

THE GRID

P.O. Box 709
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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

President/CEO

Amy Borntrager

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

**Send your current email
to info@cmec.coop
for a chance to win a
\$25 bill credit**



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Insulating Your Attic Is Like a Stocking Cap for Your Home

As you add a fuzzy hat, scarf and gloves to your wardrobe to stay warm this winter, remember to prepare your home for cold temperatures as well. Proper home insulation is an important step to save money on your energy bill and make you comfortable in your home as temperatures dip below freezing.

If your home feels drafty and could use more insulation, always start at the top since most heat loss is through the roof. Start with the attic or ceiling and work your way down through the walls and then to the basement or crawl space. If you start adding insulation at the lowest level (basement or crawl) and work your way up, upper floors could feel cool or drafty in the winter months since extra insulation below will cause the cool air to rise.

While addressing your home's insulation is one of the more expensive outlays you can make to save on your utility bill, it's the biggest bang for your energy buck, paying for itself in the long run.

Safe Electricity offers other ways to help reduce energy costs this winter:

- Bundle up and turn down your thermostat. For every degree turned down, you can save up to 3 percent on your energy bill.
- If you do use a portable space heater, use it judiciously as well as safely. Using one for long lengths of time can cause your energy bill to spike since it draws so much power to run. If you use it continuously, it can add \$100 or more to your monthly energy bill. Space heaters touted as energy efficient aren't necessarily so; they may just cycle off more often.
- If you can, turn down your water heater a few degrees - 120 degrees or less is recommended, especially with small children to prevent accidental scalds.



For more energy-saving tips, go to SafeElectricity.org.

- Caulk windows and door frames that leak air, and replace or update door seals if they are old or ineffective.

We Love Our Community

By Anne Prince, NRECA

“To move forward, you have to give back.”

This quote from Oprah Winfrey reflects the special bond and obligation that ties Coles-Moultrie Electric Co-op, CMEC, to the community we serve. With Valentine’s Day approaching, we can’t think of a better time to express how much we love this community and serving you, the members of the co-op.

We know when we helped to bring electricity to rural Illinois many years ago, the quality of life improved for all. Through the years, other issues needed to be tackled, and we have been at the forefront of helping to address some of those issues. We want to help meet the long-term needs of our community to ensure it continues to thrive – because just like you, we live here too.

While our top priority is to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to you, equally important

is our mission to enrich the lives of the consumer-members (that’s you!) that we serve. This focus to benefit the larger community is central to the way we operate as a cooperative. CMEC knows that electricity is a critical need for modern-day life, but it takes more than poles and power lines to make a community.

Over time, our co-op has evolved to meet the changing needs of our community, thereby improving the quality of life for everyone. And that can mean many different things. It can mean programs for Illinois’ youth, such as education scholarships or the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, where we take our community’s brightest young people to Washington, D.C. for a week-long immersion to experience democracy in action. It means participating in fundraising with organizations like Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center in bringing a Cancer Center to Coles County.

Over the last eight decades, our community-focused programs have provided for those in need in many ways – and we couldn’t do any of this without you, our members.

We all benefit from these programs because of you and your neighbors. You empower CMEC through your membership and through your participation in and support of these programs.

As a local business, we are proud to power your life and bring good things to our community. We hope you will continue to guide our efforts by sharing your perspective as we plan for the future. The energy landscape is undergoing dramatic change fueled by evolving technology and consumer desires for more options. While the larger environment in which we operate is constantly changing, one thing remains the same. By working together, I’m certain that we can continue to do good things for our community.

Save the
DATE

Save the Date for our 81st
Annual Meeting of members
set for Friday, June 19, 2020.



Board of Director Elections

Director terms for districts 2 and 4 will expire June 19, 2020. John Bowers is currently representing district 2 and Debbie Albin is representing district 4. Interested members from those districts shall



complete a Request for Nominating Petitions and Statement of Qualifications demonstrating that he/she is qualified to serve as a director under the terms and provisions of Article V, Section 3, of cooperative bylaws. Petitions are due in the office of the cooperative by **4:30 pm, March 20, 2020**. We encourage interested members to contact us at 217-235-0341 or email info@cmeccoop.com.

PRESIDENT/CEO REPORT - November 2019

President and CEO

- Amy Borntreger and Carla Bradbury met with Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center to present a donation to the cancer center.
- Amy Borntreger attended NRUCFC's Independent Borrowers Executive Summit.
- Coles-Moultrie Electric has a meeting scheduled with Prairie Power, Inc in January to discuss our net-generation policies. We will bring those board polices back to the board with any changes.
- Amy Borntreger and Sam Adair attended a dinner to honor the Cooperative Balloon Associates 20th Anniversary in Normal, IL.
- Amy Borntreger met with Lake Land Community Foundation to meet Jackie Joines successor and discuss scholarship donations for 2020.
- Amy Borntreger, Anita Hoene and Sandra Fisher attended the Our Town Community Update Breakfast in Charleston where there was a presentation from the United States Census Bureau regarding the 2020 Census.
- Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative was picked as a host site for Industrial Day coordinated through Coles-Together. Sam Adair, Anita Hoene, Jim Wallace, David Welsh, Shaun Vester and Amy Borntreger gave departmental presentations to 180 Mattoon High School students. Lake Land College partnered with CMEC for this event to help educate these students about jobs, careers and training available here in our community. We also emphasized the collaborative efforts between Lake Land College and the development of our geographic information system at CMEC.

Member Advisory Committee

- A new MAC application form was developed for potential MAC members. We also created a monthly newsletter that keeps our committee members more connected with the cooperative. These will be included in your board report every month.

Safety

- Wholtman's Construction has begun the building modifications that will happen this year. These projects are required for CMEC to comply with the Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program. Crews have started working on the north building upgrades which include a PCB containment area, as well as a chemical room/building for proper storage.

CONNECT

- IRBY chose CMEC's Connect to be the location for one of its beta test sites for some new aged equipment. We installed the equipment at no cost to CMEC for testing. If the equipment works out the way it is intended CMEC will have the option to buy this to continue to serve its members in the South Shores area in Sullivan.
- Connect techs completed 67 Service Orders, 6 new Installs, 8 Signal Checks and 53 Miscellaneous Orders.

Information Technologies

- David Welsh completed thermal scans on the substations and the repairs have been made by the line crews.
- David Welsh and Jim Wallace attended Smart Utility Summit. This is a unique opportunity to meet with vendors that provide products that allow utilities to automate and acquire data from their distribution systems. The full cost of the summit is borne by the vendors, including transportation, lodging, and meals.
- David Shain began his employment

with CMEC as Distribution Automation Technician.

- David Welsh continues to coordinate efforts for NISC to move forward with two new IVUE Engineering and Operations Products, Work Management Solutions and GIS staking.

Geographical Information System

- Shaun Vester has been working on the data conversion to the Windmill model.

Operations and Engineering

- Jim Wallace met with Cooperative Response Center (CRC) to discuss the performance of CRC and the services they provide. This will be a quarterly call that is intended to keep communication lines open to discuss ongoing issues with the after-hours dispatch service they currently conduct for CMEC.
- Jim Wallace and David Welsh attended the Cooperative Technical Conference in Noblesville, IN. This is a joint effort by the Illinois and Indiana Statewide Associations to address and discuss IT and Engineering issues facing electric cooperatives today.
- Accounting and engineering met to improve the method of coding for work performed in order to track progress of the 4 Year Construction Work Plan. It will provide a more streamlined process to track annual progress as well as a total for the full 4 -year process.
- Operations, Engineering, Accounting, IT, HR and the CEO met with representatives of Toth & Associates, our engineering consulting firm to lay out the foundation for the 4 Year Construction Work Plan (2020-2023). This plan will provide the roadmap for improvements to the distribution system over the next four years as well as provide budget guidance for

- Continued on page 20D

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Find your name hidden inside this issue of **The Grid** and receive a **\$25 bill** credit. Credit must be claimed by the end of each month in which this newsletter is published.



preparation of the annual operating budget.

- A document detailing the process for rubber gloving has been presented to IBEW Local 702 for review. Upon approval of the document, the cooperative plans to proceed with pursuing a Letter of Agreement with Local 702 to integrate rubber gloving with other work practices in use today in the maintenance and construction of the distribution system.
- A temporary service was connected in the Coles Centre Business Park to supply service to the office trailer on site at the Hilton Garden Inn construction site.
- The infrastructure extension in Coles Centre has been installed to the HSHS Medical facility. Engineering is now coordinating with the general contractor to install the permanent service.
- Engineering has been contacted about temporary service to the Blue Cross

Blue Shield construction site, also in Coles Centre.

- Substation testing for the Fall took place during the last week of October. The tests went well. Substations tested were Union Center, South Mattoon, and East Charleston.
- Operations will be coordinating with PPI in the near future to replace the 69 kV switches that feed Fairgrange and East Charleston Substations. This should be the last of the switches to be replaced.

Accounting and Finance

- Sandra Fisher and Aimee Boswell are preparing for the retirement of capital credits for the years 1980-1982. There were 3,967 checks mailed totaling \$1,107,499.
- Accounting has begun collecting estimates for income and expenditures to create the 2020 CMEC Operating Budget. We will plan to present this to the Board of Directors in the

December meeting which will be held in January.

- We continue to address the accounting processes and procedures for the CONNECT business.
- Sandra Fisher and Aimee Boswell attended a Sales and Use Tax workshop in Urbana, IL.

Human Resources

- We have currently posted for the CFO position on Facebook, Indeed and Cooperative.com.
- We met with all employees regarding the updated vacation policy, which now includes our practices in the policy.
- Anita Hoene attended seminars on the following this month, Legalization of Cannabis, Minimum Wage for Illinois, Clearinghouse Webinar, and Payroll law.
- All individual employee meetings are now complete and NRECA annual enrollment is closed.

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

HELP KEEP LINEWORKERS SAFE

Lineworkers take great pride in providing safe and reliable service, but their job involves working around high-voltage power lines in all kinds of weather conditions.



Capital Credits Update

Our cooperative mailed 3,967 checks totaling \$1,107,499.11 on Nov. 25, 2019 retiring capital credits for the years 1980-1982. Contact us for details or questions: info@cmec.coop or 217-235-0341.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Are you using your fireplace efficiently? Remember to turn down the thermostat when burning a fire, and close the damper when a fire is not burning.

Source: energy.gov