

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

Hi-Lites

Petitions for board districts are available

The terms of the directors for districts 3, 5 and 6 will expire with the June 2018 annual meeting. Currently representing District 3 is Dean Robison, District 5 is Stephen Shrader and District 6 is Scott Uphoff.

Any person who wishes to be a candidate shall complete a Request for Nominating Petitions and a Statement of Qualifications demonstrating that he/she is qualified to serve as a director under the terms and provisions of Article V, Section 3 of Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative by-laws. A copy of the candidates' Statement of Qualifications and Request for Nominating Petitions shall be made available to any active member of the cooperative at the cooperative's office. Upon receipt of a completed Statement of Qualifications and

Request for Nominating Petitions, the president/CEO of the cooperative shall review the Statement of Qualifications to ensure that the member seeking office as a director is qualified under Article V, Section 3 of the by-laws. Any member that the president/CEO determines to be qualified shall receive nominating petitions without further board action. For any member that the president/CEO determines to be unqualified to serve as a director, that member's Statement of Qualifications and Request for Nominating Petitions shall be referred to the board of directors for review at the next regularly scheduled board meeting following the date upon which the member's Statement and Request was filed. At that board meeting, the board of directors shall vote to

either deny the member's request for nominating petitions or to grant the member's request over the recommendation of the resident/CEO.

Any member who receives nominating petitions may be nominated as a candidate for the board by obtaining the valid signatures of 20 or more active members of the cooperative on his/her petitions and filing his/her petitions in the office of the cooperative by 4:30 p.m., March 5, 2018. Please provide a current photo and biography along with nominations.

Any nomination by petition, which meets the requirements of the by-laws, shall be posted at the office of the cooperative on or before April 5, 2018, and any such nominations shall appear on the official ballot.



Our office will be closed Monday, January 1 in observance of New Year's Day.

Mark Your Calendars Now!

Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative's
79th Annual Meeting

FRIDAY, June 15, 2018

Peterson Park, Mattoon

Registration 10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Buffet Lunch 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Business Session 1 p.m.



Watch for more information in upcoming Hi-Lites!



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.



Our Member Exchange has moved!

This is now available on our website at www.cmec.coop under our Community tab, Hi-Lites, Member Exchange.

President and CEO Report

October 2017 CMEC Board Meeting

Dale Righter Golf Event

- Sam Adair and Kim Leftwich assisted State Senator Dale Righter with development and management of his 2017 Righter Golf Outing.
- AIEC/ACRE sponsored a four-some for the event.

CMEC Cooperative Month Events

- Celebrating Coop Month, CMEC kicked off with an employee group photo.
- Set October 6 as Co-op Connections Day at Yoder's in Arthur.
- Conducted Wednesday drawings for CMEC "swag."
- Kicked off a canned food drive to collect canned goods from October through the end of December for the Mattoon Community Food Bank.
- CMEC Volunteer Day for Catholic Charities/Douglas-Hart Nature Center.
- Conducting a blood drive with Red Cross October 28 from 8-noon.
- Conducting an Anixter/CMEC Employee Contribution Contest for Cancer.

Mattoon Chamber of Commerce EXPO

- CMEC participated in the Chamber EXPO held at the Cross-County Mall in Mattoon October 5.
- Falling in Cooperative Month, we touted the benefits of CMEC membership; many members visited our display, discussed the Co-op Connections card, inquired about changes to billing, and many other topics.

Veterans-In-Energy Conference

- Kim Leftwich was invited to participate as panel member at the Veterans-In-Energy Conference (VIE) on October 6.
- Joining him on the panel were

CEOs of MidAmerican Energy and Tennessee Valley Authority and an international IBEW representative.

- The panel addressed future developments in the energy industry from policies to personnel to economic/rural development.
- VIE is a collaboration of energy industry participants – investor owned, municipal and cooperative electric and gas companies, electric and gas research entities, and oil and gas producers – supporting integration of veterans and veteran's spouses into the energy business at large.

Electric Vehicle (EV) Demonstration Projects

- Met with Eastern Illinois University faculty and students to describe potential EV demonstration projects.
- Recruited students to participate in research activities to support our projects; three students have begun reviewing published research to help outline the structure and outcomes to expect from our projects.

AIEC Energy Solutions Seminar

- Kim Leftwich was invited to speak at the seminar held October 12, joining HomeServe and Touchstone Energy on the program.
- Addressed were CMEC Member Services programs to enhance relations with Key Accounts members (commercial/industrial members) and a briefing on the Center for American Rural Energy (CARE).
- Attending from CMEC, as well, were Carla Bradbury and Drew Haumesser.

ABB/Anixter Meeting

- Met with ABB, an international power products supplier, and Anixter to discuss developing microgrid/microgeneration solutions.

- Microgrid/microgeneration would permit isolating some critical community assets from the grid at large to keep the assets in service even if there was disruption to the larger grid (i.e. – transmission outage or other event).

Mattoon In Motion

- CMEC and Kim Leftwich were invited to participate in MAPPING the Future of Our Community for Mattoon.
- Beginning October 19, the program consists of five community sessions over five weeks meant to develop the strategic vision and long-range development plan for the community.
- Some 25 community members are participating in town hall meetings to hear and collect ideas from the community as foundation for the plan.

Member Advisory Committee

- Met with the MAC October 19 at Fields Church, providing them updates on By-Laws, current budgeting efforts; outlined future meeting programs.

Mattoon Area Community Foundation – “Hometown Event”

- Kim Leftwich was invited to attend the Hometown Event held October 25 at Sara Bush Education Center.
- The event is a celebration of local leadership and philanthropy.

Executive-In-Residence: Eastern Illinois University (EIU)

- Kim Leftwich has been designated an “Executive-In-Residence” by the School of Technology at EIU.
- Leftwich will participate November 9 in a day long program with faculty and students of EIU.
- Goals of the program are to provide role models for students; engage leaders and students in learning activities; provide mentorship for students and faculty to develop leadership ability; and to develop and maintain long term collaboration between industry and academic programs.

CMEC Connect

- Post cards have been sent to members with verified signal checks for immediate installation of CMEC Connect; post cards have also been sent to those who reside in areas we know we can serve to elicit interest.
- Looking at possibility of adding equipment to the Kirksville Water Tower and South Shores Water Tower to extend our service reach; awaiting Moultrie County Water Board approval before we move forward.

HomeServe

- CMEC has been selected by the NRECA to perform a Case Study on HomeServe that may be published for other cooperatives' use nationally; CMEC and HomeServe presented the program to other state cooperatives this past month at the Marketing/Member Services meeting at AIEC.

Engineering

- Fall substation testing is scheduled for week of November 13; subs will be Union Center, East Charleston, Marathon and South Mattoon.
- Materials are being delivered to begin the H mile double circuit rebuild.

Building

- Construction, repair and painting are underway on the North and Northeast buildings; two overhead door openings will be raised on the North building for additional clearance.
- Heat and insulation will be added to the North building to improve productivity during severe cold weather.
- Entry gates will be automated this fall at headquarters and pole yard.
- Headquarters back lot was oil and chipped earlier in October.

LED Lighting

- 1,737 LED security lights have been installed, replacing a like number of mercury vapor and high-pressure sodium fixtures.

Operations

- Assisted Charleston Fire Department, installing two used poles at their training facility for additional lighting; the facility is used by all area volunteer fire departments as well as many Douglas County departments; we will also coordinate the Live Line Safety Demonstration next spring at the facility.
- Mitchell Stanciu has been selected/hired as the new journeyman lineman; he began October 23.
- An apprentice lineman position has been posted; absent any internal bidders, we will advertise the position, seeking individuals that have already achieved certification from an accredited lineman training school.
- Crews continue O&M pole replacements.
- An overhead capacitor bank was installed on South 9th Street in Mattoon.

IT/SCADA

- Continuing software updates eliminating system vulnerabilities.
- IT staff attended the NISC Member Information Conference.
- Attended manufacturer training program on Shark meters, evaluating their usefulness in metering at substations, individual feeders and large customer applications.
- Crew iPads have been distributed as a step toward Mobile Workforce.

Safety and Training

- The September AIEC Safety Training on 9/27, led by Jim Miles, discussed information submitted by cooperatives about “close calls.”
- The NISC MIC Conference, 9/26-9/28, was attended by Amy Borntrager, Kelsey Hawkins, Summar Smith, Carla Bradbury, David Welsh and Jim Wallace.

GIS

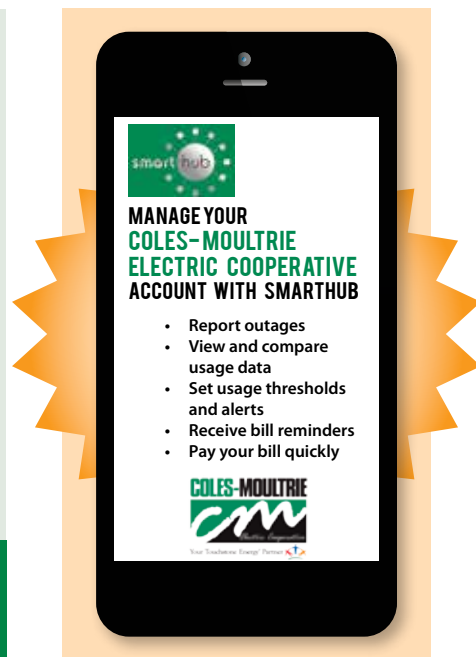
- Continue to standardize map locations and add easements.

The Lavern and Nola McEntire Lineworker's Scholarship

This \$2,000 scholarship, first awarded in 2011, 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. LaVern McEntire served as a lineman for McDonough Power Electric Cooperative. He and his

wife Nola helped to endow and establish the new scholarship to financially assist deserving individuals in becoming trained lineworkers. Relatives of co-op employees or directors are eligible for the lineworker's scholarship, as are individuals who have served or are serving in the armed forces or National Guard.

In our December 2017 issue of Hi-Lites we listed the deadline as April 1. The deadline for this application is April 30, 2018.



Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative partners with HomeServe® to support customer home repair needs

In November, Coles-Moultrie announced a new program, HomeServe USA, to support the home repair needs of residents in our territory. HomeServe will offer a suite of service plans that cover repairs to the exterior electric lines, interior electric lines, water heater repairs or replacements, and heating and cooling system repairs. All of these repair service plans are designed to shield homeowners from the inconvenience and unexpected expenses associated with repairs to these systems.

“We are pleased to work with HomeServe to provide our members with a valuable benefit to help them with home repairs,” said Kim Leftwich, President/CEO of CMEC. “HomeServe service plans provide homeowners with an optional peace of mind solution, so they can be better prepared in the event of an unexpected repair to one of these important systems.”

HomeServe's Exterior Electric Line Service Plan, for example, offers homeowners protection against the expense and inconvenience of repairs to their home's exterior electrical components that connect to the CMEC electric system. This can include repairs to the weatherhead, riser pipe, insulators, meter base and service entrance cable. These repairs can be costly and are not typically covered by basic homeowner's insurance. All the HomeServe plans provide customers with access to a Repair Hotline that is accessible 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, and local, licensed, and insured technicians that will come to their home for repairs. Plans start at \$5.49 a month.



“Our cost-effective service plans provide a better way for customers to pay for and obtain repairs through our reliable network of qualified local contractors,” said Tom Rusin, CEO of HomeServe USA. “HomeServe shares the same level of commitment to customer service as Coles-Moultrie. It's important for CMEC members to know that if they have an electrical or other repair emergency, they have an available service to turn to.”

To learn more, please go to www.homeserveusa.com or call 1-833-334-1874.