

# THE GRID

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7:30a.m. - 4:30p.m.

**Chairman**

Debbie Albin..... Mattoon

**Vice Chairman**

John Bowers.....Lovington

**Secretary**

Bill Voyles.....Sullivan

**Treasurer**

Jeffery Hudson.....Charleston

**Directors**

Andrew Fearn.... Charleston

Kent Metzger ..... Gays

Thomas Sherman... Humboldt


**Interim President/CEO**

Amy Borntreger

**To Report an Outage  
call #888-661-2632**

**Send your current email  
to [info@cmec.coop](mailto:info@cmec.coop)  
for a chance to win a  
\$25 bill credit**



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

## THE GRID

We have changed the name of our monthly newsletter from “Hi-Lites” to “The Grid.” This is a new look, but our goal is the same. The Grid is designed to keep you, our members, connected to what is happening at your cooperative. Let us know what you think: [info@cmec.coop](mailto:info@cmec.coop) and be sure to follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

## Interim President/CEO



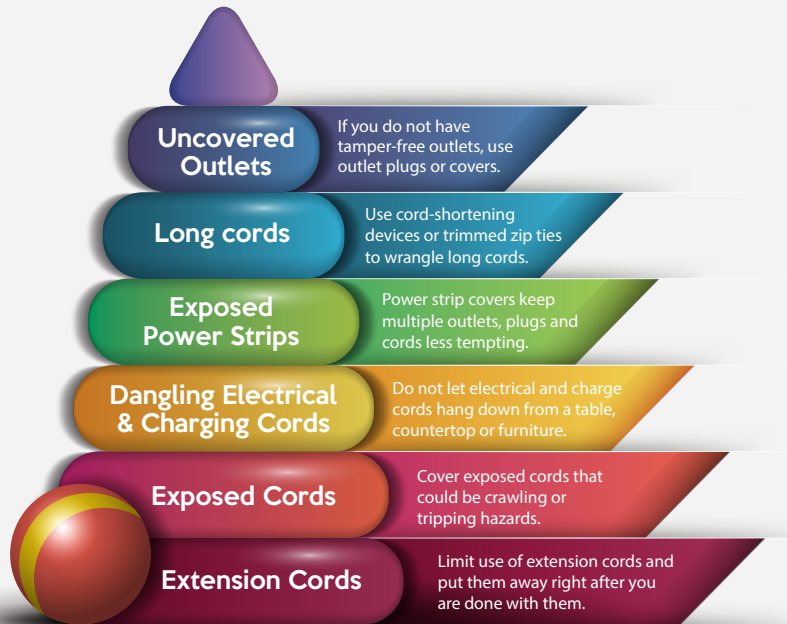
Amy Borntreger, our Chief Financial Officer, CFO, is currently serving as our Interim President/CEO. Our board of directors and NRECA, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, executive search resource will initiate the hiring process. For more than 40 years, NRECA has placed more than 550 senior leaders across the country.



**Our office  
will be closed  
Monday,  
September 2nd  
for Labor Day**

# BABYproofing

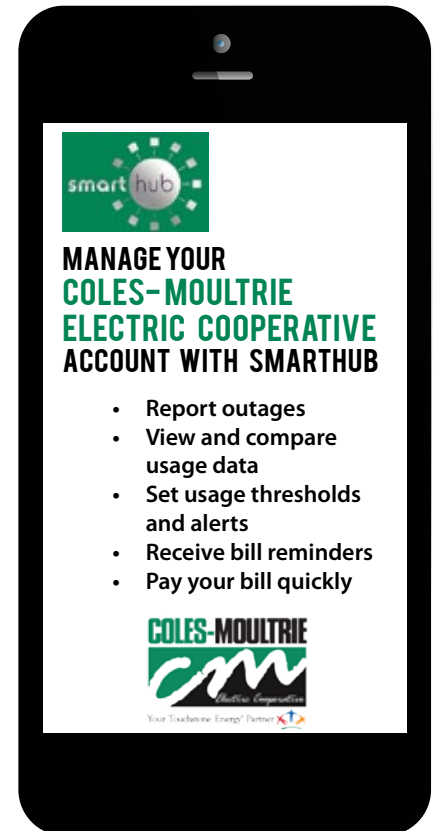
How does your home stack up?



Learn more at  **Safe Electricity.org**

## \$100 Incentive

Have you recently replaced your hot water heater? If so, you may be eligible for a \$100 rebate! Email or call us today for details: [info@cmec.coop](mailto:info@cmec.coop), 217-235-0341 or toll free 888-661-2632.



## Kilowatt Hours and Available Electric Service

You buy electricity in kWh, or kilowatt hours, to power your home. All members pay a service availability charge to share in the costs of operating our electrical system. To understand this better, compare it to buying gasoline to power your vehicle. Some things you pay for to keep your car or truck ready to drive include insurance, maintenance, taxes, license and auto loan. Things you pay to ensure your electric service is there when you flip the lights on include bucket trucks, meters, wires, computer systems/software, storm repair, 24/7 service, system improvements, safety equipment and employees. Our lives are powered by electricity and we pay for the energy we consume. Contact us for 101 Ways to Save on your energy bills.

## New Board Members

Our BOD, Board of Directors, appointed two new directors in July to fill vacancies. Andrew Fearn is serving District 5 and Tom Sherman is serving District 6. For a complete list of our BOD or current meeting minutes, visit our website: [www.cmec.coop](http://www.cmec.coop).

# Farmers: Remember Electrical Safety this Harvest Season

In 2017, farmers ranked eighth in the list of the most dangerous jobs (civilian jobs with highest fatality rates) according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics/U.S. Dept. of Labor. Unfortunately, farmers, ranchers and other agricultural managers rank right below other hazardous jobs such as logging, roofing, and steel work.

It is no wonder farmers make that list. As agriculturists are well-aware, many dangers are present in their long and arduous workdays.

Safe Electricity and CMEC remind farmers that accidents related to power and electricity are also possible but in most cases they can be prevented. Especially during the busy harvest season, take the following steps to decrease the chances of an electrical-related incident:

- Always use a spotter when operating large machinery near lines.
- Use care when raising augers or the bed of grain trucks around power lines.
- Keep equipment at least 10 feet from lines — at all times, in all directions.
- Inspect the height of the farm equipment to determine clearance.
- Always lower extensions to the lowest setting when moving loads.
- Never attempt to move a power line out of the way or raise it for clearance.
- If a power line is sagging or low, call us right away.
- If your equipment does hit a power line, do not leave the cab. Immediately call 9-1-1, warn others to stay away, and wait for the utility crew to cut the power.

Although harvest season is a time filled with tight deadlines and heightened work stress, take the time to consider electrical safety. It could save your life or the lives of others.

For more information about electrical safety, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).



## HARVEST SAFETY TIPS FOR FARMWORKERS

- **Maintain a 10-foot clearance** around all utility equipment in all directions.
- **Use a spotter and deployed flags** to maintain safe distances from power lines and other equipment when doing field work.
- **If your equipment makes contact with an energized or downed power line, contact us immediately** by phone and remain inside the vehicle until the power line is de-energized. In case of smoke or fire, exit the cab by making a solid jump out of the cab, without touching it at the same time, and hop away to safety.
- **Consider equipment and cargo extensions of your vehicle.** Lumber, hay, tree limbs, irrigation pipe and even bulk materials can conduct electricity, so keep them out of contact with electrical equipment.

*Source: Safe Electricity*



# PRESIDENT/CEO REPORT – June 2019

## President & CEO

- Amy Borntreger, Jim Wallace, Anita Hoene and Sam Adair met with IBEW Local 702 and the CMEC gloving committee regarding the practice of “rubber-gloving” as an additional option in performing maintenance on CMEC’s distribution system.
- Amy Borntreger, Jim Wallace and Sam Adair met with Director of Regulatory Affairs at CFC to determine future revenue requirements using 2019 budget; Staff to move forward with a cost of service study from CFC.
- Amy Borntreger became a member of the Prairie Power Inc. (PPI) Board of Directors as the CEO/Director June 12, 2019.
- The Member Advisory Committee (MAC) will resume with quarterly meetings beginning in September 2019. Mary Warren and Molly Hammond from the USDA will present to the group; Coles County Memorial Airport will be the venue for the event. CMEC Board of Directors are looking for members to participate in the committee.

## CONNECT

- IRBY was at our facility for a few small repairs for lingering issues, none of which were causing outages.
- CONNECT moved to a new outage reporting system that is a free service.
- CONNECT experienced a few small outages with the severe weather we have experienced this month. All the outages were fixed and back on within 2 hours. We will continue to build our backup system inventory to shorten downtime for our customers.
- Sam Adair will be travelling to Arkansas in August to develop a 3-year work plan for CONNECT. This is something CONNECT has never done professionally and should help with planning and budgeting for 2020-2022.

## Member Marketing Services Annual Meeting

- Carla Bradbury implemented several new features in the 2019 Coles-Moultrie Annual Meeting held June 14, 2019 at Peterson Park.

- Over 100+ cars took part in the “drive up registration” convenience that CMEC offered.
- The hybrid voting method was offered to our members for a second year. It was proven to be successful again as members had their choice to vote by mail or electronically.
- iPads were used to register which allowed data to be current immediately.
- Ten companies participated in the CMEC Expo that day. This included Niemeyer Kubota, Anixter, Rural King, Lake Land College, Air-Evac Lifeteam, First Mid Bank and Trust, Morgan’s Meat Market, Sarah Bush Lincoln Health System, and Aikman Wildlife.
- There were CMEC displays including pole top rescue, linemen equipment and line trucks available for viewing. Also available was a SmartHub app demonstration which allows today’s members convenience to access detailed information about their use.
- Post annual meeting, a Survey Monkey was sent to all CMEC employees, past employees and Board of Directors to complete and rate CMEC’s efforts on the day.
- We plan to try more new annual meeting ideas in 2020!

## Key Accounts

- CMEC participated and donated to the Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Foundation golf outing and the Lakeland College Foundation golf outing.
- Key Accounts Luncheon will take place in August 2019 at the Arcola Best Western Plus and Convention Center; This is our fourth annual luncheon.

## Safety

- Sam Adair participated as an inspector in the Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program (RESAP) for a neighboring cooperative.
- Our employees participated in a Safety Day at the Cooperative in June. Trooper Tracy presented to our employees regarding roadway safety. Mattoon Fire Department led fire extinguisher training. Employees participated in a fire drill, a tornado drill and a Mayday call.

## Miscellaneous

- Sam Adair met with an employee from Southwestern Electric Cooperative to share ideas regarding member programs and incentives.

## Operations and Engineering

- To date, (2,337) LED lights have been installed replacing (478) mercury vapor and (1,763) sodium vapor lights.

## Engineering

- Manual meter reads increased to 80 for June 1 reads from 43 for May 1 reads. This isn’t surprising given the amount of rain we have had and growth of vegetation.
- Engineering received requests for 453 JULIE locates and called in 45 JULIE locates. Of the locate notifications received, CMEC personnel performed 51 primary and 25 secondary locates.
- 30 Report-On-Calls were received and assigned for member/new member requests.
- Field Engineers are working on the following projects: R5 mile rebuild (feed to the new hotel/convention center), W4-2 mile (replacing old UG near Trilla) and created (27) work orders: (3) New construction, (22) System Improvements, and (2) Retirement.
- Jim Wallace attended the Prairie Power’s Inc. (PPI) Solar Interconnection Summit in May to learn of any updates to PPI’s interconnection policies. We are in the process of adapting CMEC’s policies to reflect PPI’s policies.



### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Cookware Tip: Copper-bottomed pans heat faster on the stove. In the oven, ceramic and glass dishes are better than metal. With ceramic and glass dishes, you can turn the oven down about 25 degrees, and your meal will cook just as quickly.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)

Monthly Board Meeting Minutes can be viewed on our website: [www.cmec.coop](http://www.cmec.coop)