

Menard Electric Cooperative's

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A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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Annual Meeting is Saturday, June 4

Board Petitions for Districts 1, 4, and 6 due April 20

Mark your calendar to join us June 4 for our Annual Meeting. We are planning an event your whole family can enjoy. Check out next month's magazine for details, plus look for your Official Notice in May.

Board Petitions for Districts 1, 4 and 6 are due April 20; information was printed in last month's issue. Details and a map of our districts can be found at www.menard.com. Stop in our office for information and to pick up a petition.

Incumbent directors are Roy Seaney of Tallula for District 1 and Steve Worner of Manito for District 6. District 4 is an open seat as Jerry Brooks of Oakford is retiring from his position on the Board.

Why you should attend

We have a group of loyal members who wouldn't dream of missing our annual meeting each year. They come for many reasons—the food, a bill credit, prizes, a chance to visit with neighbors, and of course, to participate in the co-op.

The first three are fun, but it's the last one that is important. We aren't just the company who sells you electricity. We're a member-owned cooperative, and in order to best benefit our members, we need that membership to be involved. That means you.

Our bylaws state we must hold an annual meeting of members each year, and we must have a certain percentage

of members attend that meeting. We know how busy your weekends can be and that's why we've tried to create an evening containing a variety of elements we think your family will enjoy.

Mark June 4 on your calendar now and make an effort to join us that evening at PORTA High School in Petersburg.

Read next month's issue for more information about the meeting's highlights, and look for the official notice mailed to you in May. We'll also post information on our Facebook page and at www.menard.com.



Lineman Appreciation Day is April 11

For over 78 years, Menard Electric has provided safe, reliable electricity to our members thanks to our linemen!



Lineman Nick Schachtsiek, Crew Leader Brandon Blair, Apprentice Lineman Stormy Hild, Area Servicemen Kyle Hill and Robb Hanner, Lineman Jason Beggs, Apprentice Lineman Levi Vogt, Area Serviceman Troy Shafer, Storekeeper Erik Raikes, Mechanic/Groundman Michael Justice, Area Serviceman Seth Parker, Leadman Jeremy Willis, Area Serviceman Dwaine Heyen and Operations Manager Dalton Whitley. Not pictured is our newest employee, Lineman Matt Wassell.

These highly skilled men make up our operations department. They are always on call, standing by to light your homes and businesses.

They endure long hours in cold, hot, rainy, stormy and flooded environments to make our members lives better. Take a moment to thank our linemen this month. **#ThankALineman.**

Casey Duncheon retires

Storekeeper Casey Duncheon retired in March after over 28 years with Menard Electric. If you've attended our annual meeting in June each year you've surely seen him - he's never missed a meeting.

Casey's other duties are behind the scenes. The ordering, storing and gathering of supplies for both our line crews and our office is a job vital to the running of the co-op.

"I want to thank all the employees. Working as storekeeper you get to work with all the inside and the outside employees and everyone has been great," says Casey.

Over 28 years some things are bound to change. Casey says two major changes include work orders and the facility. "I used to have to sit down at my desk and figure all the supplies needed for a work order. Now they put the specs into the computer and it spits out the supplies needed," he says.

"The new facility certainly helped things. Now everything is in one place and on one floor," he says. "When

our office was located downtown, it meant poles were stored in one area, trucks in another, and supplies in a third area that featured a built in dock to store them on two levels.

"Menard Electric is a great place to work. I want to thank the co-op for all the paychecks that allowed my wife and I to raise our family here," he says. Casey's retirement plans include playing more golf and spending more time with his five grandchildren.

Operations Manager Dalton Whitley says, "Casey Duncheon is known throughout the state for a job well done. His organizational skills,



knowledge of the cooperative industry, and willingness to help everyone will be greatly missed. Casey has been a great leader and has developed many of our current employees into their current roles within the cooperative. To Casey we all say thank you and enjoy your retirement!"

New employees



Matt Wassell joined us in February as a Lineman. Matt is a Journeyman Lineman from Pittsfield. He previously worked for Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative in Paxton.



Erik Raikes is our new Storekeeper Leadman. Erik grew up Petersburg. He has worked with us part time in the past. He earned a degree from Eastern Illinois University and was previously a teacher, athletic director and coach for Greenview School District. Erik and his wife, Rose, currently live in Springfield with their one-year-old son, Henry.

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Board Meeting Report

For full minutes please visit our website at www.menard.com or contact our office.

Present were Manager Eric Hobbie, Attorney Charles Smith and Directors Jay Frye, Jerry Brooks, Warren Goetsch, Gary Martin, Donald McMillan, Michael Patrick, Roy Seaney, Jodine Tate, and Steven Worner.

Hobbie and Smith discussed the Arch Coal Bankruptcy and its potential effect on the cooperative and Viper Mine.

Hobbie reported on the Irrigation Committee meeting and advised there was little interest in construction of new irrigation systems.

Hobbie advised staff obtained a CoBank Loan in the amount of

\$998,387.50 at the rate of 2.975%. The prior rate was 3.89%. Staff also took an FFB Loan Advance at the rate of 2.838% for 32 years in the amount of \$2,500,000.

Hobbie reported on the total amount past due for State of Illinois accounts.

Hobbie presented the financial report for the month of December. Year to date margins were \$1,595,152 compared to \$1,705,068 a year earlier. Equity as of the end of December was 38.04% and the number of member accounts served was 10,817 compared to 10,772 a year ago. Net Utility Plant at the end of

December was \$43,844,514 compared to \$42,831,452 last year. The cooperative continues to meet the requirements of the RUS, FFB and NRUCFC.

Martin and Hobbie reviewed Prairie Power, Inc. December Energy charges and briefly discussed the merger discussions. Hobbie presented Prairie State update.

Board approved the Capital Credits Committee recommendations of a general retirement of \$375,000 and estates retirement of \$175,000 for a total retirement of \$550,000.

Tip of the Month

Spring cleaning?

Including your fridge and dryer might save you a little money this year. Fridge: clean the door seals, vacuum the coils and check the temperature gauge (37-40 degrees is ideal). Dryer: check for built up lint in the trap and inside the tube leading outdoors; also make sure the tube is straight and the flap outside closes correctly.



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

April is Safe Digging Month. Remember to call JULIE at 8-1-1 or visit them online before you dig.

For sale

We are accepting sealed bids for four items; each sold as is. Items should be bid separately. Sealed bids should be received in the office by 4:00 p.m. on April 15.

- Snyder Industries Inc. 110-gallon sprayer with 3hp Briggs & Stratton.
- Montgomery Ward Arc Welder 230/180 AC/DC.
- Wood Industries Prod. Co. 3 phase air compressor, approximately 40-gallon.
- 2008 Chevy 2500HD V8 4x4. 219,000 miles. Fiberglass service body.