

2012 YOUTH DAY AND YOUTH TO WASHINGTON TOUR

For almost 50 years, the electric and telephone cooperatives of Illinois have sponsored a group of high school junior and seniors to Springfield to learn more about our state government as well as cooperatives. Each year, approximately 300 students are chosen to attend the Illinois Cooperative Youth Day. This year's Youth Day is March 28, 2012.

Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative contacts high schools in our area each year and asks them to select two students to represent their school at "Youth Day". The manner in which the students are selected is completely up to the schools. The cooperative pays the students' expenses for the day, including transportation and meals. During the day, students will meet



with their elected senators and representatives. They will also tour the State Capitol, the Illinois Supreme Court and the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum. Any student interested in participating this year should contact their guidance counselor.

Two of the students that Coles-Moultrie takes to Springfield for "Youth Day" will be selected to attend the week-long, all expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. June 15 - 22, 2012. During the "Youth to Washington" tour, these students get an up-close look at democracy in action and get to meet with their downstate Illinois Congressmen. They will also see the Smithsonian Museums, monuments, war

memorials, the Capitol, plus much more. Several fun and exciting activities are scheduled, and your student will meet others from across the nation.

Senator Lyndon Baines Johnson inspired the Youth Tour when he addressed the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Annual Meeting in Chicago in 1957. The Senator and future president declared, "If one thing goes out of this meeting, it will be sending youngsters to the national capital where they can actually see what the flag stands for and represents."


Consequently, some Texas

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Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

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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M.L. Christman

To report an outage

First check your fuses or circuit breakers and see if your neighbors have power.

If the problem appears to be with the cooperative's lines, call the office, give the name the service is listed under, and report any hazardous conditions.

Collect calls will be accepted only when caller reports an outage.

Both our office number, 235-0341, and our toll-free number, 1 (888) 661-CMEC, are manned 24 hours a day, 365 days a year for your convenience.

Coles-Moultrie HI-LITES

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BOARD REPORT

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative was held at the Cooperative office at 104 Dewitt Avenue, East, Mattoon, Illinois at 7 p.m. on January 3, 2012, pursuant to notice duly given. The meeting was called to order by Jeff Hudson, Chairman. The following directors were present: Scott Uphoff, David Finley, Jeff Hudson, Stephen Shrader, Debbie Albin, John Bowers, and Dennis Getz. Also present were M.L. Christman – President/CEO, Amy Borntreger – Chief Financial Officer, Jim Wallace – Director of Operations, Greg Gillespie – Electrical Engineer, Darla Rankins – Director of Human Resources/Office Manager and Bill Tapella and Paul Marks of Hefner, Eberspacher and Tapella – Corporate Counsel, as well as Abigail Schmitz, an intern at Hefner, Eberspacher and Tapella.

The agenda was approved as well as the Consent Calendar as submitted including the 11/22/11 Regular Board Meeting Minutes, the 11/22/11 Audit & Finance Committee Meeting Minutes, the New Members and the November Safety & Training report.

Director Albin, Chairperson of the Audit & Finance Committee, gave a report.

The Legal report was given by Paul Marks.

Greg Gillespie reported on NISC Meter Data Management System (MDMS).

The recommendation from Staff to enter into an agreement with NISC for the Meter Data Management System was adopted.

The CFC One Card resolution was passed as it was presented by Staff.

Directors Finley and Uphoff were appointed as the voting delegate and alternate delegate at the Prairie Power Annual Meeting.

Director Finley and President/CEO Chris Christman were appointed as the Prairie Power Directors and Director Uphoff as the alternate.

Directors Shrader and Albin were certified as the voting delegate and alternate at the NRECA Annual Meeting.

Amy Borntreger gave the financial report.

Director Getz gave the AIEC Board report.

Director Finley presented the PPI meeting report.

Chris Christman gave the President/CEO report.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Mark Your Calendars Now!

Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative's 73rd Annual Meeting

Saturday, June 2nd

Peterson Park, Mattoon

Registration 10:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Buffet Lunch 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Business Session 1:00 p.m.

Watch for more information in up-coming *Hi-Lites!*

MEET YOUR CO-OP EMPLOYEES

Leaton Beeler started as a groundman for the Cooperative on May 31, 1988. Leaton is currently a Journeyman Lineman and has been since 1995. Mr. Beeler and his wife Beverly have been married for 40 years and have three sons, Vance, Matthew, and Seth. They also have ten grandchildren and one great grandchild. Leaton graduated from Unity High School of Mendon in 1969, and also received an Associate's degree in Drafting from Lake Land College in 1971. Mr. Beeler helps with P.A.D.S. and Smart Choice food ministries. He and his wife are both active members of the First Christian Church of Mattoon, where Leaton is an Elder, Board Chairman, and on the Outreach Committee. He also helps with the Promiseland Ministries for kids. Leaton enjoys fishing, making woodworking crafts, and spending time with his family. After 24 years of service, Leaton will be retiring



from the Cooperative on February 29, 2012. We would like to thank him for his hard work and dedication, and also wish him the best in his future endeavors.



On April 13, 2009 **Callie Nunamaker** started working for the cooperative as a Service Representative. Callie works at the front desk, answers the phone, and takes payments, among other duties. She graduated from Charleston High School in 2003 and also received a Bachelor's degree from Eastern Illinois University in Early Childhood Education. Mrs. Nunamaker and her husband Austin have one child. Callie is an active member of Charleston Bible Church where she is involved with the children's ministries. Callie enjoys cooking, gardening, quilting, and most of all spending time with her family.

MEMBER EXCHANGE

For Sale

- AKC Lab Retriever OFA'd, DNA'd, yellow or black siring services upon approval, championship titled pedigrees. Also taking puppy deposits for future litters. Call for further details at 217-873-8726 or 217-454-5173.
- 1991 GMC 4X4 Pickup, 208,000 miles, needs tune-up - \$2,000. Call 217-797-6367.
- Table popcorn popper, 18 X 24", 6" kettle - \$125. Call 217-864-2922. Arcola area.
- Seasoned firewood: 6 ½ ft bed - \$30; 8 ft bed - \$35. Level loads. Cut into 20" - 24" logs, not split. Call 217-345-5048. Charleston.
- Firewood. Call 217-348-8062.
- Embroidery machine with date card. Call 217-246-4885.
- Jump start w/air compressor and light - \$50; New Yard Man blower - vac - \$80; New commercial garage door push button keypad - \$80; New Sharp calculator printer

- \$40; 5 men's pants 32" - 30" and 5 work medium shirts - \$80. Call 217-234-2151.

■ Firewood, split in lengths of 13 in. - \$65 per 6 ft pick-up bed or \$80 per 8 ft pick-up bed, non-tiered. Call 217-345-9776 or 217-218-9725.

■ Trilogy by Stieg Larson: *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*, *The Girl Who Played with Fire*, *The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest*. Two paperbacks and one hardback - \$15 for all three. Call 217-864-2922.

■ Rural Sullivan home near lake access. 3 bedroom 2 bath with 2 car garage attached plus extra heated and cooled detached garage on 1 acre lot. Call 217-521-3151 or 217-521-3152 for more information.

Wanted

- Junk cars-trucks-motorcycles-tractors, must have titles, will pay cash, free hauling. Call 217-254-0856.
- Player piano music rolls. Call 217-246-4885.

A Note about Member Exchange

Your cooperative offers the member exchange as a free service to our members. Each month we continue to receive more and more ads via the mail and e-mail and it continues to grow. To help us continue to provide this service for free, we would like you to try and keep your ads to a couple of items per account and limit the number of words to 30. We try to run the ads at length when room allows and will continue to do this. Member Exchange items need to reach us by the 1st of the month and will appear in the next month's issue. We reserve the right to accept or reject any ad and also to edit the ad if needed.

CAULK UP THE SAVINGS

Caulk like a pro with these handy application tips

By Robert A. Dickleman

The greatest sources of heating and cooling losses in your home are often invisible – air leaks. As a result, controlling air leaks provides the best way to extend the life of your home, conserve energy, save money, and increase comfort.

Bottom line? If you don't tighten up your home first, money spent on insulation may be wasted.

Fortunately, you can seal a lot of leaks around your home's exterior with less than \$100 worth of caulk. It's generally possible to seal openings up to one-quarter inch between window frames and siding or around door frames. For larger gaps, add a backing material before caulking, or use a spray foam sealant instead.

Most types of outdoor caulk are sold in tubes that fit a caulking gun. In addition, some caulks come in aerosol cans; they're a good choice for filling gaps up to one-half inch around pipes and wires.

When shopping for caulk, there are myriad choices. Prices range from a couple of dollars to several dollars per tube, so be sure to read the labels and choose a product that will adhere best to the materials you're sealing.

If your budget allows, spend a little more for a higher-quality caulk. Inexpensive caulks may last only a few years, while premium-priced caulks are rated for 20 years or more.

Caulk like a pro

- As a rule of thumb, you'll probably use half a cartridge per window or door and up to six cartridges for foundation work.
- Most caulks pose no known health hazards after they're fully cured. However, some high-performance caulking compounds

contain irritating or potentially toxic ingredients, so you should carefully read the manufacturer's instructions and take the appropriate precautions.

- The best time to apply caulk is during dry weather when outdoor temperatures are above 45 degrees. Low humidity is important during application to prevent cracks from swelling with moisture.
- If the gap you're sealing is too wide, use a special filler made for the purpose. You'll find fillers in the caulking department of your local hardware store or home center. However, note that fillers are not designed for exposure to the elements; so you'll need to caulk or seal over it.
- Before applying new caulk, remove the old caulk or paint residue with a putty knife, stiff brush, or special solvent.
- Make sure your work area is dry, so you won't seal in moisture.
- Hold the caulking gun at a consistent angle; 45 degrees is best.
- Caulk in a straight, continuous stream, avoiding stops and starts, and make sure the caulk sticks to both sides of the crack or seam.
- Send caulk to the bottom of an opening to avoid bubbles.
- Release the trigger on the caulking gun before pulling it away from the crack to prevent applying too much caulk. A caulking gun with an automatic release makes this much easier.
- Don't skimp. If the caulk shrinks, reapply it to form a smooth bead that completely seals the crack.
- If caulk oozes out of a crack, use a putty knife to push it back in.
- Once you've applied caulk, it takes time for it to dry, or cure. Curing time is described in two

ways. The tack-free time tells you how quickly the fresh caulk's outer surface will dry or skin over. The total cure time indicates the time required for the caulk to become completely stable – or reach the point where no further drying or shrinking will occur.

- Don't allow pets and small children to come into contact with fresh caulk.

Use expanding foam for large gaps

- Be sure to use the correct type of spray foam for the job. Polyurethane expandable spray foam works well around pipes and gaps around the foundation. However, this type of caulk expands with so much force that it can cause damage to window frames and door frames. In those spots, use a water-based spray foam specifically designed for the job.
- Expanding foam is ideal for filling cracks that caulks can't handle. It comes in aerosol cans and takes a short time to cure. The foam is very sticky and attaches itself quickly, so be prepared to pick up any messes fast.
- To seal gaps too wide for foam, use foil-faced bubble wrap. For really large holes, cut sections of rigid foam insulation to fit and then glue into place with expanding foam before covering the area with wood or another appropriate building material.
- Find more ways to seal your home and save at EnergySavers.gov OR www.TogetherWeSave.com.

Sources: U.S. Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, ENERGY STAR, and product manufacturers

REVEALING R-VALUES

Peel back insulation for layers of cost savings

By Kris Wendtland

When the weather's brisk, it's smart to wear a coat. Your home needs the same kind of protection, too – insulation to keep cold air out and warm air in. Just as a coat closet features thin jackets for fall and heavy jackets for winter, different types of insulation, ranked by R-value, exist to keep your home comfortable and your electric bills affordable.

R-value reflects the ability of insulation and other parts of your home, like windows, to resist the transfer of heat. The rating depends on material, thickness, and density, and a higher R-value indicates more effective insulation. Multiple layers of insulation may be combined for a higher cumulative R-value.

"In Illinois most homes benefit from an R-value of 30 – 60 in an attic space," shares Sam Adair, Marketing Services Specialist at Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative.

How Insulation Works

Metals and liquids easily transfer heat, making them bad insulators. Air, however, does not conduct heat, making it a strong insulator when isolated in small pockets.

Just as fur keeps animals warm, insulation holds heat in (or out) of a building. Fur is a collection of hair – tiny hollow cylinders. Air fills the cylinders and spaces in-between. The smaller the space for air in between the cylinders and the more spaces there are (longer hair equals more space), the greater the insulation.

Building insulation works on the same principle. Fiberglass insulation, for

example, exists as a collection of hollow fiberglass cylinders.

Be careful to preserve the air – the bulk of your home's protection – when installing insulation. When an installer squeezes 3 in. of insulation into a 1-in. space, critical air pockets are eliminated. For this reason, actual insulating R-values may not always match the label.

Insulation must be installed correctly to maximize protection – and electric bill savings.

The Value of R-Values

The first layer of insulation pays for itself the fastest, saving more than half of the energy dollars spent on heating or air conditioning. However, as more insulation is added, efficiency gains dwindle.

Boosting the R-value of a wall from 0 to R-10 cuts 90 percent of heat loss from one side of the wall to the other. This makes an immediate difference you can feel. Adding an additional layer of R-15 insulation (a total R-value of 25) only cuts another 6 percent of heat transmission. Further increasing insulation thickness from R-25 to R-35 helps only by a little more than 1 percent.

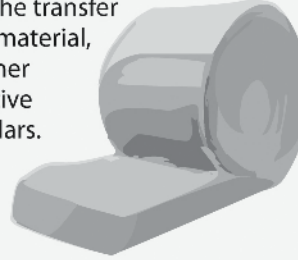
In some regions with several months of very cold winds, increasing attic insulation values from R-25 to R-35 or even R-50 can be worth the investment over the life of your home. In most seasonal climates, however, replacing single-pane windows saves more energy than adding insulation in your attic, floors, or walls (assuming R-25 to R-30 is common throughout the home).

A typical single-pane window boasts an R-value of 0.9. In contrast, a triple-glazed pane assembly with low-emissivity (low e) insulated coatings have an R-value of 8.3. Based on an electricity cost of 10 cents per kilowatt-hour (kWh), a home with 18

■ Continued on page 6

Comparing Insulation VALUE

Adding insulation? Check the material's R-value—the ability of insulation to resist the transfer of heat. R-value depends on material, thickness, and density. A higher R-value indicates more effective insulation, saving energy dollars.



Compare R-values and common uses for several types of insulation:

Type of Insulation	R-value per inch (range)	Common Uses	Installation Method
Batts, Rolls			
Fiberglass	3.17 (3.0-4.0)	Wall, floor, and ceiling cavities	Fitted between studs, joists, or rafters
Rock Wool	3.17 (3.0-3.7)	Wall, floor, and ceiling cavities	Fitted between studs, joists, or rafters
Cotton	3.2	Wall, floor, and ceiling cavities	Fitted between studs, joists, or rafters
Loose, Poured, or Blown			
Fiberglass	2.2 (2.2-4.0)	Ceiling cavities	Poured and fluffed, or blown by machine
Rock Wool	3.1 (2.8-3.7)	Ceiling cavities	Poured and fluffed, or blown by machine
Dry Cellulose	3.2 (2.8-3.7)	Ceiling cavities	Blown by machine
Wet-Spray Cellulose	3.5 (3.0-3.7)	Wall cavities	Sprayed into cavities
Perlite	2.7 (2.5-4.0)	Hollow concrete block	Poured
Polyurethane	6.2 (5.8-6.8)	Wall and ceiling cavities, roofs	Foamed into cavities
Open-cell Isocyanurate (Icynene™)	3.6	Wall and ceiling cavities	Foamed into open or closed cavities
Magnesium Silicate (Air Krete®)	3.9	Wall cavities	Foamed into open cavities

Sources: U.S. Department of Energy, E Source

■ "Revealing R-Values" continued from page 5

single-pane windows (4 square feet each) could waste \$94.32 in unnecessary expense across three months (assuming 12 hours per day of a 40 degrees Fahrenheit indoor/outdoor temperature differential). A more efficient window assembly would cost \$10.20 over the same time. After a year, savings from switching out the windows could surpass \$300.

Energy auditors and electric cooperative staff are trained to discuss the pros and cons of energy efficiency upgrades. For additional insulation tips, visit www.energysavers.gov or find out how little changes can add up at www.TogetherWeSave.com.

Sources: Jim Herritage, CEM, Energy Auditors, Inc.; Residential Energy: Cost Savings and Comfort for Existing Buildings by John Krigger and Chris Dorsi; University of Tennessee at Knoxville Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

Kris Wendtland writes on energy efficiency issues for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

■ "2012 Youth Day" continued from page 1

electric cooperatives sent groups of young people to Washington to work in Senator Johnson's office during the summer of 1957. In 1958, a rural electric cooperative in Iowa sponsored the first group of 34 young people on a week-long study tour of the nation's capital. Later that same year, another busload came to Washington from Illinois. The idea grew and other states sent busloads of young people throughout the summer. By 1959, the "Youth Tour" had grown to 130 youths.

In 1964, NRECA began to coordinate joint activities among the state delegations and suggested that cooperative representatives from each state

arrange to be in Washington, D.C. during Youth Tour week. The first year of the coordinated tour included approximately 400 young people from 12 states. Word of the program has continued to spread and today, more than 1,500 students from across the country participate in the Youth Tour every year.

Many alumni of the program have gone on to leadership positions in our communities and government.

The "Youth to Washington" tour is recognized as one of the best youth tours of Washington, D.C. The tour is well organized with excellent chaperones. For more information, contact the cooperative office.

NOTICE

Based upon independent Cost of Service and Rate studies conducted in late 2011 and also upon projected wholesale power rates for 2012, the facility component of the following rates will be modified effective with the February 2012 billing cycle for January usage as shown below.

Rate	2011	2012	Rate	2011	2012
1	\$30.00	\$32.00	10-3	\$39.75	\$42.00
5	\$31.25	\$34.00	16	\$115.00	\$120.00
5-3	\$41.25	\$44.00	25	\$30.00	\$32.00
7	\$70.00	\$75.00	30	\$31.25	\$34.00
10	\$29.75	\$32.00	30-3	\$41.25	\$44.00

YOU CAN NOW PAY YOUR BILLS ONLINE

You can pay online with MC VISA DISCOVER or Check.

www.cmec.coop

The screenshot shows the website for Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative. The navigation menu includes: Home, About CMEC, Billing & Payments, Heating & Cooling Options & Incentives, F.A.Q., Safety, Links, and Contact Us. A 'New' section highlights the role of CMEC in business and industrial members. A 'Hi-Lites' Newsletter PDFs link is also visible. A prominent button at the bottom reads 'PAY YOUR BILL ONLINE' with a sub-link 'CLICK HERE TO ACCESS YOUR ACCOUNT', which is circled in green.

Recipes



Old Fashioned Hot Chocolate

7 ounces dark chocolate
1 pinch Kosher salt
3 cups whole milk
2 tablespoons super fine sugar
3 tablespoons espresso coffee

Chop chocolate and set aside. Combine milk, sugar, and coffee and bring to a boil. Strain hot liquid over chopped chocolate in a bowl; stir until chocolate is completely dissolved. Serve with whipped cream. Makes five servings.

Marbled Chocolate Peanut Butter Cake

Cake:

4 ounces bittersweet chocolate, chopped
1 cup unsalted butter, softened
2/3 cup peanut butter
1 cup sugar
1 1/4 cup light brown sugar
5 eggs
2 cups all purpose flour
2 teaspoons baking powder
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup milk
1/3 cup chocolate chips

Chocolate Peanut Butter Glaze:

2 tablespoons butter
2 tablespoons peanut butter, smooth
3 tablespoons corn syrup
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
6 ounces unsweetened chocolate, chopped
1 tablespoon water

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease and flour a ring pan. Melt chocolate. In a large mixing bowl, beat the butter, peanut butter, and sugar until light and creamy. Add eggs one at a time, beating well after each addition. Sift all dry ingredients. Add to the butter mixture, alternately with milk until just blended. Pour half of the batter into another bowl. Stir the melted chocolate into one bowl, until well blended, and the chocolate chips into the other bowl. Using a large spoon, drop alternate spoonfuls of chocolate mixture and peanut butter mixture in the prepared pan. Using a knife, pull through the batter to create a swirled, marbled effect. Bake for 50-60 minutes, until the top springs back when touched. Cool cake in the pan for 10 minutes before turning it out onto a rack to cool completely.

To make glaze: Combine all ingredients in a small sauce pan. Melt over low heat, stirring until well blended and smooth. Cool slightly. When slightly thickened, drizzle the glaze over the cake, letting it run down the sides. Makes 12 - 14 servings.

Chocolate French Toast

4 eggs
3 tablespoons sugar
2 teaspoons cocoa powder
2 ounces dark chocolate syrup
1/4 teaspoon vanilla extract
8 slices bread
2 tablespoons butter

Mix together eggs, cocoa, sugar, dark chocolate syrup, and vanilla. Soak each bread slice in the mixture. Melt the butter in a non-stick sauté pan and fry bread slices until golden brown. Top with your favorite toppings. Makes four servings.

A publication of Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative

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DEADLINE FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS PETITIONS APPROACHING

With the Director Election date being set for May 30, 2012, the deadline for nominating petitions is 4:30 p.m., February 24, 2012. The terms of the directors for districts 3, 5 and 6 expire with the June 2012 Annual Meeting.

Any person who wishes to be a candidate for district 3, 5 and 6 shall complete a Request for Nominating Petitions and a Statement of Qualifications demonstrating that he/she is qualified to serve as a director under the terms and provisions of Article V, Section 3, of Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative by-laws. Nominating petitions and a statement of qualifications may be obtained from the President/CEO.

Any member who receives nominating petitions may be nominated as a candidate for the Board by obtaining the valid signatures of 20 or more active members of the Cooperative on his/her petitions and filing his/her petitions in the office of the Cooperative prior to the February 24th deadline.

