

## Scholarship winners

This is the seventh year of our scholarship program. Eligible applicants included high school seniors whose parents/legal guardians are active members. Since one of our seven founding principles is Commitment to Community, these scholarships represent a small part of that commitment. As such, one of

the criteria for the award is community involvement.

Other criteria for the scholarship included an investment of time in school activities and a desire to continue the educational path.

The judging panel consisted of electric cooperative leaders from across the state

who uphold the same values we do. They reviewed 30 applications this year.

Members who will have a high school senior 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](http://www.menard.com/scholarships) and in local school guidance counselor materials.



### **\$2,000 4-year University/ College Scholarship**

**Drew Atwater**  
Graduate of PORTA  
Attending Rose-Hulman Institute  
of Technology

### **\$1,500 2-year Community College Scholarship**

**Daxton Trueblood**  
Graduate of PORTA  
Attending Parkland College



### **\$1,500 Scholarship**

**Jack Harris**  
Graduate of Athens High School  
Attending Illinois State  
University



### **Youth to Washington winner**

One scholarship applicant is chosen as our Ambassador on the Youth to Washington Tour.

Courtney Maslana, a graduate of Midwest Central High School, was this year's winner of the all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. More details about her trip this summer will be in a future issue.



## Annual Meeting of Members

Wednesday, July 10, 2024  
at Pleasant Plains High School

Registration 4:30-6:30 p.m. • Business meeting 7 p.m.

Details at [www.menard.com/annualmeeting](http://www.menard.com/annualmeeting)

## Director Election

Our Board of Directors is made up of nine Directors, each representing a Director District and serving a three-year term. Three Districts are up for election at each Annual Meeting. This year, members at large will vote for representation in Districts 2, 5 & 9.

The petition due date was May 24, 2024. Four members submitted petitions. Candidates may choose to offer brief remarks to the membership at the Annual Meeting.

### District 2

#### Gary Martin



Gary has served as Director for 36 years. He currently chairs the Finance Committee and serves on the Irrigation and Bylaw/Policy Committees.

He represents Menard Electric on the Prairie Power, Inc. Board of Directors and serves on the NRECA National Resolutions Committee and National Resolutions Standing Committee.

Gary holds his Director Gold Certificate, the highest achievement for education from the NRECA.

He has a Bachelor's degree in Agriculture from the University of Illinois and has operated his family corn, soybean and hog farm since 1975.

Gary serves as Trustee on the Ashland Fire Protection District and President of Timberline, LLC.

He lives in Alexander with his wife Pam and enjoys snow skiing and reading.

### District 5

#### D. Jay Frye



Jay has 24 years of service with Menard Electric and currently serves as Vice President. He chairs the Annual Meeting Committee and serves on the Bylaw/Policy and Labor Committees.

He also serves on the IL Cooperative Workman's Compensation Group.

Jay holds the Director Gold Certificate, the highest achievement for education from the NRECA.

He has a Bachelor's degree in Agriculture Economics from the University of Illinois and served on the department's external academic advisory panel.

Jay has farmed in the Sherman, Havana, Bath and Kilbourne areas since 1989.

He lives in Easton with wife Noreen. They have three sons, a grandson and a granddaughter.

### District 9

#### Donald McMillan



Donald has served as Director for 18 years. He chairs the Building Committee and serves on the Annual Meeting and Finance Committees.

He holds the Director Gold Certification, the highest achievement for education from the NRECA.

Donald lives in Logan County, where he farmed for 42 years before retiring in 2015. He enjoys time with his four grandchildren, boating and attending car shows.

### District 9

#### Rex Muir, Jr.



Rex is employed as a mechanic at JLS Performance in Taylorville and is a member of Operating Engineers Local 965. He previously oversaw the fleet at Asplundh in Riverton and worked for 35 years as a heavy truck mechanic for Prairie International. He attended Illiopolis High School and multiple tech schools.

Rex lives on his family farm in Buffalo with his wife Teresa. His three sons also live on the farm, which raises crops and recently stopped raising cattle.

"I feel I have some industry-specific insight and knowledge of logistics that could benefit and possibly assist with the development in Menard Electric District 9."

## Capital credit payments

We will return approximately **\$922,500 in capital credits in 2024** to members who purchased electricity in 2002 and 2003.

Instead of returning profits to investors and stockholders we return capital credits to our member-owners.

Watch for a check in the mail or a credit on your July bill. (Credits over \$75 are mailed as a check; under \$75 receives a bill credit.)

With this retirement, we will have paid out a total of \$16.2 million 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, the 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 the co-op's financial condition permits, the Board of Directors determines retirement (payment) of capital credits.
5. Members receive capital credit payments.

## Keep your phone number up to date



It is important that we have an accurate primary phone number for each membership. We call our members for a variety of reasons, some of which include notifications of mail being returned, a planned outage, a returned payment, a courtesy call of past-due balance, or an irrigation load control period. The primary number for the membership will be called for all accounts under that membership. Check the top right corner of a recent bill to be certain we have the correct phone number listed and notify us if an update is needed.



Electricity used to operate major appliances accounts for a significant portion of your home energy use.

Here's an easy way to lighten the load on your clothes dryer. Before you dry a load of damp clothing, toss in a clean, dry towel. The towel will absorb excess water, shortening the drying time. If your dryer does not include an autosense feature to determine drying time, remember to reduce the timer to about half of what you normally would. Remove the towel about 15 minutes after the cycle begins. Shorter drying times will extend the life of your dryer and save energy.

Source: [homesandgardens.com](http://homesandgardens.com)



# Board highlights

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

## March 26, 2024

- All Directors were present; also General Manager, Attorney, Engineering Manager Brady Smith, Director of Member Services Trish Michels & Director of Accounting & Finance Julie Atwater.
- Update of Strategic Planning Goal #1, Improving rate structures to serve future needs.
- Approved 2024 Electric Systems Construction Contract w/L.E. Meyers & 2024 Power Line Right of Way Clearance & Vegetation Management Contract w/ Wright Tree Service.
- Authorized IEMA/OHS Single Audit Certification Form.
- Adopted Corporate Authorization Resolution at Petefish, Skiles & Co. Bank to add Atwater. Adopted Resolution to Authorize Users of the RUS Rural Development System to add Atwater.
- Discussed solar generation coming back to Menard in 2023.
- General Manager Alisha Anker reviewed February monthly & YTD financial trends. Operating Margins \$2,187,001 compared to \$1,053,965 last year; equity at 42.39%; 12-mo TIER 3.61 & DSC 2.53.
- Reviewed Operations Report w/23 incidents; longest duration of outage 181 min. due to tree taking down pole; largest # affected by single outage 123 due to fire.
- Discussed solar farm possible impacts on irrigation services near Havana.
- Annual Mtg plans discussed.
- Next mtg 4/30/24.

## April 30, 2024

- All Directors present except Jodine Tate; also present General Manager, Attorney, Director of Accounting & Finance Julie Atwater & Cooperative Independent Auditor Kevin Kelso.
- Kelso presented 2023 Financial Audit Report.
- Motion carried to enter into engagement w/ Kelso for 2024 & 2025 audits.
- Quarterly Inventory presentation approved.
- Update of Strategic Planning Goal #2 to educate & obtain electric vehicle.
- General Manager Anker reviewed March monthly & YTD financial trends. Operation Margins \$1,771,892 compared to \$1,055,656 last year; equity at 41.77%; 12-mo TIER 3.28 & DSC 2.32.
- Approved restatement of 2 categories in 2024 budget totaling \$253,002.
- Reviewed Operations Report w/30 incidents; longest duration of outage 230 min. & largest # affected by single outage 373 due to wind storm.
- Advised Patronage Capital Allocation of 2023 margins from Prairie Power, Inc. was \$1,089,229.
- Directors Warren Goetsch selected voting delegate & Jay Frye alternate delegate at AIEC Ann Mtg.
- Next mtg 5/28/24. June's mtg date changed to 6/28/24.



**Coffee**  
on the  
**CO-OP**

TIME: 8:00-9:30 A.M.

FRIDAY AUG 2 | BUZZ'N BEAN COFFEE COMPANY  
330 E Sangamon St, Petersburg

FRIDAY SEP 6 | NOW & THEN  
142 East Beardstown St, Virginia

**JOIN US**  
for coffee & conversation

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

All members are welcome! We hope to see you there!

Menard Electric Cooperative [www.menard.com](http://www.menard.com) 800-872-1203 [info@menard.com](mailto:info@menard.com) 