

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.

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Andrew Fearn.... Charleston

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Mike Love Mattoon

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Ed VoltenburgSullivan

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**To Report an Outage
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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.

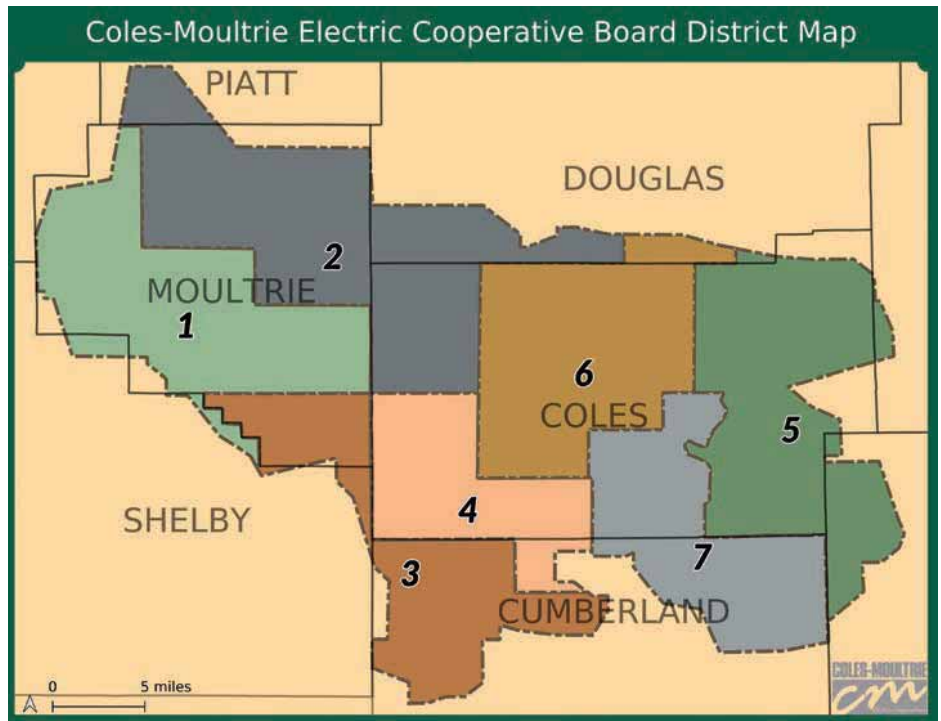


Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Board Nominations

Board of Director nominations are due at our office at 104 Dewitt Ave. E., Mattoon, no later than July 1, 2026. Director districts to be elected in 2026 are two, four, five, and six. Nomination is made by the petition of members in accordance with the cooperative bylaws. Directors represent all members of Coles-Moultrie

Electric Cooperative, serve three-year terms, and attend monthly board meetings. The co-op is divided into seven districts. We welcome any members from districts two, four, five, and six who are considering nomination to call our office at 217-235-0341 or email info@cmec.coop.



**86th Annual Meeting &
Member Celebration**
Friday, October 2nd
Peterson Park, Mattoon



Youth Day 2026

On March 25, 168 students sponsored by 24 electric and telephone cooperatives from across Illinois gathered at the State Capitol for Youth Day, an annual event aimed at introducing young leaders to state government and the cooperative principles that support their communities. Throughout the day, students met with elected officials, toured historic sites, and gained firsthand insight into how state government operates.

Representing Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative were Callen Lanham of Neoga High School, Luci Barringer of Okay Valley High School, and Abby Herzberg of St. John's Lutheran High School.

As cooperatives, we're dedicated not just to delivering reliable service, but also to supporting the next generation. Youth Day gives students a chance to learn about what makes cooperatives unique and how they can make a difference as informed, engaged citizens.

Students not only connected with elected officials but also gained a deeper understanding of their local cooperative's role in the community. The day included

tours of the Capitol Building and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum.

During lunch, Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs shared his journey from a small Illinois town to state office, encouraging students to pursue their passions, seek meaningful opportunities, and remain lifelong learners. Students also heard from Micah Anderson, the 2025-26 Illinois Youth Leadership Council representative, who was sponsored by Adams Telephone Co-Operative during the 2025 Youth Day and Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. He reflected on his experiences representing Illinois, describing it as one of the most fulfilling opportunities of his life.

Beyond Youth Day, Callen Lanham and Luci Barringer were also selected to participate in Youth Tour, an annual trip to Washington, D.C., sponsored by Illinois electric and telephone cooperatives. This year's trip will be held June 15-22. They will represent CMEC on the weeklong trip to see historic sites, learn firsthand how cooperatives work, and gain valuable leadership skills.



Pictured left to right Luci Barringer, Callen Lanham and Abby Herzberg



Cooperative – Not Just a Word, It’s Our Way of Life



Jim Wallace
CMEC President
& CEO

If you’ve ever attended a function sponsored by CMEC, you have, no doubt, heard how proud we are to be a cooperative. We’ve talked about the benefits of

belonging to a cooperative. Some of those benefits are financial, such as being “not-for-profit,” which returns any profits back to you, the member, at a later time in the form of capital credits. Another benefit is the opportunity to be represented locally by members of the cooperative on the board of directors and having a vote to determine those representatives. You even have the opportunity to be that representative if you choose to run in your district. At CMEC, we don’t just say we believe in the cooperative way, it is a part of nearly everything we do. Following, I will list the organizations we work closely with that are cooperatives as well.

AIEC – Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives

This is our statewide association, which is comprised of 25 electric distribution cooperatives like us, five generation and transmission cooperatives (G&Ts) that supply power to us, and eight telephone cooperatives. The AIEC works with us to insert our monthly newsletter in the Illinois Country Living magazine, advocates for us with the Illinois legislature, provides resources for safety and training, and through the marketing department provides assistance with the Youth Tour, annual meeting, and Touchstone Energy events.

NRECA – National Rural Electric Cooperative Association

The NRECA is the national association that represents 832 electric cooperatives and 64 G&Ts at the national legislative level. They are also a great source of training and information related to the electric cooperative utility industry. They also administer retirement plans and some health insurance plans as well.

Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange

Federated insures approximately 760 electric cooperatives and G&Ts around the country, providing insurance services such as property, liability, auto, cyber, and workman’s comp, to name a few. They are also deeply involved in providing safety programs to the cooperatives they serve by partnering with the national and statewide associations to see that safety is first and foremost in the minds of those employees who see that your electric service is reliable and consistent.

NISC – National Information Solutions Cooperative

NISC serves over 970 members to provide software and support to ensure CMEC is technologically efficient in the following areas: **Service** – the recordkeeping and billing detail for our members, SmartHub, MDM (Meter Date Management); **Operations** – organizes and predicts where locations of outages originate to provide efficiency

in restoration of service to our members, workforce management, mapping and staking, analytics; **Financials** – accounting, material management, HR & payroll, purchasing and work order management. This is just a small number of services offered to CMEC by NISC.

CFC – National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation

CFC provides financial services to CMEC such as long-term financing, lines of credit, strategic planning, cost-of-service studies, rate analysis, budgeting and forecasting software, and education and training for the cooperative employees working in the area of finance. CFC serves 842 electric cooperatives, 68 G&Ts, and 62 statewide and regional cooperative associations.

CRC – Cooperative Response Center

CRC provides call handling (mostly after-hours) services, outage monitoring and crew dispatching for 535 members around the country, working from four offices placed strategically around the country. **Larry Stephens**

I may have missed a few, but these cooperatives listed provide the bulk of the services that CMEC uses to ensure that we are serving our members to our full potential. At CMEC, we really mean it when we say we are proud to be a cooperative! And we live it each and every day!



ENERGY EFFICIENCY

TIP OF THE MONTH

As temperatures start to rise, many homeowners focus on staying cool. Don't forget about the small gaps around windows and doors. While air sealing is often associated with keeping cold air out during winter, it's just as important during summer. Tiny cracks and worn weatherstripping allow cool, conditioned air to escape and hot, humid air to seep indoors. This forces your air conditioner to work harder than necessary and increases energy costs. Take a few minutes to check for drafts, replace weatherstripping and seal leaks. A tighter home keeps you more comfortable and helps manage energy use.

Source: energy.gov



MEMORIAL DAY

REMEMBER & HONOR

Our office will be closed in observance of Memorial Day, Monday, May 25th.

May is **ELECTRICAL** Safety Month



In May, we recognize National Electrical Safety Month to raise awareness about reducing electrical related fires, injuries and fatalities. Here are a few important safety tips to keep in mind:

- Never use electrical equipment near water.
- Check all light bulbs to ensure the wattage is safe and suitable for the fixture.
- Extension cords are for temporary use only; never run them under rugs, through walls or across doorways.
- Do not plug too many devices into a single outlet or power strip.

NATIONAL SAFE BOATING WEEK

May 16-22

Safe Electricity.org®

Have your boat's electrical system checked at least once a year. Boats should also be checked when something is added to or removed from their systems.

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