



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Hi-Lites

Lives on the line

By Meghaan Evans

Every year, we take the time to thank our extraordinary lineworkers who dedicate their lives to keeping the lights on in our local communities. Thirteen lineworkers maintain 1,990 miles of line in Coles Moultrie Electric Cooperative's service territory, and without them, our world would be dark.

We depend on our entire staff to keep Coles-Moultrie running smoothly, but on April 10, 2017, we honor all lineworkers who often find themselves in dangerous and challenging situations, so our lives may be a little bit brighter and safer every day. These brave men and women repair damaged lines and maintain critical infrastructure for our communities.

Without their hard work and commitment to the job, our co-op would not thrive. No matter the time—day or night, weekday or weekend—if the lights go out, so do they.

Perhaps you have seen them raising their bucket trucks in howling winds and torrential rains, or in freezing, icy conditions. They work around the clock near high-voltage power lines until electricity is restored to every member in our co-op community.

In addition to aiding members in our local service territory, lineworkers are always willing and eager to volunteer when a neighboring community, county or state is in need after a major outage occurs.

Our lineworkers are brave, committed and critical to our success. This April, we will be celebrating them on Lineman Appreciation Day.

We hope you will join us in thanking the many lineworkers—both locally and around the world—that light our lives. Remember, your power works because they do! Use #ThankALineman on social media to show your support.

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.



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

Dean Robison..... Windsor

Chris Christman..... Sullivan

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

**Minutes of Regular Board Meeting
 January 26, 2017**

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 on the 26th day of January, 2017, 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, Chris Christman, 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 Borntrager - Chief Financial Officer, Jim Wallace - Director of Operations & Engineering, Darla Powell - Director of Human Resources/ Office Manager, Eric Hobbie, President & CEO, Prairie Power Inc. and Bill Tapella - Corporate Counsel, Tapella & Eberspacher.

Motion was made by Robison to approve the agenda. Motion seconded. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Albin to approve the Consent Calendar as submitted, the December Safety & Training report, and the 01/05/2017 Regular Board meeting minutes. Motion seconded. Motion passed.

Presentation was made by Eric Hobbie.

Motion was made by Albin to go into Executive Session. Motion seconded. Motion passed.

Bill Tapella gave the Legal report.

Motion was made by Albin to come out of Executive Session. Motion passed.

Steve Shrader, Chairman of the Audit & Finance Committee reported on the meeting held prior to the Board meeting and made a motion to approve the Director fees and expenses for October, November and December. Motion seconded. Motion carried.

Kim Leftwich presented Board Policy #24 and recommended changes.

Motion was made by Albin to accept Staff's recommendations to Board Policy #24 and to ask Corporate Counsel to craft new language for the policy and to bring it back at the next meeting. Motion seconded. After discussion, motion passed.

Steve Shrader, Chairman of the Bylaw Committee presented the recommended changes from the Committee and they were presented by Corporate Counsel.

Motion was made by Christman to amend the Bylaws to allow members to vote in election by electronic means, through amendment to Article III, Sections 3 and 4 and Article V, Section 2. Motion seconded. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Shrader to amend Article V, Section 3 of the Bylaws to prohibit employees or their immediate family from serving on the Board of

Directors for a period of 5 years after the employee terminates employment with the Cooperative. The Amendment would apply to any candidate seeking office after January 1, 2017. Motion seconded. Motion passed with Christman abstaining.

Motion was made by Bowers to amend Article V, Section 3 of the Bylaws to prohibit any person from serving on the Board who has a conviction for a felony offense during the ten-year period preceding the candidates request for nominating petition. Motion seconded. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Albin to amend Article VI, Section 6 and Article V, Section 3(d) of the Bylaws to allow Board members to participate in Board meetings by phone for good cause. Under the proposed amendment, no Board member could participate by phone in more than one meeting annually without full Board approval. Motion seconded. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Albin to amend Article IV, Sections 4 and 5 of the Bylaws to allow electronic notice of member meetings and to allow electronic attendance at member meeting, both if determined appropriate by the Board and upon terms and conditions established by the Board of Directors. Motion seconded. Motion passed.

The Board directed Corporate Counsel to finalize the language of the Bylaw Amendments and to bring the final proposed amendments to the Board during their Strategic Planning Session for consideration. Those Bylaws, as amended, will be submitted to the membership for a vote for the 2017 CMEC Annual Meeting.

Motion was made by Shrader to elect Debbie Albin as the CFC voting delegate at the NRECA Annual Meeting and Dean Robison as the alternate. Motion seconded. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Albin to allow Chris Christman and Steve Shrader to attend the NRECA Legislative Conference. Motion seconded. Motion passed.

Amy Borntrager gave the Financial Report.

Electric revenue for December was \$2,330,821 compared to the budgeted amount \$2,355,122. It was higher than December 2015 \$2,100,218. For the year, our revenue varies from budget by \$175,341, which is less than 1%.

Cost of power for the year ended up being \$883,906 less than the budgeted amount. The NITS charges came in higher again for the month of December than the preliminary estimate from PPI. PPI said that Ameren revised the transmission peak for November 2016 and this caused a true up on our power bill.

Debbie Albin reviewed the AIEC Board Meeting.

Scott Uphoff discussed the PPI Board Meeting.

Kim Leftwich reviewed his recent attendance at the NRECA CEO Close-Up Conference.

Kim Leftwich gave the President/CEO Report.

President/CEO Report – January 2017 Board Meeting 1/19/17

Staff Community Participation

- Amy Borntrager, Chief Financial Officer, has been elected Vice President of the Mattoon Chamber of Commerce
- Sam Adair, Manager of Marketing and Member Services, has been elected Secretary of the Mattoon Chamber of Commerce Area Young Professionals group.

Ice Storm Alert and Preparations

- Multiple actions were taken to insure CMEC was prepared to respond
 - CMEC had been alerted of the potential for freezing rain and ice accumulation for January 13-15, 2017. CMEC had multiple weather report sources to help track storm potential.
 - CMEC and Anixter collaborated, determining potential material needs; Anixter, as our partner, inventoried and stocked storm trailers should we experience severe problems; recall that with our VMI/VMI agreement, Anixter first responds to CMEC needs before anyone else.
 - CMEC and PPI prepared plans in the event of a severe transmission damage event; PPI kept all crews on stand-by with materials pre-determined should the need arise.
 - CMEC and CRC coordinated emergency response for preparations on both ends to insure communications and actions could be properly coordinated.
 - CMEC Operations reviewed all emergency response plans to insure they were up to date; CMEC Operations met with representatives from each department to outline responsibilities of each group and individual.
 - CFC coordinated with CMEC outlining stand-by lending mechanisms in the event of major damage event.

EIU/CMEC Energy Consortium

- Continued efforts to establish an energy innovation working group in the CMEC territory coupled with academia.
- Seeking partners in business, industry and government to develop the consortium in east central Illinois.

NRECA CEO Close-Up Conference

- KBL was a presenter at the First General Session of the conference, providing an update to the group on success thus far of the “Serve Our Coops/Serve Our Country” veterans employment initiative.
- Numerous cooperatives joined the collation during the conference including G&T’s,

Telco’s, and distribution cooperatives; industry vendors sought to join as well expanding those who have adopted the initiative.

Strategic Planning Initiative

- Met with Aaron Stallings, CFC on January 23rd to finalize plans and materials for the CMEC Strategic Planning Initiative; scheduled January 30-31, 2017.

CMEC Connect

- New Azotel suite of applications permits CMEC to keep a close eye on our internet system operations; from our head-end computer, we can perform numerous system checks to restore services, determine failed signal checks, and monitor general system operation. More services are available through the software and we continue to explore usefulness for our members.
- Office 365 installation complete and our former email service has been discontinued at a savings of \$1500 per month.

Marketing/Member Services

- CMEC Staff Member Sam Adair conducted a safety demo for St. John’s Lutheran School 1st grade class.
- CMEC has continued to run radio spots on the WMCI radio station group including FM 101.3; 104.3; 92.1; and 103.9. Presently, we are focusing on our generator sales program.
- Key Accounts luncheon is scheduled for April 19th; at present, we are developing our program of seminars and luncheon speakers; the event will be at Lake Land College this year.
- Key Accounts site visits begin this month, January. Open discussions will include our Cost of Service study and consequent Rate redesign; Questline, Annual Meeting Business Expo, CMEC Connect opportunities, and other topics pertaining to our C&I members.

GIS

- All poles have been fully attributed; we’ve begun to plot lines (wires) denoting green, red and orange phases out to line end points. Mapping and attributing of substations/feeders will commence following completion of line segments.

LED Lighting

- 1127 LED fixtures are installed, replacing a like number of mercury vapor and high pressure sodium fixtures.
- We now have an LED replacement fixture for every type light we serve.

Engineering

- Organizing 2017 Construction Work Plan projects – see separate report.
- Working with Ameren on locations for their gas AMI repeaters.
- Siemens regulator control panel training was conducted January 11th; panels have shipped and installation will begin February.

- Six 150 amp regulators received and installation begins in coming months.
- Awaiting PPI selection of an electrical engineer shared with Eastern Illini.

Operations

- W1D/W1E miles rebuild is complete, one of the approved Construction Work Plan projects. The improvement gives CMEC a tie-line capable of carrying the south end of our system from Toledo to Sigel.
- Routine new services, service upgrades, and retirements are being completed with minimal wait times.

Fleet

- New crew truck delivery has been delayed as the manufacturer did not understand our criteria for outrigger foot pads; delivered mid-February.
- New serviceman bucket truck is to be delivered week of January 30th.

IT/SCADA

- Hosted exchange email transition is complete; all machines are now on Office 365 with current applications.
 - Displays are running in Glance (SCADA viewer) with new displays under development to meet employee needs.
 - Continuing software updates recommended by PPI to eliminate cyber security vulnerabilities.
 - PPI analyzed our systems, utilizing FBI provided evaluation tools and found no evidence of impact from the Russian Grizzly Steppe attacks.
 - Reprogramming AMI monthly read meters to daily read; change keeps meter clocks in sync and eliminates missed meter reads.
 - New document scanner is in service, eliminating several known security vulnerabilities
- Motion was made by Shrader to adjourn. Motion seconded. Motion passed.

Minutes of a Special Board Meeting January 31, 2017

A Special meeting of the Board of Directors of Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative was held at the Lake Land College Training Center, 305 Richmond Avenue East, #2, Mattoon, Illinois at 3:40pm on the 31st day of January, 2017, pursuant to a waiver of notice for the Special Board Meeting. The meeting was called to order by Jeff Hudson, Chairman. After calling the roll, the following directors were present: John Bowers, Jeff Hudson, Chris Christman, Dean Robison, Steve Shrader, Scott Uphoff, and Debbie Albin.

Motion was made by Uphoff to approve by laws proposal. Motion seconded. After discussion, motion passed unanimously.

Motion was made by Robison to table policy #24 made by Dean Robison. Motion seconded. After discussion, motion passed 6-1 with Director Albin voting no.

Motion was made by Uphoff to adjourn at 3:52pm. Motion seconded. Motion carried.

Scholarship Deadline Approaching

You could be one of six students who receive a \$500 Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative scholarship.

To qualify for entry:

1. Applicant must be either a Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative member or under 21 years of age and a legal dependent of a Coles-Moultrie member.
2. Applicant must be enrolled in either a two- or four-year degree program at an accredited institution in Illinois.
3. Applicant cannot have previously received a Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative scholarship.
4. Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative employees, directors, and any of their dependents are ineligible.
5. Applications must be received at Coles-Moultrie's office (104 Dewitt Avenue, East, P.O. Box 709, Mattoon, IL 61938-0709) no later than April 28, 2017.

DEADLINE FOR ENTRY IS APRIL 28, 2017

If you are interested in more information and/or an application, please contact Kelsey Hawkins, Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 709, Mattoon, IL 61938 or call (217) 235-0341 or toll-free 1-888-661-2632 or e-mail at khawkins@cmec.coop

Join Us for Lunch on FRIDAY, June 16th

Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative is again offering a buffet lunch prior to the start of the Annual Meeting. Lunch will be served from 11 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. The meal will include fried chicken, BBQ pork, baked beans, seven-layer salad, macaroni salad, potato chips, dessert, coffee, tea, and lemonade. The cost of the meal is \$5 per person with children 12 and under free.

To be eligible for one of two \$50 bill credit drawings, you must purchase your dinner tickets **by Friday, June 2, 2017**. Tickets may be purchased at the cooperative office or by mail. To purchase by mail, send your check to Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative, Attention Kelsey Hawkins, P.O. Box 709, Mattoon, Illinois 61938. Please include a note indicating the name on your electric bill and the number of tickets being purchased. Your tickets will be sent to you by return mail.

The bill credit drawings will be held just before the close of the business session of the Annual Meeting. **You must be present to win.**

A limited number of tickets will be for sale at the door. However, only those tickets purchased **by Friday, June 2nd** will be eligible for the bill credit drawing.

Member



Exchange

For Sale

- 1999 Honda Goldwing, 3 wheel trike, mileage 46,468, Model GL1500SE, VIN 1HFFC2230XA131133, Maroon with a lot of silver, 2 maroon helmets to match - \$14,000. Call 217-621-5564.
- New take off parts for 2005 Harley Fat Boy, aluminum wheels, too many parts to list. Call 217-345-9183 or 217-549-1063.
- King and Queen chairs, excellent condition, email photo available - \$1,500 or best offer. Call 630-303-3980.
- Washer/Gas Dryer, Kenmore Heavy Duty, extra large capacity - \$55 each or \$100 for the pair. Call 217-246-7333.
- Two bicycles, 16" BMX 1 speed Blaster - \$30 each or both for \$55. Call 217-246-7333.
- Gas Dryer, Whirlpool, heavy duty, super capacity - \$85; Washer, front load Maytag - \$75 or \$150 for the pair. Call 217-246-7333.
- Marble rose colored slab, 41.5" X 17.5" X 1.00", good condition - \$50; Electric water cooler, five-gallon water container, good condition - \$60. Call 217-345-3171.

Member Exchange is a free service for CMEC members.