

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 



MEMBER POWERED

86th Annual Meeting & Member Celebration

We are celebrating you, our members, on Friday, Oct. 2nd, at Peterson Park. This will be a hybrid event with members having the option to drive through the park to register, receive the gift and obtain their meal or park and walk up to do the same. Regardless of the option chosen, please consider attending the business meeting at 1 p.m. in the Demars Center. For the drive-thru option, enter the park from Broadway Avenue at the 5th Street entrance and follow the signs. For the parking option, please park along the stone wall on Richmond Avenue and walk up to the registration tent near the Demars Center. Employees will be on hand to guide you and answer questions. We will also have employees on golf carts to transport you to the Demars Center if needed. Enter the Demars Center through the East or South Doors.

- Early Bird Registration is available at 6:30 a.m. at the park.
- Registration ends at 1 p.m.
- Boxed lunch, shakeups & giveaways start at 11 a.m. while supplies last.
- Registered members will receive a \$25 bill credit.
- Stay for the business meeting to be entered in a drawing for a \$500 bill credit. Must be present to win.

2026 Director Elections

CMEC elections begin on Sept. 8 and run through Sept. 29. Ballots will soon be mailed to all eligible members. If you have an email address on file, you will also receive voting instructions via email. You can cast your vote either online or by mailing in your completed ballot. Please note: All election-related emails and ballots will come from our trusted partner, Survey & Ballot Systems. The email will be sent from the CMEC Election Coordinator using the address noreply@directvote.net

Director districts up for election in 2026 are districts 2, 4, 5, and 6. Races in districts 2, 5, and 6 are uncontested, with only one candidate filing in each. No candidates filed for district 4, leaving that seat vacant and requiring further action by the cooperative's Board of Directors to fill it.



*District 2 Candidate
Mike Love*



*District 4 - No Candidate
This could be you!*



*District 5 Candidate
Andrew Fearn*



*District 6 Candidate
Tom Sherman*



Marcus McDowell



Shane Ruppert



Hunter Rawlings

Meet Your Area Servicemen

With a combined 63 years of service to CMEC members, these men play an important role in keeping our system reliable. You'll see them patrolling lines throughout our territory, making repairs, restoring power during outages, and performing many other essential duties.

LABOR DAY

**CMEC WILL BE CLOSED FOR LABOR DAY,
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH.**



Why Keeping Your Connection to Us Matters

By Kellie Moore, Director of Member Services



At your Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative, our relationship with you is built on a simple foundation: We are owned by those we serve. Unlike traditional, investor-owned utilities that answer to distant shareholders, our bottom line is you. Because of this unique cooperative model, your connection to us mat-

ters, not just while your lights are on, but often long after you've potentially packed up and moved away.

Here is why keeping your contact information up to date with us is so important, for current and former members alike:

1. Capital Credits: Your Share of the Profits

Because we operate as a not-for-profit, any revenue remaining at the end of the year after all expenses are paid (what we call margins) is allocated back to our members in the form of capital credits.

- **The Catch:** These credits are typically held as equity to maintain CMEC's infrastructure, and they are paid out ("retired") years down the road based on approval from our Board of Directors when it's financially feasible.
- **The Problem:** Every year, we have thousands of dollars in checks that go unclaimed simply because former members moved and forgot to give us their new forwarding address.
- **The Solution:** By keeping your contact information current, you ensure that when your retirement year comes up, your check lands safely in your mailbox. It's your money, and we want to make sure you get it.

For our long-term members, capital credits can accumulate into a significant sum over the decades. In the event of a member's passing, these credits can often be paid out early to their legal heirs or estate. However, trying to track down family members with outdated contact logs can delay or completely stall this process. Keeping your beneficiary or estate contact information updated ensures your cooperative investment is easily passed on to your loved ones.

2. Safety, System Operations, and Final Billings

If you are a current member, up-to-date contact info is our lifeline to you during major storms.

- **Storms & Emergencies:** If an unexpected outage occurs, our automated systems may rely on your phone number to pinpoint the issue and restore your power faster.

- **Planned Outages:** Keeping your contact information up to date allows us to let you know and prepare for a planned outage in advance, minimizing disruptions to your daily routine.
- **Moving On:** For those transitioning off our lines, having an accurate final address prevents delayed final billings or refunds, ensures the smooth transfer of service to the next occupant, and protects your credit score from accidentally missed payments.

How to Update Your Information

Whether you still live down the road or have moved across the country, updating your information takes less than five minutes:

- **Log In:** Update your information through our online member portal, SmartHub. (cmec.smarthub.coop)
- **Call Us:** Speak directly with one of our member services representatives at 217-235-0341 or toll-free at 888-661-2632. **Connie Winslow**
- **Email Us:** Drop our member services team a quick line with your account number and your new contact details at info@cmec.coop.

Once you join CMEC, you become part of our history and our financial legacy. You invested in the grid, and that investment stays attached to your name. Thank you for being the most important part of our Cooperative. Help us keep our connection strong, no matter where life takes you!

A green graphic with a grid pattern. At the top left is the SmartHub logo, which consists of a circle of dots with the words "smart hub" inside. To the right of the logo, the text "SIGN UP FOR SMARTHUB" is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. Below the text, there is an image of a desktop monitor and a smartphone. The monitor displays the SmartHub website interface, showing a login form and a balance summary with three values: \$121.00, \$0.00, and \$45.00. The smartphone shows the same interface on a smaller screen. To the right of the devices, the text "Save time and money by managing your account at anytime from anywhere." is written in white, sans-serif font, with "anytime from anywhere." on two lines.



WELCOME TO THE TEAM!

Please join us in welcoming Trent Ferguson to CMEC. Trent joins us as our new Apprentice Lineman, and we are excited to have him on board. Welcome, Trent!

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

September kicks off the fall shoulder season, when cooler mornings and milder evenings often mean you can give your heating and cooling system a break. Open windows, use ceiling fans and enjoy the fresh air whenever temperatures allow. It's also the perfect time to schedule annual HVAC maintenance before colder weather arrives. Because demand is typically lower during the fall, heating and cooling professionals often have greater availability, making it easier to book an appointment. Regular maintenance can improve your system's efficiency, help prevent unexpected breakdowns and keep your home comfortable all year long.

Source: Department of Energy

SHARE the ROAD with Farmers

**Be safe.
Be courteous.**

Farm season means sharing the road with large farm equipment. Farmers must move slowly in large equipment, but public roads are often the only available routes.

When you find yourself following or meeting large farm equipment on the road, do the following to keep everyone safe:

- 1 Be alert and cautious, and give large farm equipment and other slow-moving vehicles space.
- 2 Do not pass if you are in a "No Passing Zone," or in any area where it is not safe to do so, such as intersections, bridges and railroad crossings, among others.
- 3 Be careful when you do get the chance to pass. Oftentimes, farmers will move their equipment over when it is safe to do so.
- 4 Do not tailgate.
- 5 Make sure the tractor is not trying to make a left turn before you pass on the left.

Share the road with care. Farmers are just trying to get to and from their job, too.

Source: Texas Table Top (Texas Farm Bureau)

SafeElectricity.org®

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