

THE GRID

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1-888-661-CMEC (2632)
Office hours:
Monday-Friday
7:30a.m. - 4:30p.m.

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Vice Chairman

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Secretary

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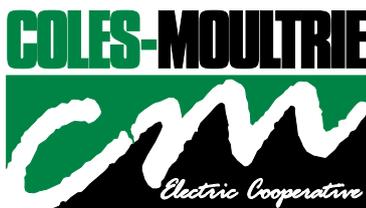
Colt Roderick Trilla

President/CEO

Amy Borntreger

To Report an Outage
call #888-661-2632

Send your current email
to info@cmec.coop
for a chance to win a
\$25 bill credit



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Why It's Good to See Co-op Workers on Your Property

CMEC employees and contractors work throughout our service territory, in the rights-of-way and easements, and across your private property and driveways. We're working to ensure reliable power for you and your neighbors, and that means we must cross your property from time to time. You may see us:

- Making routine repairs
- Replacing meters
- Trimming trees and brush
- Restoring power outages
- Locating buried utilities for construction and digging projects
- Working to upgrade poles, wires, transformers and equipment
- Inspecting lines, power poles, transformer boxes and equipment

All field work, except emergency power restoration, is conducted during normal working hours, 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Every effort is made to avoid damage and unnecessary intrusion. If you have concerns about our work, contact us at 888-661-2632. We appreciate your cooperation. (Source: Joan O'Fallon, Polk-Burnett Electric Co-op)



Busy Bees

We are featuring Beekeepers Rick and Nelda Campbell this month in the Grid. The Charleston couple will soon be offering their raw honey and homemade all-natural beeswax products at their farm storefront called "Rustic Hive." The Campbells have been in the beekeeping business since 2012, when they inherited two dilapidated beehives from a neighbor that was moving. They plan to offer fresh produce in the summertime along with a variety of vintage and antique products. The couple also provides educational events for children and attends numerous festivals each year. They are located on CMEC lines at 21752 Liberty Church Road, Charleston and you can follow them on their Facebook page called "Bee My Honey." Do you have a service, product or business you would like featured in The Grid? Email cbradbury@cmec.coop for details.



Then. Now. Always. We're proud to power your life. October is National Co-op Month.



#PowerOn

As an electric cooperative, our top priority is always to provide reliable, affordable energy to you, the consumer-members we serve. Because we are a co-op, our mission is to enrich the lives of our members and serve the long-term interests of our local communities --and this mission has never been more critical than in recent months. One of the seven principles that guides all co-ops is "concern for community." This principle is the essential DNA of CMEC, and it sets us apart from investor owned electric utilities.

October is National Co-op Month, and electric cooperatives across the country are highlighting the many ways we "Power On." Keeping this theme in mind, we recognize the essential role we play in serving our local communities.

Who would have fathomed in March, that the COVID-19 virus would test all of us? The changing circumstances due to the pandemic

have created both challenges and opportunities. Over the past several months, we've all been challenged to operate differently, and our co-op has stepped up to help our members and strengthen the safety net for our more vulnerable neighbors.

As an essential service, and to ensure reliability of your power supply, we modified our operations to safeguard business continuity.

Tammy Crable Our line crews and other employees began working on staggered schedules to maintain separation. Some staff worked remotely. In the office, we limited and modified meetings and gatherings to allow for safe separation. We also adjusted our walk-in office availability and in-person service calls to ensure the health and safety of our employees and our valued members.

For the health and safety of everyone, we think these measures were the prudent course of action

for the times. For our members impacted by COVID-19 who needed help with their electric bills, we waived late fees and worked with those hardest hit to make special payment arrangements.

While we certainly miss visiting with you in person, we found new ways to stay connected. We have increased social media engagement efforts and continue to meet virtually with our board of directors.

We care about this community - because we live here too. We've seen other local businesses rising to meet similar challenges during this time, because that's what communities do. While the challenges caused by COVID-19 have been daunting, we are heartened to see how everyone is pulling together.

In 1938, CMEC was organized by the community to serve the community, and that's what we'll continue to do - Power On.

CMEC Supports Cybersecurity Awareness Month

Coles-Moultrie Electric Co-op (CMEC) is committed to National Cybersecurity Awareness Month, held annually in October. This year's Cybersecurity Awareness Month theme is "Do Your Part. #BeCyberSmart," aimed to empower individuals and organizations to own their role in protecting their part of cyberspace.

"By increasing awareness and enhancing understanding of basic cybersecurity practices, we can all work together to combat cyberthreats," said Amy Borntrager, President/CEO. "The human element is oftentimes the biggest cybersecurity risk. Each of us has a critical role to play to ensure the security of our personal and professional data."

National Cybersecurity Awareness Month is spearheaded by the National Cyber Security Alliance (NCSA) and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency (CISA) of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The overarching message of this year's theme, "If you Connect it, Protect it," dives into the importance of keeping connected devices safe and secure from outside influence.

With more people spending time at home due to the COVID-19 pandemic, now more than ever before, connected devices are an integral part of how we communicate and access services

essential to our well-being. Data collected from these devices can include highly specific information about a person or business, which can be exploited by bad actors for criminal gain.

Cybersecurity Awareness Month aims to shed light on these security vulnerabilities, while offering guidance surrounding

consumers, professionals and the public domain

If everyone does their part--implementing stronger security practices, raising community awareness, educating vulnerable audiences or training employees - our interconnected world will be safer and more resilient for everyone.

We can all play a part in making our interconnected world safer.



Do Your Part. #BeCyberSmart.

October is National Cybersecurity Awareness Month.
Visit staysafeonline.org for cybersecurity tips.



simple security measures to limit the susceptibility of threats for common devices.

This year, the Cybersecurity Awareness Month focuses on the following areas:

- Understanding and following general security hygiene for connected devices and home networks
- The importance of maintaining the security of connected devices for remote workers
- How connected devices play a pivotal role in the future of healthcare
- The overall future of connected devices for

Now in its 17th year, Cybersecurity Awareness Month continues to build momentum and impact with the goal of providing everyone with the information they need to stay safer and more secure online.

For more information about Cybersecurity Awareness Month, visit staysafeonline.org/cybersecurity-awareness-month. You can also follow and use the official hashtag #BeCyberSmart on social media channels.

#WhoPowersYou Contest

It's not too late to nominate someone who is making a difference in our community. Touchstone Energy is sponsoring this national contest to honor local heroes across our country. Nomination forms are online through **October 9** with a grand prize of \$5,000. Check out **whopowersyou.com** to see details, rules and past winners.



Stay Connected

Keeping your contact information up to date is now more important than ever. Take a moment to look at your bill, log onto Smarthub or call us toll free at 888-661-2632 to verify your contact information. Our goal is to provide you with prompt service. It is important that we can contact you or locate your account information quickly so we can better serve you - our members.



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

The average household owns 24 electronic products, which account for roughly 12% of home energy use. When shopping for electronics, consider purchasing ENERGY STAR®-certified products, which can be 70% more efficient than conventional models.

Source: energystar.gov.

Find Your Name and Win \$25

Find your name hidden inside this issue of **The Grid** and receive a **\$25 bill credit**. Credit must be claimed by the end of each month in which this newsletter is published.



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