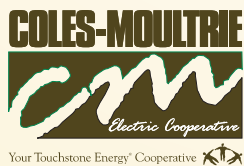




# WEATHERING THE **STORM**



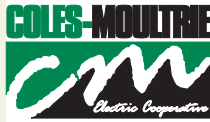
## 2021 **Annual Report**

*Owned by Those we Serve*

## Annual Meeting

Our Annual Meeting set for Thursday evening, June 17th, 2021, has been postponed. We miss seeing you in person and continually evaluate guidelines to ensure the safety of our employees, members and communities. Be sure to follow us on Facebook, visit our webpage ([cmec.coop](http://cmec.coop)) or call our office toll free (1-888-661-2632) to stay up to date on what is happening at your cooperative.





Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

## Annual Report

of the Chairman  
of the Board of Directors and  
the President/CEO  
Coles-Moultrie Electric  
Cooperative



**Kent Metzger**  
Chairman of the  
Board of Directors



**Amy Borntrager**  
President/CEO

## A Message from our Board Chairman and CEO

As we find ourselves taking a moment to review the past year, we appreciate that we, Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative, have come out on the other side of this pandemic stronger than ever. We began the year as we would have any other year, until March 17, 2020, when we closed the Cooperative doors to the public. We made drastic changes to our procedures very quickly to adapt to new Illinois Department of Public Health working protocols. Employees made operational changes, without realizing it was going to be a massive cultural change they were going to endure. Inside personnel moved their offices to their homes. The outside personnel transitioned to new schedules, routines, and practices to keep all members and employees safe while still “keeping the lights on”. This pandemic has allowed us to achieve stronger employee commitment and teamwork and overcome the frustrations COVID-19 presented.

However, there were a lot of good things that did come out of the year in review. We were able to hold one Member Advisory Committee in January 2020 before the pandemic started. During that meeting, we schooled CMEC members on the differences between investor-owned utilities and member owned cooperatives. Those are one of our favorite activities, as it gives us an opportunity to stay in touch with our members. Our intent is to resume those meetings when we feel it is safe for our members and employees to gather again.

In March, we immediately ramped up our efforts to help members receive financial assistance to pay their electric bills. Our members received \$228,664 in financial support in 2020 compared to \$156,652 in 2019. CMEC was also able

to take advantage of the Paycheck Protection Program offered to businesses during the pandemic.

As is standard practice, the Cooperative consults with an independent auditor annually to insure we meet all accounting practices, processes, and methods as described in Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). We are pleased to report that the review, conducted in March 2021, confirmed the Cooperative met all appropriate standards.

We are excited to add a scholarship opportunity to students this year. The “Randall Beasley Memorial Scholarship” was funded in honor of Randall Beasley, a former forty-year employee of Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative. This scholarship will be awarded to a candidate who will be attending lineman school or someone who will engage in the studies of an electrical field. In addition to this scholarship, we are also honored to award 6-\$500 college scholarships to eligible Cooperative members.

On August 27, 2020 Hurricane Laura left behind the worst destruction ever seen by a storm to Louisiana’s Jefferson Davis Electric Cooperative and Beuaregard Electric Cooperative service territories leaving 67,000 cooperative members without power. Illinois was able to assist the cooperatives by sending 68-line personnel, of which ten (10) were Coles-Moultrie Electric employees to assist with restoring connections. Visiting crews stayed in camps designed to address COVID-19 concerns. Our employees were well cared for when they were away from home and were welcomed with warm southern hospitality. With ten hurricanes making landfall during 2020, cooperatives have relied on one of their seven

core principles heavily this year “Cooperation Among Cooperatives” to restore power to those left without it after the devastating natural disaster.

Once a year we host a “Safety Day” for CMEC employees to learn about safe work practices. We were able to safely hold this event in October 2020. During this training, we create a “May Day” call scenario, which one of our employees simulates to have sustained life-threatening injuries while working in the field. The inside and outside personnel are both required to participate in this exercise.

In 2020, we were able to use that training in a real-life situation. CMEC employees came together to save, not an employee’s life, but a member’s life. Congressman John Shimkus entered a statement into the permanent Congressional Record recognizing four employees of Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative for their extraordinary efforts. He labeled them as the “angels” of Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative.

Our operations and engineering departments stayed busy despite the ongoing pandemic situation in 2020. We coordinated efforts with our engineering consulting firm to create a new construction workplan for us encompassing the years 2020–2023.

The outside crews replaced 370 poles for various reasons in 2020 compared to 161 in 2019. We replaced 3 miles of conductor in 2020. As the years progress, conductor exposed to the elements begins to breakdown and fail. Sections of line are identified that may have recurring outages due to conductor failure and those are replaced.

We had extended the three-phase infrastructure in the Coles Centre Business Park to support growth in 2019 and this year added two additional services to that area, HSHS Medical and Blue Cross Blue Shield.

We were able to complete the project north of Trilla to upgrade the conductor to maintain reliability and voltage to support the Toledo, IL area.

In keeping with another one of

the seven cooperative principles, “Commitment to Community”, CMEC donated to the Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center Dental Bus, a mobile clinic, which is designed to improve access to dental care for mothers and children who use the Women Infant Children program, Medicaid and AllKids. The clinic travels to schools within the CMEC footprint to create greater access to care. CoBank also supported this project through the Sharing Success program that matches CMEC’s donations to qualifying 501(c)(3) organizations.

The Board of Directors are committed to the welfare and safety of the valued membership, the dedicated employees, and the communities we serve. In consideration of that, we made the decision to postpone the 2021 CMEC Annual Meeting slated for June 17,

2021. While we understand this is a disappointment to our membership, it is of utmost importance to the board and staff of CMEC that the meeting of the membership be conducted in a healthy and safe environment.

During 2020, CMEC has made adaptations big and small to keep electricity flowing. Some of the changes we have made will make us more efficient and will allow us to better serve you, our members. Because of the pandemic, we were able to practice our business continuity plan in the event of a disaster. The employees and the Board of Directors have WEATHERED THE STORM together and have become stronger because of it. We truly care for our members and thank you for your support over the past year.

## UNDERSTANDING THE SEVEN COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES

Cooperatives around the world operate according to the same set of core principles and values, adopted by the International Co-operative Alliance. These principles are a key reason why America’s electric cooperatives operate differently from other electric utilities, putting the needs of our members first.



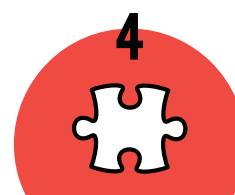
**VOLUNTARY AND OPEN MEMBERSHIP**



**DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL**



**MEMBERS' ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION**



**AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE**



**EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INFORMATION**



**COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES**



**CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY**



**BUILT** by our community.  
**SHAPED** by our community.  
**LED** by our community.

**WE'RE PROUD TO  
POWER YOUR LIFE.**



# 2020 Year-End Financial Report

## January through December

<b>Our Receipts</b>	<b>2020</b>
We furnish electric service amounting to..... \$	26,709,336.00
Non-Operating Income-Interest and Other Sources..... \$	150,492.00
Total Receipts for the Year..... \$	26,859,828.00
<b>Our Expenses</b>	
Electric power cost us..... \$	16,805,442.00
Expenses for operating and maintaining system ..... \$	6,015,908.00
We estimate our system depreciated ..... \$	2,146,741.00
Our taxes were ..... \$	106,525.00
The interest paid on debt totalled ..... \$	836,087.00
Total Expenses for the Year ..... \$	25,910,703.00
<b>Margins (deficits)..... \$</b>	<b>949,125.00</b>

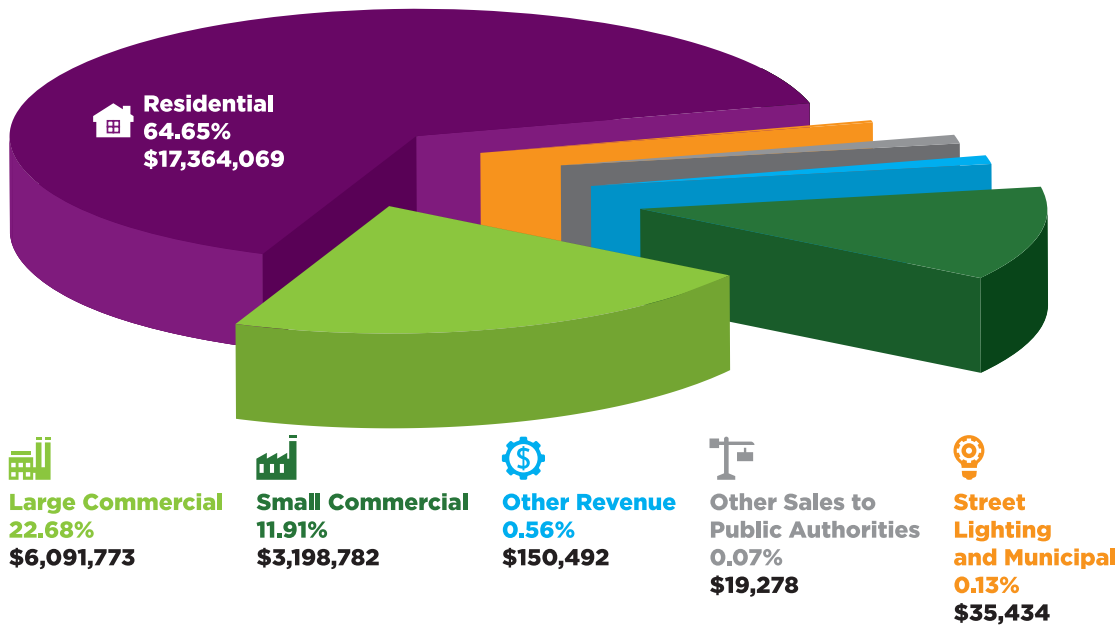
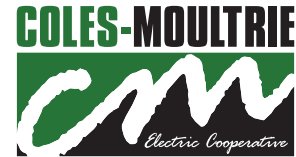
## Balance Sheet

### For the Year Ending December 31, 2020

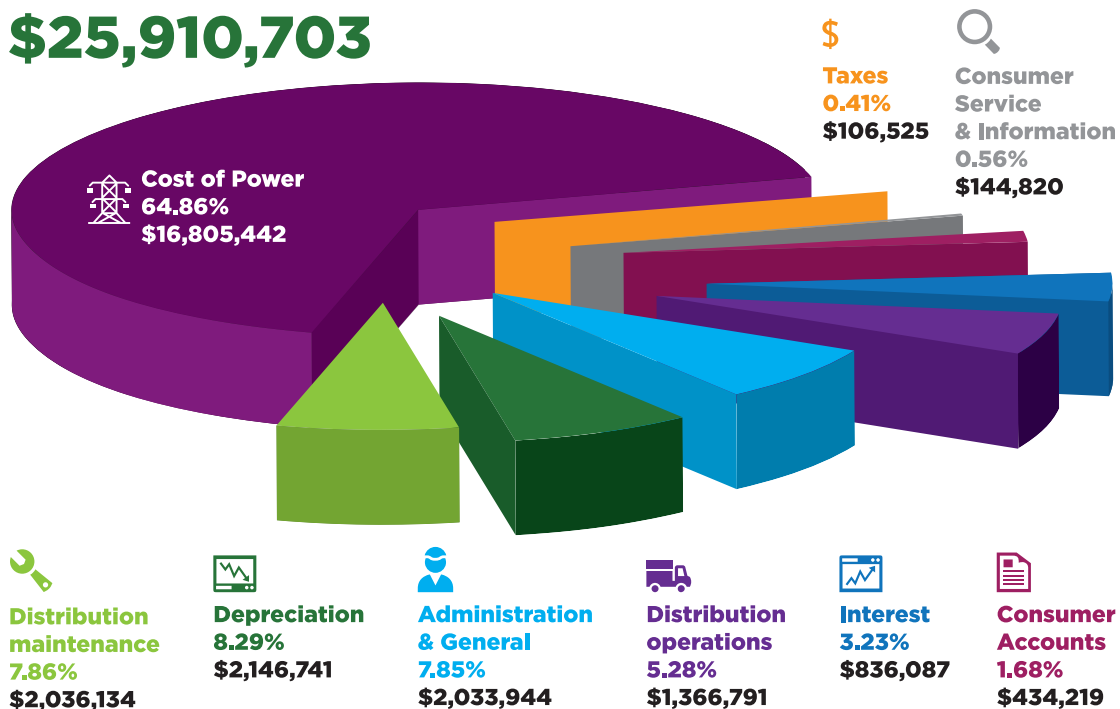
<b>What we own (Assets)</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>2019</b>
Total cost of our system is	\$ 63,992,137.00	\$ 61,426,495.00
We estimate it has depreciated	\$ 25,785,469.00	\$ 24,430,124.00
The net value of our system is	\$ 38,206,668.00	\$ 36,996,371.00
We have cash in the bank amounting to	\$ 1,659,510.00	\$ 3,166,203.00
We have vested interests-associated organizations	\$ 12,830,732.00	\$ 11,699,677.00
Accounts Receivable	\$ 5,537,738.00	\$ 5,847,021.00
We have material and supplies amounting to	\$ 170,698.00	\$ 192,128.00
We have prepaid insurance and deferred expenses of	\$ 2,291,658.00	\$ 3,084,041.00
<b>Total owned</b>	<b>\$ 60,697,004.00</b>	<b>\$ 60,985,441.00</b>
<b>What we owe (Liabilities)</b>		
We owe our lenders	\$ 17,142,394.00	\$ 17,671,942.00
We owe for materials taxes, short term loan	\$ 4,232,410.00	\$ 6,025,875.00
Consumer Deposits	\$ 392,578.00	\$ 383,853.00
Margins & Equities	\$ 34,055,198.00	\$ 32,882,721.00
Deferred Credits	\$ 435.00	\$ 10,435.00
Accumulated Operating Provisions	\$ 4,873,989.00	\$ 4,010,615.00
<b>Total Liabilities and Capital</b>	<b>\$ 60,697,004.00</b>	<b>\$ 60,985,441.00</b>

# 2020 YEAR-END FINANCIAL REPORT

Total Revenue  
**\$26,859,828**



Total Cost of Electric Service  
**\$25,910,703**





# 2020 Year in Review







## Coles-Moultrie Staff

**Amy Borntreger**, President/CEO

**Anita Hoene**, Director of Human Resources

**Nicole Rusk**, Chief Financial Officer

**Shaun Vester**, Manager of GIS Systems

**Jim Wallace**, Director of Operations & Engineering

**David Welsh**, Director of Information Technology

**William Arthur**, Area Serviceman

**Aimee Boswell**, Accountant

**David Bowen**, Area Serviceman

**Carla Bradbury**, Service Representative - Marketing

**Julie Butler**, Service Representative

**Brock Cook**, Journeyman Lineman

**Heather Hakman**, Service Representative

**Andrew Haumesser**, Forestry Apprentice

**Kelsey Hawkins**, Service Representative

**Peter Homan**, Journeyman Lineman

**Bill Honchell**, Distribution Automation Technician

**Charles Keller**, Leadman

**Jacob Logue**, Line Foreman

**Marcus McDowell**, Journeyman Lineman

**Kellie Moore**, Service Representative - Engineering

**John Pickowitz**, General Foreman

**Hunter Rawlings**, Journeyman Lineman

**Dennis Ray**, Field Engineer

**Shane Ruppert**, Area Serviceman

**Robert Schafer**, Line Foreman

**David Shain**, Apprentice Lineman

**Summar Smith**, Service Representative

**Mitchell Stanciu**, Line Foreman

**Eric Starwalt**, Line Clearance

Foreman

**Jefrey White**, Field Engineer

## Member Election

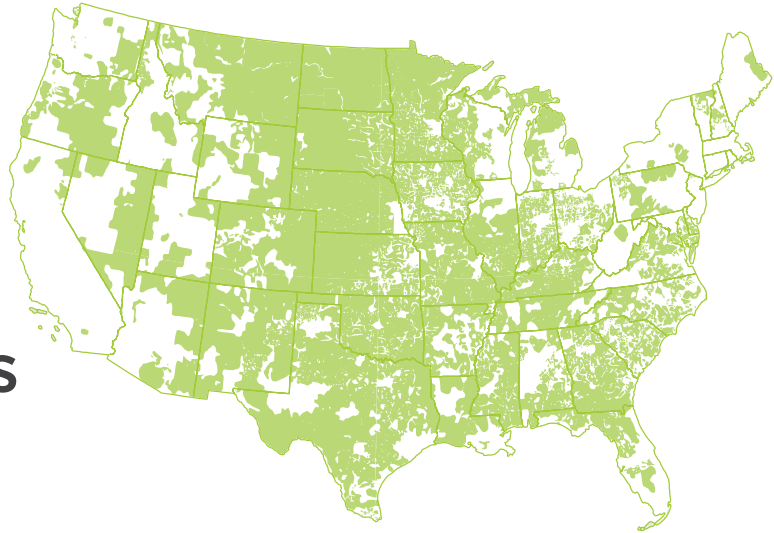
Elections are vital to our cooperative and one of our guiding principles is Democratic Member Control. Voting opened May 20th and runs through June 14th. All members were sent a ballot with the option of voting electronically or by mail. Proposed bylaw amendments are on the ballot relating to the appointment of an Election Committee and electronic meeting attendance for board members. There are no contested elections this year and CMEC is utilizing Survey & Ballot Systems to ensure accuracy, transparency and security during the voting process. Please read and follow instructions to ensure every vote counts. Voting material and current bylaws can be found on our website: [cmec.coop](http://cmec.coop).



# America's Electric Cooperatives

From booming suburbs to remote rural communities, America's electric cooperatives are energy providers and engines of economic development. Electric cooperatives play a vital role in transforming communities.

Cooperatives power  
**56%**  
of the nation's  
landmass.



Own and maintain **42%** (2.7 million miles) of U.S. electric distribution lines that serve our communities.

Serve **42 million** people across **2,500+** counties, including **92%** of persistent poverty counties.

Power over **20 million** businesses, homes, schools and farms in 48 states.

In 2019, America's electric co-ops returned more than **\$1.3 billion** in capital credits to their consumer-members.

**832 distribution cooperatives** are the foundation of the electric cooperative network. They were built by and serve co-op members in the community with the delivery of electricity and other services.

**63 generation & transmission cooperatives** provide wholesale power to distribution co-ops through their own electric generation facilities or by purchasing power on behalf of the distribution members.

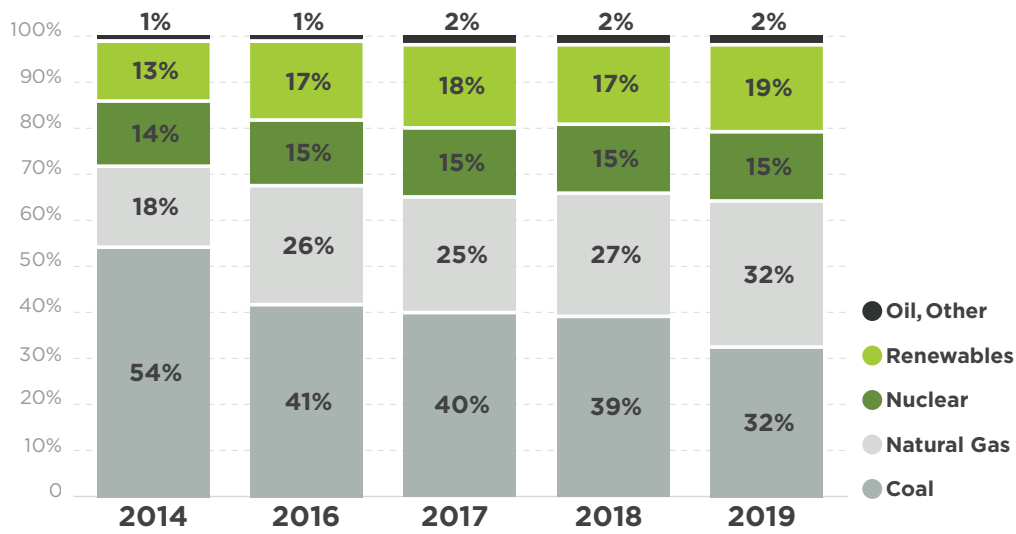
[www.electric.coop](http://www.electric.coop) | [@NRECANews](https://twitter.com/NRECANews)



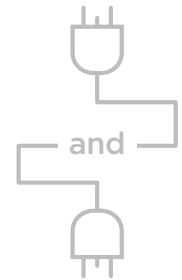
# Electricity use and energy mix

Co-ops rely on a diverse energy mix to ensure a reliable, affordable and responsible electricity supply that meets the needs of their consumer-members. More than two-thirds of the electricity delivered by co-ops to members comes from low- or zero-carbon sources.

## Co-op Retail Fuel Mix 2014, 2016-2019

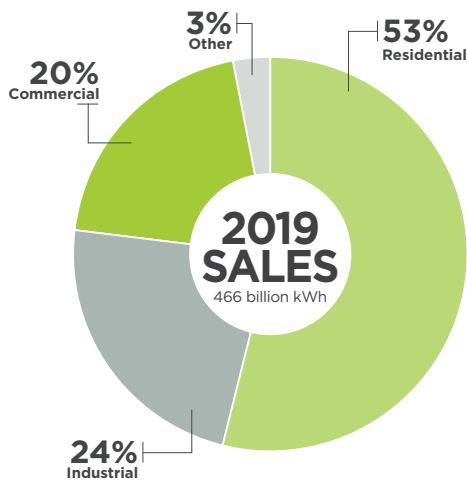


Co-ops generate **5%** of total U.S. electricity



deliver **12%** of all U.S. electricity

Unlike the rest of the electric sector, electric co-ops sell the majority of their power to households rather than businesses. Keeping rates affordable is especially important for these consumer-members at the end of the line.








Source: RUS and CFC Form 7 data (excludes sales for resale)

## HELPING RURAL COMMUNITIES RESPOND TO COVID-19

Throughout the pandemic, co-ops worked tirelessly to support their communities by keeping the lights on and finding new ways to lend a hand.

Since the start of the pandemic co-ops have:

-  Provided COVID testing and hosted vaccination clinics in high-demand areas
-  Donated masks and hand sanitizer
-  Established free wifi hotspots for students and families working from home
-  Donated laptops to schools
-  Delivered meals in their communities





# Hurricane Laura 2020





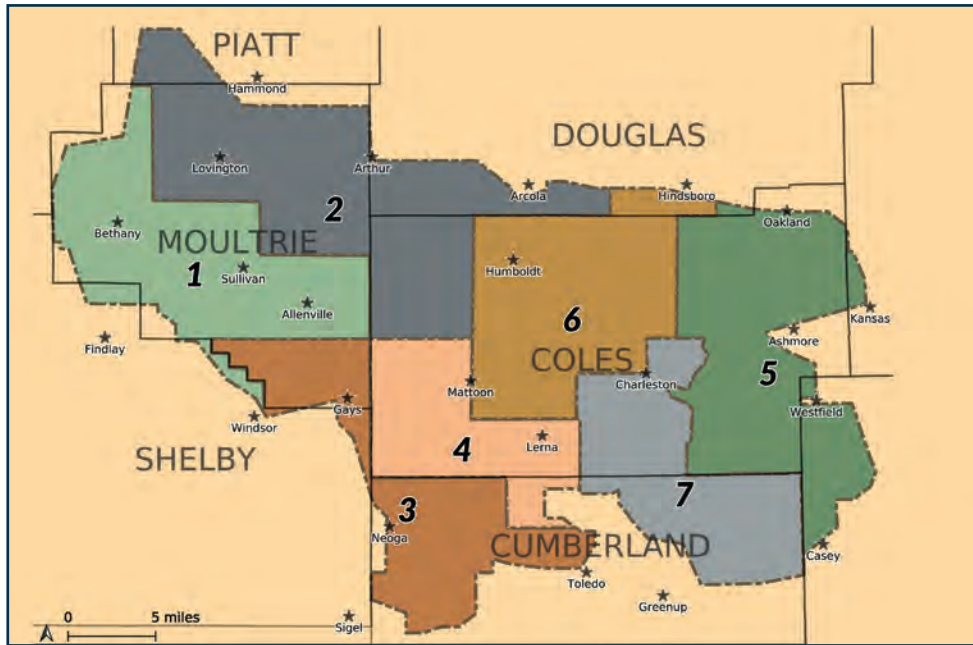
# Your Cooperative Board of Directors



**District #1**  
**Bill Voyles**  
*Vice Chairman*



**District #2**  
**Mike Love**



**District #3**  
**Kent Metzger**  
*Chairman*



**District #4**  
**Colt Roderick**



**District #5**  
**Andrew Fearn**  
*Secretary*

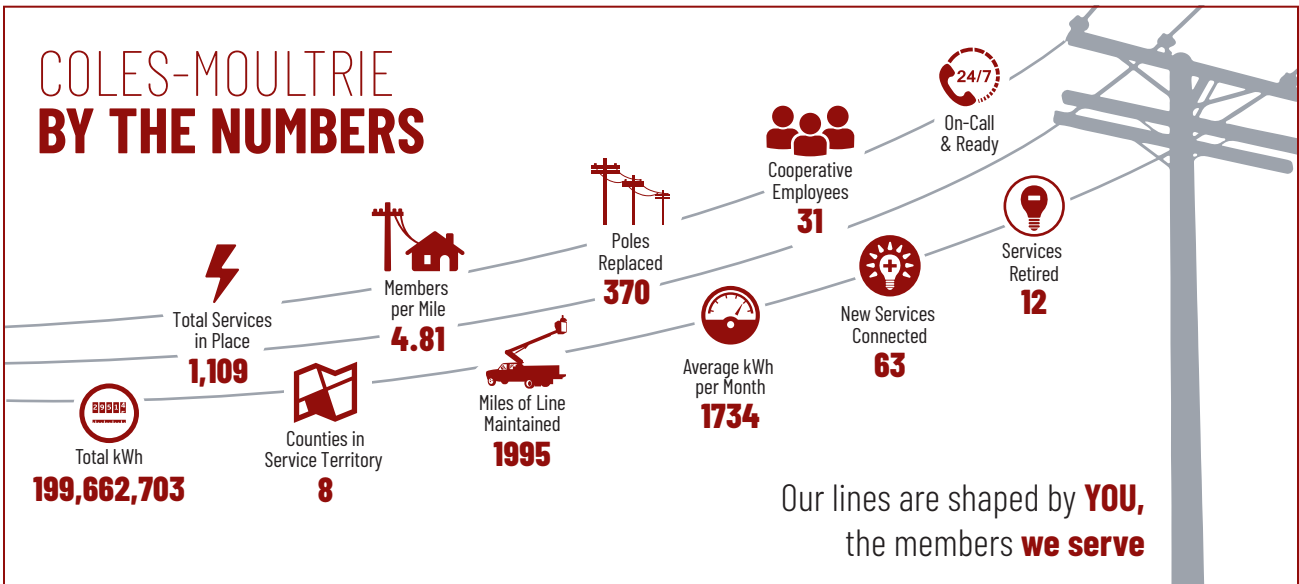


**District #6**  
**Tom Sherman**  
*Treasurer*



**District #7**  
**Jeff Hudson**

**Board meeting minutes can be viewed on our website: [cmec.coop](http://cmec.coop)**



**LOCAL**

*Places*

**&**

**LOCAL**

*Faces*

● **Featured in 2020** ●



**Buxton's Garden, Sullivan**



**Hager Tree Farm, Charleston**



**Mattoon Public Library, Mattoon**



**Moran's Pumpkin Patch, Neoga**



**Okaw Valley Orchard, Sullivan**



**Revival City Doughnuts,  
Charleston**



**Rustic Hive - Beekeepers Rick &  
Nelda Campbell, Charleston**



**Springville Family Farms, Lerna**

*Helping Small  
Businesses in our  
Communities*






# We're here for you



This is a challenging and uncertain time, but we've been through difficult times before. As we did then, we'll continue to serve you anytime, day or night, 365 days a year. You can count on that.

*Brought to you by Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative.*



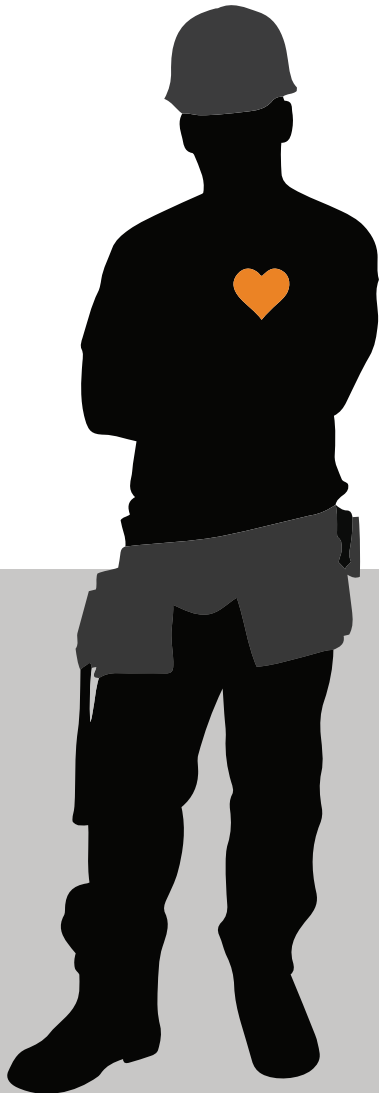
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A Touchstone Energy® Partner 

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Permit No. 609



# THANK YOU UTILITY WORKERS

it takes a team to  
**POWER OUR**  
*Communities*