

# AMPLIFY

MEMBERSHIP • INVOLVEMENT • COOPERATION • SAFETY • EDUCATION • COMMUNITY • YOUR VOICE

## ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 18, 2025

PLEASANT PLAINS HIGH SCHOOL

500 N CARTWRIGHT ST, PLEASANT PLAINS, IL

### What can you expect?

- \* Golf cart shuttle service from the ample parking lot to the front door.
- \* A \$20 bill credit and insulated tote bag for each registered member. Registration 4:30-6:30 p.m.
- \* Mini donuts from Johnnie O's and a grilled pork chop dinner by Mason County Pork Producers for you and your family. Served 4:30-6:30 p.m.
- \* Meet our employees and your directors.
- \* Our business meeting will begin at 7 p.m. and should last about 30-45 minutes.
- \* A Director Election is held.
- \* Our Board President, Treasurer and General Manager will give some presentations about your cooperative.
- \* After the meeting, we will draw names from everyone who registered for a variety of bill credits and physical prizes. The grand prize is a \$300 bill credit. You do not need to be present to win a bill credit but must be present for physical prizes.

***Mark your calendar now! Look for next month's issue  
for more information!***

In the meantime, you can check out our website or Facebook page for all the latest details.



# Welcome Jessica McKinley

**Human Resources Coordinator/  
Executive Assistant**



We recently welcomed Jessica McKinley to the cooperative. Jessica has a range of experience in business administration, human resources and IT, and earned an AA in Computer Science. Her position is new for the co-op as part of some department restructuring due to an upcoming retirement.

Jessica moved to central Illinois from the West Coast recently and is looking forward to exploring our rural communities. "The rural community tie is what drew me to Menard Electric. And, I love the history that rural residents needed electricity, the existing companies wouldn't serve them, and so they came together and did it themselves," she says.



## BudgetWise

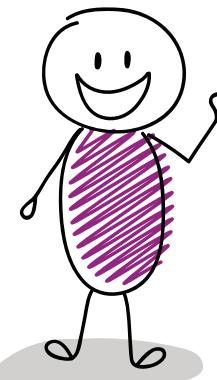
**Do you budget your monthly finances?**

**Wish you could know ahead of time what  
your electric bill will be?**

**With budget billing, our members pay a set  
amount 11 months of the year and true-up  
their accounts once yearly.**

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

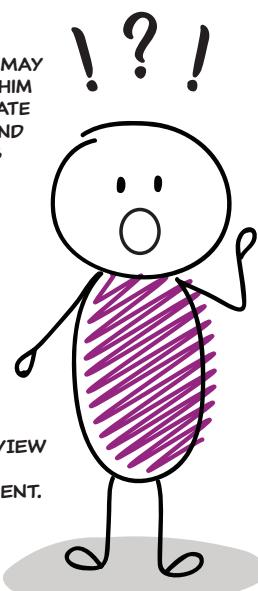
### MEET WILL



WILL GETS AN EMAIL  
NOTIFICATION ON MAY 7  
LETTING HIM KNOW HIS BILL  
IS BEING MAILED AND CAN  
BE VIEWED ONLINE.

WILL GETS  
AN EMAIL  
NOTIFICATION MAY  
21 REMINDING HIM  
OF THE DUE DATE  
OF MAY 28, AND  
WILL REALIZES  
HE HAS NOT  
RECEIVED HIS  
BILL IN THE  
MAIL.

WILL DOESN'T  
WANT TO BE  
LATE PAYING  
HIS BILL.  
HE LOGS  
ON TO OUR  
ONLINE BILL  
PAY SITE TO VIEW  
HIS BILL AND  
MAKE A PAYMENT.



BE LIKE WILL. SIGN UP FOR  
NOTIFICATIONS THROUGH  
OUR ONLINE BILL PAY SITE.  
YOU CAN ACCESS IT AT  
[WWW.MENARD.COM](http://WWW.MENARD.COM) OR  
THROUGH THE MYMEC APP.

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Routine maintenance is important to keep your refrigerator running efficiently. Lint and dirt should be cleaned from the refrigerator coils every six months to a year, and more often if there are pets in the home.

When coils are coated with lint, dust or pet hair, your refrigerator works harder than it's designed to, which can prevent the appliance from cooling properly and efficiently. The additional work can increase the energy costs of the refrigerator by as much as 35% and shorten the life of the appliance.

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



## Veterans Opportunity

CoBank will provide veterans in rural areas funding towards a No Barriers Warriors Colorado expedition.



### CONSIDERING SOLAR?

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



## Sharing Success funding

Each year, we partner with CoBank to provide funding to local projects sponsored by eligible 501(c)(3) charities. Prior donations have provided funding for a park restoration, firehouse roofing, playground equipment, summer meals and school supplies for students, theater lighting, food pantries and much more!

The deadline to apply is June 13, 2025.

 **APPLY NOW**



Visit our website for details and application:

[www.menard.com/sharingsuccess](http://www.menard.com/sharingsuccess)



**DOWNLOAD OUR MyMEC APP!**

## Board highlights

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

Feb. 25, 2025

- All Directors present in person or by zoom; also Attorney Charles K. Smith, General Manager Alisha Anker & guest Kyle Barry.
- Introductions shared between directors and Kyle C. Barry, partner with the law firm McGuireWoods LLP, due to his interest in position of General Counsel. Barry exited.
- Director of Accounting & Finance Julie Atwater and Operations Storekeeper Leadman Daniel Edge entered. Edge demonstrated inventory management tool he developed for recording, tracking and monitoring materials. Edge exited.
- Atwater presented update of strategic planning goal regarding USDA REDLG program. Atwater exited.
- Anker reviewed Jan. monthly & YTD financial trends. Operating margins \$1,525,221 compared to \$1,548,430 last year; equity at 42.50%; 12-mo TIER 3.04 & DSC 2.20.
- Reviewed Jan. Operations report w/22 incidents, longest duration of single outage 238 min. due to transformer fuse affecting 1 member, largest # affected by single outage 55 due to extreme temp equipment failure.
- Irrigation report included 5 systems seeking new services.
- Anker discussed member survey. Discussed message received from a private nonprofit to Illinois utilities seeking sites for a large data center project.
- Director Jay Frye reported on 2025 Annual Mtg plans.
- Next Mtg 3/25/25.

## Congratulations

Director Gary Holloway has earned his Director Gold Certification from National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). According to NRECA, earning the Director Gold Credential is the hallmark of a committed electric cooperative director.

# ELECTRICITY 101

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



### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### BE CAREFUL AROUND H<sub>2</sub>O

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

### EVALUATE YOUR APPLIANCES

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

### 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.

### 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®**