

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Hi-Lites

Director election ballots to be mailed

On May 13, 2016, director election ballots will be mailed to all of Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative's members/owners. Since District 7 is uncontested, no voting is needed for this district. Jeffery Hudson will be re-elected by acclamation. Two candidates are running for director for District 1. You will need to vote for one candidate in each district. Candidate profiles are printed on page 16D.

In order for your vote to count, you must return your properly executed ballot to the post office box printed on the return envelope by Wednesday, June 1, 2016. Ballots cannot be turned in at the cooperative office. They must be in the post office box printed on the ballot return envelope.

Please carefully follow the instructions that were included with your election ballot to ensure that your ballot counts. After marking each ballot for one candidate, insert the ballots in the ballot envelope. Then insert the ballot envelope into the ballot return envelope. The ballot return envelope is the mailing envelope you use to return your executed ballot to the election post office box.

For your ballot to be processed and counted, you must sign the certification on the ballot return envelope. This certification helps to ensure the integrity of the election. Your signature on this envelope means that, as the member of record, you are the person voting the ballot. During past elections, several members have failed to sign the certification on the ballot return envelope. Therefore, those envelopes were never opened and the ballots were not counted.

On the day the election inspectors count the ballots, the signed certification on all ballot return envelopes is compared to the cooperative's membership list. After completing this process, all ballot envelopes are removed from the ballot return envelopes. Next, all of the ballot envelopes are opened and the ballots removed for counting. Therefore, though you signed the ballot return envelope, this procedure prevents anyone from knowing how you voted.

The
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March 14, 2016

Members of the Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative

Re: 2016 Election of the Coles-Moultrie Electric Board of Directors

Dear Fellow Members,

I write to address the 2016 election of Directors to Districts 1 and 7.

Consistent with Article V, Section 5 of your Bylaws, the Board of Directors for the Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative provided notice to all members of the election of Directors. This year, there are two director positions up for election: District 7, unopposed; and, District 1 with two candidates. In order to qualify as a candidate for the Board of Directors, a member must:

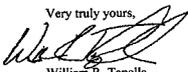
- Request nominating petitions;
- Must file a statement of qualifications;
- Must be determined to be qualified by the President of Cooperative or the Board of Directors;
- Obtain 20 signatures of active members of the Cooperative upon their election petition; and
- File petitions, bearing 20 signatures of active members at least 90 days before the date set for the election.

This year, of our 9,525 members, three members took these necessary steps.

In District 1, candidates Philip Meyer of Sullivan and M.L. Chris Christman of Sullivan both satisfied the necessary steps as required by our Bylaws. In District 7, only Jeff Hudson did so.

No other person took the necessary steps and no other person is qualified under our Bylaws to run or hold office as a member of the Board of Directors.

Assuming the Board of Directors proceeds with balloting by mail, you will receive your ballot on or about May 14, 2016, and election results will be announced at your annual meeting on June 4, 2016. I will be present at the annual meeting. If you have any questions or concerns regarding these issues, please do not hesitate to speak with me before our meeting.

Very truly yours,

William R. Tapella
Member and Corporate Counsel

WRT/bw

6009 Park Drive
Charleston, IL 61920
Tel. (217) 639-7800

Please respond to:
P.O. Box 627
Mattoon, IL 61938
Fax: (217) 639-7810
*Not admitted to practice in Missouri

7777 Bonhomme Ave., Ste. 2301
Clayton, MO 63105
Tel. (314) 588-8500

We hope this explanation will help prevent you from returning your ballot unsigned and, thus, increase member participation in the voting.

Remember, one of your primary responsibilities as a member of this cooperative is voting to elect the directors who in turn, and in your interest, conduct the business and affairs of the cooperative.

Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative has been conducting director elections by mail ballot since 1983. The purpose of electing directors by mail ballot is to encourage all members to participate in this democratic process. Prior to 1983, director elections were conducted at the annual meeting. With only a small number of members attending the

annual meeting, that same small percentage of the membership was electing the directors. Ballot by mail gives more members the opportunity to select their board of directors.

As an added incentive to return your ballot, the Ballot Return Envelope of each member voting, with the name of the member on it, will be placed in a box for a special drawing by the Election Inspectors. Ten \$25 electric bill credits will be given away.

We encourage you to exercise your right as a member of this cooperative by casting your ballot in the 2016 director election. Your mailed ballot must be in the Mattoon Post Office by Wednesday, June 1 to be counted.

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

Philip Meyer..... Sullivan

Director

Dean Robison..... Windsor

Steve Shrader..... Westfield

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.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

**MINUTES OF REGULAR BOARD MEETING
 February 25, 2016**

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 pm on the 25th day of February, 2016, 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	Philip Meyer
Jeff Hudson	Steve Shrader
Debbie Albin	Dean Robison
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 Operations & Engineering, Darla Powell - Director of Human Resources/Office Manager and Bill Tapella of Tapella & Eberspacher - Corporate Counsel.

Motion was made by Shrader to add a report for the NRECA Annual Meeting to the Agenda and approve the agenda as amended. Motion seconded. Motion carried.

A discussion was held in regards to the 01/28/16 meeting minutes. Director Meyer made a motion that failed for lack of second. Bill Tapella will review the Robert's Rules of Order and minutes will be adjusted as necessary.

Motion was made by Meyer to approve the Consent Calendar as submitted or amended by Corporate Counsel, including the new members and the January Safety & Training report, 01/28/2016 Audit & Finance Committee meeting minutes, and the 01/28/2016 Regular Board meeting minutes. Motion seconded. Motion passed.

Motion was made by Shrader to go into Executive Session for the Legal Report. Motion seconded. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Albin to come out of Executive Session. Motion seconded. Motion passed.

The Directors discussed the upcoming Cooperative Response Corporation (CRC) Annual Meeting. CMEC recently became members of CRC and entered into a contract with them to answer our after hours and overflow calls.

Motion was made by Uphoff to assign Debbie Albin as voting delegate and Darla Powell as alternate for the CRC annual meeting held at the CFC 2016 Forum. Motion seconded. Motion carried.

Amy Borntrager gave the financial report. Amy Borntrager provided a comprehensive update on the Cooperative's financial position for the month ending January 2016. She also reviewed cooperative's principal financial

operating metrics. In addition, she noted she was preparing for the annual external audit.

Amy announced that she is speaking at the CFC conference as a seasoned CFO. The Board congratulated her. The Board discussed the recent changes to the Water Heater program and the effects that will be seen in the 2016 budget.

Debbie Albin reported on the AIEC Board Meeting. Staff changes and pre paid meters and the AIEC supporting the NRECA Veteran's Initiative were highlighted. The AIEC is the first statewide organization to join the initiative. Director Albin will be unable to attend the March 17th AIEC Board meeting. Director Shrader will be attending as the alternate.

Scott Uphoff and Kim Leftwich reported on the PPI Board Meeting. Prairie State was discussed.

The upcoming NRECA Legislative Conference was discussed. The Legislative Conference is held annually in Washington DC and is an opportunity for Cooperative Directors to meet and discuss with legislature the upcoming cooperative topics. Director Meyer will be attending.

Directors Robison and Uphoff attended the recent 2016 NRECA Annual Meeting that was held in New Orleans, LA. Director Robison reported on meetings that he attended and discussed topics presented at the meeting. Director Uphoff was the voting delegate at the meeting and reviewed the meeting with the Board.

Kim Leftwich gave the President/CEO report.

■ Cooperative Response Corporation (CRC) - cutover was accomplished 2/17 at 4:30pm. The transition was seamless. Communication is regular and an article was in the Decatur Herald and Review announcing implementation.

■ State Senator Righter campaign event on 2/18 was attended by Jeff Hudson and Kim Leftwich as well as many community leaders.

■ Mattoon Police Department, Jeff Branson, Chief of Police visited CMEC and reviewed our physical security needs and discussed future training for our employees.

■ Cyber Security will be addressed by partnering with PPI.

■ April Key Accounts Luncheon - upcoming date of 4/7 and details will be shared at upcoming meetings.

■ LED Lighting report of 440 LED security lights installed to date. The Cooperative is currently replacing security lights by age as well as members that call in with non-functioning security lights.

■ AMI progress report was given.

■ Engineering report included discussion and an opportunity to partner with Lake Land College to implement a Geographic Information System (GIS) for CMEC.

- Operations report included discussion of a new employee in March, progress on truck quotes, discussion of a rewind transformer and its storage until it can be placed.
- CMEC Connect, the cooperative's internet service, has approximately 200 members and is continuing to grow. Business class service was featured in a Journal Gazette article on 2/12/16.
- New CMEC Website is complete except for the new SmartHub services from NISC. Rollout is expected in March.
- Questline issue of CMEC Research Center on 3/3/16. Key Accounts are being advised of the service. CMEC Key Accounts are our large kWh

- users. Questline is a monthly newsletter with articles that large power users might find useful.
- Marketing update included recent statistics from Facebook. We had posts that generated over 84,000 views during this week and the outages. We are only 1000 "likes" less than Corn Belt Energy and they have 35,000 members.
- The storm outage from 02/24/16 was reported on. We experienced multiple outages with substations down and blinks throughout the day. An approximate count of 20 poles broken were reported. CRC engaged to handle over flow calls and outage reports as well as all inside personnel. Information was relayed regularly through social media and 3

radio stations broadcast messages throughout the day to help keep our members informed.

A discussion was held in regards to the upcoming 2016 CMEC Director Election. Jeff Hudson is running unopposed. In Philip Meyer's district he will be opposed by M.L. "Chris" Christman.

The recent repricing of variable notes was discussed by the Board. Procedures for decisions in the future were discussed. Options as far as email and phone calls as well as possible "apps" were discussed.

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

Minutes of the Special Board Meeting March 16, 2016

A Special 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 6pm on the 16th day of March, 2016, pursuant to a waiver of notice for the Special Board Meeting. The meeting was called to order by Jeff Hudson, Chairman. After calling the roll, the following directors were present:

John Bowers	Jeff Hudson
Phillip Meyer	Dean Robison
Steve Schrader	Scott Uphoff

Director Debbie Albin was absent. Kim Leftwich, President & CEO as well as Bill Tapella, Corporate Counsel were present.

Roll call connotes a quorum of the directors of the Cooperative. Also present was Kim Leftwich – President/CEO.

Motion was made by Robison to approve the agenda. Motion seconded. Motion carried without dissent.

Motion was made by Uphoff to enter Executive Session for a personnel matter. Motion was seconded. Motion carried without dissent.

Motion was made by Shrader to exit Executive Session. Motion seconded. Motion carried without dissent. CEO was authorized to execute recommended personnel actions. CEO Evaluation: NRECA Executive Search assisted the Cooperative in the most recent President/CEO search. The contract provides

for NRECA to return to the cooperative to assist in the first performance evaluation of the selectee. The Board discussed the matter and determined that they seek assistance from NRECA. The Board directed the President/CEO to contact NRECA and develop plans for the evaluation.

Board Policies #13 and #15: Provisions within each policy were reiterated and the Chairman stressed the importance of adhering to the intent. The importance of protecting confidential information was discussed and stressed.

Motion was made to adjourn by Bowers. Motion was seconded. Motion carried without dissent.

Member Exchange

For Sale

- Collapsible pet carrier/cage, 20" X 30" X 24" high, used very little - \$25; 14 1/2 ft heavy steel gate - \$50. Call 217-895-3474
- Bosch Aqua Star tankless water heater, propane, 175,000 btu, excellent - \$300; water crock and stand - \$20; antique 3 section mirror, 40 in tall X 57 in wide - \$25. Call 217-259-2564
- 10 acre hideaway, 5 tillable, 3 woods, 2 lawn, all year cabin, electric heat, plumbing, pump house with water well system. 24 X 40 pole barn with concrete floor, 14' X 10' overhead door with electric operator. Creek runs through 4' tile partway, driveway 400', 1 wood drive over bridge, 1 steel walk bridge. 1 1/2 miles off state highway, good road, 15 miles from Lake Shelbyville. All buildings 10 - 14 years old in very good condition. 5 acres are farmed and crops pay for electric and real estate taxes. 1 1/2 miles south of Gays IL. \$122,500. Call 217-259-7200.
- Vacant RV lot in beautiful southwest Florida minutes from Gulf beaches located in a quiet and secure retirement community... Riverwoods Plantation in Estero Florida. See riverwoods.com for amenities. Lot is large enough for a full size park model home or a large motor home. Full hook-ups. \$52,000 to buy. \$750 per month to rent. Call :217-294-1605.

Director Election Profiles

The biographical information for these candidates has been provided by the candidates who are solely responsible for the content. Neither the Coles-Moultrie Board of Directors, the officers of the Cooperative, or the staff contributed to these biographies or verified the content.

District #1



Philip Meyer graduated from Quincy University in 1997 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Management. He is currently the Senior Lender at Scott State Bank in the Sullivan branch where he has worked since 2011. Prior to 2011, he worked at First National Bank in Mattoon as an Asst. Vice President. Philip has sixteen years of banking and management experience. Philip is currently the Coles-Moultrie Cooperative Board Treasurer and serves as the Chair of the Audit & Finance Committee. He also serves on the Marketing Committee of the Board. He has been a director for three years.

Philip has been married to his wife for 18 years. Vickie, is a Child Care Counselor with Kemmerer Village in Assumption. They have three children. Paisley is a junior at Mattoon High School, John is a freshman at Mattoon High, and Leo is in 5th grade at Riddle Elementary in Mattoon.

Philip was a volunteer coach for city leagues, baseball, softball, and basketball in both Sullivan and Mattoon from 2006-2014 and was a coach for the St. Mary's Co-ed 4th and 5th grade basketball team for two years. He is a current member of the Sigel St. Michael's Knights of Columbus, St. Columille Church in Sullivan, and the Moultrie County Farm Bureau. He is also a past member of the Mattoon Rotary Club and the Mattoon Chamber Ambassadors where he served as President for two years.

He is an avid sports fan and enjoys travelling to watch his children play. He also enjoys fishing, attending auctions, and completing do-it-yourself building projects with his family.

Philip would like to continue using his financial knowledge to help the members of Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative.



M. L. "Chris" Christman is a candidate for District # 1 and resides in Bradford Hills in the rural Sullivan area.

He was employed by Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative (CMEC) from 1979 until his retirement on May 1, 2015. During his time at CMEC he served several functions beginning as an Apprentice Lineman, then Journeyman Lineman, Field Engineer, Director of Operations, Interim Manager and finally, President and CEO.

While working at the Cooperative he served on several boards of directors, including the former Mattoon Community Red Cross, Coles Together, Mattoon Chamber of Commerce, Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Foundation, Mattoon Area Community Foundation, as well as on advisory boards for the East Central Illinois Development Corporation and Sexual Assault and Counseling Information Service (SACIS).

Further, he served on boards of directors for several Illinois electric cooperative organizations including Prairie Power, Inc. as Secretary/Treasurer for eight years and was a member of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperative Managers' Association wherein he was Chairman of the Training and Safety committee and was active on the Memorial Scholarship committee, as well as in Illinois ACRE.

Recently, he was requested to serve as the Interim CEO for A & N Electric Cooperative on the Eastern Shore of Virginia while a management search was conducted to secure a permanent CEO for the 35,000-member electric cooperative.

He and Penny have two daughters and two granddaughters.

His favorite interests include woodworking, reading, golf and spending time with both granddaughters.

District #7



Jeff Hudson was born and raised on a grain and livestock farm north of Charleston. He grew up in one of the first Coles-Moultrie all electric homes. While he was a 4-H member, the Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative invited the group to their offices and assisted them in putting together a light fixture. Since then, he has had a deep regard and attachment with rural electrification.

As a Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative Board Director, he has served as Secretary, Treasurer and currently serves as Chairman of the Board. During his time on the board, he has assisted in achieving a power supply that will protect co-op members from increased power costs, predicted for the next 30 years.

With his background in management, negotiating, working with leases, contracts, sales, and safety issues, along with an understanding of finances will continue to help the Board immensely. As a Board Member, his first priority is to make the best decisions possible, for the benefit of all members.

Jeff, and his wife Sarah currently live in Charleston, Illinois. They have one son, Nick.

Hudson Agricultural Service is a business formed by Jeff Hudson. He manages farms for landowners, also does farm consulting, and appraisals. He is an Accredited Farm Manager and Rural Appraiser with the American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers. He is a real estate broker. He has served in the capacity of an Expert Legal Witness and Court Appointed Receiver. He has worked with insurance companies, such as John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Company, Travelers Insurance and Prudential Insurance performing farm management, appraising properties and selling real estate.

In 1972, he graduated from the University of Illinois with a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Economics. Upon graduation, he worked as an Officer with the Trust Department for Continental Illinois National Bank and Trust Company of Chicago. At the National Bank of Bloomington, Ill., he was Vice-President within the Trust Department. Vice-President and Market Manager for Bank of America, performing commercial loans, consumer credit, and providing investment service as a securities 6 licensee. Employed at First Community Bank, in Charleston, as Branch Manager and Commercial Lender. While at Regions Bank, he served as Vice-President and Commercial Lender, responsible for attracting new business through the sale of commercial bank products and services.

Jeff has served as an officer, director or current or past member of the following organizations: Coles County Economic Development Council, Charleston Chamber of Commerce, University of Illinois Extension Board, Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative Board, Rotary International-Charleston Club, Coles Together, Charleston Area Economic Development Foundation, Illinois Department of Natural Resources Hunter Safety Education Instructor, Coles County Farm Bureau, Walnut Grove Christian Church, currently a member of Broadway Christian Church, and the Illinois Sheriff's Association.

Jeff's favorite interests are: flying, fishing, assisting with the Mattoon-Charleston 4th of July Fireworks display, helping with the family farm, and spending time with his family.