

Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative

THE GRID

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(104 Dewitt Ave., East)
Mattoon, Illinois 61938**

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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


President/CEO

Amy Borntrager

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call #888-661-2632**

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to info@cmec.coop
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Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 



IEC Scholarships

Twelve \$2,000 scholarships will be awarded in 2020 through the Thomas H. Moore IEC Memorial Scholarship Program.



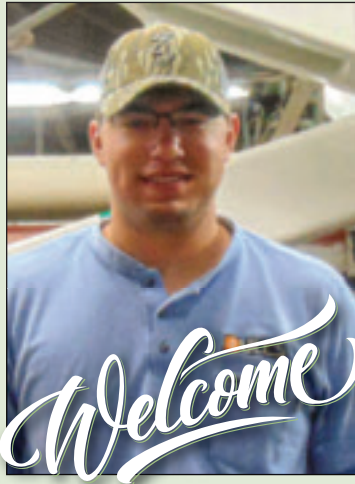
6 scholarships awarded to students who are the sons or daughters of Illinois electric cooperative members.

4 scholarships 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.

1 Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship awarded to a student who is the son or daughter of an Illinois electric co-op employee or director.

1 LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker's Scholarship awarded to a student attending lineworker school conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield, IL.

Deadline to apply is Dec. 31, 2019. The lineworker's scholarship deadline is April 30, 2020. For more information regarding the scholarships, contact Carla Bradbury, 217-235-0341 or cbradbury@cmec.coop. Information has also been shared with area high school guidance counselors and is available for completion through a link on the cooperative's website at www.cmec.coop.



Our New Apprentice Lineman –
Jake Lueken from Paris IL!



Capital Credits

Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative (CMEC) will retire close to \$1.6 million in November representing those margins for the years 1980-1982. Electric cooperatives operate at cost. This allows any excess revenue, called margins, to be returned to members in the form of capital credits. CMEC tracks how much electricity members buy and pay in revenue throughout the year. At the end of the year, our board of directors review financial matters and determine whether the cooperative has margins. We then allocate the margins back to our members as capital credits based upon their use of electricity.



Honoring CMEC Employee Veterans

Carla Bradbury,
MSR/Marketing &
Member Services,
Air National Guard
1989-2000

James Geldert,
Lineman Apprentice,
Marine Corps
2012-2016

Dennis Ray,
Field Engineer,
Navy
1990-1995

Thank you for your Service!



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Plans from HomeServe can help protect you from expensive **plumbing, electrical, heating or cooling repairs** caused by normal wear and tear.

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COLES-MOULTRIE BY THE NUMBERS

**In case you missed it in our Annual Report for 2019,
here are some facts about your cooperative:**



**Average Annual
Members**
9,583



**Members per
Mile**
4.81



Total KWH
209,432,255



**Average KWH
per Month**
1,821



**Total Miles
of Line**
1,993

We started with 338 miles of line energized by 753 members in 1939

PRESIDENT/CEO REPORT - August 2019

- Reported information to CFC for the cost of service and rate study.
- David Welsh is planning to attend the NISC (our software platform) Member Information Conference in St. Louis in September. I have asked that he be allowed to sit in on the Tech Advisory Committee. Terms for the members expire in 2020, and I will encourage the permanent CEO to nominate him to this committee. It is valuable to have a seat on these committees to help us with connections with our software.
- The Member Advisory Committee will meet in September; Mary Warren and Molly Hammond to present from the USDA. Radio advertisements have been aired to generate interest to serve on this committee.
- I attended the NRECA Directors' Course 918.1 Maximizing Your Grassroots Strategy. It is important that the cooperative stay on top of legislation and issues that affect the industry.
- I also attended the AIEC 78th Annual Meeting. Zachary Mannheimer presented to the group about the declining population in rural America. John Sullivan, director of Illinois Department of Agriculture, talked about issues/legislation in Illinois. He briefly touched on the department's involvement with broadband.
- The second general session was regarding safety. The RESAP inspection was done a year ago, so Sam Adair put together a presentation for the August board meeting referencing actions that were taken to comply with the inspection. Safety starts at the top and the board should have a role in this important part of our industry.
- The Key Accounts luncheon, held Aug. 15, 2019, was beneficial to all involved.

We had many CEOs and other co-op employees attend, in addition to our commercial accounts. We heard from Jim Thomas from Rivian, who made a fascinating presentation about electric vehicles and showed the design of their electric truck. We also heard from Eric Hobbie about renewables in Illinois. Lastly, we heard from our legislators Brad Halbrook, Chris Miller and Dale Righter about Illinois. After the legislators listened to Eric Hobbie, they asked him about making that same presentation in Springfield. We have scheduled a Key Accounts follow up meeting to develop a committee to work on this event. We will set the date for this event for October 2020.

- Sam Adair and Amy Borntrager met with Congressman John Shimkus and his staff for his first visit to the original Burger King in Mattoon, per his request. Later that afternoon, Tapella and Eberspacher, LLC hosted Congressman Shimkus for a forum with representatives of local small businesses. Two directors from EnerStar were also there representing electric co-ops. Discussions included business incubators, community support/charitable donations and environmental concerns like electric vehicles and solar energy.
- Carla Bradbury and Amy Borntrager attended Eastern Illini Cooperative's 2nd Annual Kilowatts and Brats at Riggs Beer Company in Urbana. The event lasted from 5:30-7:30 and approximately 300 people attended. I visited with Eastern Illini's CEO, Bob Hunzinger, and he explained that they don't do any type of formal presentation, but employees mingle within the membership to help members engage with the co-op. It was well received by their membership. This is an event that CMEC needs to try in 2020

to inspire the younger generation to play a role within the cooperative.

- Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative will make an appearance in October 2019 in the EIU Homecoming Parade.

CONNECT

- 405 Current Customers
- CMEC Connect has received all the equipment to begin the Connect upgrades. We are currently waiting on setting a date with a tower crew. We will replace the link between Sullivan and Lovington, and we will upgrade Gay's water tower. These expenditures were all approved in the 2019 CMEC capital budget.
- CMEC staff member Sam Adair met with IRBY in Arkansas to discuss a 3-year work plan documented for the CMEC Connect and a potential fiber to the home project. To this point, we have been updating as needed but have had no long-term plan. We hope to get this accomplished for the years 2020-2022.

Member Marketing Services

- CMEC participated in the Coles 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 were engaged at the booth.
- Sam Adair was selected to participate in the Mattoon Chamber of Commerce's Annual Business Expo Committee. CMEC will participate in the Expo on Thursday, Oct. 3, 2019 at the Cross-County Mall.
- CMEC will participate in the 2019 Farm Progress Show. This year's booth space will be member safety focused. CMEC will send two linemen to work in the lineman showcase event. Each day a different cooperative will send linemen to show off their hard-working men and women.

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Safety

- CMEC Safety Committee met on Aug. 6, 2019 for its monthly meeting. This committee reviewed the Safety Day that all employees participated in on June 5, 2019. In addition, they reviewed the displays/demonstrations at the 2019 Annual Meeting and discussion was had regarding additional safety demonstrations at the 2020 CMEC Annual Meeting. Also discussed was Safety Improvement Plan goals, Cooperative Month, crew visits and the status of gloving. This committee consists of the CEO, all senior staff as well as inside and outside hourly personnel. This helps all groups of employees to accept and willingly support and participate in the safety culture of this organization.
- CMEC outside employees were trained on lock out tagout procedures.

Miscellaneous

- Discussion regarding new ideas for the CMEC 2020 Annual Meeting continue to happen.
- Carla Bradbury is planning to attend two additional cooperative annual meetings this year to garner ideas to improve our event in 2020.
- Internal employee newsletters continue to help communications with outside and inside personnel.
- Facebook: 2,373 Total followers

LED Lighting

- To date, (2,366) LED lights have been installed replacing (484) mercury vapor and (1,779) sodium vapor lights.

Engineering

- The manual meter reads increased to 214 for Aug. 1 reads from 155 for July 1 reads.
- Engineering received requests for 417 JULIE locates and called in 28 JULIE locates. Of the locate notifications received, CMEC personnel performed 59 primary and 18 secondary locates.
- 24 Report-On-Calls were received and assigned for member/new member requests.
- Field Engineers created 19 work orders for the month of July.
- Field Engineers are working on the following projects: R5 mile (upgrading the 3-phase poles and conductor along the Lerna Rd from Old State Road to Rt 16) (Preparing for service at Coles Centre developments), 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).
- Working with Ameren to connect AMI repeaters for their gas metering. Ameren serves many CMEC members with natural gas. Since they lack the distribution infrastructure to mount the equipment, CMEC is working with them to connect

the equipment after installation by the Ameren contractor.

- New Work Plan – the information has been given to our engineering firm to update the engineering model for them to perform the study for the 2020-2023 Construction Work Plan. There will be a meeting in September to kick off the preparation of the Work Plan.

Operations

- In July, crews performed the following work: (4) new service, (1) retirement, (3) UG cable replacement, (5) service upgrades, (1) hazard repair, & (28) pole replacements due to: age (5), O&M (13), & weather (10).
- Projects in July included the W1 mile (3-phase upgrade out of Neoga Substation) and numerous underground cable replacements.

IT/SCADA

- The IT Department continues to work on software updates on office computers to help eliminate known vulnerabilities.
- Continuing work on the AMI MultiSpeak interfaces.
- David Welsh continues working with AMI vendor to fix extender bridges with WAN interference.
- We are working with AMI vendor to fix meter archiving issues.
- David Welsh and Jim Wallace met with breaker company to discuss mounting options for substation breakers.
- All substations now have new voltage regulator panels that will allow for communication in the future.
- OCR list has been added to our CIS system for streamlining the service order record keeping process.
- The voltage regulator list is complete. All custom programs are built and distributed to the lineman.
- The breaker software has been created and is currently being reviewed by our electrical engineering firm.

GIS

- Shaun Vester is working on converting our GIS data for use with the engineering model.
- He has also added service locations to the GIS map and worked with field engineers to assist with work order updates.

Financial

- Amy Borntrager, Aimee Boswell and Sandra Fisher traveled to M.J.M. Electric Cooperative in Carlinville to see our software provider's accounts payable work-flow process. We plan to implement this module in order to automate invoice processing from start to finish. It will electronically log the approval process of invoices. This will allow our management team to approve invoices through an app on their iPad rather than routing paper through our office. I have asked the accounting department to work with the

IT department to have this in operation by Dec. 31, 2019.

- We had a CMEC 2020 Capital Budget Meeting on Aug. 28, 2019. We will plan to present that to the board in October 2019.
- We plan to do another capital credit retirement in November 2019, retiring years 1980-1982.
- We are allocating the 2018 margins on the members accounts this month. Members will see that reflected on your electric bills.
- We removed four fleet off our books/ premises with the help of Purple Wave Auction. It was an easy process. Should we ever need to dispose of assets again, we will more than likely use this firm. It takes the employees out of the selling process.

Quick Facts:

- August 7, 2019 auction (Ford F250/ Chevy 1500)
- 39 Total Bids
- Farthest bid came from 543 miles away
- Active bidders from 7 different states
- Aug. 8, 2019 auction (Digger Derrick/ Knuckle Boom Truck)
- 58 Total Bids
- Farthest bid came from 1016 miles away
- Active bidders from 12 different states

Human Resources

- We have started the process to hire the Distribution Automation Tech.
- We have started the process to hire a Journeyman Lineman. In addition, we hired an apprentice to fill a vacant position.
- Anita Hoene attended the NRECA's INTERACT conference in San Francisco. She was excited to return to the cooperative with new ideas.
- Annual enrollment will begin for benefit reviews with employees.
- Anita Hoene, Jim Wallace and John Pickowitz all attended the Reasonable Suspicion Training offered through the AIEC, our statewide association.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Trim your holiday energy costs by choosing energy efficient LED lights! LED holiday lights use less energy and can last up to 40 seasons. They're also easier to install – you can connect up to 25 LED strings without overloading a wall socket!

Source: energy.gov

Monthly Board Meeting Minutes can be viewed on our website: www.cmec.coop