

Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative

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 FearnCharleston

Treasurer

Mike Love..... Mattoon

Directors

Jeffery Hudson ..Charleston

Colt Roderick Trilla

Ed Voltenburg.....Sullivan

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 



Powered by Purpose

In October, electric cooperatives across the country take time to celebrate National Co-op Month and reflect on the unique advantages of being part of a cooperative. It's also the perfect time to thank you — the members who make it all possible. For us, it's not just a celebration. It's a chance to reaffirm the values that guide everything we do.

Unlike investor-owned utilities, our co-op doesn't exist to make profits for distant shareholders. We exist to serve you — our members, our neighbors and our communities. That purpose is what sets us apart. It's why we were founded, and it's what continues to drive every decision we make.

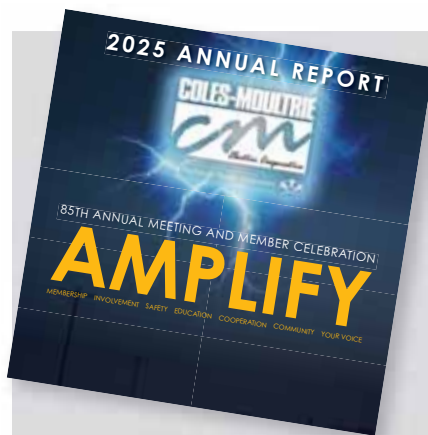
At its core, being a cooperative means we are member-owned and locally controlled. That's not just a tagline; it's the very heart of our

business model. Members have a voice in how our co-op operates. You elect board members who live right here in our service area and understand the unique challenges and opportunities our communities face. Decisions aren't made in corporate boardrooms hundreds of miles away; they're made here at home, by people who care about the same things you do.

This local accountability means we can stay focused on what matters most: delivering reliable, affordable electricity and providing real value to the people we serve.

We do that by investing in essential infrastructure upgrades and technologies that strengthen our local grid and improve electric service. We work hard to manage costs and keep rates

- Continued on page 18C



Annual Report

Your CMEC 2025 Annual Report has been mailed to all members. Request a copy by emailing info@cmec.coop or visit our website at www.cmec.coop.



During October, CMEC will be celebrating Co-op Month with a special membership drawing in each of our seven board districts. Each Wednesday, we will feature a different district and announce the winner from that area on our Facebook page. Be sure to follow us on Facebook to see who the lucky winners are!

Angel Tree for One Stop Community Christmas

During the months of October and November, CMEC will be collecting \$25 toys for ages 14-18 years old for One Stop Community Christmas. Stop by the co-op and grab an ornament off of the tree or see the list of suggested toys below. Members will be entered into a drawing for a \$50 bill credit for each \$25 qualifying gift they bring into the office.

Here is a list of suggested toys with a \$25 value for 14-18 year olds:

- Art kits
- Makeup
- Squish melloes
- Skin care
- Legos
- Sports equipment
- Room décor
- Pokemon
- Bluetooth speakers
- Wireless over-the-ear headphones
- LED lights
- Body spray sets
- Anime
- Hair styling tools
- Video games
- Mini Brands
- Perfume/cologne
- Fishing gear
- Dungeons & Dragons
- Remote-control cars
- Minecraft
- Hunting gear
- Fortnite
- Tools
- Star Wars
- Football/baseball team items
- Harry Potter



CMEC Distribution System Outages – Part 3

By Jim Wallace, President & CEO

This month, I am concluding my discussion about outages on CMEC's distribution system by explaining "individual" outages, ones that affect only one member. If you didn't get a chance to read the previous two articles, they can be found by going to www.cmec.coop, hovering on "My Cooperative," and selecting "The Grid Publications." They are in the June and July issues of The Grid.

As discussed previously, the high-voltage (7,200 volts) powerline is connected to transformers that reduce the voltage at the point-of-use to the applicable voltage. In most cases, residential voltage is 120/240 volts. The majority of the transformers on the CMEC distribution system are connected to only one service. When a loss of service occurs at one of these locations, it's known as an individual outage. While the meter that serves the location that experiences the loss of power reports to the Outage Management System, and it's reported to office personnel during the regular workday and to the after-hours dispatch personnel outside of the regular workday, it's not always a guarantee that the meter will be reported and on-call personnel will respond. We would prefer that you never assume that it will be handled and go ahead and call in the outage. Since it's an individual outage, no one else will report it from the area. **Lillie Jane Frederick**

One of the first things you will be asked is if you have checked your breakers. The main breaker at your location could be in various locations, so it's good to determine that location. If the meter is located on a pole, there is likely a breaker below the meter. If the meter is located on the side of the house or another building, there may be a breaker below the meter, or the main breaker may be located in the main panel inside the building. If you have any questions or concerns about where the breaker is

located, CMEC can try to explain where it's located and in most cases be successful. Keep in mind, we don't always know the exact locations of breakers at a member's service point. A key point to be made about checking main breakers: **The breaker may look like it's in the correct position, but it may actually be tripped. The best way to ensure it's not tripped is to shut it off, then switch it back to the "on" position.** It has fooled many people over the years.

If you check the breakers and the power is still not restored, you will be told that if CMEC personnel respond and the problem is found on your equipment, you will be responsible for the cost of the trip. If you would prefer that CMEC still respond, the meter will be checked remotely to see if it's reporting voltage. If it is, there is a slight chance that the problem could be on CMEC side, but it's most likely that it's on your side. If there is no voltage reporting from the meter, CMEC personnel will respond, determine the cause of the issue, and make the necessary repairs.

There are too many scenarios to detail but some causes on CMEC's side could be: a bad transformer; a fuse or breaker tripped on the transformer that could be caused by a problem on the member's side; a fuse or breaker tripped caused by an animal or lightning; a bad wire connection where CMEC's wires connect to the member's wiring; and many more.

The main thing we want you to know is that in every case, CMEC personnel will respond to correct your problem if it's on CMEC's side. In the case of a problem on the member's side, we can advise but it will be up to you to see that the issue is corrected. CMEC is grateful to have each of you as a member of our cooperative. Providing the best service possible is our main goal. Look for additional articles in the future that discuss our operation and how we use technology to enhance the service we provide to you.

"Powered" continued from page 18A

as low as possible — because we know how much rising prices affect families and small businesses in our area. And when storms hit or outages occur, Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative crews are here and ready to respond quickly, because we live here too.

But our commitment doesn't end at the power lines.

Co-ops were built to meet community needs, and that purpose extends well beyond delivering electricity. Whether we're supporting local schools, sponsoring youth programs or partnering with volunteer organizations, we are always looking for ways to improve the quality of life in the places we serve. Community support isn't an afterthought — it's part of our mission. That's the power of the cooperative

difference. That's what it means to be powered by purpose.

This National Co-op Month, I encourage you to take pride in your cooperative membership. You're not just a customer — you're an owner, a stakeholder, and a vital part of a larger effort to keep our community strong, connected and energized.

Thank you for the trust you place in us. We're proud to be your local electric cooperative.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

As winter approaches, now is the time to inspect your home for air leaks around windows. Leaks reduce indoor comfort and lead to higher heating costs.

If you can see daylight around the edges of a window frame or if a window rattles slightly when touched, air is likely leaking.

Caulking and weatherstripping are simple, effective methods for sealing windows. These materials are available in a variety of compounds and forms, each designed for different types of surfaces. Choose the right product and apply it properly to reduce heat loss, improve comfort and lower energy bills.




85th Annual Meeting & Member Celebration

We are celebrating you, our members, on **Friday, Oct. 3rd at Peterson Park**. This will be a hybrid event with members driving through the park with the option of staying for our meeting in person at 1 p.m. The meeting will also be live on Facebook. Enter the park from Broadway Avenue at the 5th Street entrance and follow the signs. Employees will be on hand to guide you and answer questions.

- Early Bird Registration is available at 6:30 a.m. at the park
- Boxed lunch, shakeups & giveaways starting at 11 a.m. while supplies last
- \$25 bill credit for registered members
- \$100, \$250 & \$500 bill credit drawings (need not be present to win)



HARVEST SAFELY

If your equipment comes in contact with a power line or pole, do not exit the cab.

Call 9-1-1, warn others to stay away and wait for the utility to cut the power.

Safe Electricity.org

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