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Hi-Lites

Ballots to be mailed

This year board districts 2 and 4 are uncontested, therefore no voting is needed for these districts. John Bowers and Debbie Albin will be re-elected by acclamation. Candidate profiles are printed on page 18D.

On May 25, 2017, ballots will be mailed to all of Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative's members regarding bylaw changes. Details of the proposed changes will be enclosed in your ballot packet and can also be viewed on our website (cmec.coop).

In order for your vote to count, you must return your properly executed ballot to the post office box printed on the return envelope by Tuesday, June 13, 2017. Ballots cannot be turned in at the cooperative office. They must be in the post office box printed on the ballot return envelope.

Please carefully follow the instructions that are included with your ballot to ensure that your ballot counts. After marking each ballot, insert the ballots in the ballot envelope. Then insert the ballot envelope into the ballot return envelope. The ballot return envelope is the mailing envelope you use to return your executed ballot to the post office box.

For your ballot to be processed and counted, you must sign the certification on the ballot return envelope. This certification helps to ensure the integrity of the election. Your signature on this envelope means that, as the member of record, you are the person voting the ballot. During past years, several members have failed to sign the certification on the ballot return envelope, therefore, those envelopes were never opened and the ballots were not counted.

On the day the election inspectors count the ballots, the signed certification on all ballot return envelopes is compared to the cooperative's membership list.



After completing this process, all ballot envelopes are removed from the ballot return envelopes. Next, the ballot envelopes are opened and the ballots removed for counting. Therefore, though you signed the ballot return envelope, this procedure prevents anyone from knowing how you voted.

We hope this explanation will help prevent you from returning your ballot unsigned and, thus, increase member participation in the voting.

As an added incentive to return your ballot, the Ballot Return Envelope of each member voting, with the name of the member on it, will be placed in a box for a special drawing by the Election Inspectors. Ten \$25 electric bill credits will be given away.

We encourage you to exercise your right as a member of this cooperative by casting your ballot regarding the bylaw changes. Your mailed ballot must be in the Mattoon Post Office by Tuesday, June 13, 2017 to be counted.

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

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 23rd day of February 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, Sam Adair - Manager of Marketing & Member Services, Darla Powell - Director of Human Resources/Office Manager and Bill Tapella - Corporate Counsel, Tapella & Eberspacher.

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

Motion was made by Uphoff to approve the Consent Calendar as submitted, the January Safety & Training report, the 01/26/2017 Audit & Finance Committee meeting minutes, 01/26/2017 Regular Board meeting minutes and the 01/31/2017 Special Board meeting minutes. Motion seconded. Motion passed.

Bill Tapella gave the Legal report.

Motion was made by Shrader to go into executive session. Motion seconded. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Shrader to come out of executive session. Motion seconded. Motion passed.

Motion was made by Uphoff to adopt the recommendation of counsel concerning the settlement of issues pending with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, all per counsel's recommendation as discussed in Executive Session. Motion seconded. Motion approved.

Motion was made by Uphoff that pursuant to the advice of counsel, specifically, Article V, Section 3 (a)(3)(c) of the Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative Bylaws, to deny Nominating Petitions to a member. Motion seconded. Motion carried with Director Albin abstaining.

Motion was made by Albin to deny the member information request filed by a cooperative member. Said request merely asks for information for the purpose of "communicating with members." Under the policies of the Cooperative governing the release of information to members, member information cannot be released for commercial purpose and other prohibited purposes. Where the member did not designate a specific purpose for his communication, the request must be denied.

Motion seconded. Motion passed.

Motion was made by Christman to approve the bylaw amendments and for them to be voted on in sections A, B and C. Motion seconded. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Robison to appoint Kim Leftwich as the voting delegate at the CRC annual meeting and Steve Shrader as the alternate. Motion seconded. Motion passed.

Motion was made by Uphoff to decline the invitation of AIEC to pass a Resolution concerning the disconnection of LIHEAP members. Motion seconded. Motion carried.

The financial report was reviewed. January 2017 sales were well below budgeted kWh and revenue figures. Total operation expenditures were also below budgeted amount by \$82,031 and \$5,798. Our debt has been reduced by \$1.2M from last year. Our equity position is a strong 50.14%.

Debbie Albin reviewed the AIEC Board Meeting.

Scott Uphoff discussed the PPI Board Meeting.

Kim Leftwich gave the President/CEO report.

President/CEO Report – February 2017 Board Meeting February 17, 2017

GIS

■ CMEC has been asked to present a paper before the Illinois GIS Association Regional Meeting on March 28th to describe our GIS development, a noteworthy invitation. EIU was quite impressed with our development and suggested the presentation to ILGISA.

■ The GIS section will provide a presentation to EIU's GIS department and students March 21st.

■ Some 44% of lines have been plotted across the entire GIS map; 38% of all tree cover has been shown, and missing work orders from years' past are being picked up from our vault and brought up to date in GIS.

Strategic Planning

■ Provided separately to the Board is a summary document of all the information and outcomes from the Board/Staff Strategic Planning initiative held January 30-31, 2017.

■ All CMEC employees were briefed on Strategic Planning findings and plan development February 7, 2017

■ Staff plans to prepare materials outlining the Strategic Planning process and outcomes to share with CMEC members. We believe it is important to let our members know what we see for CMEC in the future and what to expect.

Key Account Spring Program

■ As announced previously, our Key Accounts Spring Program will be held April 19, 2017, at LakeLand College

- Congressman John Shimkus has accepted our invitation as Keynote speaker at the luncheon session; Congressman Shimkus will offer his views on the “first 100 days” of the new administration, addressing the economy, energy, taxes, and other topics important to our Commercial and Industrial members.

East Central Illinois Energy Innovation Center

- Efforts continue to build a consortium of academic institutions, electric industry participants and vendors, government and NGO agencies as well as community stakeholders to develop an east central Illinois “Energy Innovation Center.”
- Most recently, the University of Illinois Sustainable Technology Center joined EIU, LakeLand College, Coles Together and CMEC as partner on the steering committee to help in development of the concept.
- The project is gaining considerable momentum among industry stakeholders and others. KBL to meet with NRECA Business Technologies and Strategies leadership at the TechAdvantage Conference February 27-28, 2017. Additionally, multiple meetings have been scheduled at the conference to solicit industry vendor participation in the project.
- CMEC has arranged a visit to the Prairie State Generating Campus for April 13, 2017, for EIU faculty and students in their energy programs; PSGC will provide a mine tours and power plant tour.

Commercial Invoice

- Past uncollected billing of a major commercial member was set in a payment agreement some months ago. The member has continued to meet the payment schedule and reduced the \$48,000 + invoice to slightly more than \$4000.

LED Lighting

- 1203 LED security lights have been installed, replacing a like number of mercury vapor and high pressure sodium security lights. Energy and maintenance savings continue to accrue.

Engineering

- Toth and Associates, our consulting engineer, is assisting in investigating short and long-term solutions for voltage issue experienced while back feeding MPMI. Toth is also helping with MPMI capacitor bank installation.
- Toth is assisting with the Charleston Stone Purchased Power Agreement.
- Continuing to develop locations with AMEREN for their gas meter repeaters supporting their Automated Metering Infrastructure.
- New regulator control panels, purchased under a cost saving program and adding enhanced capability for our system, are being installed. A complete replacement

plan is in place to track and update the entire inventory.

- Three 150 amp regulators have been installed on the L5 mile. The removed 75 amp regulators will be refurbished, tested, and installed as part of a short-term solution to MPMI's voltage issue.
- PPI Board approved hiring an electrical engineer to be shared among CMEC, Eastern Illini, and PPI. Recruiting has been initiated.
- As part of our relationship with EIU, David Welsh/Jim Wallace met with EIU Technology staff February 3rd to determine a means to provide smart meter access to EIU.

Operations

- Starting work on the Charleston Stone Project; to be accomplished in two steps – pole and conductor service to the quarry will be replaced first, followed by a new line feeding the electric rock crusher; expect to complete the project by mid-March. Member expects to be operational in April.
- Routine new services, service upgrades, and retirements are being completed with minimal wait times for members.
- O&M performed on the J and S miles identified work orders for pole replacements in those areas.

Fleet

- The new crew bucket truck was delivered 2/7/17; truck is stocked and in service; the unit is a 2017 international with a 55' ALTEC aerial device; truck was ordered as part of the 2016 capital budget.
- The new Serviceman bucket truck was delivered 2/3/17; stocked and in service; it is a 2017 Dodge 5500 with a 47" VERSALIFT aerial device; the truck was a demonstrator, saving the cooperative \$20,000 over the cost of a “new” truck; the vehicle was budgeted in the 2017 capital budget.

IT/SCADA

- Begun replacing regulator panels with the new Siemens MJ-5 panels; new panels provide more control with our new PPI hosted OSI SCADA system and offers communications upgrades for remote monitoring and operation as we upgrade our system to more intelligent electronic devices downline.
- Continuing work on software updates for office computers to eliminate vulnerabilities; working with PPI for hosting an email spam filter
- Discovered an issue of non-reporting meters (approximately 200) with no apparent cause; Trilliant working with CMEC to identify the issue; meters can be estimated temporarily until the fix is determined.

Safety and Training

- AIEC conducted our Safety Meeting

January 25th and provided testing for all personnel protective grounds.

- February 13th, an “In-Service” training session was conducted for all Operations personnel by ALTEC on the new crew bucket truck.
- Eric Starwalt, Brian McMichaels, J.R. Haslett, and Jim Wallace attended the AIEC sponsored SST Conference in Decatur on February 1st and 2nd.
- Working with the Energy Education Council/Safe Electricity to outline means to educate members and employees in electrical safety.

CMEC Connect

- CMEC Connect showed a profit in January 2017.
- Gays water tower base station failed on February 3rd in the early morning; an Ethernet port failed causing the internet outage; a tower crew had to be assembled and dispatched; service was restored February 4th by 8:30 am.
- Continue to roll-out “spur” sites to small pockets of users; it is an especially inexpensive way to reach additional users – generally, 3 users on a “spur” justifies installation and payback in a single 2-year contract.

Marketing/Member Services

- Carla Bradbury has been assigned to the section to manage member applications, communications, and other member service activities.

New Business

- Director Albin noted that NRECA Training Class 964.1 “New Energy Landscape” will be provided at the AIEC on 3/8/17. Albin recommended Director attendance.

Old Business

- Brief discussion regarding the State of Illinois accounts and slow payments because of legislative budget impasse.
- Board Policy #24 “Member Request for Cooperative Information” was discussed. This item had been tabled at the January 31st special meeting, Board members requested that the policy be removed from the table and acted on.

Director Robison made a motion to remove Board policy #24 from the table. Motion seconded. Motion passed.

Motion made by Robison to send Board policy #24 to the Policy Committee. Motion seconded. After considerable discussion, motion passed.

Motion was made by Robison to go into executive session. Motion seconded. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Robison to come out of executive session. Motion seconded. Motion passed.

Motion was made by Uphoff to adjourn. Motion seconded. Motion passed.

Director Election Profiles

The biographical information for these candidates has been provided by the candidates who are solely responsible for the content. Neither the

Coles Moultrie Board of Directors, the officers of the Cooperative, nor the staff contributed to these biographies or verified the content.

District #2 John Bowers of Lovington



John Bowers is a retired Engineer/Manager from Honeywell Federal Manufacturing and Technologies (FM&T) in Kansas City, Mo. The FM&T facility is managed and operated

for the Department of Energy as a supplier of non-nuclear components for the Nuclear Weapons Complex. Mr. Bowers worked at the FM&T facility for 34 years as an employee of Management and Operation contractors Bendix the AlliedSignal and finally Honeywell Corporation. He worked in various engineering and management positions including Telemetry Engineering, Facilities/Utilities Engineering and also Program Management. His work included two separate one-year assignments at Sandia Laboratories Livermore and Sandia Laboratories Albuquerque respectively. He also served several years as a member of the Children's Mercy Hospital Oncology Center board of directors as part of a Honeywell community service program.

Mr. Bowers served 27 years combined

service in the US Air Force and Air Force Reserve and retired from the reserve in 1995 at the rank of Lt. Colonel. He served as a Civil Engineering Officer, a Communications and Electronics Officer, Communications Squadron Commander, and as an Intelligence Analyst. He has served three terms on the CMEC board and obtained the Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) and Board Leadership Certificate (BLC) certifications. In addition, he has served as board Treasurer and Secretary.

Mr. Bowers earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering from Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology Terre Haute, Ind. and a Master of Science Degree in Electrical Engineering from University of Missouri Columbia, Mo.

John and his wife, Linda, raised four boys and were active in Scouting and coaching youth soccer in the Kansas City area. John and Linda moved to the Lovington, Ill. area after retirement in 2002. His hobbies include woodworking, restoring old military radios and amateur radio.

Mr. Bowers grew up in Lovington and attended/graduated from Lovington High School.

District #4 Debbie Albin of Mattoon



Debbie Albin and her husband Mike, live in Buck Grove Subdivision five miles south of Mattoon. They have two sons, Chris (Busan, South Korea) and Dustin (Carbondale, Ill.). She

is the Area Director of Catholic Charities of Coles, Douglas and Edgar Counties.

Debbie has a Master of Science in Education degree from SIU-Carbondale, Certificates in Human Resources and Management from Parkland Business Development Center and the American Management Association, and is a graduate of Coles County Leadership sponsored by the Charleston and Mattoon Chambers.

She is a member and Past President of Mattoon Rotary Club and a member of the First United Methodist Church in Mattoon. She is also Vice-Chair of the Coles County Housing Authority.

Debbie has been on the board for nine years and is currently the Vice-Chair. She is a Credentialed Co-op Director, has completed her

Board Leadership Certificate, and has attained the Director Gold status. She also serves on the AIEC Board of Directors where she is the chair of the annual meeting committee and serves on the Scholarship committee and the Safety and Training Committee. She is a past employee of CMEC where she held the position of Compliance & Loss Control Specialist. She completed her Loss Control Internship through NRECA (National Rural Electric Cooperative Association) and NUTSEA (National Utility Training and Safety Education Association), and became a Certified Loss Control Specialist.

Debbie was employed for 27 years with Illinois Power Co., an investor-owned electric and gas utility. While at IP, she worked in customer relations, emergency service, engineering, credit, customer service, and operations. She also worked for three years as the Director of Training for Safety Compliance. Her experience in the electrical industry and safety field, as well as the additional training that she has completed, has helped her to understand the issues that are currently facing Coles Moultrie and to work with the rest of the board to make informed decisions.



**Our office will be closed
Monday, May 29 in
observance of
Memorial Day**

Member  **Exchange** 

For Sale

- Large collection of hardback books, gardening books, cookie jars, Hummel figurines, and teapots for sale. Call 217-345-5048 for details.

Member Exchange is provided as a free service to Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative members.