

Save THE Date!

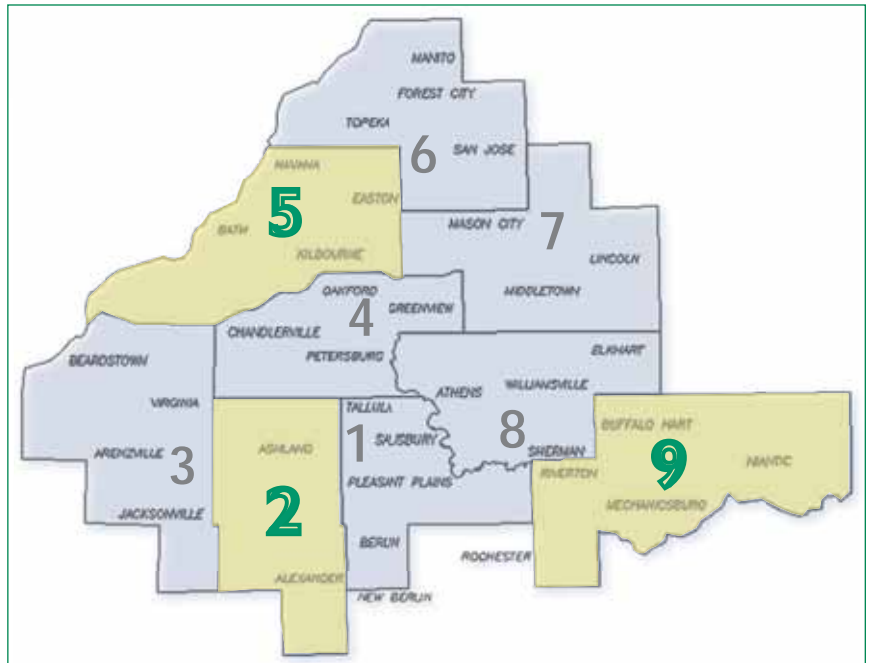
Annual Meeting of Members • Wednesday, July 10, 2024

Yearly Director Election

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, members at large will vote for representation from Districts 2, 5 & 9.

Members who reside in any of these three Districts may submit a petition for the Director election.

If you will be interested in running for the position of Director, please call our office at 800-872-1203 or email info@menard.com to discuss the process of election. Petitions are due in the office by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, May 24th.



What Directors do:

- Receive electric service from the co-op in their district, are a member in good standing, and do not have conflicting business interests. (They pay the same rates for service and follow the same policies as all other members.)
- Serve 3-year terms.
- Meet for regular board meetings primarily the fourth Tuesday of each month.
- Meet for special meetings and committee meetings as required.

- Establish policies.
- Employ a General Manager who is responsible for day-to-day operations.
- Remain accessible to members within their district and represent all members.
- Spend time acquiring knowledge about the electric utility, including finances, management and public

issues. (It takes time to learn the system and for that reason our directors have made long-term commitments to serving the co-op.)

- More details about directors are listed in our bylaws, available at www.menard.com/bylaws.



PLEASE MOVE OVER FOR EMERGENCY AND UTILITY CREWS

If you see police, firefighters, utility crews or other emergency personnel on the side of the road, please slow down and move over when possible.

Together, we can keep our crews safe.

Vegetation management

Improving safety & reliability

Safety

Did you know that tree limbs hold moisture? If a limb contacts a power line that moisture provides a path down the tree into the ground, which can result in electrocution for anyone in contact with the tree. Branches that seem far away from lines can come into contact due to wind, broken limbs, or additional weight from individuals/snow/ice. Trees close to our lines are dangerous for linemen working on the lines, members working near trees, and children playing in or around trees near lines.

Reliability

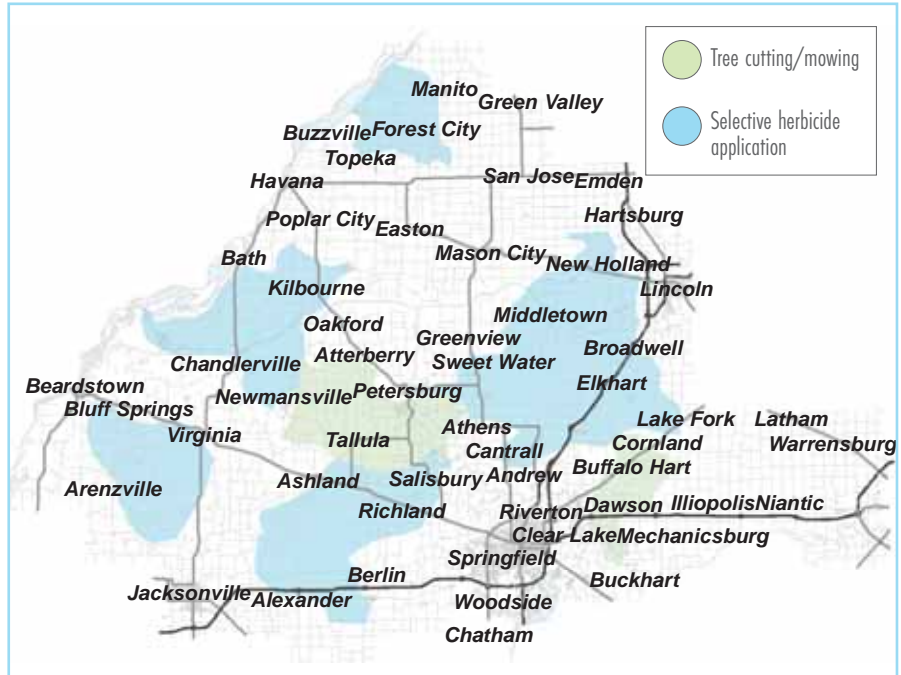
Tree limbs coming into contact with lines cause outages. This occurs not only during ice, snow and wind storms but also on mild days when swaying branches can cause multiple small interruptions that are often difficult to trace.

2024 vegetation management

We work steadily to keep our lines and equipment clear of any vegetation that could cause a safety or reliability hazard. Controlling vegetation across our 2,600+ miles of line takes time. We seek to clear each area every five to six years; this requires us to manually or mechanically trim for sufficient clearance against regrowth. When we cannot achieve adequate clearance due to incompatibility to our lines, the vegetation will be removed.

Brush and vines growing on or near our poles is also controlled. Vegetation causes poles to rot quicker, growth under lines or around equipment prevents access for maintenance and outage repairs.

Property owners are responsible for maintaining trees near their service line (the electric line that runs from the main power line to the home). Please call us to have your service line temporarily



disconnected so this work may be done safely by a qualified tree service.

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 crews to trim trees to the requirements of the American National Standards Institute to assure the continued health of trees. These standards may not be viewed as the most visually appealing, but they are supportive to tree health in the long term as well as safer for all members and employees.

2024 schedule

We will partner with Spoon River Electric Cooperative's forestry department and employ contract crews to cut and mow vegetation along circuits served by our Petersburg and Barclay

substations. These areas are highlighted on the map in green.

Herbicide will be selectively applied to brush as needed in areas that were mechanically cleared in 2023. This is the most cost-effective step in right-of-way maintenance and allows us to extend our trimming cycle and reduce the amount of brush that would need cleared after regrowth. In 2024 these areas will include those shown in blue on the map, served by our substations in Bluff Springs, Saidora, Kilborne, Bishop, Middletown, Athens and New Berlin, as well as the areas of Petersburg substation that were trimmed last year.

We appreciate your support of our vegetation management program to help us continue providing safe, reliable service.

Questions about our program?

Contact Forester Ross Cloninger at rcloninger@menard.com or 800-872-1203.

Planting trees near overhead and underground lines

Planting a tree for Arbor Day this month? Ensure you pick the right spot to avoid problems later.

Overhead lines: Take the diameter of the tree when fully grown (available on its care tag or from the nursery), divide that number in half and add 15. Then, plant your tree that many feet away from lines. You want the outer edge of the branches (not the trunk) to be at least 15 feet from our overhead lines when it is full grown.

Underground lines: Tree roots can cause problems for underground utilities. Generally, roots grow out two to three times the edge of the branches (drip edge) within just a few years, and in some cases, they can grow laterally equal to the height of the tree. Always call JULIE at 811 to locate lines before you plant.



If any landscaping projects will involve digging remember to always call JULIE at 811 or visit illinois1call.com two to three days in advance so that all underground utility lines can be marked.





Coffee

on the
CO-OP

JOIN US

this spring for coffee & conversation

FRIDAY
APR 5

COOL BEANS COFFEE & ICE CREAM

412 IL 125, Pleasant Plains

FRIDAY
MAY 3

TALISMAN

101 N 7th, Petersburg

Meet fellow members

Chat about your co-op

Ask questions

More days and locations to be announced soon! All members are welcome! We hope to see you there!

Menard Electric Cooperative www.menard.com 800-872-1203 info@menard.com

Board highlights

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

Jan. 30, 2024

- All Directors present except President Warren Goetsch & Director Jodine Tate. Also present Director of Accounting & Finance Julie Atwater, General Manager Alisha Anker & Attorney Charles Smith. Vice President Jay Frye presided over mtg.
- Atwater advised 2023 inventory adjustment was negative \$67,317.16; discussed challenges & plans to improve inventory management & reduce annual adjustment.
- Anker reviewed December monthly & YTD financial trends. Operating margins

\$1,274,846 compared to \$673,055 last year; also reviewed net meter kWh banks.

- Reviewed operations report w/44 incidents; longest duration of outage 241 minutes for 1 member due to bad transformer, largest # affected by single outage 237 due to tree contact.
- Anker advised of sunset of water heater load control program & elimination of water heater rates & rebate.
- Adopted 2024 Capital Credit Retirement Resolution.

- Approved Finance Committee's recommendations to increase energy charge 1.5 cents/kWh for rates 10, 10SNM, 17, 20, 30, 31, 50/51/52 and 60, increase energy charge 0.06 cents/kWh for rate 81, and simultaneously shift PCA deadband threshold up 1.5 cents.
- Next mtg 2/27/24.

[Editor's note: detailed information on rate adjustments & water heater load control were published in the March 2024 issue. It can be found at www.menard.com/connect-newsletter.]



Help us find members owed capital credits

In 2023, your board of directors authorized a general retirement of capital credits earned by members who had active service with us in 2000, 2001 and/or 2002. Some of the checks we mailed were never cashed. You can help us find these members by scanning this QR code to visit our webpage at www.menard.com/capitalcredits and view a listing of names.



We appreciate our employees!

Our employees work both in front of and behind the scenes in engineering, technology, human resources, accounting, customer service, communications, forestry, storekeeping, mechanics, vegetation management, operations, line-work and more.

We are proud of our team of highly skilled employees who work hard to provide you with the safe, affordable, reliable service you depend on every day.

Show your appreciation this month with a friendly smile and wave when you see them on the road or out in your community, or if you'd like, dash off a quick thank-you email to info@menard.com.