

The gift of electricity - Hurricane Michael restoration

Sometimes the gifts we give are not wrapped in paper and bows. We were reminded of that after the devastation of Hurricane Michael when our linemen gave the gift of electricity to members in affected areas.

Ann Marie Clayton of Roxboro N.C. told us, "Living on a dead end road, we weren't expecting power for a while, so when I came around the corner, I was so happy to see them [our crew]. When I learned they were from Illinois, I couldn't believe it. Please let them know how grateful we are. I can't tell you how much we appreciate y'all's help, so excited to have power again."

Ms. Clayton depends on her electric cooperative, Piedmont EMC in Hillsborough N.C., just as you depend on us. We were happy to help her co-op to get power restored to its members faster than expected after the devastation of Hurricane Michael in October. At the height of the storm, more than 70 percent of Piedmont EMC's members were without power.

Co-ops from throughout Illinois and other states aided this and other affected co-ops after the hurricane. It is what co-ops do. We know others would come to aid our members if we were hit by a devastating storm.



Area Serviceman Dwaine Heyen, Lineman Nick Schachtsiek, Crew Leader Brandon Blair and Groundman/Mechanic Leadman Michael Justice restored power in North Carolina after Hurricane Michael.

Interested in installing solar or wind?

Contact us first!
800-872-1203
info@menard.com

We want to feature our members

From time to time in this publication we are able to feature members who may have a business or hobby that would be of interest to our membership. We need your help. Please let us know about a business or person you'd like to read about or give us information about your own business or hobby.

In addition, members offering a service or hosting an event that appeals to our membership may be able to purchase an advertisement on Page 13 of this magazine for a discounted co-op rate.

Contact us at info@menard.com or call Michelle at 800-872-1203.

Gift giving guide

Show you care with safety-minded gifts

- Gloves with LED lights or hand-held “knuckle lights” designed for runners
- A smart doorbell to see who’s at the door while at home and away
- Gift certificates for home services (such as HVAC inspection or chimney sweeping)
- A pack of GFCI (ground fault circuit interrupter) outlets and a gift certificate for a qualified electrician to install them
- A cozy bed blanket to replace an older electric blanket; those more than 10 years old could be unsafe
- A roadside emergency kit
- A fire extinguisher for the kitchen
- A flashlight with extra batteries
- Smoke and carbon monoxide detectors



- Blankets and warm clothing – To use and wear indoors so the thermostat can be turned down a few degrees
- Tablet or laptop – Takes less energy to run than a desktop computer
- Room occupancy sensors – Lights turn on when you enter a room and off when no one’s there
- Kitchen gadgets – Consider an electric pressure cooker or a slow cooker with timer feature
- Home electricity monitor – Gives real-time feedback on energy use and tracks energy stats
- Low-flow showerheads and faucet aerators – Can reduce water consumption and lessen your water heater’s usage
- Thermal leak detector – Uses infrared sensors to detect power-draining drafts in the home



- ENERGY STAR® rated TV – On average 27 percent more energy-efficient than conventional models
- Smart thermostat – Most smart versions learn your habits to keep your home comfortable and save energy at the same time. NRECA states that if used correctly, ENERGY STAR thermostats with connected functionality have the potential to reduce air conditioning consumption by 10 percent and heating by 7 percent.

Sources: *SafeElectricity.org; NRECA*

Give gifts that keep on giving

According to Energystar.gov, the second biggest, and fastest growing, category of electric usage in U.S. households is electronics (21%) - the first is heating and cooling (42%).

- LED light bulbs – Upgrading 15 incandescent light bulbs in your home to LEDs could save about \$50 per year
- Smart power strips – This gadget decreases power to electronics when not in use



Incentives

- Air Source Heat Pump..... \$200 rebate**
- Geothermal Heat Pump \$300 rebate**

Must be part of a whole-house permanently installed central heating/cooling system. Must be primary heating source. May also qualify for an electric heat rate offering savings in the winter months.

- Water Heater \$100 rebate**

Must be 40 gallons or larger; must sign up for our load management program; may also qualify for a water heating rate.

Rebates are given one-time per service location to the member who initially installs the equipment at the location; must be requested within 12 months of purchase date. Other restrictions apply.

**To request a rebate visit www.menard.com/incentives
To see all of our rates visit www.menard.com/rates**

When the weather outside is frightful...

Reporting winter power outages

We hope the entire winter season is Merry and Bright! But we know that sometimes the weather outside is frightful – and high winds, snow and ice accumulation can cause power outages.

We offer three ways to report outages:

MyMEC App

www.menard.com/outage-center

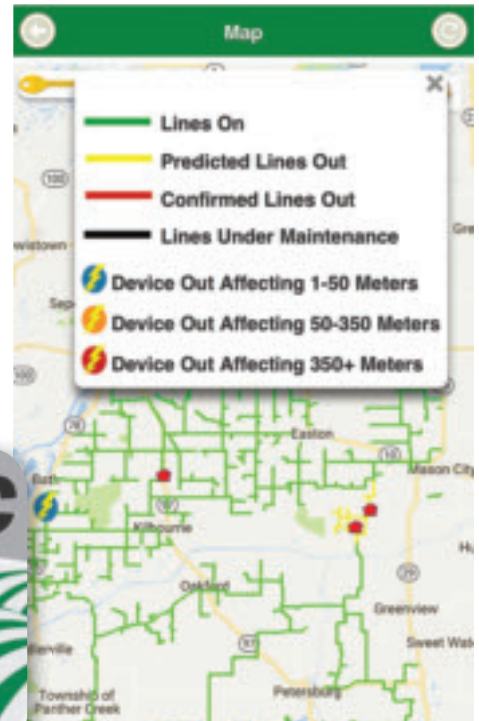
800-872-1203

The quickest way to report an outage and keep in contact with the co-op is through the MyMEC App. You'll never get a busy signal and don't have to get online.

Through the app, you can report outages and other electrical issues, view

an outage map, keep updated on power restoration, and more.

Download MyMEC by searching for Menard Outage in the Google Play or iOS App store on your mobile device. You'll find the MyMEC App available for a free download. You'll need to input the account number (which can be found on a recent bill) or your meter number (located under the digital digits and above the barcode).



Co-op Corner

The fireplace

A fireplace brings very cozy ambiance and a wonderful warm feeling to the room it is in (see photo of my nicely toasted canine friend Tootsie), at least, that is the experience my family has had with ours.

We installed a wood burning fireplace as an add-on in our previous home, and when we built a new home, we just had to have one in it as well. We had professional installers put it in as we wanted to have their warranty. Our unit came with installation and homeowner care instructions that I read to make sure I understood some dos and don'ts.

The biggest don't that I learned was to not burn soft woods that had a lot of tar in them. I might use a small piece for kindling to get a nice fire started, but we burn only well-seasoned, dry hardwoods, most of which I cut and split myself.

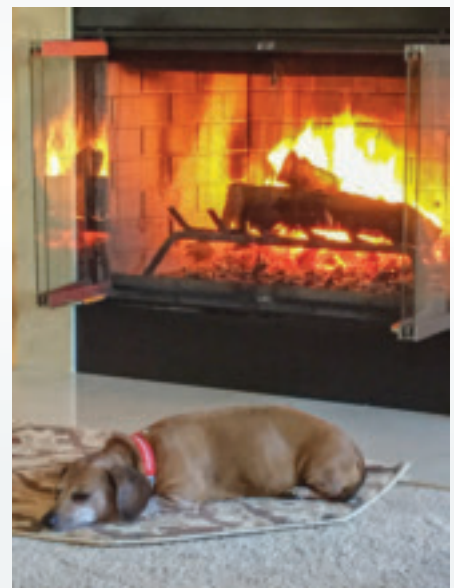
We store the bulk of our wood outside, away from the house, stacked and covered

with tarps to keep leaves and rain away, which I have found keeps things a bit cleaner. I do fill some storage totes with wood during dry and warmer weather to stack near the house for easier access during the cold and snowy weather.

I clean the ashes out whenever they are cold and have built up to a point that I can no longer get my homemade firestarters underneath the wood cradle. We sure love to have a fireplace for Santa Claus to visit. We hang our stockings with much care so that they are not too close and anything filling them does not become too hot. We have yet to have any Santa emergencies! To prevent unwanted drafts, we close our damper when the fireplace is not in use (again, after the coals are all cooled off).

We really enjoy the warmth and comfort from our fireplace and hope you enjoy yours too!

By Tim Schafer, Field Engineer



To prevent unwanted drafts, we close our damper when the fireplace is not in use.

Board highlights

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

October 2, 2018 (September Board Meeting)

- Present were Directors Jay Frye, Warren Goetsch, Gary Martin, Donald McMillan, Michael Patrick, Dennis Ryan, Roy Seaney & Jodine Tate; Operations Manager Dalton Whitley; Director of Member Services Trish Michels; Manager of Accounting & Information Systems Chris Hinton; Manager Alisha Anker & Attorney Charles Smith. Director Steven Worner absent.
- Whitley & Michels: Review of Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program & results of site visit.
- Michels: Reviewed past & present collections procedures.
- Adopted resolution to approve revision to Section 125 plan administration.
- Anker: Reviewed balance sheet & budget; safety, reliability, operations, irrigation, IT security & capital credits reports; reviewed hurricane Florence aid; water heater survey results; advised of solar developer correspondence regarding member interconnections.
- Anker: Gave August financial report. Year to date margins \$1,905,690 compared to \$1,926,550 last year. End of August equity 40.49%. Served 10,897 member accounts. Net utility plant \$49,075,774 compared to \$47,197,057 last year. Co-op meets requirements of RUS, FFB, NRCFC & CoBank.
- Anker: Reviewed NRECA/CFC Governance Task Force Report, Series Part 2 of 4.
- Goetsch: Advised no AIEC board meeting. Discussed International Program; Board moved to contribute \$1,000 if an International Program for Illinois co-ops is selected.
- Appointed Frye delegate & Michels alternate to ICWCG & Rochdale Services annual meeting.
- NRECA Region V Meeting attendees discussed impressions.
- Martin & Anker: Reviewed Prairie Power, Inc. August Energy Charge & President's report; no meeting held in Sept.
- Board entered into Executive Session; reconvened; motion carried to confirm & ratify action taken.
- Next month's Board Meeting October 23; Strategic Planning Session December 4-5.

Congratulations

Director Don McMillan for earning his Director Gold Certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

LIHEAP

We urge you to contact your local office as soon as possible if you believe you may qualify for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Qualifications are based on income and household size.

Cass/Morgan

Counties 217/243-9404

Logan/Mason/Menard

Counties 217/732-2159

Macon County..... 217/428-2193

Sangamon County 217/535-3120

Tazewell County..... 309/694-4391

Holiday office closings

Our office will close for the Christmas holiday at noon Friday, Dec. 21 and reopen at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 26; we will also close New Year's Day Monday, Jan. 1.



\$2,000 Scholarships



11 College Scholarships

available through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives Memorial Scholarship Program.

Scholarships are available for children of electric cooperative members and employees attending four-year colleges and universities or two-year community colleges.

Deadline: December 31, 2018



1 Line School Scholarship

available through the LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker's Scholarship for Lincoln Land Community College.

Available for children of co-op members, co-op employees or directors, those presently enrolled in the lineworker school, and those who have served/are serving in the U.S. Armed Forces or National Guard.

Deadline: April 30, 2019

Visit www.menard.com/scholarships for more details or call Michelle at the office at 800-872-1203.