

THE GRID

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

Phone: 217-235-0341
or **Toll-Free:**
1-888-661-CMEC (2632)
Office hours:
Monday-Friday
7:30a.m. - 4:30p.m.

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Kent MetzgerGays

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**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 

Kent Metzger Receives CCD

Board Chairman Kent Metzger, District 3, received the Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). Electric co-ops in Illinois and CMEC have a commitment to work with the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives and NRECA to sharpen this body of knowledge for the benefit of their members. This certification demonstrates the understanding of five core courses, which include Director Duties and Liabilities,



Understanding the Electric Business, Board Operations and Process, Strategic Planning and Financial Decision Making.



SCHOLARSHIPS

CMEC will award six \$500 scholarships and a \$1,000 Randall Beasley Memorial Scholarship in 2024.

Applications are available on our website or can be requested by emailing cbradbury@cmeccoop.com.

Deadline to apply is April 30, 2024.

Reminder

CMEC will call members when we have planned outages in your area by calling the "Home Number" on your account. Please ensure this number is up to date by logging into Smarthub, calling our office at 217-235-0341, or looking at the bottom left corner of your monthly electric bill.

2023 Employee Service Awards

45 years

John Pickowitz
General Foreman

25 years

Jim Wallace
Director of
Operational Services

20 years

Kelsey Hawkins
Accountant

15 years

Marcus McDowell
Area Serviceman

5 years

Kellie Moore
Engineering Service
Representative

1 year

Gavin Bennett
Apprentice
Lineman

1 year

Devon Durbin
IT Technician

1 year

Mitch Huddleston
Apprentice Lineman

Rate Increase in 2024

CMEC recently completed a Cost-of-Service study, and the Board of Directors will be reviewing our current rate structure. Watch for more information in this Grid News.

Why use Smarthub?

This is a great tool for members to update contact information, check usage and sign up for paperless billing and autopay.

Download the app today or sign in from our website, www.cmec.coop.



What is a kWh?

A kilowatt-hour (kWh) is the standard unit of measure for electricity use and is equal to 1,000 watt-hours. For example, a 100-watt light bulb running for one hour uses one tenth of a kWh. If electricity costs 10 cents per kWh, it costs one cent per hour to operate that bulb. To discover ways to reduce your energy costs, visit cmec.coop or request a copy of Your Unique Energy Needs by emailing info@cmec.coop.



Remote Reconnect or Disconnect

CMEC utilizes available technology that allows us to disconnect and/or reconnect your electric service without an employee being physically dispatched to your meter location. This allows for more flexibility in the time management of co-op employees, which in turn benefits our members. Be aware that a meter site may be disconnected or reconnected, and power may be restored at any time without an employee or member at the meter site.

RESPECT SUBSTATIONS

and all other electrical equipment



REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY

Only authorized utility workers should approach a substation, touch the fence or enter the gate.

Paying attention to activity in or near substations and other utility equipment helps keep everyone safe.

 Learn more at:
Safe Electricity.org[®]

Authorized workers should:

- Wear proper personal protective gear and display an ID badge.
- Use work vehicles that have utility branded logos/information.

Suspicious activity includes individuals in street clothes who are:

- Near or inside a substation fence.
- Tampering with equipment, such as power poles, meters and padmount transformers.

If you notice anything unusual at a substation, please report it to the electric utility. Examples include:

- An open or unlocked gate.
- A damaged fence.
- Obvious damage inside the fence.

Call 9-1-1 and then the electric utility if you see:

- Smoke or fire.
- Non-utility workers inside the substation fence.
- Non-utility workers on a pole or tampering with a meter.

Start Safety Education Early

DO'S & DON'TS AROUND ELECTRICITY



Start discussions about electrical equipment and safety when children are young!

Here are some great safety lessons to teach:

DO



- Stay inside after a storm in case there are downed power lines.
- Place a cell phone on a bedside table, not on bedding or under a pillow.
- Find another tree to climb if an overhead power line is nearby.
- Fly kites, drones or other RC toys in an open area away from overhead power lines.

DO NOT



- Do not go near a downed power line.
- Do not use or set plugged-in items near water, including a sink, pool or bathtub.
- Do not go near or enter a substation to retrieve a toy or pet.
- Do not try to free an object that is stuck in a power line.

Learn other electrical safety tips at:



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