

# THE GRID

P.O. Box 709  
(104 Dewitt Ave., East)  
Mattoon, Illinois 61938

Phone: 217-235-0341  
or Toll-Free:  
888-661-CMEC (2632)  
Office hours:  
Monday-Friday  
7:30a.m. - 4:30p.m.

**Chairman**

Kent Metzger..... Gays

**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 Bornttrager

To Report an Outage  
call 888-661-2632

Send your current email  
to [info@cmeccoop](mailto:info@cmeccoop)  
for a chance to win a  
\$50 bill credit



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



Mark  
your calendar  
for Friday,  
October 7, 2022

for our 82nd  
Member Celebration  
& Annual Meeting.



## CMEC incentives for 2022 include:

- \$100 for electric Water Heaters (must be 40 gallon or higher)
- 25% with a maximum of \$250 for Energy Efficiency & Conservation projects or purchases

Ask for details at 217-235-0341.



## The Cooperative Difference

CMEC retired margins for the years 1984 and 1985. This is one of the differences between an electric cooperative and an IOU (investor-owned utility). Our cooperative mailed 3,129 capital credit checks on Dec. 31, 2021. Contact us at 217-235-0341 or email [info@cmeccoop](mailto:info@cmeccoop) for questions.

## New AMI System

CMEC will be implementing a new Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) System. Our cooperative assembled an AMI committee with representation from each department and has spent the last year evaluating established vendors with industry leading technology. This new AMI system will enhance service to our members by providing data such as interval readings, outage notification, line loss and more. Our goal is to begin deploying the new meters this fall with completion early 2023.



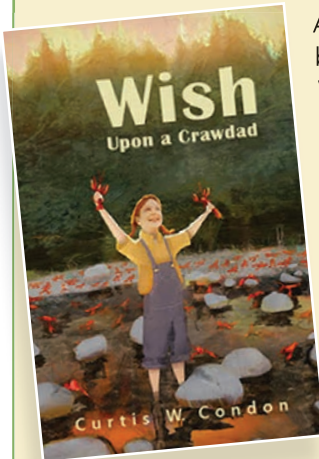
## Reminder

CMEC Scholarship Applications are due **April 30, 2022**. Applications can be downloaded from our website, picked up in our lobby, or requested by contacting our office.



Congrats to Drew Haumesser on his promotion to Line Clearance Journeyman

## Wish Upon a Crawdad



A new children's book will be released in May titled **Wish Upon a Crawdad** by Curtis W. Condon. The main character is Ruby Mae Ryan, and the setting is the Great Depression in rural America. This book is for middle-grade readers and has a rural electric theme throughout the story.

## Find Your Name and Win \$50

Find your name hidden inside this issue of The Grid and receive a **\$50 bill credit**. Credit must be claimed by the end of each month in which this newsletter is published.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When was your cooling system last serviced? Most manufacturers recommend an annual tune up for your home's cooling system. March is a great time to schedule this service so you can beat the summer rush when the pros are busiest.

A qualified professional can check the amount of refrigerant, accuracy of the thermostat, condition of belts and motors and other factors that can impact the efficiency of your system.

Source: Dept. of Energy



# What Does It Mean to Serve on the Board?

In one of the most notable inaugural speeches given, John F. Kennedy spoke his famous words, “Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country.” His inspiring words urged Americans to take actions that benefited the greater good. In essence, Kennedy was saying our country thrives when we all contribute our talents to the common good. **Robert Jones**

On a smaller scale, the same can be said about our co-op, specifically regarding our board members. CMEC board members are community-minded individuals with a variety of skill sets. Our board is made up of farmers, educators, managers, accountants, and business owners. We rely on their many talents to help us make informed decisions on long-term priorities and investments. Our directors live right here in the co-op’s service area, and we consider them the eyes and ears of the community because they provide their perspective on important community issues.

We recognize it takes people with different skills to create a well-rounded board that can represent

the full spectrum of our community. That’s why voting in our director elections is so important.

Serving on our board means making a difference locally, using individual talents and perspective to guide big decisions about the co-op that in turn benefit the larger community. While day-to-day decisions are made by co-op staff, major decisions are made by the board, whose mission is to look out for the vitality of the co-op and the community it serves. On a granular level, board members typically provide input and guidance on:

- budgets
- co-op goals and direction
- co-op’s community/charitable contributions
- capital investments and upgrades in equipment and technology
- renewable investments and energy mix
- co-op’s role and involvement in economic development

The energy industry is undergoing a major transition. Technology advancements and increased consumer preference for more renewable energy is

driving change. CMEC is facing big decisions, and board members have an opportunity to help chart a course for our future. To serve the community best, we need input from a wide range of people that represent the broad spectrum of views within community.

CMEC board elections will be held in September. Districts one and seven will expire this year. While you don’t need to be an expert in electricity or business to run, you do need to have a passion for the community and a willingness to actively serve and learn. Our board meets on a regular basis, and we offer specialized training opportunities to help board members make informed decisions. Board members gain a deeper understanding of the electric utility industry, the cooperative business model and local economic development efforts.

Ultimately, our board is the community pulse for the co-op and helps keep us on the right track. We love our community and want to help it thrive. To learn more about the director election process and 2022 details, please call our office or email [info@cmeccoop.com](mailto:info@cmeccoop.com).

## DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS!



# Spring Forward

### REMEMBER TO SPRING FORWARD ON MARCH 13

# Reap What You Sow

Stay safe during planting season. Long hours and fatigue are a constant battle for farmers during planting season. If you farm, remember to take care of yourself by getting as much rest as possible and allowing yourself breaks to clear your head. Be especially aware of electrical hazards around the farm. Be cautious and think twice before acting around electricity. Visit **SafeElectricity.org** for more information and safety tips.



## Planned Outages

CMEC will call members when we have planned outages in your area by calling the "Home Number" on your account.



Please ensure this number is up to date by logging into SmartHub, calling our office at 217-235-0341, or looking at the bottom left corner of your monthly electric bill.



# SPRING INTO SAFETY

Spring is in the air and that means more than just a change of season for farmers. During the busy planting season, follow these eight safety tips:



### TRANSPORT SAFELY

Ensure equipment is compliant with agriculture road and travel safety rules



### SHARE SAFETY TIPS

Teach anyone working or doing business on your farm about electrical hazards



### ENCOURAGE YOUNG WORKERS

Be sure to match age and ability level with each chore



### BE CLEAR

Explain where the "back 80" or Smith field is; not everyone may know how to get there



### WRITE IT DOWN

Keep directions (with proper road and farm ground names) at home, in the shop and in cabs



### LOOK AROUND

Inspect your space and look for hazards before you start planting



### EVALUATE PROCEDURES

Consider new safety precautions you can implement, such as lockout/tagout



### MEET AND DISCUSS

Conduct morning safety meetings to brief everyone on the day and talk about potential hazards

Sources: Rural Mutual Insurance Co., farmprogress.com



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