

Director Nominating Petitions

Due Monday, April 20

Petitions are available now at the office for Directors in Districts 3, 7 and 8 on the Board of Directors of Menard Electric Cooperative. Petitions must be signed by no less than 10 members and must be received in the co-op's office by 4:30 p.m. on Monday, April 20, 2020.

One co-op member will be elected from each district to serve a three-year term at this year's annual meeting Thursday, June 4, 2020.



Seeking re-election are incumbent Directors Jodine Tate of Virginia, District 3; Mike Patrick of New Holland, District 7; and Warren Goetsch of Williamsville, District 8.

See a map of Director Districts at menard.com/board-directors. Below are a few details about Directors and you can find more in our bylaws book, available at menard.com/bylaws; call us if you need a copy. Stop by the office to pick up a petition.

Directors must:

- Establish policies and employ a General Manager who is responsible for all operational details of the co-op.

- Be a member in good standing, have their primary residence within the geographical boundary of the district and not have conflicting business interests. (They pay the same rates for service and follow the same policies as all other members.)
- Be able to spend adequate time on board work and attend most regular board meetings held the fourth Tuesday evening of each month for several hours at the co-op office.
- Attend our annual meeting each year and other special board meetings, committee meetings, director's conferences and educational seminars as necessary.
- Be accessible to members within the district and willing to represent all members of the co-op.
- Acquire knowledge about the electric utility including finances, management and public issues. (It takes time to learn this industry and for that reason our directors have made long-term commitments to serving the co-op.)

District 3	District 7	District 8
		
Jodine Tate Virginia	Mike Patrick <i>Secretary</i> New Holland	Warren Goetsch <i>Vice President</i> Williamsville



Annual Meeting of Members

JUNE
THURSDAY
4

Seeking veterans

We are seeking veterans from within our co-op family to nominate for a once in a lifetime opportunity to attend a No Barriers Expedition to be fully paid by CoBank. Nominations are accepted on a first-come, first served basis so anyone interested should contact us as soon as possible for details at 800-872-1203 or info@menard.com. Combat-wounded or training-injured veterans with a VA disability rating, from any branch of service, are eligible.

Keeping your service safe & reliable with vegetation management



Ross Cloninger
Forester

One way we seek to provide our members with safe and reliable power is to control vegetation within the right of way along our more than 2,600 miles of distribution lines.

until the next time the forestry crews are in the area. When we cannot trim a tree for adequate clearance, the tree will be cut down to prevent safety and reliability issues.

Even bushes and vines growing near or on our poles can cause them to rot quicker and prevent lineman from accessing them for maintenance. Year after year vegetation growth continues, and our focus remains on steadily working to keep our lines and equipment clear of any vegetation that presents a hazard.

Specifications: Our specifications are to clear the area on either side of our single-phase lines at least 15 feet and three-phase lines at least 25 feet from the center of the pole. Smaller trees and brush under and close to lines are removed to allow access and eliminate future growing problems. We direct all tree trimming crews to trim to the American National Standards Institute requirements to assure the continued health of trees. Some members may not view these standards as the most visually appealing, but they are healthier

for the tree in the long term and safer for all members and employees.

Schedule: We partner with Spoon River Electric Cooperative's forestry department and employ contract crews to implement our program. Throughout the rest of 2020 these crews will cut and mow vegetation on circuits branching out from our substations in Athens and Poplar City. These areas are shown on the map in green.

In addition to trimming and mowing, contract crews will also selectively apply herbicide to brush as needed in areas that were mechanically cleared in 2019 in order to control problematic re-growth. In 2020 this will include the areas served by substations in Oakford, Poplar City, Mason City, New Berlin, Athens, Sadorra, Bluff Springs and Bishop. These areas are shown on the map in blue.

Using this selective herbicide application allows us to extend our trimming cycle and reduce the amount of brush needing cleared during our normal trimming cycle. It is the most effective and cost-effective method of right of way maintenance.

Why we control vegetation

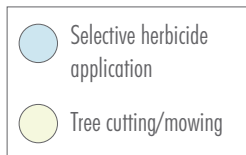
Safety: Safety is the primary reason for our program; trees grown too close to our lines are very dangerous for our linemen working on the lines, members working in or near trees and children playing in trees near lines.

Moisture within a tree's limbs provides electricity with an ideal path to cause electrocution. Even branches that may seem far enough away can unexpectedly contact lines when winds, broken limbs, or additional weight causes them to contact the wires.

Reliability: Trees contacting lines cause outages in any weather. In fact, 30 percent of outages were caused by tree contact in 2019. This makes tree contact the leading cause of outages during storms producing winds, snow or ice; but also on mild days where multiple short interruptions in service can be caused by swaying branches that are difficult for our linemen to find. Our vegetation management program is proving successful as our numbers of outages caused by vegetation are dropping in the areas we have trimmed the last couple years.

Our 2020 vegetation management program

When looking at our service territory, you can see that we cover a large area and it takes several years to make a full cycle of tree trimming. We seek to clear each area of our territory every five - six years. This requires us to obtain adequate clearance



What can a member do to help us help them?

As an electric cooperative, Menard Electric is led by our consumer-members, and our employees work hard to efficiently deliver affordable, reliable and safe energy to those members. Sometimes, there are easy ways you can help us to do just that. A few months ago, we heard from each employee in our Operations department about ways in which members can help us better serve them. This month we hear from the seven employees in our Engineering department. There is a theme among the comments from employees in both departments – the more you communicate with us, the better we can serve you! You can reach us at 800-872-1203, info@menard.com. And don't forget to visit menard.com and [facebook/menardelectric](https://www.facebook.com/menardelectric) to learn more about us.

Brady Smith, P.E., Engineering Manager, 9 yrs

Engineering is responsible for the design of our electrical system to meet the needs of our membership as well as operate the vegetation management program to ensure these facilities remain safe and reliable. When you need to speak with an engineer to get a new service or to upgrade/relocate/retire a service, please have as much information available as you can. Sometimes we have quite a bit of information to cover, especially if it is a new service, such as agreements, easements and spec sheets. If something is not clear or if you have additional questions, please ask.



We do our best to notify the membership when we are doing our right-of-way clearing. We do this several ways, such as the center section of this magazine, post cards and verbally while we are doing the work. If you have concerns with the work that is going to be done or want to know the scope, please call and ask for our Forester. It is always better to discuss your concerns before the work has been done.

Ross Cloninger, Forester/Field Technician, 2 yrs.

Before planting any vegetation, look up. Be sure that you are at a safe distance away from any overhead power lines. It is important to know



exactly what you are planting and how large it will become at a mature height. Vegetation that is growing into the power line can be very dangerous not only for our lineman, but also to the public.

Even planting bushes or vines around poles can cause them to rot quicker and prevent lineman from accessing them for maintenance. If you do not know how far away you need to be, you can check out our website or call the office for assistance.

Dustin Crosier, P.E., Sr System Engineer, 4 yrs.

If you have questions regarding solar/wind generation or three-phase services, call or email me. Please follow the instructions given to you. The same goes for the contractors you hire. The co-op has policies and requirements in place for a reason, do not waste your time and money by assuming.



It is your responsibility to find out what the co-op expects of you when you need work done. Please do your research when selecting a contractor to do work for you.

Doug Pettit, GIS/Technology Specialist, 29 yrs.

Of the many databases Menard Electric maintains, one is specific for load control notification. This database is used to notify individuals when a load control period for irrigation systems or water heaters is initiated.



If you change phone number, cell carrier or simply wish to no longer be notified, please contact us and we will take the appropriate action. Likewise, if you wish to be added to this list, please provide your email address, and/or cell phone number and cell carrier.

Bart Bailey, Engineering/IT Coordinator, 15 yrs.

If you see any of us out staking a line along the side of the road, please slow down and be cautious within the work zone. Please obey flaggers even if you don't see any incoming traffic. #BeSafeDriveSmart



Tim Schafer, Field Engineer, 21 yrs.

When a member contacts me by a phone or email regarding a service, potential service or any other cooperative related question they may have, it helps greatly if they have information as to the size of service they may need or wish to change.



When I am trying to help someone, it helps to have any location information, such as addresses and or parcel identification numbers. Questions about a service should be asked as far as possible in advance of the need to make changes or build new. These things sometimes take a considerable amount of time to discuss, plan, design and get built by our highly capable Operations department (line crews).

Members who have questions about the locating of our underground lines, the heights of our overhead lines, or condition of our line equipment can help me help them by again having as much information as possible to convey the area of concern.

In short, information helps me help you!

Dave Groth, Engineering Technician, 7 yrs.

Members who are part of our load control program have a device attached to their electric water heater. When water heaters don't work correctly, members will call us to check the load control device. It would be helpful if they verified their circuit breaker is not tripped and their electric service is working correctly throughout the rest of the house first. It is also sometimes the heating element that goes bad and causes the water to be cooler than desired, which is not caused by our device. It is rare that our load control device causes any problem with a water heater.



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

Board highlights

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

December 23, 2019

- Present were Directors D. Jay Frye, Warren Goetsch, Gary Holloway, Gary Martin, Donald McMillan, Michael Patrick, Dennis Ryan, Jodine Tate & Steven Worner; General Manager Alisha Anker & Attorney Charles Smith.
- Motion carried to continue sick leave bonus program for year 2019/2020. Issues raised referred to Finance Committee.
- Motion carried to approve fixed expense reimbursements with no changes for block heaters & cell phone plans.
- Motion carried to approve 2019 Inventory

- Adjustment of a net loss of \$10,163.05.
- Anker: Reviewed operating statement, balance sheet, budget, member services report, past due notices/write-offs, operations report, irrigation rebates, Kilbourne substation building, safety report, Connect newsletter & capital credits estate report.
- Motion carried to move February Board Meeting to Thursday, Feb. 27, 2020 6:00 p.m.
- Ryan appointed Delegate and Patrick Alternate for NRECA Annual Meeting.
- Anker: Gave November financial report. Year to date margins were \$3,081,444 compared

to \$2,373,776 last year. End of November equity 42.97%. Served 10,933 member accounts. Net utility plant \$51,184,571 compared to \$49,232,197 last year. Co-op meets requirements of RUS, FFB, NRUCFC & CoBank.

- Goetsch: Gave AIEC report.
- Martin: Gave Prairie Power, Inc. report.
- Board entered into executive session; reconvened; motion carried to adopt & approve actions taken in executive session.
- Next Board Meeting 1/28/2020 at 6:00 p.m.



Best Carrot Cake Ever

Kim Kyes, Billing Coordinator

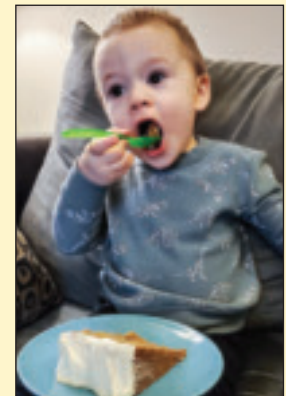
- 1 1/2 cups plus 2 tablespoons avocado oil (or any mild-flavored oil)
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1 cup brown sugar, packed
- 6 eggs
- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
- 3 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tablespoon ground cinnamon
- 2 teaspoons baking soda
- 2 teaspoons fine sea salt
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg

- 1/4 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1 pound finely grated fresh carrots
- 1 cup chopped nuts or 1/2 cup raisins, optional

Cream Cheese Frosting:

- 3 (8-oz) bricks cream cheese, room temp
- 1 cup salted butter, room temp
- 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
- 1/2 teaspoon fine sea salt
- 6 cups powdered sugar (or more to thicken)

Heat oven to 350 F. Grease and flour three 8-inch round baking pans. (Note-You can use two 9-inch pans and bake 10 minutes longer.) In a large bowl, whisk together oil, granulated sugar, and brown sugar until smooth. Add eggs and vanilla, whisk until smooth. In a separate bowl, whisk together remaining dry ingredients until combined. Gradually add the dry ingredient mixture into the egg mixture and stir until smooth. Fold in grated carrots and stir until combined. Add nuts and/or raisins, if using. Portion batter evenly into prepared pans. Bake for 25-30 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in the middle comes out clean. Transfer pans to wire cooling rack and cool to room temperature. To make frosting, combine cream cheese, butter, vanilla and salt in a large bowl and stir until smooth. Gradually stir in powdered sugar and mix until completely combined, adding more/less to achieve desired consistency. Once cakes reach room temperature, use a cake leveler or bread knife to slice off the rounded tops so they are flat on top. Place the first cake on a serving platter, add a large scoop of frosting on top and spread so it covers the cake evenly and extends a bit over the edge. Repeat with the second and third layers. Then frost the sides. Note: Kim's secret to moist cake – bake the cake a day ahead and freeze it overnight; let it warm up a bit and frost while still cool.



Kim's son requests this cake each year on his birthday. This year, her grandson Oliver was excited to join the celebration!