

THE GRID

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Mattoon, Illinois 61938

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

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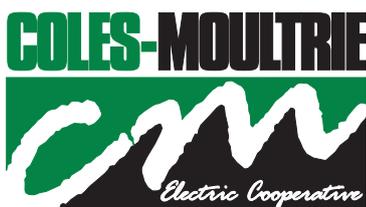
**To Report an Outage
call 888-661-2632**

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



Member Spotlight

CMEC honors Veteran member Jerry Drummond. Jerry and his wife Sue have been members for 42 years. He served in the Navy in the early 1970s onboard a Destroyer Escort chasing Soviet submarines in the Atlantic, Caribbean and Mediterranean in the navigation department. Jerry later served in the Air Force Reserves as an electrician and worked at both CIPS (Central Illinois Public Service) and Ameren. He survived an accident where a 138,000-volt conductor flashed over to ground causing severe burns. "Through the medical expertise of the burn unit in Springfield, lots of support from friends and family, and the Grace of God, I came through the incident with very little permanent damage," Jerry said. He retired from Ameren in 2005 and went on to work with EIU (Eastern Illinois University) for a few years. Now he enjoys sport target shooting and operating amateur radio.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



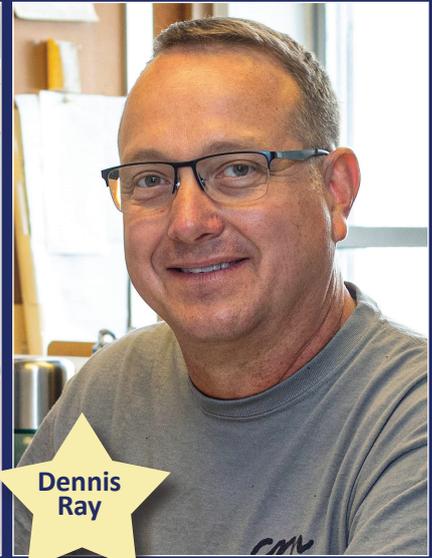
Honoring CMEC Employee Veterans



Carla
Bradbury



Heather
Hakman



Dennis
Ray

Thank you for your service!



**Congrats to
Bill Honchell**

**Our New Assistant Director of
Operations & Engineering**

AIKMAN
Wildlife Adventure

Wild Things

Take a walk on the wild side in our very own footprint. Aikman Wildlife Adventure is located at 125 N. County Road 425 E. in Arcola. Their nonprofit organization, SABLE (Saving Animals By Lasting Encounters), was created to provide food, homes and care for their animals. They are hosting a **Toast to Wildlife Banquet on Friday, Nov. 18**, which includes dinner, silent and live auction, cash bar, animal encounters and a walk through the Pathway of Lights. What a great adventure close to home! For hours, details or to plan your adventure, visit aikmanwildlife.com.

This highlights our co-op principle Concern for Community. **Fuller T**

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.



IEC Scholarships

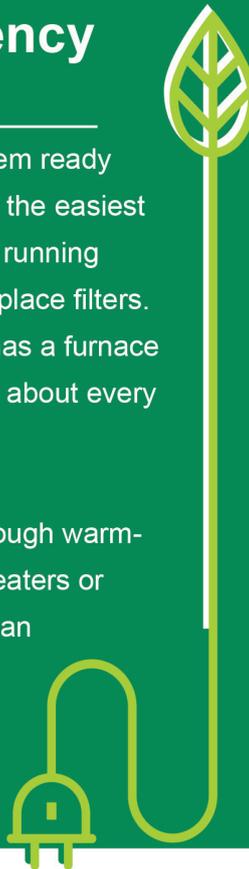
Illinois electric cooperatives will award 15 \$2,000 scholarships in 2023. The scholarships will be awarded through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program. **Deadline to apply is Dec. 31, 2022.** The lineworker scholarship deadline is April 30, 2023. For more information regarding the scholarships, contact Carla Bradbury at cbradbury@cmec.coop. Information has also been shared with area high school guidance counselors and is available online at aiec.coop/iec-scholarship/.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Is your home heating system ready for the winter chill? One of the easiest ways to keep your system running efficiently is to regularly replace filters. If your central air system has a furnace filter, it should be replaced about every 90 days.

If your home is heated through warm-air registers, baseboard heaters or radiators, remember to clean them regularly to boost efficiency.

Source: energy.gov



STAY SAFE OUT ON THE

HUNT



Take precautions to stay safe on your next hunting expedition.



Know the signs of a heart attack or other life-threatening condition.



Have a way to get in touch with the outside world.

Always implement firearm safety techniques.



Do not lean a tree stand against a utility pole.

Do not fire at power lines, insulators or conductor cans.



Carry a first-aid kit.



Check the weather in advance and be prepared.

Check tree stands regularly for stability.

Survey the area for potential electrical hazards.



Be visible: Wear blaze orange.

Learn more at: SafeElectricity.org

Keeping Pets and Energy Bills Comfortable

We consider our four-legged companions as part of the family and cannot imagine life without them. That's why during the winter months, we make sure our whole family, including our four-legged members, is cozy--without taking a big "bite" out of our budget. Here are a few simple ways you can make your home more comfortable this winter, which can ultimately help you save on energy bills.

At the onset of the cold weather season, we replace the HVAC filter for better air quality and to help the unit operate more efficiently. You can also keep your home cozier by caulking and weatherstripping windows and doors. If your home is particularly chilly, you can tape or affix heavy, clear plastic to the inside of your window frames to create an additional barrier against the cold. Ensure that the plastic is tightly sealed to the frame to help reduce infiltration.



We know winter can be "ruff," so we set our thermostat at 68 degrees, a "purr-fect" temperature for people and pets. This is especially important for smaller, short hair and senior dogs--not just for warmth, but for their general health. Puppies, kittens and older pets with arthritis or other ailments may have a harder time controlling their body heat and need the additional warmth when it's chilly out.

Pets that sleep close to the floor can be subject to cold drafts that enter your home through windows and exterior doors. If your pet's bed is near a window or door that feels drafty, tightly roll up a towel and place it near the bottom of the door or window to eliminate the draft. Cutting down on cold drafts helps everyone feel more comfortable during colder months.

If possible, elevate your pet's bed so it's not placed directly

on a cold floor. An old chair or sofa cushion works well. If you don't use a dog bed, take some old blankets and create a donut shape on the cushion so the dog can snuggle and "nest" within the blanket. You can do the same for cats but on a smaller scale. Blankets enable pets to nestle into them, even when they aren't tired, and provide a comfortable place for dogs and cats to curl up.

During the day, open your blinds and curtains to allow sunlight to warm your home. Close window coverings at night for an added layer of insulation.

At CMEC, we want to help you save energy and money. Check out cmec.coop for additional energy-saving tips.

We can't control the weather, but we can provide advice to help you save energy and keep your family and furry friends more comfortable during the winter season.

VOT

Election Day
November 8th

In Case You Missed It

Check out the Mary Gehrig story at safeelectricity.org.



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