



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

# Hi-Lites

## Every Vote Counts

We have made voting easier! Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative has adopted Hybrid Voting which allows our members to vote electronically or by mail. Survey & Ballot Systems (SBS) will mail, tabulate and report election results electronically ensuring integrity and transparency.

This year board districts 3, 5 and 6 are up for election. District 3 candidates are Kent Metzger and Dean Robison. District 5 candidates are Andrew Fearn and Stephen Shrader. District 6 candidates are Larry Beasley, Matthew Homann and Natalie Parkerson. Candidate profiles can be found on pages 20B-20D. You will need to vote for one candidate in each district.

Additionally, there are two proposed Bylaw Amendments. Details of the proposals on page 20D will be included in your ballot packet and available on both our website and the election website.

Voting begins on May 24, 2018 and ends June 12. Paper ballots will be

mailed to all members. Members who utilize SmartHub will be able to access their online ballot by logging into their account and selecting the “Vote Now” button next to the Pay Now button. If you have not signed up for SmartHub, we encourage you to do so by visiting our website and selecting PAY ONLINE and following the steps to set up your account.

Members who do not use SmartHub, or have not set up an account, will be able to directly link to SBS from our web page using unique election credentials which will be included in the mailed ballot material. Members who have an email on file with us will receive a Reminder to Vote email on or around June 5, 2018. If you would like to update or verify your email with us, send your current email to: info@cmec.coop. You will be entered into a drawing for a chance to win a \$25 bill credit at the end of May.

SBS will provide support by phone,

email or chat, and their contact information will be listed on the ballot material, within the reminder email and on the election site. If you contact them after business hours, they will contact you the next business day.

Please carefully follow the instructions when casting your vote to ensure every vote counts. Members who choose to vote by mail **must sign** the ballot form for the ballot to be processed and counted. Election inspectors have been selected by our Board of Directors to validate the ballots prior to mailing and certify election results once voting closes. If a member accidentally votes in more than one format, the paper vote will count first.

We encourage you to exercise your right as a member of this cooperative by casting your ballot. Elections play an important role in cooperatives, giving members the power to select leaders and influence the direction of our cooperative.



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 Chairman**  
 Chris Christman..... Sullivan
- Secretary**  
 John Bowers ..... Lovington
- Treasurer**  
 Steve Shrader..... Westfield
- Director**  
 Debbie Albin.....Mattoon  
 Dean Robison..... Windsor  
 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.

**Send your current email  
 to [info@cmeccoop.com](mailto:info@cmeccoop.com)**



**for a chance to win a  
 \$25 bill credit.**

# 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.

## MEET THE CANDIDATES

### District 3



**Kent Metzger**

As a member of the Coles-Moultrie Electrical Cooperative (CMEC) since 1998, I have come to know and appreciate CMEC. Since the 2017 Annual Meeting, I have represented CMEC District 3 on the Member Advisory Committee (MAC) where I have utilized opportunities to gain more information about CMEC and the inner workings of electrical co-ops in general. Electrical co-ops have been the primary force behind electrification of rural areas which has allowed rural areas to develop their current status, and CMEC will be instrumental in keeping pace with future changes.

CMEC faces a variety of challenges as we move forward. These challenges include issues such as increasing costs of doing business, decreasing rural population, security from physical and cyber threats, increased regulatory requirements, and constantly changing technology. These challenges must be defined as early as possible so they can be addressed appropriately and effectively to benefit our members. The bottom line is we must maintain and improve the CMEC system to maintain and improve our way of life.

I feel it is important to have a diverse and forward-thinking Board of Directors at CMEC. CMEC should seek input from directors and MAC members from all segments of our CMEC community such as

agriculture, homeowners, business, finance, transportation, education and manufacturing. CMEC must also seek the input of its members to identify strengths, weaknesses and needs from their perspectives.

I am seeking election to the Board of Directors of CMEC to allow me the opportunity to provide input to CMEC staff on behalf of the CMEC District 3 members, and the membership at large. As a long-standing member of CMEC, I have had many positive interactions with CMEC staff, and I have grown to appreciate their services. In my capacity as the Facilities Engineer for the Mattoon School District, I also interact with CMEC as one of its larger commercial customers.

I have been a resident of, and property owner in Coles and Moultrie counties since 1988 when I began my career as a consulting engineer in private practice. As an Illinois Licensed Professional Engineer, I understand many of the technical issues CMEC's staff face on a daily basis. As a facilities engineer, I can relate to the maintenance and construction tasks needed to maintain the CMEC facilities and infrastructure. My background includes management and/or ownership of local businesses with multi-million dollar budgets, and staffs ranging from trades people to licensed professionals. These experiences taught me the importance of customer service, professionalism and fiduciary responsibility. Additionally, I was elected and served as a Board Trustee for Lake Land College which taught me the importance of being an engaged board member, and a board member that understands and practices proper input and interactions by board members.

I appreciate the value CMEC provides to its members and the service area it covers. I feel CMEC is poised to take its former and current record of success and move forward to become even better. I think this is

an opportune time to make a change to the CMEC Board of Directors by bringing in fresh perspectives and drawing on my background and experiences.

For additional information about my candidacy, please visit Facebook - "Metzger for CMEC Board."



### **Dean Robison**

Dean Robison of rural Windsor has been a member of Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative for 33 years.

He has represented District 3 as a member of the Board of Directors since 2011, and previously served as a director. He also served two terms as a director from Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative on the Board of Directors of Soyland Power Cooperative and served on the Power Supply and Rates committee and the Property and Policy committee.

Dean is a member of the Shelby County Pork Producers, the Moultrie County Farm Bureau, three purebred registry associations and the Illinois Purebred Breed Association. He also served three terms on the Shelby County Pork Producers Board and two terms on the Illinois Progeny Test Unit at the University of Illinois in Champaign.

Dean is the Chairman of the Policy Committee for the Board of Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative and previously served as Secretary of the Board. In addition, he has been certified as a Credentialed Cooperative Director and achieved Board Leadership certification as well as Director Gold status. He also represents the Cooperative as a director on the Board of Directors of Prairie Power, Inc. and serves on the Finance and Legal committee.

Dean has served as a trustee and building fund treasurer for the First Baptist Church of Sullivan and also served as a 4-H club leader in Windsor for 21 years.

Dean and his wife, Beverly, have four children, 16 grandchildren,

37 great-grandchildren and 8 great-great-grandchildren.

## **District 5**



### **Andrew Fearn**

Andrew Fearn is manager of the Coles County Memorial Airport. He began his work at the airport over 17 years ago.

Andrew also is an adjunct instructor at Lake Land College, where he teaches Small Business Management. He has a degree in Airport Administration, as well as Aircraft Maintenance certification from Southern Illinois University.

While not the largest business consumer of Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative's (CMEC) services, the airport uses a large amount of power. Andrew has worked well with the cooperative over many years to oversee numerous projects which improve power systems used by the airport. As a consumer of CMEC services both at the airport and at his home, he understands the need for a balance between the electricity demand and the consumers need for reasonably priced power. To that end, he utilizes such alternatives as geothermal heat and air while exploring the benefits/costs of other alternatives.

Andrew has been a member of Coles County Crime Stoppers for several years and currently serves as its chairman. He also serves on the Board of Directors of the Illinois Public Airports Association where he has held the office of chairman for two prior terms. He and his wife, Kerry, live in rural Charleston near the Embarrass River. Kerry also serves a cooperative as President/CEO of Area Educational Credit Union in Mattoon. Andrew and Kerry are currently members of the CMEC Advisory Committee.

Andrew has lived in a rural setting most of his life and is very familiar with power cooperatives and their importance to the communities that they serve. Coming from a farm family

in Cisne, IL has taught him the value of hard work and giving back to the community. Many life lessons were learned on the farm and as a member of 4-H and FFA.



### **Stephen Shrader**

Steve Shrader of rural Westfield has been a member of Coles-Moultrie Electric

Cooperative for 47 years and has been a member of the Board of Directors of the Cooperative since 2008 representing District 5. He has completed all training and education requirements in order to be certified by the National Rural Electric Administration as a Credentialed Cooperative Director, achieved Board Leadership Certification, as well as Director Gold Credential status.

Steve presently serves as treasurer of the Board of Directors and chairman of the Audit and Finance Committee and has previously served on the Policy, Bylaw and Marketing Committees. Further, he represents Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperatives as a Director on the Board of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives as well as on the Board of Prairie Power, Inc. where he serves on the Marketing/Property and Policy Committee.

In addition, Steve is a member of the Charleston Chamber of Commerce and a member of Lincolnland Pheasants Forever.

Steve attended Lake Land Community College, Eastern Illinois University and has an Associate Degree from DeVry Technical Institute in Electronics. He served as Director on the Coles County Farm Bureau from 1974 - 1992 and 2010 - 2015.

He served as Deacon and also as an Elder for Providence Separate Baptist Church of rural Charleston and volunteered as a fifth and sixth grade basketball coach for Jefferson Elementary School in Charleston.

Although now retired, Steve remains actively involved in the family grain

and cattle farm business and is a member of the Illinois and National Beef Associations.

Steve and Nita have been married for 50 years, are the parents of 2 children and now have 4 grandchildren.

## District 6



### Larry Beasley

Larry Beasley of rural Charleston is a lifelong resident of Coles County. Larry attended Charleston schools and Eastern Illinois University. He served in the United States army and is a veteran of the Vietnam War. In 1968 Larry started a career in the lumber business and continues to work at Charleston Lumber Company, a family owned business started by his grandfather in 1934.

Larry has been a member of the Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative for 44 years. He served on the Board of Directors in the 1980s, representing District 6. During that time Larry also served as a director representing the Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative in Springfield, IL at the AIEC.

Larry is an avid sports fan supporting the Fighting Illini and the New York Yankees. In addition to sports, he enjoys flower gardening and working outdoors.

Larry and his wife, Pat, have been married 47 years. They have three children and six grandchildren.



### Matthew Homann

Matt Homann was born in Mattoon, IL, attended Humboldt School and graduated from Mattoon High School in 1984. After graduating high school, he attended the University of Illinois receiving a bachelor's degree in Agricultural Economics in 1988. He was raised on his family farm north of Mattoon. After graduating college, he worked in the grain merchandising and agricultural industry. He has worked in agricultural cooperatives as grain manager, grain merchandiser, location manager and general manager.

He and his wife Paula returned to Mattoon in 2002 to help with illness to family members. At that time, he became a regional manager for GROWMARK, a large regional cooperative. Currently, Matt is a sales representative for Lawson Products.

Matt is an active member of Pheasants Forever working to develop local wildlife habitat and outdoor youth programs. He currently serves as a trustee on the Humboldt Fire Protection District and local Drainage District. He is past president of Beta Sigma Psi the national Lutheran Fraternity. He is past chairman and current Elder of St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Matt and his wife Paula live north of Mattoon on the family farm.



### Natalie Parkerson

Natalie specializes in personal lines insurance and farms. She assists individuals and families to manage their risks from

individual life insurance policies to auto and homeowners' policies. She also handles agricultural risk management from small to large farming operations.

Natalie is a graduate of Mattoon High School and Lake Land College. She serves on the board of the Mattoon Area YMCA and Kiwanis. In 2017 she joined the Advisory Committee for Coles-Moultrie and lives south of Mattoon with husband Guy and children Guy Jr. and Noelle.

— The —

# Tapella Eberspacher

Law Firm

Tapella & Eberspacher LLC www.tapellalaw.com

Daniel C. Jones K. Lindsay Rakers* Angelica W. Wawrzyniec	William R. Tapella* David Y. Eberspacher	Alexander W. Heritier Jacob N. Smallhorn James R. Ping, II
---	---	--

March 23, 2018

Members of the Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative

Re: Proposed Bylaw Amendments

Dear Coles-Moultrie Members,

As Corporate Counsel for the Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative and a fellow member, I offer this letter to discuss the proposed amendments to your bylaws. On this year's ballot, there are two proposed amendments. I will address them in turn.

The first proposed amendment addresses Article V, Section 3 concerning Director Qualifications. Under the proposed amendment, directors would be subject to term limits. Under the proposal, no director elected after the 2018 annual meeting would be allowed to serve more than four consecutive, three-year terms on the board of directors. For directors who are serving at the time of the 2018 meeting, all prior service of such director would count as one, three-year term for the purpose of calculating term limits. In other words, a director elected prior to the 2018 meeting would be counted as having served one three-year term, whether in fact that director had served many more years or terms prior to that. Also, when a director is appointed to fill a vacancy on the board for a partial term, service of that partial term would not be included in calculating the term limits. Your board of directors has recommended this proposed bylaw change.

The second proposed amendment arises under Article VII, Section 6, subparagraph (e). This proposed change consists merely of editorial changes to better state the purpose of the bylaw, which is to maintain a complete copy of the articles of incorporation and bylaws for inspection by any member and to make copies of the articles or bylaws available to a member, upon request.

Both your Board of Directors and I recommend the proposed amendments and hope that you will join us in supporting them. As always, I will be available at your annual meeting to address any questions you may have about the amendments or any other issues facing the Cooperative. Thank you for allowing me to continue to serve as your Corporate Counsel.

Very truly yours,

William R. Tapella  
Corporate Counsel for CMEC

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 <small>*Also admitted to practice in Missouri</small>	7800 Forsyth Blvd., Ste. 610 St. Louis, MO 63105 Tel. (314) 588-8500
--	--	--