

THE GRID

**P.O. Box 709
(104 Dewitt Ave., East)
Mattoon, Illinois 61938**

Phone: 217-235-0341
or **Toll-Free:**
888-661-CMEC (2632)
Office hours:
Monday-Friday
7:30a.m. - 4:30p.m.

Chairman

Kent Metzger..... Gays

Vice Chairman

Bill Voyles.....Sullivan

Secretary

Andrew Fearn.... Charleston

Treasurer

Thomas Sherman... Humboldt

Directors

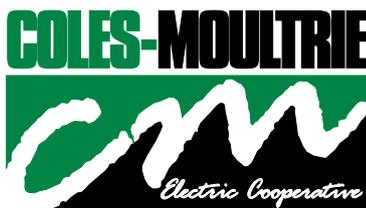
Jeffery Hudson.....Charleston
Mike Love..... Mattoon
Colt Roderick..... Trilla

President/CEO

Amy Borntlager

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

**Send your current email
to info@cmec.coop
for a chance to win a
\$50 bill credit**



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



PHOTO COURTESY OF GREG COOPER, EU

Thanks to all those who attended our Live Line Demonstration March 23 at the Lerna Fire Station.

Prioritize Safety Year-Round

At CMEC, we recognize Electrical Safety Month every May, but we also know the importance of practicing safety year-round. From our co-op crews to you, the members we serve, we recognize that everyone has a part to play in prioritizing safety.

According to the Electrical Safety Foundation International, thousands of people in the U.S. are critically injured or electrocuted because of electrical fires and accidents in their own homes. Many of these accidents are preventable. Electricity is a necessity, and it powers our daily lives. But we know first-hand how dangerous electricity can be because we work with it 365 days a year.

Safety is more than a catchphrase. Cooperative CEO, Amy Borntlager, is responsible for keeping employees safe. Additionally, we want to help keep you and all members of our community safe. That's why

you'll see CMEC hosting Live Line Demonstrations, discussing the dangers of electricity at community events throughout the year, and reminding members to call JULIE at 811 before planting trees or starting home projects. Our co-op also appoints a safety committee, holds monthly safety meetings, and schedules an Annual Employee Safety Day each October.

Electricity is an integral part of modern life. We encourage you to talk with your kids about playing it safe and smart around electricity. Help them be aware of overhead power lines near where they play outdoors.

Our top priority is providing an uninterrupted energy supply 24/7, 365 days per year. But equally important is keeping our community safe around electricity. For more information about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

Board of Director Elections



Bill Voyles



Jeffery Hudson

Director terms for districts one and seven are open. Bill Voyles, of Sullivan, is currently representing district one and Jeffery Hudson, of Charleston, is representing district seven. Interested members from those districts shall complete a Request for Nominating Petitions and Statement of Qualifications demonstrating that he/she is qualified to serve as a director under the terms and provisions of cooperative

bylaws. Petitions are due in the office of the cooperative by 4:30 p.m., Aug. 8, 2022. We encourage interested members to contact us at 217-235-0341 or email info@cmeccoop.com.

Calling All Original Members

We want to hear from you!
Do you have any stories about rural electricity? Email information to info@cmeccoop.com.



Save the
DATE



Save the Date for our
Member Celebration & Annual Meeting
set for Friday, Oct 7, 2022

Find Your Name and Win \$50

Find your name hidden inside this issue of The Grid and receive a **\$50 bill credit**. Credit must be claimed by the end of each month in which this newsletter is published.

MEMORIAL DAY

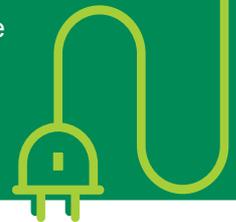
Remember and Honor

OFFICE CLOSING -
We will be closed Memorial Day -
Monday, May 30

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Even in summer months, adding insulation to your attic can keep your home more comfortable and save energy used by your cooling system. If your attic insulation is level with or below your floor joists (meaning you can easily see your joists), you should add more. If you can't see any of the floor joists because the insulation is well above them, you likely have enough insulation. Attic insulation should be evenly distributed with no low spots. Make sure the areas along the eaves are adequately covered.

Source: energystar.gov



Remote Technology

CMEC has the available technology to use remote reconnects and/or disconnects for our members without a CMEC employee being physically dispatched to a meter location. This allows our co-op more efficiency and flexibility in time management of our employees, benefiting all members. Please be aware this technology DOES NOT require that the co-op member be at the meter site when service is disconnected or reconnected, and power may be restored or de-energized at any time. **Houston Moses**



Now that the sun is shining more, are you thinking about solar? Contact CMEC first to get ALL the facts before moving ahead with your project.

Shop Local

There is unity in community and one of our seven cooperative principles is Concern for Community. CMEC employees are wearing Shop Local T-shirts on Fridays to support the Charleston Chamber in promoting area businesses. The chamber held a shirt design contest and half of the proceeds go to the Shop with a Cop Program. The shirts can be purchased at the T-Shirt Factory or the Charleston Chamber of Commerce.



Pictured L to R: Ernie Sparks, Amy Borntrager, Bill Honchell, Carla Bradbury, Front Row Anita Hoene, Kellie Moore, Aimee Boswell, Heather Hakman and Summar Smith.

Selecting a Tree?

Know Its Mature Height Before Deciding Where to Plant

If you are considering planting a tree, carefully select its location before you begin digging. Also, call 811 before you break ground to get underground utilities marked. If trees are planted in the wrong location, they can be expensive to maintain and even dangerous. CMEC and Safe Electricity offer tips on how to pick an optimal location.

A mature height of fewer than 15 feet is recommended if planting near lines. Some trees that are generally not tall enough to interfere with lines include crabapple, honeysuckle, juniper, flowering dogwood and hawthorn.

Trees should never be planted directly under power lines, near poles or too close to electrical equipment.

Once you have a tree selected, call 811 before putting a shovel to the ground. The “Call Before You Dig” number is a free service that locates and marks public



underground utilities in your yard or on your land. Call several business days before you plan to dig. Locators will mark public

underground utilities such as electric, gas, water, cable and fiber. The service does not mark privately owned lines or pipes.

ELECTRICITY 101

To stay safe around electricity, start with these **SEVEN** basic tips:



1.

DON'T OVERLOAD OUTLETS OR CIRCUITS

Plugging in too many items or drawing too much power on a circuit can cause overheating, fire, and damage to devices.



2.

DON'T USE FAULTY ELECTRICAL CORDS OR PLUGS

Do not use cords that look frayed, worn or cracked. Do not use broken plugs. Never remove the grounding pin from a three-pronged plug.



3.

HAVE YOUR ELECTRICIAN'S NUMBER IN YOUR PHONE

Most electrical repairs or installations are not DIY projects. Hire an expert to avoid serious injury or wiring problems.



4.

BE CAREFUL AROUND H₂O

Never use electricity while standing in damp or wet conditions. Keep all electrical devices away from water, including cell phones that are charging.



5.

EVALUATE YOUR APPLIANCES

Do not use appliances in disrepair. Older or broken appliances can overheat, start a fire, and cause serious injuries.



6.

TEST YOUR GFCIS

Outlets near a water source should be equipped with GFCIs, which help prevent shock and electrocution caused by ground faults. Test monthly to make sure they are working.



7.

MAKE SURE YOUR HOME IS UP TO CODE

Your home should be properly wired and electrically sound. Contact a reputable electrician to evaluate your home.

Safe
Electricity.org®

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