

## 5 Great Reasons to Join Us

82nd Annual Meeting  
Thursday, June 13th • PORTA High School, Petersburg

1

Each registered membership receives a \$15 bill credit and an attendance gift! You'll also be eligible for a variety of prizes to be given at the end of the business meeting. Grand prize is a 50" LED Smart Television.

2

How does a grilled pork chop dinner and homemade ice cream for dessert sound? We were not surprised to see that among last year's attendees, dinner was voted the #1 attraction at the annual meeting – it is delicious!

3

We enjoy meeting with members face to face! Introduce yourself to our directors and employees. We wager you'll also reconnect with old friends and neighbors as well!

4

Keep the kids happy with face painting and balloon twisting. Enjoy music by Avery Kern. And we know you want to take a bucket truck ride (weather permitting)!

5

Relax in the auditorium while Manager Alisha Anker and Board President Jay Frye tell you more about the co-op. You'll also vote for your representation on the Board of Directors; we have an open seat this year as longtime Director Roy Seaney of Tallula retires.



Check out your Official Notice for more details and remember to bring the Registration Card located on the back cover to the meeting.



Visit [www.facebook.com/MenardElectric](http://www.facebook.com/MenardElectric) for details leading up to the event!

# Youth to Washington Scholarship winners



Commitment to Community is one of the pillars of our cooperative. We offered three scholarships and a trip to Washington, D.C. to local youth who share our passion for community service. We are honored to play at least some small role in helping these students reach their future goals. Read about them to be inspired! Members who will have high school seniors next fall should keep an eye out for applications to be available early next year. They can be found at [www.menard.com/scholarships](http://www.menard.com/scholarships) and in local school guidance counselor materials.



## ***Anne Fulgenzi, Sherman***

Anne Fulgenzi is a recent graduate of Williamsville High School and winner of the \$1,000 scholarship to a four-year university. She plans to attend Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville in the fall to study psychology. Anne was also chosen as the Youth to Washington Ambassador for Menard Electric. Anne will travel to Washington, D.C. with 60 other Illinois students this month to meet with Illinois congressmen, senators and their staff, tour historical sites, learn about co-ops, and much more. In her application, Anne wrote, "When local people see others committed to serving the community it creates a sense of togetherness...[and] incentivizes them to go and improve their community in their own way."



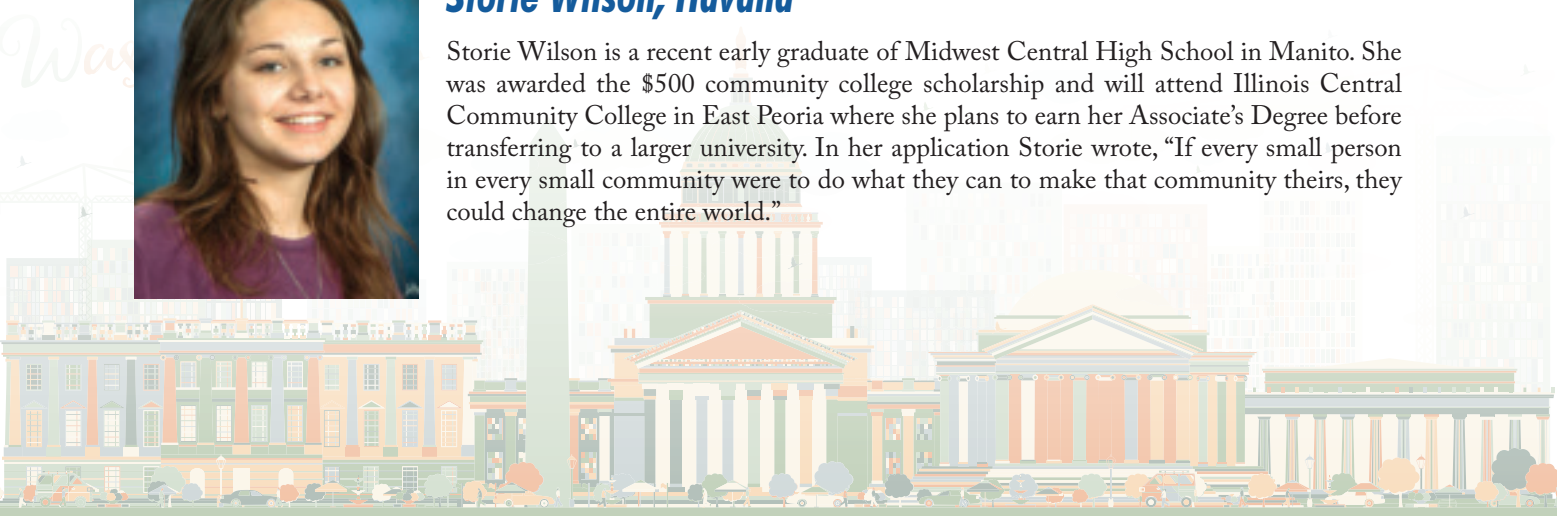
## ***Adelaide Boston, Alexander***

Adelaide "Addie" Boston was awarded a \$500 at-large scholarship (no applications were received for our tech school scholarship). Addie is a recent graduate of A-C Central High School in Ashland and plans to study law at Illinois State University in Bloomington-Normal this fall. As part of her application, Addie wrote, "Getting involved with your community... teaches extremely important lessons of humility, compassion and leadership."



## ***Storie Wilson, Havana***

Storie Wilson is a recent early graduate of Midwest Central High School in Manito. She was awarded the \$500 community college scholarship and will attend Illinois Central Community College in East Peoria where she plans to earn her Associate's Degree before transferring to a larger university. In her application Storie wrote, "If every small person in every small community were to do what they can to make that community theirs, they could change the entire world."





## Beat the heat this summer

According to the Department of Energy, a typical home uses a whopping 48 percent of energy expenditures on the heating, ventilation and air conditioning system (HVAC) system. “Although a lion’s share of that percentage goes to heating homes, Americans still spend \$29 billion every year to power their air conditioners,” notes Molly Hall, director of the Energy Education Council.

Tips to save energy this summer:

- ☀ Weather strip and caulking around windows and doors in your home.
- ☀ Close curtains, blinds and shades during the hottest part of the day. About 76 percent of sunlight that

falls on standard double-pane windows enters the home to become heat, according to Energy.gov.

- ☀ You can save up to 10 percent a year on heating and cooling by adjusting your thermostat 7 to 10 degrees from its normal setting for 8 hours a day, according to Energy.gov.
- ☀ Clean the inside filter, clean the outdoor unit of debris, and get your unit inspected by a HVAC professional.
- ☀ Ventilate the attic and check insulation. Adequately sized vents and an attic fan can help expel hot air from a building. If your attic has less than 6-8 inches of insulation, consider adding more.

- ☀ Use your clothes dryer and oven during the cooler parts of the day.
- ☀ Consider a professional energy audit to reveal where your home is inefficient, including air leaks and exposed duct work.
- ☀ Increased summer electric demand not only affects the monthly budget, but it can also seriously strain your home’s electrical system. Flickering or dimming lights or frequent circuit breaker trips are signs of an overloaded electrical system or faulty wiring that should be checked immediately by a qualified electrician.



## Don’t just pack your bags, prepare your home for vacation too

Your bags are packed and you’re ready to leave your humdrum routine for a much-needed vacation. Here are some tips to save energy and keep your home safe.

- ☀ Adjust your hot water heater. For a natural gas water heater, turn it to low or vacation mode. For an electric version, turn it down or off at the circuit breaker panel.
- ☀ Set/program your thermostat to a temperature that mimics the outside temperature (about 80 to 85 degrees). This still protects your wood floors and furniture and saves on energy costs. Do not turn off your air conditioning, however, so the air in your house continues to circulate.
- ☀ Unplug small appliances and electronic devices including gaming systems so that they don’t draw power. Don’t forget chargers as well.

- ☀ Be certain your sump pump is working.
- ☀ Turn off water valves to the dishwasher, washing machine and all sinks. Or, consider shutting off the main water valve.
- ☀ Plug various lights into timers or program “smart” bulbs to turn on and off.
- ☀ Use motion detectors on outside lights.
- ☀ Have your mail stopped.



- ☀ Before you leave, check all windows and doors to make sure they are locked.
- ☀ Ask a trusted neighbor to park in your driveway occasionally while you are gone.
- ☀ Clean out your fridge – you don’t want moldy leftovers.

Source: *SafeElectricity*



1-800-872-1203  
info@menard.com

14300 State Hwy 97  
PO Box 200, Petersburg, IL 62675

www.menard.com  
facebook.com/MenardElectric

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# Board highlights

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

**March 26, 2019**

- Present were Directors D. Jay Frye, Warren Goetsch, Gary Martin, Donald McMillan, Michael Patrick, Dennis Ryan, Roy Seaney, Jodine Tate & Steven Worner; Manager Alisha Anker & Attorney Charles Smith.
- Anker: Discussed proposed Power Line Right of Way Clearance & Vegetation Management Contract for circuits at Mason City substation. All lump sum bids received exceeded estimated budget; Board approved contract of Oil Field Tree Service.
- Anker: Discussed 4 proposed modifications to Co-op Mission Statement; Board adopted: To provide reliable electrical service at a reasonable cost with concern for the safety and well-being of the members, the employees, and the communities of the cooperative.
- Anker: Reviewed operating statement, balance sheet, budget, member services, irrigation, IT security, capital credit estates, reliability & operations reports; outages caused by consumer hours of 43.3% equipment & 38.7% weather; discussions concerning possible diversification of banking services due to merger of National Bank of Petersburg & Athens State Bank.
- Line loss survey report & financial impact resulting from corrected metering potential transformer failures, Board approved motion not to pursue collection of unbilled revenue deficiency & to put in place control mechanisms to prevent future occurrences.
- Anker: Gave February financial report. Year to date margins (\$42,307) compared to (\$240,163) Last year. End of Feb. equity 40.54%. Served 10,914 accounts. Net utility plant \$49,352,257 compared to \$47,853,345 last year. Co-op meets requirements of RUS, FFB, NRUCFC & CoBank.
- Patrick: Gave Annual Meeting Committee meeting report; discussed agenda for meeting.
- Anker & Seaney: Presented safety report & reviewed safety equipment inspections.
- Goetsch: Discussed AIEC activities.
- Martin: Reviewed Prairie Power, Inc. President report, executive summary & energy charge. Designated Martin as Delegate & Worner as Alternate Delegate for Prairie Power Annual Meeting. Appointed Martin and Anker as Directors & Worner as Alternate Director for Prairie Power.
- NRECA Annual Meeting reviewed by attendees.
- Board entered into executive session; reconvened; confirmed & ratified all action taken.
- Next month's meeting 4/23/19.

## When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!

Seek shelter indoors or in a hard-topped vehicle. If you can't get to shelter:

- avoid open fields and hilltops.
- stay away from tall, isolated trees and objects.
- spread out (if you're in a group).

**#StormSafety**

## 3-Step HVAC Test

As summer temperatures rise, so do electric bills. Follow these steps to test the efficiency of your HVAC unit.

The outdoor temperature should be above 80 degrees, and you should set your thermostat well below the room temperature to ensure the system runs long enough for this test.

1. Using a digital probe thermometer (about \$12), measure the temperature of the air being pulled into your HVAC filter.
2. Measure the temperature of the air blowing out of your A/C vent.
3. Subtract the A/C vent temperature from the HVAC filter temperature. You should see a difference of about 17 to 20 degrees. If the difference is less than 17 degrees, you may need a licensed technician to check the coolant. If the difference is greater than 20 degrees, your ductwork may need to be inspected for airflow restrictions.



## Budget Billing



- Even out the normal fluctuations in monthly electric bills
- Avoid surprises brought on by extreme hot or cold temperatures
- Combine with our automatic payment program for the ultimate in convenience
- Call 800-872-1203 or email [info@menard.com](mailto:info@menard.com) (include your account number) to learn more and sign up