

Connect to MEC



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Youth to Washington Tour

Katie Clayton of Jacksonville and Drew Kluemke of Sherman met with Congressman Aaron Schock as they represented Menard Electric Cooperative in Washington, D.C., during the annual "Youth to Washington" Tour, June 10-17. This event, sponsored by the electric and telephone cooperatives of Illinois since the late 1950s, is an introduction to our democratic form of government and cooperatives for rural youth.

Clayton and Kluemke were among 76 rural Illinois youth leaders selected for the trip. The Illinois students joined more than 1,500 young leaders from across the country. In addition to the Capitol, they also visited Arlington National Cemetery, the Washington National Cathedral, several Smithsonian Museums, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, the World War II Memorial, memorials to Presidents Lincoln, Jefferson, Washington and Roosevelt, the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia, the National Archives, the Newseum and a number of other historical sites.



5 Ways to Stay Safe This Harvest

1. Keep farm equipment at least 10 feet from power lines.
2. Use a spotter when moving large equipment near power lines and be aware of higher antennas on large modern tractors.



3. Use care when raising augers or truck beds. Lower portable augers or elevators to their lowest level before moving. Variables like wind, uneven ground, shifting weight or other conditions can combine to create an unexpected result.

4. Never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path.



What Should You Do?

Stay inside if your farm equipment comes into contact with a power line

If the power line is energized and you step outside, your body becomes the path and electrocution is the result. Warn others who may be nearby to stay away and wait until the electric utility arrives to make sure power to the line is cut off.

If there is the unlikely threat of fire or other risk, the proper action is to jump – not step – with both feet hitting the ground at the same time. Do not allow any part of your body

to touch the equipment and the ground at the same time.

Continue to hop or shuffle to safety, keeping both feet together as you leave the area. Once you are away from the equipment, never attempt to get back on or even touch the equipment.

Many electrocutions occur when the operator dismounts and, realizing nothing has happened, tries to get back on the equipment.

5. Don't use metal poles when breaking up bridged grain inside and around bins. Be careful not to raise equipment such as ladders, poles or rods into power lines.



Menard Electric Cooperative
From the Board Room
May 23, 2011

Board Meeting Report

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

Present were: Manager Lynn Frasco, Attorney Charles Smith, Directors Jerry Brooks, Michael Carls, Jay Frye, Warren Goetsch, Donald McMillan, Michael Patrick, Roy Seaney and Steven Worner. President Gary Martin present by phone. Vice-President Brooks presided over meeting.

Discussed estimated costs of AIEC proceeding with updating Cost of Service Study.

Frasco reported on HomE Program, irrigation construction for year, tree trimming program, and advised that ICG had been sold to Arch Coal.

He advised that he had presented the Illinois Electric Cooperatives

Earl Struck Memorial Scholarship to Lucas Frye, son of Director Jay Frye.

Frasco discussed general retirement of Capital Credits in 2011 for the 1985 allocation - checks mailing prior to annual meeting.

Carls reported Prairie Power Inc. 2010 allocation of Capital Credits to Menard totaled \$537,579.97. Frasco reviewed calculation sheet of 2010 Capital Credit allocation factor of 4.475538% of revenue.

Insurance claim issue by a member had been settled and resolved. Reviewed truck locating report for Burton Crews.

Reset one of the cooperative's Co-Bank loans this month at a

fixed rate of 3.894% per annum for five years. Board authorized Frasco to borrow additional funds at fixed interest rate, in his discretion on the RUS Work Plan loan.

Year to date margins were \$172,306 compared to \$501,769 a year earlier. Equity as of the end of April was 33.55% and the number of members served was 10,503 compared to 10,496 a year ago.

Net Utility Plant at the end of April was \$35,738,382 compared to \$35,390,605 last year. The cooperative continues to meet the requirements of the RUS, FFB and NRUCFC.

Our office will be closed Monday, September 5 for Labor Day.

Monthly Safety Tip

Cord Control

Where are all your cords located? Out of traffic areas? Away from heat sources? Make sure cords aren't being damaged by furniture, walking or heat. And remember that extension cords aren't for permanent use.

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.



Save Time and Money

Use your slow cooker or microwave to save time and money and keep from heating up your kitchen. A 200-watt slow cooker costs about 17 cents when used for eight hours.

Visit us at the Farm Progress Show in Decatur

Visit the Touchstone Energy exhibit in the Varied Industries Tent at this year's Farm Progress Show August 30, 31 and September 1 in Decatur.

Check out our "Energy Efficiency Wall" to learn about energy efficiency measures that will save you money each month on your energy bill and to pick up a free gift. Cooperative members who present their Coop-Connections card receive a special gift.

Illinois Touchstone Energy Cooperatives will also be sponsoring the Live Line Demo, an electrical safety demonstration featuring 7,200 volts of electricity, just outside the Varied Industries Tent. Great for kids and adults, it's an experience your family won't want to miss.

The Touchstone Energy Hot Air Balloon will also make an appearance flying the American flag each



morning, and if weather permits, a late afternoon flight as well.

Check out Prairie Farmer Magazine to learn more about the 2011 Farm Progress Show or visit www.farmprogressshow.com.



For Sale
2006 2500 Chevrolet pickup

 **5-speed manual, 4 wheel drive, 1999 Fibre body insert**
 Sealed bids are accepted through 4:30 p.m. on August 15th.

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: _____