



A Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Hi-Lites

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH



Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative celebrates National Cooperative Month

October is National Cooperative Month, and Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative – and all co-ops across the U.S. – are celebrating the benefits and values that cooperatives bring to their members and communities.

While co-ops operate in many industries and sectors of the economy, seven cooperative principles set us apart from other businesses: voluntary and open membership; democratic member control; member's economic

participation; autonomy and independence; education, training and information; cooperation among cooperatives; and concern for community.

“Today, people prefer options and alternatives to ‘big box’ businesses,” says Kim Leftwich, CEO. “The co-op business model is unique and rooted in our local communities. Co-ops help us build a more participatory, sustainable, and resilient economy.”

Coles-Moultrie is proud to be part

of America's cooperative network, which includes more than 47,000 cooperative businesses.

Electric co-ops provide power for many Illinoisans, with 24 electric distribution co-ops serving more than 294,000 homes and businesses.

Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative is one of more than 900 electric cooperatives, public utility districts and public power districts serving 42 million people in 47 states.



A publication of Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative

A 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 August 6, 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, and Dean Robison being a quorum of the directors of the Cooperative. Also present were Kim Leftwich - President/CEO, Jim Wallace - Director of Operations, Amy Borntreger - Chief Financial Officer, Darla Powell - Director of Human Resources/Office Manager and Bill Tapella - Eberspacher & Tapella.

The agenda was approved as amended in addition to the Consent Calendar as submitted that included the New Members, the June Safety & Training report and the 6/25/15 Regular Board meeting minutes.

Bill Tapella gave the legal report. Director fees and expenses for April, May and June were approved as presented by the Audit & Finance Committee.

The motion to accept the loan documents as presented by Staff was approved.

It was decided to remain with the current audit firm, Dryer Kelso, for the CMEC Audit of 2015.

After discussion, Director Robison was allowed to take his final Board Leadership course at the NRECA Region V meeting.

The board decided to accept the budget amendment with alternatives to be executed at the discretion of the CEO. The CEO will report back to the Board.

Amy Borntreger gave the financial report.

The Form 990 was presented to the Board of Directors at the meeting and a copy will be emailed to the Directors for their review.

The Board of Directors would like to have a Media and Social Networking Policy established and a copy of the template sent to the Directors as well as Corporate Counsel.

Kim Leftwich gave the President/CEO report.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



Free

- Dead medium-sized tree that you can cut down for winter wood. Call 217-235-1391.

Wanted

- Weight lifting bench with barbells. Call 217-531-8866.

Medical necessity

For some electric cooperative members, service is more than a convenience; it is a necessity. Coles Moultrie Electric Cooperative realizes that some homes are equipped with life-sustaining medical equipment that requires a reliable source of power. Our commitment to you is to provide electric service safely and with as few interruptions as possible. Unfortunately, it is impossible to guarantee uninterrupted power 100% of the time. Each year, events - some beyond our control - occur and cause power outages.

If your health or well-being depends on electric supply, please contact us at Coles Moultrie Electric and we will do our best, in the event of an outage, to get power back to your home in a timely fashion.

Have your physician write us a note explaining the situation. Upon receipt of this documentation, we can make

a note of the medical need on the account. This way, our representatives will be aware of the condition in the event of an outage or if the account is scheduled for disconnection. The presence of critical medical devices does not exempt service from termination due to non-payment of bill. Anticipated payment delays should be addressed through the cooperative's office.

In addition to letting us know, we also offer these additional suggestions for your safety and strongly encourage you to implement them:

- Obtain a back-up source of power recommended by the manufacturer of any life sustaining or critical care equipment you may have in your home. For example, battery back-ups or standby generators can provide you with electric power if service from the cooperative is

interrupted. Call the office at 888-661-2632 if you have questions or need assistance with this.

- Talk with relatives or friends today and devise a plan whereby the individual who relies on this equipment will have somewhere to stay in the event of a major power outage, or even for just a few hours.

Notifying the cooperative of your situation does not guarantee uninterrupted electric service, nor does it guarantee immediate attention to your individual service should the area experience a power outage. It does alert us to the situation. Letting us know your specific needs allows Coles Moultrie Electric Cooperative personnel to better serve you. This is just another way Coles Moultrie is looking out for you.



MY APPLIANCES AREN'T THE ONLY ENERGY STARS IN MY HOUSE.

I am, too. Because now I know how to get the most out of them. By simply using more efficient settings on my ENERGY STAR® qualified appliances, I'm really helping the savings grow. What can you do? Find out how the little changes add up at TogetherWeSave.com.

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, you would 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 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 unenergized 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 that they are receiving the proper savings. Thank you for your prompt attention on this matter.



IF IT'S NOT INSULATED, NEITHER ARE YOU.

REPLACE, NEVER REPAIR DAMAGED EXTENSION CORDS.

Helping members use electricity safely, that's the power of your co-op membership.

Learn more from the experts themselves at TogetherWeSave.com.