

★ ★ ★ MARK YOUR CALENDARS ★ ★ ★

ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17

PLEASANT PLAINS HIGH SCHOOL

★ ★ ★ **MEMBER INVOLVEMENT!** ★ ★ ★

ELECT DIRECTORS

We are governed by a Board elected by and from our membership. See all the Director Election details on the following page.

GAIN INFORMATION

Hear reports from your Board President, Board Treasurer and your Co-op General Manager.

MEET EMPLOYEES

Put faces to names and get to know the men and women who work for you every day.

★ ★ ★ **MEMBER APPRECIATION!** ★ ★ ★

ATTENDANCE GIFTS

\$20 bill credit and a few fun items for each registered member (something for the kiddos, too)!

DINNER & DESSERT

Bring the family — dinner (and ice cream!) is on us.

PRIZE DRAWINGS

All registered members are entered into a prize drawing. Grand prize is a \$300 bill credit!

May and June issues of Illinois Country Living will provide more details. Information is also available at www.menard.com/annualmeeting and on our Facebook page.

Director Election

Petitions ready now — Due May 1

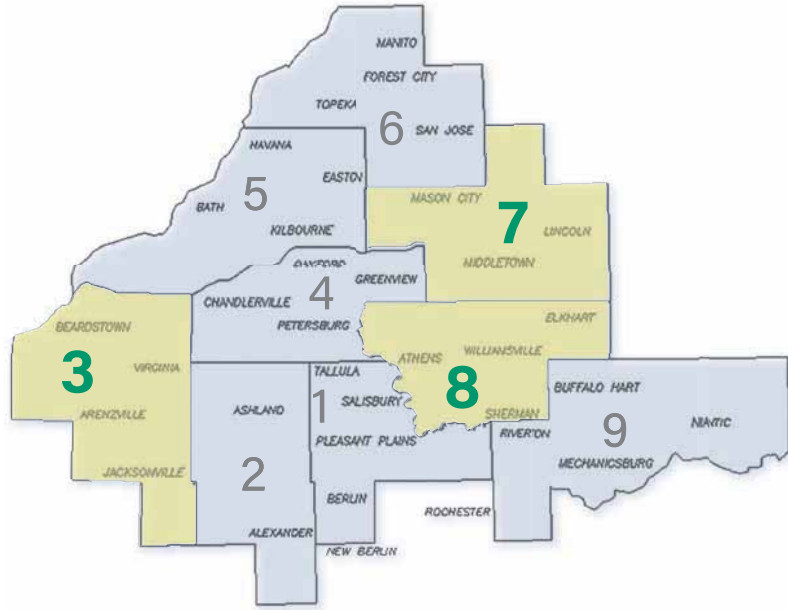


The Director Election will be held at this year's Annual Meeting June 17, 2026, at Pleasant Plains High School.

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 the 2026 Annual Meeting that includes Districts 3, 7 and 8.

Members who reside within Districts 3, 7 and 8 may submit a petition for the election. Stop in our office now at 14300 IL State Highway 97, Petersburg to pick up a petition packet.

The petition will need to be signed by at least 10 active Menard Electric Cooperative members and returned to our office by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, May 1, 2026.



DISTRICT 3
Open Seat

Arenzville, Beardstown, Jacksonville, Virginia areas. Open Seat.



DISTRICT 7
Incumbent
Michael Patrick

Lincoln, Mason City, Middletown, New Holland areas. Incumbent Michael Patrick will seek reelection



DISTRICT 8
Incumbent
Warren Goetsch

Athens, Elkhart, Sherman, Williamsville areas. Incumbent Warren Goetsch will seek reelection.

A few facts about Directors:

- Members of the cooperative.
- Serve 3-year terms.
- Attend regular monthly meetings as well as special meetings and committee meetings.
- Establish policies and govern the cooperative.
- Employ a General Manager who is responsible for day-to-day operations.
- Remain accessible to members within his/her 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, qualifications and election procedures are found in Articles III and IV of our Bylaws, available at www.menard.com/bylaws. Bylaws can be mailed by request.



Questions about our Directors or the election process?
Just ask! Stop in the office, call us at 217-632-7746 or email info@menard.com.
Visit our Board of Directors page on our website to stay informed!

Farm and home spring planting season tips

Farm

- Review safety with all your farm hands now before the season gets busy.
- Keep a 10-foot minimum distance between equipment and lines. That is below, to the side, and above all electrical lines and equipment.
- Keep an eye on lines in the air and the guy wires beside poles. Use a spotter to verify clearance.
- Field cultivators, sprayer booms and even tractor antennas can be higher than 10 feet. Avoid raising arms of planters, cultivators or truck beds near lines. Inspect the entrances to fields to ensure there is adequate clearance for equipment under lines and near poles.
- If your vehicle or machinery were to come into contact with a power line, do not get out; stay put and call 9-1-1 to dispatch the appropriate utility to deenergize power.

Visit SafeElectricity.org for more safe planting tips.

Home

- It's all about location! Plan carefully before planting around your home and property and call 8-1-1 before digging.
- We recommend not planting any shrubs or trees within 15 feet of overhead lines. Also consider the size of the

tree when fully grown; you want the outer edge of the branches (not the trunk) to be at least 15 feet from single-phase power lines and 25 feet from three-phase power lines.

- And don't forget to consider underground utilities that can be affected by root growth; trees and shrubs should be planted at least 10 feet from padmounted transformers and meters.
- One more note: Even small plants and vines can interfere with electrical equipment and prevent linemen from accessing areas to perform maintenance. A best bet is to keep all plantings away from poles, meters and padmounted transformers.
- You can also consider energy efficiency — The U.S. Dept of Energy says planting in the right place could save you on heating and cooling costs by blocking summer sun and winter winds. They suggest planting deciduous trees with high leaves and branches on the south side of the home, and to consider creating afternoon shade for your air conditioner. Evergreens or shrubs planted on the north/northwest side of the home could make a winter windbreak, but evergreens on the south side could block the warmth of the winter sun from warming the home.



You can't AVOID what you CAN'T SEE

Starting a job — big or small — without first getting utilities marked could result in serious injury, service disruptions for you and your neighbors, and a hefty fine.

Call 8-1-1 before you dig.

Learn more at:  **Safe Electricity.org**[®]

Board highlights

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

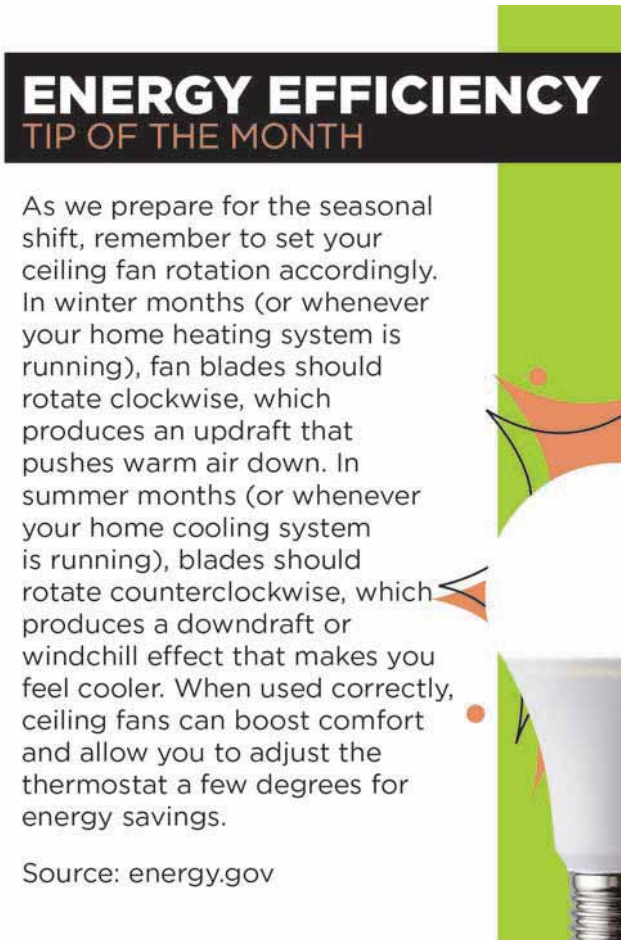
January 30, 2026

- Present in person/by teleconference all Directors except D. Jay Frye; also present General Manager & Attorney.
- Approved Resolution for 2026 Special Retirement of Capital Credits. Discussed adjustments applied to equity to retain unclaimed capital credits retired in 2018 with the exception of adjustments to charitable & educational expenses required by laws of other states.
- Approved Service Area Agreement with Ameren.
- Approved Consent & Crossing Agreement with Rockdale Solar LLC.
- Approved Resolution of Corporate Authorization to modify the list of authorized agents/actions at Petefish Skiles & Co. Bank.
- Provided update on construction work plan & RUS loan application.
- Reviewed December monthly & YTD financial trends. Operating margins \$1,668,012 compared to \$1,917,330 last year; equity at 41.27%; 12-mo TIER 2.73 & DSC 1.99.
- Discussed long term debt maturity schedule, 2025 inventory adjustment & 2025 net meter banked usage credit return to members.
- Reviewed operations report: 73 incidents; longest duration of outage 318 min due to downed line in windstorm affecting 1 member; largest # affected by single outage 519 due to PPI substation equipment failure.
- Designated Director Gary Holloway voting delegate & Mike Patrick alternate for NRECA Annual Meeting.
- Approved Policy changes as recommended by Bylaw/Policy Committee.
- Next mtg 2/26/26.



Take the guesswork out of monthly bills with Budget Billing.

E-mail info@menard.com or call 217-632-7746 for more information.



ENERGY EFFICIENCY
TIP OF THE MONTH

As we prepare for the seasonal shift, remember to set your ceiling fan rotation accordingly. In winter months (or whenever your home heating system is running), fan blades should rotate clockwise, which produces an updraft that pushes warm air down. In summer months (or whenever your home cooling system is running), blades should rotate counterclockwise, which produces a downdraft or windchill effect that makes you feel cooler. When used correctly, ceiling fans can boost comfort and allow you to adjust the thermostat a few degrees for energy savings.

Source: energy.gov