

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

Hi-Lites



Scholarships now available

Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative will award six \$500 scholarships to assist members or dependents with their college education.

To qualify, an applicant must be either a Coles-Moultrie member or under 21 years of age and a legal dependent of a Coles-Moultrie member. The applicant must be enrolled in either a two or four-year degree program at an accredited institution in Illinois. Applicant cannot have

previously received a Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative scholarship. Coles-Moultrie Electric employees, directors and any of their dependents are ineligible. Priority will be given to one applicant who is specializing in electrical engineering.

Applications must be received at Coles-Moultrie Electric's office (104 Dewitt Avenue East, P.O. Box 709, Mattoon, IL 61938) no later than April 30, 2018.

To obtain an application form, contact
Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative at P.O. Box 709, Mattoon, IL 61938,
info@cmec.coop, 217-235-0341 or toll-free 888-661-2632.

Ice dams and how to prevent them

Any time there are icicles dangling from gutters, it is a sign of a potentially costly and avoidable problem in a home – an ice dam. Ice dams form when the temperature in the attic is above freezing and there is snow on the roof. The snow melts on the roof and drips downward toward the edge and the gutter. If it's cold enough, it re-freezes at the colder roof edge, which means the water does not drain. This frozen water forms a "dam" which prevents drainage and can cause water to leech back into the home, either into the ceiling/attic or down into the walls below. And that can be a very expensive problem to fix. Visit InsulationInstitute.org to find all the answers to your insulation needs.

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.



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



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

President and CEO Report

December 2017 Board Meeting

Safety

- Staff and employees met Dec. 4 to evaluate and revise the CMEC Safety Committee; participants established a renewed commitment to Safety and fuller engagement by the Safety Committee in safety program development.

Economic Development

- Met with Angela Griffin, Executive Director of Coles Together, to discuss measures CMEC might take to support economic development in our region; specifically discussed marketing of the I-57/State Route 16 Business Park and County Road 1000 locations. Currently working on means to promote each of the sites among others.

The Center for American Rural Energy - Electric Vehicle (EV) Project Development

- Met with multiple automobile dealers encouraging them to join in an electric vehicle (EV) project; each agreed to work with us to develop programs and marketing to encourage rural EV utilization and application; met with Lake Land College and Eastern Illinois University to develop technical education programs to support EV maintenance, repair and support as part of an overall infrastructure plan.

National Information Systems Cooperative (NISC) Recruiting Visit

- Met with NISC representatives, including their President & CEO, to develop a recruiting relationship with Eastern Illinois University Schools of Technology and Computer Science as well as the Lake Land College Information Technology Department; developed excellent connections with NISC departments that will lead to initiation of campus recruiting visits Spring of 2018; appointment of an NISC executive to an EIU Technology Advisory Committee, and collaboration on capstone or research projects for master's degree level students.

AIEC Manager's Meeting

- Cooperative managers/CEOs from throughout Illinois met Dec. 8 to discuss multiple topics; of particular note was a presentation provided by the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity regarding low income assistance funds (LIHEAP) availability for this winter season; the group discussed cooperative response to rule-making at the Illinois Commerce Commission regarding the Future Energy Jobs Act (FEJA) and concluded AIEC should file to intervene on behalf of our cooperatives to insure our concerns are heard.

Senator Dale Righter Meeting

- Cooperative staff met with State Senator Dale Righter to express concerns regarding the Future Energy Jobs Act impact on cooperatives. Senator Righter was advised of the rule-making timeline before the Illinois Commerce Commission. In the meeting, we informed the Senator of our position meant to protect cooperative interests across the State.

ClassE Visit

- Cooperative staff met with 18 students participating in the Mattoon/Charleston High School ClassE (entrepreneur) program; students were given a tour of the facility by Sam Adair, and Kim Leftwich gave them a presentation on the history of the electric industry and the new horizons the industry faces.

FEJA Solar Developer

- A solar developer has contacted the Coles County Memorial Airport regarding a large scale solar installation; CMEC met with the developer on Dec. 13 and advised on interconnection issues and potential cost that must be borne by the developer/airport for safe, reliable interconnection to the electric grid.

BlueStem Energy Solutions

- CEO Leftwich participated in a webinar with BlueStem Energy Solutions that outlined a

partnership/development agreement that might interest CMEC to improve reliability and reduce costs to members; discussions continue.

Perkins Grants – Lake Land College (LLC)

- Met with LLC Perkins Grant Administrator to learn of opportunities through the grants to help develop workforce ready skills among college students; grants likely can help defray costs of internships for students in roles at the Cooperative.

Accounting/Customer Service

- Initiated electronic time entry for inside employees; plan adding outside employees after the first of the year; installed new electronic time clocks for validating start and quit times, replacing the antiquated analog clocks that have been problematic.
- Moving toward an electronic workforce management platform, replacing our Report on Call with the Contact Tracking product from NISC; the system is the initial front-end piece to complete electronic record of service requests.
- Instituting an IP phone system, early 2018; IP phones will save us \$6,000 per year in phone charges, gives us versatility with multiple services, and provides risk mitigation as the IP phone may be activated through internet connection at virtually any location, within minutes, to restore customer access in emergency situations.

Marketing/Member Services

- CMEC Connect currently providing \$25,000 per month in revenue contribution.
- CMEC Connect had three outages in the past month, all which we remedied within minutes by head-end (office) resources; expenditures in automation avoided excess costs in man-hours and truck rolls, saving more than \$1,000 in this month alone.
- CMEC has had multiple calls from cooperatives and municipalities throughout the nation interested in HomeServe, the home warranty program endorsed by NRECA and Coles-Moultrie; multiple stories

have been published regarding CMEC participation and the overall warranty program.

- CMEC website is being updated to include our Avian Protection Plan; members will be able to report sightings or takes of protected species through an interactive feature on the website; any validated information may then be used to have continual update of the APP.
- CMEC's Annual Key Accounts Conference, designed to educate our largest commercial members and promote economic development, is scheduled for May 3, 2018; CMEC marketing staff will be developing the agenda over the next few weeks.
- CMEC has begun soliciting bids for building renovations approved as part of the 2018 Capital Budget; consisting of three phases, we expect to get underway early in 2018.

Operations

- 1,815 LED security and street lights have been installed, replacing a like number of mercury vapor and high-pressure sodium fixtures.
- Sought applications for an Apprentice Lineman; received numerous replies; now reviewing applicants for interviews.
- Crews continue rebuild of the H-1, 2 and 3 miles, a part of our Construction Work Plan.

Engineering

- Interviewed an Electrical Engineer candidate to fill a shared EE position; CMEC, Eastern Illini EC, and Prairie Power are part of the sharing agreement; an offer has been made to the candidate with a start date of June 2018.
- Sullivan substation experienced an outage on the incoming 69 KV line; the operation/outage resulted from a PPI technician inadvertently creating a fault at the Arcola Breaker; procedures have been reviewed to preclude similar incidents in the future.
- Approved locations for accessing and switching Ameren transmission per the newly approved Wholesale Construction Agreement (WCA); with the procedure, CMEC will be able

to switch and restore service to CMEC members much more quickly under procedures now in place.

IT/SCADA

- Continuing software updates on office devices to eliminate vulnerabilities to systems and data.
- Developing an agreement with PMI, an electronic metering manufacturer, to provide a test bed for their newly released Revolution meter; has enhanced monitoring capabilities applicable to substation and feeder operations that are especially valuable diagnostic tools.
- Developing a roll-out plan to install sophisticated, but inexpensive, metering on all substation feeders; data and information recovered will be crucial in developing follow-on Construction Work Plans, giving us far greater understanding of issues on each feeder.

GIS

- Continue to map easements and underground cable installations for a more complete and robust system.
- Working with NRECA Business Technologies and Strategies group to document our unique GIS system; considering developing a license agreement which would permit others to use our development.

Safety and Training

- Jim Wallace and David Welch attended the Rural Smart Grid Summit; vendor sponsors hosted and paid all costs; CMEC had opportunity to learn about the many products in the market for distribution automation.



Environmentally beneficial electrification

How using electricity can benefit the environment

By Anne Prince

If you are like many Americans, when given the choice, you would prefer your energy come from renewable sources such as solar or wind power rather than fossil fuels. As electric utilities shift to more options that include renewable energy sources and make existing generation technologies cleaner, electricity uses less fossil fuel per kilowatt-hour of energy produced. This idea of “environmentally beneficial electrification” means that innovations in energy technology are creating new ways to use electricity instead of on-site fossil fuels such as propane, natural gas and fuel oil.

In addition to the utility industry, environmental groups such as the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) recognize the value of this concept. Sheryl Carter, Co-Director, NRDC Energy Program, commented that, “Beneficial electrification will continue to play a big role in accelerating this transition in an effective and economic way, to the benefit of consumers, energy resilience and the environment.”

Electric appliances can become greener over time.

As a practical matter, beneficial electrification means that electric appliances, like your water heater, clothes dryer and oven have the potential to become greener over time. When your electric co-op takes advantage of advances in technology and the market at the generation point, it means those efficiencies are inherently passed along to you, the co-op member.

Because large appliances have a typical lifespan of 15 to 20 years, it means

that you are able to benefit from the flexibility of the grid in addition to the increased efficiency of the particular appliance. In other words, the high-efficiency electric oven you have today could be powered by renewable sources three years from now. This would not be

electrification is a means to reducing greenhouse gases and helping the environment.

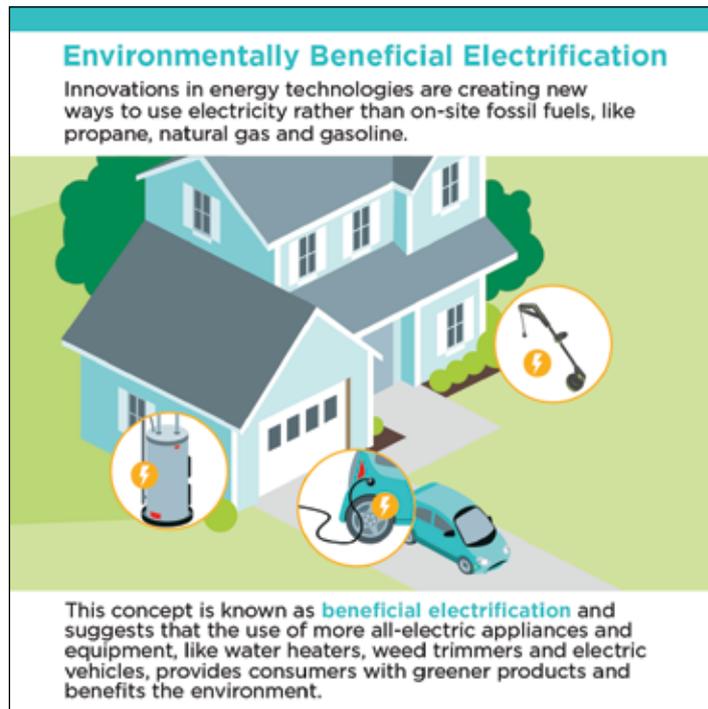
At the national level, electric co-ops across the country are purchasing and generating more renewable resources, bringing wind, solar and geothermal energy into the electric power system, which means electricity is becoming greener. As the overall energy sector continues to evolve, Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative is striving to take advantage of the advances in technology and the opportunities of the market as they become available. This means we can leverage the flexibility of the grid to offer a wider range of renewable power choices as we continue to deliver safe, reliable and affordable power to our community.

Look for ways to choose beneficial electrification in the future. As NRDC’s Carter further

observed, “The successful transition to a clean energy future will require substantial reliance on efficient electric technologies like electric vehicles and advanced electric water heating, including heat pump or grid-interactive resistance water heaters, powered by an increasingly cleaner and more flexible electric system.”

Contact the energy experts at your cooperative to discuss available renewable energy options and to learn about the latest ways to save energy.

Anne Prince writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation’s 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.



the case with gas appliances where you are essentially locked into the technology of that gas appliance for the 15 to 20 year lifespan. As your co-op is able to tap into more renewable options in the future, the only way you would be able to benefit from this trend is through an electric appliance.

Small steps to reducing carbon footprint

For consumers and homeowners looking for more environmentally-friendly energy options, choosing electric appliances over those powered by fossil fuels is an easy solution. Whether through electric lawn mowers, blowers and weed whackers (plug-in or rechargeable) or through electric water heaters and other appliances, beneficial