




Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Hi-Lites

2018 Cooperative Youth Day

Area students had the opportunity to visit our State Capitol and meet various leaders on Wednesday, April 18 in Springfield for this annual event. For over 55 years, the electric and telephone cooperatives of Illinois have given tomorrow's leaders the opportunity to learn from



today's public officials. These outstanding students get to see democracy in action when they meet their elected representatives. Over the years, thousands of students have learned how government works and why it's important for every citizen to get involved.



Shown L-R: Emma Harris, Senator Chapin Rose, MaKenna Green, Emmalyn Walk, Aly Easton, Gavon Hargrove, Griffin Paul, Representative Brad Halbrook and Grace Bowen.

2018 board of director elections

Your cooperative wants to remind you election ballots were mailed out May 24. Members can vote by mail or online at www.cmec.coop. Although we have changed the voting method this year, you can be assured your vote is completely confidential. In fact, your ballot is never seen by CMEC members or employees. The ballots are tabulated by an independent outside vendor, Survey & Ballot



Systems (SBS). SBS provides this confidential service to cooperatives and organizations across the country assuring complete anonymity of the voter. Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. Directors are elected by our members and are accountable to the cooperative. We encourage you to vote!



Celebrate with Us!

Our 79th Annual Meeting is fast approaching. This is the day we look forward to all year! We get the chance to meet our members as they register, enjoy lunch, walk through our member showcase, and engage with fellow friends and neighbors at our business session. Lunch tickets are still on sale at our office for \$5. We look forward to seeing you at Peterson Park, Friday, June 15 starting at 10 a.m. Be sure to follow us on Facebook and Twitter to keep up to date on all the details.



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 Chairman

(Vacant).....

Secretary

John Bowers Lovington

Treasurer

Steve Shrader..... Westfield

Director

Debbie Albin.....Mattoon

Dean Robison..... Windsor

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.

Send your current email
to info@cmeccoop.com



for a chance to win a
\$25 bill credit.

Board Report

Annual Audit

■ LWG CPAs and Advisors, newly selected by the Board of Directors, conducted the CMEC annual audit March 5-7, 2018. Written results will be forthcoming to be presented to the Board, but preliminarily, the auditors were satisfied with results they found.

Director Nominations

■ Reviewed director nomination packages from seven members, interviewing each. All individuals met qualifications as outlined in the CMEC By Laws.

Future Energy Jobs Act (FEJA)

■ Participated in a conference call March 6 through the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) to learn of an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) Proposed Order to the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC). The ALJ concluded that electric cooperatives (and municipals) were excluded from participating in FEJA. Subsequently, a number of stakeholders filed opinions supporting inclusion of cooperatives (municipals). The ICC has until April 3 to prepare a Final Order. It is not clear how the ICC may rule.

Member Advisory Committee (MAC) Meeting

■ A MAC meeting was conducted March 7 utilizing Lake Land College facilities. Brad Rightnowar, General Counsel for AIEC, spoke describing the purpose, functions, and services of the statewide organization, AIEC. MAC members found the information very instructive and helpful in understanding cooperative activities overall.

Our Town – Community Update Breakfast

■ CMEC joined First Mid-Illinois Bank March 8 to co-sponsor the breakfast, a joint effort of the Charleston and Mattoon Chambers of Commerce. The

Illinois Chamber of Commerce CEO spoke at the event.

Rural-Urban Luncheon

■ CMEC joined a number of other sponsors to host the Rotary Rural-Urban Luncheon held March 12. The event was attended by more than 160 participants including outstanding FFA students from several local high schools. Eric Snodgrass, Professor of Atmospheric Studies at the U of I gave a very well received presentation on “Weather Risk in Agriculture.”

Accounting/HR

- Staff continues to correct deficiencies in vacation accruals, dating back a number of years; errors have been found in more than half of those reviewed.
- Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) have been converted to an on-line system; MSDS's are essential under OSHA regulations and must be current at all times; the on-line system will insure CMEC meets requirements.
- Conducting a review of all HR and Accounting procedures to insure they meet current needs and all requirements.
- May Day protocols have been updated and all employees educated; CMEC intends to run mock drills to insure employees are fully trained to respond.
- Conducted a thorough review of major equipment values and assessments as listed in all insurance policies; adjustments made to insure appropriate insurance limits and coverage.
- Our Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system has been enhanced with a new feature – Call Capture Payment Processing. The feature allows fully secure bill payment for our members and removes CMEC from the process protecting members and the cooperative.

CMEC Connect

- South Shores tower equipment has been installed and is undergoing testing; once testing is complete, we will begin offering service to the area.
- Two links, Lake Land to Union Center and Office to Charleston, have been repaired re-establishing our “ring” network; the repairs add resiliency and reliability to the system.
- Completed a link between Gays Tower and South Shores Tower; the connection completes a second ring that adds reliability and resiliency.

Marketing/Member Services

- Sam Adair will serve this summer as a Chaperone for the AIEC Youth Tour to Washington, D.C.
- Sam Adair will serve on the Sarah Bush Lincoln Foundation Golf outing committee.
- CMEC’s north east building renovations are complete including improved lighting and full ceiling; the project was included in the 2018 Capital budget and came in under budget by nearly \$9,000.

Engineering

- Establishing spring testing for Lake Land, Sarah Bush, and Fairgrange substations.
- Met with several municipal systems to evaluate opportunities to provide energy services to the communities.
- A G&W Viper three-phase breaker has been installed at the Bruce/Mattoon substations tie-point to determine phase angle difference between the two substations; the step is necessary to determine the feasibility of a zig-zag transformer at Bruce substation; if feasible, the change-out would permit maintenance at Bruce sub without taking members out of service as has been necessary in the past.

Operations

- Construction Work Plan project to rebuild/reconductor the double circuit feeder out of the Mattoon substation continues on the H-1, H-2, and H-3 miles.
- Construction Work Plan project to reconductor the H-4 mile has begun; the project will upgrade conductor size from Mattoon

sub to the Bruce/Mattoon sub tie-point; the improvement would add strength to the system supporting the interconnect.

IT/SCADA

- IP (Internet Protocol) phone deployment is complete; IP phones give CMEC the ability for communications connectivity from virtually any location.
- David Welsh and Jim Wallace attended the NRECA TechAdvantage conference held in conjunction with the NRECA Annual Meeting; specific course and seminar attendance included programs on cyber-security, industrial control systems, substation communications and microgrids.
- Now deployed on every desktop computer are the Emergency Action Plan (EAP), May Day Emergency Protocol, Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS), and a One Stop application that provides all cooperative policies, services, plans, rates, and By-Laws. The installations provide one location for all highly important emergency response materials as well as cooperative

policies and procedures – providing convenience, speed and accuracy.

GIS

- Entering meter location data in the GIS; could be a means to link GIS to our customer information system (NISC) platform.
- Continuing development of the GIS webmap to give current data versions to field workers.

Safety and Training

- Mike Stuckey (Line Foreman), Mitchell Stanciu (Line Journeyman), and Jim Wallace attended the AIEC Safety, Supervisory, and Technical (SST) Conference held in Decatur.
- Hazard Recognition training was the safety subject this past month; Jim Miles conducted the training for all employees as required; John Tiemeyer, VP of Regulatory Compliance for AIEC, joined the group as well.
- Jef White, Customer Service Representative, led the review and revision of the Emergency Action Plan. The EAP is a crucial plan document guiding the Cooperative’s actions under any emergency situation.

Going the Extra Mile

Did you know electric cooperatives maintain more miles of power lines per consumer and acquire less revenue than other types of electric utilities?

Even though they serve fewer consumers and acquire less revenue (per mile of line), electric co-ops always go the extra mile, maintaining a tried-and-true record of delivering safe, reliable electric service to the members they serve.



Electric Cooperatives

Number of consumers served: **8**



Revenue:
\$19,000

Other Electric Utilities

Number of consumers served: **32**



Revenue:
\$79,000

Sources: EIA, 2016 data.
Includes revenue and consumer averages per mile of line.

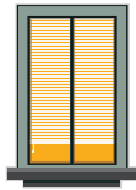
Saving money

The only way to receive the discounted rate for your submetered 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 un-energized submeter. 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 submeter is not blank and shows a reading. Second, check to make sure that your submeter breaker is in the "ON" position. This breaker in your breaker panel could be located on its own or put with any other 240-volt circuit breaker (95 percent of the time a circuit breaker has either been tripped, or shut off, inside of your circuit breaker panel). If ALL 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 submeter. We urge our members to review each month's bill to ensure they are receiving the proper savings.



Summer Energy-Saving Tips

Costs associated with cooling your home can make up a large portion of your summer electric bills. Stay cool and save money with these energy efficiency tips!

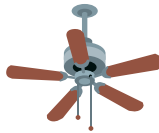


NO-COST TIPS

Close blinds and drapes during the day to keep heat out.



Set your thermostat to 78 degrees when you are home. Set it to a higher temperature when you're away.

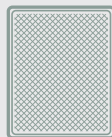


Turn off lights and ceiling fans when you leave a room.



LOW-COST TIPS

Plant trees and shrubs to shade the exterior of your home.



Replace disposable air filters (or clean permanent filters) once a month to maximize efficiency.



Use solar lighting to brighten up your outdoor space. Solar lights are easy to install, low maintenance and provide free electricity.



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES