

# 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**  
Kent Metzger ..... Gays
- Vice Chairman**  
Thomas Sherman... Humboldt
- Secretary**  
Andrew Fearn.... Charleston
- Treasurer**  
Mike Love ..... Mattoon
- Directors**  
Jeffery Hudson . Charleston  
Colt Roderick..... Trilla  
Ed Voltenburg ..... Sullivan
- Interim President/CEO**  
Jim Wallace

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

## 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 Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



## Lineworkers Are Wired for Service

In the quiet hours before dawn breaks, while many of us are still nestled in our beds, lineworkers begin their day, often clad in flame-resistant clothing, safety goggles, rubber gloves and thick, heavy boots.

They are the individuals who epitomize dedication to service in its purest form. As we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 14, this is an important moment to reflect on the essential role they play in our daily lives.

Amid towering utility poles and power lines, lineworkers exhibit a strength that goes far beyond the physical. Whether battling inclement weather, troubleshooting technical problems or navigating treacherous heights, lineworkers demonstrate resilience and a quiet determination to keep our lights on, our homes comfortable, and our communities connected.

Coles Moultrie Electric Cooperative (CMEC) crews travel across our eight-county service territory, building, maintaining and repairing parts of our local system. Their extraordinary skills ensure our homes remain connected to the grid, businesses stay operational, and emergency services remain

accessible — a lifeline that connects us all.

In moments of crisis, when the lights go out and we find ourselves in the dark, lineworkers emerge as beacons of hope. Their swift response restores normalcy, offering reassurance in times of uncertainty. Whether repairing storm-ravaged power lines or ensuring continuity during emergencies, their unwavering commitment illuminates life when we need it most.

CMEC lineworkers also answer the call beyond the boundaries of home. Our crews travel to fellow co-ops, near or far, when widespread outages occur and additional support is needed. Cooperation among cooperatives is one of our seven guiding principles, and no one embodies this core commitment better than lineworkers.

This month, as we celebrate the remarkable men and women who ensure reliable power, let's recognize their unwavering dedication to the local communities they serve.

The next time you flip a switch, please take a moment to remember those who make it possible — lineworkers, who are wired for service and dedicated to illuminating life.



## SCHOLARSHIPS

CMEC will award six \$500 scholarships and a \$1,000 Randall Beasley Memorial Scholarship in 2025.

Deadline to apply is April 30, 2025.

Applications are available on our website or can be requested by emailing [cbradbury@cmeccoop.com](mailto:cbradbury@cmeccoop.com).



## Have You Looked at Your Bill?

We are excited about our new bill design that began in March. This provides you, our members, with even more information and helps us serve you better. Want even more tools and details to help you track usage and save money? Sign up for a SmartHub account at [www.cmeccoop.com](http://www.cmeccoop.com). Want help navigating the new bill? Give us a call or email us at [info@cmeccoop.com](mailto:info@cmeccoop.com).



Visit us online at [www.cmeccoop.com](http://www.cmeccoop.com)  
Office Hours: 7:30am - 4:30pm Mon-Fri  
Toll Free: 1-888-661-2632  
Email: [info@cmeccoop.com](mailto:info@cmeccoop.com)

<b>Member Name</b>	<b>WILLIE WIREDHAND</b>
<b>Account #</b>	<b>9999999</b>
<b>Billing Date:</b>	<b>11/11/2024</b>
<b>Current Bill Due Date:</b>	<b>12/06/2024</b>
Previous Balance	\$100.00
Payment Received	-\$100.00
Balance Forward	\$0.00
<b>Current Charges</b>	<b>\$164.55</b>
<b>Total Amount Due 12/06/2024</b>	<b>\$164.55</b>
<b>Total Amount Due After 12/06/2024</b>	<b>\$180.77</b>

Total Amount Due

# \$164.55

Due Date: 12/06/2024

**Important Messages**

Do you know a member that could use a HUG? It's a Home Utility Gift or "HUG" and makes a great gift for any occasion. This is one more way CMEC makes it easy to help our members. Stop by the cooperative or call us at 217-235-0341 for details or questions.

Rate	Meter No.	Reading Dates From	Reading Dates To	Previous	Present	Multiplier	kWh Usage	kW Usage
1	999999999	10/01/2024	11/01/2024	14531	15281	1	390	13.593
24	888888888	10/01/2024	11/01/2024	288	306	20	360	

**Kilowatt Hours**

**Current Service Detail**

Service Availability Charge	\$58.00
Service Availability Charge	\$5.00
kWh Charges	390 kWh @ 0.12799 \$49.92
kWh Charges	360 kWh @ 0.10689 \$38.48
Demand Charge	13.593 kW @ 0.0000 \$0.00
Ill Pub Util Rev Tax	\$2.40
Area Light	\$10.75
<b>Current Charges</b>	<b>\$164.55</b>

**Energy Usage Comparison**

Category	This Month	Last Month	This Month Last Year
kWh	750	529	503
Days	31 days	30 days	30 days

**Avg Daily Use**

24 kWh

**Avg Daily Cost**

\$5.31

**Avg Daily Temp**

59°F

**KEEP SEND**



PO BOX 709  
MATTOON, IL 61938-0709

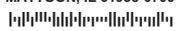
**PAY YOUR BILL 24/7**  
ONLINE: At [cmeccoop.com](http://cmeccoop.com) or through SmartHub  
PHONE: (217) 235-0341 or (888) 661-2632



<b>Account Number</b>	<b>9999999</b>
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Your payment and any returned checks may be processed electronically.

**COLES-MOULTRIE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**  
PO BOX 709  
MATTOON, IL 61938-0709



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WILLIE WIREDHAND  
104 DEWITT AVE E  
MATTOON, IL 61938

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## Board News

- Welcome Ed Voltenburg appointed by our board to replace Bill Voyles in district one.
- Congratulations Vice Chairman Tom Sherman on receiving his Director Gold Certificate. The Director Gold achievement is the highest status a director can reach and exemplifies Tom's commitment to fiscally serving the members of CMEC at the highest level.



Pictured on the left presenting the certificate to Tom is Board Chairman Kent Metzger.

# Prioritizing Safety



Back row, from left: Grant Cooper, Brandon Slifer, and Brock Cook. Front row, from left: Steven Baldwin, Anita Hoene, and Mitch Huddleston.

Safety is paramount in the electric industry. To advance safety education and practices, lineworkers, supervisors and warehouse personnel from electric cooperatives across Illinois gathered in Springfield for the annual Safety and Energy Conference held Jan. 29-30. The event was hosted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC).

The conference emphasized the importance of safety and leadership in the energy industry, providing participants with training and resources to ensure their well-being on the job. Sessions included discussions on active leadership, staying focused and safe practices in the workplace.

During the conference, safety awards were presented to honor both individual and cooperative-wide commitments to fostering a safe work environment. Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative was recognized for its outstanding

safety performance over the past year, receiving a 2024 award for Best Loss Rate. This award underscores a cooperative's dedication to maintaining a safe working environment, exceeding industry safety expectations, and cultivating a proactive safety culture.

**Kevin Conlin**

The Best Incident Rate Award recognizes the cooperatives with the lowest overall number of recordable workplace incidents, including minor injuries. It highlights a commitment to maintaining a consistently safe work environment for all employees.

As the electric industry continues to evolve, safety remains a top priority. It ensures that the workforce can continue to serve communities efficiently and without harm. The AIEC celebrates the electric cooperatives and individuals that prioritize safety, consistently demonstrate leadership in safe practices, and foster a strong safety culture.

## ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

Turn your suds into savings. Lower your energy use in the laundry room by washing clothes with cold water whenever possible, as heating water accounts for most of the energy used in a laundry cycle. Wash full loads to make the most of energy savings, and use high-efficiency detergent designed for cold washes. For drying cycles, clean the lint filter before each load to improve airflow and use dryer balls to reduce drying time.





# TOP 10 reasons we appreciate lineworkers

1. They are expertly trained to work on power lines and equipment.
2. They are dedicated to safely and efficiently maintaining power.
3. They have a heart for service, always looking out for their communities.
4. They conquer heights without hesitation.
5. They prioritize safety every second of every day.
6. They answer the call – day or night – to restore power.
7. They work in extreme weather conditions.
8. They go when and where they are needed, supporting communities nationwide when severe weather strikes.
9. They have each other's backs and work together like family.
10. They power our lives and energize our communities!

Safe  
Electricity.org®

Thank you, lineworkers, for all you do to keep the lights on.



## What is Demand?

Residential and general service members are not currently charged for electric demand. What is demand? It is the amount of power required in an instant to energize all your connected appliances, lighting, heating, and anything else requiring electricity, at the exact same time. The newly designed bills list your electric demand as a line item, and about half of our cooperative's power supply costs are based on demand. Demand impacts our costs, in turn affecting the cost for all members. It is measured in kilowatts (kW).



- ✓ **In person** - Our office is open 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday.
- ✓ **Dropbox** - Payment drop-off boxes are located next to our parking lot and inside our building.
- ✓ **Phone** - Call our toll-free line 888-661-2632, Option #2.
- ✓ **Online** - Log in and/or download the Smarthub app today. Find details at [www.cmec.coop](http://www.cmec.coop).
- ✓ **Automated** - Deduct from a bank account or charge to a credit card each month.
- ✓ **Vanilla Direct** - Pay at convenient locations using your SmartHub account barcode. See [pay.vanilladirect.com/pages/retailers](http://pay.vanilladirect.com/pages/retailers) for locations.

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