



MEDIA KIT

About Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative

Much has changed since May 18, 1938 when the Cooperative was first organized by rural residents of Coles and Moultrie Counties, but the goals and interests of those early leaders are still important today. The delivery of reliable and affordable electrical energy to meet the needs of our members is still our primary objective.

Prior to May 18, 1938 attempts had been made to bring electrical energy to the sparsely populated rural areas, but were mostly unsuccessful. The existing power companies were mainly investor-owned utilities that were not interested in building the lines into the rural areas where only a few farmsteads per mile would use minimal amounts of electricity and where profits for stockholders would be hard to achieve. An individual rural resident had to either pay for the cost of installing the lines, or be fortunate to live near an existing line, in order to receive service. Under the terms of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 rural residents and farmers could join together to form electric cooperatives and borrow funds from the Rural Electrification Administration (R.E.A.) for the purpose of constructing electrical lines and facilities.

The initial loan from R.E.A. was for \$355,000 to be used to build 338 miles of lines to serve 753 members in Coles and Moultrie Counties. The desire to have electricity was so great that many members cleared rights-of way and helped set poles in order to get the lines built more quickly. Those lines were first energized on October 20, 1939.

Today, Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative (CMEC) has more than 9,500 members and an electrical distribution system stretching more than 1,900 miles, with a net utility plant value of more than \$25,000,000. Members are served in Clark, Cumberland, Douglas, Edgar, Piatt and Shelby Counties in addition to the two original Counties of Moultrie and Coles. We provide electrical service to more than 8,000 residential members, 850 small commercial members, and large commercial members such as Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center, manufacturing facilities such as Mattoon Precision, Inc. and Mid-State Tank Company, plus educational facilities such as Lake Land College and the Arland D. Williams, Jr. School in Mattoon.

A 7-member board of directors represents the members of the cooperative. Each director has a term of three years and must reside within the boundaries of his or her respective district.

As a not-for-profit cooperative, all margins are allocated to our members in the form of capital credits that are paid as the financial condition of the cooperative allows, and as the board of directors determine.

CMEC is an active and integral part of the community we serve. We remain committed to the same goals and interests set forth by those early leaders-the delivery of reliable and affordable electrical energy to meet the needs of our members.

Outage information

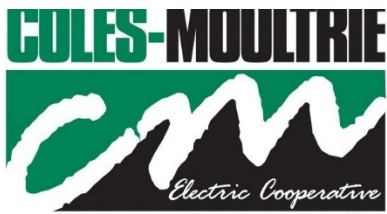
To report an outage, call Coles-Moultrie's outage reporting number: [1-888-661-2632](tel:1-888-661-2632)

You can also find outage information on our [Facebook page](#) or e-mail us at info@cmeccoop.com.

It is important that CMEC has a record of the telephone number at your outage location. If you would like to receive text, E-mail, or automated voice notification when an outage has ended, please contact CMEC by phone and E-mail using the information above.

As a service to our members, CMEC provides 24-hour dispatch service to respond to trouble calls. Servicemen are on call nights, weekends and holidays in addition to regular office hours. You can call [217-235-0341](tel:217-235-0341) or [1-888-661-2632](tel:1-888-661-2632).

In the event of a widespread, extended outage, telephones will be staffed around the clock with additional personnel until all service has been restored. Consumers may have a hard time contacting our office during large outages. We appreciate your patience and understand the aggravation. Be assured we are working around the clock to provide quality electric service.



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

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Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative Stats

Electric accounts: 9,525

Accounts/mile of line (density): 4.78

Miles of line in service: 1,994

Average monthly kWh use: 1,261

Number of employees: 33

Number of counties served: 8

Total plant value: \$53 million

Board of Directors

District #7

Jeffery Hudson
Chairman

District #4

Deborah Albin CCD/BLC
Vice Chairperson

District #2

John Bowers CCD/ BLC
Secretary

District #5

Stephen Shrader CCD/ BLC
Treasurer

District #1

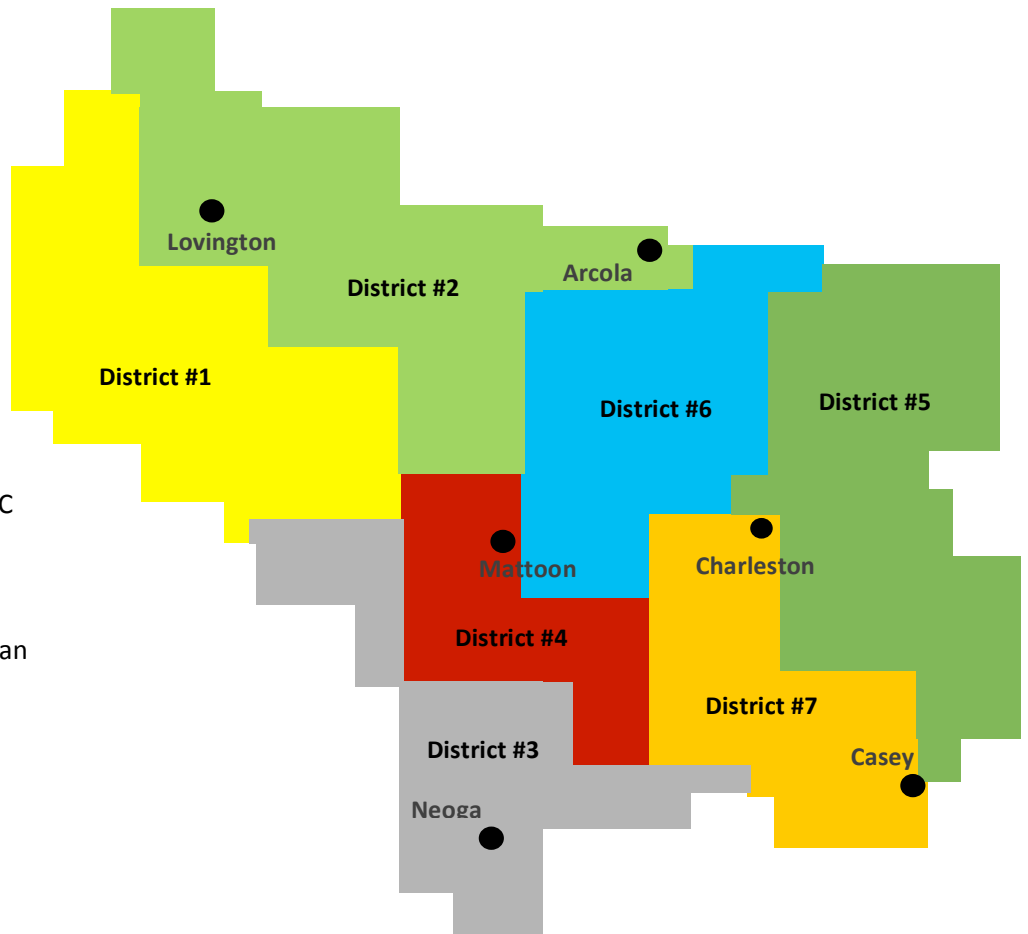
Meredith "Chris" Christman

District #6

Scott Uphoff CCD/ BLC

District #3

Dean Robison CCD



Expert Source List

Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative employs many industry experts. To schedule an interview with any of these employees, please contact Samuel Adair at sadair@cmec.coop or 217-235-0341.



**Kim Leftwich,
President/CEO**

- Big picture cooperative issues
- Cooperative management and policies
- Staffing/employment issues
- Federal and state energy-related legislation and regulation
- Cooperative rates and regulations



**Samuel Adair,
Manager of Marketing and Member Services**

- Energy Efficiency
- Cooperative news and events
- Media relations
- School safety and efficiency programs
- Economic Development

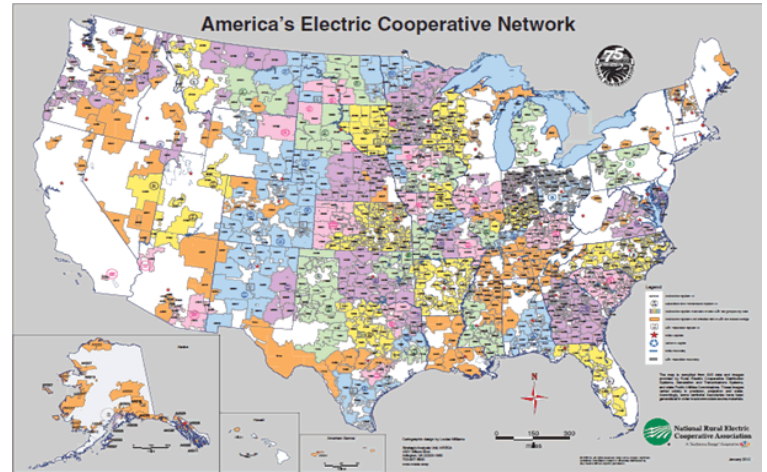


**Jim Wallace,
Director of Operations**

- System reliability
- Construction & maintenance
- Emergency preparedness
- Electrical safety
- Outage/storm information

About Electric Cooperatives

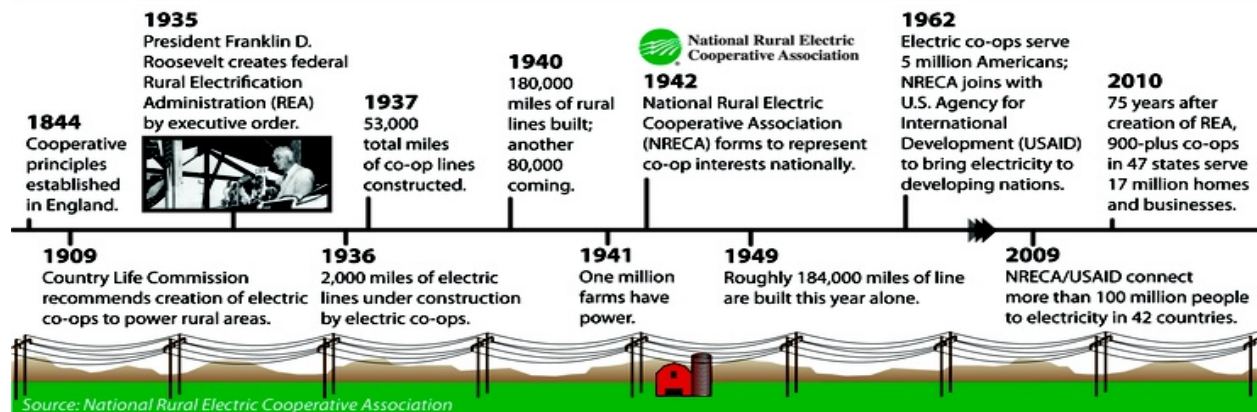
Electric cooperatives are private, independent businesses whose member/owners have a financial interest in the operation. They are not-for-profit, democratically governed corporations that are based in the communities they serve. Cooperative profits, or margins, are either reinvested in the cooperative or returned to the member/owners as patronage capital. Electric cooperatives provide reliable and technologically advanced service to 40 million Americans while maintaining a unique consumer focused approach to business. SEVEN PRINCIPLES Energy cooperatives are guided by the following seven cooperative principles, which help anchor them



firmly in the communities they serve and allow close regulation by their member/owners.

- **Voluntary & Open Membership** – Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership.
- **Democratic Member Control** – Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their member/owners, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions.
- **Members' Economic Participation** – Member/owners contribute equitably to and democratically control the capital of their cooperative.
- **Autonomy & Independence** – Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their member/owners.
- **Education, Training & Information** – Cooperatives provide education and training for their member/owners, elected representatives, managers and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives.
- **Cooperation Among Cooperatives** – Cooperatives serve their member/owners most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together.
- **Concern For Community** – While focusing on member/owner needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities.

How Electric Cooperatives Energized Rural America



Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is an electric cooperative?

An electric cooperative is a not-for-profit company whose member/owners have a financial stake in the company. Cooperatives provide all of the same essential services as any investor owned utility (IOU) or municipal electric company.

Q. What's the difference between cooperatives and other power companies?

Most Americans get their electric energy from public utilities called IOUs. IOUs are for-profit private corporations owned by investors that typically operate in densely populated areas. The Rural Electrification Act of 1935 helped bring electricity to rural parts of the country not served by IOUs by offering funding options for locally owned cooperatives. Cooperatives now serve about 75 percent of America's land mass, but only 12 percent of the American population.

Q. Is Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative run by or owned by the government?

No. CMEC is a corporation operating as a not-for-profit cooperative. Co-ops are governed by the member/owners they serve and ran by policies established by a member elected board of directors. The board selects a chief executive officer, who then hires additional staff for the purpose of running the organization.

Q. What is the significance of being not-for-profit?

Electric cooperatives developed because rural citizens who did not have access to electricity in the 1930s decided to band together and form their own companies to acquire power. Investor owned power companies said they couldn't make enough profit in areas with a small number of consumers per mile of expensive power line. The cooperative business structure already was a well-established part of the American free enterprise system for providing services that were too big for individuals to do alone. Not-for-profit cooperatives were a natural solution for distributing electricity in areas where making a profit would be difficult.

Q. What are capital credits?

Any revenue collected by the co-op that is not needed to cover the cost of providing service is accounted for and allocated back to member/owners based on the amount of energy they used during the year. Those credits are paid back to member/owners at a later date based on a retirement schedule adopted by the board of directors, and the cooperative's financial condition.

Q. What's the advantage of being a member of a cooperative?

The primary measure of a co-op's success is its ability to meet the needs of the members. Not-for-profit cooperatives are owned, operated and controlled by local members, so the board makes decisions to accommodate the best interests of the membership. Local directors have a personal investment in assuring the cooperative is meeting the needs of the community. In addition to electric service, electric co-ops are deeply involved in their communities promoting development and revitalization projects, small businesses, job creation, improvement of water and sewer systems and assistance in delivery of health care and educational services. At its best, a cooperative does not differentiate between itself and members – they are one and the same.