

# THE GRID

**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**

Bill Voyles..... Sullivan

**Treasurer**

Jeffery Hudson..... Charleston

**Directors**

Andrew Fearn.... Charleston

Kent Metzger ..... Gays

Thomas Sherman... Humboldt

**Interim President/CEO**

Amy Borntrager

**To Report an Outage  
call #888-661-2632**

**Send your current email  
to [info@cmec.coop](mailto:info@cmec.coop)  
for a chance to win a  
\$25 bill credit**




## Douglas Hart Nature Preserve

As part of Cooperative Month, we will be featuring The Douglas-Hart Nature Center in Mattoon. The nature center is a Douglas-Hart Foundation property. The Foundation also owns Friendship Garden in Mattoon and the Whiteside Garden in Charleston. In the 1970s, Helen Douglas-Hart took crop land out of production and planted trees. Today, the site features over 70 acres of woodland, wetland and prairie with walking trails throughout. From programs such as Migration Bird Walks, Story Time, C.A.R.E Club, Milkweed, Monarchs & Movies to volunteering with our ongoing restoration efforts, to trails that are open dawn to dusk every day, there is something for everyone! We

will be including passes to their annual Haunted Hike, held Oct. 25-26, in our Wednesday weekly drawings. Haunted Hike is the nature centers biggest festival, that features a guided hike through the trails ending with a hayride. This year's theme is "Hocus Pocus." Located at 2204 DeWitt Ave East, the visitor center is open Monday - Friday 8-4 p.m., Saturday 10-4 p.m. and Sunday 1-4 p.m. The visitor's center features nature displays, live animals, a playroom and library. If you have not visited this local gem in our neck of the woods, you are in for a treat! For more information, visit: [www.dhnature.org](http://www.dhnature.org) or call 217-235-4644 and be sure to follow them on Facebook.



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 



## Why is there a Wholesale Power Adjustment on my Bill?

Wholesale Power Adjustment (WPA) is a variable built into our rate structure in order to “adjust” the costs charged to our members when the price of fuels to generate electricity rise and fall over time. This also includes the cost of materials and other factors that may affect the price of providing power. This is a separate line item on your monthly bill calculated by the number of kWh or energy consumed by you. This may be adjusted as a credit or debit depending on what we at CMEC, a distribution cooperative, pay for generation and transmission of power.

## By the Community for the Community

October is National Cooperative Month and the theme for 2019 is “By the community, for the community.” This is a celebration of electric cooperatives across the nation to recognize what we do and who we serve – that’s you! Highlights include Wednesday drawings, volunteering at Douglas Hart Nature Center and hosting the Red Cross Bloodmobile. We will participate in the Mattoon Expo, Paint the Town 5K, Downtown Trunk or Treat

and the Eastern Illinois University parade. Additionally, we will be selling pink sport buffs, also called headbands or neck gaiters, for \$5 and donating the proceeds to the Mobile Mammography services at Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center. October is also Breast Cancer Awareness month, and these are great to use all year long for sporting events or outdoor activities. **Visit us at these locations during October or stop by our office!**

Mattoon Chamber Expo	Cross County Mall	10-2 p.m., Oct. 3
Red Cross Bloodmobile	CMEC	8-12 noon, Oct. 11
Touchstone Energy Balloon Fest	Shelbyville	daily events, Oct. 11-13
SBL Paint the Town 5K	Mattoon KC Summers	starts @ 9 a.m., Oct. 12
CMEC Volunteer Day	Douglas Hart Nature Center	8 - 4 p.m., Oct. 18
Downtown Trunk or Treat	Mattoon	5-8 p.m., Oct. 25
EIU Parade & Homecoming,	Charleston	Starts @ 9 a.m., Oct. 26

***Be sure to follow us on Facebook for more details & giveaways.***



## Budget Billing Service Money

Members who have resided at their location for 12 months may sign up for “Budget Billing.” This allows you to pay a set bill amount each month as determined by your average energy use over the last 12 months. Rather than be surprised by unexpected high bills during the heating and cooling season, you can plan to pay the same amount month after month. Each year in March, our billing department will review your set budget amount and adjust it according to your actual account balance. Email, call or stop by our office to sign up today!

# You're More Than a Customer

By Anne Prince, NRECA

Author Anthony J. D'Angelo observed that, "Without a sense of caring, there can be no sense of community."

To a large degree, this reflects CMEC or Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative's philosophy toward our consumer-members and the broader service territory that we serve. As a cooperative, we have a different "bottom line." While our priority is always to provide reliable and safe energy, there is another equally important part of this equation. Your well-being and that of the larger community that we serve are of paramount concern.

To us, you are not just a customer; you are a member of our co-op and without you, we would not exist.

In 1938, CMEC was founded to fulfill a vital need in our community that would not have otherwise been met. Concerned local leaders came together to build this co-op and bring electricity where there was none.

At that time, members of the community understood we were

different because they likely knew someone who helped to create the cooperative. For most people, our founding and its circumstances have been long forgotten. Over time, folks in the community may have come to think of us as simply another energy provider. But we are not. We are a co-op that is constantly evolving to meet the needs of the communities we serve, and we can do this because of members like you.

Since our inception, we have sought feedback and engagement from you and that of the larger community to guide our long-term decisions. This is why we hold annual meetings and other events, such as our Key Accounts Conference or Coffee on the Co-op, throughout the year. We host events like this to engage with you and obtain your feedback.

We strive to find new ways to help you use energy more efficiently. We're always looking to explore more options that will help you manage your energy use such as Smarthub, Energy Audits

and Budget Billing. In short, we are always seeking to keep pace with the changing energy environment, evolving technology and shifting consumer expectations.

CMEC members help guide important co-op decisions that improve and enrich the community. We value the perspective of our board members, who are members of the co-op and community - just like you.

As a local business, we have a stake in the community. That's why we support local charitable organizations such as the Lake Land College Foundation and Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Foundation. When you support these efforts, you are supporting the community and making it a better place for everyone.

While the times may have changed, our mission and outlook have not. We view our role as a catalyst for good. Working together, we can accomplish great things for our community now and in the future.

## PRESIDENT/CEO REPORT - July 2019

### President & CEO

- Amy Borntreger and Jim Wallace attended a free webinar hosted by the NRECA. By December 2021, the monarch butterfly may be listed under the Endangered Species Act. If the monarch butterfly is listed, it could significantly impact electric cooperatives' ability to manage transmission and distribution rights-of-way in a cost-effective manner.
- Amy Borntreger, Sandra Fisher and Jim Wallace met with a company called Purple Wave to sell a few pieces of equipment. The benefit of using this company is the employees do not have to participate in the process of selling the equipment. CMEC retains custody of the

property until it is sold. We are not required to move the equipment to an offsite location. We have currently listed four items with this firm.

- We continue to work with CFC to prepare the Cost of Service Study which we will bring back to the board before we enter into a rate study.
- The MAC Committee will meet in September at the Coles County Memorial Airport which is a large power account on our cooperative lines. Mary Warren and Molly Hammond from the USDA will be present. Radio advertisements have been aired to generate interest to serve on this committee.
- All current cooperative job

descriptions have been completed.

- We are having weekly management meetings and monthly all-employee meetings where we update all employees about activities at the cooperative. These have all been well received by all the employees.
- Amy Borntreger and Carla Bradbury plan to attend Eastern Illini's Kilowatt and Brats event on Monday, Aug. 19, 2019. We would like to improve member engagement, and this is one type of event that might involve the younger generation.

### CONNECT

- CONNECT upgrades will begin in August once the equipment arrives.

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We will be replacing the link between Sullivan and Lovington, also we will upgrade the Gays water tower.

### Marketing/Marketing Services

- CMEC participated in the Moultrie-Douglas County Fair. We had a booth space filled with giveaways and information about the cooperative. We also gave out a \$50 bill credit to those who engaged in the booth.
- Sam Adair participated in the fourth annual Touchstone Energy Joint Advisory Meeting in Williamsburg, VA. Sam sits on the cooperative relations committee for TSE and meets biannually with this committee.
- CMEC sponsored the Mattoon Chamber 2019 Golf Outing again this year. We donated the bottles of water that were unused from our annual meeting as well.
- On June 29, 2019, CMEC participated in the first Coles County Truck Convoy for the Make-A-Wish Illinois along with 123 other vehicles which raised over \$30,000 to help grant wishes for three critically ill children. Eric Starwalt donated his time to talk with kids and give out kid's hard hats. More information is available on our Facebook page.
- CMEC will again participate in the Farm Progress Show Aug. 27-29, 2019. This year's booth space will be member safety focused.
- CMEC employee Drew Haumesser judged electrical projects at the Coles County 4-H show.

### Key Accounts

- CMEC will hold its fourth annual Key Accounts Conference on Thursday, Aug. 15, 2019 at the Arcola Best Western Plus and Convention Center. While the details are still in the works, we do have speakers lined up. To date, we have secured Senator Righter, Senator Rose, Representative Halbrook, Representative Miller, Prairie Power CEO Eric Hobbie and Rivian's Jim Thomas.
- NRECA visited CMEC to put together a case study on beneficial electrification including CMEC member Charleston Stone Company. Amy Borntreger, Jim Wallace and Sam Adair were all interviewed for the case study. Sam Adair also participated in a prerecorded podcast on beneficial electrification.

### Facebook

- Carla Bradbury does a fantastic job at helping us put our values into practice on our Facebook page. One of our seven cooperative principles is exhibited in

every single post. To date, we have 2,372 followers.

### Operations and Engineering

- To date, (2,352) LED lights have been installed replacing (480) mercury vapor and (1,772) sodium vapor lights.

### Engineering

- Manual meter reads increased to 155 for July 1 reads from 80 for June 1 reads.
- Engineering received requests for 347 JULIE locates and called in 36 JULIE locates. Of the locate notifications received, CMEC personnel performed 34 primary and 19 secondary locates.
- 41 Report-On-Calls were received and assigned for member/new member requests.
- Field Engineers created 26 work orders for the month of June.
- Field Engineers are working on the following projects: R5 mile (upgrading the 3-phase poles and conductor along Lerna Road from OSR to Rt 16), W4-2 mile (upgrading the 3-phase line to replace UG cable on the east side of Trilla), cable replacement in Heritage Woods, U3BA mile (relocation of a single phase line to get out of private right-of-way).
- Jim Wallace and David Welsh attended the NovaTech Symposium in Decatur on June 12.
- On June 18, 2019, Jim Wallace and David Welsh met with representatives to finalize programming details for the new triple-single reclosers due to arrive soon. In addition, they toured the manufacturing facility.
- CMEC purchased (50) voltage regulator control panels. These units will replace the existing panels that are no longer supported and failing at a high rate. The new panels will allow communication remotely and will be a part of the future distribution automation plan.
- We are working on plans to extend 3-phase infrastructures to Coles Centre.

### Operations

- In June, crews performed the following work: (5) new service, (2) retirement, (3) system improvements, (2) service upgrades, and (21) pole replacements due to: age (6), O&M (10), weather (3), farm equipment (1), and fire (1).
- The crews completed a project on the L3A1 mile (southeast of Charleston) in which the line was rerouted along the road to eliminate eight poles from private right-of-way.

- We also replaced numerous regulators and OCRs for routine maintenance. The maintenance on this equipment had been behind in years past. We will spend the next few years getting back on a routine schedule.

### Fleet

- We took delivery of the first ever tandem axle unit for CMEC. It's a 50' Altec digger-derrick on a Freightliner chassis.

### IT/SCADA

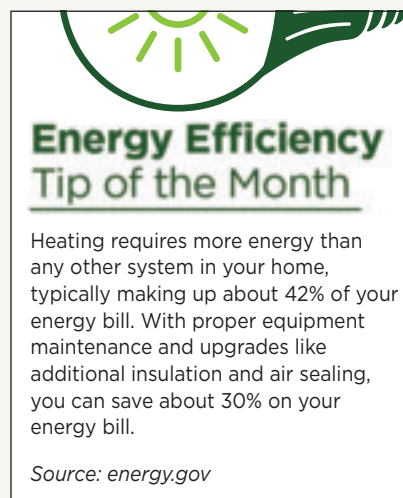
- David Welsh continues to work on software updates on office computers to help eliminate known vulnerabilities. He also continues to work on the AMI MultiSpeak interfaces.
- David Welsh attended communications troubleshooting and breaker controllers.

### GIS

- Shaun Vester is continuing to work on an offline form application.

### Financial

- We met to review the progress on the 2019 capital budget, and we have also started the 2020 budget. That will be presented at the October 2019 regular board meeting.
- We are planning to do another capital credit retirement in November 2019, retiring years 1980-1982.
- Amy Borntreger, Sandra Fisher and Aimee Boswell are planning to visit MJM Electric Cooperative's accounting department in Carlinville to see NISC's Accounts Payable Work-Flow Process. CMEC would like to implement this process in order to automate invoice processing from start to finish. The process provides for electronic submission, approval, tracking, posting and archiving of invoices.



**Energy Efficiency**  
**Tip of the Month**

Heating requires more energy than any other system in your home, typically making up about 42% of your energy bill. With proper equipment maintenance and upgrades like additional insulation and air sealing, you can save about 30% on your energy bill.

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

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