



A Touchstone Energy® Partner 

# Hi-Lites

## Petitions for board district elections

The terms of the directors for districts 3, 5 and 7 will expire with the June 2015 Annual Meeting. Currently representing District 3 is David Finley, District 5 is Steve Shrader, and District 6 is Scott Uphoff.

Any person who wishes to be a candidate shall complete a Request for Nominating Petitions and a Statement of Qualifications demonstrating that he/she is qualified to serve as a director under the terms and provisions of Article V, Section 3, of Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative by-laws. A copy of the candidates' Statement of Qualifications and Request for Nominating Petitions shall be made available to any active member of the Cooperative at the Cooperative's office. Upon receipt of a completed Statement of Qualifications and Request for Nominating Petitions, the President/CEO of the Cooperative shall review the Statement of Qualifications to ensure that the member seeking office as a director is qualified under Article V, Section 3, of the by-laws. Any member the President/CEO determines to be qualified shall receive nominating petitions without further board action. For any member the President/CEO determines to be unqualified to serve as a director, that member's Statement of Qualifications and Request for Nominating Petitions shall be referred to the Board of Directors for review at the next regularly scheduled board meeting following the date upon which the member's Statement and Request was filed. At that board meeting, the Board of Directors shall vote to either deny the member's request for nominating petitions or to grant the member's request over the recommendation of the President/CEO.



Any member who receives nominating petitions may be nominated as a candidate for the Board by obtaining the valid signatures of 25 or more active members of the Cooperative on his/her petitions and filing his/her petitions in the office of the Cooperative by 4:30 p.m., February 26, 2014.

Any nomination by petition, which meets the requirements of the by-laws, shall be posted at the office of the Cooperative at least 60 days (March 27, 2014) prior to the Election Date and any such nominations shall appear on the official ballot.

### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



They're out of sight, but don't forget about your air ducts. Taking care of them can save money and energy. Check ducts for air leaks. Take care of minor sealing jobs with heat-approved tape, especially in attics and in vented crawl spaces. Call the pros for major ductwork repairs.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

P.O. Box 709 (104 Dewitt Ave., East)  
 Mattoon, Illinois 61938

Phone: 217/235-0341 or  
 Toll-Free: 1-888-661-CMEC (2632)  
 Office hours:  
 Monday-Friday  
 7:30a.m. - 4:30p.m.

**Chairman**

Jeffery D. Hudson..... Charleston

**Vice Chairperson**

Debbie Albin.....Mattoon

**Secretary**

John Bowers ..... Lovington

**Treasurer**

Steve Shrader.....Westfield

**Director**

Scott Uphoff.....Mattoon

David Finley.....Gays

Philip Meyer..... Sullivan

**President/CEO**

M.L. Christman

**To report an outage**

- First check your fuses or circuit breakers and see if your neighbors have power.
- If the problem appears to be with the cooperative's lines, call the office at the toll free number (888-661-2632), give the name the service is listed under, and report any hazardous conditions.

## Fight the winter chills

By: April Lollar, APR, CCC

Another colder-than-normal winter is predicted for much of the country this year. Frigid temperatures can cause heating systems to work over time, and since heating and cooling can make up nearly half of your electric bill, you may experience sticker shock when you open that bill. Instead of waiting until after a potentially high bill is in your mailbox, be proactive. There are things you can do now to help ensure you are managing your energy use and spending less.

**These simple steps can help you manage your use:**

- Wrap exposed pipes and water heaters that are in unconditioned spaces.
- Make sure to change your air filter once a month.
- Keep drapes closed at night and keep those that don't get direct sunlight closed during the day, too.
- Keep the fireplace damper closed when it is not in use. Keeping it open can bring cold air into the room.
- Caulk around the fireplace hearth, and caulk or weather strip around doors and windows.
- Dress for the weather, even if you are inside. Wearing proper clothing like long sleeves and pants, or wrapping up in a cozy blanket will help combat the temptation of bumping up the thermostat.

So, when temperatures fall this winter and you hear your weatherman talking about bringing in pets and plants, take the steps above to help manage your use.

Using the tips above can certainly help you manage your energy use, but your bill may still be higher than normal in winter months. Why?

- The weather makes a big impact on electric bills, accounting for nearly half of your bill.
- Even those with the most efficient HVAC systems will see more use in extreme weather.

- When extreme cold temperatures hit, our heaters work overtime.
  - For example, even if you set your thermostat to our recommended 68 degrees in the winter, when it is 19 degrees outside, your system has to work hard to make up that 49-degree difference.
  - Your heater works harder and cycles on and off more often, making your use much higher. That means your bill will be much higher.
  - Remember, there is value in comfort. For us to be comfortable in our homes, our heaters are going to work harder, but it may be worth the additional cost to you.
- Additional tips:**
- Call Coles Moultrie Electric Cooperative and see what kinds of options might be right for you.

*April Lollar writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service organization for the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.*



# Electric co-ops effectively respond to disasters

In the summer of 2012, the massive storm that swept hurricane-force winds from the Great Plains to the Atlantic seaboard knocked out power to more than four million people. The damage caused by this devastating storm cost the nation \$2.9 billion.

Disasters, whether caused by nature, accidents or hostile acts, exact an enormous cost, both in economic and human terms. Electric cooperatives, like Coles Moultrie Electric Cooperative, have a unique and effective approach to emergency management and disaster recovery: mutual assistance. Following a disaster, co-ops will rapidly deploy support staff and equipment to emergency and recovery zones to assist sister co-ops.

Because the national network of transmission and distribution infrastructure owned by electric cooperatives has been built to federal standards, line crews from any co-op in America can arrive on the scene ready to provide

emergency support, secure in their knowledge of the system's engineering.

We work closely with other first responders, state and local government and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to ensure an effective and coordinated response in the event of an emergency.

Since cooperatives are not-for-profit organizations, we are eligible for financial assistance from FEMA, which can fund a portion of the cost of emergency work to restore power and the cost of repairing, restoring, rebuilding or replacing damaged facilities.

This system gives electric cooperatives the ability to respond effectively and quickly in times of crisis and protects the financial interests of the cooperative members as the same time.

Unfortunately, with tighter budgets, securing FEMA reimbursements after a disaster has become more difficult. Following Superstorm Sandy, Congress

changed the rules: FEMA now allocates funds for rebuilding based on an estimate of costs, not on the actual cost. If the estimate is higher than the actual cost, the excess funds must be used for FEMA-approved projects. But if the estimate is low, the co-op must pay the difference.

Electric cooperatives across the country learn from disasters. We learn how to protect our systems better, and we learn how to become more resilient. When it comes to resiliency, we have a good story to tell. We serve our member-consumers in the most rugged, remote terrain in the country. And we have learned how to restore power in extremely difficult circumstances.

While we know better than to make any predictions about what Mother Nature has in store for us, we believe these lessons will help us the next time disaster strikes.

## Important NEW YEAR Resolutions . . .

**That don't involve diet or exercise!**



1. Make sure outlets have GFCIs in the kitchen, bathroom & laundry
2. Replace frayed electrical cords
3. Check for loose-fitting plugs
4. Replace missing or broken wall plates
5. Check for overloaded outlets
6. Make sure light bulb wattage matches the fixture requirements
7. Have an electrician check outlets that are warm/discolored

Learn how to keep your family safe at:



**Member**



**Exchange**

### For Sale

- Lennox gas furnace, Lennox air conditioner, Honeywell thermostat - \$800 obo.; Electric AO Smith, 55 gallon water heater - \$300 obo., everything in good condition. Lovington. Call 217-855-1979.
- 210 JD with blade - \$500; 175 JD with mower - \$500; Buy both for \$800. Call 217-246-1282.

# MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

**Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative's  
76th Annual Meeting**  
Saturday, June 6, 2015

**Peterson Park, Mattoon**  
Registration 10:30 a.m. — 1 p.m.  
Buffet Lunch 11:00 a.m. — 12:30 p.m.  
Business Session 1:00 p.m.

Watch for more information  
in up-coming Hi-Lites!

