

What to expect at the Annual Meeting

We look forward every year to our Annual Meeting of Members. Our employees and Board enjoy the opportunity it provides to meet with members face to face, give information about the co-op, and show our appreciation for your support of this co-op.

This year's event occurs Wednesday, June 17, 2026 at Pleasant Plains High School. Please note we've listened to your requests and adjusted some meeting aspects to get you home earlier in the evening. Registration and dinner move up slightly to 4-6 p.m., and the Business Meeting shifts to begin at 6:30 p.m.

Each registered membership will receive a \$20 bill credit and a gift bag that includes a highly requested return item, a bright nightlight with outlet — we gave these away years ago and members continually ask us if we have

more. All registered members are also entered into a prize drawing.

Our event is just a few weeks before the celebration of America's 250th birthday on July 4, and we are starting the celebration early by incorporating fun red, white and blue elements and America's favorite pastime — baseball — into our event, gifts and prizes.

We have gifts for the kids and a raffle drawing for the kiddos for wiffle ball sets!

Of course, we can't forget the fan-favorite grilled pork chop dinner provided by the Mason County Pork Producers. And this year ice cream returns for dessert!

Along with all the fun and member appreciation elements is the Business Meeting that includes your participation in the Director election, a Bylaw amendment vote and also reports from

your Board President and Treasurer and General Manager.

Mark your calendar now and look for next month's issue for the official notice and all the important details! In the meantime, you can check out our website or Facebook Page for the latest.



Scan me

for more information about
the annual meeting!



Join Us!
**88th Annual Meeting
of Members**

Wednesday, June 17, 2026

Meeting Location
Pleasant Plains High School
500 N Cartwright St, Pleasant Plains, IL

Registration & Dinner
4:00-6:00 p.m.
Business Meeting
6:30 p.m.

MENARD
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

14300 IL State Hwy 97, Petersburg, IL 62675 • 800-872-1203 • www.menard.com
MEC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Is your membership up to date?

We are a member-owned electric cooperative and as such all active electric accounts (services) are placed under a membership.

Who can hold a membership

Memberships can be held by businesses/organizations or trusts/estates with an EIN/FEIN, or held by individuals. Two individuals can hold a joint membership.

Membership names must be kept up to date. The member(s) name is listed on the bill in the top right corner.

Look carefully at your bill and contact us if you need to make any updates.

Accuracy is important both for current active accounts and also for future capital credit returns. Whomever is listed as a member/joint member may be paid the capital credits allocated to the membership. Ensuring member name(s) accuracy is essential to this payment process. See more about capital credits at www.menard.com/capitalcredits.

When to update a membership

When the name(s) on the membership change. Here are some examples:

- A business name changed.
- A member passes away.
- The joint member name is no longer accurate.
- You got married or divorced.
- Only one member signed the membership application.

Adding a joint member ensures either member can gain information on and make changes to all accounts under the membership. If one member passes away, the membership reissues into a single membership for the surviving joint member.

Please note: an individual can have only one membership with Menard Electric.

TIPS TO AVOID ENERGY SCAMS

If you receive a call from someone stating you have overpaid your energy bill and you should provide your banking information or a credit card number to receive a refund, hang up because it's likely a scam. If you overpay your bill, your utility will apply the overpayment credit to your account balance or mail a check. They will not call and request your banking information to issue the refund.

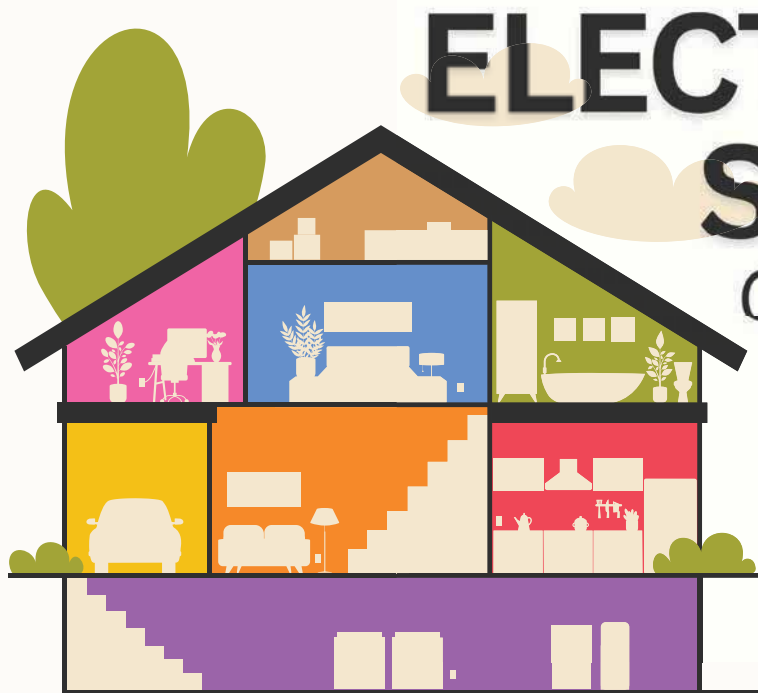
Source: Utilities United Against Scams

Safety Tip

When planning a controlled burn, stay far away from power poles and overhead lines. Even a well-managed fire can damage a pole, sometimes from the inside out, creating serious electrical hazards. Keep suppression tools such as a shovel, water source or fire extinguisher nearby. Never burn during high winds or when wildfire warnings are in effect.



Electrical Safety Month



ELECTRICAL SAFETY CHECKLIST

ROOM BY ROOM

Check these monthly to keep your home and family safe.

Kitchen

- Clean refrigerator coils and allow space for airflow.
- Store and use appliances away from the sink.
- Use and test GFCI outlets.
- Inspect cords for cracks or frays.
- Keep cords off counters; unplug when not in use.

Bedroom

- Place and test smoke and CO detectors on every level and near sleeping areas.
- Keep cords out from under rugs or furniture.
- Unplug devices and chargers when not in use.
- Make sure lightbulbs are the correct wattage.
- Plug window AC units into a dedicated circuit.

Basement

- Ensure washer and dryer are stable and ventilated.
- Remove dryer lint after each use.
- Set water heater to 120°F or lower.
- Have furnace inspected and confirm proper ventilation.

Bathroom

- Keep appliances away from water (sink, toilet, tub, shower).
- Unplug appliances when not in use.
- Use and test GFCI outlets.

Living Room

- Use safety caps on unused outlets, especially if children or pets are present.
- Ensure electronics have space for airflow.
- Replace cracked light switch or outlet covers.
- Avoid overloading outlets, power strips and surge protectors.

Garage

- Use and test GFCI outlets.
- Inspect cords for cracks or damage.
- Unplug tools and appliances when not in use.
- Place garage refrigerators/freezers on dedicated appliance circuits.

Learn more at: [SafeElectricity.org](https://www.SafeElectricity.org)

Board highlights

Feb. 26, 2026

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

- All Directors present in person or by teleconference; also General Manager & Attorney.
- From AIEC govt. relations department Nick Reitz provided legislative update & Baylee Millard provided Illinois Electric Cooperative's Political Action Committee update.
- Engineering Manager Brady Smith discussed contract vendors & 2026 bid details. Motions carried to award electric system construction contract to L.E. Myers Co & power line right of way clearance & vegetation mgmt contract to Wright Tree Service.
- Reviewed January monthly & YTD financial trends. Operating margins \$1,500,211 compared to \$1,525,221 last year; equity at 42.88%; 12-mo TIER 2.70 & DSC 2.00.
- Reviewed operations report: 26 incidents; longest duration of outage 161 minutes & largest # affected by single outage 162 both due to windstorm pole damage.
- Reviewed Illinois Finance Authority's Grid Resilience Grant Program NOFO.
- Reviewed mutual aid support to co-ops in Kentucky & Mississippi after Winter Storm Fern.
- Director Jay Frye discussed Annual Meeting Committee Mtg plans for meeting to be held June 17, 2026 at Pleasant Plains High School.
- Next Mtg 3/24/26

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

As temperatures start to rise, many homeowners focus on staying cool. Don't forget about the small gaps around windows and doors. While air sealing is often associated with keeping cold air out during winter, it's just as important during summer. Tiny cracks and worn weatherstripping allow cool, conditioned air to escape and hot, humid air to seep indoors. This forces your air conditioner to work harder than necessary and increases energy costs. Take a few minutes to check for drafts, replace weatherstripping and seal leaks. A tighter home keeps you more comfortable and helps manage energy use.

Source: energy.gov



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. Visit our website at menard.com/distributedgeneration, where we have broken down the process of installing solar with us into five steps.



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 or call 800-872-1203 for details.