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# Hi-Lites

## Ten 2018 IEC Memorial Scholarships available

Kim Leftwich has announced that the Illinois electric cooperatives in 2018 will award nine academic scholarships to high school seniors through a memorial scholarship fund designed to financially assist deserving students in the “electric cooperative family.” In addition, a tenth scholarship – to assist with costs in attending an electric lineworker school – will also be offered.

The total of ten scholarships of \$2,000 each will be awarded in 2018 through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

Five scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors who are the sons or daughters of an Illinois electric cooperative member receiving service from the cooperative. A sixth scholarship, the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship, will be awarded to a student who is the son or daughter of an Illinois electric

cooperative employee or director. Three additional scholarships are reserved for students enrolling full-time at a two-year Illinois community college who are the sons or daughters of Illinois electric cooperative members, employees or directors.

The tenth annual scholarship, the “LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker’s Scholarship,” is a \$2,000 scholarship that will help pay for costs to attend the lineworker’s school conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College, Springfield, Ill. Sons and daughters of co-op members; relatives of co-op employees or directors; and individuals who have served or are serving in the armed forces or National Guard are all eligible to apply for the lineworker’s scholarship.

“We hope to assist electric cooperative youth while honoring past rural electric leaders with these scholarships,”

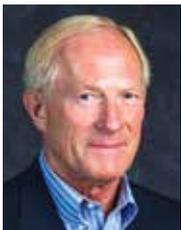
says CEO Leftwich. “Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative and the other Illinois electric cooperatives are always seeking ways to make a difference in our communities. One of the best ways we can do that is by helping our youth through programs like this one. In addition, we are very pleased to offer the electric lineworker’s scholarship. It will benefit not only electric cooperative youth but also those fine men and women who have served their country through their military service and may now be wanting to become a trained lineworker.”

For more information regarding the scholarships, contact Carla Bradbury, (217)235-0341 or email [info@cmec.coop](mailto:info@cmec.coop). Information has also been shared with area high school guidance counselors and a link is available on the cooperative’s website at [www.cmec.coop](http://www.cmec.coop).

## Co-ops and veterans serve together

In January 2016, NRECA, in partnership with our members, launched Serve our Co-ops; Serve our Country. Serve our Country is a national cooperative coalition focused on honoring and employing veterans. Its mission is to provide military members and spouses employment opportunities and promote support in their communities. This includes resources for cooperatives to hire and retain veterans as well as supporting transition into both rural and suburban areas. The focus is to educate cooperatives to attract, hire and retain our veterans and enhance resources for those communities in which they live. As of September 2017, 86 electric cooperatives have joined the coalition and have hired more than 25 veterans, military personnel and military spouses. For more information visit: [www.servevets.coop](http://www.servevets.coop)

### Saluting Our Coles-Moultrie Veterans



Kim Leftwich  
President/CEO



Gordon Reynolds  
Clearance Journeyman



Dennis Ray  
Field Engineer



Carla Bradbury  
MSR/Marketing



★ HAPPY ★  
THANKSGIVING

The cooperative office  
will be closed November 24  
and 25 in observance  
of Thanksgiving

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**

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.

**Board Report**

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 31st day of August, 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, John Bowers and Dean Robison being a quorum of the directors of the Cooperative. Also present were Kim Leftwich, President/CEO, and Amy Borntreger, Chief Financial Officer. Bill Tapella of Tapella & Eberspacher, LLC was also present.

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

Motion was made by Bowers to approve the Consent Calendar as submitted and the July Safety & Training report. Motion seconded. Motion passed.

For the Legal Report Tapella reported on the NRECA Legal Seminar that he attended in Portland, OR. He attended sessions on environmental law that had a direct effect on cooperatives including hazardous waste, pollution and the Avian Protection Program. In addition, he attended sessions regarding capital credit issues and fraud detection. The cost of the conference was shared between Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative and Enerstar Cooperative located in Paris, IL.

Motion was made by Christman to approve the Qualifying Facility Policy and Resolution. Motion seconded. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Bowers to move Coles-Moultrie Electric's existing line of credit with NRUCFC to an uncommitted line of credit. Motion seconded. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Shrader to allow a member appearance at the next board meeting for 15 minutes. Motion seconded. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Uphoff to allow the designation of delegate and alternate delegate for the Prairie Power, Inc. special meeting to be Deb Albin and John Bowers. Motion was withdrawn.

Motion made by Robison to nominate Steve Shrader as the delegate to vote at a special meeting held at Prairie Power, Inc in Springfield, IL on October 11, 2017. Motion seconded. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Uphoff to nominate Dean Robison as the alternate delegate to vote at a special meeting held at Prairie Power, Inc in Springfield, IL on October 11, 2017. Motion withdrawn.

Motion made by Albin to nominate Scott Uphoff as the alternate delegate to vote at a special meeting held at Prairie Power, Inc in Springfield, IL on October 11, 2017. Motion seconded. Motion carried.

Robison made a motion to award the 2017 Financial Audit to LWG CPAs. Motion seconded. Motion carried.

Christman made a motion to reinstate the Cooperative's Retirement & Savings Plan through NRECA and the 401(k) Plan for 5 more years. Motion seconded. Motion passed.

Motion was made by Albin to nominate Kim Leftwich as delegate and Amy Borntreger as alternate delegate for the CFC District Voting held at the CFC District 5 Meeting, Minneapolis, MN September 20, 2017. Motion seconded. Motion passed.

Robison made a motion to reinstate the CoBank Line of Credit. Motion seconded. Motion passed.

Policy Committee recommended to approve the changes made to Board Policies 10,17,27,35,36 and 38. All policies were approved separately.

Borntreger gave the financial report. She stated sales and revenue still below budget for the first half of 2017. The Formula Rate Plan Rider and Wholesale Power Adjustment were added to July bills and should help eliminate the shortfall. Transmission expense is \$349,072 higher than last July. Coles-Moultrie still has a strong equity position as of July 2017.

After the financial report, she reviewed on the 2016 Key Ratios provided from CMEC's lender NRUCFC. She stated the overall health of cooperatives in our country, as a whole, remains strong.

Shrader reported on the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives.

Robison and Leftwich reported on the Prairie Power, Inc. August board meeting.

Leftwich provided the President/CEO report.

Items that were reviewed in the

informational section of the Board Meeting were as follows:

- Outage Report
- State of Illinois Account Status
- Member Request for Information
- AIEC visit to CMEC

- Scam Alert
- Billing Inquiries/Complaints
- 2019 International Program
- Director Insurance

Bowers made the motion to adjourn. Motion seconded. Motion passed.

## President and CEO Report: August 2017 Board Meeting

### Electric Vehicle Project

■ Met with Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Services August 1st to discuss SBLHS participation in an Electric Vehicle demonstration project; the project would be sponsored under The Center for American Rural Energy consortium with Coles-Moultrie providing electric service for car charging purposes.

### Human Resources Position

■ Met and interviewed multiple candidates to fill the vacant human resources specialist position. Selected Anita Hoene who will start September 11th.

### The Center for American Rural Energy

■ Met with local state legislators to introduce The Center for American Rural Energy to them; attending were State Senators Righter and Rose and Representative Phillips; all were very supportive of the concept; Senator Righter agreed to invite all legislators from the 10 PPI member cooperatives to a seminar in Springfield to acquaint those legislators with the concept; expect up to 100 legislators with rural constituencies to participate.

### AIEC Visit

■ August 8th, Nick Reitz, VP of Governmental Affairs, AIEC, joined the CMEC staff meeting to talk about changes underway and anticipated for AIEC; AIEC staff are evaluating services provided to member cooperatives to learn where they might do a better job for the members. As an example, AIEC will add a third Safety Advisor which had been an interest of most member cooperatives for some time.

### AIEC Manager's Meeting

■ Kim Leftwich, President/CEO attended the AIEC Manager's Meeting August 10th and 11th. Among items introduced were outcomes of the AIEC Strategic Planning Process; a copy of the report is included elsewhere in the Board packet.

### Eastern Illinois University Panther Club

■ August 11th, Coles-Moultrie was a sponsor of the Eastern Illinois University Panther Club Golf Outing

which supports EIU athletics. CMEC staff and CMEC members participated.

### AIEC Thomas H. Moore Scholarship

■ Kim Leftwich attended the AIEC's Thomas H. Moore Scholarship Committee meeting August 17th. The scholarship fund remains well funded from contributions and earnings on investments; the committee determined to continue awarding 10 \$2000 scholarships for the present.

### Righter Golf Event

■ Sam Adair and Kim Leftwich met with Senator Dale Righter August 21st to continue development of the Righter Golf outing scheduled for the Mattoon CC September 29th; outlined all activities and set objectives for the Committee to achieve.

### SBLHS Foundation

■ Kim Leftwich attended the Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Services Foundation Board meeting August 22nd. Received updates on the progress of construction for the new Cath lab; toured the Women and Children's health wing to learn of services available to the community.

### AIEC Golf Outing- Fundraiser

■ CMEC staff and members participated in the event.

### CMEC Connect

■ Opened discussions with adjoining cooperatives to determine if there is interest in CMEC extending its internet services, CMEC Connect, to their members. Presently evaluating means to extend capabilities and mapping communications needs. Jointly, we will survey cooperative members to validate sufficient interest.

■ Currently 6 members awaiting installs and 53 who will be contacted noting that they could now receive service as we have continued to develop and build-out.

### HomeServe

■ CMEC staff is considering collaboration with HomeServe. An NRECA approved company, HomeServe provides homeowners insurance that will cover HVAC equipment, water heaters,

and home electrical wiring. The offer would be an independent service made to our members by HomeServe. We believe a number of members would be interested in the offer as an additional protection and service.

### Farm Progress Show

■ CMEC was again present at the bi-annual Farm Progress Show; many CMEC members visited our booth and received their free "members-only" gift. CMEC Member Services served as Chair for this year's committee.

### Charleston Stone Beneficial Electrification Study

■ Introduction of an electric powered primary rock crusher at Charleston Stone facilities near Charleston is the subject of a business case study based on CMEC's collaboration with the quarry. NRECA will publish the case study for distribution to all interested cooperatives. The study outlines four key benefits to the quarry – lower energy costs, lower maintenance costs, new product offerings building their market, and social benefit of diminishing the diesel fuel use at the quarry.

### Facebook Videos

■ CMEC Member Services is creating new videos to add to Facebook describing the changes to member's billing; in just a matter of days, some 460 members have viewed the videos.

### LED Lighting

■ 1618 LED security/yard lights have been installed replacing a like number mercury vapor and high-pressure sodium fixtures.

### RESAP

■ Jim Wallace participated in the safety evaluation of Shelby Electric Cooperative August 24th.

### Engineering

■ As follow-up from CMEC and Illinois Sustainable Technology Center (ISTC) evaluation of electrical issues at the Best Western Plus hotel in Arcola, issues have been identified and remedies suggested to minimize issues for the

*(Continued on page 18D)*

(Continued from page 18C)

future. We believe the changes will significantly improve operations inside the hotel. Efforts to develop a load management practice as well are underway.

- Three phase breakers are being obtained for the 2 Bruce substation tie points. The breakers will provide a means for us to monitor phase angles at the sub so we may acquire the proper transformer to upgrade the sub and preclude extended outages for maintenance in the future. Installing the breakers also helps us evaluate breaker purchases scheduled in the Construction Work Plan for 2018 and 2019.

- A number of gang operated switches have been installed in 2017 and 3 remain to complete yet this year. The gang type switch is a clear safety improvement and provides greater efficiency when performing maintenance on the lines.

- Studies this year identified 3 locations for capacitor bank installation; the banks will improve voltage and support for better, more reliable service.

- Service requests (Report on Call) continue to grow as we approach Fall. Engineering staff are working diligently to process the requests.

#### Operations

- We continue to seek journeyman linemen to replace recent personnel departures and new crew needs. We expect to hire two journeymen.

- 2017 O&M is complete; in process of preparing 2018 O&M needs in the event work orders diminish or weather precludes off road work.

#### Fleet

- Presently using an Altec demo digger truck, a 55' unit on a tandem axle. This chassis likely will be necessary for future trucks due to weight restrictions in Illinois.

- Discussing leasing of fleet equipment with Altec; operations will be evaluating ownership versus leasing costs for the future.

#### IT/SCADA

- Continuing efforts on software upgrades to minimize interior and exterior cyber security vulnerabilities; CMEC at zero external vulnerabilities and quickly resolving potential internal problems.

- Hardware and software issues with Siemens MJ-5 regulator panels have delayed rollout of the panels; Siemens is working closely with CMEC to discern the problems and provide a remedy.

- Crew iPads have been distributed as a first step to familiarize outside line forces as we continue to automate the service/work order process.

#### GIS

- Interns are continuing to add all easements to GIS. As we have hundreds of easements, progress is slow to insure

all 44 Township Ranges are included.

- Security lights are now being added to the GIS map.

- GIS staff are nearly complete with developing the CMEC Avian Protection Plan (APP), a legal requirement, and integrating the APP with our GIS system; the approach is highly unique and NRECA requested a Concept Paper to consider our project for inclusion in the NRECA 2018 TechAdvantage Conference.

- NRECA GIS experts are working with CMEC GIS staff to document our software development; potentially, NRECA will sponsor/license our GIS as a solution for other cooperatives.

- September 5th, Clay County Electric Cooperative will visit CMEC to view our GIS system.

#### Safety and Training

- David Welsh and Shaun Vester attended an IT Forum at PPI; PPI member cooperatives reviewed PPI IT service offerings and shared issues.

- The July Safety Meeting focused on Accident Investigation. Outside personnel and members of the Safety Committee were trained in steps to investigate accidents.

- The August Safety Meeting focused on Distracted Driving for inside/outside personnel and Close Calls for outside forces.

## HomeServe is a leading provider of home repair

HomeServe is a home repair service plan that protects homeowners against the expense and inconvenience of water, sewer, electrical, heating, cooling and other home emergencies by providing affordable coverage and quality service. HomeServe - a Better Business Bureau Accredited Business - serves over 3 million homeowners in the U.S. and Canada, and dedicates itself to being a customer-focused company providing best-in-class emergency repair plans through leading utility partners and directly to consumers. HomeServe's repair service plans cover parts and labor to repair critical electrical, gas, heating, cooling and water systems. These affordable plans provide repair service in an emergency through our 24/7 repair hotline by local, licensed and insured technicians with no deductibles or call-out fees and a one-year guarantee on all covered repairs. What HomeServe offers is important because many homeowners

are unprepared for home emergencies. As part of its latest State of the Home Survey, HomeServe discovered potentially worrisome trends about consumer saving and spending habits. The twice annual survey, now in its fourth edition, reports on the financial impact of home repairs and energy use facing Americans. The survey was conducted online by Harris Poll on behalf of HomeServe from March 6-8, 2017, among over 2,000 U.S. adults ages 18 and older.

- ▶ Nearly one in three (31 percent) Americans don't have at least \$500 set aside to cover an unexpected emergency expense

- ▶ Americans believe car repairs (52 percent), medical emergencies (49 percent) or home repair emergencies (42 percent) could cause an unexpected expense for them in the next 12 months

- ▶ If they had an extra \$1,000, the top three things Americans would put the funds toward are paying down credit

card debt or loans (24 percent), building personal savings (19 percent) or taking a vacation or trip (16 percent)

Aside from any financial hardship, many homeowners don't know who to call to make repairs, especially in an emergency where time is of the essence. An important benefit of a repair service plan is immediate access to fully-vetted local contractors with just one toll-free phone call. HomeServe has over 450 utility and municipal partnerships, under which they educate and offer protection to customers and residents. While there is no cost to cities or utilities to participate, the program helps generate ancillary non-tax revenue. These funds are used for many purposes including low-income assistance and affordability programs, conservation initiatives, and community education programs, to name a few. For more information, please visit [www.homeserveusa.com](http://www.homeserveusa.com).