


Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

# Hi-Lites

## Petitions for board districts are available

The terms of the directors for districts 1 and 7 will expire with the June 2016 Annual Meeting. Currently representing District 1 is Philip Meyer and District 7 is Jeffery Hudson.

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 that the President/CEO determines to be qualified shall receive nominating petitions without further board action. For any member that 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 22, 2016.

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 25, 2016) prior to the Election Date and any such nominations shall appear on the official ballot.



I'm saving \$240 a year just by adding insulation. What can you do? Find out how the little changes add up at TogetherWeSave.com.

**INSULATION  
HELPS ME  
WEATHER  
THE ECONOMY.**




A Touchstone Energy® Partner 

**TOGETHERWESAVE.COM**



A publication of Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

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**

Philip Meyer..... Sullivan

**Director**

Dean Robison..... Windsor  
Steve Shrader..... Westfield  
Scott Uphoff..... Mattoon

**President/CEO**

Kim Leftwich

**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.

## Board Report

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative was held at the offices of the Cooperative at 104 Dewitt Avenue, East, Mattoon, Illinois at 7pm October 29, 2015, pursuant to notice duly given. The meeting was called to order by Jeff Hudson, Chairman. After calling the roll, the following directors were present: Scott Uphoff, Philip Meyer, Jeff Hudson, Steve Shrader, Debbie Albin, Dean Robison, and John Bowers. Also present were Kim Leftwich - President/CEO, Amy Borntreger - Chief Financial Officer, Darla Powell - Director of Human Resources/Office Manager, and Bill Tapella - Eberspacher & Tapella.

The agenda was approved as submitted in addition to the Consent Calendar as submitted including the New Members, the September Safety & Training report, and the 09/24/15 Regular Board meeting minutes.

Bill Tapella gave the legal report.

Director Meyer, Chairman of the Audit & Finance Committee, made the motion to accept the Director Fees and Expenses for June, July and August as amended. The motion was passed.

The 2016 Capital Budget was accepted with additions as submitted and presented by Staff.

The 2016 CMEC Annual Meeting date was decided and will be held June 4, 2016 at Peterson Park, Mattoon.

Darla Powell was selected as the voting delegate for the ICWCG/RSI Annual Meeting.

Amy Borntreger gave the financial report.

Director Albin reported on the AIEC Board Meeting.

Director Uphoff and Kim Leftwich reported on the PPI Board Meeting.

Kim Leftwich gave the President/CEO report.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

## Are you saving as much as possible on your Coles-Moultrie Electric bill?

In recent months we have noticed that some of our members have been losing out on their "sub-meter" savings. In order to be sure that you are receiving as much savings as possible there are a few things you may need to check. First, make sure that the sub-meter is not blank and shows a reading. Second, check to make sure that your sub-meter breaker is in the "ON" position. This breaker in your breaker panel could be located on its own, or with any other 240 Volt circuit breakers (95% of the time a circuit breaker has either been tripped, or shut off, inside of your circuit breaker panel). If ALL of your breakers are in the on position and the meter is still blank, you need to contact our office

to schedule a representative of the Cooperative to check out your meter. The only way to receive the discounted rate for your sub-metered heating and/or air conditioning is from the reading obtained by this meter. Unfortunately, the cooperative has no way to go back and credit any member's account that may have missed out on potential savings due to an un-energized sub-meter. In the past we have tried to keep up with these situations by sending out letters, however with very few replies we have decided that it would be best to urge our members to please review each month's bill to be sure they are receiving the proper savings. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

# Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative is looking for the next generation of leaders

What do 1,500 high school students, our nation's capital and electric cooperatives have in common? The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, of course!

Youth Tour was established with one thought in mind – to inspire our next generation of leaders. Since 1964, more than 50,000 young Americans have taken advantage of this special opportunity offered by their electric cooperative.

It all takes place in June, when hundreds of electric co-ops across the country send participants to Washington, D.C. for a chance to learn about the cooperative business model and a full week of sightseeing.

While in D.C., participants have a chance to meet with their elected officials and discuss the issues that are important back home. Without a doubt, Youth Tour has grown into an invaluable program that gives young



Americans an experience that will stay with them for the rest of their lives.

In April, Coles-Moultrie will begin the interview process to select local students to attend Youth Tour 2016. If you are a high school junior or senior interested in traveling to Washington, D.C. to experience the trip of a lifetime, please contact your school counselor for more information.

Perhaps you know of an exceptional student who would be a great candidate for the program. If you do, please share this article with them. The high schools within

the Coles-Moultrie service area select students for the Youth to Springfield day trip where they will then go through an interview process for selection to participate in the Washington D.C. tour.

Youth Tour is so much more than a sightseeing trip. Students have repeatedly shared that this experience has helped them grow into successful professionals. It has also benefited our local communities. Youth Tour participants return home with a deeper understanding and skill set of what it takes to be leader, and as a result, they put these skills to use right here in our community.

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

## Investors concerned about EPA plan's effect on co-ops *Strong co-op business practices seen as a plus for the future*

The financial industry is keeping a close eye on how the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Clean Power Plan will affect electric co-ops.

The plan, released last year, proposes to reduce greenhouse gas emissions largely by cutting back on the use of coal to generate electricity. And that, says one of the leading Wall Street investment rating firms, Standard & Poor's Rating Services, "could hit some electric cooperative utilities hardest: As the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association reported, these utilities rely on coal for an average of 70 percent of their energy needs, compared with a national average for all utilities of less than 40 percent."

The emission reductions are scheduled to begin in the year 2022 and be complete by 2030. Those deadlines

could be delayed by lawsuits that have been filed challenging the plan.

On the positive side, co-op leaders and the financial industry agree that cooperatives have shown good decision making that has put them in a strong financial position. They have kept electric rates low but raised them when necessary, and they have taken advantage of the low interest rates of the past several years to lock in low rates for the future.

"From both a credit quality and management perspective, there's a lot of strength in the electric cooperative program—a huge asset in the current regulatory environment. We're positioned well for future stability," says Sheldon Peterson, CEO of CFC, which is short for the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance

Corporation. "Our business motivation is different. Our objectives are not to maximize the rate of return, our objectives are to minimize costs to the members – that's very positive for us and leads to competitiveness."

The S&P report observes, "We expect them to use similar methods to maintain their credit quality as the EPA finalizes regulations that could, in our view, significantly influence the cost of providing electric service and we'll be watching to gauge their success."

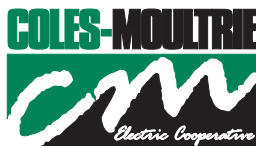
*Paul Wesslund writes on cooperative issues for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.*

# MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative's 77th Annual Meeting  
Saturday, June 4, 2016

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!



A Touchstone Energy® Partner 

**Member**



**Exchange**

## For Sale

- Magic Chef mini refrigerator, 2.4 cu ft, used less than a year - \$75. Mattoon.  
Call 217-343-2199.