



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Hi-Lites

Youth to Washington Tour



Pictured from left: Henry Skocy, Congressman John Shimkus and Mathew Duncan.

Mathew Duncan of Hammond and Henry Skocy of Mattoon represented Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative in Washington, D.C., during the annual “Youth to Washington” Tour, June 9-16. This event, sponsored by the electric and telephone cooperatives of Illinois since the late 1950s, is an introduction to our democratic form of government and cooperatives for rural youth.

The students met with Congressman John Shimkus, Congressman Rodney Davis, U.S. Senator Dick Durbin,

and were among 69 rural Illinois youth leaders selected for the trip. The Illinois students joined more than 1,730 young leaders from across the country, a record high for the “Youth to Washington” Tour. In addition to the Capitol, they also visited Arlington National Cemetery, the Washington National Cathedral, several Smithsonian Museums, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, the World War II Memorial, memorials to Presidents Lincoln, Jefferson,

Washington and Roosevelt, the National Archives, the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia, the Newseum, and several other historical sites.

Sophomores and juniors in high schools that are within the service area of Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative are eligible to participate in the annual program. To learn more about the “Youth to Washington” Tour, go to www.youthtour.coop or www.facebook.com/ILYouthtoWashington.

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

Chris Christman..... Sullivan

Secretary

John Bowers Lovington

Treasurer

Steve Shrader..... Westfield

Director

Dean Robison..... Windsor
 Debbie Albin..... Mattoon
 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.

Minutes of Regular Board Meeting
May 25, 2017

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 7 p.m. on the 25th day of May, 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, Jim Wallace - Director of Engineering & Operations.

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

Motion was made by Robison to approve the Consent Calendar as submitted, the April Safety & Training report, and the 04/27/2017 Regular Board meeting minutes. Motion seconded. Motion passed.

Motion was made by Albin to go into Executive Session. Motion seconded. Motion passed.

Motion was made by Robison to come out of Executive Session. Motion seconded. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Robison to accept the First Mid Illinois Bank & Trust signature cards as presented. Motion seconded. Motion passed.

Motion was made by Bowers to bring in an outside party to explore plans for a new facility and discuss with Counsel the objectives of the property committee. Motion seconded. Motion passed.

Motion was made by Bowers to allow Shrader to attend the NRUCFC Forum in San Antonio, TX. Motion seconded. Motion passed.

Motion was made by Uphoff to allow Counsel to attend the NRECA Legal Seminar, Portland, OR. Motion seconded. Motion passed.

Motion was made by Albin to elect President/CEO as delegate for the NCSC Annual Meeting June 23rd in San Antonio, TX. Motion seconded. Motion passed.

Discussion was had regarding the timeline/calendar for associate cooperative trainings; staff will provide these in future board reports.

Financial Report (Form 7) and memorandum were reviewed and found satisfactory

Deb Albin gave the AIEC report.

Scott Uphoff provided an update of recent PPI information as no PPI Board Meeting was held in March; Kim Leftwich informed the board what happened in the MISO capacity auction and what effect that had on power costs.

Concern was discussed about the February 2017 board minutes. Staff was instructed to research the discussion/notes. Board members were to email recollections to CEO.

Motion was made to reopen appointment of PPI BOD, Motion seconded. Motion denied.

CEO presented Member Advisory Committee informational packets to the board. CEO would notify Member Advisory Committee assignments to the board.

Reviewed was the CRC Annual Meeting Notice.

Kim Leftwich discussed the President & CEO Report as follows:

★ Happy ★
Labor Day **Our Office will be closed Monday, September 4th, for Labor Day**

President-CEO Report, May 2017

Board Meeting

General

On May 9th, CoBank's Aaron Johnson joined CEO Kim Leftwich to present Sharing Success contributions to Sara Bush Lincoln Hospital and Lake Land College. CoBank matches CMEC contributions, doubling the benefit to each institution.

Coles-Moultrie contributed to the Lake Land College Foundation program as a sponsor for the Annual Fundraising Golf outing.

Kim Leftwich joined others at the recent Mattoon High School Honors Night presenting one of the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperative Memorial Scholarships. The award was to Wesley Otto, son of CMEC members Gary and Sara Otto.

Continued vigilance secures CMEC's technology and database. Working with Prairie Power, Inc., and utilizing their shared IT services, we have reduced vulnerabilities to zero for external sources. The recent world-wide hacking effort had no impact on our systems; during the attack, PPI was fully monitoring through the period to preclude issues for our systems.

Federated Insurance visited and briefed CMEC on its Workers' Compensation (WC) experience. CMEC's experience modification factor has been trending downward the past two years, decreasing our overall WC costs.

CMEC Connect

Continued growth in customers and over \$21,000 monthly revenue.

A new spur site has been installed near Neoga with two more to be added near the L3A1 mile and southwest of Lake Mattoon. Spur sites permit a cost effective way to pick up small pockets of members.

On 5/11/2017, our Lake Pole Tower site went down due to water infused into link connections; members were out for a few days as replacement equipment was slow to arrive; upon receipt of replacement materials, the site was back up the same day.

Marketing/Member Services Annual Meeting commercials have begun on FM 101.3; 104.3; 92.1; and 103.9 until June 16th.

The New Member brochure has been completed; it will replace the former packet provided new members.

Member Service Representative Carla Bradbury spoke with seniors at Mattoon High School for their "Real World" program.

All Member Service Policies are under review and revision; we expect to complete one or more each month to bring policies up to date.

Sam Adair and Jef White attended the CONNECT Conference for Member Services programs.

Key Accounts

CMEC developed a contract with the Illinois Sustainable Technology Center to complete a thorough energy audit and load management assessment of the Best Western Plus hotel in Arcola; owners, AF Holdings, will find beneficial solutions to some of the energy and operational issues they have experienced.

CMEC, partnering with Anixter, has developed an energy management system for installation at Charleston Stone; scheduled for installation in the near future, the system will provide means for Charleston Stone to manage its energy on a moment by moment basis.

LED Lighting

1410 LED lights have been installed, replacing a like number of mercury vapor and high pressure sodium units.

Engineering

CMEC/EIEC/PPI shared engineer – an offer was extended to a candidate who later declined; the group has determined to seek a candidate this Fall, intending to hire from the December graduating class.

GIS mapping permits accurate determination of miles of line (primary); with the new evidence, we will adjust assets shown on the Form 7, Financial & Statistical Report at the end of the year and rely on GIS for accurate measurement in the future.

Operations

CEMC/EIEC are visiting Central Illinois Reclosers in Greenville to evaluate a change to OCR maintenance. Premier Power Maintenance was on-site May 22 -26 to perform substation testing for Charleston, Ashmore and Mattoon substations.

All substations have been seasonally treated for vegetation management. Voltage regulator control panels continue to be installed throughout the CMEC territory.

IT/SCADA

Continuing updates to office computers to preclude known vulnerabilities.

Continuing to install wireless access points (APs) at substations and extender bridges (EBs). The installations will provide "hotspots" for up and down load of data from employee held devices (iPads) facilitating changeover to fully electronic mobile workforce programs.

Testing a new device, known as "Shark Meter", for detailed substation SCADA feeder information; the device is powerful and significantly less costly than other solutions by a factor of 10.

Document Vault, a scan document solution from NISC, is 90% implemented; Document Vault replaces Liberty Net with a far more secure, flexible, accessible, and powerful document/data storage solution.

PPI, Trilliant, and CMEC are migrating all AMI data to the PPI "cloud" server, providing enhanced security and protection/back-up of all data.

GIS

Nearly complete with "drawing" in all lines/wires; a few areas remain where we will have to walk-down primary and secondary underground to properly map. GPS coordinates are collected as we do it to insure we know exactly where assets are located. Work orders created since GIS inception will now be up-loaded to complete the system

GIS staff/interns will begin developing an Avian Protection Plan, a requirement for all electric utilities; CMEC plans on developing the plan as an on-going community event to include education, field observations and study, and continuing plan updates.

GIS Manager Shaun Vester and SCADA/Engineering Technician David Welsh attended the Illinois Municipal Electric Association Annual Meeting May 18-19 to showcase CMEC's GIS. Several municipalities showed great interest in our solution; follow-up discussions will determine their interests long term.

Safety/Training

CMEC and Clay County linemen attended a regional training session at Norris Electric that focused on care and testing of rubber gloves; AIEC is looking for means to more effectively provide training by utilizing a regional approach.

Eaton trained Dave Bowen and David Welsh on the new Cooper capacitor controls.

Director Robison made a Motion to adjourn. Motion seconded. Motion passed.

Annual Meeting Review

Members of Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative (CMEC) were updated on measures taken to improve communications, service and system reliability, and insure equitable rates for all members during the organization's 78th annual meeting of members held Friday, June 16 at Peterson Park.

In a written report, Chairman Jeffrey Hudson announced the creation of a new 10-member advisory committee (MAC), made up of both residential members and business members. The committee members, who will serve three-year terms, will help the co-op more effectively identify the member needs and improve communication in each of its seven districts.

Hudson explained that the co-op has developed a stand-alone, 10-year forecast financial tool that permits multiple modeling scenarios to better anticipate changes and needs in future budget years. In addition, the co-op had a cost of service study conducted, which insures each rate class is contributing fairly and equitably to meet the needs of the co-op.

The co-op ended 2016 with negative margins of \$157,321. The co-op's leadership are working with the board to development adjustments to insure the fiscal security of the cooperative and its members.

President/CEO Kim Leftwich discussed the continuation of a four-year construction work plan to guide electric system upgrades and improvements. The plan is helping prioritize system improvements, thus insuring the most pressing issues are completed first. Leftwich said that through implementation of the plan, significant line rebuilds, regular installations and other critical work needs are being met.

Using technology, CMEC has implemented several improvements to better serve members. The co-op now uses Cooperative Response Center, a 24/7 phone answering service, enabling members to talk to a live person.

And the co-op implemented Smart Hub, an application for smart phones or tablets that permits bill payment



During Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative's 78th annual meeting of members on Friday, June 16, Debbie Albin of Mattoon and John Bowers of Lovington were re-elected to the co-op's board of directors.

from those devices and provides outage information and reporting capability. Leftwich said, "The ease of use and convenience for members makes it an especially appealing addition to our suite of contact means."

CMEC instituted a new geo-spatial information system (GIS) system, which allows any employee of the co-op to immediately view its entire electric distribution system, thus increasing productivity throughout the cooperative.

Along with eight other cooperative members of Prairie Power, Inc., CMEC's generation and transmission provider, a new SCADA system was developed. The system collects data from substations and line feeders that provide system status and analysis for safe and productive operation and 24/7 monitoring. Working in conjunction with the other cooperatives and through Prairie Power has saved CMEC nearly \$125,000.

To further demonstrate fiscal responsibility, the co-op is now working with nearby Anixter, a vendor-member of the cooperative, in a vendor/managed/vendor owned inventory arrangement. Through this program, the co-op no longer stores equipment or materials, but can access it immediately from Anixter. Leftwich said, "Savings accrue to CMEC from

reduced costs in warehousing and personnel, cost of capital, buy-back inventory, more crew time on the jobsite and enhanced safety."

FRP-Formulary Rate Plan

The FRP was introduced at our Annual Meeting as well as in previous Hi-Lites. This was approved by our board effective July 1, 2017 and members will see it on their August bills. The FRP will help moderate rate changes and ensure we provide our members with reliable and affordable energy. Visit our web page at www.cmec.coop or call our office at 888-661-2632 for more information.

Member Exchange

Our Member Exchange has moved!

This is now available on our website at www.cmec.coop under our Community tab, Hi-Lites, Member Exchange.