

THE GRID

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

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To Report an Outage
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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 

2025 Lineworker's Safety Rodeo



Pictured left to right, Shane Ruppert, Grant Cooper, and Gavin Bennett

CMEC's Gavin Bennett, Grant Cooper and Shane Ruppert represented our co-op at the 2025 Lineworker's Safety Rodeo, held at the LLCC Line School yard in Springfield. They competed against teams from across Illinois in events using skills that focus on agility, speed and accuracy. While these skills are part of the judging criteria, above all, participants are judged on safe work practices.

Line personnel competed in an armor rod install, cutout change, hurt

man rescue, 40-foot transition climb and transition climbing challenge. At the end of the day, Cooper placed second in the individual 40-foot transition climb, and the team placed first in the team version of the event. The team also took home first place in the cutout change, second place in the armor rod install and placed third in overall team. Congratulations to our lineworkers on their team and individual efforts.

Congratulations!



Closed for Thanksgiving

We are thankful for you, our members!

CMEC will be closed Nov. 27 and 28.

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



ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

With the holiday season approaching and more time spent in the kitchen, consider ways to save energy in the heart of your home. When possible, cook meals with smaller, energy efficient appliances, such as toaster ovens, slow cookers and air fryers. When using the range, match the size of the pan to the heating element. Keep range-top burners and reflectors clean so they reflect heat more efficiently. After your holiday meals are complete, load the dishwasher fully before starting the wash cycle.

Source: energy.gov





IEC MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Powering Your Future

At CMEC, we believe the key to a brighter future lies in empowering the next generation. That's why electric cooperatives across Illinois are committed to investing in youth through scholarships that honor the legacy of our cooperative family while fueling the dreams and goals of tomorrow's leaders.

The electric cooperatives of Illinois will award **17 scholarships of \$3,000 each** to outstanding students as part of the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program. **Charles Bevin**

This program is about more than financial aid — it's about empowering students. While honoring those who came before us, we are investing in the future. Illinois' electric cooperatives are always looking for ways to spark positive change in our communities, and supporting youth through scholarships is one

of the most impactful ways we can help shape tomorrow.

Scholarships Available:

- **Ten scholarships** will be awarded to high school seniors whose parent(s) are members of an Illinois electric cooperative and who plan to enroll full-time at a 2-year or a 4-year college, university or vocational/technical school.
- The **Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship** will be awarded to a student whose parent is an Illinois electric cooperative employee or director, honoring a legacy of service within the cooperative family.
- **Five scholarships** will be awarded to students enrolling full-time at an Illinois community college whose parent(s) are electric cooperative members.

- The **LaVern and Nola McEntire Memorial Lineworker's Scholarship** supports students pursuing a career in linework through enrollment in the lineworker program at Lincoln Land Community College. Eligible applicants include children of cooperative members, relatives of employees or directors, and individuals who have served or are currently serving in the armed forces or National Guard.

The general scholarship application deadline is Dec. 31, 2025, and the lineworker scholarship is due by April 30, 2026. For more information, contact Summar Smith at ssmith@cmeccoop, call our office at 217-235-0341 or visit our website at cmeccoop. You can also find information at aieccoop.

Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative Scholarships

CMEC will once again be awarding six \$500 scholarships and the Randall Beasley Memorial Scholarship for \$1000 in 2026! The Randall Beasley Memorial Scholarship honors long time CMEC employee and Navy Veteran, Randall Beasley. Scholarship applications are now open and the deadline to apply is March 31, 2026. Forms can be found on our website, in our office or can be requested by emailing ssmith@cmeccoop.



**WELCOME
to our team!**



Brandt Young, Apprentice Lineman (left), and Drew Pals, Apprentice Lineman (right)



**DON'T FORGET TO SET
YOUR CLOCKS BACK!**

**DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME
ENDS NOV. 2ND.**

**HONORING
CMEC EMPLOYEE VETERANS**



Dennis Ray



Heather Hakman

**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR SERVICE!**



**DIY NATURAL
DECOR**

Use natural features, like pinecones, greenery and dried fruit for energy-free holiday decor.



**PREPARING
FOR THE HUNT**

- Maintain a distance of at least 10 feet from overhead lines and electrical infrastructure.
- Never climb a utility pole.
- Don't use utility poles to support tree stands or blinds.
- Avoid aiming toward power lines or equipment.

**Safe
Electricity.org**

Monthly Board Meeting Minutes can be viewed on our website: cmeccoop.com