

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Hi-Lites

CMEC Awards Scholarships

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

Debbie Albin.....Mattoon

Vice Chairman

John Bowers Lovington

Secretary

Bill Voyles..... Sullivan

Treasurer

Jeffery D. Hudson..... Charleston

Director

Kent Metzger Gays

Interim President/CEO

Amy Borntrager

Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative (CMEC) is committed to helping area students further their education. Board Chairman Debbie Albin presented six high school students with \$500 scholarships at the Annual Meeting on June 14. The 2019 recipients are Ethan Bennett, Hope Griffin, Shelby Hagerman, Megan Morecraft, Morgan Otto and Emmalyn Walk. Scholarship candidates were reviewed based on grade point average, academic achievements, community and schoolwork, and a one-page essay that explains the difference between an electric co-op and investor-owned utilities and the advantages of the co-op business model.



Ethan Bennett



Hope Griffin



Shelby Hagerman



Megan Morecraft



Morgan Otto



Emmalyn Walk

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



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

Congratulations!

Congrats to HR Manager Anita Hoene who completed the Human Resources Certification through the Society of Human Resources Managers.



CMEC Students Join National Electric Co-op Youth to Washington Tour

What do you get when 62 students from 26 Illinois electric and telephone co-ops join 1,800 of their peers across the U.S.? You get the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Youth to Washington Tour!

Two students from Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative (CMEC) territory were selected to represent their co-op and enjoy an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. from June 14-21 as part of the annual Youth Tour. The 2019 CMEC Youth Tour delegates were Aubry Strong of Atwood and Addi Tinkle of Arthur.

The students toured Capitol Hill and met with U.S. Senators Dick Durbin and Tammy Duckworth and Congressman John Shimkus. They also visited historical sites including Arlington National Cemetery, the Supreme Court, President Lincoln's Cottage at First National Cemetery and a variety of memorials.

"Youth Tour is a great opportunity that changes these students' lives," says Amy Borntreger, CMEC



Pictured from left – Aubry Strong, Congressman John Shimkus and Addi Tinkle.

Interim CEO. "This experience helps prepare them for their futures. After touring our nation's capital, meeting congressional representatives and

learning firsthand how our government works, they return home with valuable knowledge and memories that will last a lifetime."

80th Annual Meeting Held

Members gathered at Peterson Park in Mattoon on June 14 for CMEC's 80th Annual Meeting. They enjoyed a catered lunch, ice cream, a variety of vendors, bucket truck rides, vehicle displays and a Live Line Demonstration.

"As a member-owned cooperative, we are dedicated to providing you-our members-with reliable electricity and excellent service," said CMEC Interim President/CEO Amy Borntreger as she welcomed members to the 80th Annual Meeting. She then provided highlights from the past year.

In the member services area, the co-op connected with members via the Member Advisory Committee (MAC). "This committee helps us in succession planning for our board of directors," Borntreger said. "We encourage members to become an



active part of their cooperative by getting involved with the Member Advisory Committee. Please call the cooperative if this is something you would like to participate in."

The cooperative continues to fulfill one of the seven co-op principles: concern for community. This is done through donations to local organizations, scholarships to students

furthering their education and volunteerism by CMEC employees.

Borntreger reported that the cooperative is in good condition financially. In 2018, sales were up, which created margins above \$1.5 million with total operating revenues of \$28.5 million. "We were able to return margins totaling approximately \$1 million for the years 1977-1979 to our members as capital credits," she said.

In the meeting, it was announced that a nationwide search will be conducted to replace former President/CEO Kim Leftwich.

Director election results were announced. District 1 Director Bill Voyles, Sullivan, and District 7 Director Jeffery Hudson, Charleston, will serve three-year terms. Currently, seats for districts 5 and 6 on the board are open. Replacements will be appointed in the coming months.

Building a New Grain Bin on Your Farm?

Remember Grain Bins have Clearance Requirements!

To stay safe, many farming tasks require looking up and around for power lines – when operating large equipment with antennas or when using long implements, for example.

Another safety issue farmers should keep in mind related to power lines is grain bin location. The National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) addresses grain bins and their proximity to power lines with specific requirements. The code does so to decrease the chances of farming equipment and machinery contacts a live electrical line and because utility lines have clearance requirements.

If you plan to build a new grain bin or remodel around an area that already has one, contact CMEC at 217-235-0341 or email info@cmec.coop. We can help with specific code requirements. The taller a grain bin, the farther it must be placed from a power line. Not only is placing a grain bin too close to a power line dangerous, it will likely need relocated due to code violations, and usually at the owner's expense.

Remember, calling us before installing a new grain bin or making changes around an existing one is free. Moving one is costly, it interrupts your

farming schedule and is just a hassle. The NESC specifies both horizontal and vertical distance requirements, so don't leave a bin's location to chance.

For example, a grain bin that is 30 feet high must be at least 93 feet from a power line, and all bins must have an 18-foot minimum vertical clearance from the highest point of the bin's filling port. There are also distance requirements for non-loading sides of bins. In addition, changes to the ground (landscaping, filling) and drainage work can affect clearance heights.

Even if you are not getting a new grain bin or making changes around an existing one, remember to always maintain adequate clearance when using a portable auger, conveyor or elevator to fill you grain bin or when moving machinery or farming equipment.

Contact with a power line could be deadly. For more info about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

SAFETY NOTE: If your machinery or vehicle does contact a power line, do not get out of the cab. Call 9-1-1 and the dispatched utility will de-energize the power so you can safely exit your tractor or vehicle.



Rate\$

There were a lot of questions at our Annual Meeting regarding rates and charges. Below is a list of our most recent changes for **Residential Service Rate**

1. Feel free to call us (217-235-0341) or make an appointment to discuss your bill. The quickest, easiest way to lower your bill is to use less energy. Visit touchstoneenergy.com for **101 Easy Ways to Save Energy & Money**.

- 2012** Kwh increased from .101 cents to .104 cents
Service Availability Charge (**Bundled**) increased from \$30 to \$32
Security Light Charge(s) increased
- 2014** Service Availability Charge (**Bundled**) increased from \$32 to \$34
- 2017** Formulary Rate Plan Rider, FRP, added currently .00375 per KWh
Service Availability Charge (**Unbundled**) increased from \$34 to \$40
- 2018** Service Availability Charge (**Unbundled**) increased from \$40 to \$50

What is a Service Availability Charge?

This charge covers the cost of providing safe reliable continuous electricity to each meter we serve and includes many things such as wire, poles, tools, equipment, meters, resources, trucks, transformers and fuel.

Note: For a Breakdown of Security Light Charges, Commercial or other Rate Schedules, please call our office.

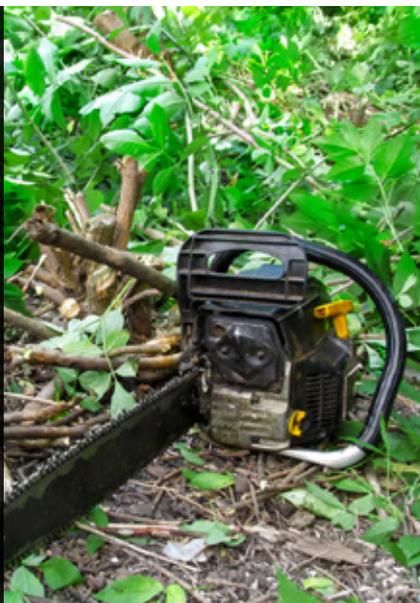
Leave that to the professionals...

One DIY project you should never tackle is trimming trees near power lines.

Only trained professionals should trim those trees.

Learn more at:

 Safe Electricity.org



President & CEO Report – May 2019

Safety

- CMEC continues to emphasize on safety with monthly Safety Committee meetings; committee members have contributed to a much-enhanced safety awareness.
- CMEC employees subject to high noise levels were provided hearing testing through the month; OSHA requires routine testing.
- Pole Top/Bucket Truck rescue training is to be accomplished May 30. All line personnel must demonstrate proficiency every year recovering a 200-pound figure on a pole through safe techniques.

CMEC Connect

- CMEC Connect remains consistent in service provision; all issues resulting from severe weather in past months have been resolved

Marketing/Member Services (M/MS)

- Staff member Sam Adair attended the Coles Together Annual Meeting.
- Adair and Anita Hoene recently participated in the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) course, “Building Your Co-op’s Culture, the Supervisor’s Role.”
- M/MS employee, Drew Haumesser, participated in Mattoon High School’s Real World assignment.
- HR manager Anita Hoene presented a Thomas H. Moore \$2,000 scholarship to Emmalyn Walk, daughter of a CMEC member. Walk won out over 70-plus applicants from across the state to receive the award offered through the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives.
- CMEC conducted its first Coffee on the Co-op member engagement event offered at Mattoon and Charleston Starbucks facilities; additional events will be announced and coming to a community near you.

Key Accounts

- M/MS Manager Sam Adair completed the Certifications for Key Accounts Executive (CKAE), a major milestone in his professional development.
- CMEC representatives met with Sarah Bush Lincoln Foundation executives to finalize plans for their fund-raising golf outing. CMEC, with matching funds from CoBank, helps sponsor this philanthropic event.
- National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) contacted CMEC to develop a podcast to highlight CMEC’s work in Beneficial Electrification with its large power member Charleston Stone. The study, conducted several months ago for the stone company, identified a few economic benefits accruing to the stone company by converting from diesel powered rock crushing to electric power crushing.

LED Lighting

- To date, over 2,300 LED lights have been installed replacing 467 mercury vapor and 1,749 sodium vapor security lights. All MV and SV lights will be replaced within the next few months resulting in reduced energy use and reduced maintenance costs.

Engineering

- Field engineers continue work on the R5 mile rebuild; W4-2 mile underground replacement; and created 22 Work Orders for new construction, system improvement, and a facility retirement.
- 435 JULIE locates were received requiring CMEC on-site locating over 60 times during the month.

Operations

- Crew work was hampered through the month because of continued wet weather limiting off-road work; completed were system improvement, hazard repair, multiple pole replacements and O&M work.

- Operations completed O&M inspections for 2019.
- Crews removed and replaced OCRs at various locations as part of our routine maintenance process.
- Similarly, crews are replacing voltage regulators in multiple locations to cycle the devices for servicing.

IT/SCADA

- Staff are working on SCADA expansion network options.
- We continue to improve systems/software to reduce system vulnerabilities.
- Extreme weather, lightning in particular, damaged various AMI and AVL system devices and repairs were made through the month.

GIS

- Continue to develop integration of the engineering staking system with GIS; the integration will provide enhanced capability, ease of use, and availability across the cooperative.
- Developing an enhanced database structure.

Human Resources

- Anita Hoene, HR Manager, working through the Society of Human Resources Managers, completed HR Certification this month. The certification is a milestone in Anita’s professional development.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Routinely replace or clean your air conditioner’s filter. Replacing a dirty, clogged filter can reduce your air conditioner’s energy consumption by 5 to 15 percent.

Source: energy.gov

Monthly Board Meeting Minutes can be viewed on our website: www.cmec.coop