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Clarksville office
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Dover office
Bobby Joiner
Gallatin office
Travis Akins
Portland/White House offices
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J. Bryan Watson, South Stewart Co.
Joe H. Whitaker, Sumner Co.

Mission Statement

Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation is committed to meeting the needs of our membership by delivering safe, affordable and reliable services the cooperative way.

The Tennessee Magazine

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Between the Lines

News from your community

'Move over to save a life'

Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation's line crews place themselves in vulnerable positions every day, doing what they must in order to keep the lights on for you and me. They can obey all the rules, wear their personal protective equipment, take precautions to ensure proper visibility, follow all the steps to set up a safe and clearly marked work zone ... and still be at risk from irresponsible motorists.

Tennessee's Move Over law is designed to protect folks who might find themselves working along our state's roadways as part of their job performance. This includes operators of emergency vehicles, tow trucks, highway maintenance vehicles, solid waste trucks and (near and dear to my heart, not surprisingly) utility vehicles. The law requires that motorists move over to an adjacent lane of traffic and/or slow down. With a maximum fine of \$500 for violating this law and the likelihood of up to 30 days in jail, you'd think that people would adhere to a rule intended to save lives. But the sad fact is the Move Over Law is regularly flouted by irresponsible drivers — and no less than the safety and wellbeing of our line crews are at stake when this occurs.

The circumstances vary, although none of the reasons for ignoring the law is valid. Perhaps you're in a hurry to get somewhere, or maybe you're simply not paying attention.



By Chris A. Davis
*General Manager,
Cumberland Electric
Membership
Corporation*

You may be driving along a busy highway, or perhaps you're on a rural backroad. It may be the middle of the day, at twilight or on a foggy morning. But regardless of the weather conditions or the location, keep in mind that for that moment in time, in that place, you are entering someone's workspace. And if you do so at a high rate of speed or without allowing proper distancing, you can be endangering a life.

There are things we can all do to make our roadways safer places to work. Keep an eye out for those orange cones and barrels. Watch for signs indicating work crews ahead. Pay close attention to flaggers, and wait your turn to proceed. Yield to oncoming traffic, and give work vehicles a wide berth. And as you drive past these locations, remember that the folks who are performing their jobs in these roadside work zones are there for the benefit of all of us.

They deserve our respect — and our consideration.

Director candidates must meet Aug. 3 deadline

Members of Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation who are interested in serving on the board of directors can obtain petitions from the general manager's office. Each petition must be signed by at least 15 members.

The petition must be completed and turned back in by the deadline of **Tuesday, Aug. 3**, which is 60 days prior to the 2021 annual meeting. This year's meeting will be held Saturday, Oct. 2, at Stewart County High School in Dover.

An election will be held for the following director positions: South Stewart, North Robertson and North Sumner.

Anyone with a valid membership in good standing as of Aug. 3 can vote in director elections. Those applying for membership after Aug. 3 will not be eligible to vote in this year's election but

are welcome to attend the meeting and register for prizes.

(CEMC Bylaws Article 3 — Section 3.05)



Project Help: Neighbors helping neighbors

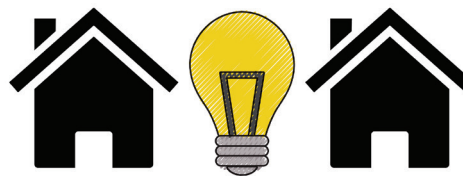
Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation, in cooperation with local energy assistance agencies, offers a program in which members who choose to participate can donate \$1 or more each month to help provide some relief to individuals who are struggling to pay their utility bills.

The program, Project Help, uses the donations to help pay the utility bills of the elderly, disabled and/or those who are not economically self-sufficient. Project Help is a voluntary program. All money collected from Project Help goes to energy assistance agencies in our communities that determine how these special funds are distributed.

If you would like to contribute to Project Help, you can do so by marking the box on your bill stub and completing the Project Help section on the back of your bill. Or contact CEMC customer service by phone at 1-800-987-2362.

By donating to Project Help, you can help provide some relief to individuals who are struggling to pay their utility bills. A dollar a month can truly make a difference.

Project Help



NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS



QCN excellence leads to energy savings

By Joseph Woodard, CEMC Energy Programs Inspector

The Residential Services program (formerly eScore) began in 2015 to help homeowners achieve energy savings through quality upgrades to their homes. Upgrades can be installed to increase a home's energy efficiency, and the homeowner receives rebates and financing options on top of the annual energy savings from the measures installed.

Residential Services=direct savings

Since January 2015, Residential Services has helped more than 2,000 Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation members make home improvement choices to save more than 3.3 million kilowatt-hours — equating to nearly \$335,000 in energy savings on top of \$600,000 in rebates paid directly to CEMC members.

QCN members perform admirably

The Residential Services program's success is directly attributed to the contractors who make it possible. The Quality Contractor Network (QCN) provides trained, reputable, local companies that are dedicated to quality installation and materials to ensure that each participating CEMC member can achieve full potential savings. These contractors go the extra mile to ensure that the installations are completed correctly in a timely manner and that the homeowners can fully realize the anticipated savings for the life of the equipment.

Many of these companies have been part of the QCN for decades, and these relationships strengthen the message that CEMC wants to be an energy partner, not

just an energy provider. We are thankful for these local companies that contribute to CEMC members receiving the utmost service and savings from the work the contractors provide.

By the numbers

In 2020, QCN members earned CEMC members \$11,500 in rebates and an estimated 329,062 kWh in energy savings. A total of 122 heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) upgrades were performed to more than 115 homes. Installs include new heat pumps and central air conditioners as well as tune-ups and new or sealed existing ductwork.

Some 1,400 other home upgrades — including attic insulation, air sealing, window and door replacement and water heaters — contributed to lowering energy costs across CEMC's territory with direct savings to those homeowners.

Top performers

Each year, CEMC awards the top performing QCN members in each region with the QCN Excellence Award. This year, Baggett Heating & Cooling in the Western Region and Derryberry's Heat & Air in the Eastern Region earned awards. These locally owned businesses achieved a combined 21,968 kWh annual savings to the CEMC service area by installing 42 measures across 40 homes in 2020, resulting in more than \$5,000 in rebates generated to homeowners.

If you are looking to make some energy-efficient upgrades to your home, visit us online at cemc.org/services.html to learn more.



Nick Brosche accepts the Eastern Region's 2020 QCN Excellence Award for Derryberry's Heat & Air.



Winner of the Western Region's 2020 QCN Excellence Award is Baggett Heating & Cooling.

Keep cool this summer without blasting the A/C

There's no need to lose your cool when you get your summer electric bill during the hottest days of the year. Instead, try some alternatives to cranking up the air conditioning when the sun is blazing and it hasn't rained in days.

1. Install a dehumidifier. If it feels as humid inside your home as it does outdoors, there's too much water in the indoor air. If you see water dripping out of the air conditioner or if you have to set it so low that you're freezing just to feel comfortable humidity-wise, the dehumidifier will help.

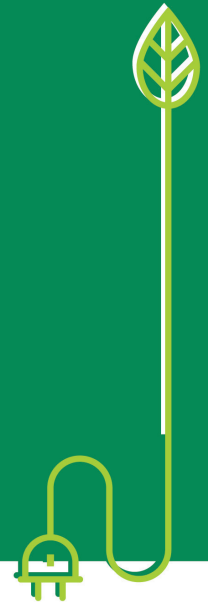
2. Cook outdoors or eat cold food. Salads, raw veggies and fruit make great summer meals, and they don't require you to turn on the stove or oven, which can make the air in the kitchen too warm. Instead, gather the family for a barbecue and fire up the outdoor grill or serve a cold buffet on extra-hot evenings.

3. Hang bright curtains. Red, orange and yellow tend to deflect heat, so for curtains, those colors are energy efficient. Closing the curtains or blinds during the day will keep sunrays from heating up the home you're trying to keep cool. Or install solar screens or a window tint to let in the light but keep out the heat.

4. Run fans. Ceiling fans with blades turning counterclockwise pull heat up out of the room and send a soft breeze down into it, so anybody nearby

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

During summer months, run large appliances that emit heat (like clothes dryers and dishwashers) during the evening when it's cooler. This will minimize indoor heat during the day when outdoor temperatures are highest.



will feel cooler. Portable electric fans placed in windows facing outward can suck heat out of a room on days when you want to give your A/C a break.

5. Run your dishwasher and clothes washer and dryer after dark. Appliances that use heat to operate also throw some heat into the rooms where they are located. So run them during the coolest part of the day.

Remember to check your A/C filters

Even if you have your central air conditioning unit professionally inspected and maintained every spring as you should, that doesn't let you off the hook for keeping A/C filters clean.

The filters collect dust and dirt that otherwise would fly around inside your house along with the cool air the A/C blows out. When the filter is full, that cool air can't get through to your house.

When that happens, the A/C has to work extra hard to do its job. The harder it works, the more energy it uses. The more energy it uses, the more electricity you pay for.

Forcing the unit to work overtime can shorten its life because it will wear out quicker.

It's a good idea to change or clean the filters once a month during air conditioning season.

You'll find your filter or filters inside of the air-return vents on or near the ceiling or close to the floor. Here's how to check the filter:

- Remove the vent cover, which is usually screwed into place.
- Visually inspect the filter for dirt, dust and discoloration.
- If it looks dirty, replace it. You can buy disposable filters at a home store or hardware store.
- If your filter is reusable and not disposable, vacuum it to remove the dust.
- For an especially dirty reusable filter, rinse it in the bathtub or laundry room sink. Let it air-dry completely before replacing it.
- Repeat every month.

Student art featured in 2022 CEMC calendars

Students from schools throughout Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation's service area submitted hundreds of entries for the 2022 CEMC Calendar Art Contest. The winners have been selected, and although the calendars will not be available until November, we could not resist sharing a sneak peek of a few of the winners!

Contest winners will receive cash prizes and have their artwork published in one of three different 2022 calendars offered. Calendars are free and will be available at each of CEMC's district business offices beginning in November.

If you would like to see your student's artwork featured in the 2023 CEMC calendar, be sure to watch for the January 2022 issue of *The Tennessee Magazine* for entry details.

Thank you to all who submitted artwork and the teachers and parents who encouraged participation.



Overall winner — Ally Beecher
Sycamore Middle School



Max Miers
Stewart County High School



Jasmyn Smith
Stewart County High School



Roisin Flanagan
Merrol Hyde Magnet School

Stay safe over the Fourth of July

With the pandemic winding down in many areas, cooped-up social-distancers are likely to be out in droves to celebrate the Fourth of July this year. Make your holiday a safe one for your family by following some commonsense rules for celebrating with and near electricity.

1. Keep fireworks far away from overhead power lines. If fireworks are legal in your community and you choose to set them off yourself, keep them at least 10 feet away from power lines and 35 feet away from high-voltage wires.

2. Keep an eye on your grill. Whether it's electric, gas or charcoal, do not leave a hot grill unattended, even for a few minutes. A grill's intense heat can

easily harm children or pets. Plus, if flames are involved, you need to be there if they get out of control. Cooking accidents are the leading cause of house fires.

3. If you need an extension cord to plug in your grill or another cooking appliance, do not use that cord on more than one device at a time. And do not plug extension cords into each other; they're not designed for that. They can overheat and cause a fire.

4. Keep the grill, blender, TV and other appliances away from the pool and from all water sources. Even if you're a safe distance away from the water, unplug the appliance as soon as you're finished using it.

5. Have a working fire extinguisher on hand.



**HAPPY FOURTH
OF JULY**

CEMC will be closed Monday, July 5, in observance of Independence Day. Crews will be available in the event of an outage by calling 1-800-987-2362.

4TH OF JULY

WORDSEARCH

P Z Y R L L A A S B J Q R F S A U H
G R N C U I U C M T B S Q T T R S Z
M E V U F B F J E E A L L W A U P Z
J D B N N E M R Y L R R U N T L A B
A J R I D R R S E K E I S E E W R A
U N E T H T T H F E B B C V S S K R
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T V F L A G F I R E W O R K S R D E
P A R A D E U U Y M U P I C N I C N

WORD BANK

America Celebrate Food July Picnic Stars Summer
Barbecue Fireworks Freedom Liberty Red States United
Blue Flag Independence Parade Sparklers Stripes White

We wish you a happy and safe Independence Day filled with lots of food, family, and fun. As always, we are so grateful for the opportunity to serve our members and their communities!



www.CumberlandConnect.org