

# THE GRID

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**Office hours:**  
Monday-Friday  
7:30a.m. - 4:30p.m.

**Chairman**

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**Vice Chairman**

Bill Voyles.....Sullivan

**Secretary**

Andrew Fearn.... Charleston

**Treasurer**

Thomas Sherman... Humboldt

**Directors**

Jeffery Hudson.....Charleston

Mike Love..... Mattoon

Colt Roderick..... Trilla

**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**

## CMEC Area Servicemen

Bill Arthur and Shane Ruppert are not new faces around our cooperative, but they have stepped into new roles. Both linemen were promoted to area servicemen due to recent retirements. Bill and Shane, along with our third area serviceman David Bowen, have a combined experience of 96 years!



**David Bowen 42 Years**



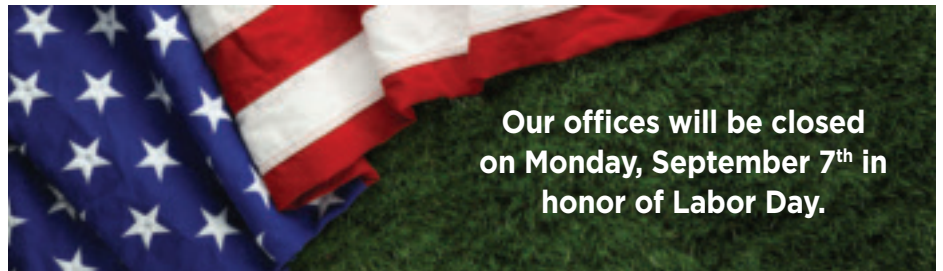
**Shane Ruppert 24 Years**



**Bill Arthur 30 Years**



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



**Our offices will be closed  
on Monday, September 7<sup>th</sup> in  
honor of Labor Day.**

# How to Save Money in the Laundry Room

Ah, the joys of owning a washer and dryer. There's no waiting for a machine, no coin slots and no one taking out your wet load if you aren't there when the cycle ends. Although it's cheaper per load and much more convenient to do laundry at home, there's a hidden cost to consider, and that's the energy it takes to run your washer and dryer. **Tammy Crable**

What appliances in your home use the most energy? The water heater is the appliance that costs the most to run. Right behind it is the washer and dryer's combined energy use. (Although not considered appliances by many, heating/cooling tops the list.)

A dryer requires more energy to run than a washer, but there are ways to reduce washing costs, too (think hot water vs. cold). To save money in the laundry room, here are some tips:

- When using your washing machine, select the right amount of water for the load – that is, don't select the “extra-large” setting when doing a small load. In fact, consider waiting to do laundry until you have full loads to conserve water.
- Use cold water to save the money you spend heating water. Some laundry detergents are designed to tackle stains in cold water.
- Using warm water instead of hot can cut a load's energy use in half, and using cold water will save even more, according to energy.gov.
- Use dryer balls to help separate clothes to get more air to them, cutting drying time.
- Utilize lower settings when you use the dryer. Even if your dryer runs longer, you'll use less



energy and be less likely to over-dry your clothes.

- Clean the lint out of your dryer between loads and scrub the filter monthly to remove buildup.
- Put like items together since lighter-weight clothes take less time to dry. Drying towels and heavier cottons take longer.
- Use the moisture sensor option on your dryer if it has one.
- When purchasing a dryer, consider an ENERGY STAR version, which uses 20 percent less energy than a conventional model.

ENERGY STAR-certified washers use about 25 percent less energy and 33 percent less water than regular clothes washers.

Thoroughly clean your dryer's vents and duct system at least twice a year.

To learn more about how much you are spending to run your washer and dryer each year, refer to energy.gov's appliance energy use calculator.

For more information about safety around electricity, visit SafeElectricity.org.

**About 90% of the energy used by washing machines goes to heating the water.**

**Save on energy costs by using cold or warm water.**

Source: Energystar.gov

The infographic features a light blue washing machine with a circular gauge in the center. The gauge has a dark blue segment representing 90% of the energy used for heating water. To the right of the machine, there is bold text stating that 90% of the energy goes to heating water and a call to action to save on energy costs by using cold or warm water. At the bottom left, it cites the source as Energystar.gov, and at the bottom right is the SafeElectricity.org logo.

# Make Your Voice Heard

There's an old political saying, "If you're not at the table, you're on the menu." This adage is the perfect answer to the question, "Why vote?" It's a blunt description of what happens when you don't engage in the political process.

If you don't vote, you're not only missing the opportunity to support a candidate that shares your views and concerns, you're allowing others to chart a course that impacts your future. That's why we're encouraging all Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative (CMEC) members to recognize National Voter Registration Day on Sep. 22, 2020. Whether you're registering yourself or others to vote, or helping members of our community get organized, there are many ways to get involved.

## Your vision, your vote

While local elections may not be as exciting as a presidential election, they are just as critical. Local elections have a direct impact on your community and your quality of life.

Like the national level, local

elections represent who we are as a community, and more importantly, where we want to go. Whether it's an election for a mayor, sheriff, state representative, school board or an electric co-op board member, your vision for the community is tied to your vote.

Voting keeps elected officials accountable. Elections are a direct and tangible source of feedback. For example, CMEC board members provide strategic guidance on the direction of the co-op and how it serves the community. Local board members embody the voice and identity of the community.

## Staying in sync with the community

The role of the co-op board is governance. While day-to-day decisions are made by employees, bigger decisions are made by the board, whose mission is to look out for the vitality of the co-op and the members. CMEC board members provide perspective on community priorities, thereby enabling us to make more informed decisions on long-term investments.

However, boards are not perfect, and we need you, the members of the co-op, to help keep the system in check. We depend on you and your neighbors to vote so that we can stay on course and ensure that we are in sync with the community that we serve.

A strong voter turnout shows investment in the community and ensures that a diverse number of views are represented. The whole community benefits when more people participate in the process, because greater numbers reflect a consensus on the direction of the future and the will of the people.

By voting in national, state and local elections, you are serving as a role model for your family, friends and colleagues. The act of voting demonstrates your support for the community and helps officials chart a course for the future. Democracy is not a spectator sport. Research candidates, learn about issues on the ballot, and get out and vote!

To learn more about National Voter Registration Day or to get involved, visit [www.nationalvoterregistrationday.org](http://www.nationalvoterregistrationday.org).



**NATIONAL  
VOTER  
REGISTRATION  
DAY**

September 22, 2020



## 40-Year Retirement

Thank you, Tim Genta, for serving our cooperative since 1978!

## #WhoPowersYou Contest

Touchstone Energy is once again sponsoring this national contest to honor local heroes across our country. Nomination forms are online and open Sept. 8 through Oct. 9 with a grand prize of \$5,000. Check out [whopowersyou.com](http://whopowersyou.com) to see details, rules and past winners. Tell us who has made a positive impact in your community!



### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Clothes dryers make up a large portion of your appliance energy consumption. Clean the lint filter after each cycle, and scrub the filter with a toothbrush once a month to remove film and increase air circulation.

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

# DON'T GET OUT


If your machinery, vehicle or other equipment make contact with a power line, guy wire or electrical box, DO NOT get out of your cab. Stray power could energize your equipment and the ground.

#### To avoid becoming electrocuted:

- **Call 9-1-1 and wait** for us to arrive to cut the power.
- **Wait** to exit your cab until the power is de-energized.

In rare cases you may need to exit your cab due to smoke or fire. If you must get out, make a solid jump out without touching any part of the tractor or vehicle and hop away as far as you can, keeping both feet together as you hop.

For more information visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).



Safe Electricity.org

### 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.



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