COLES-MOULTRIE Electric Cooperative

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

Hi-Lites

Shown (L-R) are: Representative Brad Halbrook, Mitchell Kremer, Henry Skocy, Shelby Zellers, Matthew Duncan, Macy Hollingsworth, Eusebio Briseno, Abigail Duzan, and Trey Yarnell. Youth Day is designed to introduce young rural leaders to state government. There were 25 co-ops from across the state represented at the event.

Cooperatives participate in Youth Day

Representative Brad Halbrook met with students representing Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative during the Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives Youth Day on Wednesday, March 29 in Springfield. More than 240 students from around Illinois had an opportunity to visit the State Capitol, view state government in action and question their legislators on key issues.

During lunch, Comptroller Susana Mendoza addressed students and chaperones and challenged them to take an interest in the political process. She encouraged them to use their voice and reach out to their representatives and senators. Sophia Marcolla, the 2016-17 Illinois Youth Leadership Council Representative from Adams Electric Cooperative, spoke about her experience on the Youth to Washington tour and the importance of leadership. While in Springfield, the students also visited the Old State Capitol and Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum.

At the end of the day the students were interviewed for the chance to participate in the Youth to Washington Tour from June 9-16, 2017.

ILLINOIS ELECTRIC & TELEPHONE COOPERATIVES ★ Youth Day

Shown (L-R): Henry Skocy, Senator Dale Righter and Mitchell Kremer.

COLES-MOULTRIE Electric Cooperative Hi-Lites
A publication of Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative
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.

Chairman
Jeffery D. Hudson..... Charleston

Vice Chairperson
Debbie Albin.....Mattoon

Secretary
John Bowers .....Lovington

Treasurer
Steve Shrader.....Westfield

Director
Dean Robison.....Windsor
Chris Christman.....Sullivan
Scott Uphoff.....Mattoon

President/CEO
Kim Leftwich

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 at the toll free number (888-661-2632), give the name the service is listed under, and report any hazardous conditions.

Board Report

A regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative was held at the offices of the Cooperative at 104 Dewitt Avenue, East, Mattoon, Illinois at 7pm on the 30th day of March 2017, pursuant to notice duly given. The meeting was called to order by Jeff Hudson, Chairman. After calling the roll, the following directors were present: Scott Uphoff, Chris Christman, Jeff Hudson, Steve Shrader, Debbie Albin, Dean Robison, and John Bowers being a quorum of the directors of the Cooperative. Also present were Kim Leftwich - President/CEO, Amy Borntrager – Chief Financial Officer, and Darla Powell – Director of Human Resources/Office Manager.

Motion was made by Albin to approve the agenda. Motion seconded. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Uphoff to approve the Consent Calendar as submitted, the February Safety & Training report, the 02/23/2017 Regular Board meeting minutes and the 03/07/2017 Policy Committee meeting minutes. Motion seconded. Motion passed.

Board Policy #24 was reviewed.

Motion was made by Shrader to approve the changes as submitted. Motion seconded. Motion Failed.

Motion was made by Albin to add to Policy #24 in section 3C 2b to add "or any other member that has proper purpose for obtaining the membership list shall be granted access to review the list….". Motion seconded. Motion failed.

Motion was made by Christman to approve the Formulary Rate Plan as presented by Staff. Motion seconded. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Shrader to approve opening and signing a signature card for a special checking account at FMIB&T. Motion seconded. Motion passed.

The financial report was reviewed. With the warm temperatures during the month of February, it is not surprising that revenue dollars are $307,316 below budget and $206,913 lower than February 2016. We had budgeted over 13 million kWh for the residential rate class and only sold 9,190,343 kWh.

Debbie Albin reviewed the AIEC Board Meeting.

Scott Uphoff discussed the PPI Board Meeting.

Debbie Albin and Chris Christman reviewed a recent board training session that they attended.

Kim Leftwich gave the President/CEO report.

President/CEO Report

Lake Land College Recognition

- LLC has recognized CMEC with a 2017 Illinois Community College Trustees Association Business/Industry Partnership Award for our partnering efforts to develop our GIS system. The award will be presented at the LLC Board of Trustees meeting on April 10th.

Tech Advantage Conference

- Jim Wallace, David Welsh, Shaun Vester, and Kim Leftwich attended the NRECA Tech Advantage Conference, February 26 – March 1, 2017. Each participated in beneficial seminars and technical programs specific to technology measures and applications CMEC is presently implementing or planning.

Representative Reggie Phillips

- Members of the energy innovation center consortium met with Representative Phillips to brief him on developments. Included were Dr. Peter Liu, Eastern Illinois University; Angela Griffin, Coles Together and Kim Leftwich, CMEC.

Senator Chapin Rose

- Duane Noland, AIEC, and Kim Leftwich, CMEC, met with state Senator Chapin Rose on March 7th to address concerns expressed by a CMEC large commercial customer. A very productive exchange resulted in comprehensive solutions that fully satisfied our Member and Senator Rose.

Kiwanis and Rotary Presentations

- Kim Leftwich attended the Kiwanis meeting March 8th as their luncheon speaker. The presentation focused on the dynamic technological changes in the electric utility industry and CMEC's current and future solutions.
- Leftwich was invited to address the Rotary International luncheon on March 22nd. He introduced the developing East Central Illinois

Energy Innovation Center concept to the group, eliciting many questions from the Rotarians.

Dual Chamber Breakfast

- Amy Borntrager, Darla Powell, Sam Adair and Kim Leftwich were joined by CMEC members/director at the breakfast to learn of accomplishments and developments in both Mattoon and Charleston.

AF Holdings (Green Mill Village, Arcola)

- Visited the Best Western Plus hotel and performed a walk through and assessment of the facility to discern where energy efficiencies and improved energy use may be employed. Leadership of the development and CMEC personnel, Sam Adair, Jim Wallace, David Welsh, and Kim Leftwich, outlined a number of measures and approaches to perform a comprehensive energy use evaluation for the facility. Presently, working with the Illinois Sustainable Technology Center to establish the evaluation.

Charleston Stone Company

- Jim Wallace, Sam Adair, and Kim Leftwich met with Charleston Stone March 13th to follow-up on the new electric rock crusher installation. Performed a field visit to evaluate progress by CMEC for new line and metering installations. Discussed means to assist Charleston Stone in evaluating and improving their energy use efficiency. Discussed inquiry from a third party regarding potential capacity payments and concerns how it could affect Charleston Stone Company.

Rural-Urban Day

- CMEC joined other community businesses to sponsor the Rural-Urban Luncheon March 28th. Attending were Amy Borntrager and Kim Leftwich.

Marketing and Member Services

- Member Services developed and now publishes "CMEC Front Line," the first employee newsletter; well received, it is published every other month.
- To date, Energy Efficiency and Conservation Rebates total slightly more than $6,200 of our annual $15,000 budget.

VM/VOI

- Anixter provided an experienced VM/VOI inventory specialist to evaluate our processes; adjustments were determined and fixes underway.

Prairie State Generating Station Visit

- Hosting EIU students and faculty April 13th for a site visit- mine and plant.

CMEC Connect

- Added a number of new members in February.
- Installed a new spur site at the W1J mile near Toledo to serve a pocket of users in a highly cost effective way.
- On March 8th, we experienced an outage of our base station near Gays; determined that a user's equipment had been corrupted and caused the issue. After correcting the corrupted equipment, full use resumed. We believe the same equipment had caused a February outage.
- LLC tower experienced an outage on March 8th as well; troubleshooting determined damage to our Access Point created the issue; replaced the equipment and resolved the issue; back-up units are available were we to experience a similar outage.
- Two towers are scheduled for upgrade in 2017 to Cambium equipment, our standard at this time; Charleston and Office towers are those scheduled as part of our 2017 capital budgeting process

Engineering

- Toth & Associates, our consulting engineer, is assisting CMEC to determine solutions for consistent voltage in backfeed situations at Mattoon Precision Manufacturing, Inc.
- PPI has begun recruiting efforts to fill the shared Electrical Engineering position. The EE will be shared with Eastern Illini, PPI and CMEC.
- Work Orders for capacitor bank installation are underway for strategic locations throughout our system to improve power factor. Toth & Associates is overseeing the siting of the capacitor banks.
- CMEC met with NISC, our information technology platform provider, to outline engineering and operations software applications to further integrate technology in our system. We've begun to outline the "roadmap" to implement multiple applications to support engineering/operations.
- Purchased three 328 amp regulators from Clinton County Electric Coop. As they were unable to use, CMEC saved $21,000 over a brand-new purchase.

Operations

- The line rebuild to Charleston Stone is complete; line extensions on their property will be completed with the overall project likely mid-April.
- O&M performed on J and S miles continues to note need for pole replacements in those areas.

Fleet

- A Yanmar mini-excavator has been purchased. The small unit may be utilized in small space areas where our larger trucks may not enter. The unit was a demo, fully warranted at a $10,000 savings over a "new" unit.

IT/SCADA

- External security vulnerabilities have been eliminated – ZERO!
- Continue to work with PPI to perform software upgrades, helping to keep vulnerabilities at zero.
- David Welsh and Shaun Vester attended the NRECA MultiSpeak Integrator Training at the TechAdvantage conference, passing the exam. There are only 157 integrators worldwide. MultiSpeak is the interoperability platform designed and supported by NRECA to insure software may be integrated from various vendors.

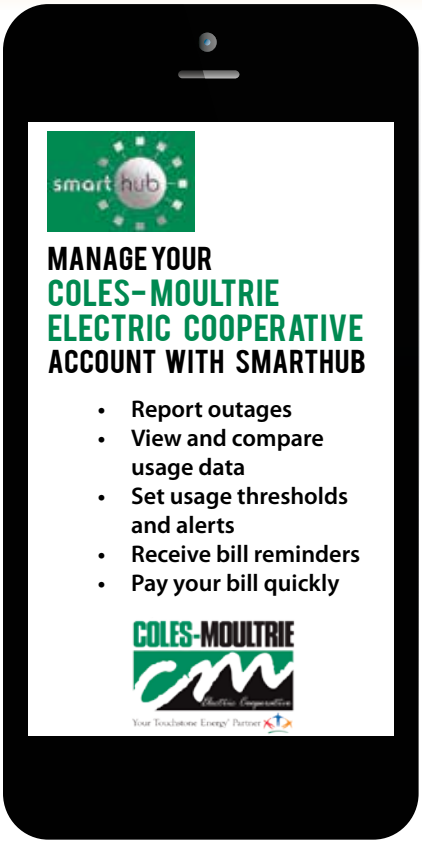
GIS

- Shaun Vester, David Welsh, Jim Wallace and Kim Leftwich were invited to brief Eastern Illinois University GIS/Geography classes on March 21st. CMEC has a unique model based on Open Source software that offers flexibility and power not available with significantly more expensive platforms.
- The same CMEC group was invited to present to the Illinois GIS Association (ILGISA) on March 28th. The abstract provided ILGISA was "Managing An Electric Distribution System With Open-Source GIS." A robust question and answer session followed the presentation.

Safety/Training

- February Safety Training consisted of Hazard Awareness, Hazard Communication, and Emergency Action Plan training, held with all employees.
- CMEC is scheduling hearing testing for outside employees.
- RESAP information has been fully updated; CMEC will be subject to an unannounced safety inspection in 2018.

Motion was made by Shrader to adjourn. Motion seconded. Motion passed.


MANAGE YOUR
COLES-MOULTRIE
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
ACCOUNT WITH SMARTHUB
• Report outages
• View and compare usage data
• Set usage thresholds and alerts
• Receive bill reminders
• Pay your bill quickly

Are you saving as much as possible on your Coles-Moultrie Electric bill?

In recent months, we have noticed that some of our members have been losing out on their "sub meter" savings. In order to be sure that you are receiving as much savings as possible, there are a few things you may need to check. First, make sure that the sub meter is not blank and shows a reading. Second, check to make sure that your sub meter breaker is in the "ON" position. This breaker in your breaker panel could be located on its own or put with any other 240 Volt circuit breakers (95 percent of the time a circuit breaker has either been tripped, or shut off, inside of your circuit breaker panel). If ALL of your breakers are in the "ON" position, you would need to contact our office to schedule a representative of the cooperative to check out your meter. The only way to receive the discounted rate for your sub-metered heating and air conditioning is from the reading obtained by this meter. Unfortunately, the cooperative has no way to go back and credit any member's account that may have missed out on potential savings due to an un-energized sub meter. In the past, we have tried to keep up with these situations by sending out letters, however with very few replies we have decided that it would be best to urge our members to please review each month's bill to be sure that they are receiving the proper savings. Thank you for your prompt attention on this matter.

Join Us For Lunch!

Final Reminder! Join us for lunch on **FRIDAY, June 16** from **11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative is again offering a buffet which will include fried chicken, barbecue pork, baked beans, seven-layer salad, macaroni salad, potato chips, dessert, coffee, tea and lemonade. The cost of the meal is $5 per person with children 12 and under free.

The bill credit drawings will be held at the end of the business session of the Annual Meeting. **You must be present to win.** A limited number of tickets will be for sale at the door. However, only those tickets purchased by **Friday, June 2** will be eligible for the bill credit drawing.

Member Exchange

For Sale

- Grass Hay Round Bales $30 each. Call 217-508-9482.
- 16 ft Lowe John Boat 25 hp. Good condition. Call 217-823-1226.

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 email, 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 45 days in advance of the publishing month. We reserve the right to accept or reject any ad and to edit the ad if needed.