

2018 Annual Meeting

We want to thank the more than 370 registered members and their families (nearly 750 people in all!) who joined us on the hot and breezy afternoon of June 14 for our Annual Meeting of Members.

For those of you who were not able to make it, we offer this brief synopsis of the topics discussed.

This year's theme was Innovation Through Collaboration. Board President Jay Frye and General Manager Alisha Anker changed things a bit this year by collaborating on a joint presentation to members.

Frye stated that "the co-op's ability to innovate, or modernize, the electric system and its operations is key to its future." He and Anker discussed infrastructure improvements that included upgrading 25 miles of line, upgrades to breakers at several substations, and irrigation improve-

ments including the popular new load control program involving a mobile technology control application that allows us to communicate with irrigation pivots.

Frye and Anker also discussed how modernizing the co-op's net metering policy allows members with renewable energy such as solar to net meter up to 10 kw under a more efficient banking methodology and a new net billing policy that allows for larger installations. Twenty-four member-owned solar systems are

Continued on page 20B

In honor of Flag Day, members arrived by driving under Old Glory (which measured 20x30 feet).



These three were among members > who downloaded the MyMEC mobile outage reporting app at this year's annual meeting. They know it is the quickest way to get their outage reported to our crews. To download the app, visit the Google Play or IOS App Store and search for Menard Outage. You'll find the MyMEC App available for a free download. Once it has downloaded, you can enter your account information, and you'll be ready to report any electrical issues at the touch of a button. We know technology can sometimes be tricky, and we are happy to help. Drop by the office or give us a call if you have trouble.



Dinner music provided by songwriter and singer Bob Kuhns, who is also a director for Jo-Carroll Electric Cooperative near Galena, Ill. ♡



^ The grilled pork chop dinner never disappoints and in a survey was marked as the #1 reason for attending the meeting; although this little gal seems to be happy with just the extra cookies.



currently connected, and Anker stated that she expects more interest and growth as state incentive programs are implemented. See our website's renewable energy page for details.

Anker discussed the co-op's new outage management and communication system that allows our information database, system configuration maps and meter reading tools to collaborate. "The application not only runs a prediction engine to quickly pin point the location

of trouble on the system, but my favorite feature is that it communicates this information in real-time to the members, who can in return communicate their outage to us," said Anker, referencing the MyMEC mobile app.

Treasurer Dennis Ryan reported the financial statement from the Official Notice. He highlighted our recent return of \$470,000 in capital credits, which brings our total return of capital credits to members to over

\$10 million. He also highlighted that our members owned 40 percent of total assets at the end of 2017, totaling \$1,923,390; \$1,141,366 of which are capital credits allocated from Prairie Power, Inc. and \$192,551 allocated from CoBank and other financial resources; those credits will be returned to us at a later date. To see a copy of the printed financials, contact the office.

Our co-op is governed by nine directors elected by and from you, our



◀ Kids again enjoyed the face painting and balloon twisting fun.



Visiting with our members in person is > one of the best parts of the annual meeting.

Registered members received a \$15 bill credit, an attendance gift and were entered into a prize drawing; Art and Linda Zimmerman won the Grand Prize! ▼



^ Representative Norine Hammond took a few moments to speak with members – she is shown here with Vice President Warren Goetsch, Manager Alisha Anker and President Jay Frye.

members, to serve three-year terms. This year Gary L Martin, District 2; D. Jay Frye, District 5; and Donald E. (Chuck) McMillan, District 9 ran unopposed and were re-elected.

Members also voted to approve a bylaw change to director qualifications stating a director must have an active service that includes a facility charge and must have their primary residence within the geographical boundaries of the district served.

Member survey

You may be randomly selected to participate in a member survey. Please note that neither the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives nor Inside Information, which administers the survey, will ask for credit card information or sell/share your private information. They will provide us with anonymous results, and we will evaluate the information to help improve our service to you. We appreciate your attention to this; the more completed surveys we receive, the more accurate the information will be.

Board highlights

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

May 22, 2018

- Present were Directors Jay Frye, Warren Goetsch, Gary Martin, Donald McMillan, Michael Patrick, Dennis Ryan, Roy Seaney, Jodine Tate & Steven Worner, AIEC Vice President of Regulatory Compliance John Teimeyer, Manager Alisha Anker & Attorney Charles Smith.
- Teimeyer: presented on regulatory compliance actions at the AIEC.
- Anker: Reviewed part 2 of NRECA 2018 National Director Survey results.
- Anker: Reviewed balance sheet, budget, 2018 capital credit retirements, rebates, surge protection, reliability, operations, irrigations, IT security & member newsletter.
- Board discussed NRECA International program – no decision made on participating.
- Anker: Discussed CoBank Sharing Success Program candidates.
- Board: approved services of CFC as Strategic Planning Moderator & discussed possible session dates.
- Patrick: Reviewed plans for Annual Meeting June 14, 2018.
- Goetsch: Gave AIEC report.
- Board certified Goetsch & Worner as AIEC Annual Meeting Delegates.
- Martin: Gave Prairie Power, Inc. report.
- Board entered into executive session; reconvened & ratified all actions taken.

Serving our members

Several of our employees volunteered their time this summer to light up the Mason County Fairground’s equestrian ring. The project was funded by a 2017 Sharing Success grant sponsored by CoBank, a Menard Electric lender. The installation was completed with assistance from our engineering and operations department personnel. Crews installed underground primary lines, secondary facilities and poles where the lighting fixtures are mounted. All equipment was purchased by the fair board with monies from the grant.

A few employees also hosted an electrical safety station at the 4-H Farm Safety Day Camp at the fairgrounds on Friday, June 15. The station was one of eight sponsored at the Day Camp. Over 100 campers learned how to stay safe around electricity and utility facilities near their homes and farms. They also learned about the job of a lineman and were able to get hands-on with the gear used (the kids decided those tool belts really are heavy!). Menard Electric also sponsored the Live Line Demo as the Day Camp’s finale presentation. The demo produced lots of sparks and some loud booms, but the showmanship was in the spirit of teaching the campers how they too can live another day by being safe around electricity.

“These are just two examples of our employees living out the co-op’s founding principle of Commitment to

Community,” says General Manager Alisha Anker. “As a co-op family, we were happy to be of service.”

