

Election of Directors to be held

Petitions available

Our Board of Directors is made up of nine directors, each representing a Director District and serving a three-year term. Three Director Districts are up for election at each Annual Meeting of Members. At this year's Annual Meeting on August 4, 2022, members at large will vote for representation in Districts 1, 4 and 6.

Seeking re-election are incumbents Gary Holloway, District 1; Dennis Ryan, District 4; and Steven Worner, District 6.

Are you interested in serving as a Director? Please visit our website at www.menard.com/board-directors to see a District Map and learn a little more about a Director's duties.

To run for the position of Director please call our office at 800-872-1203 or email info@menard.com to briefly discuss the process of election. **Petitions are available May 2, 2022, and must be returned to our office by 4:30 p.m. on June 20, 2022.**



Gary Holloway
District 1



Dennis Ryan
District 4



Steven Worner
District 6



AUGUST 4, 2022

SAVE

THE

DATE

**ANNUAL MEETING
OF MEMBERS AT
PORTA HIGH SCHOOL**



Sharing Success Grant Opportunity

Application Deadline June 1, 2022

Do you represent a 501(c)(3) charity or organization serving a public purpose in the local communities within the Menard Electric service territory?

As a co-op, one of our core values is Commitment to Community. We partner with CoBank's Sharing Success Program each year to provide funding to local projects sponsored by eligible organizations in need. These might include schools, government agencies, service/civic organizations, fairgrounds and many more. Funds were used last year to supply summer meals for children, launch a food pantry co-op, purchase a first responder vehicle and fill backpacks with school supplies.

Do you have a project?

Application and Details available at www.menard.com/sharingsuccess
Deadline to apply June 1, 2022.



ELECTRICITY 101

To stay safe around electricity, start with these **SEVEN** basic tips:

1.



DON'T OVERLOAD OUTLETS OR CIRCUITS

Plugging in too many items or drawing too much power on a circuit can cause overheating, fire, and damage to devices.

2.



DON'T USE FAULTY ELECTRICAL CORDS OR PLUGS

Do not use cords that look frayed, worn or cracked. Do not use broken plugs. Never remove the grounding pin from a three-pronged plug.

3.



HAVE YOUR ELECTRICIAN'S NUMBER IN YOUR PHONE

Most electrical repairs or installations are not DIY projects. Hire an expert to avoid serious injury or wiring problems.

4.



BE CAREFUL AROUND H₂O

Never use electricity while standing in damp or wet conditions. Keep all electrical devices away from water, including cell phones that are charging.

5.



EVALUATE YOUR APPLIANCES

Do not use appliances in disrepair. Older or broken appliances can overheat, start a fire, and cause serious injuries.

6.



TEST YOUR GFCIs

Outlets near a water source should be equipped with GFCIs, which help prevent shock and electrocution caused by ground faults. Test monthly to make sure they are working.

7.



MAKE SURE YOUR HOME IS UP TO CODE

Your home should be properly wired and electrically sound. Contact a reputable electrician to evaluate your home.

MAY IS
ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

Safe
Electricity.org®



BudgetWise

Budget Billing

A set amount is paid each month of the budget billing cycle. On the designated summer or fall true-up month (June or November billing) a credit or additional amount due is applied based on the actual electrical usage for the cycle. This option is great for members who want a consistent payment amount 11 months of the year and pairs well with our automatic payment and paperless billing options. *Now is the perfect time to apply for this summer's budget billing cycle!*

Average Billing

The monthly amount due is based on a 12-month rolling average use of electricity. The amount due could fluctuate monthly but dramatic changes will be spread across multiple months. This option is great for those who do not mind monthly changes and do not want to have a true-up month.

Call 800-872-1203 or email info@menard.com for details to sign up.

5/30/22
MEMORIAL DAY
OFFICE CLOSED

We celebrate the extraordinary service, commitment and courage of those heroes who gave the ultimate sacrifice.



Considering solar?

Have sunny skies led you to consider adding solar panels to your home? Menard Electric Co-op supports our members who generate electricity using solar.

We encourage you to contact us early in the decision-making process. We can ensure you are well informed about your home's energy needs, our policies and procedures, and your options for excess generation reimbursement, all before you meet with an installer.

Contact our System Engineer at info@menard.com or 800-872-1203. You can also visit our website at www.menard.com/distributedgeneration where we have broken down the process of installing solar with us into five steps.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Even in summer months, adding insulation to your attic can keep your home more comfortable and save energy used by your cooling system. If your attic insulation is level with or below your floor joists (meaning you can easily see your joists), you should add more. If you can't see any of the floor joists because the insulation is well above them, you likely have enough insulation. Attic insulation should be evenly distributed with no low spots. Make sure the areas along the eaves are adequately covered.

Source: energystar.gov



TEST YOUR GFCI OUTLETS

ONCE A MONTH

The safety functions of ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) can fail without notice, so check them monthly. Pick the first or last day of the month so that it is easy to remember.

HOW TO TEST A GFCI OUTLET:

- Find the test and reset buttons.
- Press the TEST button.
- You should hear a snap sound that trips the outlet.

CONFIRM THE POWER IS CUT

- Plug in a lamp or other device.
- The item you plug in should not turn on.

RESET THE OUTLET

- Once you confirm the GFCI is working properly (that the outlet does not work when tested), press the reset button to restore power to the outlet.

RETEST FOR REMAINING SOCKET(S)

You can also buy a GFCI outlet tester that has a display and test button.

GFCI protection can also be installed on circuit breakers to safeguard an entire circuit. They should be tested monthly by pressing the test button on the breaker. If working properly, the interrupter should shut off power to the circuit.

Safe Electricity.org®

Board highlights

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

February 22, 2022

- All Directors present except Steve Worner; General Manager Alisha Anker and Attorney Charles K. Smith present.
- Approved Electric System Construction Contract.
- Approved Power Line Right of Way Clearance & Vegetation Management Contract.
- Approved Financial Authorizations for personnel changes at Alliance Community Bank and Petefish, Skiles & Co.
- Approved RDUP Form 674 & RUS Form 675.
- Anker reviewed monthly & YTD financial operating report & balance sheet. Operating margins YTD as of 1/31 were \$1,303,324 compared to (\$8,182) last year.
- Reviewed Member Services Report w/243 cutoff tickets generated; \$1,348.78 in write-offs. Reviewed Operations Report w/21 incidents, longest outage 167 minutes from downed wire; largest outage 92 members after tree blown into lines.
- Annual Meeting Committee gave details of event scheduled 8/4/22.
- Approved multiple Bylaw/Policy Committee recommendations. Among changes were a revision to insurance required when connecting distributed generation (solar/wind) & a new member identity protection policy.
- Approved Irrigation Committee Recommendation to increase pivot rebate by \$75 for Rate 51.
- Next Mtg 3/22/22.

Kilo Watt Korner



KW

Gardeners will agree that tomatoes taste juicier, strawberries sweeter and cucumbers crisper when you have planted, tended and picked them in your own backyard. While some are planning and planting this month, others began indoors some time ago growing seedlings.

This month we look at lighting, one key component to successful seed starting. Grow lights produce a different spectrum of light from those otherwise used in your home and are more expensive to purchase. Step back to junior high science class a moment and recall that plants require sunlight, water and carbon dioxide to create the energy they need – a process called photosynthesis. Wavelengths of visible light vary in range/color and some colors are better for

photosynthesis. Grow light models will vary in the intensity of colors generated and a little research may be needed before making your investment.

We recruited a first-time seed starter to help us with our data this month. He had purchased a single LED grow light bulb for around \$23 and to keep costs down utilized a heat lamp fixture that had kept chicks warm last spring. I'll note we had trouble getting a full month's worth of data as he utilized an unplug/plug in method of light control rather than a timer. We are confident that success this year will lead to a more complex light setup in the future.

The single bulb used 8.8 watts. It was lit 16 hours a day and based on that consumed 4.4 kWh of electricity over the course of a month, adding roughly \$0.55 to the electric bill.

Korner Recommendation: Every bulb will vary so read the specs carefully, but electricity usage of an LED Grow light will be but a small part of the costs of starting seeds. Fixtures, bulbs, seeds and soil costs will add up. Of course, much of the costs of gardening is truly in time and effort! But the rewards of patiently growing that vegetable from seed to your plate is most certainly a rewarding experience. As Audrey Hepburn said, "To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow."