

## Director Election

### Petitions due May 24 for election at Annual Meeting of Members

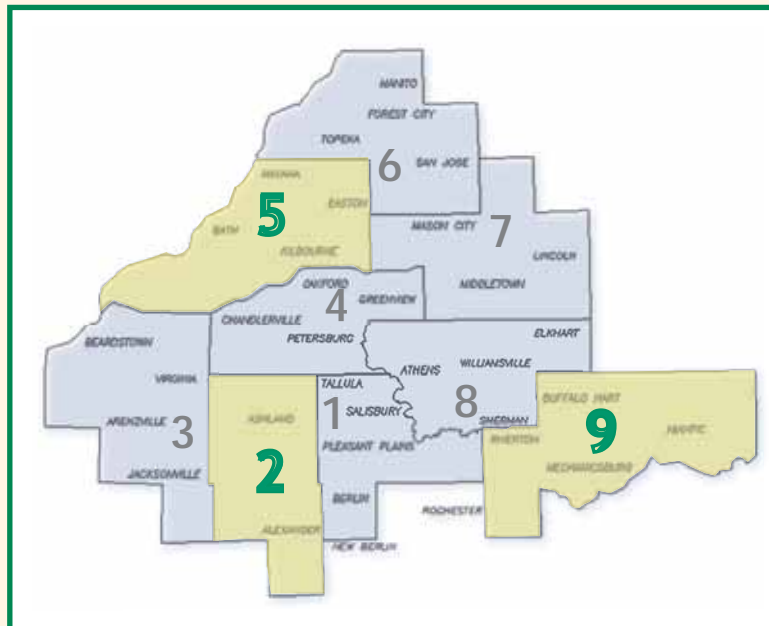
Our Board of Directors is made up of nine directors, each representing a Director District and serving a three-year term. Three Director Districts are up for election at each Annual Meeting of Members. This year those districts are:

**District 2:** *Ashland, Alexander areas.* Incumbent Gary Martin will seek reelection.

**District 5:** *Havana, Bath, Easton, Kilbourne areas.* Incumbent D. Jay Frye will see reelection.

**District 9:** *Buffalo Hart, Mechanicsburg, Niantic, Riverton areas.* Incumbent Don McMillan will seek reelection.

Members who reside in Districts 2, 5 and 9 may submit a petition for the director election by 4:30 p.m. on



Friday, May 24, 2024. The election will be held at the Annual Meeting of Members Wednesday, July 10, 2024, at Pleasant Plains High School, Pleasant Plains, Ill.

Stop in our office to pick up a petition packet at 14300 IL State Highway 97, Petersburg, Ill. Questions? Email [info@menard.com](mailto:info@menard.com) or call 800-872-1203.

## BudgetWise

### Budget Billing summer cycle to begin

With our Budget Billing program we will set a specific payment amount based on the past 12-month's usage to be paid each billing month July 2024-May 2025. Then, on the once-yearly true-up month, June 2025, a credit or additional amount due will be applied based on the actual electric usage for the entire cycle.

Email [info@menard.com](mailto:info@menard.com) or call 800-872-1203 for details.



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WEDNESDAY, JULY 10

PLEASANT PLAINS HIGH SCHOOL

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**SAVE THE DATE**

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ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

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Next month's issue (June 2024) of Illinois Country Living will provide more details and include your Official Notice of the Meeting; a separate notice will not be mailed. Information will also be available at [www.menard.com](http://www.menard.com) and on our Facebook page.

## CONSIDERING SOLAR?

Does spring sunshine have you considering solar? We encourage you to contact us early in your decision-making process. We can ensure you are well-informed about our policies and procedures, our Net Billing versus Net Metering options, and your home's energy needs, all before you contact an installer. Call 800-872-1203 or email [info@menard.com](mailto:info@menard.com). Also visit our website at [www.menard.com/distributedgeneration](http://www.menard.com/distributedgeneration), where we have broken down the process of installing solar with us into five steps.



## Sharing Success funding

*Applications accepted through June 4*

Each year we partner with CoBank to provide funding to local projects sponsored by eligible 501(c)(3) charities and others serving a public purpose in local communities within our service territory. These might include schools, government agencies, service/civic organizations, fairgrounds and many more. Past recipients have received funding for a park restoration, firehouse roofing, playground equipment, summer meals and school supplies for students, theater lighting, food pantries and much more!

More details and the 2024 program application are available at [www.menard.com/sharingsuccess](http://www.menard.com/sharingsuccess). Deadline to apply is June 4, 2024.



# Coffee

on the  
**CO-OP**

FRIDAY  
**MAY 3**  
8:00-9:30 A.M.

**TALISMAN**  
101 N 7th, Petersburg

FRIDAY  
**JUNE 7**  
7:00-8:30 A.M.

**INTERURBAN MERCHANT**  
112 W. Main, Williamsville

- ☪ Meet fellow members
- ☪ Chat about your co-op
- ☪ Ask questions

## Electrical safety checklist

In honor of Electrical Safety Month, run through this quick checklist to ensure your family is using electricity safely.

- No extension cords are used long-term.
- Outlets and power strips are not overloaded.
- Light switch and outlet covers are unbroken.
- Outlets are tamper-resistant; unused outlets have safety caps installed.
- Nonworking, unusually warm and buzzing outlets are reported to an electrician.
- Circuit breaker box is labeled correctly.
- Washer/dryer do not move excessively, and dryer lint is removed after each use.
- Electronics/washer/dryer/refrigerator have room for air circulation.
- Electrical cords are in good condition, are placed out of walking areas and are not under rugs/furniture or hanging from tables/counters.
- Countertop appliances are located away from sinks/tubs/showers.
- GFCI outlets are installed in bathrooms, kitchens, garages and outdoors, and are tested regularly.
- Smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are in working order.
- Small appliance cords are unplugged when not in use.
- Phone/tablet chargers are original to devices, unplugged when not in use, not used on devices left in beds or under pillows and are never used with damp hands or near water.

See [www.esfi.org](http://www.esfi.org) or [www.safeelectricity.org](http://www.safeelectricity.org) for more

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

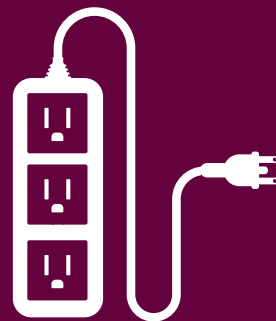
Looking for an easy way to manage home energy use? Smart plugs are inexpensive and offer convenient solutions for scheduling and controlling your favorite electronic devices.

With smart plugs, you can easily manage your coffee maker, lighting, home office equipment, video game consoles and more. Smart plugs can help you manage devices through a smart phone app, your home assistant or voice control. By conveniently powering off or scheduling devices, you can save energy (and money!).

Source: [energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov)

### Safety Tip

Overloading extension cords or power strips means they can overheat and cause fires. Do not overburden them by plugging in appliances that consume more watts than the strips or cords can handle. If any part of the extension cord or power strip is hot while in use, it might be overloaded.



Safe Electricity.org

OFFICE CLOSED  
MAY 27  
FOR  
★ MEMORIAL DAY ★  
REMEMBER AND HONOR

## Test Drive our EV!

Curious about electric vehicles? Skeptical? Excited? The technology is so new you may just not know what to think. We want our members to form their own opinions. To help you do that we are offering the opportunity to visit our office to view and test drive our Volkswagen ID.4 AWD Pro S. We want you to be able to take a good look at the car, ask questions of an employee, and experience it yourself with a test drive. Schedule yours today - available by appointment only. Submit your request at [www.menard.com/EV](http://www.menard.com/EV).



## Board highlights

Feb. 27, 2024

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

- Present were all Directors; also Engineering Manager Brady Smith, Sr. System Engineer Dustin Crosier, General Manager Alisha Anker & Attorney Charles K. Smith.
- Update of Strategic Planning Goal #5 (Tech roadmap) progress.
- B. Smith gave demo of SurvalentONE SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) System.
- Anker reviewed January monthly & YTD financial trends. Operating margins \$1,548,430 compared to \$1,312,208 last year; equity at 41.60%; 12-mo TIER 3.00 & DSC 2.23.
- Reviewed Operations report w/30 incidents; longest duration of outage 205 minutes due to windstorm near Virginia; largest # of affected by single outage 332 due to conductor fail from wind/ice in Sherman.
- Discussed 2024 Inventory Calendar.
- Anker recapped appearance before ICC's One Call Advisory Committee.
- Next Mtg 3/26/24.



### 2024 NO BARRIERS WARRIORS

We want to nominate veterans from within our co-op family for a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to attend a No Barriers Expedition fully paid by CoBank. Find more details at [www.menard.com/nobarriers](http://www.menard.com/nobarriers).

