

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

# Hi-Lites

## April 8 is Lineworker Appreciation Day

We at CMEC take our jobs seriously. Half of our employees are linemen who have trained to work on or near power lines. Their mission is to restore power as quickly as possible while maintaining a safe working environment. They are loyal and committed to their role at our cooperative who often spend long days or weeks away from their families. Help us honor them on April 8 as we celebrate their dedication to all of us and the communities we serve.



## Tickets on Sale Now!

We are counting down to our 80th Annual Meeting on Friday, June 14, at Peterson Park in Mattoon. Lunch will be provided by Niemergs from 11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

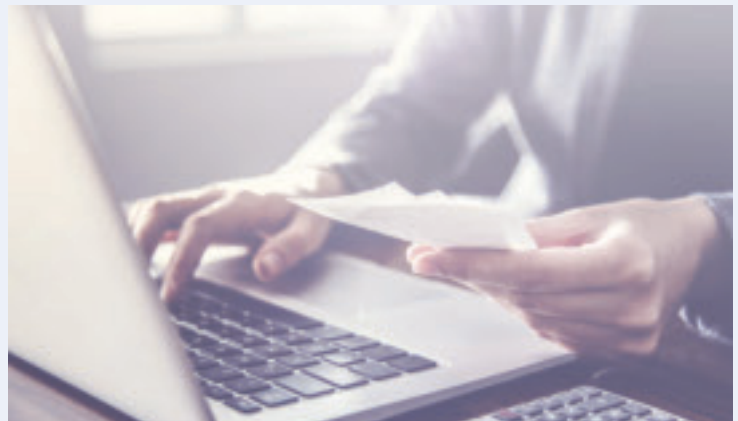
Tickets are \$5 and on sale now. They can be purchased in our office, 104 DeWitt Ave East, Mattoon, or requested by mail. (Please include a check, member's name and the number of tickets being purchased.) Members who purchase tickets on or before June 7 will have a chance to win a \$100 bill credit. Bring your appetite!



## Auto Pay Options

Sign up for Auto Pay with CMEC and never be late again! It's as easy as 1, 2, 3...

- Email us to Request an Auto Pay Form, [info@cmeccoop](mailto:info@cmeccoop)
- Call in toll free to our office, #888-661-2632, and choose Option #2
- Go to our website, [cmeccoop](http://cmeccoop), and Click on "SIGN IN" at the top of our page



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.

**Chairperson**

Debbie Albin.....Mattoon

**Vice Chairperson**

John Bowers ..... Lovington

**Treasurer**

Jeffery Hudson..... Charleston

**Director**

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.

# Dig Up Safety Tips for Safe Digging Month

Spring showers bring May flowers but digging on your own this spring could spell big trouble. Even if you think you could get lucky or that digging one small hole (or two) won't matter, don't take for granted what lines might lurk beneath the soil in your yard.

Before you use that post hole digger or other unearthing tools, STOP and call 8-1-1 to request buried electric, gas, cable and other lines in or near your yard be marked. The service is free but digging in an unmarked yard may not be.

You might think you don't have time for that and ask yourself, what's the worst that could happen?

**You could die or become seriously injured.**

There are many other consequences of blindly digging. You could cause a power outage. You could hit a gas line and get burned or cause an evacuation in your neighborhood. You could be fined. If you hit a telephone line or fiber optic line, you might lose your telephone, cable TV or internet service. Worse yet, it could interfere

with your neighborhood's emergency assistance technology.

While it may be your yard, utilities have the right of way to the live lines lurking under the ground in places where you might dig. In fact, an underground utility line is damaged once every six minutes across the nation because someone decided to dig without getting their yard properly marked, according to the Common Ground Alliance. You may think one or two small holes won't matter, but that's what the person thought who hit a line six minutes ago.

Take a deep breath, look over your landscaping or fence plans and call 8-1-1 before you dig. Each state has its own call center to help you get digging safely. Illinois' call center is JULIE, which stands for Joint Utility Location Information for Excavators.

So always remember to call JULIE at 8-1-1 several days before any digging project to have underground utilities marked. For more about electrical safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

**Call JULIE before digging**

It's the law! You must notify JULIE before you dig. The depth of utility lines can vary for many reasons - that's why digging even just a few inches can cause problems. Striking a line can cause injury, repair costs, fines and outages.

Plan ahead and call 8-1-1 or visit [www.illinois1call.com](http://www.illinois1call.com).

**JULIE**  
ILLINOIS ONE-CALL SYSTEM  
Call Before You Dig

# President & CEO Report – January 2019

## CONNECT

- 420 Current Customers

## Marketing/Member Services

- Sam Adair attended the Winter Touchstone Energy Cooperative Relations Committee meeting.
- Jan. 21, 2019 CMEC hosted a blood drive. Carla Bradbury set this up so not only our employees could give, but also our members and local communities.

## Key Accounts

- CMEC staff member participated in “Thanks Lake Land” video explaining his time at LLC and how it helps him with his career now. That video will be complete soon.
- Sam Adair and Jim Riddle met with Sarah Bush to discuss their new rate as well as deliver their capital credit check.

## Safety

- CMEC Safety Committee met on Jan. 8, 2019 to have our routine monthly meeting.
- CMEC outside department tested its grounds with the AIEC on Jan. 23, 2019. There was no inside safety training.
- CMEC Safety Committee continues to move toward finishing the safety manual for CMEC and hopes to be completed by the end of January.
- Sam Adair and Bob Schafer spoke on the WTIM radio show about electrical safety. This is a directed effort from the Safety Committee to better educate members on safety around power lines.
- Facebook has 2,219 followers.

## Accounting/Finance

- End of year accounting processes have started for 2018. Our 2018 financial audit will take place in March 2019. Cross training among the billing, accounting and human resource departments continues. We are also reviewing board and member policies.

## LED Lighting

- To date, (2,212) LED lights have been installed replacing (436) mercury vapor and (1,672) sodium vapor lights.

## Engineering

- We had 53 manual meter reads for

January.

- Engineering received 195 JULIE locates and called in 45. Of the 195 locate notifications received, CMEC personnel performed 22 primary and 11 secondary locates.
- Three Report-On-Calls were received and assigned for member/new member requests.
- Field Engineers are working on the following projects: X7-X10 mile rebuild (conductor replacement for the Work Plan), U3BA mile (moving a line out of ROW that is extremely rough to traverse), L3A1 mile (relocating line from a field to the road for access since the poles in the field need replaced), W4-2 mile (replacing a one mile stretch of underground with OH conductor).
- Field Engineers generated 34 Work Orders for the month of December, of which 21 were O&M pole replacements.
- Field Engineers began training with the GIS Dept to perform distribution system updates that can be directly entered into the GIS map.
- Working with Okaw Valley Woodworking near Chesterville on the installation of a 3-phase service estimated to add 300 kW of new load.
- Worked with accounting to review and close any open work orders through 2016 with the plan to continue to present in the coming months.

## Operations

- In December, crews performed the following work: (5) new services, (3) service upgrade, (33) pole replacements due to age (5), O&M (23), weather (5).
- Ordered the necessary materials (cover-up, gloves, sleeves, etc.) to move ahead with the conversion to rubber-gloving. Working on coordinating a plan document with the gloving committee to be presented to the IBEW in late January/early February.

## Fleet

- Ordered a 26' tiltbed gooseneck trailer to be used with new Unit #3 that was purchased last month. This trailer will transport the Terex unit with the grinder head.
- Purchased a 2018 Dodge Ram 2500 4X4 for the Operations Department. It will replace an existing pickup truck.
- Purchased a 2018 Ford Explorer “Base” for the Engineering Dept. It will replace a 2012 Ford Escape.

## IT/SCADA

- Continuing work on software updates on office computers that PPI has suggested to help eliminate known vulnerabilities.
- Regulator testing is going well. Our test unit is in the field operating correctly. The panel has more features than the previous panels we have had.
- Continuing work on creating new SCADA user interfaces.
- NISC has been upgraded to the most current version.

## GIS

- As of last month Shaun Vester has been working on developing our staking software and re-working the database structure for our GIS to handle staking capabilities.
- In addition, Shaun has been training the field engineers on how to use the GIS properly as well as how to update our records.
- Shaun Vester attended Milsoft training to allow CMEC to integrate GIS & WindMil.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Streaming content with electronic equipment that has earned the ENERGY STAR® rating will use 25 to 30 percent less energy than standard equipment.

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



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





## BENEFITS OF TREE TRIMMING

Clearing trees and overgrown vegetation is vital to provide safe, reliable power to our consumer-members.

We clear certain areas in our service territory, known as rights of way, to:

- Keep power lines clear of tree limbs
- Restore power outages more quickly
- Keep crews and members of our community safe
- Reduce unexpected costs for repairs

**Vegetation management improves service reliability for you - our members!**



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

## Reminder:

CMEC Scholarship  
Deadline is April 30.  
Applications are available on  
our website: [www.cmec.coop](http://www.cmec.coop)



## Office closing

Our office  
will be closed  
**Friday, April 19,**  
in observance of  
Good Friday.

