



## Stay alert to power lines this harvest

*Don't take shortcuts with safety as the rush to harvest begins*

- Stay alert to power line locations around fields and storage facilities.
- Keep equipment at least 10 feet from power lines — at all times, in all directions.
- Inspect the height of farm equipment to determine clearance.
- Always remember to lower extensions when moving loads.
- Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.
- Use a spotter when operating large machinery near power lines.
- Use care when raising augers or the bed of grain trucks around power lines.
- If a power line is sagging or low, call us immediately.

### *What to do if you make contact with a line:*

- Stay on the equipment.
- Warn others to stay away and call 9-1-1.
- Do not leave until the utility crew tells you it is safe to do so.
- The *only* reason to leave the equipment is if it is on fire. When that is the case, jump off the equipment with feet together. Do not touch the ground and the equipment at the same time. Keeping feet together, hop/shuffle to safety.

***We wish our members a safe and abundant harvest season***

## Note about irrigation switches

*from Engineering Manager Brady Smith*

Over the winter Menard replaced over 200 load control switches on irrigation systems served from Bluff Springs, Virginia, Oakford, Saidora, and Kilbourne Substations. This effectively upgraded any irrigation service load management switch utilized for Rate 52.

The new switches are Demand Response Units (DRU) that use our power lines to communicate, just like our meters, and unlike the legacy radio-controlled switches. Prior to deployment these switches were programmed to disable the time diversity and cold load pickup features.

Upon searching the DRUs into our AMI (metering) system, we discovered the AMI system sent out commands reverting our programming and enabling the time diversity and cold load pickup features.

We had several members call in with issues when starting their system after they had their disconnect switch off for a period of time. With these features enabled the member would have to wait for a timeout before their irrigation rig could start.

We were able to determine the root cause and have stopped the AMI system from sending out commands to revert settings. We are also able to apply appropriate settings remotely. If you are still experiencing any issues, please reach out to the Engineering Department at 800-872-1203.



*Walking or driving under the flag is something many of our members look forward to each year.*

# 84th Annual Meeting of Members

## Business Meeting reports to members

*Members who missed the meeting can view videos of the reports on our website at [menard.com](http://menard.com).*

### General Manager Alisha Anker

Anker reassured members that Menard Electric would not be impacted, as some other utilities have been, by sudden price increases driven by the energy market. The other utilities do not own

their electric generation and are largely dependent on energy market prices. Menard Electric is different because it owns its own electric generation through its wholesale power supplier, Prairie Power Inc., whose diversified resources include part of a large coal plant, several natural gas units, a small oil-fired unit, two solar farms, and off-take purchases from another solar farm and a wind farm, all located within Illinois.

pressures from environmental and legislative impacts. “Unfortunately, despite the fact our wholesale supplier has ample capacity to serve the demand of our members, the transmission grid is managed on a regional level,” she said. “Operators of the transmission grid have limited options when told they will have no access to these plants in the future and their last stage effort is to implement a rolling blackout.” Sacrificing blocks of electric demand on a rotating basis actually protects the grid from a larger-scale blackout concern. Anker ended by reassuring members that co-op employees were ready for this concern.

She also discussed the reasons for potential rolling blackouts and explained recent changes in supply and demand, citing increases in energy use as business and industry ramps up post-covid, coupled with an ever-declining supply of coal and natural gas-fired generation due to plant closures and

### Board President Jay Frye

Frye discussed how the employees and board work to fulfill the co-op’s mission statement to provide reliable electrical service at a reasonable cost with concern for the safety and well-being of members, employees and the communities



*Dispatcher Alycia Clifton and Receptionist Audra Sturgeon enjoyed meeting with members in-person at registration. Each registered membership received a tote bag and smart LED light bulb and were entered into the bill credit drawing.*



*A welcome addition in the sweltering heat this year was the Kona Ice truck. They served 242 snow cones of a variety of flavors.*



*The Mason County Pork Producers outdid themselves again this year with a delicious grilled pork chop meal. Comments we heard say the potato salad was outstanding. They served more than 650 meals.*



*Many members entered a drawing to win one of 12 Electrifying Rural America puzzles. We've had a few members ask how to get their hands on one, and regretfully the artist/vendor is sold out.*



*There is just something great about visiting and asking questions face to face and all of our employees enjoy the opportunity to do so. Members speak here with Field Engineer Tim Schafer, Engineering Manager Brady Smith and Senior System Engineer Dustin Crosier.*

of the cooperative. He discussed recent strategic planning goals established by the board as a method to provide that service. Members can read additional details about those plans in their August Illinois Country Living magazine.

**Board Treasurer Dennis Ryan**

Ryan reminded members the co-op is a member-owned entity beholden to stakeholder profits and discussed the return of margins earned as capital credits to members. He stated Menard Electric is one of the more aggressive co-ops in the state regarding the return

of those credits, having returned more than \$12.8 million to members to-date.

**Director Election**

The following incumbents ran unopposed and were re-elected to three-year terms: Gary Holloway of Petersburg, District 1; Dennis Ryan of Petersburg, District 4; and, Steve Worner of Manito, District 6.

# Board highlights

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

June 28, 2022

- All Directors present in person or by zoom except Warren Goetsch; also present General Manager Alisha Anker, Director of Finance & Accounting Julie Atwater & Attorney Charles Smith.
- Co-op Auditor Kevin Kelso presented Review of 2021 Financial Audit. Motion carried to approve audit. Kelso left mtg.
- Motion carried to approve Auditor Engagement letter for Kelso to perform audit & IRS form 990 services for 2022 & 2023. Atwater left mtg.
- Smith reviewed Conflict of Interest Policy; Directors submitted disclosure forms.
- Board mtg dates approved July 2022-June

2023 as 4th Tuesday each month except Nov. mtg as 11/29/22 and Dec. mtg as 12/22/22.

- Anker reviewed monthly & YTD financial operating report, balance sheet & financial trends. Operating margins YTD as of 5/31 were \$1,207,073 compared to \$634,306 last year; equity at 44.79%; 12-mo TIER 3.87 & DSC 2.09.
- Advised funds advanced from Federal Financing Bank.
- General Manager Anker presented the Member Services Report, past due notices, generated cut-off tickets and write-offs for the Month.

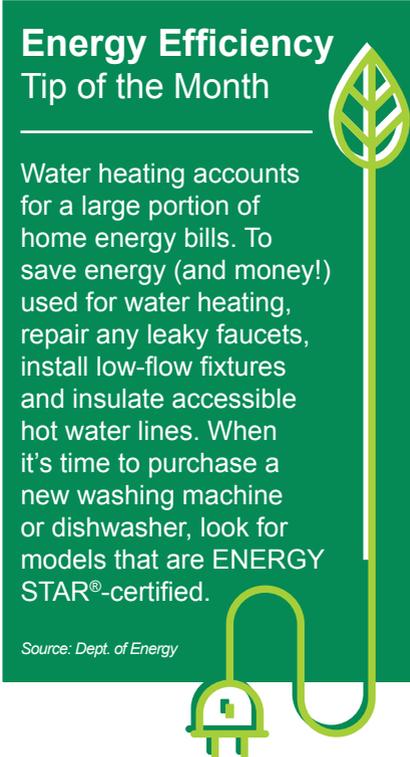
- Anker reviewed operations report w/62 incidents; longest duration outage 343 minutes due to a bad transformer change-out that affected 23 members; largest # affected by single outage 301 due to breaker open for unknown reason.
- Martin discussed monthly employee safety mtg he attended as guest director.
- Reviewed 7 Sharing Success to submit to CoBank for matching donations. [See specifics October newsletter.]
- Received 2nd ICC notice of investigation of underground facility locating.
- Next Mtg 7/26/22



## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Water heating accounts for a large portion of home energy bills. To save energy (and money!) used for water heating, repair any leaky faucets, install low-flow fixtures and insulate accessible hot water lines. When it's time to purchase a new washing machine or dishwasher, look for models that are ENERGY STAR®-certified.

*Source: Dept. of Energy*



# CO-OPS VOTE

## National Voter Registration Day

### Tuesday, September 20



Visit [www.vote.coop](http://www.vote.coop) to ensure you're #voteready.