

Menard Electric Cooperative's

# Connect to MEC



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## \$350,000 in Capital Credits Retired *That's the cooperative difference!*

Unlike other utilities, MEC exists to meet your needs, not to earn a profit. As a member-owner you share in the profits in the form of capital credits.

The cooperative works hard every day to keep your rates as low as possible. But it's sure nice to know that when there are profits, they go back to you!

Your Board of Directors has approved a capital credit retirement of \$350,000 for margins acquired in 1985.

### **What are capital credits?**

Menard Electric is structured to make every member an owner of this business. Unlike other electric utilities, MEC does not exist to make a profit. Any revenues over and above the cost of doing business are considered "margins."

These margins represent an interest-free source of operating capital by you and the rest of the membership to the co-op. This capital allows us to finance operations and new construction, with the intent that this capital be repaid to you in later years. MEC is currently on a 24-year retirement cycle.

Your board of directors recently determined that the cooperative could financially afford to retire capital credits earned in 1985.

If you earned more than \$50 in capital credits in 1985 you should have received a check in the mail. If you earned less than \$50 in 1985 you'll see a credit on your June 7 bill.



### **How are capital credits calculated?**

Every member who purchases electricity during a year in which margins are earned is allocated capital credits. The amount of credits you earn in a year is based upon the amount of capital you contributed to the co-op through payment of your monthly bill. The more electric service you bought, the more capital credits you earned.

The sum of your monthly bills for the year is multiplied by an alloca-

tion factor to determine your capital credits. The allocation factor varies from year to year, depending on the success of the co-op. Capital credits are only allocated for a year in which MEC earns margins. Since credits are a member's share of the margins, no credits are allocated for a year with no margins.

### **Will I receive a check every year?**

Each year the Board of Directors must approve a capital credit retirement after reviewing the financial health of the co-op. If the board determines that MEC cannot afford to retire credits, they will not authorize a retirement.

### **What happens to my capital credits if I leave the MEC service territory?**

Your capital credits remain in our system in your name until they are retired. Make sure we always have your current address.

### **What happens to the capital credits of a member who dies?**

The capital credits of a deceased member may be paid at the current present value without waiting for a general retirement. Contact us for an estate packet.

# Youth Day

Senator John Sullivan and Representatives Norine Hammond, Rich Brauer and Michael Unes met with 18 students representing Menard Electric Cooperative during the Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives Youth Day on Wednesday, April 6, in Springfield.

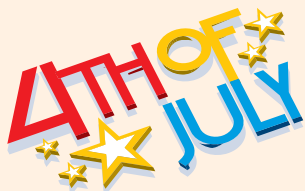
The students had an opportunity to view state government in action talking with their elected representatives, and hearing from both Lt. Governor Shelia Simon and Secretary of State Jesse White. The students also toured the Illinois Supreme Court and the Old State Capitol.

Pictured in the first row from the left are: Ethan Anderson and Anna Maxwell of Lincoln, Jacob Burrus of Arenzville, Logan Palmer of Decatur, Katie Clayton of Jacksonville, Haley Brinker and Kelly McMillan of Virginia, Roxanne Parks of Manito, Teagan Cutright of Petersburg and



Blake Herrman of Manito. In the second row from the left are: Rep. Brauer, Raymond Phillips of Petersburg, Katherine Grant of Greenview, Austin Woolman of Petersburg, Drew Kluemke of Sherman, Rep.

Hammond, Mark Foley of Mt. Pulaski, Taylor Beckner of Greenview, Emily Chesser of Sherman, Allison Haley of Chestnut and Sen. Sullivan. Rep. Unes is not pictured.



## Office Closing

Our office will be closed  
 Monday, July 4 for  
 Independence Day.



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 217-632-7746  
[www.menard.com](http://www.menard.com)

# Make One Change

*We encourage you to make one small, no-cost change each month to save energy. To find out how all the little changes add up visit [www.togetherwesave.coop](http://www.togetherwesave.coop).*



## What is the temperature?

Check your thermostat. Is it set at 78 degrees? If not, try moving it at least one degree warmer. You'll likely quickly adjust to the difference and will save money every day. And turn it up even more when you leave home – why cool an empty house?

## Youth Tour winners selected



*From left are Roxanne Parks, Drew Kluemke, Katie Clayton and Teagan Cutright.*

**M**enard Electric Cooperative will sponsor Drew Kluemke and Katie Clayton on the 52nd Annual Youth to Washington Tour this June. Teagan Cutright and Roxanne Parks were chosen as first and second alternates.

Drew and Katie were chosen for the trip from among the 18 students who participated in the Youth Day.

They will tour Washington, D.C. for one week with 65 other Illinois students as well as students from across the country.

Drew and Katie will visit the White House, U.S. Capitol Building and meet Illinois Congressmen, Senators and their staff. They will also visit places that include Gettysburg, Arlington National Cemetery, Iwo Jima, the Holocaust and Smithsonian Museums, the Saudi Arabia Embassy, the Washington Monument and the Memorials of Lincoln, Jefferson, Korean War, Vietnam War, World War II, U.S. Marine Corps and Franklin Delano Roosevelt.



## Surge Protection

Did you know we offer surge protection for your home? We offer both whole house surge protection at the meter as well as point of use surge protectors. You can rest easy knowing your appliances and valuable electronics are safe. Visit our web site at [www.menard.com](http://www.menard.com) for more information or call the office.

## Monthly Safety Tip

### Pool Safety

Don't set up pools or play areas under power lines. Be aware of lines overhead and keep pool skimmers and other equipment away.



# Board Meeting Report

For full minutes please visit our website at [www.menard.com](http://www.menard.com) or contact our office.

Present were Manager Lynn Frasco, Attorney Charles Smith and Directors Jerry Brooks, Michael Carls, Jay Frye, Warren Goetsch, Gary Martin, Donald McMillan, Michael Patrick, Roy Seaney and Steven Worner.

Frasco discussed CoBank Patronage distribution of \$63,768.01, of which \$41,449.21 was cash distribution for 2010.

Frasco reviewed irrigation construction, safety and training award to cooperative, LIHEAP program, and software field visits to RECC and Norris Electric Cooperative.

HomE Program rebates currently

totalled \$57,655. Employees have completed 103 member audits.

Frasco discussed request from EOS, Inc. for lease space on cooperative tower. EOS provides delivery of medical data. Matter will be further reviewed before lease agreement is presented to board.

Board moved and seconded that co-op enter into tree trimming contract with Burton Tree Service for the period of March 1, 2011, through February 28, 2012.

Board discussed Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives' board summary report, Prairie Power, Inc.'s

President's Report and Strategic Planning session results summary, Menard Electric's annual meeting in June, and capital credit estate refunds report.

Year to date margins were (\$149,459) compared to \$317,456 a year earlier. Equity as of the end of February was 33.06% and the number of members served was 10,499 compared to 10,489 a year ago.

Net Utility Plant at the end of February was \$35,567,767 compared to \$35,603,138 last year. The cooperative continues to meet the requirements of the RUS, FFB and NRUCFC.

## Great time for budget billing

Don't let your monthly bill bust your budget, sign up for our budget billing program and never again be surprised by higher bills during heavy usage periods.

### How it works

We'll calculate a monthly budget amount by estimating the average

kilowatt-hours used in the previous 12 months. For new members, we'll use the best available data we have.

For 11 months, you'll be billed the same amount each month. Then, in the 12th month, you'll receive a bill containing either a credit (if you used less kilowatt-hours than expected during the previous 11 months) or

an amount due (if you used more kilowatt-hours).

The next budget billing cycle begins with our July 2011 billing and ends with our May 2012 billing. The June 2012 bill will contain the credit or amount due. Call the office for more information or to sign up.

## Automatic Payment: One less thing to worry about!

You can have the net amount of your bill automatically deducted from your checking or savings account on the 17th of each month. Just get us this form by the 20th of the month prior to when you wish payments to begin.

**Mail with a voided check** to Menard Electric Cooperative, PO Box 200, Petersburg, IL 62675.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ SS No. \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Map Location No. \_\_\_\_\_

Bank Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Bank Account No. \_\_\_\_\_

Checking acct.     Savings acct.

I, \_\_\_\_\_, authorize Menard Electric Cooperative (MEC) to draw monthly bank drafts through the automatic plan (ACH) on the account shown above for the payment of my electric bill in full and any other services I authorize. I understand that I may discontinue my participation at any time by notifying MEC in writing. Both Menard Electric Cooperative and the bank may terminate this agreement with 10 days written notice. I understand that MEC reserves the right to limit participation in this program to customers whose accounts are in good standing. I understand the amount of my bill each month will be drafted on the 17th or next business day after. I understand that if funds are not available in my account for the draft to clear, there will be a charge posted to my MEC account, for NSF, and I will still be required to make full payment before the due date of the bill.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_