
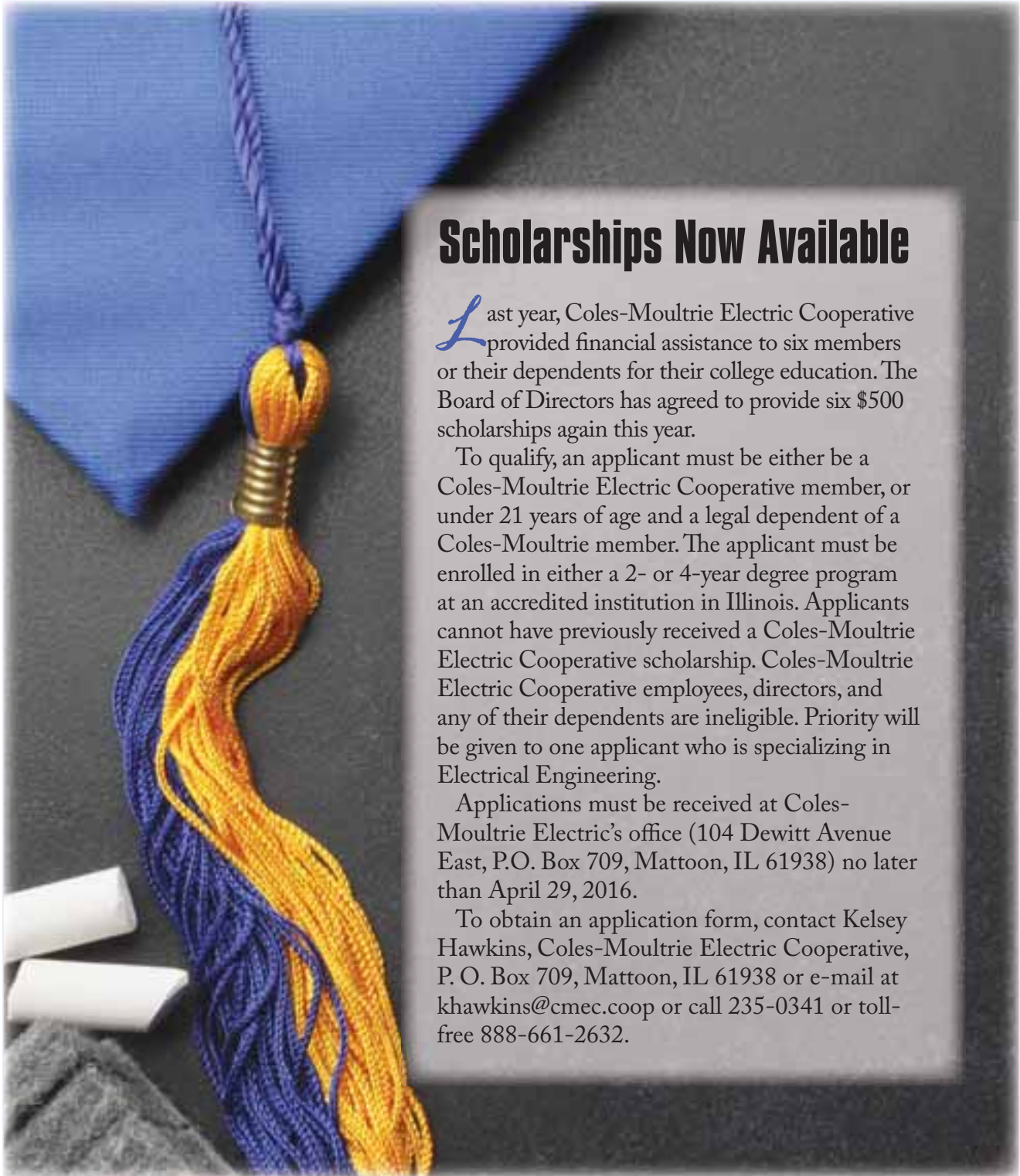


Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

# Hi-Lites



## Scholarships Now Available

Last year, Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative provided financial assistance to six members or their dependents for their college education. The Board of Directors has agreed to provide six \$500 scholarships again this year.


To qualify, an applicant must be either be a Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative member, or under 21 years of age and a legal dependent of a Coles-Moultrie member. The applicant must be enrolled in either a 2- or 4-year degree program at an accredited institution in Illinois. Applicants cannot have previously received a Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative scholarship. Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative employees, directors, and any of their dependents are ineligible. Priority will be given to one applicant who is specializing in Electrical Engineering.

Applications must be received at Coles-Moultrie Electric's office (104 Dewitt Avenue East, P.O. Box 709, Mattoon, IL 61938) no later than April 29, 2016.

To obtain an application form, contact Kelsey Hawkins, Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative, P. O. Box 709, Mattoon, IL 61938 or e-mail at [khawkins@cmec.coop](mailto:khawkins@cmec.coop) or call 235-0341 or toll-free 888-661-2632.



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 Cooperative office at 104 Dewitt Avenue, East, Mattoon, Illinois at 7pm January 6, 2016, 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 being a quorum of the directors of the Cooperative. Also present were Kim Leftwich – President/CEO, Amy Borntreger – Chief Financial Officer, Jim Wallace – Director of Operations, Sam Adair – Manager of Marketing & Member Services and Darla Powell – Director of Human Resources/ Office Manager.

The agenda was approved as amended in addition to the Consent

Calendar as submitted, the New Members, the November Safety & Training report, and the 12/3/15 Regular Board meeting minutes.

Kim Leftwich gave the legal report.

The motion to nominate Scott Uphoff as the NRECA Voting Delegate at the NRECA Annual Meeting and elect Steve Shrader as the alternate was passed.

The 2016 budget was approved as submitted by Staff.

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.

# Time to Change the Clocks

Daylight Saving Time begins every year on the second Sunday in March. Clocks are set forward by one hour.

When you change your clocks, check the batteries in your smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors. Batteries in smoke detectors should be replaced yearly.

*National Safety Council*



# How to clean refrigerator coils

## ...and why it matters!

Your refrigerator is one of the largest, most-used appliances in your home. It requires only minimal maintenance – just simple cleaning of the condenser coils, which disperse heat. If the coils are covered with dust, gunk or pet hair, they cannot diffuse the heat properly and will not run efficiently. A bigger problem can result if the compressor burns out from having to run constantly because of the grimy coating. This can be an expensive problem. The bottom line? A minor investment in time once a year can save you cold cash down the line.

**Materials you will need:** Vacuum cleaner with hose, damp cloth



**1.** Locate the refrigerator's coil, a grid-like structure, or fan that will likely have a covering or grate protecting it. The coil is usually concealed behind the front toe kick or in the back. Some newer models have internal coils, so if you don't find them in the front or back, this may be the case with your fridge.



**2.** If the coil is in the back, slide the refrigerator away from the wall, removing the plug from the electrical outlet when possible. You may also need to disconnect the line to the water dispenser or icemaker to allow enough room to work.



**3.** Gently vacuum and clean the coil. Using the brush or crevice attachment, carefully vacuum the dust and dirt wherever you see it. If you have pulled the fridge out, vacuum and wipe down the sides and back of the fridge and the floor.



**4.** Once the floor is dry, plug in the refrigerator and rearrange the power cord and supply lines so they don't get a kink or stuck under the weight of the refrigerator. Slide the refrigerator back into place. Be sure to replace the toe kick panel if this was removed.

TOUCHSTONEENERGY.COM

## ALL OF OUR LINES ARE CUSTOMER SERVICE LINES.

Learn more about your locally owned and operated Touchstone Energy cooperative at [TouchstoneEnergy.com](http://TouchstoneEnergy.com). Our information's every bit as dependable as our energy.

**YOUR SOURCE OF POWER. AND INFORMATION.**





# The importance of member engagement

By Adam Schwartz

In 2012, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), the premier trade association representing approximately 900 electric cooperatives in 47 states, released a report entitled, "The Electric Cooperative Purpose- A Compass for the 21st Century." The findings of the blue ribbon task force comprised of a dozen co-op leaders from across the country were that an electric cooperative's purpose is to, "Power communities and empower members to improve the quality of their lives."

Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative is a member of NRECA and firmly believes that you, our members, need to be at the heart of everything we do. We are proud of the fact that we are different from investor-owned utilities, where the primary purpose is to generate profit for their stockholders.

Many of those stockholders don't live in the communities served by the utility. While Coles-Moultrie must of course generate enough revenue to cover our costs, profit is not our primary motive. Serving you and your neighbors is our number one priority.

As the Electric Cooperative Purpose report noted, "Our story is about ordinary people that banded together to improve the quality of life by providing electricity to our community when no one else would do it." But that was 78 years ago. As we look to the future, we once again need your active participation in determining the future of our co-op.

Cooperatives enjoy the support of people from all walks of life. We operate in every type of business from agriculture, housing, finance, health care, technology, small business, food and many

more. Co-ops can be found in the most rural to the most urban areas.

Coles-Moultrie welcomes your input on what we can do to ensure we are meeting your needs.

One thing you can absolutely count on from your locally owned electric co-op: we will never be moving to Mexico or China like you hear of so many other companies doing. We will always be local - right here and ready to serve our members.

*Adam Schwartz is the founder of The Cooperative Way a consulting firm that helps co-ops succeed. He is an author, speaker and member-owner of the CDS Consulting Co-op. You can follow him on Twitter @adamcooperative or email him at aschwartz@thecooperativerway.coop*

## Member Exchange

### For Sale

- 1 x Uniroyal Long Touring P205/65R15 tire < 10k miles - \$40; 3x Douglas Performance P205/65R15 tires approx. 7,500 miles \$50/ea. or 3 for \$140; seldom used 21 speed Schwinn Mesa mtn. bike - \$175; 1957 Onan / Magneciter Generator (Ford Industrial 6 cyl.) 30KV, 37.5 KVA 104 Amps 120/208 AC volts 3 phase - \$1500 / OBO Call 273-1818.
- Ovation guitar - \$435; Flinthill guitar - \$275; Ovation model 1612-4 guitar - \$425; Woods

model C-80 Bush hog - \$325; 17" Locomotive bronze bell - \$4,500; Tom-Tom XL GPS - \$30; Power poles - \$20 each; Hydraulic and mechanical jacks - \$20 - \$50; Gas weed eaters - \$25 each; Saddle and Tack - \$200; Electric dog collar - \$60; Craftsman belt drive table saw - \$125; Canon A1 Hi-8 camera/case - \$105; Misc spud wrenches - \$20-\$30 each; Welding leads 4-O - 60 cents/lb; Poulan Pro pole saw and tools - \$200; Cordless weed-eater - \$10; Huskee 160 lb spreader - \$35; Old barn wood - misc. pricing; One ton Vale chain hoist - \$100; Dake 1 1/2 press - \$450. Call 217-246-4885.

- Local Christian business owner is looking to lease the hunting rights for future hunting seasons on a couple of local properties that have good deer hunting

potential. I am in my 50's, hunt alone and only hunt with a bow so there will be no firearms used. I carry liability insurance and will also sign a release of liability to further protect you. I follow all game laws and will also follow any rules that you set forth as well as respect you and your property. Willing to pay a fair price or barter goods and /or services for the privilege of bow-hunting for deer on your land. Contact me to discuss the possibilities with no obligations on your part. I am even willing to meet with you in person so that you can see who you would be dealing with, again with no obligations. I would like to get arrangements made before things green up in the spring so that I can scout the property for the best locations to place tree stands. Please call 217-273-2825. Thank you.