


Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

# Hi-Lites

## Meet Our Apprentice Linemen



Left to right: Hunter Rawlings, Chandler Milbourn and James Geldert

## Capital Credits

Capital credit checks were mailed last month to members who had service with us during the years 1977-1979. As a cooperative, we operate at cost returning credits back to our members. Our board of directors annually reviews our finances to determine if credits can be retired or paid out. It is important to keep your contact information up to date with us even after you have discontinued electric service.



### How Do Capital Credits Work?

Because electric co-ops operate at cost, any excess revenues, called margins, are returned to members in the form of capital credits.



Source: National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation

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

Debbie Albin.....Mattoon

### Vice Chairman

John Bowers ..... Lovington

### Secretary

Natalie Parkerson .....Mattoon

### Treasurer

Steve Shrader..... Westfield

### Director

Jeffery D. Hudson..... Charleston

Kent Metzger ..... Gays

Bill Voyles..... Sullivan

### 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@cmec.coop](mailto:info@cmec.coop)



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

## President & CEO Report – September 2018

### Safety

■ Safety Committee met to discuss the results of the RESAP. The committee will start to take an active role in safety improvements on and off our property. In addition, Sam Adair and Anita Hoene will begin to coordinate safety training for inside and outside employees. AIEC's Jim Miles was here for this month's safety meeting reviewing forklift certification.

### CONNECT

■ Our LLC tower experienced a major lightning strike this month. We lost more than seven individual pieces of equipment. We had all equipment on hand and were able to get the tower operating immediately. Tower work/updates have been completed on the Lovington tower.

### Marketing/Member Services

■ Cooperative Month: CMEC will again participate in cooperative month in October. We have planned a Co-op Connections Card Day as well as weekly drawings for CMEC "swag." We will also take part in and around our communities participating in EIU homecoming parade, Mattoon Trunk or Treat, CMEC Volunteer Day (Catholic Charities & Douglas Hart) and a blood drive will be hosted at our office.

■ CMEC employee Carla Bradbury met with ClassE group to discuss their future connection with CMEC. In the past, CMEC has hosted a tour of our facility and explanation of how a cooperative works. We will again stay close to this group as we want to stay connected to the younger generation.

### Website Update

■ There were 1,533 visitors to the website, and they looked at 8,465 pages or 4.07 pages per person on average. They stayed on the site for approximately 2 minutes per person. 63 percent of the visitors

were first timers to the website. 874 people visited the site from their desktop computers, 575 from smart phones and 85 from tablets.

■ Facebook has 2,167 followers.

### Accounting/Finance

■ Communications around retirement of capital credits will be published in November's edition of Illinois Country Living. Checks will be distributed around mid-November retiring the excess margins for 1977, 1978 and 1979. The budget process has begun for the 2019 fiscal year. Work orders for storm that hit two southern Illinois cooperatives at the end of June, SouthEastern Electric Cooperative and Egyptian, have been closed. We received over \$50K for linemen that were lent out for storm assistance. At the Mattoon Chamber's Business Expo on Oct. 4, 2018 Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative will showcase storm assistance in Our Town Mattoon. This is a unique characteristic of the cooperative utilities that seems to fascinate people.

### LED Lighting

■ We continue to replace security and street lighting with LED lamps. Some 2,143 mercury vapor and high-pressure sodium lights have been replaced.

### Engineering

■ Manual meter reads increased to 308 for Sept. 1 reads from 201 for Aug. 1 reads. This was due to an issue with the Trilliant server. Steps have been taken to alleviate the issue.

■ Amy Borntrager, Sam Adair and Jim Wallace attended the PPI Solar Summit. They received updated information about distributed generation interconnection in the cooperative territory. David Welsh, Shaun Vester and Jim Wallace met with Tonya Hixenbaugh and Steve Pasko with NISC to discuss the

integration of the GIS model with NISC's various programs.

#### Operations

- Construction on the W1A mile has begun.

#### IT/SCADA

- Continuing work on software updates on office computers that PPI has suggested to help eliminate known vulnerabilities. In addition, we have encrypted laptops for security.
- David Welsh visited Adams Electric Cooperative to review their SCADA and Distribution Automation systems.

#### GIS

- Shaun Vester is working on the new Web GIS. Since last month's update, he has built an outage viewer to display historical outage information, as well as migrate some of our GIS data to a new server. Shaun Vester has been selected to be a member of the NRECA's Analytic Reliability and Resiliency Member Advisory Group.

## Wishing you a Wonderful Holiday Season

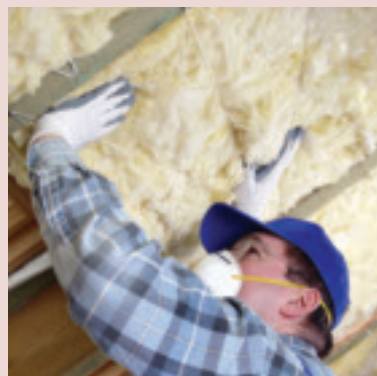
Our office will be closed  
December 24-25 and  
December 31 – January 1



Monthly Board Meeting  
Minutes can be viewed on our  
website: [www.cmec.coop](http://www.cmec.coop)

## \$\$ Insulation Incentive \$\$

Sealing and insulation are the most cost-effective ways to make a home more comfortable and energy efficient. Coles-Moultrie has awarded more than \$2,000 this year to members who have added insulation to their homes. We still have funds available for 2018. Contact our office for details or visit our website, [www.cmec.coop](http://www.cmec.coop), to download a form.



## Electrical Safety Checklist

Nearly half of all home fires occur during winter months. Take a few minutes to identify and correct any potential electrical hazards to ensure the safety of your home.

### SWITCHES AND OUTLETS

- **Are any switches or outlets warm to the touch?** YES NO  
Warm switches or outlets indicate an unsafe wiring condition.
- **Are any outlets or switches discolored?** YES NO  
Discoloration indicates dangerous heat buildup at these connections.
- **Do plugs fit snugly into outlets?** YES NO  
Loose-fitting plugs can cause overheating and fires.

### CORDS

- **Are any cords cracked, frayed or damaged?** YES NO  
Damaged cords can expose wires, causing shock or fire hazard.
- **Are any cords pinched by furniture or windows, or attached to anything with staples or nails?** YES NO  
Pinching and/or stapling cords can damage the insulation, causing shock or fire hazard.
- **Do you use extension cords on a permanent basis?** YES NO  
Extension cords should only be used temporarily.

### ELECTRIC PANEL

- **Do you have recurring tripped circuit breakers or blown fuses?** YES NO  
If yes, this could indicate you're exceeding a safe level of electrical current.
- **Do you have arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs)?** YES NO  
AFCIs provide greater fire protection. Check your circuit breakers for the AFCI label.



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVES

Please note this is not a comprehensive safety checklist.  
Visit [ESFI.org](http://ESFI.org) for more information.  
Source: ESFI





# Scholarship Reminder

The deadline for 11 of the 12 \$2,000 scholarships awarded in 2019 through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program is fast approaching.

Six scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors who are the sons or daughters of an Illinois electric cooperative member.

One scholarship, the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship, will be awarded to a student who is the son or daughter of an Illinois electric cooperative employee or director.

Four scholarships are reserved for students enrolling full-time at a two-year Illinois community college who are the sons or daughters of Illinois electric cooperative members, employees or directors.

One scholarship, the LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker's Scholarship, will help pay for costs to attend lineworker's school at Lincoln Land Community College. Sons and

daughters of co-op members, relatives of co-op employees or directors, students enrolled in the Lincoln Land lineworker's school, or those who have served/are serving in the armed forces or National Guard are all eligible.

Deadline to apply for the first 11 scholarships is **December 31, 2018**. The deadline for the lineworker scholarship is **April 30, 2019**.

For more information, contact Carla Bradbury, 217-235-0341 or email [cbradbury@cmec.coop](mailto:cbradbury@cmec.coop). Information has been shared with area high school guidance counselors and is available for completion at the cooperative's website at [www.cmec.coop](http://www.cmec.coop).



## Sub-meter Savings

The only way to receive the discounted rate for your sub-metered heating and/or air conditioning is from the reading obtained from 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 sub-meter**. There are a few things you may need to check to be sure you are receiving as much savings as possible. 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 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 and the meter is still blank, you would need to contact our office by calling 217-235-0341 or email [info@cmec.coop](mailto:info@cmec.coop) to schedule a representative from the cooperative to check out your meter.

## Holiday LIGHTING Safety

Use only holiday lights that have been safety tested and have the **UL** label.



Before using, **check each strand** for broken sockets, frayed cords, or faulty plugs.



Don't string together more than **three** standard-sized incandescent sets of lights or you could **overload the circuit**.



**Don't throw lights** over tree branches that are **near power lines** and service connections.



**Always unplug lights** before leaving your home or going to bed; a timer can help with this.



Learn more at

**Safe Electricity.org**

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Heading out of town for the holidays? Remember to unplug electronics that draw a phantom energy load. Some gadgets, like TVs, gaming consoles, chargers and DVD players use energy when plugged into an outlet, even when they're not in use.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)

