

## Pay the easy way!



### Some facts about our Automatic Bill Payment Program

Bills are mailed to all members on or about the 7th of each month. Members who have signed up for Automatic Bill Payment must simply ensure that funds are available in their checking or savings account on or before the 17th to cover the balance due.

This is the same date many members would mail a check to our office to ensure payment reaches us in time. Members on Automatic Bill Payment never have to worry about mail delays or forgetting to write and mail a check!

Those members also enrolled in Budget Billing have the added benefit of paying the same amount each month on the 17th for 11 months of the year.

The co-op also saves time and money when Automatic Bill Payment is utilized as credit card and check processing fees are eliminated each month. These savings benefit all of our members!

### Other ways to pay:

**Online:** Visit [www.menard.com](http://www.menard.com) and click the Pay Online button to pay your bill by credit card each month.

**Check:** Mail a check to our office at PO Box 200, Petersburg, IL 62675. Be sure to allow extra time for mail delivery – payments must be received in our office by the 28th of each month.

**Phone:** Call the office to pay with a credit card.

Mark your new calendar now to attend our Annual Meeting of Members on Thursday evening, June 13, 2019.



# Menard Electric Cooperative 2019 Youth to Washington Scholarship Program

## SCHOLARSHIPS:

- 🎓 One \$1,000 scholarship to a 4-year college or university
- 🎓 One \$500 scholarship to a 2-year community college
- 🎓 One \$500 scholarship to an accredited technical school
- 🎓 One winner selected from among scholarship winners for an all-expenses paid trip on the Youth to Washington Tour June 14-21, 2019.

## Who Can Apply:

- 🎓 Applicant must be a high school senior or equivalent, graduating during 2019.
- 🎓 Applicant's parent/legal guardian must be a Menard Electric Cooperative member with their primary residence or business served by the cooperative.
- 🎓 Applicant must be available to attend the Youth to Washington Tour June 14-21, 2019.

Additional details are provided with the application form. Please download the application at Menard Electric Cooperative's website at [www.menard.com/scholarships](http://www.menard.com/scholarships).



## Rhonda retires



Rhonda Satorius has dedicated most of her life to serving the members of Menard Electric Cooperative. Bittersweetly, after 46 years of service, Rhonda has announced her retirement effective this month. During her career, she filled a variety of roles. Preferring to stay far from the spotlight, Rhonda was happiest when she was able to use her talents in the background, quietly supporting five managers and many employees so they could directly serve you, the members. Of course, she says she has most enjoyed visiting with members each year at our Annual Meeting. In all her years, she's only missed one meeting!

Reflecting on her service, you can imagine things have changed a lot in 46 years. When Rhonda started at the co-op, members read their own meters and submitted those readings by post card through the mail or dropped them by the office. Later, meter readers

were hired to travel the territory and bring back the data; now meters are read by way of power line carrier communications, through the power lines. Computers and copy machines have supplanted dictation tapes and carbon paper, changing how most all paperwork is completed at the office.

The one thing that hasn't changed in all the years has been Rhonda's positive attitude. Her quick smile and laugh will be missed by all the employees.

Rhonda will take something else special with her as she goes – all the countless stories and memories she has of the great moments of our co-op. She can fondly share the excitement of changes that were made, the dark times and the light times, the ice storms and the tornadoes, and of course, the special traits of past employees.

"Rhonda is truly a lovely lady who was a blessing for me when I began managing the co-op last year. She's witnessed

the processes and how-to-dos for so many decades. Knowledge and experience are special kinds of talent you just can't replace. She'll be deeply missed," says General Manager Alisha Anker.

The dedication to one organization that Rhonda has shown is truly remarkable in today's society. To have someone give of themselves for so long to this co-op, we think speaks volumes of her grace and devotion. Rhonda is proof positive that ours is a quality organization, with great employees committed to the mission of providing safe, reliable service at the highest standards for you, our member-owners.



### Feeling a chill? Try these options before adjusting your thermostat.

- \* Seal air leaks to reduce drafts that can make rooms colder and heating systems work harder.
- \* Turn ceiling fans on low and reverse to bring warm air down.
- \* Double check that your fireplace damper is closed when not in use.
- \* Close heavy drapes at night but open during the day to let the sunshine in.
- \* If you do touch the thermostat, consider installing a programmable one that will allow you to lower the temperature when you are away or asleep.



### A few reasons your bill may rise in the winter

- \* A large part of your electric bill is devoted to your heating system's pump or fan – even if the system is LP, natural gas or wood fired.
- \* Electric water heaters often work harder because warm baths and showers feel so great on cold days.
- \* Holiday guests could have meant more cooking, laundry, showers, electronics and more.
- \* Extra Christmas baking and decorations added to the festivities, and your bill.
- \* Inside and outside lights come on earlier and stay on longer.
- \* Space heaters may be in use in the garage, bathroom or bedroom.
- \* Engine block heaters and tank heaters are necessary items for many.



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*This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

# Board highlights

For full minutes visit [www.menard.com](http://www.menard.com) or contact the office.

**October 23, 2018**

- Present were Directors D. Jay Frye, Warren Goetsch, Gary Martin, Donald McMillan, Michael Patrick, Dennis Ryan, Roy Seaney & Steven Worner; Manager Alisha Anker & Attorney Charles Smith. Director Jodine Tate absent.
- Staff presented 2019 budgets. Engineering Manager Brady Smith also presented summary of line clearance & options for future vegetation management; Anker advised that further revenue information from Prairie Power forthcoming to make decision.
- Smith: Discussed ongoing meter & transformer testing; 10-20% of meters tested were not correctly reading energy & demand; additional information being gathered.
- Anker: Reviewed balance sheet, budget, irrigations, safety, reliability, operations, IT security, capital credits & member newsletter reports; discussed AIEC invoicing mistake for apprentice program & advised would gather detailed information before decision to pay would be made.
- Anker: Gave September financial report. Year to date margins \$2,445,015 compared to \$2,475,480 last year. End of September equity 41.55%. Served 10,885 member accounts. Net utility plant \$49,172,284 compared to \$47,289,873 last year. Co-op meets requirements of RUS, FFB, NRFC & CoBank.
- NRECA/CFC Governance Task Team Review Series Part 3 of 4 tabled.
- Goetsch: Gave AIEC report.
- Martin: Gave Prairie Power, Inc. report including Cost of Service Study results.
- Board entered into Executive Session; reconvened; motion carried to confirm & ratify all action taken.
- Next Board Meeting November 27. Strategic Planning Session December 4-5.

## Congratulations

Directors Warren Goetsch and Michael Patrick have earned their 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



*Apprentice Lineman Levi Vogt is utilizing the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperative's Training Trailer to discover alternate ways to find the fault in an underground electric facilities application. Our linemen have monthly training in a variety of topics.*