



Youth Tour to Washington

Isabella Smith of Ashland attended Youth Tour, an electric and telephone cooperative tradition spanning decades that sends students to Washington, D.C., for an unforgettable weeklong trip.

Isabella was selected as our ambassador as part of our scholarship program. She joined more than 2,000 students representing 44 states for the annual event.

Over the course of the week, Isabella and the other students visited historic landmarks, including Gettysburg, Arlington National Cemetery and the U.S. Capitol, where they had the opportunity to meet U.S. Senator Dick Durbin. They also strolled the National Mall and explored the Smithsonian museums.

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

Central to the Youth Tour experience is the formation of a mock student-run cooperative called Chip 'n' Pop Co-op. Students were all members and selected the co-op's board of directors, who later interviewed and selected co-op employees. Isabella served as Secretary-Treasurer.



Throughout the week, the co-op handled sales, decision-making and budgeting — giving participants a hands-on look at how cooperatives operate.

To learn more, visit youthtour.coop or facebook.com/ILYouthTour.



**New
bill format
coming soon!**

You'll notice your August billing statement has a new look! The new bills are more colorful and put all the information you need right at your fingertips.

We are finalizing the layout as this issue is being printed, and we'll be able to feature more details in the next issue. A detailed description of the bill will also be linked on our website rate page at www.menard.com/rates.

We hope you'll love the new format as much as we do!



88TH ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS HELD AT PLEASANT PLAINS HIGH SCHOOL

Menard Electric's 88th Annual Meeting of Members was held June 17, 2026, at Pleasant Plains High School as published in the co-op's official notice. Storms struck that night and for the first time in the co-op's history, a quorum of members was not reached. In accordance with the co-op's Bylaws, the members in attendance voted to adjourn the meeting to June 24. Members were notified by phone of the new date. On that date, more than 550 members and their families showed up in the largest turnout in co-op history.

BUSINESS MEETING

During the business meeting, members approved last year's minutes and the co-op's financial reports and elected Directors. The co-op is governed by a Board made up of nine Directors elected from and by the membership to serve three-year terms. Each year three districts are up for election. This year, Leo Arnold of Bluff Springs, District 3, was elected, and Michael Patrick of New Holland, District 7, and Warren Goetsch of Williamsville, District 8, were reelected. All ran unopposed.

Members approved two Bylaw Amendments. Section 3.03 (Notice of

Member Meetings) extends the notice period for which the official Annual Meeting notice can be mailed prior to the meeting date from 40 days to 60 days. Section 4.06 (Nominations) extends the number of days prior to an Annual Meeting date by which a potential director candidate must submit a Member Petition Nomination form from 45 days to 60 days.

After discussion, a ballot vote was held, and members defeated a proposed Bylaw Amendment to Section 3.04 (Member Quorum) to lower the percentage required.

Board President Warren Goetsch spoke about the advantages of member ownership of the co-op and gave examples of local community support. He also reminded members to visit the Voices for Cooperative Power website at voicesforcooperativepower.com to receive take-action recommendations on proposed legislation or regulations that affect the co-op.

General Manager Alisha Anker spoke of the co-op's power provider's efforts to improve reliability by building new transmission lines and networking substations. She also told members





about the completion of a joint project with Ameren to confirm and document boundary lines around and within the co-op's service territory.

"It protects our right to serve, and even more so, helps to ensure that the benefits of economic development remain with the local communities that supported the cooperative's growth from the beginning," Anker said. Another innovation helping the co-op to grow will be a new advanced metering system. The co-op will mail details to members throughout the coming year.

Once questions were answered and the meeting adjourned, a prize drawing was held.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Find printed meeting materials, complete Bylaws, and links to the video reports given by Board President Warren Goetsch and Board Treasurer Dennis Ryan at www.menard.com/annualmeeting.



Board highlights

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

Special Meeting: June 12, 2026

- All directors present in person or by phone; also General Manager, Attorney, Engineering Manager, & Director of Accounting & Finance.
- Reviewed Loan Commitment Letter from RUS for treasury borrowing to partially fund Work Plan 2026-29. Motion carried to accept Treasury Rate Loan designated AZ45 from RUS.
- Engineering Mgr. exited meeting. The Director of Member Services & Communications Specialist joined the mtg to discuss details of Annual Meeting June 17.

May 26, 2026

- All Directors present except Gary Holloway & Rex Muir. Also present General Manager & Attorney.
- Board approved recommended changes to policies & bylaws as recommended by the Policy/Bylaw Committee. Revisions made to: Non Discrimination policies, qualifications for directorship, member line extension, weekly accident & sickness benefit plan, leave in accordance with family NICU leave act, member purchasing & contracting policy, Bylaw section 13.01
- Proxies (to extend valid date period) & Bylaw Section 4.05 District Boundaries (to include township, range & section descriptions). [Bylaws & member policies can be found on the website or provided upon request]
- Updated status of 2026-29 RUS Work Plan.
- Reviewed April monthly & YTD financial trends. Operating margins \$930,402 compared to \$1,073,366 last year; equity at 43.04%; 12-mo TIER 2.69 & DSC 1.98.
- Reviewed operations report: 114 incidents; longest duration of outage 1,185 minutes due to downed tree in storm & largest # affected by single outage was 958 min. due to loss of substation during wind storm.
- Discussed upcoming RUS External Compliance Review & the Clean & Reliable Grid Affordability Act.
- Certified Director Dennis Ryan as delegate & Michael Patrick alternate to the AIEC Annual Mtg.
- Next mtg 6/23/26.

BudgetWise

Do you budget your
monthly finances?

Wish you could know
ahead of time what your
electric bill will be?

With budget billing,
our members pay a set
amount 11 months of the
year and true-up their
accounts once yearly.

Email info@menard.com
or call 800-872-1203 for
details.



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

As August **HEATS UP** keep your **COSTS DOWN!**

- ☀ **Set the thermostat** as high as is comfortable when you're home.
- ☀ **Raise it** when you're away for several hours.
- ☀ Use a **programmable** or **smart thermostat** to automate adjustments.
- ☀ Change or clean **air filters** often during cooling season.
- ☀ Keep outdoor **condenser** units free of grass, weeds and debris.
- ☀ Have the system **professionally serviced** annually.
- ☀ Make sure supply and return **vents are not blocked** by furniture or curtains.
- ☀ **Close blinds, shades or curtains** during the hottest part of the day.
- ☀ **Seal gaps** around windows and doors to keep hot air out.
- ☀ Set ceiling fans to rotate **counterclockwise** to push air downward.
- ☀ **Turn fans off** when rooms are unoccupied — fans cool people, not spaces.
- ☀ **Avoid using ovens** during the hottest part of the day; grill outdoors or use microwaves, air fryers or slow cookers instead.

