



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

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

Debbie Albin.....Mattoon

Vice Chairman

John Bowers Lovington

Secretary

Bill Voyles..... Sullivan

Treasurer

Jeffery D. Hudson..... Charleston

Director

Kent Metzger Gays

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



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

See You on June 14 at Peterson Park!

Our 80th Annual Meeting is almost here! Registration opens at 10 a.m. with lunch starting at 11 a.m. Be sure and register in the DeMars Center for your \$25 bill credit before enjoying our various activities. Sign up for SmartHub, walk through our Member Showcase, check out our various vehicle displays, and watch a Live Line Demo at 10:30 a.m. or noon. For those members who cannot stay, we will have Drive-Up Registration at the main entrance on the southwest side of the park. We are looking forward to spending time with you!

Annual Meeting Events - See You There!



- Vehicle Displays
- Member Showcase
- Ice Cream
- LED Lucy
- Popcorn
- Bill Credit Drawings
- SmartHub Sign up
- Linemen Area
- Sound Source Music
- Niemerg's Lunch
- Bucket Truck Rides
- Live Line Demo

Friday, June 14
Celebrating **80** Years

Vote Now



It's not too late to vote for our District #1 board candidate. Nominees are Rebecca Moran and Bill Voyles. You have until June 11 and may cast your vote by visiting our website, www.cmeccoop. Each member was mailed a paper ballot on May 20. Survey Ballot Systems, SBS, will tabulate and report election results electronically on June 12. Democratic Member Control is one of our seven guiding principles. Our board is an elected body voted into position by you.



Cooperative Youth Day

For over 55 years, the electric and telephone cooperatives of Illinois have given tomorrow's leaders the opportunity to learn from today's public officials. Students from across the state gathered at our Capitol on Wednesday, April 3 for this annual event. These outstanding students get to see democracy in action when they meet their elected representatives. Over the years, thousands of students have learned how government works and why it's important for every citizen to get involved.



Front row L-R: Madison Snyder, Andrew Abercrombie, Olivia Titus, Addison Tinkle, Aubry Strong, Audrianna Kauffman and Wyatt Webb. Back Row: Aiden Stewart, Representative Dan Caulkins, Representative Chris Miller, Senator Dale Righter, Senator Chapin Rose and Halden Wickline



YOUTH DAY
APRIL 3, 2019 • SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS

3-Step HVAC Test

As summer temperatures rise, so do electric bills. Follow these steps to test the efficiency of your HVAC unit.

The outdoor temperature should be above 80 degrees, and you should set your thermostat well below the room temperature to ensure the system runs long enough for this test.

1. Using a digital probe thermometer (about \$12), measure the temperature of the air being pulled into your HVAC filter.
2. Measure the temperature of the air blowing out of your A/C vent.
3. Subtract the A/C vent temperature from the HVAC filter temperature. You should see a difference of about 17 to 20 degrees. If the difference is less than 17 degrees, you may need a licensed technician to check the coolant. If the difference is greater than 20 degrees, your ductwork may need to be inspected for airflow restrictions.



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVES

When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!

Seek shelter indoors or in a hard-topped vehicle. If you can't get to shelter:

- avoid open fields and hilltops.
- stay away from tall, isolated trees and objects.
- spread out (if you're in a group).

#StormSafety



Unplug to be More Connected

By Anne Prince, NRECA

“Almost everything will work again if you unplug it for a few minutes, including you.” Author Anne Lamott cleverly captures the benefits of unplugging in today’s device-driven, multi-tasking world. Keeping up with work, family and school activities or the latest trends on social media makes most of us feel compelled to constantly check our devices.

Summer is a great time to take a family vacation, but it’s also a good opportunity to unplug from our devices and enjoy the great outdoors with family and friends. Research has shown that we all need downtime after a busy day to recharge—even though we may resist it. Take a moment to slow down and enjoy some peaceful hours away from technology.

While you’re unplugging from your devices, take a look around your home to identify electronics that consume energy even when they are not in use (this is known as “vampire” energy loss). TVs, gaming consoles, phone chargers and computers are some of the biggest culprits.



If your summer plans include a staycation, take time to recharge your relationships and be more present with those you love. Enjoy our beautiful surroundings with your family and friends.

Speaking of spending time outdoors, you can also enjoy energy savings by incorporating LED products and fixtures for outdoor use, such as pathway, step and porch lights. Many include features like automatic daylight shut-off and motion sensors. You can also find solar-powered lighting for outdoor spaces.

Save energy by keeping warm summer air outside where it belongs. Add caulk or weather

stripping to seal air leaks around doors and windows. You can also employ a programmable thermostat to adjust the settings a few degrees higher when no one is home.

In our connected world, we have forgotten how to slow down. We multitask and text. We check email, then voicemail, then Facebook. Do yourself and your family a favor. Put down the device and smell the fresh air.

While our cooperative can’t help you recharge your relationships, we can help you save money and energy by connecting you with our energy-saving programs and services. When you do plug back in, we’re just a call or click away.

President & CEO Report – March 2019

Safety

- CMEC Safety Committee completed and published our revised Safety Manual. Although it was a long process, the result is comprehensive safety direction and guidance for all areas of the cooperative.
- CMEC staff participated in Active Shooter Training March 5.
- CMEC employees and staff completed Hazard Communications training through AIEC support March 27.

Accounting

- LWG CPAs & Advisors conducted the CMEC Annual Audit March 12-14, 2019. Written results will be forthcoming and presented to the Board. Preliminarily, the auditors were satisfied with the results they found.
- The department continues to work on estate Capital Credit retirements.
- Evaluating CMEC insurance coverage with Federated Insurance to validate proper coverage for all parts of the cooperative.
- Completing review/redevelopment of Member Service Policies to insure procedures are current and match our practices.

CMEC CONNECT

- Lingering outage issues resulting from severe weather damage and limitations have been resolved; all areas are back up and functional.
- CONNECT participation remains constant (413 customers/members) and revenue consistent (\$28,454 last month).

Marketing/Member Services

- A Member Advisory Committee (MAC) meeting was convened March 21. Eric Hobbie, CEO of Prairie Power Inc., presented to the group explaining the issues germane to managing low cost and high reliability to our generation and transmission assets. The committee met at Williams Elementary

School, one of CMEC's large power members.

- Staff members Amy Borntreger, Sandra Fisher, Sam Adair and CMEC employee Carla Bradbury participated in the Community Leaders Breakfast on March 7. The gathering was sponsored by both Mattoon and Charleston Chambers of Commerce.
- CMEC staff member Sam Adair met with the Douglas County CEO class at the cooperative. Participants had a tour of the cooperative facilities and listened to a presentation about "What is a Cooperative."
- CMEC was one of the sponsors for Rural-Urban Day held at Lake Land College on March 18. Attending were Board Chair Debbie Albin, CMEC's Sam Adair and Carla Bradbury.

Key Accounts

- Board members John Bowers and Kent Metzger and staff member Sam Adair participated in the second annual Cooperative Lobby Day March 20 at the Illinois State legislature. CMEC representatives met with local legislators to discuss cooperative perspective on the changing energy industry.
- CMEC continues to monitor potential economic development opportunities in CMEC territory.

Engineering

- Preparing information for Toth & Associates, CMEC consulting engineers, for development of the 2020-2023 Construction Work Plan.
- Toth & Associates coordinating with CMEC to update our Spill Prevention Countermeasures and Containment (SPCC) Plan, a regulatory requirement of the cooperative.
- Current Field Engineering projects include: U3BA mile to move the line out of rough right-of-way; L3A1 mile to move the line from a field to a roadway for ease of access; W4-2 mile replacing an underground conductor with overhead.

Operations

- For December, crews added 2 new services; 2 service upgrades; 3 system improvements; and 48 pole replacements required because of age, O&M, weather, and damage from vehicles.
- Relocating our line east of Sullivan on Rt 121 due to the bridge rebuild at Jonathan Creek.
- Currently working the W1 mile, rebuilding Neoga Sub Feeder 2-1.

IT/SCADA

- Continuing work on software updates to office computing to reduce known system vulnerabilities.
- Recently transferred our last office server to Cloud based operation; operating through the Cloud protocol greatly reduces our system vulnerabilities and provides multiple back-ups of our systems to protect and insulate information and data.

GIS

- Working with the Field Engineers on development of staking software, one measure to create a fully electronic customer/service order system creating efficiencies through all departments.

LED Lighting

- Continuing on course to replace all security and street lighting with efficient LED lights; to date, 2230 lights have been replaced.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Want to light up your outdoor space without increasing your energy use? Try outdoor solar lights! They're easy to install and virtually maintenance free. Remember, solar lights work best when the solar cells receive the manufacturer's recommended hours of sunlight.

Source: energy.gov

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