

## CMEC Scholarship Winners!

We have awarded six \$500 scholarships to area students. The 2018 recipients are Janette Comstock, daughter of T.G. and Christina Redfern of Lovington; Tanner Wilson Gray, son of Cathy Johnson of Charleston; Mitchell Kremer, son of Doug and Marlene Kremer of Mattoon; Caeleb McKee, son of James and Melissa McKee of

Bethany; Avery Pierce, daughter of Rob and Abby Pierce of Mattoon; and Jacob White, son of Jeff and Beth White of Sullivan.

Applicants must be a Coles-Moultrie member or under 21 years of age and a legal dependent of a Coles-Moultrie member. Candidates were reviewed based on grade point average, academic achievements,

community and school work, and a one-page essay to “Explain the difference between an electric cooperative and an investor-owned utility and share what would be some advantages to the cooperative business model.”

All applicants were outstanding, and Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative is committed to helping these students further their education.



■ Avery Pierce



■ Caeleb McKee



■ Janette Comstock



■ Mitchell Kremer



■ Tanner Wilson Gray



■ Jacob White

## 2018 AIEC Statewide Survey

The Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) conducts a statewide member survey project on our behalf every other year. You may be randomly selected to participate in the project. You could receive the survey via mail, be given a link to complete the survey online, or receive a telephone survey.

Members who complete the survey by one of the above-listed methods will be entered in a drawing to win a bill credit. AIEC or the survey vendor, Inside Information, will not ask for credit card information or sell or share your private information. They will provide us with the anonymous survey results, and we will evaluate the information that is gathered to help improve our service to you.

The more completed survey questionnaires we receive, the more accurate the information will be, so if you're selected to participate, please take the time to answer the short survey. Survey questionnaires will be distributed in August and September. Your opinion matters to us!

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**

(Vacant).....

**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.

# President & CEO Report – April 2018

**AIEC Manager's Meeting**

- Just prior to the meeting, the Illinois Commerce Commission (ICC) issued a ruling and Final Order regarding the Future Energy Jobs Act (FEJA). ComEd had objected to participation in the plan by cooperatives and municipalities during the public comments period. The ICC concluded cooperatives and municipalities were entitled to participate in their Order.
- The Managers group formed a committee to work with the Illinois Electric Municipal Agency to develop a strategy and negotiate rules for the FEJA programs managed by the Illinois Power Agency.
- Manager's also had a comprehensive presentation from FBI Agent Chris Trifiletti who discussed Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and FBI guidelines for cyber security and protection of electric grid infrastructure.

**Professional Science Master's (PSM) Advisory Board**

- On April 6, 2018, Kim Leftwich joined other corporate and governmental advisors to discuss developments and improvements to the Eastern Illinois University PSM program.

**Potential Commercial Development**

- Sam Adair and Kim Leftwich, accompanied by Coles Together Executive Director Angela Griffin, met April 10th with a potential high value commercial prospect seeking to locate in CMEC territory; the load could be as much as 2 megawatts of fairly continuous, stable usage.
- An Amish woodworking manufacturer has determined to replace hydraulic operations with more efficient electric motors; the change will add perhaps 350KW of new load for the Cooperative, always a welcome event.

**Microgrid/Microgeneration**

- CMEC staff and Prairie Power, Inc. representatives met with OATI consultants on April 11 to consider means to develop a microgrid concept within CMEC territory that would include generator sets. The concept would harden CMEC facilities and protect critical infrastructure in a significant electric grid event keeping a significant part of critical services up and running regardless of the nature of the event. Additional discussions will follow with OATI. CMEC also met with Altorfer CAT as an alternative provider and developer. Considerable study remains before any decision.

**Key Accounts Conference**

- The May 3 event is set and materials published. Multiple breakout speakers from national cooperative organizations have been secured as well as speakers from our regional partners, PPI and USDA.

**Charleston Stone Beneficial Electrification Project Presentation**

- Dr. Peter Liu, Professor and Assistant Chair of the School of Technology, Eastern Illinois University (EIU), and Kim Leftwich were invited to speak at the 50th Anniversary Illinois Association of Aggregate Producers Annual Conference April 12. Through the Center for American Rural Energy (CARE), located at EIU, CMEC with faculty and students from EIU developed a comprehensive study of the beneficial effects of electrification of primary rock crushing in a quarry application. Liu/Leftwich touted the improvements and cost savings Charleston Stone experienced. The study has also

been published by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) and distributed throughout the electric cooperative network. The study is being republished May 2018 in Rock Products magazine, a national publication to the aggregate industry.

### Avian Protection Plan (APP)

- CMEC staff met with Douglas-Hart Nature Center participants on April 23 to introduce the APP developed by CMEC; the event was part of Earth Day activities sponsored by the Center.
- Tyler Wright, former CMEC GIS intern, met with faculty from Eastern Illinois University and Lake Land College on April 25 to present his work on the APP Risk Assessment Study he performed while part of the CMEC GIS team; the colloquium provided insights and guidance for Tyler to extend his work.

### Finance/Accounting/Billing

- Amy Borntreger attended the Accounting Advisory Committee at NISC at Lake St Louis.
- Annual meeting preparations are nearly complete; Director nominations and ballot materials have been forwarded to Survey & Ballot Systems.
- A major project has been to correct vacation accruals for employees; it required a thorough search of current employee records to correct.
- May Day procedure training and exercise was conducted for inside personnel April 12. All participants learned important lessons.

### CMEC Connect

- Establishing spring testing for Lake Land, Sarah Bush, and Fairgrange substations.
- Met with several municipal systems to evaluate opportunities to provide energy services to the communities.
- A G&W Viper three-phase breaker has been installed at the Bruce/Mattoon substations tie-point to determine phase angle difference between the two substations; the step is necessary to determine the feasibility of a zig-zag transformer

at Bruce substation; if feasible, the change-out would permit maintenance at Bruce sub without taking members out of service as has been necessary in the past.

### Marketing/Member Services

- HomeServe program continues success with 200 members benefitting from a warranty that meets their needs; a new mailing will begin at the end of April to offer additional services perhaps of interest to members; CMEC, first in the nation to institute Home Serve, continues to receive multiple calls each week from interested cooperatives from around the country.
- CMEC hosted seven high school students to Youth Day at the Springfield Capitol on April 18.
- EnerStar Electric Cooperative chose to institute a generator sales program modeled after CMEC's program; CMEC will warehouse/sell the units that EnerStar members purchase.

### LED Lighting

- Over 2,000 LED security lights have been installed replacing less efficient mercury vapor and high-pressure sodium lights.

### Engineering

- Our required Annual Work Order Review was completed by Toth and Associates, our consulting engineers; only minor adjustments were noted.

### Operations

- In early April, Chandler Milbourn joined CMEC as an Apprentice Lineman; Chandler comes from a cooperative family. His father is a lineman at EnerStar.
- Latter part of March, James Geldert joined CMEC as an Apprentice Lineman. James is a U.S. Marine Corps veteran and comes from Minnesota.
- TIT/SCADA
- Continue to make software updates on in-house computing; upgraded software helps eliminate system and data vulnerabilities preventing cyber incursions into CMEC hardware and software.
- Gaining on interoperability of NISC and Trilliant systems through

MultiSpeak applications.

- Attended training classes on SEL-651R and Cooper Form 6 breaker controls.

### GIS

- Provided a GIS web map to a local municipality to illustrate how CMEC GIS can help them manage their assets; additional municipalities will be contacted to offer a robust yet cost-effective GIS solution.
- Programming has progressed to add more automated processes linked to GIS to provide field capability to line workers.

### Safety and Training

- Mitchell Stanciu attended Transformer School March 5-9, Jacksonville.
- Shane Ruppert and Marcus McDowell attended Advanced Regulator School on March 13-15 held at the Fletcher-Reinhart Service Center in St Louis.
- Rubber gloving committee met March 23 to begin planning for conversion from hot-sticking to rubber gloving.
- All employees participated in required CPR and First-Aid training conducted by AIEC on March 28



# Fairgrange Substation

CMEC line crews recently completed a transformer upgrade at the Fairgrange Substation north of Charleston. The previous transformer powering the station was three single phase Allis Chalmers units manufactured in 1963. This station was the last one utilizing single phase units. The transformer that was installed is a mid 1990 General Electric three phase unit that was previously used in our Neoga Substation. The unit is installed, has been tested by High Voltage Maintenance, and is set to provide service to our members in the region for many years to come. CMEC recognizes the need to continually evaluate our distribution system and make the necessary upgrades to ensure reliable, affordable service to our membership.

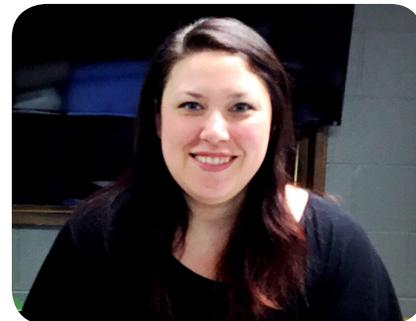


## IVR - Interactive Voice Response Phone System

We have deployed our new IVR phone system. Members calling our office to make a payment will now select option #2 and follow the prompts. Additionally, this feature allows members to inquire on their account, update phone numbers, create or update a pin number, and update or delete both stored payment information, as well as, autopay information.



**James Geldert**  
Apprentice Lineman



**Kim Brodack**  
Customer Service Representative



**Chandler Milbourn**  
Apprentice Lineman



New employees

## Save Energy with LEDs

LED lights last up to 30 times longer than incandescents, reducing the need to replace bulbs in high or hard-to-reach places. Below are LED lighting suggestions for your home.



**Living Room Lamps**  
Table or floor three-way lamps using LED bulbs provide 620, 1,600 or 2,150 lumens of soft white light and deliver up to 25,000 hours of light.



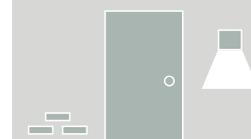
**Kitchen**  
Dimmable recessed LED conversion lights add a warm glow of up to 1,200 lumens for kitchen workspaces and add far less heat to your kitchen. Each bulb could last 10 years.



**Bedrooms and Hallways**  
Long-life LEDs are ideal for ceiling fixtures. A 9-watt LED produces the same 800 lumens of light as a 60-watt incandescent, and uses about 80 percent less energy.



**Bathrooms**  
Omnidirectional LED globe bulbs are designed to provide a warm glow ideal for bathrooms. A 6-watt bulb produces 450 lumens and lasts up to 15,000 hours.



**Outdoors**  
A 6-watt, 500 lumen LED bulb can replace a 40-watt incandescent bulb. Designed to last up to 30,000 hours, it could be a one-time switch.