

THE GRID



2022 Scholarship Winners

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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

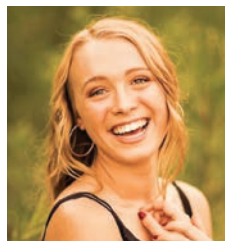
Amy Bornttrager

To Report an Outage
call 888-661-2632

Send your current email
to info@cmec.coop
for a chance to win a
\$50 bill credit



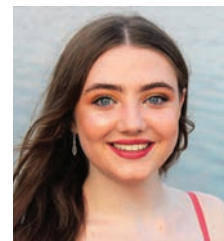
Benjamin Bushue
Sullivan



Kamdyn Dunn
Neoga



Piper Gentry
Neoga



Grace Lynch
Sullivan
*Awarded both the CMEC
& the Thomas Moore
IEC Scholarship*



Cadance McDaniel
Mattoon



Trista Moore
Neoga



Natalie Oliver
Charleston



Maggie Rentfro
Mattoon



Lucas Romack
Neoga



Madison Veatch
Charleston



Morgan Wallace
Sullivan



Jackson Welsh
Gays



Dylan Will
Sigel



Kaden Young
Neoga



Zachary Wetzel
Mattoon
*Randall Beasley
Memorial Scholarship Award*



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Welcome to Team CMEC



Mitch Huddleston
Apprentice Lineman



Sydney Linville,
Chief Financial Officer (CFO)

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.

Your CMEC Area Servicemen

Marcus McDowell



Bill Arthur



Shane Ruppert

70+ years of combined experience

Director Sherman Receives Certificate

Tom Sherman, District Six Board Director, received the Credentialed Cooperative Director certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). An ever-changing business environment has imposed new demands on electric cooperative directors, requiring increased knowledge of changes in the utility business, new governance skills and a solid knowledge of the cooperative principles and business model. Electric co-ops in Illinois and CMEC have a commitment to work through the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) and NRECA to sharpen this body of knowledge for the benefit of



their members. This certification demonstrates understanding of five core courses which include Director Duties and Liabilities, Understanding the Electric Business, Board Operations and Process, Strategic Planning and Financial Decision Making.

Ginger Ale's

This hand-crafted drink drive thru restaurant opened in Mattoon on June 20th at 1817 Charleston Avenue. Selections include teas, sodas, coffees, smoothies, protein shakes and more. They have "2.8 septillion" flavor combination options. CMEC and our members support small business comeback and realize the importance of shopping local in our communities. This is Ginger Ale's first franchise location to open.

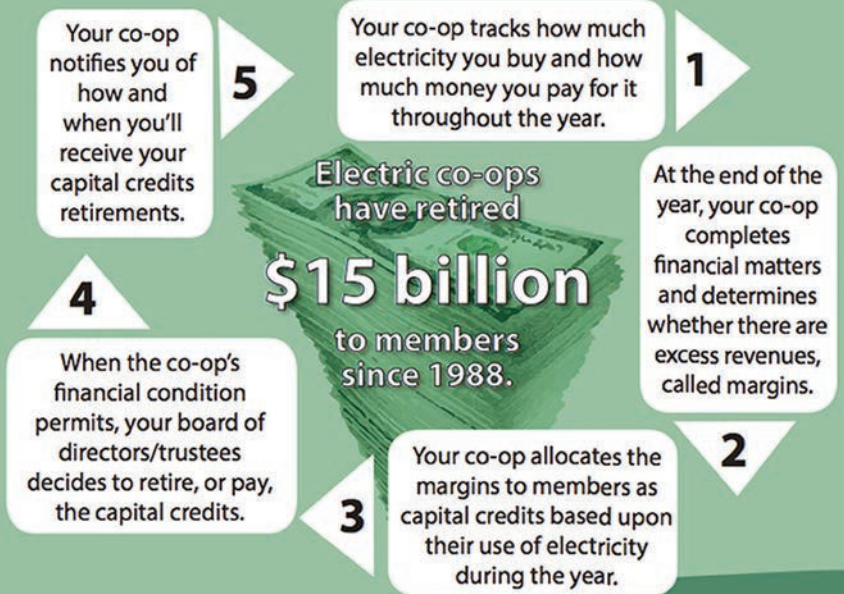


Member Perk

Being a member of an electric cooperative has its perks. The allocations for 2021 were printed on bills mailed out July 13th, 2022. CMEC has paid Capital Credits through 1988. For a list of unclaimed Capital Credits, visit www.cmec.coop.

How Do Capital Credits Work?

Because electric co-ops operate at cost, any excess revenues, called margins, are returned to members in the form of capital credits.



Source: National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

An easy way to save energy is to seal air leaks and holes where plumbing pipes run through walls in your home. You can also check wall-mounted cabinets for plumbing holes or air gaps in the back.

Fill any holes or gaps with spray foam. Wear protective gloves and use a damp rag for cleanup.

Source: Dept. of Energy



Avoid Distractions While Driving

Some temptations are hard to resist. For me, it can be especially challenging to turn down that last piece of chocolate cake.

While driving, we typically hear that “ding” on our phone, alerting us to a text or call coming through, and we sometimes feel the urgent need to check it. We know we shouldn’t, but we reason that we’re going to make an exception—just this once.

So, why do we indulge in behavior we know to be wrong, dangerous and in many states, illegal? Call it hubris. According to AAA research, most people feel they are better-than-average drivers. After all, we have busy lives and are accustomed to multitasking. But mounds of research and thousands of deaths every year prove otherwise.

August is Back to School Safety Month. As a new school year begins with young drivers and school buses back on the road, I thought it would be a good time to remind folks, including myself, of the dangers of distracted driving.

The reality is that using a phone while driving creates enormous potential for injuries and fatalities. Distractions take a motorist’s attention off driving, which can make a driver miss critical events, objects and cues, potentially leading to a crash.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, one of every 10 fatal crashes in the U.S. involves distracted driving, resulting in more than 3,000 deaths annually.

I find this statistic heartbreaking considering so many of these accidents could easily be avoided if we’d simply put down our phones while driving.

Distracted driving is considered any activity that diverts our attention, including texting or talking on the phone, and adjusting the navigation or entertainment system. Texting is by far one of the most dangerous distractions. Sending or reading one text takes your eyes off the road for an average of five seconds. At 55 mph, that’s like driving the length of an entire football field with your eyes closed.

In addition to refraining from texting while driving, we can help keep the roads safe by moving over for first responders

and other emergency vehicles. Additionally, if you see utility crews conducting work near the roadside, I’d encourage you to move over when possible and give them extra space to perform their work safely.

At CMEC, safety is foremost in everything we do—for our employees and the members of the communities we serve. We routinely remind our crews of the dangers of distracted driving, and we hope you’ll have similar conversations with your teens who may be new to the roadways and are especially susceptible to the lure of technology. **Brian Crosbie**

Let’s work together to keep everyone safe on the roads. Remember: that text can wait and waiting just might save a life.



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