



2025 Youth Tour

Carly DeSutter of Manito was chosen as this year's 2025 Youth to Washington ambassador for Menard Electric Cooperative. She traveled to Washington, D.C. with 48 students sponsored by 25 Illinois electric and telephone cooperatives. That group joined 2,000 students from 44 states for the annual event.

Over the course of the week, Carly visited historic landmarks including Gettysburg, Arlington National Cemetery and toured the White House, where students caught a glimpse of President Donald Trump. She also toured the U.S. Capitol, strolled the National Mall and Museum of Illusions, visited the Holocaust Memorial Museum, stood at the steps of the

Supreme Court and explored the Smithsonian museums.

Midweek, Carly took part in the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Youth Day, where she joined hundreds of other teens from across the country to hear from national leaders and learn how to use her voice back home.

Central to the Youth Tour experience is the formation of a mock student-run cooperative called Chip 'n' Pop Co-op. Carly was chosen as co-op manager. The co-op handled snack sales and gave participants a hands-on look at how co-ops operate.

Visit youthtour.coop or facebook.com/ILYouthTour for more information.



6 dorm safety tips to share with your college-bound student.

- Don't overload outlets
- Unplug devices when not in use
- Don't use nails/tacks to secure cords/light strands
- Never use frayed or cracked cords
- Don't hide cords under rugs or items
- Never charge a phone under pillows or bedding



AMPLIFIED!

87th Annual Meeting of Members

June 18, 2025 at Pleasant Plains High School

A new item this year was Johnnie O's Mini Donuts Truck. The line shows how popular this addition was; nearly 350 packs of donuts were fried and served to members. We received a lot of great comments on the delicious treats.



More than 280 memberships registered; each received a \$20 bill credit and a useful insulated tote bag.



About 650 pork chop dinners prepared by the Mason County Pork Producers were enjoyed by members and their families.



New this year was a small gift of a "squishy" bucket truck and a raffle for a kid's scooter.



Business Meeting

The Director Election was held and members reelected Gary Holloway of Petersburg from District 1, Dennis Ryan of Petersburg from District 4, and Steve Worner of Manito from District 6. The co-op is governed by a board of directors made up of nine members, each residing in a defined director district area and elected from and by the membership to serve 3-year terms. Each year, three districts are up for election. For more information about our board please see our webpage www.menard.com/board-directors.

Members approved minutes of last year's meeting.

Members approved the Treasurer's Report given by Board Treasurer Dennis Ryan. Ryan walked members through a financial statement handout highlighting the cooperative's performance during 2024.

Board President Warren Goetsch discussed the theme of the meeting, "Amplify," and the various activities of the co-op throughout the past year involving community service and member involvement. He also encouraged members to join Voices for Cooperative Power to learn more about how energy policies are affecting co-ops and ways to engage with legislators.

General Manager Alisha Anker highlighted employees' commitment to safety by announcing a safety milestone

of 4+ years without an accident-related lost time incident. She said, "This milestone represents countless moments where employees chose safety over shortcuts and the well-being of the crew over individual convenience." She also highlighted the results of a recent member satisfaction survey, discussed a continued decline in average annual outage duration, and took an in-depth look at the power industry's supply chain and how distributed renewable energy fits into that chain.

Under old business, members provided questions and comments that encompassed support of vegetation management program, clarification of facility charge and criticism of changes made to distributed generation programs.

For more information:

Find printed meeting materials and links to the reports given by Board President Warren Goetsch, Board Treasurer Dennis Ryan and General Manager Alisha Anker at

www.menard.com/annualmeeting.



A table was also set up for Voices for Cooperative Power and members were able to sign up to receive important details from this group and enter a Yeti Cooler raffle. Visit voicesforcooperativepower.com today.



Each registered membership was entered into the popular end-of-the-night prize drawing. Multiple bill credit prizes were drawn and members present at the drawing were eligible for a dozen additional physical prizes. Congratulations to all of our lucky winners!

Board highlights

May 27, 2025

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

- All Directors present as well as General Manager Alisha Anker, Attorney Kyle Barry, Cooperative Independent Auditor Kevin Kelso (via video), & Director of Accounting & Finance Julie Atwater.
- Kelso presented 2024 Financial Audit Report. Motion carried to approve audit. Kelso & Atwater left mtg.
- Anker reviewed results of Member Satisfaction Survey.
- Anker reviewed April monthly & YTD financial trends. Operating margins \$1,073,366 compared to \$1,600,882 last year; equity at 42.97%; 12-mo TIER 2.65 & DSC 2.02.
- Reviewed Apr. Operations report w/58 incidents, longest during of single outage 313 minutes impacting 1 member from late night storm/tree down; largest # affected by single outage 469 due to downed transmission pole.
- Anker reviewed member services, write-offs, irrigation & safety reports; 2024 alternative energy report; spring legislative session update; Ameren capacity auction results; data center developments in IL.
- Motion carried to recommend proposed CFC Bylaw amendments not be approved.
- Next mtg 6/27/25.



Safety Tip

Keep plants and fences away from green transformer boxes — especially the padlocked side. Utility crews need at least 10 feet in front and 4 feet on the sides to work safely and quickly during outages. Keep a clear path to the transformer — even if it's in your yard, it's technically on an easement, and they still need access!



Safe
Electricity.org

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Replace your cooling system's filter regularly to maintain strong airflow and boost energy efficiency. A clean filter means your system doesn't have to work as hard, saving energy and lowering your utility bills. Factors like allergies and pets in the home can impact how often filters should be replaced. Check the filter every month and replace it as needed. Changing filters regularly also reduces wear and tear on your cooling system, helping extend the life of the unit.

Source: energy.gov



HAPPY TO WORK ALL NIGHT.

If it means getting the lights back on for even one family, we are glad to do whatever it takes. We're not your typical electric company, we're a local not-for-profit electric cooperative. That means our customers are our members and our top priority.

To learn more about the cooperative difference, visit TouchstoneEnergy.com

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