

We pay you back



Menard Electric Cooperative will return approximately

\$809,000 in capital credits

to members who purchased electricity in 1996, 1997 and/or 1998.

Instead of returning profits to investors and stockholders we return Capital Credits to our members.

Watch for Capital Credits on your July Bill or in your mailbox.

We have paid out a total of more than \$11,800,000 in Capital Credits to members!

What are capital credits?

- 1 Co-op members use electricity and pay bills.
- 2 At the end of the year, co-op determines if there was a profit (margin).
- 3 The co-op allocates margins to members to be repaid later as capital credits.
- 4 If co-op's financial condition permits, the Board of Directors determines retirement (payment) of capital credits.
- 5 Members receive capital credit payments.



Now two options for member-owned distributed generation

As an electric cooperative, we deliver electricity generated by our wholesale power provider Prairie Power, Inc. to our members. Some of our members also generate their own electricity; the most common source of member-owned distributed generation is solar panels.

Members with solar generate electricity that is used to power their home, reducing the amount of electricity they need from us. If they produce more than is used, the excess is pushed onto our system and the member is reimbursed for that energy.

We recently implemented a new program and optional settlement alternative, giving our members two options for reimbursement: Net Metering and Net Billing.

Net Metering: Systems must be sized at or less than 10kW (DC). Energy generated beyond the member's use, if any, each month is banked for the next month. Any kWh left in the bank at the end of each year is paid out to the member.

NEW Net Billing: Eligible systems are sized to accommodate up to 100 percent of annual usage, not to exceed



100 kW (AC). Energy generated beyond the member's use, if any, each month is purchased by us at a wholesale rate and applied as a current bill credit. The member purchases any energy not offset by the system at their regular retail rate.

You can find detailed information and sample bills for each option, along with steps to installing a member-owned distributed generation system at our website

www.menard.com/distributedgeneration.

We encourage members interested in installing a system to contact us early in the decision-making process – we can ensure you are well informed about our policies and procedures as well as your home's energy needs, before you contact an installer. Call System Engineer Dustin Crosier at 800-872-1203 or email info@menard.com.

Family outdoor summer safety tips

- Install GFCI outlets within 20 feet of pools
- Set pools 20-25 feet from overhead lines
- Use sprinklers & hold water balloon fights away from electrical appliances
- Do not climb trees or fly kites near overhead lines
- Stay away from pad mounted transformers
- Do not release mylar balloons outdoors
- Stay away from substations
- Do not use electric yard tools in wet conditions



2021 Annual Meeting of Members

August 5, 2021

We missed the opportunity to connect with our members last summer after the cancellation of our annual meeting and are excited to see our members August 5 at PORTA High School! We hope you will mark your calendar to attend. Although some things might look a little different this year, you can look forward to three of your favorite things – the grilled pork chop dinner, attendance gifts and prizes! Look for details in the Official Notice mailed to members next month.

Petitions Available

Election of Directors to be held at Annual Meeting

Interested in serving your co-op as a Director? Petitions are available at the office and must be received in the office by 4:30 p.m. June 21, 2021. The election of Directors will be held at the Annual Meeting of Members on August 5, 2021.

Due to the cancellation of last year's annual meeting and election, Districts 3, 7 and 8 will be up for election for a remaining two-year term. Seeking re-election are incumbents Jodine (Jodie) Tate, District 3; Michael (Mike) Patrick, District 7; and Warren Goetsch, District 8.

Districts 2, 5 and 9 will be up for election for a three-year term. Seeking re-election are incumbents Gary Martin, District 2; D. Jay Frye, District 5; and Donald (Chuck) McMillan, District 9.

For some additional information on the job duties of a Director and a map of District areas see our website www.menard.com or call the office at 800-872-1203.

Scholarship Winners

Commitment to Community is one of the pillars of our cooperative, and we again awarded scholarships to students who share our passion for community service. Once again, we are honored to be a small part of helping these students achieve their goals.

\$1,000 4-year University/College Scholarship



Anna Foster of Petersburg

Recent graduate of PORTA High School
Attending Butler University in Indiana to study
Psychology/Political Science

Quote from application: *"Serving in my community is no longer about paying back for what they have done for me, but it has become a way to share love, kindness, and to show others how much they are truly cared for."*

\$500 2-year Community College Scholarship



Avery Wilson of Topeka

Recent graduate of Midwest Central High School
Attending Illinois Central College

Quote from application: *"A community should never just be a shared living space; it should embody warmth and unitedness and be the prime example of the good that humans can do for one another."*

\$500 Technical Program Scholarship



Brent Miller of Mason City

Recent graduate of Illini Central High School
Attending Electrical Distribution Lineman program at
Lincoln Land Community College

Quote from application: *"I believe it is important to serve my community because not everyone is capable of doing everything themselves."*

Members who will have high school seniors next fall should keep an eye out for applications to be available in January next year. They can be found at www.menard.com/scholarships and in local school guidance counselor materials.

Board highlights

- All Directors present in person & remotely, exceptions Gary Martin & Dennis Ryan. Present General Manager Alisha Anker & Attorney Kim Smith.
- Adopted Station Power Service Agreement w/ Glacier Sands Wind, LLC.
- Anker discussed long-term debt balances, interest rates, repricing & maturity dates for long-term notes. Resolutions approved: CoBank Long Term Loan; adding 2 authorized persons for IECFCU accounts.
- Anker reviewed monthly & YTD financial operating report, balance sheet & financial trends. Operating Margins YTD as of 2/28 were \$782,671 compared to \$710,652 last year; equity at 41.60%; 12-mo TIER 2.45 & DSC 1.60.
- Reviewed Member Svs report w/ 317 March cut off tickets generated & \$1,019.31 in write-offs. Operations Report w/ 14 incidents; longest duration outage 363 minutes impacting 1 member; largest # affected by single outage 44 members for 54 minutes due to ice.
- Advised committee formed to develop possible inventory management changes. Discussed new irrigations & testing line losses.
- Warren Goetsch elected Director & Steve Worner Alternate Director to AIEC Board. Goetsch named voting delegate & Worner alternate to AIEC Annual Mtg & as NRECA Director voting delegate.
- Appointed Anker CEO/GM Director candidate, Martin Director-Director candidate & Worner Alternate candidate to PPI Board. Appointed Martin voting delegate, Anker alternate to PPI Annual Mtg.
- Adopted Bylaw-Policy Committee recommended changes to Net Billing Policy & Employee Leave Under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act.
- Executive Session actions ratified.
- Next Mtg 4/27/21.

For full minutes visit www.menard.com or **March 23, 2021**

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

A dirty filter causes your air conditioner to work harder than necessary. Remember to change your air filter every month (or every two months) to prevent dust buildup, which can lead to even bigger problems.

Source:
www.energy.gov



Brady Smith, Engineering Manager

Taco Bake

- 1 1/2 pounds ground beef
- 1 package taco seasoning
- 1 can crescent rolls
- 8 ounces sour cream
- 2 cups salsa
- 1 small can sliced black olives or jalapenos
- Shredded cheddar cheese

Preheat oven to 375. Brown and drain ground beef. Add seasoning and water per package instructions. Press crescent rolls flat into greased 9x13-inch pan. Spread sour cream over rolls. Pour taco meat over sour cream; spread salsa over meat, sprinkle with olives and top with cheese. Bake 15 minutes until dough is done and cheese bubbly. Serves 6-8.

Brady says, "Baseball keeps us pretty busy; this quick meal fills up my kids after a game."



BudgetWise

Take the guesswork out of monthly budgeting with our BudgetWise program options.

See details at www.menard.com, email info@menard.com or call 800-872-1203 for details.

Contact us today to be added to our Budget Billing summer cycle!

SEE PAGE 4
for details on Paperless Billing and how you can win a \$25 bill credit