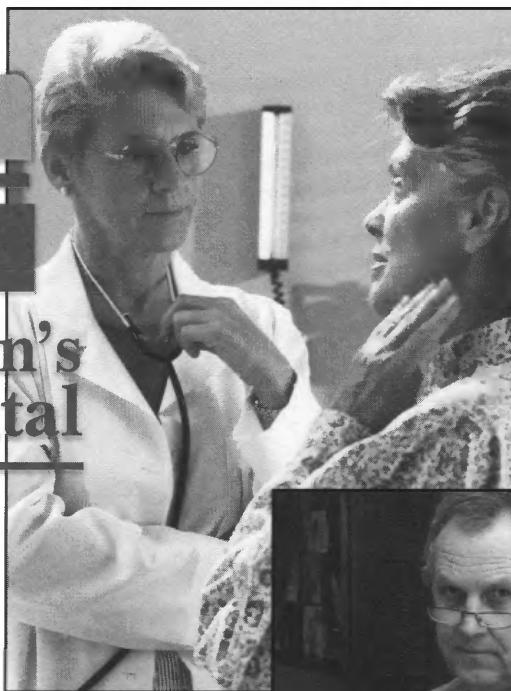
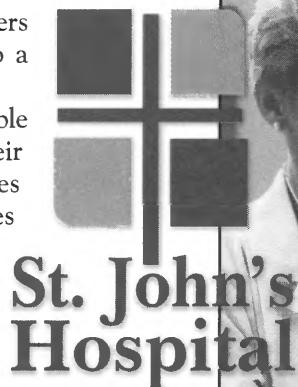
St. John's is offering the savings to active members of Menard Electric Cooperative. Patients covered by insurance typically receive a negotiated discount on medical services provided by hospitals. St. John's also offers a prompt payment discount and will work with the uninsured patient to set-up an affordable monthly payment plan.

Co-op members can bring a copy of a recent electric bill to the hospital upon registration to show their membership. The hospital will then issue a member card, to be used for subsequent visits. The 30 percent discount will automatically be applied to any charges billed for St. John's Hospital.

"St. John's has a long tradition of providing quality health care services to the people of central Illinois. We are pleased that we were able work with the Cooperative to offer a special savings plan to its members," said Richard Carlson, FACHE, executive vice president, St. John's Hospital. "We

hope this agreement will serve as a model for other organizations. These types of arrangements help us fulfill our commitment to providing the very best health care to all our patients."

Members with questions on eligibility or services included in the discount program can call (217) 544-6464, ext. 55615 at St John's Hospital. Taking a recent electric bill is the easiest, fastest way to show membership when



registering at the hospital, located at 800 E. Carpenter Street, just north of downtown Springfield.

More information about the hospital can also be found on their web site at st-johns.org. The Patient Services tab located at the top of the opening page includes a complete listing of services offered at St. John's. A Quick Links area explains services offered at the Bone and Joint Institute, the Carol Jo Vecchie Women and Children's Center, Prairie Heart Institute and the Cancer Institute at St. John's Hospital.

BOARD MEETING REPORT

**Menard Electric Cooperative
From the Board Room
December 28, 2004**

Menard Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, December 28, 2004, 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, Roy H. Seaney, D. Jay Frye, Warren Goetsch, Steven Worner, James Graff and Jerry W. Brooks. Director Edward Allspach 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 November 23, 2004, board meeting were reviewed and approved as presented.

The board reviewed November 2004 General Fund Checks #14395 - 14563 amounting to \$1,364,046.67. After discussion, the payment of bills was approved.

It was moved and seconded that the Inventory of Work orders for the month of November in the amount of \$112,032.16 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Manager Frasco reviewed the 35 Membership Applications and 15 Service Permits for November. They were approved as presented.

Manager Frasco presented the Manager's Report for the month. Manager Frasco advised that two of Rick Burton's Foreman had obtained employment elsewhere. He also advised that he had not been able to finalize the meeting with Corn Belt Energy and he was still trying to schedule that meeting with Jeff Reeves. He advised that he has extended all employee vacation time into 2005 due to the fact that many had not been able to schedule their vacations due to the Thanksgiving Storm. He reported on the damage done by the storm. He reported that at one time during the storm that approximately 5,000 members were out of service. The cooperative had incurred approximately \$100,000 to \$110,000 in expenses. \$55,000 was for Menard crews, \$23,000 was for emergency crews and \$11,000 was for materials and \$12,000 for miscellaneous expenses. Manager Frasco reviewed with the Board complaints from members about the answering service and their dissatisfaction with that service as well as the cooperative's response to the outage. He advised that the dominant complaint was with regard to the answering service and not being able to get through because of a busy signal. The Board discussed at length ways to remedy the situation with regard to the answering service as well as ways to better deal with a similar situation. Manager Frasco advised that he had reviewed other options for handling the calls. He discussed using the Cooperative Response Center as well as Call Net. Both services were answering services, which were better able to handle a large number of incoming calls. After much discussion, the Board instructed Manager Frasco to further investigate both services and report back to the Board at next month's meeting. He discussed with the Board the status of the new headquarters building.

The Manager presented the Financial Report for the Month of November 2004. Year to date margins were \$428,527 compared to \$717,771 the previous year. Equity as of the end of November was 38.88% and the number of members served was 10,083 compared to 9,944 last years. Net Utility Plant at the end of November was \$26,902,470 compared to \$26,392,197 a year ago. The cooperative continues to meet the requirements

of RUS, CFC and the FFB.

There were no Directors' Special Occasion vouchers for the month.

Director Goetsch reported on AIEC activities for the month of November.

Director Carls reported on Soyland/CCS activities. Director Carls advised that the 2005 Soyland Annual Meeting was scheduled for the Crowne Plaza on February 15, 2005. It was moved and seconded that Directors Carls be appointed as Delegate and Manager Frasco has alternate Delegate. It was moved and seconded that Director Carls be elected as Menard's Soyland Board Member along with Manager Frasco and President Martin serve as alternate. Motion carried.

The board reviewed the 2005 Budget. It was moved and seconded that the budget be approved as presented. Motion carried. Director Carls voting no.

Manager Frasco stated that he had received some offers to purchase some of the property, that being property at 104 S. 6th St, which is presently occupied by Colleens Drapery as well as the truck storage South of Petersburg on Route 97. Manager Frasco reviewed the offers. After discussion by the Board it was moved and seconded that the cooperative accept the offers. Motion carried.

Manager Frasco distributed the AIEC Member Survey and asked that they review it. He suggested that John Freitag from the AIEC attend the next board meeting to discuss the results of the survey.

Manager Frasco advised that the 2004 Annual Inventory had been completed and an adjustment in the amount of \$715.79 was required. It was moved and seconded that the adjustment be made. Motion carried.

The Manager discussed the current Sick Leave Bonus Program. And whether or not the program should be extended to 2005. Manager Frasco recommended some changes to the policy. After discussion by the Board it was the consensus of the Board that Manager Frasco revise the policy and the Board consider the revisions to the program at next months meeting.

The Manager discussed the two On Line Information Services Agreements. The first agreement would allow the Cooperative to check credit history of new members with regard to payment history to determine if the member was a good credit risk to the cooperative. This would guide the cooperative in determining the amount of the security deposit to be required from the new member. After a review of the agreement, it was moved and seconded that the President be authorized to enter into the service agreement. The second agreement was to provide collection services. After discussion, it was moved and seconded that the President be authorized to enter into the agreement. Motion carried.

Mike Carls reported on the Menard Rural Water Annual Meeting, as did those other members who attended that meeting.

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, January 22, 2005 at 6:00PM. There being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

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

MENARD

NEWS



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>

Annual Meeting Scheduled for June 4, 2005

The 68th annual meeting of Menard Electric is scheduled for Saturday, June 4, 2005 at PORTA High School in Petersburg, Illinois. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend. A free pork chop dinner will be served beginning at 5:00 p.m. and the business meeting will begin at 6:30 p.m.

As a cooperative, we're owned by you, our members. 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 3, 7 and 8. The incumbents in these districts are Michael Carls, James Graff, and Warren Goetsch, respectively. Petitions for candidates for these districts must be submitted to the cooperative's office by April 24, 2005. 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

2005 "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 members of the Illinois General Assembly, State Representatives Tom Ryder and Art Tenhouse, are past members of the tour.

Menard Electric Cooperative will sponsor two outstanding high school junior or senior



students. Please contact the cooperative as soon as possible if your child is interested.

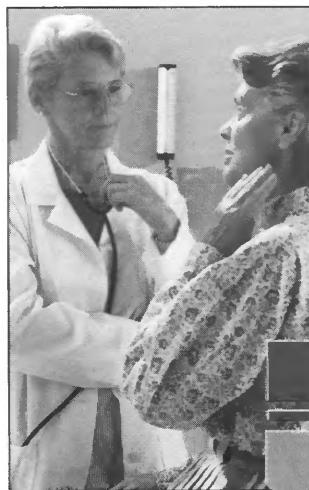
The "Youth to Washington" Tour is recognized as one of the best youth tours of Washington, D.C. Participants will see monuments and memorials, visit historical places and government offices, and meet Illinois Congressmen, Senators, and their staffs. Several fun and exciting activities are scheduled,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

St. John's Hospital offers savings to Menard members

Members of Menard Electric Cooperative who have no medical insurance are eligible to save on the cost of services from St. John's Hospital in Springfield. The savings are being offered by St. John's to help those who, for whatever reason, are uninsured and are not eligible for healthcare benefits such as Medicare or Medicaid.

A 30 percent discount is available to active co-op members and their spouses and dependents. It applies to inpatient and outpatient charges from St. John's Hospital, but not to physicians' charges or services from other companies.

Examples of covered outpatient services include Home Health Care, Home Infusion Therapy, AthletiCare, Wellness



**St. John's
Hospital**

Care, and the Mind/Body Medicine Program.

Co-op members can bring a copy of a recent electric bill to the hospital upon registration to show their membership. The hospital will then issue a member card, to be used for subsequent visits. The 30 percent discount will automatically be applied to any charges billed for St. John's Hospital.

Members with questions on eligibility or services included in the discount program can call (217) 544-6464, ext. 55615 at St John's Hospital.

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



REBATES

■ Water Heater Rebates and Rate

This water heater rebate program is available on a **one-time** basis to all members who agree to replace an existing fossil fuel fired water heater with an electric water heater that has at least a 40-gallon capacity. If the new electric water heater is installed in a new structure or replaces a fossil fuel fired water heater you will receive a \$100 rebate. For the second new water heater you will receive \$75. If the new electric water heater

replaces an existing electric water heater you will receive a \$75 rebate. To qualify for the rebate you must sign up for the cooperative's load management program. In addition to the rebate above you will qualify for a 3 cent per kilowatt-hour rate reduction on kilowatt-hours used between 600 and 1,000 every month of the year. This could save you up to \$144 each year in addition to the rebate.

■ Geothermal Rebates & Rates

The rebate is \$600 per unit regardless of the size of the unit installed. The unit can be installed in either a new or existing home. If you install a geothermal heating and cooling system you will also be eligible for your cooperative's geothermal rate, if

you have an all electric home. Under this rate you will be billed 5 cents per kilowatt-hour for all kilowatt-hours used between 1,000 and 6,000 for the billing months of October through May each year.

■ Heat Pump Rebates

Your cooperative is offering a \$200 rebate regardless of the size of the unit installed.

■ Certified Comfort Home Rebate

If you build a new home to the standards described in the Certified Comfort Home book you will receive a one-time \$100 rebate.

If you have any questions on these rebates give the cooperative a call at (800) 872-1203 or check out the cooperative's Web site at www.menard.com.

MENARD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

APPLICATION AUTOMATIC PAYMENT PLAN

If you would like to sign-up for the automatic payment plan, then fill out the following form. Send form and a VOIDED CHECK or DEPOSIT SLIP to Menard Electric Cooperative, PO Box 200, Petersburg, Illinois.

NAME: _____ SS#: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE# _____

MAP LOCATION# _____

BANK NAME _____

BANK ACCOUNT# _____

TYPE OF ACCOUNT Checking Savings

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

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

Credit Card Convenience



Your cooperative is accepting payment for electric accounts and other invoiced amounts by VISA or MasterCard. The cooperative is charging a \$3.00 transaction processing fee to accept payment by VISA or MasterCard for amounts up to \$200. Payments more than \$200 will be charged a transaction fee of 3 percent of the payment amount. You may either stop

in the office or you may authorize the cooperative to charge your monthly bill to your credit card by telephone or in writing. There are three ways to pay with your credit card:

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



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.
Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

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



Menard Electric Honored for Safety

Menard Electric Cooperative received a safety honor for "best lost-time accident record" recently during the Safety/Supervisory Technical Conference held in Springfield. The award is given to cooperatives with outstanding "lost time"

safety records for 2004. The conference is sponsored annually by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC). From left are Lineman James Masten, AIEC Manager of Safety Roger Larkin and Area Serviceman Dwaine Heyen.

Used Vehicle Sale

2000 Chevrolet 4X4 with Fiberglass Body Service Bed. Vortec 5700 V-8 and 5 Speed Transmission with 104,000 Miles.

Please submit bids by the close of business, Friday, April 22, 2005. The bids will be opened at 4:30 p.m. on this date.



We work hard to impress
the owners of our
electric co-op: **YOU**

Only your local electric co-op makes every customer an owner of the business. Unlike other electric utilities, your co-op exists to make sure your needs are always met, not to make a profit. And since every electric co-op is locally owned and operated, your co-op is always there with you, reinvesting in your community. That's why in an electric co-op, the people have the power.



Touchstone Energy®
The power of human connections

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

LONG DISTANCE SERVICE

Available from

Menard Electric Cooperative

Sign up today for Menard Electric's long distance business and residential phone service and call someone you love for less. Fill out the form below to get started today!

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

4.5¢ **4.9¢**

All calls in Illinois

All calls out of state

FREE
Personal
800 NUMBER
No fees
Same low rate

- 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 12.9¢ 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.

**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

BOARD MEETING REPORT

**Menard Electric Cooperative
From the Board Room
January 25, 2005**

Menard Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, January 25, 2005, 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: Edward Allspach, Michael E. Carls, Roy H. Seaney, D. Jay Frye, Warren Goetsch, Steven Worner, James Graff and Jerry W. Brooks. 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 28, 2004 board meeting were reviewed and approved as presented.

The board reviewed December 2004 General Fund Checks #14,564 – 14,780 amounting to \$3,331,839.95. After discussion, the payment of bills was approved.

It was moved and seconded that the Inventory of Work orders for the month of December in the amount of \$51,099.84 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Manager Frasco reviewed the 35 Membership Applications and 9 Service Permits for December. They were approved as presented.

It was moved and seconded that agreements for electric service for Arthur Finch, Albert Krause, A. Kraig Krause, Maxine Wallbaum, Leonard Malmanger, John A. Krause Trust B, and Hill Prairie Winery be approved. Motion carried.

President Martin introduced John Freitag from the AIEC who discussed the AIEC Statewide Member Survey.

Director of Member Services, Stuart Churchill, discussed the Eco-Energy Illinois Program. Members could buy certificates generated from 100% new wind generation.

Manager Frasco presented the Manager's Report for the month of December. He reviewed the Balance Sheet, Budget as well as the outage summary and safety report. Under the operations report, he reported that the online credit check of new members would be implemented in the next few weeks.

He also discussed the meeting of the Missouri Electric Works members. He advised that the site was nearing the end of its efforts with the Federal Environmental Protection Agency. He advised that the Irrigation Clinic was scheduled for February 4, 2005 at the Mason County Ag Center from 8:00AM to Noon. He discussed that Menard Ambulance had not paid the cooperative for the fuel used for the past few months.

He reported that he had been advised that the cooperative's application to the CFC Integrity Fund had been approved. He discussed his appeal of the increased assessed evaluations on four Menard properties by the Menard County Supervisor of Assessments. He advised that he had received tentative results of the Board of Review, which indicated that they would accept the values as submitted by the cooperative on those four properties.

He advised that representatives had approached him from Co-Bank about whether or not the cooperative was interested in setting up a line of credit like the one with CFC. The line of credit would be a \$3 million line of credit with an interest rate of .7% less than the CFC rate. After discussion it was the consensus of the Board to start the application process. The Manager discussed the Sand Plant and advised that he would be meeting with representatives from the Sand Plant in the near future about the possibility of the Sand Plant reconnecting to the cooperative system.

He discussed the status of the headquarters building and advised that due to the weather that the construction was a little bit behind

schedule. He reviewed with the Board the proposal from Air Evacuation Services. The proposal from Air Vac was to provide services to cooperative members. He reviewed the proposal with the Board. The Board was of the consensus that they wanted to consider the matter further before taking any action.

The Manager presented the Financial Report for the Month of December 2004. Year to date margins were \$439,244 compared to \$672,065 the previous year. Equity as of the end of December was 37.40% and the number of members served was 10,061 compared to 9,931 last year. Net Utility Plant at the end of December was \$27,699,606 compared to \$26,481,051 a year ago. The cooperative continues to meet the requirements of RUS, CFC and the FFB.

Directors' Special Occasion vouchers for the month in the amount of \$1,393.19 were approved as presented.

Director Brooks and Manager Frasco reported on AIEC activities for the month.

Director Brooks reported on the Annual Meeting Committee Meeting.

Director Carls reported on Soyland/CCS activities. Director Carls discussed in detail matters with regard to Prairie State and whether it was advisable to purchase an ownership interest in Prairie State. Each Board Member expressed their opinion to Director Carls and Manager Frasco. Manager Frasco advised that the Soyland Board Meeting was February 9th at which time the issue of Soyland's ownership in Prairie State would be discussed and a decision would be made. Manager Frasco advised that the Soyland Annual Meeting would be February 15th at 2:00 PM with a Director update at 9:30 AM at the Crowne Plaza.

Manager Frasco discussed with the Board the write-off of uncollectible amounts with regard to Turris Coal. He advised that all current charges were paid in full, but there was an uncollected balance. It was moved and seconded that the uncollected balance be written off.

Manager Frasco reviewed with the Board the proposed changes to the Sick Leave Bonus Plan for all employees both union and non-union along with changes to the vacation policy. The Board reviewed the proposed changes and made some suggestions. It was the consensus of the Board to place the Policies as revised for first reading at next months Board meeting.

Manager Frasco advised that he had received presentations from Call Net and CRC with regard to providing answering services to the cooperative. However, he was not ready to make a recommendation to the Board.

Manager Frasco reviewed with the Board the new rate schedules for the Village of Sherman. He reminded the board that these rates came about as a result of the new Franchise Agreement with Sherman.

Director Goetsch reported on the activities of the Capital Credit Committee. He advised that the Committee had not reached a consensus. After discussion it was moved and seconded that the cooperative retire Capital Credits for part of 1982 in an amount not exceed \$220,000 with the remainder being used to retire capital credits to estates up to \$70,000.

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, February 22, 2005 at 6:00 PM. There being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

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

MENARD

Menard Electric Cooperative



NEWS

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Speaker of the House of Representatives Dennis Hastert spoke with Menard Electric Cooperative Director Jim Graff at the anniversary event.

60th Anniversary of Battle of the Bulge

James Graff, Director of Menard Electric Cooperative, and his wife Alice returned on December 20, 2004, from a 10-day tour commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Battle of the Bulge. The trip was sponsored by the national organization of the Veterans of the Battle of the Bulge.

Two hundred WWII veterans and their spouses were treated to 10 days of non-stop visits to Battle of the Bulge sites in Belgium and Luxembourg. On Monday, December 13, after touring battlefield sites, a reception was held in the U. S. Embassy in Luxembourg City hosted by the Ambassador and his wife.

On December 11 Graff and other veterans were treated to an organ recital in a church near a gravesite of a Mergenthaler boy whose

grandfather invented the linotype machine. On December 16, the day the Battle of the Bulge began, activities started at 5:30 a.m. at Graff's company memorial at Weiswampack, Luxembourg, followed by a memorial service at the American Military Cemetery at Hamm. In attendance was the Grand Duke of Luxembourg. Graff also attended a USO show in Bastogne.

On Saturday, December 18, Graff spent the day in the Bastogne area where he met the King of Belgium. He noted that there was snow on the ground, but not nearly as much as there was 60 years ago. He visited the wooded area where he fought in 1945. Graff, from Middletown, received a Bronze Star for his service in WWII.

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

MENARD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

APPLICATION AUTOMATIC PAYMENT PLAN

If you would like to sign-up for the automatic payment plan, then fill out the following form. Send form and a VOIDED CHECK or DEPOSIT SLIP to Menard Electric Cooperative, PO Box 200, Petersburg, Illinois.

NAME: _____ SS#: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE# _____

MAP LOCATION# _____

BANK NAME _____

BANK ACCOUNT# _____

TYPE OF ACCOUNT Checking Savings

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

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

2005 ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, June 4, 2005 ■ PORTA High School

The 2005 Annual Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, June 4, 2005, at PORTA High School in Petersburg. In addition to the election of three Directors, one each from Districts 3, 7, and 8, there will be door prizes and a free dinner. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m.

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.

Cellular Savings

The buying power of 10,000 members brings you this opportunity to save 5 percent on your Cingular Wireless rate plan. You'll receive a 5 percent discount on many regular minute-inclusive plans, plus 25 percent discounts on in-stock accessories! Existing Cingular cus-



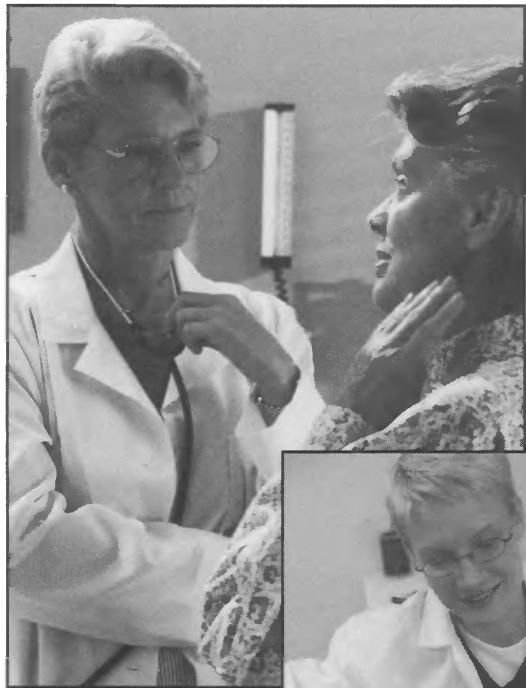
tomers can just call Jim McAfee at CapiTel Communications, toll-free at (888) 745-3689, to request the discount. For a new sign-up, call Jim to discuss the best cellular phone and rate plan to fit your needs.

A special corporate rate is also available at \$9.95/month, and 21 cents/minute!

St. John's Hospital offers savings to Menard members

Members of Menard Electric Cooperative who have no medical insurance are eligible to save on the cost of services from St. John's Hospital in Springfield. The savings are being offered by St. John's to help those who, for whatever reason, are uninsured and are not eligible for healthcare benefits such as Medicare or Medicaid.

"This new agreement will mean a huge savings for a co-op member who needs treatment and goes to St. John's Hospital,"

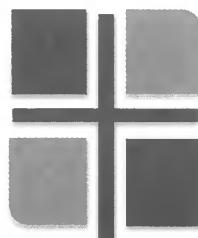


says Menard General Manager Lynn Frasco. "Today's medical procedures are often expensive, but this plan makes them more affordable for the consumers who may be most vulnerable to a financial hardship."

A 30 percent discount is available to active co-op members and their spouses and dependents. It applies to inpatient and outpatient charges from St. John's Hospital, but not to physicians' charges or services from other companies. Examples of covered

outpatient services include Home Health Care, Home Infusion Therapy, AthletiCare, Wellness Care, and the Mind/Body Medicine Program.

St. John's is offering the savings to active members of Menard Electric Cooperative. Patients covered by insurance typically receive a negotiated discount on medical services provided by hospitals. St. John's also offers a prompt payment discount and will work with the uninsured patient to set-up an affordable monthly payment plan.



St. John's Hospital

that we were able to work with the Cooperative to offer a special savings plan to its members," said Richard Carlson, FACHE, executive vice president, St. John's Hospital. "We hope this agreement will serve as a model for other organizations. These types of arrangements help us fulfill our commitment to providing the very best health care to all our patients."

Members with questions on eligibility or services included in the discount program can call (217) 544-6464, ext. 55615 at St. John's Hospital. Taking a recent electric bill is the easiest, fastest way to show membership when registering at the hospital, located at 800 E. Carpenter Street, just north of downtown Springfield.

More information about the hospital can also be found on their web site at st-johns.org. The Patient Services tab located at the top of the opening page includes a complete listing of services offered at St. John's. A Quick Links area explains services offered at the Bone and Joint Institute, the Carol Jo Vecchie Women and Children's Center, Prairie Heart Institute and the Cancer Institute at St. John's Hospital.

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

OFFICE CLOSING

Our office will be closed Memorial Day, Monday May 30th.



The most important people to you are also the most important people to us

Through a partnership among Touchstone Energy®, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the American Football Coaches Association and Menard Electric Cooperative are distributing free inkless child identification kits for kids in grades K-12 in your area. Parents can follow the easy directions in the kit, and once completed, the kit can be stored in a safe place.

Should your child ever disappear for any reason, you would forward the kit to law enforcement, and your child's information would be entered into a national database of missing children. Before now, only 2 percent of our country's children had been fingerprinted. Making these kits available is changing that statistic.

Children are a precious commodity, and the responsibility to keep them safe rests on all of our shoulders. Please contact Menard Electric Cooperative to obtain one of these kits.



Menard Electric Cooperative

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LONG DISTANCE SERVICE

Available from

Menard Electric Cooperative

Sign up today for Menard Electric's long distance business and residential phone service and call someone you love for less. Fill out the form below to get started today!

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

4.5¢

All calls in Illinois

4.9¢

All calls out of state

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

- 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 12.9¢ 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.

**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

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 ■ 10 MB of WebSpace
- Unlimited Access ■ Free Technical Support
- Speeds up to 56K ■ One bill for Long Distance and Internet
- 5 Email Accounts ■ 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.



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
February 22, 2005**

Menard Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 22, 2005, 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: Edward Allspach, Michael E. Carls, Roy H. Seaney, D. Jay Frye, Warren Goetsch, Steven Worner, James Graff and Jerry W. Brooks. 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 22, 2005 Board meeting were reviewed and approved after corrections were made.

The Board reviewed January 2005 General Fund Checks #14,781 – 14,954 amounting to \$1,349,485.31. After discussion, the payment of bills was approved.

It was moved and seconded that the Inventory of Work Orders for the month of January 2005 in the amount of \$67,082.91 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Manager Frasco reviewed the 27 Membership Applications and 14 Service Permits for January. They were approved as presented. It was moved and seconded that the Agreements for Electric Service for Wayne Vanderveen and Gary E. Gatham are approved. Motion carried.

Manager Frasco presented the Manager's Report for the month of January. He reviewed the Balance Sheet, Budget as well as the Outage Summary and Safety Report. He reported that the cooperative received a Safety Award for Best Lost time Accident Record. He advised that Kevin Kelso and the Audit Team had completed the audit and had not found any problems of any consequence. Manager Frasco advised that he had attended the Irrigated Growers Meeting on February 4th.

The Manager discussed the Low Income Energy Assistance Program and advised that the cooperative had received approximately \$ 53,000 to date from the State of Illinois for that program.

He discussed the fact that he and Staff had met with representatives from Turris Coal to begin discussions concerning a new contract. He said he would have a draft of the contract put together for review by the Board.

He discussed with the Board the proposed changes to the Blue Cross Blue Shield Plan. They had requested a larger increase than anticipated. The increase was approximately 21 percent and this had been the highest increase the insurance representative had seen for any of his clients. Manager Frasco reported that they were investigating insurance coverage from other companies, including NRECA.

He discussed the status of matters with regard to the construction of the new headquarters building. He advised that construction was ahead of schedule and slightly under budget.

He reviewed with the Board information he had ob-

tained from SBC with regard to the voice over Internet service. Manager Frasco discussed the advantages of the system. He also discussed what the system could do with regard to the problems the cooperative had encountered with the answering service and its inability to handle incoming calls. He discussed the fact that AMEREN was proposing the preparation of a new Area Service Agreement. He advised that the cooperative would be insisting on a "Bright Line" determination as part of a new agreement and discussed with the Board what a "Bright Line" agreement entailed.

The Manager presented the Financial Report for the Month of January 2005. Year to date margins were \$81,733 compared to \$29,383 the previous year. Equity as of the end of January was 37.15% and the number of members served was 10,041 compared to 9,902 last year. Net Utility Plant at the end of January 2005 was \$27,914,634 compared to \$26,575,657 a year ago. The cooperative continues to meet the requirements of RUS, CFC and the FFB.

Directors' Special Occasion vouchers for the month in the amount of \$1,774.19 were approved as presented.

Director Goetsch reported on AIEC activities for the month.

Director Brooks reported on the Annual Meeting Committee Meeting.

Director Carls and Manager Frasco reported on Soyland/CCS activities. They discussed in detail matters with regard to the Prairie State Power Plant. He advised that six of the eleven Soyland Cooperatives had made commitments to purchase a combined fifty-megawatt share of the plant. He advised that Menard was taking seven megawatts. He discussed the status of plans and developments with regard to Prairies State.

The Manager reviewed, for first reading, the policy changes with regard to Section V – Sick Leave Bonus Program, Section VII – Sick Leave, and Section VIII – Vacation. After discussion it was agreed that these three policies be moved to the second reading for consideration at next months Board meeting.

Manager Frasco reviewed with the Board a proposed Tree Trimming Contract with Burton Tree Service for years 2005 through 2007. He discussed with the Board the terms and conditions of the contact. After discussion by the Board it was moved and seconded that the contract be approved.

The Manager discussed with the Board the plans for the NRECA Annual Meeting in San Diego scheduled for February 26th through March 2nd.

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, March 22, 2005 at 6:00PM. There being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

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

MENARD

Menard Electric Cooperative

NEWS



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68th ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, June 4, 2005
PORTA High School, Petersburg



Registration begins at 4:00 p.m. Dinner will be served at 4:30 p.m. by the Mason County Pork Producers. Bucket Truck rides will be provided, weather permitting, for those who want to participate and special prize drawings for children will be held.

Please mark your calendar and plan to attend this year's annual meeting. Cooperative's are owned by those they serve. The annual meeting is your opportunity to participate directly in the operations of your cooperative by electing directors and voting on other issues as they arise. We look forward to seeing you at this year's annual meeting.



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 31 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

\$1,000 Scholarship Awarded

Daniel Lepper of Ashland, is one of four winners of this year's Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship. He competed for the scholarship with 215 other students from across the state. The \$1,000 awards are given each year to three sons or daughters of electric co-op members, and one to the son or daughter of a co-op employee or director.

Candidates were judged on grade-point average, college entrance exam scores, work and volunteer experience, school and civic activities and a short essay demonstrating their knowledge of energy cooperatives.

Lepper received his scholarship Monday, May 9, at A-C Central High School's awards ceremony. Stu Churchill, Director of Member Services at Menard Electric Cooperative, Petersburg, presented the scholarship.

Churchill said, "The purpose of the scholarship program is to assist electric cooperative youth while honoring past rural electric leaders through memorial gifts. 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. Daniel is an outstanding representative of his school, community and our cooperative."



MIKE

Because Mike's dad is one of the owners of his electric co-op, there are new lights at the baseball field.

Only your local electric co-op makes every customer an owner of the business. Unlike other electric utilities, your co-op exists to make sure your needs are always met, not to make a profit. And since every electric co-op is locally owned and operated, your co-op is always there with you, reinvesting in your community. That's why in an electric co-op, the people have the power.


Touchstone Energy®
The power of human connections

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

OUTDOOR SAFETY

By Tina Marie Farmer

A playful splash from the swimming pool. A speaker accidentally bumped into the hot tub. Too busy soaking up the warm summer sun to consider the electrical dangers lurking out there? Take heart. The best protection against outdoor electrical accidents is four devices designed to keep you and your family safe.

Circuit breakers or fuses

These devices protect against current overloads on your electrical system. When the protected circuit is overloaded by either too much equipment or by faulty equipment, the breaker trips or the fuse opens, cutting off the power supply to the circuit.

To avoid overloads, calculate the watts of power required to operate all of the equipment you will be plugging into one circuit.

Remember: volts x amps = power (watts). (Volts and amps should be listed on product labels.)

Add all equipment wattages together and compare the total to the wattage rating of the circuit. This is especially important when hosting an outdoor party or other event to avoid a disruption in your festivities.

Ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs)

A GFCI interrupts the flow of power when the device detects power leaks. Water provides the easiest path to ground, so it is essential to

have GFCIs installed wherever there is a chance of contact between water and electricity. If an electrical product falls into water, such as a pool, hot tub, or water garden, the GFCI will cut off the electrical current and may save a life.

Test your GFCIs monthly by following these three steps:

- Plug a nightlight or another small appliance into a GFCI-protected outlet and turn the appliance on.
- Press the "test" button on the outlet. The appliance should shut off.
- Press the "reset" button on the outlet. The appliance should turn back on.

If the appliance does not shut off when you press the test button, the GFCI is faulty and needs to be repaired or replaced by a licensed electrician.

Three-pronged plugs and outlets

Tempting as it may be to simply cut off the third prong of an electric plug when you only have two-prong

outlets—don't do it! The third prong on a plug is designed to direct any ungrounded electricity to ground. Either replace all two-prong outlets with their three-pronged cousins, or hire a licensed electrician to do it for you. Another option is to install three-prong adapters, available at hardware or home stores, on your two-prong outlets.

Arc-fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs)

If your home has faulty wiring, it is at greater risk of fires caused by arcing in the wires. A circuit breaker or fuse will detect the problem, but often not until a fire has already started. To combat this problem, the electrical industry has developed the AFCI. AFCIs detect arcing and sparking in the wiring and cut off power immediately—before a fire has the chance to start.

For more information about outdoor electrical safety, visit the Electrical Safety Foundation at www.esfi.org.

Students Selected for Trip To Washington

Calvin Friedrich of Havana and Kati Krueger of Topeka are this year's winners of an all-expenses paid trip to Washington D.C. courtesy of Menard Electric Cooperative. This trip is part of the Youth To Washington Trip organized in the late 1950s by electric and telephone cooperatives in Illinois to introduce rural youths to our democratic form of government and cooperatives.

Friedrich and Krueger will be among 60 rural Illinois youths touring the nation's capital June 17-24 and will visit the Nation's Capitol, Gettysburg, the White House, Arlington National Cemetery, the National Cathedral, the Smithsonian Museums, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and other historical sites.

In the event Friedrich and Krueger are unable to attend, first and second alternates Tyler Wilson of Green Valley and Megan McLaughlin of Petersburg will take their place.

Seated from left are Krueger and Friedrich. Standing from left are Wilson and McLaughlin.



Cellular Savings

The buying power of 10,000 members brings you this opportunity to save 5 percent on your Cingular Wireless rate plan. You'll receive a 5 percent discount on many regular minute-inclusive plans, plus 25 percent discounts on in-stock accessories! Existing Cingular customers can just call Jim

McAfee at CapiTel Communications, at (217) 741-0405, to request the discount.

For a new sign-up, call Jim to discuss the best cellular phone and rate plan to fit your needs. A new temporary tower in Petersburg will improve service in the area.



USED Vehicle Sale

The cooperative is accepting bids on a 2000 GMC Pickup. 4X4 V-8 with 135,000 miles. Sealed bids should be submitted to the cooperative by Friday June 17, 2005.

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

Credit Card Convenience



Your cooperative is accepting payment for electric accounts and other invoiced amounts by VISA or MasterCard. The cooperative is charging a \$3.00 transaction processing fee to accept payment by VISA or MasterCard for amounts up to \$200. Payments more than \$200 will be charged a transaction fee of 3 percent of the payment amount. You may either stop

in the office or you may authorize the cooperative to charge your monthly bill to your credit card by telephone or in writing. There are three ways to pay with your credit card:

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



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)

NC

Credit Card No. - - - -

Expiration Date: Month

Cardholder's Name:

(Please Print)

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

MENARD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

APPLICATION AUTOMATIC PAYMENT PLAN

If you would like to sign-up for the automatic payment plan, then fill out the following form. Send form and a VOIDED CHECK or DEPOSIT SLIP to Menard Electric Cooperative, PO Box 200, Petersburg, Illinois.

NAME: _____ SS#: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE# _____

MAP LOCATION# _____

BANK NAME _____

BANK ACCOUNT# _____

TYPE OF ACCOUNT Checking Savings

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

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

LONG DISTANCE SERVICE

Available from

Menard Electric Cooperative

Sign up today for Menard Electric's long distance business and residential phone service and call someone you love for less. Fill out the form below to get started today!

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

4.5¢ **4.9¢**

All calls in Illinois

All calls out of state

FREE
Personal
800 NUMBER
No fees
Same low rate

- 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 12.9¢ 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.

**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: <input type="checkbox"/> Outbound <input type="checkbox"/> 800 number <input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Existing To Ring To: () _____ - _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> 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

BOARD MEETING REPORT

**Menard Electric Cooperative
From the Board Room
March 22, 2005**

Menard Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 22, 2005, 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: Edward Allspach, Michael E. Carls, Roy H. Seaney, D. Jay Frye, Warren Goetsch, Steven Worner, James Graff and Jerry W. Brooks. 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 22, 2005 Board meeting were reviewed and approved after corrections were made.

The Board reviewed February 2005 General Fund Checks #14,955 – #15,120 amounting to \$1,729,980.71. After discussion, the payment of bills was approved.

It was moved and seconded that the Inventory of Work Orders for the month of February 2005 in the amount of \$1,898.63 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Manager Frasco reviewed the 28 Membership Applications and 8 Service Permits for February. They were approved as presented.

Manager Frasco presented the Manager's Report for the month of February. He reviewed the Balance Sheet, Budget as well as the Outage Summary and Safety Report. Under the operations report he advised that the cooperative had submitted requests for bids from two other insurance carriers, Health Link and Health Alliance. He advised that a quote was received from NRECA, but it was very similar to the quote from Blue Cross/ Blue Shield.

He discussed the progress of the Headquarters Construction. He advised that things were going very well. He discussed a contract for the purchase and construction of a storage building for the new headquarters. The contract was with Wick Buildings/Kevin Miller. After discussion and review of the terms, it was moved and seconded that the President and Secretary be authorized to enter into the contracts with Wick Buildings for the construction of one storage building. Motion carried.

President Martin called the Board into Executive Session. President Martin reconvened the monthly Board Meeting.

Manager Frasco discussed with the Board the modification to Schedule WH Water Heater Rider. He advised that Soyland was proposing to expand the time period for voluntary interruptions and as such the cooperative would have to modify a provision for water heater control for the months June through September. It was the consensus of the board to proceed with a proposed revision of the policy for consideration at the next monthly board meeting.

The Manager presented the Financial Report for the Month of February 2005. Year to date margins were \$79,418

compared to \$125,569 the previous year. Equity as of the end of February was 37.16% and the number of members served was 10,025 compared to 9,885 last year. Net Utility Plant at the end of February 2005 was \$28,221,629 compared to \$26,594,453 a year ago. The cooperative continues to meet the requirements of RUS, CFC and the FFB.

Directors' Special Occasion vouchers for the month in the amount of \$4,545.08 were approved as presented.

Director Goetsch reported that there were no AIEC activities for the month.

Director Brooks reported on the Annual Meeting Committee Meeting.

Director Carls reported on Soyland/CCS activities and discussions related to Alliance. He advised that it had been determined to have strategic planning meetings to address the various concerns between Soyland and Allegheny. Director Carls and Manager Frasco discussed the Enviro Power Wholesale Purchase. Manager Frasco advised that it originally had been his recommendation that Menard purchase 14 Megawatts of Enviro Power. Manager Frasco reviewed with the Board his analysis of their proposed purchase. He advised that after further review and consideration, it was his recommendation that the cooperative commit to purchase 16 megawatts of Enviro Power. Motion carried.

Manager Frasco reviewed with the Board the FFB loan for the new headquarters facility. Attorney Smith advised that he had reviewed all of the documentation for the loan and the documents were ready for approval. A resolution was passed to borrow funds from the FFB for the new facility.

The Board reviewed the revised Section V - Sick Leave Bonus Plan, Section VII – Sick Leave, and Section VII – Vacation, of the Policy Manual. The Board approved the revised policies.

Manager Frasco and Attorney Smith reviewed the Cingular Wireless Lease of the antenna site near the Petersburg Veterinary Clinic. The Board gave approval to enter into the lease agreement.

Manager Frasco advised that the NRECA Legislative Rally was scheduled for May 2nd through May 5th.

The members who attended the NRECA Annual Meeting at San Diego discussed the meeting. It was the consensus of those who attended the meeting that it was worthwhile.

The Board discussed and commented on the joint meeting with the Corn Belt Board.

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, April 26, 2005, 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 ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ■ OFFICE HOURS: 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. ■ WEB ADDRESS: www.menard.com

MENARD

NEWS



NEWS

Menard Electric Cooperative

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68th ANNUAL MEETING

Menard Electric Cooperative members were updated on the cooperative's new headquarters and phone improvements following last year's Thanksgiving storm during the co-op's 68th Annual Meeting on June 4 in Petersburg.

The co-op's new 9,000 square foot office building and 14,000 square foot warehouse and garage space is nearly completed. Co-op employees plan to relocate to the new building and be open for business on Monday, July 11. An open house will be scheduled for late summer for members to tour the new facility.

Board President Gary Martin told members that although the co-op is moving from downtown Petersburg, the co-op will be just as involved in the community and, in fact, has built a community room for public use in the new facility. "Your board felt this was an important aspect of the new building that would show our resolve in supporting this community and giving something of value back to you, the members," said Martin.



During the meeting, Warren Goetsch of Williamsville, Michael Carls of Virginia, and James Graff of Middletown were re-elected to the co-op's board of directors.

In addition, the new building will allow for upgrading the co-op's phone service and improving communication with members during outages. Co-op Manager Lynn Frasco discussed the Thanksgiving storm that caused outages for up to three days for some members last year. During this time, many members were unable to reach the

■ *Continued on 16b*

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

■ **Continued from 16a**

cooperative by phone. "Our existing phone answering system was inadequate in handling the large number of calls," said Frasco. "Even a relatively small outage can overwhelm the capacity of our current system." Frasco announced that the co-op has installed a new phone system in the new headquarters building that provides 24 phone lines. An automated attendant will provide updated information on repair efforts during outages, with a priority message capability, and an automated call back feature that can call the member when power is restored.

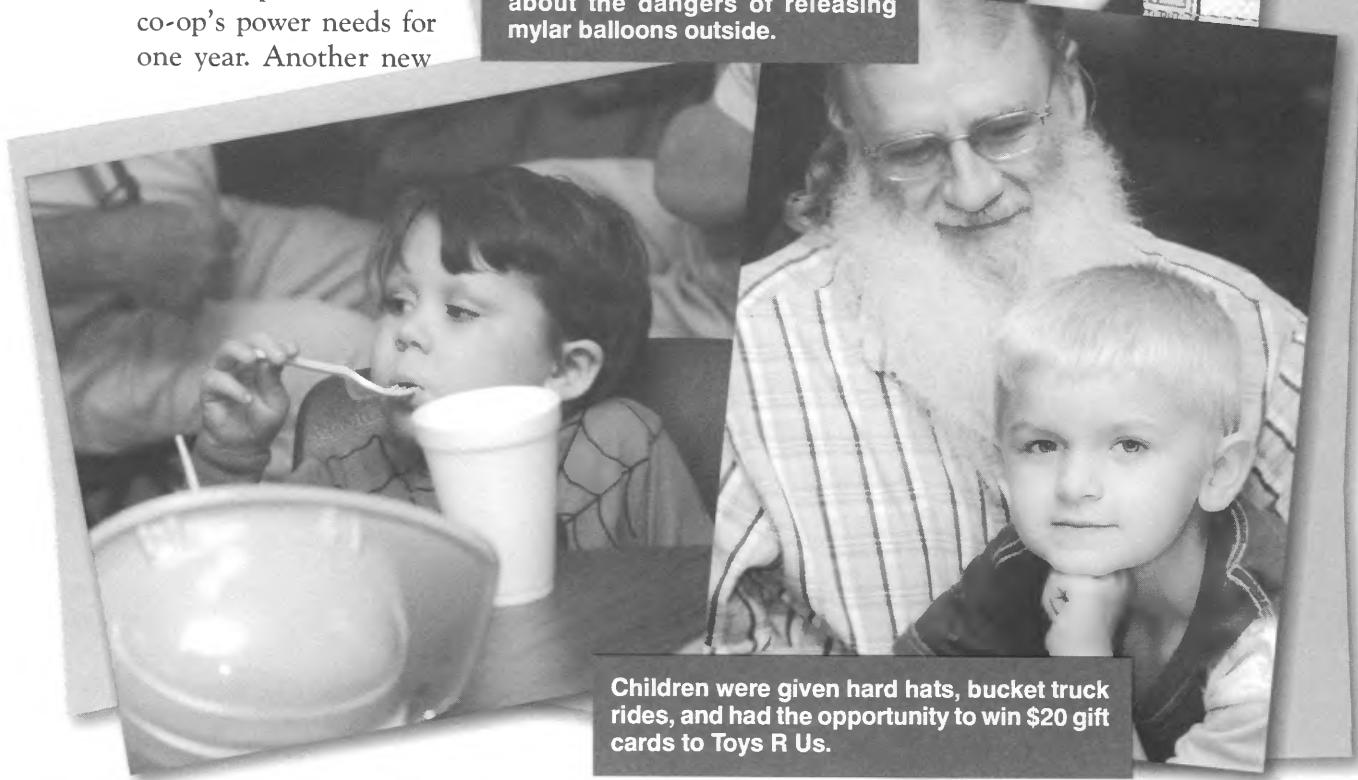
Frasco also told members of the cooperative's involvement in the new Prairie State Coal Fired Power Plant near Baldwin in southern Illinois. Menard has purchased a 7 megawatt (mw) ownership share in the 1,500 mw plant that should be finished in 2009. Menard's 7 mw will power about 30 percent of the co-op's power needs for one year. Another new



Kyle Finley of Live Line Demo, Inc. wowed the crowd with flashes of light and loud "booms" while teaching about safety with his 72,000 volt display. His display uses the same lines and equipment that Menard Electric uses to provide your power.



Kyle Finley's told this young lady about the dangers of releasing mylar balloons outside.



Children were given hard hats, bucket truck rides, and had the opportunity to win \$20 gift cards to Toys R Us.

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



Terry Cutright gave bucket truck rides to brave children. These boys are making the decision of whether the bucket goes to high or not.

power plant near Benton will provide 50-60 percent of Menard's energy needs for 30 years, when that plant is complete in 2009. The cooperative's current price stability is due to contracts secured by its generation and transmission provider, Soyland Power Cooperative. These contracts end in 2009 and the co-op is gaining new contracts now to ensure continued price stability for members beyond 2009.

Treasurer Roy Seaney said Menard Electric added 162 new services and nine miles of distribution line in 2004. The co-op ended with margins of \$413,482, a decrease from the prior year's margins. Seaney said this decrease was primarily due to costs to repair damage associated with the Thanksgiving storm. Seaney added that the cooperative was able to retire \$377,248 of capital credits to members. Total equity increased \$136,000 from year-end 2003 to 2004.

Earning gold watches for 25 years of service were Wayne E. Jones, Darlene McGee, and John Whitehurst.



Pork Chop dinners, provided by Mason County Pork Producers, were again enjoyed by all ages.

Relocation Notice

On Monday, July 11, 2005, Menard Electric Cooperative will be conducting business at our new location, which is located one mile south of the Lincoln's New Salem State Park on Route 97 in Petersburg.

Menard Electric Cooperative
14300 Illinois Route 97
Petersburg, Illinois 62675

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

MENARD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

APPLICATION AUTOMATIC PAYMENT PLAN

If you would like to sign-up for the automatic payment plan, then fill out the following form. Send form and a VOIDED CHECK or DEPOSIT SLIP to Menard Electric Cooperative, PO Box 200, Petersburg, Illinois.

NAME: _____ SS#: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE# _____

MAP LOCATION# _____

BANK NAME _____

BANK ACCOUNT# _____

TYPE OF ACCOUNT Checking Savings

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

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

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



REBATES

■ Water Heater Rebates and Rate

This water heater rebate program is available on a one-time basis to all members who agree to replace an existing fossil fuel fired water heater with an electric water heater that has at least a 40-gallon capacity. If the new electric water heater is installed in a new structure or replaces a fossil fuel fired water heater you will receive a \$100 rebate. For the second new water heater you will receive \$75. If the new electric water heater

replaces an existing electric water heater you will receive a \$75 rebate. To qualify for the rebate you must sign up for the cooperative's load management program. In addition to the rebate above you will qualify for a 3 cent per kilowatt-hour rate reduction on kilowatt-hours used between 600 and 1,000 every month of the year. This could save you up to \$144 each year in addition to the rebate.

■ Geothermal Rebates & Rates

The rebate is \$600 per unit regardless of the size of the unit installed. The unit can be installed in either a new or existing home. If you install a geothermal heating and cooling system you will also be eligible for your cooperative's geothermal rate, if

you have an all electric home. Under this rate you will be billed 5 cents per kilowatt-hour for all kilowatt-hours used between 1,000 and 6,000 for the billing months of October through May each year.

■ Heat Pump Rebates

Your cooperative is offering a \$200 rebate regardless of the size of the unit installed.

■ Certified Comfort Home Rebate

If you build a new home to the standards described in the Certified Comfort Home book you will receive a onetime \$100 rebate.

If you have any questions on these rebates give the cooperative a call at (800) 872-1203 or check out the cooperative's Web site at www.menard.com.

Cellular Savings

The buying power of 10,000 members brings you this opportunity to save 5 percent on your Cingular Wireless rate plan. You'll receive a 5 percent discount on many regular minute-inclusive plans, plus 25 percent discounts on in-stock accessories! Existing Cingular cus-



tomers can just call Jim McAfee at CapiTel Communications, at 741-0405, to request the discount. For a new sign-up, call Jim to discuss the best cellular phone and rate plan to fit your needs. A new temporary tower in Petersburg will improve service in the area.

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

Credit Card Convenience



VISA

MasterCard

Your cooperative is accepting payment for electric accounts and other invoiced amounts by VISA or MasterCard. The cooperative is charging a \$3.00 transaction processing fee to accept payment by VISA or MasterCard for amounts up to \$200. Payments more than \$200 will be charged a transaction fee of 3 percent of the payment amount. You may either stop

in the office or you may authorize the cooperative to charge your monthly bill to your credit card by telephone or in writing. There are three ways to pay with your credit card:

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



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)

1

— 1 —

Credit Card No.

Expiration Date:

Month

Year

Cardholder's Name:

ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND AGREEMENT

(Please Print)

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

Signature: _____ Date: _____

— 1 —

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

OFFICE CLOSING

Our office will be closed Independence Day Day, Monday July 4th.



The most important people to you are also the most important people to us

Through a partnership among Touchstone Energy®, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the American Football Coaches Association and Menard Electric Cooperative are distributing free inkless child identification kits for kids in grades K-12 in your area. Parents can follow the easy directions in the kit, and once completed, the kit can be stored in a safe place.

Should your child ever disappear for any reason, you would forward the kit to law enforcement, and your child's information would be entered into a national database of missing children. Before now, only 2 percent of our country's children had been fingerprinted. Making these kits available is changing that statistic.

Children are a precious commodity, and the responsibility to keep them safe rests on all of our shoulders. Please contact Menard Electric Cooperative to obtain one of these kits.



Menard Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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
April 26, 2005**

Menard Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 26, 2005, 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: Edward Allspach, Michael E. Carls, Roy H. Seaney, D. Jay Frye, Warren Goetsch, Steven Worner, James Graff and Jerry W. Brooks. 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 22, 2005, Board meeting were reviewed and approved as presented.

The Board reviewed March 2005 General Fund Checks #15,121 – 15,302 amounting to \$2,087,057.16. After discussion, the payment of bills was approved.

It was moved and seconded that the Inventory of Work Orders for the month of March 2005 in the amount of \$108,060.59 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Manager Frasco reviewed the 50 Membership Applications and 31 Service Permits for March. They were approved as presented.

Manager Frasco presented the Manager's Report for the month of March. He reviewed the Balance Sheet, Budget as well as the Outage Summary and Safety Report. Under the operations report he discussed the status of the Headquarters Building Construction and advised that things were going well. There was a discussion as to when to schedule an Open House. It was determined that the Building Committee would meet to decide on the date.

President Martin called the Board into Executive Session. President Martin reconvened the monthly Board Meeting.

Manager Frasco reported on the status of the Cingular Tower Lease. The Lease was approved at last month's meeting. He advised that the Menard County Board had approved the variance for the tower. And that the City of Petersburg had already approved the variance request and that there was one more permit needed from the FAA before construction of the Tower would begin. Manager Frasco advised that there was a conference call on Missouri Electric Works. The representatives were meeting with the EPA for purposes of preparing a final order on acceptance of the site by the EPA. Manager Frasco advised that John Freitag wanted to meet with the Board to discuss the International Program. – Sister Coop Assistance in the Dominican Republic. He stated that the program was one in which cooperatives shipped used materials to the Dominican Republic. The discussion was whether to schedule Mr. Freitag to discuss this with the Board. Mr. Frasco advised that he would discuss this with Mr. Freitag. Manager Frasco advised that here was a member unhappy with her rebate on her new home construction. . He advised that she had built a new home in the Sherman area and had not completed construction and the application for the rebate within the time required by cooperative policy. It was the consensus of the Board to give her the geothermal rebate only. It was moved and seconded that Manager Frasco contact her and advise that she would be given the Geothermal Rebate only.

Manager Frasco presented and reviewed a report on the individuals who have received and qualified for low-income

energy assistance. He also presented a report on the Illinois Workers Compensation Group and the impact claims had on the cooperative's premiums. He discussed with the Board a contribution to the cooperative Integrity Fund. It was the consensus of the Board to make a contribution of 5% not to exceed \$1,000 based on Patronage Capital Credits received from CFC.

The Manager presented the Financial Report for the Month of March 2005. Year to date margins were \$98,919 compared to \$77,743 the previous year. Equity as of the end of March was 37.06% and the number of members served was 10,033 compared to 9,892 last year. Net Utility Plant at the end of March 2005 was \$28,499,345 compared to \$26,608,657 a year ago. The cooperative continues to meet the requirements of RUS, CFC and the FFB.

There were no Directors' Special Occasion vouchers for the month.

Director Brooks reported that there were no AIEC activities for the month.

Director Brooks reported on the Annual Meeting Committee Meeting.

Director Carls reported on Soyland/CCS activities. He advised that Menard had reserved 16 Megawatts of Enviro Power and that all Soyland Members were participating in this project. Manager Frasco reported on the status of matters with regard to CCS. He advised that Attorney Keaton was doing an excellent job in drafting and finalizing the proposed Power Contract for approval by Soyland Members.

Manager Frasco reported on the Capital Credit Estate refund report. He inquired of the Board of their thoughts on mailing Capital Credit Refund Checks. If the Capital Credit was \$50 or less, the thought was to deduct the amount from the next billing rather than sending a check. After discussion it was decided to deduct the payment from the next billing if the amount of the Capital Credit was less than \$50.

Manager Frasco discussed the employee Health Insurance Program and the Health Savings Account High Deductible Plan. As previously advised Blue Cross/Blue Shield proposed to increase premium costs by 29%. Manager Frasco discussed with the Board in detail the benefits and savings related to a Health Savings Account and its effect on employees. The Board instructed the manager to proceed with the Plan as proposed.

The Board reviewed the provisions of the Rate Schedule "WH" Water Heater and moved the "WH" Rate Schedule to the May meeting for its second reading.

The Board reviewed provisions of Section IV Underground Service Policy and agreed to place such policy for second reading at the May Board Meeting.

Manager Frasco advised that Kevin Kelso at the May Board Meeting would make the presentation of the 2004 Audit.

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, May 22, 2005, 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 ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ■ OFFICE HOURS: 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. ■ WEB ADDRESS: www.menard.com

MENARD

Menard Electric Cooperative



NEWS

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Students Tour Washington D.C.

Calvin Friedrich of Havana and Katherine Krueger of Topeka represented Menard Electric Cooperative in Washington, D.C., June 17-24. 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.

The students met with Congressman LaHood and were among 61 rural Illinois youth leaders selected for the trip. In addition to the Capitol, students also visited Arlington National Cemetery, the National Cathedral, the Smithsonian Museums, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, the World War II Memorial, the newly dedicated Native American Indian Museum and a number of other historical sites.



Pictured from left are Krueger, Congressman LaHood and Friedrich.

Visit our New Headquarters!

**Open House
Friday, August 19
2:00 – 6:00 p.m.**

Stop in for refreshments and a tour of our new building at 14300 IL Rt. 97 in Petersburg, just one mile south of New Salem State Historic Site.



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



REBATES

■ Water Heater Rebates and Rate

This water heater rebate program is available on a one-time basis to all members who agree to replace an existing fossil fuel fired water heater with an electric water heater that has at least a 40-gallon capacity. If the new electric water heater is installed in a new structure or replaces a fossil fuel fired water heater you will receive a \$100 rebate. For the second new water heater you will receive \$75. If the new electric water heater

replaces an existing electric water heater you will receive a \$75 rebate. To qualify for the rebate you must sign up for the cooperative's load management program. In addition to the rebate above you will qualify for a 3 cent per kilowatt-hour rate reduction on kilowatt-hours used between 600 and 1,000 every month of the year. This could save you up to \$144 each year in addition to the rebate.

■ Geothermal Rebates & Rates

The rebate is \$600 per unit regardless of the size of the unit installed. The unit can be installed in either a new or existing home. If you install a geothermal heating and cooling system you will also be eligible for your cooperative's geothermal rate, if

you have an all electric home. Under this rate you will be billed 5 cents per kilowatt-hour for all kilowatt-hours used between 1,000 and 6,000 for the billing months of October through May each year.

■ Heat Pump Rebates

Your cooperative is offering a \$200 rebate regardless of the size of the unit installed.

■ Certified Comfort Home Rebate

If you build a new home to the standards described in the Certified Comfort Home book you will receive a one-time \$100 rebate.

If you have any questions on these rebates give the cooperative a call at (800) 872-1203 or check out the cooperative's Web site at www.menard.com.

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in the office or you may authorize the cooperative to charge your monthly bill to your credit card by telephone or in writing. There are three ways to pay with your credit card:

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



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	_____	_____

Credit Card No. - - - -

Expiration Date: **Month** **Year**

Cardholder's Name:

(Please Print)
First Name _____ Middle Name _____ Last Name _____ VISA _____ Master C_____

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

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

MENARD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

APPLICATION AUTOMATIC PAYMENT PLAN

If you would like to sign-up for the automatic payment plan, then fill out the following form. Send form and a VOIDED CHECK or DEPOSIT SLIP to Menard Electric Cooperative, PO Box 200, Petersburg, Illinois.

NAME: _____ SS#: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE# _____

MAP LOCATION# _____

BANK NAME _____

BANK ACCOUNT# _____

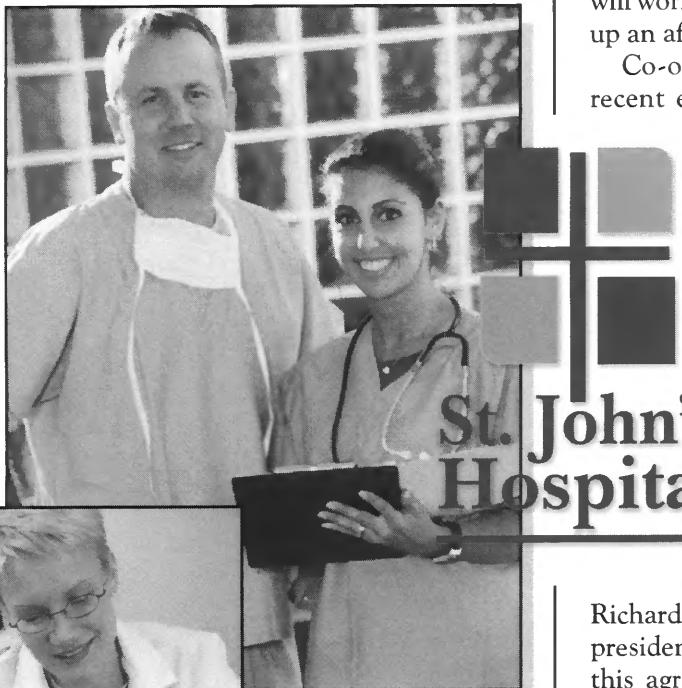
TYPE OF ACCOUNT Checking Savings

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

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

St. John's Hospital offers savings to Menard members

Members of Menard Electric Cooperative who have no medical insurance are eligible to save on the cost of services from St. John's Hospital in Springfield. The savings are being offered by St. John's to help those who, for whatever reason, are uninsured and are not eligible for healthcare benefits such as Medicare or Medicaid.



"This new agreement will mean a huge savings for a co-op member who needs treatment and goes to St. John's Hospital," says Menard General Manager Lynn Frasco. "Today's medical procedures are often expensive, but this plan makes them more affordable for the consumers who may be most vulnerable to a financial hardship."

A 30 percent discount is available to active co-op members and their spouses and dependents. It applies to inpatient and outpatient charges from St. John's Hospital, but not to physicians' charges or services from other companies. Examples of covered outpatient services include Home Health Care, Home Infusion Therapy, AthletiCare,

Wellness Care, and the Mind/Body Medicine Program.

St. John's is offering the savings to active members of Menard Electric Cooperative. Patients covered by insurance typically receive a negotiated discount on medical services provided by hospitals. St. John's also offers a prompt payment discount and will work with the uninsured patient to set up an affordable monthly payment plan.

Co-op members can bring a copy of a recent electric bill to the hospital upon registration to show their membership. The hospital will then issue a member card, to be used for subsequent visits. The 30 percent discount will automatically be applied to any charges billed for St. John's Hospital.

"St. John's has a long tradition of providing quality health care services to the people of central Illinois. We are pleased that we were able to work with the Cooperative to offer a special savings plan to its members," said Richard Carlson, FACHE, executive vice president, St. John's Hospital. "We hope this agreement will serve as a model for other organizations. These types of arrangements help us fulfill our commitment to providing the very best health care to all our patients."

Members with questions on eligibility or services included in the discount program can call (217) 544-6464, ext. 55615 at St. John's Hospital. Taking a recent electric bill is the easiest, fastest way to show membership when registering at the hospital, located at 800 E. Carpenter Street, just north of downtown Springfield.

More information about the hospital can also be found on their web site at st-johns.org. The Patient Services tab located at the top of the opening page includes a complete listing of services offered at St. John's. A Quick Links area explains services offered at the Bone and Joint Institute, the Carol Jo Vecchie Women and Children's Center, Prairie Heart Institute and the Cancer Institute at St. John's Hospital.

KID FRIENDLY AND ENERGY SMART

BY LAURA CAMPER



Close the door You're letting all the heat out!" "Turn off the lights when you leave the room!" "Turn off the TV if you're not going to watch it!" "Don't hold the refrigerator door open!" And so the battle between kids and parents about wasted energy continues.

It's time to try a different approach — conservation education.

There are lots of resources on the Internet for parents to teach their kids how to save energy and why it is important.

With the Department of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, take a field trip to Dr. E's Energy Lab at www.eere.energy.gov/kids/ and a funky, monkey scientist in a lab coat and glasses will lead kids through his lab. They can learn about renewable energy sources like wind, solar, and geothermal energy.

They can also learn about saving energy. Besides reading some energy saving tips, kids can follow a link to Energy Hog, to play a game that teaches them how to spot energy hogs in their own home and how to fix them.

In Roofus' Solar and Efficient Neighborhood at www.eere.energy.gov/roofus/, also by the Department of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, kids can take a tour of Roofus' energy efficient home and neighborhood. Roofus, a very smart retriever donning a baseball cap and sunglasses, gives the kids tips on how they can make their own home more energy efficient. Roofus also gives kids some solar projects that they can build, including a solar pizza box oven and a sundial.

The Energy Kids Page at www.eia.doe.gov/kids, by the Energy Information Administration, is written for junior high or high school students. Energy Ant, sporting a red



turtleneck and looking like he stepped out of an Archie comic, leads students through the different activities and information sections.

Under Fun & Games they can take field trips to energy related sights from a Kerr McGee drilling sight to the National Renewable Energy Laboratory to the National Atomic Museum. All tours feature color photos and informational stories about each of the sights. There are also crossword puzzles and word searches for the kids to do and a coloring book for younger kids.

Under Energy History, kids can learn about famous people who contributed to energy knowledge and the history of energy and its use — people like Benjamin Franklin, Albert Einstein, and Henry Ford to name a few. There are also pages for Energy Facts and for Classroom Activities for ages 5 through 18.

To explain why conservation is important, have your kids visit www.epa.gov/kids, the Environmental Protection Agency Web site. The Web site explains global warming

and the greenhouse effect in terms that kids of all ages can understand and the Ozone is explained in an online comic book. The Web site also explains how people and their use of resources have changed the earth.

The EPA also has a Web site aimed at high school students at www.epa.gov/highschool/. This Web site is a gold mine for students. It has links to Web sites on environmental topics organized by the headings of Air, Water, Waste and Recycling, Conservation, and Ecosystems. Each link has a short description of the information available on that site.

In addition, the Web site lists environmental careers, internships, and scholarships for those students interested in pursuing an education in environmental science.

So, instead of barking orders at your kids, have them visit some of these Web sites. They can learn, on their own, the importance of saving energy and hopefully, start some good habits that will last a lifetime.

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

Attendance Prizes - 68th Annual Meeting Menard Electric Cooperative June 4, 2005

Supplier Gifts

Menard Electric Cooperative Prizes

Don Banister	Springfield	\$50 Credit to Electric Account
Morris Bell	Chanderville	Hamilton Beach Blender
Van Bitner	Mason City	\$50 Credit to Electric Account
Harris Boeker	Chanderville	12-piece Watering Set
Kyle A. Cheek	Petersburg	Magnavox 13" TV & DVD Player- <i>Early Bird</i>
Don Collier	Springfield	\$50 Credit to Electric Account
Dale DeMonbrun	Oakford	Coleman Lantern
Richard Dolack	Williamsville	50-foot Garden Hose
Arthur E. Durdel	Manito	5-piece Salad & Pasta Bowl Set
James Gurnsey	Petersburg	\$50 Credit to Electric Account
S. Bart Henderson	Williamsville	\$250 Credit to Electric Acct. - Grand Prize
Dennis M. Irwin	Pleasant Plains	\$50 Credit to Electric Account
Warren Ishmael	Chanderville	Power Tracker Plugstrip
Paul J. Jenkins	Springfield	Power Tracker Plugstrip
W. Dale Keltner	Jacksonville	Power Tracker Plugstrip
Duane Lee	Petersburg	Power Tracker Plugstrip
George E. Meeker	Mason City	\$50 Credit to Electric Account
Paul D. Messersmith	Petersburg	Power Tracker Surge Protection Device
Linda L. Noll	Petersburg	\$50 Credit to Electric Account
Douglas K. Penrod	Athens	\$50 Credit to Electric Account
Priscilla H. Reynolds	Tallula	Surge Protection Device
Gary Roberts	Fairview	\$50 Credit to Electric Account
Sylvia L. Schone	Tallula	Surge Protection Device
Emerson Sheets	Springfield	Rechargeable Spot Light
Donald Tippitt	Dawson	Power Tracker Plugstrip
Brad & Jan Zeeck	Havana	\$50 Credit to Electric Account

Proxy Prizes

Richard Allen	Sunbeam Toaster
Carl J. Becker	Sunbeam Toaster
Edgar Robinson Jr.	Sunbeam Toaster
Gene Schmidgall	Sunbeam Toaster
Charles O. Turner	Sunbeam Toaster

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
May 24, 2005**

Menard Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, May 24, 2005, 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: Edward Allspach, Michael E. Carls, Roy H. Seaney, D. Jay Frye, Warren Goetsch, James Graff and Jerry W. Brooks. 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 26, 2005 Board meeting were reviewed and approved as corrected.

The Board reviewed April 2005 General Fund Checks Nos. 15,303 – 15,505 amounting to \$1,984,957.61. After discussion, the payment of bills was approved.

It was moved and seconded that the Inventory of Work Orders for the month of April 2005 in the amount of \$120,806.85 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Manager Frasco introduced Kevin Kelso who presented the results of the 2004 audit.

Manager Frasco reviewed the 39 Membership Applications and 26 Service Permits for April. They were approved as presented. Agreements for Electric Service for Carol Kolves, Steven Turner, Rick Lane, Randall Phelps, and Woodrow Jones were accepted.

Manager Frasco presented the Manager's Report for the month of April. He reviewed the Balance Sheet, Budget as well as the Outage Summary. There was no Safety Report for the month, but advised that there was no lost time due to accidents. Under the operations report he discussed the status of the matters with regard to the cooperatives medical insurance plan. He reminded the Board that the cooperative was looking at a high deductible plan. He advised that he had met with cooperative employees several times to discuss the plan. It was the consensus to defer going to the plan until January 1, 2006.

The Board discussed the new headquarters building and the tour that was conducted prior to the board meeting. Manager Frasco advised that the move would be sometime during the week of

June 20th to June 27th. He discussed that the Capital Credit Distribution had not been made nor the checks been mailed out.

President Martin called the Board into Executive Session. President Martin reconvened the monthly Board Meeting.

The Manager presented the Financial Report for the Month of April 2005. Year to date margins were \$83,617 compared to \$(43,023) the previous year. Equity as of the end of April was 36.65% and the number of members served was 10,038 compared to 9,919 last year. Net Utility Plant at the end of April 2005 was \$28,852,981 compared to \$26,601,402 a year ago. The cooperative continues to meet the requirements of RUS, CFC and the FFB.

Directors' Special Occasion vouchers for the month in the amount of \$188.88 were approved.

Director Goetsch reported on AIEC activities for the month, which included a discussion of the AIEC dues structure.

Director Brooks reported on the Annual Meeting Committee Meeting.

Director Carls and Manager Frasco reported on Soyland/CCS activities.

It was moved and seconded that the Rate Schedule "WH" Water Heater be approved. Motion carried.

There was a discussion of the NRECA Legislative Rally on May 2nd through 4th. There was no one from the cooperative able to attend the Rally.

Director Graff reported on his meeting with Congressman Ray LaHood in Middletown.

It was moved and seconded that Section IV Underground Service Policy be approved. Motion carried.

Manager Frasco discussed with the Board the Region V Meeting scheduled for Dubuque, Iowa for September 13th through 15th, 2005. There was discussion on who would attend the meeting. Manager Frasco would be the Delegate and President Martin was appointed the Alternate.

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, June 28, 2005 at 7:00PM. There being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

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

MENARD

Menard Electric Cooperative



NEWS

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>

St. John's Hospital offers savings to Menard members

Members of Menard Electric Cooperative who have no medical insurance are eligible to save on the cost of services from St. John's Hospital in Springfield, under an arrangement that became effective on July 1, 2004. The savings are being offered by St. John's to help those who, for whatever reason, are uninsured and are not eligible for healthcare benefits such as Medicare or Medicaid.

"This new agreement will mean a huge savings for a co-op member who needs treatment and goes to St. John's Hospital," says Menard General Manager Lynn Frasco. "Today's medical procedures are often expensive, but this plan makes them more affordable for the consumers who may be most vulnerable to a financial hardship."

A 30 percent discount is available to active co-op members and their spouses and dependents. It applies to inpatient and outpatient charges from St. John's Hospital, but not to physicians' charges or services from other companies. Examples of covered outpatient services include Home Health Care, Home Infusion Therapy, AthletiCare, Wellness Care, and the Mind/Body Medicine Program.

St. John's is offering the savings to active members of Menard Electric Cooperative. Patients covered by insurance typically receive a negotiated discount on medical services provided by hospitals. St. John's also offers a prompt payment discount and will work with the uninsured patient to set-up an affordable monthly payment plan.

Co-op members can bring a copy of a recent

electric bill to the hospital upon registration to show their membership. The hospital will then issue a member card, to be used for subsequent visits. The 30 percent discount will automatically be applied to any charges billed for St. John's Hospital.

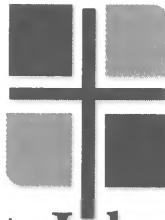
"St. John's has a long tradition of providing quality health care services to the people of central Illinois. We are pleased that we were able to work with the Cooperative to offer a special savings plan to its members," said Richard Carlson, FACHE, executive vice president, St. John's Hospital. "We hope this agreement will serve as a model for other organizations. These types of arrangements help us fulfill our commitment to providing the very best health care to all our patients."

Members with questions on eligibility or services included in the discount program can call (217) 544-6464, ext.

55615 at St John's Hospital. Taking a recent electric bill is the easiest, fastest way to show membership when registering at the hospital, located at 800 E. Carpenter Street, just north

of downtown Springfield.

More information about the hospital can also be found on their web site at st-johns.org. The Patient Services tab located at the top of the opening page includes a complete listing of services offered at St. John's. A Quick Links area explains services offered at the Bone and Joint Institute, the Carol Jo Vecchie Women and Children's Center, Prairie Heart Institute and the Cancer Institute at St. John's Hospital.



St. John's Hospital

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

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 ■ 10 MB of WebSpace
- Unlimited Access ■ Free Technical Support
- Speeds up to 56K ■ One bill for Long Distance and Internet
- 5 Email Accounts ■ 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:

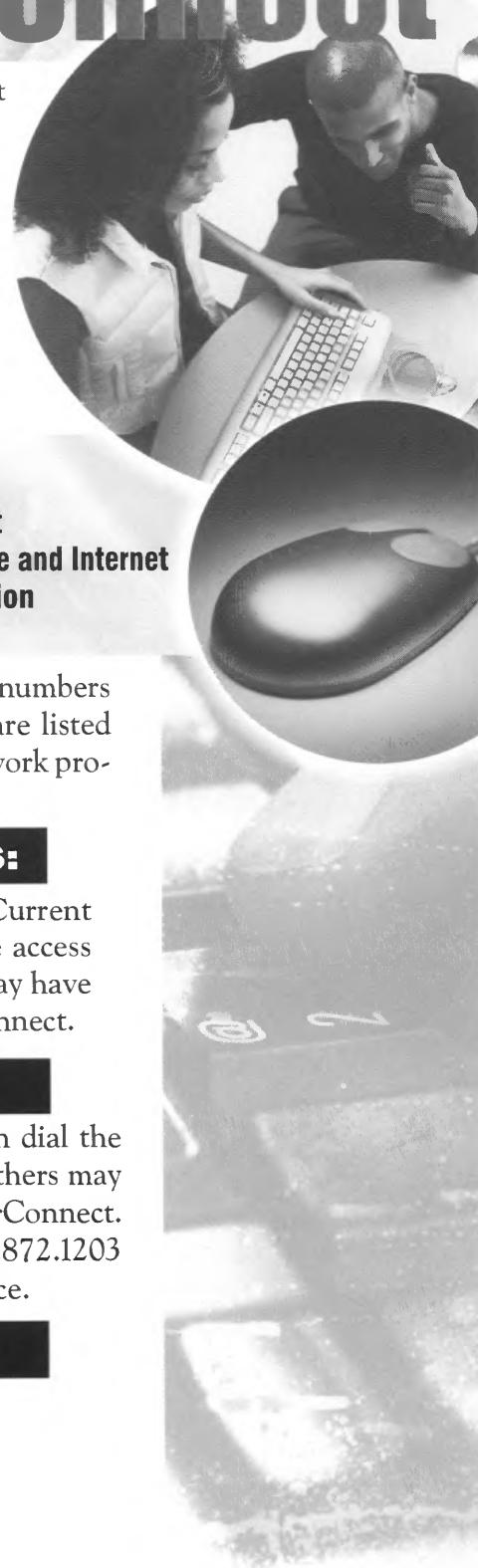
Call (877) 599-2295 to sign up for service. Current availability is limited to those who can dial the access numbers listed below as local calls. All others may have to pay long distance charges to access PowerConnect.

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.



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



REBATES

■ Water Heater Rebates and Rate

This water heater rebate program is available on a **one-time** basis to all members who agree to replace an existing fossil fuel fired water heater with an electric water heater that has at least a 40-gallon capacity. If the new electric water heater is installed in a new structure or replaces a fossil fuel fired water heater you will receive a \$100 rebate. For the second new water heater you will receive \$75. If the new electric water heater

replaces an existing electric water heater you will receive a \$75 rebate. To qualify for the rebate you must sign up for the cooperative's load management program. In addition to the rebate above you will qualify for a 3 cent per kilowatt-hour rate reduction on kilowatt-hours used between 600 and 1,000 every month of the year. This could save you up to \$144 each year in addition to the rebate.

■ Geothermal Rebates & Rates

The rebate is \$600 per unit regardless of the size of the unit installed. The unit can be installed in either a new or existing home. If you install a geothermal heating and cooling system you will also be eligible for your cooperative's geothermal rate, if

you have an all electric home. Under this rate you will be billed 5 cents per kilowatt-hour for all kilowatt-hours used between 1,000 and 6,000 for the billing months of October through May each year.

■ Heat Pump Rebates

Your cooperative is offering a \$200 rebate regardless of the size of the unit installed.

■ Certified Comfort Home Rebate

If you build a new home to the standards described in the Certified Comfort Home book you will receive a one-time \$100 rebate.

If you have any questions on these rebates give the cooperative a call at (800) 872-1203 or check out the cooperative's Web site at www.menard.com.

Credit Card Convenience



Your cooperative is accepting payment for electric accounts and other invoiced amounts by VISA or MasterCard. The cooperative is charging a \$3.00 transaction processing fee to accept payment by VISA or MasterCard for amounts up to \$200. Payments more than \$200 will be charged a transaction fee of 3 percent of the payment amount. You may either stop

in the office or you may authorize the cooperative to charge your monthly bill to your credit card by telephone or in writing. There are three ways to pay with your credit card:

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



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	_____	_____

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.

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

MENARD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

APPLICATION AUTOMATIC PAYMENT PLAN

If you would like to sign-up for the automatic payment plan, then fill out the following form. Send form and a VOIDED CHECK or DEPOSIT SLIP to Menard Electric Cooperative, PO Box 200, Petersburg, Illinois.

NAME: _____ SS#: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE# _____

MAP LOCATION# _____

BANK NAME _____

BANK ACCOUNT# _____

TYPE OF ACCOUNT Checking Savings

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

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

LONG DISTANCE SERVICE

Available from

Menard Electric Cooperative

Sign up today for Menard Electric's long distance business and residential phone service and call someone you love for less. Fill out the form below to get started today!

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

4.5¢ **4.9¢**

All calls in Illinois

All calls out of state

FREE
Personal
800 NUMBER
No fees
Same low rate

- 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 12.9¢ 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.

**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

Tampering with your electric service is illegal and dangerous

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

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

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

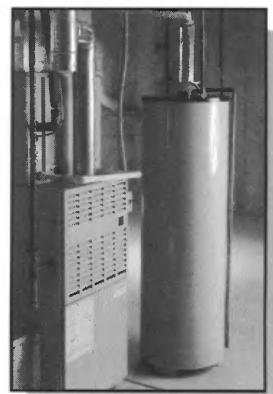
Criminal law places stiff penalties on tampering and current diversion. Tampering with components of an electric service leaves a specific trail of evidence that is quickly identified by trained personnel.

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

Advantages of an electric water heater

- Heating water with electricity is seven times safer than gas. A study by the National Fire Protection Agency has found that gas water heaters cause seven times as many home fires as electric water heaters.
- Electric water heaters require no flue or vent. They can be placed virtually anywhere.
- Electric water heaters do not use air for combustion. Indoor air quality is not compromised by the water heater and there is no danger of explosion.

- Electric water heaters require less maintenance. There is no pilot light, no vent, no flue or heat exchanger to corrode.
- Electric water heaters have more insulation. They can be insulated on all sides, including top and bottom.
- Electric water heaters are more efficient. The heating elements are in direct contact with the water so they are nearly 100 percent efficient. A gas water heater loses 40 to 60 percent of its heat energy up the flue.



Recipe for electrical appliance safety

PREPARATION TIME: 5 minutes.

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

DIRECTIONS:

- Check all power cords and plugs for breaks or damaged insulation.
- Check plugs to be sure they are in good condition.
- Keep all appliances such as toasters, microwaves, hair dryers, curling irons and radios away from sinks and water. Electricity and

water do not mix.

- If a circuit breaker keeps tripping or fuses keep blowing, first check to see if you have too many appliances on the circuit. Inspect cords and outlets. If the problem persists, have appliances inspected by qualified service personnel or have the wiring checked by a qualified electrician.
- Mix all ingredients together following the directions and cook up a recipe to save lives.

SERVES: Everyone.

BOARD MEETING REPORT

**Menard Electric Cooperative
From the Board Room
June 28, 2005**

Menard Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, June 28, 2005, 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: Edward Allspach, Michael E. Carls, Roy H. Seaney, D. Jay Frye, Warren Goetsch, Steven Worner, James Graff and Jerry W. Brooks. 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 24, 2005, Board meeting were reviewed and approved as presented.

The Board reviewed May 2005 General Fund Checks Nos. 15,506 – 15,673 amounting to \$2,335,822.71. After discussion, the payment of bills was approved.

It was moved and seconded that the Inventory of Work Orders for the month of May 2005 in the amount of \$72,987.63 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Manager Frasco reviewed the 36 Membership Applications and 18 Service Permits for May. They were approved as presented.

Manager Frasco presented the Manager's Report for the month of May. He reviewed the Balance Sheet, Budget as well as the Outage Summary and Safety Report. Under the operations report, he discussed the status of the Headquarters Building construction and advised that there was a three page punch list of items yet to be corrected. He advised that the contractor was working on the items. He reported that Jim Adams had made his final inspection and he was pleased with the project. He reported that they had trouble with SBC and they were having difficulty in getting them to come to the headquarters to complete the installation of the communications and telephone system. He advised that there had been numerous discussions with the SBC representative attempting to get them to the Headquarters facilities to complete the installation. Manager Frasco discussed the fact that Menard County may no longer be providing the answering service utilized by the cooperative. He discussed other options in the event that the answering service was no longer available. There was a discussion about planning for the Open House for the new office building. It was decided to schedule the Open House for Friday, August 19, 2005 from 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM. There was a discussion for other plans for the Open House. Manager Frasco discussed the status of matters with regard to load interruption. He had advised that there had been three voluntary interruptions and three mandatory interruptions. He reported that there had been more interruptions in the last week than there had been in the last three years combined.

The Manager presented the Financial Report for the Month of May 2005. Year to date margins were (\$23,363) compared to (\$192,463) the previous year. Equity as of the end of May was 35.52% and the number of members served was 10,038 compared to 9,945 last year. Net Utility Plant at the end of May 2005 was \$29,492,928 compared to \$26,636,952 a year ago.

The cooperative continues to meet the requirements of RUS, CFC and the FFB.

Directors' Special Occasion vouchers for the month in the amount of \$172.28 were approved.

Director Goetsch reported that there were no AIEC activities for the month.

Director Carls and Manager Frasco reported on Soyland/CCS activities. Manager Frasco discussed the strategic planning session to be held on June 30, 2005. He also discussed the meeting held with Co Bank, CFC, and RUS, on June 1, 2005 and the results of the meetings. He reviewed with the Board a revision to the Resolution with regard to the Franklin County Power Purchase. He advised that there had been a misunderstanding as to the terms of the agreement and the actual term was 30 years rather than 20 years.

The Board discussed and reviewed the 2005 Annual Meeting.

Manager Frasco reviewed with the Board the results of the General Retirement of Capital Credits, which totaled \$150,000.

Manager Frasco reviewed the NRECA Drug Benefits plan. He advised that NRECA was offering a drug discount program available to retirees. It was his recommendation that Menard not participate in the plan, but allow NRECA to contact the retirees directly.

The board reviewed and approved meeting dates for 2005/2006.

President Martin reviewed with the Board his delegate appointments and Board Committee appointments. Annual Meeting Committee are Directors Brooks, Frye, and Graff; Irrigation Committee are Directors Frye, Carls, Graff, & Worner; Building Committee are Directors Allspach, Goetsch, Brooks and Seaney; Capital Credits Committee are Directors Goetsch, Graff, Frye and Worner; By-Law Committee are Directors Seaney, Brooks, Goetsch and Allspach; Labor Committee are Directors Worner, Allspach, Carls & Seaney; Delegates to affiliated organizations were appointed also.

Manager Frasco reviewed the Certificate of Completion of Contract Construction with regard to the new Headquarters Building and RUS Form 187.

Manager Frasco advised that the AIEC Annual Meeting was scheduled for July 27 through July 29, 2005 and there was a course scheduled called "Rules and Procedures for Effective Board Meetings and Membership Meetings."

Manager Frasco discussed the NRECA Region V Meeting scheduled for Dubuque, Iowa September 13-15, 2005.

Under Other Business Manager Frasco reminded the board that he had sent them information with regards to Cooperative Per Diem Compensation. It was decided to table this until next month's meeting.

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, July 26, 2005, 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.

OFFICE CLOSING

Our office will be closed Labor Day,
Monday September 5th.

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

MENARD

Menard Electric Cooperative



NEWS

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New Facility Open House

On the afternoon of Friday, August 19, 175 members of the cooperative, retirees, friends, and business associates, attended the Open House at the new Headquarters facility. Employees gave tours of the new facility. A souvenir of the occasion was given to all who attended.

The new facility includes a 9,000 sq. ft. general office and a 14,000 sq. ft. garage and warehouse. Jones and Blythe Construction Company from Springfield was awarded the design build contracts and the building was

completed on schedule in June 2005. Adams & Associates from Nevada, Missouri was the architect. The facility includes a 70 kw emergency back up generator, a geothermal heating and cooling system, computer networked cabling, a two bay loading dock, truck maintenance and wash bay, 30 space parking lot, drive up drop box for bill payment, voice over Internet telephone system, and a community training room that the cooperative intends to make available for clubs and local community not for profit organizations.

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

Credit Card Convenience



Your cooperative is accepting payment for electric accounts and other invoiced amounts by VISA or MasterCard. The cooperative is charging a \$3.00 transaction processing fee to accept payment by VISA or MasterCard for amounts up to \$200. Payments more than \$200 will be charged a transaction fee of 3 percent of the payment amount. You may either stop the payment or make arrangements

in the office or you may authorize the cooperative to charge your monthly bill to your credit card by telephone or in writing. There are three ways to pay with your credit card:

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



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: _____

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

October is Cooperative Month

America's Cooperative Electric Utilities

Are the Nation's Consumer Owned Electric Utility Network



COOPERATIVES

Electric cooperatives are an integral part of the \$255 billion electric utility industry. They play a critical role in our nation's economy and in local communities.

Electric cooperatives are:

- Private independent electric utility businesses,
- Owned by the consumers they serve,
- Incorporated under the laws of the states in which they operate,
- Established to provide at cost electric service,
- Governed by a board of directors elected from the membership, which sets policies and procedures that are implemented by the cooperatives' professional staff.

Distribution cooperatives deliver electricity to the consumer. Generation and transmission cooperatives (G&Ts) generate and transmit electricity to distribution co-ops.

In addition to electric service, many electric co-ops are involved in community development and revitalization projects, e.g., small business development and jobs creation, improvement of water and sewer systems, and assistance in delivery of health care and educational services.

Facts at a Glance

- 864 distribution and 66 G&T cooperatives serve:
- 37 million people in 47 states.



Businesses People Trust

- 16 million businesses, homes, schools, churches, farms, irrigation systems, and other establishments in 2,500 of 3,141 counties in the U.S.
- 12 percent of the nation's population.

To perform their mission, electric cooperatives:

- Own assets worth \$86 billion,
- Own and maintain 2.4 million miles, or 43%, of the nation's electric distribution lines, covering three quarters of the nation's landmass,
- Deliver 10 percent of the total kilowatt hours sold in the U.S. each year,
- Generate 5 percent of the total electricity produced in the U.S. each year,
- Employ 63,000 people in the United States,
- Retire more than \$450 million in capital credits annually.
- Pay more than \$1 billion in state and local taxes

Compared with other electric utilities:

- Co-ops serve an average of 6.6 consumers per mile of line and collect annual revenue of approximately \$8,500 per mile of line,
- Investor owned utilities average 34 customers per mile of line and collect \$59,000 per mile of line,
- Publicly owned utilities, or municipals, average 44 consumers and collect \$72,000 per mile of line.

MENARD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

APPLICATION AUTOMATIC PAYMENT PLAN

If you would like to sign-up for the automatic payment plan, then fill out the following form. Send form and a VOIDED CHECK or DEPOSIT SLIP to Menard Electric Cooperative, PO Box 200, Petersburg, Illinois.

NAME: _____ SS#: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE# _____

MAP LOCATION# _____

BANK NAME _____

BANK ACCOUNT# _____

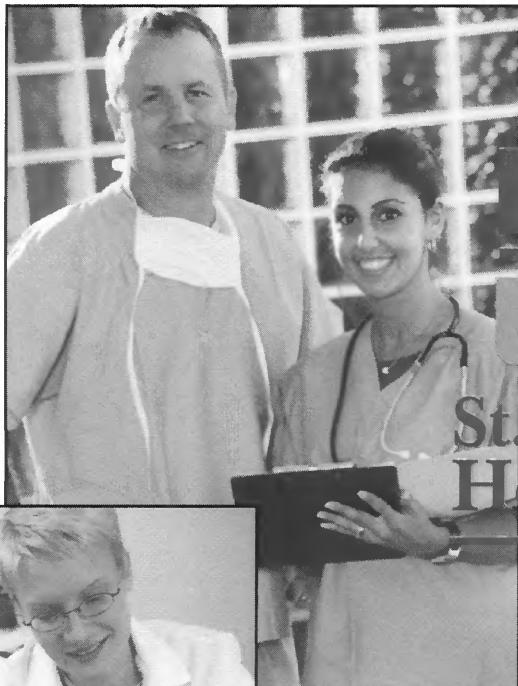
TYPE OF ACCOUNT Checking Savings

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

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

St. John's Hospital offers savings to Menard members

Members of Menard Electric Cooperative who have no medical insurance are eligible to save on the cost of services from St. John's Hospital in Springfield. The savings are being offered by St. John's to help those who, for whatever reason, are uninsured and are not eligible for healthcare benefits such as Medicare or Medicaid.



"This new agreement will mean a huge savings for a co-op member who needs treatment and goes to St. John's Hospital," says Menard General Manager Lynn Frasco. "Today's medical procedures are often expensive, but this plan makes them more affordable for the consumers who may be most vulnerable to a financial hardship."

A 30 percent discount is available to active co-op members and their spouses and dependents. It applies to inpatient and outpatient charges from St. John's Hospital, but not to physicians' charges or services from other companies. Examples of covered outpatient services include Home Health Care, Home Infusion Therapy, AthletiCare,

Wellness Care, and the Mind/Body Medicine Program.

St. John's is offering the savings to active members of Menard Electric Cooperative. Patients covered by insurance typically receive a negotiated discount on medical services provided by hospitals. St. John's also offers a prompt payment discount and will work with the uninsured patient to set-up an affordable monthly payment plan.

Co-op members can bring a copy of a recent electric bill to the hospital upon registration to show their membership. The hospital will then issue a member card, to be used for subsequent visits. The 30 percent discount will automatically be applied to any charges billed for St. John's Hospital.

"St. John's has a long tradition of providing quality health care services to the people of central Illinois. We are pleased that we were able to work with the Cooperative to offer a special savings plan to its members," said

Richard Carlson, FACHE, executive vice president, St. John's Hospital. "We hope this agreement will serve as a model for other organizations. These types of arrangements help us fulfill our commitment to providing the very best health care to all our patients."

Members with questions on eligibility or services included in the discount program can call (217) 544-6464, ext. 55615 at St. John's Hospital. Taking a recent electric bill is the easiest, fastest way to show membership when registering at the hospital, located at 800 E. Carpenter Street, just north of downtown Springfield.

More information about the hospital can also be found on their web site at st-johns.org. The Patient Services tab located at the top of the opening page includes a complete listing of services offered at St. John's. A Quick Links area explains services offered at the Bone and Joint Institute, the Carol Jo Vecchie Women and Children's Center, Prairie Heart Institute and the Cancer Institute at St. John's Hospital.



St. John's Hospital

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

Incandescent, Halogen, or Compact Fluorescent?

The least expensive bulbs may cost you the most.

By Tina Farmer, Intern

In 1879 Thomas Edison had a bright idea – a light bulb – now the icon for all bright ideas. While many of us still use a version of Edison's incandescent bulb, grabbing the first one we glide past while speeding through the supermarket aisles, this least expensive of bulbs may not be the most economical in the long run.

Shopping for new light bulbs can be confusing. Which is best? Which lasts longest? Which will save you money? Below, we have broken down and simplified the different bulb types to make the comparison easier.

■ Incandescent- The most common light bulbs are the incandescent bulbs. They cost about \$0.75 per bulb and last about 750 to 1,000 hours (long-life bulbs may last up to 2,500 hours). They give a comfortable spectrum of light and work well with the dimmer switches that are so popular in homes. They also waste energy. Lots of it. In fact, about 90 percent of the energy they produce is released not as light, but as heat. While this may be fine during the cooler months, it can mean higher air conditioning bills in the warmer ones.

■ Halogen- Halogen bulbs are more efficient than incandescent bulbs and burn longer. They have a standard life of approximately 2,250 to 3,500 hours and with continued use maintain their clean white light without fading. Unfortunately, rather than using energy efficient standard halogen bulbs, most halogen users employ high-wattage halogen tubes. These energy gluttons create four times more heat than incandescent

bulbs and, with temperatures reaching about 1,200 degrees, they can be serious fire hazards.

■ Compact Fluorescent-

The words "fluorescent light" may bring horrifying recollections of buzzing light fixtures and visions of dull, sickly, institutional type lighting. But it's time to rethink that image. Today's fluorescent bulbs are the most energy efficient form of lighting out there and the most economical to operate. New electronic ballasts have quieted the buzz and the phosphor-coated glass tubes produce a soothing spectrum of light that closely mimics that of the incandescent bulbs. Fluorescents consume only about one-quarter to one-third of the energy as incandescents and last 10,000 hours or more! Replacing the high-use bulbs in your home with fluorescent bulbs can reduce your lighting costs by about half. The newest bulbs are about the same length as traditional bulbs and will fit in most light fixtures. And for those die-hard dimmer users out there, new dimmable fluorescent bulbs are being marketed for home use.

The initial cost of fluorescent bulbs is higher, around \$5 compared to the \$0.75 incandescent bulb, but you should keep in mind that the operating cost of a 75-watt incandescent bulb will be about \$6 over its relatively short life span. Replacing a 100-watt incandescent bulb with a 32-watt compact fluorescent bulb can save about \$30 in operating costs over the life of the bulb and provides the same light output. You should also consider the environmental benefits when deciding whether



to undergo the fluorescent conversion.

A 20-watt compact fluorescent bulb will use about 550 kilowatt-hours of electricity less than a 75-watt incandescent bulb. That equates to 500 pounds of coal that will not be used in coal-fired power plants and 1,300 pounds of carbon dioxide and 20 pounds of sulfur that will not be released as environmental pollution. The government estimates that replacing one incandescent bulb in every U.S. household with a compact fluorescent bulb would be the pollution-saving equivalent of removing one million cars from our streets.

There are several lighting options to choose from when illuminating your home. Many people will remain loyal to Edison's "bright idea," but the new fluorescent lighting options are certainly worth a look. They are more energy efficient, more economical to operate, and environmentally friendlier. For more information about compact fluorescent lighting options, visit the federal government's ENERGY STAR Web site at www.energystar.gov.

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



REBATES

■ Water Heater Rebates and Rate

This water heater rebate program is available on a one-time basis to all members who agree to replace an existing fossil fuel fired water heater with an electric water heater that has at least a 40-gallon capacity. If the new electric water heater is installed in a new structure or replaces a fossil fuel fired water heater you will receive a \$100 rebate. For the second new water heater you will receive \$75. If the new electric water heater

replaces an existing electric water heater you will receive a \$75 rebate. To qualify for the rebate you must sign up for the cooperative's load management program. In addition to the rebate above you will qualify for a 3 cent per kilowatt-hour rate reduction on kilowatt-hours used between 600 and 1,000 every month of the year. This could save you up to \$144 each year in addition to the rebate.

■ Geothermal Rebates & Rates

The rebate is \$600 per unit regardless of the size of the unit installed. The unit can be installed in either a new or existing home. If you install a geothermal heating and cooling system you will also be eligible for your cooperative's geothermal rate, if

you have an all electric home. Under this rate you will be billed 5 cents per kilowatt-hour for all kilowatt-hours used between 1,000 and 6,000 for the billing months of October through May each year.

■ Heat Pump Rebates

Your cooperative is offering a \$200 rebate regardless of the size of the unit installed.

■ Certified Comfort Home Rebate

If you build a new home to the standards described in the Certified Comfort Home book you will receive a onetime \$100 rebate.

If you have any questions on these rebates give the cooperative a call at (800) 872-1203 or check out the cooperative's Web site at www.menard.com.

BOARD MEETING REPORT

**Menard Electric Cooperative
From the Board Room
July 26, 2005**

Menard Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, July 26, 2005, 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, Roy H. Seaney, D. Jay Frye, Warren Goetsch, Steven Worner, James Graff and Jerry W. Brooks. Director Edward Allspach 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 June 28, 2005 Board meeting were reviewed and approved as presented.

The Board reviewed June 2005 General Fund Checks Nos. 15,674 – 15,952 amounting to \$2,147,332.89. After discussion, the payment of bills was approved.

It was moved and seconded that the Inventory of Work Orders for the month of June 2005 in the amount of \$169,908.00 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Manager Frasco reviewed Agreements for Electric Service for BMI Group and Griffith Creek Estates. The agreements were approved as presented.

President Martin introduced John Freitag, Vice President of the AIEC. Mr. Freitag made a presentation to the Board about an International Program to assist Cooperatives in developing Countries. He discussed the Sister Program with the Dominican Republic. Mr. Freitag informed the Board of the merits of the program in assisting Cooperatives in the Dominican Republic.

Manager Frasco presented the Manager's Report for the month of July. He reviewed the Balance Sheet, Budget as well as the Outage Summary and Safety Report. Under the operations report Manager Frasco advised that Menard County had expressed some interest in the Cooperative's former Headquarters Building. He reported on the status of the pending closings with regard to these properties that had been sold. He advised that he and the Staff had met with Jones & Blythe on the final punch list and that the contractor was in the process of working on and completing the punch list. He advised that he had gone over the final figures with the contractor and everything was in order. There would be no need for any change orders. Manager Frasco stated that he was scheduled to meet with the Athens City Council on August 8th to discuss with them a franchise agreement. He discussed with the Board the Vulnerability and Risk Assessment Evaluation required by RUS. He advised that this was a large undertaking and would have all the members of the Staff completing this assessment. He advised that he had heard from Cingular that they were no longer interested in building a new tower on the Cooperative's property. Apparently, Cingular had determined that the cost of construction would be too high to justify such construction. He reported on the Service Area Agreement with Ameren for the Ashland Area and advised that an agreement had been prepared. He advised that they would now proceed with

the formal acceptance of the agreement through the Illinois Commerce Commission. He advised that the Cooperative was still having problems with SBC and the new telephone system. He hoped to get this resolved in the near future. He also informed the Board that Menard County had informed him that they were considering no longer providing answering services to private entities when the County took over the ambulance service. He discussed with the Board other options for the answering service for the Cooperative.

The Manager presented the Financial Report for the Month of June 2005. Year to date margins were (\$53,857) compared to (\$5,943) the previous year. Equity as of the end of June was 34.86% and the number of members served was 10,067 compared to 9,954 last year. Net Utility Plant at the end of June 2005 was \$29,577,304 compared to \$26,719,029 a year ago. The Cooperative continues to meet the requirements of RUS, CFC and the FFB.

There were no Directors' Special Occasion vouchers for the month.

Director Goetsch reported on AIEC activities for the month.

Manager Frasco reported on load control activities.

Manager Frasco discussed with the Board the use of the Meeting Room by the public. It was his suggestion that the Board have a policy with regard to the use of the room. There was a discussion by the Board and it was the consensus of the Board that the public meeting room be limited to civic organizations and not for profit entities.

Manager Frasco also discussed the plans for the disposition of used furniture.

Manager Frasco asked the Board to consider a change in the date of the September Board meeting from September 27th to September 20th. A change in the meeting date was made to September 20th.

There was discussion by the Board about changing the Director's Per Diem rates.

Manager Frasco reported that the Open House for the New Building scheduled for Friday, August 19th from 2:00PM to 6:00 PM.

Manager Frasco reviewed with the Board a proposal from the AIEC Engineering Department to conduct a Cost of Service Study and Rate Design Study. It was moved and seconded that the proposal for said studies be approved.

Manager Frasco discussed the Region V Meeting scheduled for September 13th through the 15th in Dubuque, Iowa.

Director Carls and Manager Frasco reported on Soyland/CCS activities.

Manager Frasco reported on the Capital Credit Estate refund report.

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, August 23, 2005 at 7:00PM. There being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

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

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<http://www.menard.com>



This is a typical scene encountered by our linemen when they were working in the Hurricane ravaged areas of Mississippi and Louisiana.

Linemen Brandon Blair, Casey Duncheon, Leo Savage, Troy Shafer, Bob Burris, Rob Hanner, Seth Parker, and Dan Morgan from Menard Electric Cooperative were part of the 139 linemen from Illinois who volunteered to aid Mississippi electric cooperatives in restoring power to members affected by the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. They were working in the area of Gulfport, Mississippi. They worked in two groups of four and each group spent two weeks in the disaster area. The second group relieved the first group after it had completed its two-week assignment.

The Mississippi cooperatives requested help through the Emergency Work Plan of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. The Association contacted Menard Electric Cooperative on Monday, August 29 and the volunteering linemen left for Mississippi on Tuesday, August 30.

Unfortunately, Hurricane Rita devastated the Gulf Coast in the latter part of September. Assistance was again requested from Menard Electric. Larry Power, Dwaine Heyen, Brock Meyer, and Corey Stone volunteered to assist in the restoration of power in Southwest Louisiana. They worked in Louisiana for approximately two weeks.

Electric co-ops that receive assistance repay their counterparts who provide emergency assistance once service restoration has been completed.

"Cooperatives helping cooperatives is one of the core principles Menard Electric Cooperative operates under. Our employees who have volunteered to travel for an unknown length of time to help restore power to cooperative members of another state are living this principle," says Lynn Frasco, General Manager.

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

Credit Card Convenience

Menard 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

MENARD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

APPLICATION AUTOMATIC PAYMENT PLAN

If you would like to sign-up for the automatic payment plan, then fill out the following form. Send form and a VOIDED CHECK or DEPOSIT SLIP to Menard Electric Cooperative, PO Box 200, Petersburg, Illinois.

NAME: _____ SS#: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE# _____

MAP LOCATION# _____

BANK NAME _____

BANK ACCOUNT# _____

TYPE OF ACCOUNT Checking Savings

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

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

St. John's Hospital offers savings to Menard members

Members of Menard Electric Cooperative who have no medical insurance are eligible to save on the cost of services from St. John's Hospital in Springfield, under an arrangement that became effective on July 1, 2004. The savings are being offered by St. John's to help those who, for whatever reason, are uninsured and are not eligible for healthcare benefits such as Medicare or Medicaid.

"This new agreement will mean a huge savings for a co-op member who needs treatment and goes to St. John's Hospital," says Menard General Manager Lynn Frasco. "Today's medical procedures are often expensive, but this plan makes them more affordable for the consumers who may be most vulnerable to a financial hardship."

A 30 percent discount is available to active co-op members and their spouses and dependents. It applies to inpatient and outpatient charges from St. John's Hospital, but not to physicians' charges or services from other companies. Examples of covered outpatient services include Home Health Care, Home Infusion Therapy, AthletiCare, Wellness Care, and the Mind/Body Medicine Program.

St. John's is offering the savings to active members of Menard Electric Cooperative. Patients covered by insurance typically receive a negotiated discount on medical services provided by hospitals. St. John's also offers a prompt payment discount and will work with the uninsured patient to set up an affordable monthly payment plan.

Co-op members can bring a copy of

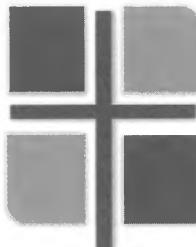
a recent electric bill to the hospital upon registration to show their membership. The hospital will then issue a member card, to be used for subsequent visits. The 30 percent discount will automatically be applied to any charges billed for St. John's Hospital.

"St. John's has a long tradition of providing quality health care services to the people of central Illinois. We are pleased that we were able to work with the Cooperative to offer a special savings plan to its members," said Richard Carlson, FACHE, executive vice president, St. John's Hospital. "We hope this agreement will serve as a model for other organizations. These types of arrangements help us fulfill our commitment to providing the very best health care to all our patients."

Members with questions on eligibility or services included in the discount program can call (217) 544-6464, ext. 55615 at St. John's Hospital. Taking a recent electric bill is the easiest, fastest way to show membership when registering at the hospital,

located at 800 E. Carpenter Street, just north of downtown Springfield.

More information about the hospital can also be found on their web site at st-johns.org. The Patient Services tab located at the top of the opening page includes a complete listing of services offered at St. John's. A Quick Links area explains services offered at the Bone and Joint Institute, the Carol Jo Vecchie Women and Children's Center, Prairie Heart Institute and the Cancer Institute at St. John's Hospital.



St. John's Hospital

Used Vehicle Sale

1999 International
4700 T444E
Cab & Chassis Only
99,890 Miles

Bids must be submitted
by 4:30 PM Friday,
December 2, 2005.

OFFICE CLOSING

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

The Cooperative office will also
be closed on Thursday and Friday,
Nov. 24 and 25, to observe the
Thanksgiving Holiday with
family and friends.

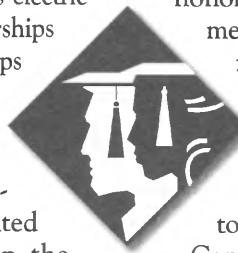


MENARD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ■ OFFICE HOURS: 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. ■ WEB ADDRESS: www.menard.com

Students encouraged to apply for 2006 IEC Memorial Scholarships

Menard Electric Cooperative General Manager Lynn Frasco has announced that for the eleventh consecutive year the Illinois electric cooperatives will award academic scholarships to high school seniors. The five scholarships are being awarded through the Illinois Electric Cooperative's (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

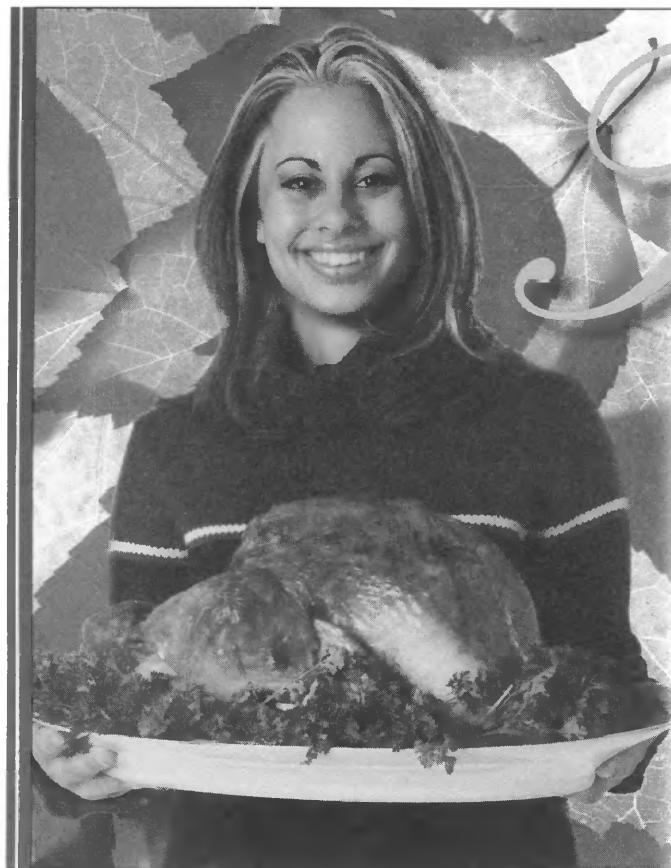
High school seniors pursuing a college education anywhere in the United States are eligible to participate in the program. Three \$1,250 scholarships will be awarded to the son or daughter of an electric cooperative member. A fourth \$1,250 award will go to the son or daughter of an electric cooperative director or employee. A fifth scholarship of \$1,250 will be reserved for use at a two-year Illinois community college, and sons and daughters of electric cooperative members, employees and directors are eligible. Deadline for applications to be returned to the cooperative is January 1, 2006.



"The purpose of the scholarship program is to assist electric cooperative youth while honoring past rural electric leaders through memorial gifts," said Lynn 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 Cooperative at (800) 872-1203.



Thanksgiving brings
visions of turkey, dressing
and pumpkin pie, all
under the warm glow of
electric lights. Your local
electric cooperative
is proud to be a part of all
of your holiday festivities.

*Have a safe
and blessed
Thanksgiving.*



REBATES

■ Water Heater Rebates and Rate

This water heater rebate program is available on a one-time basis to all members who agree to replace an existing fossil fuel fired water heater with an electric water heater that has at least a 40-gallon capacity. If the new electric water heater is installed in a new structure or replaces a fossil fuel fired water heater you will receive a \$100 rebate. For the second new water heater you will receive \$75. If the new electric water heater re-

places an existing electric water heater you will receive a \$75 rebate. To qualify for the rebate you must sign up for the cooperative's load management program. In addition to the rebate above you will qualify for a 3 cent per kilowatt-hour rate reduction on kilowatt-hours used between 600 and 1,000 every month of the year. This could save you up to \$144 each year in addition to the rebate.

■ Geothermal Rebates & Rates

The rebate is \$600 per unit regardless of the size of the unit installed. The unit can be installed in either a new or existing home. If you install a geothermal heating and cooling system you will also be eligible for your cooperative's geothermal rate, if

you have an all electric home. Under this rate you will be billed 5 cents per kilowatt-hour for all kilowatt-hours used between 1,000 and 6,000 for the billing months of October through May each year.

■ Heat Pump Rebates

Your cooperative is offering a \$200 rebate regardless of the size of the unit installed.

■ Certified Comfort Home Rebate

If you build a new home to the standards described in the Certified Comfort Home book you will receive a onetime \$100 rebate.

If you have any questions on these rebates give the cooperative a call at (800) 872-1203 or check out the cooperative's Web site at www.menard.com.

The Geothermal System:

Use the earth to your advantage for heating and cooling

Geothermal's advantages

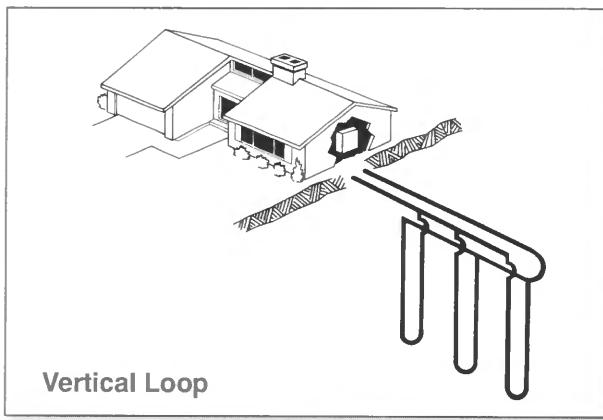
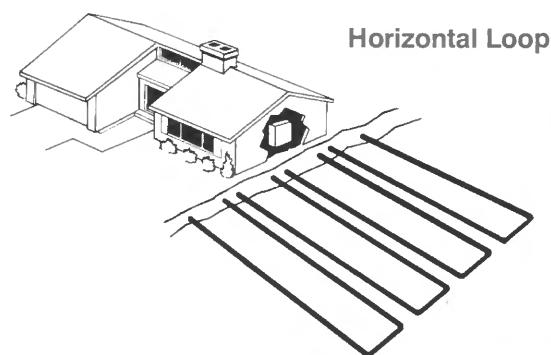
1. The geothermal system—or ground source heat pump—can bring extraordinary savings, up to 70 percent in some cases.
2. The geothermal system does not require a defrost cycle in the heating mode. The defrost cycle and the related strains it puts on an air-source heat pump have been directly linked to poor performance and shortened equipment life.
3. No outdoor equipment required. This solves the noise pollution problem outdoor fan coil units create.
4. While it is recommended that supplemental heat be used in many areas, the size and operation frequency is substantially reduced when compared to air-source heat pumps.
5. If service should be required, the equipment is indoors, not outside where the serviceman is at the mercy of weather extremes.
6. The system provides year-round comfort; plus heating, cooling, dehumidification and a considerable portion of the hot water requirements.
7. It is a wise investment—there is normally a rapid payback (two to seven years—depending on fuel/system comparison) and any home equipped for future energy conservation is more marketable.
8. Since there is no combustion, there is no chimney or flue requirement and no combustion gases in conditioned space.
9. Since the system sees no changes other than fluctuation in heating or cooling load requirements, the system's performance is not affected by changes in the weather conditions.
10. The system is all-electric—no valuable fossil fuels are consumed and there is no need for the expense of using a second utility; even if it's available.

11. The geothermal system has benefited from the attention given a growing technology. The system is extremely reliable, using components developed and incorporated after years of research, testing and experience.

12. Two-thirds or more of the heat energy used comes indirectly from the sun—a renewable, non-polluting energy source.

13. No defrost cycle and the compressor is indoors—two factors which contribute to the geothermal system's long life. Studies have indicated an average life of 19 years for geothermal systems—substantially greater than the average life of air source heat pumps.

14. The polybutylene pipe used in closed-loop earth-coupled applications is warrantied for 25 years, with an estimated useful life in excess of 50 years.



How to Calculate Your Capital Credits

For the fiscal year 2005 the capital credit allocation factor will be .02493976. 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 .02493976 = \$24.94. Please contact the co-op office for more information.

BOARD MEETING REPORT

**Menard Electric Cooperative
From the Board Room
August 23, 2005**

Menard Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, August 23, 2005, 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, Roy H. Seaney, D. Jay Frye, Warren Goetsch, Steven Worner and Jerry W. Brooks. Director Edward Allspach and James Graff 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 July 26, 2005 Board meeting were reviewed and approved as presented.

The Board reviewed July General Fund Checks Nos. 15,953 – 16,148 amounting to \$4,683,884.55. After discussion, the payment of bills was approved.

It was moved and seconded that the Inventory of Work Orders for the month of July 2005 in the amount of \$143,693.48 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Manager Frasco reviewed 44 Membership Applications and 13 Service Permits. Also an Agreement for Electric Service for IL National Golf Club (Irrigation) was approved as presented.

Manager Frasco presented the Manager's Report for the month of August. He reviewed the Balance Sheet, Budget as well as the Outage Summary and Safety Report. Under the operations report Manager Frasco reviewed the Load Control Summary with the Board. He advised that the cooperative had received the sum of \$52,725 from Soyland as a result of its load control efforts. He discussed the status of negotiations with ICG, formerly Turris Coal, as to a new contract. He discussed the terms of the new contract and advised that he hoped to have a draft of the contract for consideration at the next Board meeting. Manager Frasco discussed the status of negotiations with the owners of the Manito Sand Plant. He advised that he believed that they were going to connect to the cooperative's system. He stated that there was an issue as to the line extension charges. He indicated that the owners of the Sand Plant would pay the line extension charges over a four-year period. Manager Frasco indicated that he would hopefully have an agreement at next months Board Meeting. He reviewed with the Board the service to be provided by Young's Answering Service. He advised that he had met with representatives from Young's and had toured the facilities. The cooperative was ready to sign a contract with Young's. He discussed with the Board the Athens Franchise. He advised that the City Attorney of Athens was not present at the meeting and that the Council wished to have their attorney review the proposed ordinance prior to its adoption. Manager Frasco reported that the cooperative was having NRECA prepare a study on post retirement health benefits and the study was moving ahead. Manager Frasco advised that Jones & Blythe would be submitting a final bill for the construction of the Cooperative Headquarters building. The cooperative would hold back 5% of the amount until it had received all final lien waivers. He advised that heir had been no change orders and the work was completed at the bid price. Manager Frasco discussed the CFC meeting that he and President Martin attended. He discussed with the Board the Rural Economic Development Loan & Grant Program and advised that

these were funds that could be used by Menard County towards the purchase of the old headquarters building. He advised that he had discussed these funds with Menard County. He also reported that Carl Dufner had sent a request for information for preliminary data for the Cost of Service Study & Rate Design. The Board discussed with Manager Frasco the Headquarters Open House and all felt that it had been successful.

The Manager presented the Financial Report for the Month of July 2005. Year to date margins were \$540,626 compared to \$49,212 the previous year. Equity as of the end of July was 34.58% and the number of members served was 10,092 compared to 9,966 last year. Net Utility Plant at the end of July 2005 was \$29,614,214 compared to \$26,703,863 a year ago. The Cooperative continues to meet the requirements of RUS, CFC and the FFB.

Directors' Special Occasion vouchers for the month in the amount of \$2,337.41 were approved.

Director Goetsch reported on AIEC activities for the month.

Director Carls and Manager Frasco reported on Soyland/CCS activities. Director Carls advised that the 2004 Patronage Capital allocation to Menard Electric was \$397,089.74.

Manager Frasco reported on the proposed new wholesale Power Contract between Soyland and its members. Attorney Smith reported on the meeting of member attorneys to discuss and review the terms and provisions of the proposed contract. Manager Frasco advised that the Board would give this further consideration at next months meeting.

Attorney Smith discussed with the Board matters with regard to the Prairie State Electric Cooperative. He advised that it was hoped that the participants of Prairie State could proceed with the incorporation of the entity by September 20, 2005. It was moved and seconded that Manager Frasco be authorized to execute on behalf of the cooperative the Articles of Incorporation to form Prairie State Electric Cooperative, Inc. Motion carried. It was moved and seconded that he be authorized to execute and submit an Application of Membership in Prairie State Electric Cooperative on behalf of Menard Electric Cooperative. Motion carried. It was moved and seconded the cooperative be authorized to pay Prairie State Electric Cooperative a membership fee in the amount of \$25.00. Motion carried.

Manager Frasco reviewed with the Board the results of the Federated Insurance 2005 Safety and Loss Prevention Assessment. He discussed their recommendations.

Manager Frasco reported on the Capital Credit Estate refund report.

President Martin discussed the CFC Key Ratio Trend Analysis. It was his recommendation that the Board take this home and review this report and then it could be discussed at next month's meeting.

Manager Frasco presented to the Board a modification to the Sick Leave Bonus Policy for its first reading. It was the consensus of the Board to move this to the second reading.

The Board reviewed the Safety Program Policy for 2005.

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, September 20, 2005 at 7:00PM. There being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

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

MENARD



NEWS

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>

SEASON'S GREETINGS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

COOPERATIVE PERSONNEL

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



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

Escaping a Vehicle That is in Contact With Power Lines

Remain calm, stay in the vehicle and call for help. Ask someone to call the electric utility, and a lineman will be sent to disconnect the power. If the power line is energized and you step outside, your body becomes the path and electrocution is the tragic result. Wait until the electric utility arrives to make sure power to the line is cut off.

The only exception would be if fire or the smell of gasoline were present. In that case, the proper action is to jump—not step—with both feet hitting the ground at the same time. Jump clear, without touching the vehicle and ground at the same time. Shuffle or hop to safety keeping both feet together as you leave the area.

Like the ripples in a pond or lake, the

**Stay inside
the vehicle**

voltage diminishes the farther out it is from the source. Stepping from one voltage level to another allows the body to become a path for that electricity. A large difference in voltage between both feet could kill you.

Even if a power line has landed on the ground, there is still the potential for the area near your car to be energized. Stay inside the vehicle unless there's fire or imminent risk of fire. Be sure that at no time you or anyone touches

the equipment and the ground at the same time. Never should the occupants simply step out of the vehicle—they must jump clear.

Source: safeelectricity.com

SOAR



With programs designed to support our local schools and businesses, we're helping build a community that allows our children to soar to the highest reaches of their abilities.

We're member-owned co-ops and proud to support our local communities.



Touchstone Energy®
The power of human connections

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



REBATES

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

Heat Pump Improvements

The Arab oil embargo of the mid-1970s that created shortages in heating oil and natural gas (as well as gasoline) caused many homeowners and builders to search for alternatives to standard oil and gas furnaces. Many homeowners and builders looked to a system that was relatively new to the residential heating market, promised efficiency, and was not affected by oil shortages - the air-to-air heat pump.

Heat pumps promised increased efficiency and, since most electricity was generated by coal with a seemingly endless supply, heat pumps would not be affected by shortages. Installation of heat pumps grew rapidly in the 1970s and early 1980s in response to the energy crisis.

With natural gas prices having increased dramatically since 2003, homeowners and builders will most likely again turn to air-to-air heat pumps. The heat pump of today is more advanced than the heat pump of the 1970s and is even more energy efficient. Most heat pumps sold in the 1970s had a 6 to 8 Seasonal Energy Efficiency Rating (SEER). Today, a 10 SEER is the lowest efficiency that can be manufactured and beginning next year, a 13 SEER will be the lowest. High efficiency heat pumps with SEERs of 19 are now available.

Better Than Ever Efficiency

The improved efficiency is due to several innovations. Scroll compressors are commonly used as they have fewer moving parts, are quieter, and are more efficient than standard reciprocating compressors. Two-speed scroll compressors are even becoming more commonplace. During mild temperatures, whether in heating or cooling modes, these units run on low speed, more closely matching the output to the needs of the home. This reduces energy consumption and unit start-ups, lengthening the life of the equipment.

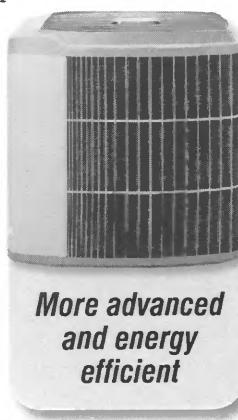
ECM (Electronic Controlled Motors) fan motors are also becoming commonplace. ECM motors are variable speed, direct current (DC) motors that allow fan speed to be matched to the heating or cooling output, increasing homeowner comfort and energy efficiency. Some manufacturers use ECM fans to control the delivered air temperature. If the temperature falls below a desired level, the fan slows down, allowing the air temperature to increase.

A recent innovation in heat pump refrigerant was driven by environmental constraints, not by the need for increased performance. To reduce the level of ozone depleting HCFCs, the United States signed the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone in 1987. This agreement required a phase-out of HCFCs by 65 percent by 2010, 99.5 percent by 2020 and 100 percent

by 2030. R-22, the refrigerant most commonly used in air-conditioners and heat pumps is an HCFC. In 1991, Honeywell (then known as AlliedSignal) introduced a product that has become known as R-410A. The first air-conditioners using this new refrigerant were introduced in 1995 by the Carrier Corporation. Today, R-410A is the most commonly used replacement for R-22.

R-410A refrigerant has several advantages over R-22. It is more environmentally friendly and more effective at capturing heat and then releasing it, reducing the amount of refrigerant needed. It operates under higher pressures than its predecessor, so it cannot be substituted in older R-22 units. Higher pressures also mean higher air temperatures and increased comfort for the home owners.

Geothermal heat pumps still offer the highest efficiency and comfort of all heating and cooling systems and Menard Electric firmly supports their use. For those members who are not willing or are unable to make the increased investment, or who do not intend to live at the residence long enough to recoup the investment in a geothermal heat pump, air-to-air heat pumps offer a viable alternative.



■ Proper Installation is the Key to Efficiency

If it is time to replace your air-conditioner or current heating system, consider an environmentally safe and efficient heat pump. To ensure your heat pump provides the comfort and efficiency you expect, follow these installation tips:

1. Make sure your duct system is properly sized and replace it if necessary. Improperly sized or designed ductwork drastically affects the comfort and performance of your heat pump.
2. As heat pumps have a slightly cooler air temperature compared to conventional furnaces, make sure your home is properly insulated. Heat pumps should not be installed in drafty, leaky, un-insulated homes.
3. If you are used to the high temperatures of wood burners, understand that a heat pump is designed to keep the entire home at a constant temperature level. With wood burners, the farthest parts of the home are generally cool while those near the wood burner are very warm. If a wood burner has been in the room you spend most of your time in, you will most likely feel cool with the more even temperatures throughout the home.

The heat pump has been unfairly blamed for these improper installations in the past. Fortunately, times have changed. Homes are tighter and have more insulation, duct work is properly sized, installers are better trained, and heat pumps have improved.

Source: Egyptian Electric Cooperative

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

Students encouraged to apply for 2006 IEC Memorial Scholarships

Menard Electric Cooperative General Manager Lynn Frasco has announced that for the eleventh consecutive year the Illinois electric cooperatives will award academic scholarships to high school seniors. The five scholarships are being awarded through the Illinois Electric Cooperative's (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

High school seniors pursuing a college education anywhere in the United States are eligible to participate in the program. Three \$1,250 scholarships will be awarded to the son or daughter of an electric cooperative member. A fourth \$1,250 award will go to the son or daughter of an electric cooperative director or employee. A fifth scholarship of \$1,250 will be reserved for use at a two-year Illinois community college, and sons and daughters of electric cooperative members, employees and directors are eligible. Deadline for applications to be returned to the cooperative is January 1, 2006.



"The purpose of the scholarship program is to assist electric cooperative youth while honoring past rural electric leaders through memorial gifts," said Lynn 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 Cooperative at (800) 872-1203.

Thermostat Myths

Your home's thermostat controls how long your heating or cooling system operates. You can save energy and money by learning how this simple device operates.

- One common myth is that the higher you set your thermostat when you return home, the faster your furnace will heat up your house. This is not true since most furnaces deliver heat at the same rate no matter how high the thermostat is set. So just set your thermostat at the temperature you would like and your furnace will heat your home as fast as it can.
- Another myth concerns the efficiency of setting your thermostat down when you do not need heating or cooling, such as at night or when no one is home. This myth indicates that a furnace works harder than normal to heat your home back to a comfortable temperature after the thermostat has been set back, resulting in little or no savings. This is not true and has been

proven by years of research and field observations. The longer your house stays at a reduced temperature when heating – or at an increased temperature when cooling – the more energy and money you will save.



- Your heating or cooling cost depends mostly on the temperature difference between indoors and outdoors. When you adjust your thermostat down in the winter – or up in the summer – you simply reduce this temperature difference. If you set your temperature back 10 to 15 degrees for eight hours while you are asleep or at work, your energy savings can be 5 percent to 15 percent on your energy bill.

You can install a setback thermostat that automatically adjusts your home's temperature at pre-set times or you can achieve the same savings if you faithfully remember to change your thermostat whenever you leave home or go to bed.

Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

The LIHEAP program provides a one-time lump sum payment directly to the utility company on behalf of the customer. The payment is based upon the number of people in the household and the gross monthly income of everyone in that household. This process can take approximately 30 days once you have completed an application.

The LIHEAP program can help with natu-

ral gas, electricity, propane, and heating oil. In some cases if the utility service is shut off the customer may be required to make a Good Faith payment to the utility company before LIHEAP can make any promise of payment.

You may be eligible for assistance if your household's combined income is at or below the following levels:

# of people living in the household:	Gross income for 30 days prior to application date:
1	\$1,196
2	\$1,604
3	\$2,012
4	\$2,420
5	\$2,828

Please call your local office for additional amounts.

If you think you are eligible to participate in the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). You may wish to contact an agent in your area.

CIEDC (Logan County)
1800 5th Street
Lincoln, IL 62656
(217) 732-2159

Decatur-Macon County Opportunity Corp.
1122 E. Marietta St.
Decatur, IL 62521
(217) 428-2193

MCS Community Services
Cass & Morgan County
345 W. State St.
Jacksonville, IL 62650
(217) 243-9404
(888) 288-4413

Sangamon County Dept. of Community Resources
200 S. 9th St., Room 311
Springfield, IL 62701
(217) 535-3120

Tazwood Community Service, Inc.
Tazewell County
2005 S. Main St.
Morton, IL 61550-1540
(309) 266-9941

CIEDC (Mason County)
532 S. Schrader
Havana, IL 62644
(309) 543-6988

CIEDC (Menard County)
809 Old Salem Rd.
Petersburg, IL 62675
(217) 632-3137

How to Deck the Halls - Safely

Each year, improper installation and use of holiday lighting and decorations cause thousands of avoidable electrical fires and injuries.

Look for and eliminate potential dangers due to holiday lighting, decorating, and entertaining.

- Use only lights that have been safety tested and approved by Underwriters Laboratory (UL). Look for the UL label on the box and on each string.
- Place fresh-cut trees away from heat sources such as heat registers, fireplaces, radiators, and televisions. Water the tree frequently.
- Before plugging in the lights, check each string for broken sockets, frayed cords, or faulty plugs. Replace damaged strings.
- Make sure extension cords are in good condition. Use only UL-approved cords rated to carry the electrical load you will connect to them.
- Keep electric cords away from high-traffic

areas. Don't stretch them across a room where people can trip over them. Likewise, don't hide them under rugs or carpets.

- Always unplug lights before going to bed or leaving your home.
- Outdoors, use only lights and cords rated for outdoor use. Do not lay cords across sidewalks, decks, or other walkways.
- Cords should be plugged into outlets equipped with ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). Use a portable GFCI if your outdoor outlets don't have them.
- Do not attach cords or lights to metal objects.
- Never plug more than two home appliances into an outlet at once. Use surge protectors and power strips for multiple plugs, and use only outlets designed to handle multiple plugs.

For more information, visit www.SafeElectricity.org.

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

St. John's Hospital offers savings to Menard members

Members of Menard Electric Cooperative who have no medical insurance are eligible to save on the cost of services from St. John's Hospital in Springfield, under an arrangement that became effective on July 1, 2004. The savings are being offered by St. John's to help those who, for whatever reason, are uninsured and are not eligible for healthcare benefits such as Medicare or Medicaid.

"This new agreement will mean a huge savings for a co-op member who needs treatment and goes to St. John's Hospital," says Menard General Manager Lynn Frasco. "Today's medical procedures are often expensive, but this plan makes them more affordable for the consumers who may be most vulnerable to a financial hardship."

A 30 percent discount is available to active co-op members and their spouses and dependents. It applies to inpatient and outpatient charges from St. John's Hospital, but not to physicians' charges or services from other companies. Examples of covered outpatient services include Home Health Care, Home Infusion Therapy, AthletiCare, Wellness Care, and the Mind/Body Medicine Program.

St. John's is offering the savings to active members of Menard Electric Cooperative. Patients covered by insurance typically receive a negotiated discount on medical services provided by hospitals. St. John's also offers a prompt payment discount and will work with the uninsured patient to set-up an affordable monthly payment plan.

Co-op members can bring a copy of a recent electric bill to the hospital upon

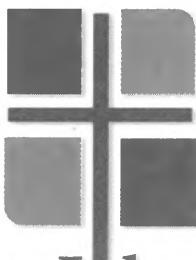
registration to show their membership. The hospital will then issue a member card, to be used for subsequent visits. The 30 percent discount will automatically be applied to any charges billed for St. John's Hospital.

"St. John's has a long tradition of providing quality health care services to the people of central Illinois. We are pleased that we were able work with the Cooperative to offer a special savings plan to its members," said Richard Carlson, FACHE, executive vice president, St. John's Hospital. "We hope this agreement will serve as a model for other organizations. These types of arrangements help us fulfill our commitment to providing the very best health care to all our patients."

Members with questions on eligibility or services included in the discount program can call (217) 544-6464, ext. 55615 at St John's Hospital. Taking a recent electric bill is the easiest, fastest way to show membership when registering at the hospital, located at 800 E.

Carpenter Street, just north of downtown Springfield.

More information about the hospital can also be found on their web site at st-johns.org. The Patient Services tab located at the top of the opening page includes a complete listing of services offered at St. John's. A Quick Links area explains services offered at the Bone and Joint Institute, the Carol Jo Vecchie Women and Children's Center, Prairie Heart Institute and the Cancer Institute at St. John's Hospital.



St. John's Hospital

OFFICE CLOSING

Menard Electric Cooperative will be closed December 23 and 26 in observance of Christmas.



BOARD MEETING REPORT

**Menard Electric Cooperative
From the Board Room
September 20, 2005**

Menard Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors held its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, September 20, 2005, 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, Roy H. Seaney, D. Jay Frye, Warren Goetsch, Steven Worner, Jerry W. Brooks, Edward Allspach and James Graff. 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 23, 2005 Board meeting were reviewed and approved as presented.

The Board reviewed August General Fund Checks Nos. 16,149 – 16,361 amounting to \$2,452,399.09. After discussion, the payment of bills was approved.

It was moved and seconded that the Inventory of Work Orders for the month of August 2005 in the amount of \$60,094.89 be approved as presented. Motion carried.

Manager Frasco reviewed 57 Membership Applications and 19 Service Permits. Also an Agreement for Electric Service for Ruth Basony was reviewed. All were approved as presented.

Manager Frasco presented the Manager's Report for the month. He reviewed the Balance Sheet, Budget as well as the Outage Summary and Safety Report. He reported that the cooperative's Christmas Party is scheduled for Friday, December 2nd at Hill Prairie Winery in Oakford. He advised that there would be more information on the party at a future date. He advised that the Risk & Assessment Report for RUS had been completed.. He reported that Carl Dufner had started the data collection for the Cost of Service Study and that the Ameren Partial Service Agreement had been completed. He advised that the Clinton Lodge closing with regard to the cooperative property was scheduled for September 30, 2005. Manager Frasco reported that the NRECA Annual Meeting was scheduled for Orlando, Florida on February 19th through the 22nd in 2006. He advised that he received a telephone call from a representative of Young's Answering Service and they advised that they would not now be able to handle Menard's Answering Service Business. Manager Frasco advised that he was looking for other options and would report back to the Board at next month's meeting. He advised that the Manito Sand Plant had signed a Letter of Agreement. The Sand Plant would be a member of the cooperative once the line was built. He advised that they would be the second largest customer of Menard. He reported on the status of the ICG Contract. Attorney Smith had suggested changes and the ICG had accepted the majority of the changes. Manager Frasco reviewed with the Board the revised contract. It was

moved and seconded that the President and Secretary be authorized to enter into the Contract. Motion Carried. Manager Frasco discussed with the Board the Status of the Emergency Assistance to the State of Mississippi as a result of Hurricane Katrina. He also reported on the status of the SBC Telephone System for the new headquarters building. The Managers Report was approved as presented. .

The Manager presented the Financial Report for the Month of August 2005. Year to date margins were \$1,215,970 compared to \$259,267 the previous year. Equity as of the end of August was 35.54% and the number of members served was 10,089 compared to 10,019 last year. Net Utility Plant at the end of August 2005 was \$30,244,404 compared to \$26,801,101 a year ago. The Cooperative continues to meet the requirements of RUS, CFC and the FFB.

Directors' Special Occasion vouchers for the month in the amount of \$348.60 were approved.

Director Goetsch reported that there were no AIEC activities for the month.

Director Carls and Manager Frasco reported on Soyland/CCS activities.

Manager Frasco reported on the meeting of the Policy and By Law Committee to study the issue of Director Per Diem. He advised that the Committee recommended that the Per Diem would be \$175 per meeting for a non-accredited Director and \$200 per meeting for an accredited Director. Further, if a Board member did not become accredited in nine years, then that Director would automatically go to the accredited rate of \$200 per meeting. These new rates would become effective January 2006. It was moved and seconded that the matter be tabled until next months meeting.

The Board presented the Village of Athens's Franchise Agreement for approval. Manager Frasco advised that the Village of Athens had approved such. It was moved and seconded the Franchise Agreement be approved. Motion Carried.

The Board reviewed and approved a new Non Union Wage and salary plan effective October 1, 2005.

The Board reviewed a new Policy called New Subdivision Street Light Policy. The Board had no objections to the Policy and it was moved that the second reading for consideration and approval be conducted at next month's meeting.

Manager Frasco reported on the NRECA Region V Meeting he had attended.

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, October 25, 2005 at 7:00PM. There being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved and seconded that the meeting be adjourned.

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