

## Wholesale power cost pressures increase



**Alisha Anker**  
 General Manager

Over the past few years, we have experienced the cost of materials and supplies increasing at double-digit rates, and with that sustained pressure now subsiding to a cost level which we consider our new normal, we are relieved. However, it seems just as one tide ebbs, another flows. Looking ahead to 2025, our wholesale power supplier is forecasting a 6-8% cost increase over 2024 actuals, based on year-to-date data.

Multiple factors of power supply changes go into this increase, but it is primarily being driven by transmission service providers — those entities which deliver power to the substations serving our members. Over the last seven years that cost has increased incrementally at a 1-2% rate each year, but jumped 3% in 2024 and is forecast to jump another 3.5% to encompass 25% of our power supplier's total operating expense in 2025.

For the past several years, wholesale power costs have represented 60-62% of our total annual costs to provide service to our members. Due to publication deadlines for this magazine, the exact

increase for 2025 is still being determined. Your board of directors is considering several options for tackling the increased pressure of wholesale power costs. I will have more information for you in the following months.

In the meantime, let me reassure you that as always, all decisions are made with you, our members, as our top priority. As an electric co-op, we do not seek to earn profits for investors; we were built by the communities we serve, and our mission remains to provide safe and reliable service at a reasonable cost.

### 3 Ways to Increase Winter Energy Efficiency

- \* Keep cold air out with caulk and weatherstripping.
- \* Check attic insulation for damage and settling; add more if needed.
- \* Service your furnace/heating system and replace filters as needed.

### 2 Winter Safety Tips

- \* Never touch a fallen line. Assume all downed wires are live, and beware of lines covered by snow.
- \* Never use a generator or gas/charcoal grill indoors or in a partially enclosed area due to carbon monoxide.

### 1 Way to Stay Connected

- \* Download our MyMEC app to report outages and receive notifications; also view your account online.



## Co-op values

*Two of our values are Commitment to Community and Cooperation among Cooperatives. These two values, while always important, were in full force this fall.*

In honor of Cooperative Month, we worked to give Nate's Park in Chandlerville a facelift. Employees spent a few hours painting, installing signs, fixing nets, picking up trash and sprucing up the place.



Two crews of Menard Electric linemen were among hundreds from Illinois who assisted Georgia co-ops in restoring power after tropical storm Helene. The linemen lived in tent cities and worked long days in unfamiliar territory removing trees and replacing poles. Members in affected areas were without power for days or weeks as electrical systems were rebuilt; these children's notes show appreciation from even the youngest members.



Each year our employees raise funds for local organizations. This year, funds were donated to Land of Lincoln Honor Flight. A food drive event also distributed goods to Cass County and Menard County food pantries.

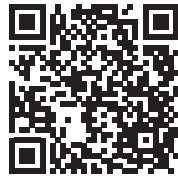
## Net Metering application deadline

In accordance with state law, our Net Metering program is sunsetting. New Net Metering applications must be received in our office by 4:30 p.m. on Dec. 31, 2024.

## Net Metering program changes

Active members with distributed generation (solar systems) who are billed in accordance with our Net Metering rider were mailed a letter in November providing specific details regarding their accounts. Changes will begin with the Feb. 7th billing cycle for January usage.

Our website has been updated to provide members and the public with the Net Metering and Net Billing program specifics. Visit [www.menard.com/distributedgeneration](http://www.menard.com/distributedgeneration).



## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

If you're planning to purchase electronic gifts this holiday season, look for the ENERGY STAR® label, which indicates higher energy efficiency performance. Electronics that receive the ENERGY STAR® rating are up to 25% more efficient than standard products. This holiday season, give the gift of energy savings with ENERGY STAR®-rated electronics and equipment.

*Source: [energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov)*



## SCHOLARSHIPS

\$2,500 scholarships for students enrolling full-time in a 2-year or 4-year university, college or vocational/technical school are available through the Thomas H Moore Illinois Electric Cooperative's Memorial Scholarship program. Deadline is Dec. 31, 2024.

A \$2,500 LLCC Lineworker Program Scholarship is available through the LaVern and Nola McEntire Memorial Lineworkers' Scholarship. Deadline is Apr. 30, 2025.

See details at [www.menard.com/scholarships](http://www.menard.com/scholarships).

Check back in February to apply for another scholarship opportunity directly through Menard Electric.



# Board highlights

Sept. 24, 2024

- All Directors, General Manager & Attorney present.
- Resolution adopted to establish Retiree Health Reimbursement Arrangement Plan for union employee group.
- General Manager Alisha Anker presented preliminary 2025 expense budget.
- Anker reviewed August monthly & YTD financial trends. Operating margins \$2,750,391 compared to \$2,958,092 last year; equity at 41.60%; 12-mo TIER 2.62 & DSC 2.02.
- Anker reviewed operations report w/69 incidents, longest duration of an outage 290 min due to Aug. 16 storm damage to pole in middle of bean field; largest # affected by single outage 122 due to tree taking out line in same storm.
- Next Mtg 10/22/24 @ 6 p.m.



For full minutes visit [menard.com](http://menard.com)  
or contact the office.

## LIHEAP

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) could help pay your electric, gas and propane energy bills. Contact your local agency to confirm income eligibility requirements and application timelines.

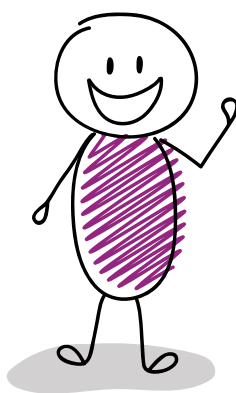
MCS Community Services-Cass/  
Morgan County, 217-243-9404

Sangamon County, 217-535-3120

Community Action Partnership  
of Central Illinois-Logan/Mason/  
Menard County, 217-732-2159

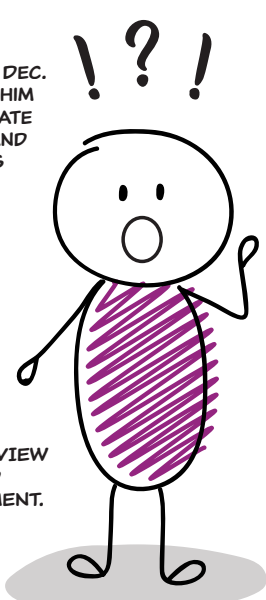
Tazwood Community Services-  
Tazewell County, 309-266-9941

### MEET WILL



WILL GETS AN EMAIL NOTIFICATION ON DEC. 7 LETTING HIM KNOW HIS BILL IS BEING MAILED AND CAN BE VIEWED ONLINE.

WILL GETS AN EMAIL NOTIFICATION DEC. 21 REMINDING HIM OF THE DUE DATE OF DEC. 28, AND WILL REALIZES HE HAS NOT RECEIVED HIS BILL IN THE MAIL.



WILL DOESN'T WANT TO BE LATE PAYING HIS BILL. HE LOGS ON TO OUR ONLINE BILL PAY SITE TO VIEW HIS BILL AND MAKE A PAYMENT.



BE LIKE WILL. SIGN UP FOR NOTIFICATIONS THROUGH OUR ONLINE BILL PAY SITE. YOU CAN ACCESS IT AT [WWW.MENARD.COM](http://WWW.MENARD.COM) OR THROUGH THE MYMEC APP.

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

# DECK THE HALLS

For decades, electric cooperatives have been lighting up the homes of rural America for the holidays.

Season's greetings to you and yours with our wishes for a bright and beautiful future.

