

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

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



Our cooperative along with our members and communities continue to endure a pandemic that is unprecedented for many of us in our lifetime. We took steps to be prepared in the event of a significant impact from the coronavirus. We focused on maintaining a healthy workforce and keeping key personnel—such as lineworkers and member service representatives— available so that we can continue to provide the excellent service you expect from us.

Electric cooperatives are designed to maintain the health and safety of the people working for them and to ensure that business critical operations continue without interruption. These measures help ensure that your electric co-op continues to provide reliable electricity at all times. Through our national association (NRECA), electric co-ops coordinate with others in the electric sector and

the federal government to prepare for and respond to national-level disasters or threats to critical infrastructure. This includes scenarios such as pandemics that could impact the energy workforce.

CMEC members should be on the lookout for suspicious emails, phone calls, or persons impersonating business employees or charitable organizations. Unfortunately, scammers take advantage of opportunities such as this when households are otherwise preoccupied. Hang up and call our office at 217-235-0341 if you get a call from someone claiming to represent CMEC, and they make threats, demands or ask for payment.

Be sure to follow us on Facebook and/or visit our website for current information and updates.



**Our cooperative will be closed
Monday, May 25 in honor of**

★ MEMORIAL DAY ★

*Remembering those
who have sacrificed for our freedom.*

Don't Forget to Vote!

Board elections are just around the corner! Elections are set for May 18 – June 15. Details will be available on our website, www.cmec.coop, and included in your mailed ballot packet. Survey Ballot Systems, SBS, will mail, tabulate and report election results electronically ensuring integrity and transparency. Carefully follow the instructions when casting your vote.

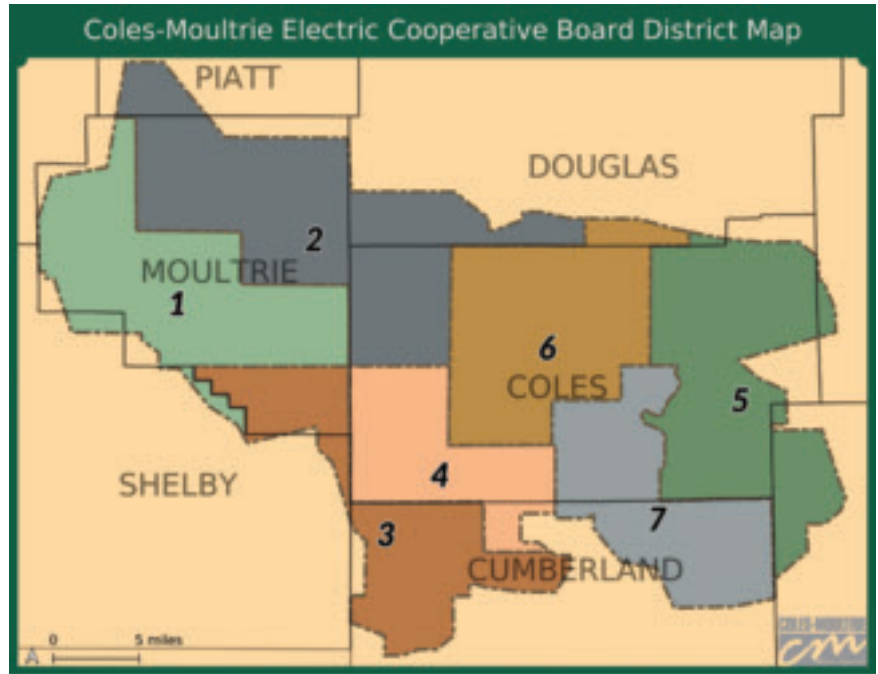
Our cooperative is divided into seven districts. This year board districts 2, 4, 5 and 6 qualified for elections. District 2 is uncontested with Mike Love nominated. District 4 has two candidates: **Michael Lefever and Colt Roderick. (Meet the candidates on page 20C).** Districts 5 and 6 are uncontested with Andrew Fearn nominated for 5 and Tom Sherman nominated for 6.

There are no proposed bylaw amendments for 2020. Paper ballots will be mailed to all members. Members who wish to vote electronically will be able

to vote by accessing the official login page as printed on each ballot. There will also be a direct link to SBS from our website.

Each membership has one vote and each ballot will have a unique election credential. Elections play an important role giving members the power to

select leaders and influence the direction of our cooperative. SBS will provide support by phone, email or chat, and their contact information will be listed on the ballot material. If you contact them after business hours, they will contact you the next business day.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When the weather is nice, put your grill to use! During summer months, cooking outdoors is a great way to save energy and eliminate unwanted heat from cooking indoors.



CMEC Connect

Our internet service, CMEC Connect, was discontinued effective April 1 due to the financial strain caused by the necessity to meet regulatory requirements and continual upgrades to provide quality up to date solutions. Thank you to those members who utilized this service.

Find Your Name and Win \$25

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.



Meet the Candidates for Election 2020 in District #4

The biographical information for these candidates has been provided by the candidates who are solely responsible for the content. Neither the Coles-Moultrie board of directors, the employees of the cooperative or the staff contributed to these biographies or verified the content. **Whit Laurs**

Colt Roderick

My name is Colt Roderick and I have resided in the Mattoon area since I was a child. I graduated from Mattoon High School in 2001 and soon began working for the Local Operators Union 841. In 2007, I married my wife, Jami (Bradley), and began my farm drainage business. We have grown our family to include 5 kids and live south of Mattoon. My family and I regularly attend The Fields Church. I enjoy volunteering in the community and surrounding areas and being active around town. I served on the Cumberland County Fair Board from 2012-2014, where



I managed a few events and donated time and service. In my free time, I enjoy spending time with my kids outdoors and working on equipment.

Michael Lefever

Mike was born and raised in central Illinois and has been an Illinois resident for the vast majority of his life. He graduated from Eastern IL University in 1993 with a BS in Business. While at EIU he was a radio announcer/disc jockey/engineer for the university radio station, WELH (changed later to WEIU). Mike is now retired after having spent most of his near 40-year career with big box retailers with positions in store level sales and department management; region supply chain/logistics management and systems training; corporate headquarters planning, and systems development and training. Mike and wife of 46 years, the former Joyce Riley of Lovington, IL, retired to



Mattoon in 2012 to “return to their roots” and spend time with aging parents. They have been members of Coles-Moultrie Electric Co-op since purchasing their current home in 2009. Together, Mike and Joyce have three successful, well educated, independent adult children and one granddaughter. Mike and Joyce are members of the Mattoon First United Methodist Church where Mike was a part of the 2018-2019 Strategic Planning Team. Mike has served on multiple church councils in previous congregations. He is a member of the Sons of the American Legion (SAL) Post 429 In Lovington, IL. Mike is a former Boy Scout of America Cubmaster, Sponsoring Organization Representative, Troop Committee Chairman, and Assistant Scoutmaster. He has been a volunteer at Mattoon Catholic Charities and was named Volunteer of the Year in 2017. Mike enjoys golf, woodworking, wood carving, and spending time with friends and family. He is looking to give back to the community by using his business and life experience to help assure the cooperative continues to provide safe, reliable and affordable electric service to the residents and businesses of rural east/central Illinois.

Join Us
JUNE
19th

81st Annual Meeting

Join us for our 81st Annual Meeting on Friday, June 19, 2020 at Peterson Park, Mattoon. Events start at 10 a.m. and we will offer “Drive Through Registration” using the southwest entrance of the park. Members who register will receive a \$25 bill credit and a chance to win a \$500 bill credit. Watch for more details in coming weeks and be sure to follow us on Facebook as details may change or need to be modified due to COVID-19. Watch for our annual report set to be mailed on or around June 1.



4 COMMON CULPRITS OF ELECTRICAL FIRES

Outdated wiring and overloaded circuits are the most common causes of electrical fires.

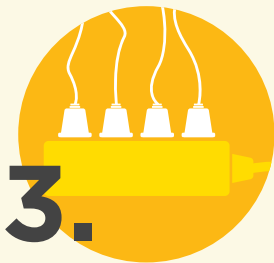
Check the following areas of your home to ensure your home's electrical safety is up to par.



Electrical outlets: Faulty electrical outlets are a leading cause of home fires. As outlets age, so do the wires behind them that you can't see. Any loose, damaged or warm-to-the-touch outlets should be repaired or replaced.



Electrical wiring: Outdated wiring is another common cause of electrical fires. Frequently tripped breakers, flickering lights and burning smells are clear warning signs. If your home is more than 20 years old, it may not be able to handle today's increased power load. If you suspect your home's wiring is outdated, leave this one to the pros and contact a qualified electrician.



Overloaded cords and outlets: Extension cords are not permanent solutions. If your big-screen TV, home theater system and other electronics are plugged into one extension cord, it's time to call an electrician and install additional outlets.



Old appliances: Older appliances are more likely to have loose or damaged wiring, which means they're more likely to catch fire. Check older appliances for damage and determine if it's time to upgrade or replace. Also check to ensure you're using appliance-grade outlets. A qualified electrician can help with installation.

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