

# THE GRID

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or Toll-Free:  
1-888-661-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 Borntreger

To Report an Outage  
call #888-661-2632

**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.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

## October is National Cooperative Month

Celebrate October with us by attending our Member Celebration on Oct. 6, donating a food item for our Fill-a-Bucket Food Drive, or following us on Facebook for Shop Local Weekly Wednesday drawings. Members who donate a nonperishable food item during the month will be eligible for a chance to win a \$100 bill credit. Items can be dropped off at our office: 104 Dewitt Ave. E., Mattoon.

Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative

# MEMBER CELEBRATION & ANNUAL MEETING

Giveaways  
Lemon Shakeups  
Bucket Truck Rides

**BETTER Together**

Friday, October 6  
Starting at 10:00 AM  
PETERSON PARK  
MATTOON, IL

Drive through and enter the park using the southwest entrance on Broadway Avenue near 5th street

- Early Bird Registration available at 6:30 AM at the park
- Receive a \$25 Bill Credit
- Enjoy a boxed lunch from Niemerg's starting at 11:00 AM while supplies last
- Registered members will be included in Bill Credit drawings – \$100, \$250, and \$500 – need not be present to win!

Stay for our Annual Meeting at 1:00 PM in the DeMars Center or watch live on Facebook or tune in on your radio to Victory 103.9

**COLES-MOULTRIE**  
*cm*  
Electric Cooperative  
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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# Better Together

Any organization centered around membership operates under the basic tenet that people are better together — not only capable of more but also stronger when unified in purpose. The cooperative business model exemplifies this idea in powerful ways.

On the most basic level, cooperative members, employees and board directors are a part of the very community in which they live and work, and as a part of that community, share the desire to improve it. Working together, members, employees and board members are better equipped to do so. We're all better together.

Because of this shared passion, cooperatives accomplish far more than the provision of safe, reliable

and affordable electricity to people living in rural areas. Whether in the form of classroom grants, charitable donations or safety education, cooperatives are plugged into the hearts of their communities. The community is better when everyone works together.

This concern extends even beyond their own communities, evidenced by cooperatives reaching out to help one another in times of need, deploying teams in the wake of natural disasters or working together to navigate an uncertain future. Getting through tough times is better when we're together.

Cooperatives operate under democratic member control and with members' economic participation. All parties involved have both

a voice and a vested interest in the success of the operation. Every member has equal voting rights and can actively participate in the decision-making. We can move into the future better when each vote is counted together.

All generations represented within the community have their place in the cooperative family — those who remember when the lights finally came on in rural areas, those working to continually improve operations, those planning for the future and those who will become a vital part of that future. As we move forward, know that we remain committed to you, our members, never forgetting that we always have been and always will be better together.



**CO-OPS  
GROW** 

**COMMUNITIES**

Electric cooperatives are joining co-ops across the U.S. to celebrate National Co-op Month. As your local electric co-op, our services are shaped to meet your specific needs. We love growing with you, the members we are proud to serve.



**2023  
ANNUAL REPORT**

**BETTER  
Together**

**ANNUAL  
REPORT**

Your co-op Annual Report was mailed on or about Sept. 26. This will also be on our website, [cmec.coop](http://cmec.coop).

**CONGRATS!**

Congrats to **Ryan Howard!** He was our 2,000th member to sign up for paperless billing and won a \$100 Bill Credit!



# SPOOKY ENERGY SAVINGS

This spooky season, we're sharing a few energy-saving tricks so you can treat yourself to lower energy bills. Here are four simple ways to summon the spirit of energy efficiency.

**Conjure instant savings with a smart thermostat.** One of the easiest ways to save energy is through thermostat control, since home heating and cooling account for a large portion of monthly energy use. Smart thermostats can help you manage heating and cooling costs by learning your daily routine and adjusting the temperature settings accordingly. You can control a smart thermostat from anywhere (through your smartphone), which allows you to prevent unnecessary energy consumption while you're away. Sorcery!

**Get rid of goosebumps by eliminating ghostly drafts.** The winter chill is just around the corner, so now is the time to seal air leaks around your home. Apply caulk and weatherstripping around drafty

windows and doors to make your home more comfortable and lower energy use. **Gary Miller**



**Illuminate your lair with energy-efficient lighting.** LED bulbs use 75% less energy and last 25 times longer than incandescent light bulbs. Make the switch to reduce energy used for lighting. Remember to use LEDs when it's time to decorate for the upcoming holiday season. LED light strings offer an average of 88% energy savings compared to traditional incandescent light strings.

**Stir up savings with countertop cauldrons.** Cooler weather summons our favorite soup recipes. Small countertop appliances like slow cookers use less energy than cooking meals on the stovetop. Grab your book of spells (or recipes) and start stirring up savings in the kitchen.

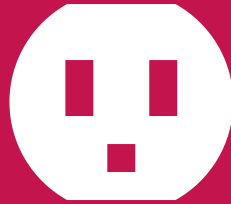
When we look around our homes, there are many opportunities to save energy. So, this spooky season, investigate your space and unlock a different kind of magic — the kind that brings real energy savings.





## Safety Tip

In the bathroom, kitchen and anywhere an outlet is located near a water source, check the ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) once a month. The fast-acting circuit breaker shuts off the power in case of a wiring issue.



TEST

Safe  
Electricity.org®

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Did you know using your dishwasher is more energy efficient than washing a load of dishes by hand? To maximize efficiency, wash full loads in the dishwasher and don't block the arms or other parts that move while the appliance is in use.

For additional savings, turn on the "air dry" setting instead of using the "heat dry" setting and use a rinse aid to help dishes dry faster without spotting and streaking.

Source: Dept. of Energy



## Touch a Truck

CMEC participated in Touch a Truck & Tractor, sponsored by the Coles County Farm Bureau and held at the Coles County Memorial Airport. Our cooperative gave bucket truck rides at this free event with kids being able to touch a tractor, airplane, helicopter, snow-plow, grader and more!

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

