



Alisha Anker
General Manager

Exceptional times

As I write, the office is practically empty, the streets are deserted, and I hear no noise. It's almost noon on a weekday in late March – a time which would otherwise be bustling with phones ringing, co-worker chatter, and

the count of coins at the front counter. I share this perspective to make light of the unfortunate actuality that this publication is prepared long ahead of your read. I suspect many of you will now be remembering where you were on a weekday in late March, under a stay at home order, or perhaps on a mid-day sanity drive in search of hand sanitizer or disinfecting cleaner.

This situation is certainly sobering, which is why I'd like to offer our members somewhat of an apology. In last month's edition, there were abundant articles promoting activities such as getting out, spending time with family and friends, vacationing and attending events which I suspect were cancelled. I can't know what the state of the State will be as you read this. I do know your co-op is making every effort to provide you the reliable service you have come to expect. Ours is an essential business,

and while your dedicated co-op employees and I are recognizing the guidance to maintain a social distance from each other and the public, that distance does not present in the form of disengagement. We continue to be available to our members to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy.

In addition, in last month's edition we promoted our Annual Meeting of Members for early June, and took requests for Director Petitions for Districts 3, 7 and 8. In light of this coronavirus, its unknown impact for the future, and the uncertainty which has hit all lives near

and far, your co-op board has smartly decided to postpone this year's meeting. At this time, we are researching viable alternatives for a future date so we may continue the tradition and engagement provided at the annual meeting. Please follow our website and Facebook page for follow-up announcements.

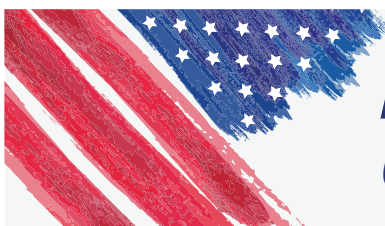
Finally, I'd like to close by recognizing the month of May – Military Appreciation Month – a month of reflection for the sacrifices made by our country's veterans and their families. I am especially thankful for those who gave the ultimate sacrifice so that we



Annual Meeting of Members is postponed.

See our website or Facebook page for up-to-date announcements.

can enjoy the freedoms their service affords us in this great country. However, in doing so, I would like to extend a special appreciation to the healthcare workers across our service territory and in our local communities. We are grateful to have these angels serving our families and looking out for us in this most exceptional time. Menard Electric Co-op is proud to honor these front-line veterans who have stepped up in a time of crisis to care for the fearful and those who cannot care for themselves. Please join me by showing your appreciation for a doctor, nurse, pharmacist, lab technician, paramedic and the support staff behind all these individuals – not just this month, but every month. I hope to see us emerge from this a stronger, more secure community, with a better understanding of the blessings our unity provides during trying times. Till next time, be well.



Memorial Day
Our office is closed May 25

Members receive \$700,000 in capital credits

Capital credits are a big part of what makes us, as an electric cooperative, different than other electric utilities.

You see, as an electric cooperative, we are a community-focused organization that works to efficiently deliver affordable, reliable and safe energy to our consumer-members. Because we belong to the communities we serve, any excess revenues we make are shared back with our members.

Those shared revenues are called capital credits.

Capital credits are earned by each of our members each year that we earn more revenue from our members than was needed to run the cooperative and provide service. That excess revenue, or margins, become capital credits

allocated to the membership after an auditing firm completes an audit of our finances.

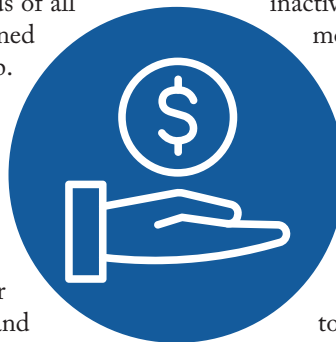
We maintain records of all the capital credits earned by each membership. The capital credits stay with us for a time before being returned to our members. They are an investment by our membership into our long-term operation and are what enables us to operate and pay for our day-to-day operations.

Each year, your board of directors looks at our overall financial health and

determines what portion of credits to return to the membership. This year they voted to return \$700,000 to active and inactive members. We've returned more than \$11 million in capital credits to our members to date!

We want to be able to return capital credits to every member, so please give us your address when you move away, and let your executor know to contact us.

For more information on capital credits, visit www.menard.com/capital-credits, email info@menard.com or call 800-872-1203.



Employee Favorite RECIPES



Oven-Baked Frittata

Chris Hinton, Manager of Accounting and Information Systems

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 largish onion, sliced
- 3-4 potatoes (1 ½ pounds or so)
- 1/4 - 1/2 pounds meat (cooked bacon, sausage, brat, ham chunks, etc.)
- 1-2 cups sliced vegetables such as green or red peppers, asparagus, sautéed mushrooms or peas
- 1/4 cup mild pepperoncini, rough chopped
- 1/4 cup olives, halved lengthwise, optional
- 1/2 -1 cup grated cheese (swiss or cheddar)
- 12 large eggs, beaten
- Basil
- Ground black pepper and salt, to taste
- Finely shredded parmesan cheese, if desired

Preheat oven to 400 F. Pour olive oil into the bottom of a 9x13 baking dish, add sliced onion and then put into oven for about 10 minutes, or until onion slices are browned a little bit. While onions cook, slice the potatoes moderately thin. Arrange the slices on a couple of microwave proof plates and cook on high in microwave about 3-4 minutes per plate. Once the potatoes are cooked, let the plates cool off until they can be handled easily. While onions and potatoes are cooking, slice the vegetables. Remove the onions from the oven and let cool while preparing the other ingredients. Arrange half of the cooled potato slices to cover the bottom of the dish. Then add the sliced vegetables and the cooked meat on top of the potatoes. Then add the pepperoncini and sliced olives, if desired. Spread the shredded cheese on top. Now arrange the remaining cooled potatoes to cover all the other ingredients. Mix basil and beaten eggs along with salt and pepper to taste, then pour the egg mixture evenly around the top layer of potatoes. Top with shredded parmesan if using. Put casserole back into oven and cook until eggs are set, about 30-45 minutes. Remove from oven and let cool 5 minutes and serve.

Chris says, "This is the base recipe I use for leftover cooked meat such as grilled brats or sausage. I can use up extra vegetables as well. If a vegetable has a lot of moisture, such as mushrooms or spinach, I will sauté it first to dry it out some."

May is Electrical Safety Month



4 COMMON CULPRITS OF ELECTRICAL FIRES

Outdated wiring and overloaded circuits are the most common causes of electrical fires. Check the following areas of your home to ensure your home's electrical safety is up to par.



Electrical outlets: Faulty electrical outlets are a leading cause of home fires. As outlets age, so do the wires behind them that you can't see. Any loose, damaged or warm-to-the-touch outlets should be repaired or replaced.



Electrical wiring: Outdated wiring is another common cause of electrical fires. Frequently tripped breakers, flickering lights and burning smells are clear warning signs. If your home is more than 20 years old, it may not be able to handle today's increased power load. If you suspect your home's wiring is outdated, leave this one to the pros and contact a qualified electrician.



Overloaded cords and outlets: Extension cords are not permanent solutions. If your big-screen TV, home theater system and other electronics are plugged into one extension cord, it's time to call an electrician and install additional outlets.



Old appliances: Older appliances are more likely to have loose or damaged wiring, which means they're more likely to catch fire. Check older appliances for damage and determine if it's time to upgrade or replace. Also check to ensure you're using appliance-grade outlets. A qualified electrician can help with installation.

Board highlights

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

February 27, 2020

- Present were Directors D. Jay Frye, Warren Goetsch, Gary Holloway, Gary Martin, Donald McMillan, Dennis Ryan, Jodine Tate & Steven Worner; Engineering Manager Brady Smith, General Manager Alisha Anker & Attorney Charles Smith. Director Michael Patrick absent.
- Motion carried to appoint Director Ryan Temporary Secretary.
- Smith & Anker: Reviewed Electric System Construction Contract and Power Line Right of Way Clearance & Vegetation Management Agreement. Motion carried to approve & adopt contract & agreement.
- Anker: Discussed Station Power Service rate; motion carried to adopt rate.
- Anker: Reviewed operating statement, balance sheet & budget; discussed member inquiries; reviewed member services report, past due notices/write-offs, operations & reliability report including 45 incidents and 1.688 average outage hours per interruption, irrigation construction report, Connect newsletter, capital credit estates report.
- Selected Anker as CRC Voting delegate & Trish Michels as alternate.
- Goetsch: Gave Safety report.
- Goetsch: Gave AIEC report.
- Martin: Gave Prairie Power, Inc. report.
- Worner: Gave Annual Meeting report.
- Motion carried to adopt new policies and revisions as presented by Bylaw/Policy Committee; including policies regarding security deposit, bad check, employee conduct & confidentiality, term life insurance, wage & salary administration, employee performance appraisal, retirement & security plans, petty cash, write-offs, cash funds, unclaimed retired patronage capital.
- Board entered into executive session; reconvened; motion carried to adopt & approve actions taken in executive session.
- Next Board Meeting 3/24/2020 at 6:00 p.m.

Be BudgetWise

We offer two ways you can even-out the fluctuations in your monthly utility bills.



Budget Billing:

This is our traditional budget program. You pay the same amount every month. The amount due is fixed at the average of your most recent 12 monthly billable amounts as of the month you sign up. Regardless, in June you will settle up with a credit if you used less than the estimated amount of electricity, or a balance due if you used more. We will periodically evaluate the account and may apply a one-time adjustment to keep you from having an excessive settlement amount.

Average Billing:

This is our newest program. Your bill will reflect the average of your most recent 12 monthly billable amounts, rounded to the nearest \$5 increment. The amount due may fluctuate month-to-month based on your 12-month rolling average use of electricity. You won't face a settlement month each year, the 12-months just continues forward.

If either option interests you, email us at info@menard.com with your account number and the BudgetWise option you are interested in, or call our office at 800-872-1203.

Ways to pay your bill

Automatic Payment

We'll deduct the total from your savings or checking account automatically on the 10th, 17th or 24th of each month. See the back of your payment stub or our website for the form to fill out.



MyMEC App

Download the MyMEC App by searching for Menard Outage in the Google Play or iOS App store. See the payments feature to log in to our secure payment portal.

Website

Visit menard.com to link to our secure online bill payment portal and pay with your credit or debit card or eCheck.

Phone

Call us at 800-872-1203 anytime to pay with a credit or debit card or eCheck.

Drop Off

Use our drop box anytime at our office at 14300 IL St Hwy 97, Petersburg.

Mail In

Allow adequate time for delivery to PO Box 200, Petersburg, IL 62675.