

# ANNUAL MEETING UPDATE

## DIRECTOR VOTING CONDUCTED VIA DRIVE-THRU

Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation's 2021 Annual Member Meeting, originally scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 2, at Stewart County High School, has been canceled due to safety concerns surrounding the rising number of COVID-19 cases in our communities.

**Drive-thru voting for director elections will be held at each CEMC office on Friday, Oct. 1, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and again on Saturday, Oct. 2, from 8 to 11 a.m.**

By voting in CEMC's director elections, members will be registered automatically for a chance to win electric bill credits.

Election results will be announced on our website, [www.cemc.org](http://www.cemc.org), and on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Results will also be published in *The Tennessee Magazine*.



## Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation

*An equal opportunity provider and employer*

### CEMC Management and Staff

**Chris A. Davis**, General Manager

**David Abernathy**,  
Engineering and Operations  
Division Manager

**Annebelle Chester**,  
Administrative Division Manager

**Mark T. Cook, P.E.**,

Broadband Manager

**Michael Blackwell**,  
District Operations Manager

**Jonathan Fielder**,  
Engineering Services Manager

**Seth Roberts**,  
Member Services Manager

**Brad Taylor**,  
Financial Services Manager

**Beau Baggett**,  
Manager of Member Experience

### District Managers

**Ashland City office: Josh Gill**

**Clarksville office: Kenny Davis**

**Dover office: Bobby Joiner**

**Gallatin office: Travis Akins**

**Portland/White House offices:**

**Scott Brown**

**Springfield office: Chad Crabtree**

### CEMC Board of Directors

**Tommy G. Whittaker**,  
Sumner Co., President

**Wesley H. Aymett**,  
Cheatham Co., Vice President

**Shela K. Williams**,

At Large, Secretary-Treasurer

**K. Jean Beauchamp**, Robertson Co.,

Assistant Secretary-Treasurer

**Charles R. Hancock**, Stewart Co.

**Michael A. Mason**, Robertson Co.

**C. David Morgan**, Montgomery Co.

**Edward L. Oliver**, Montgomery Co.

**J. Bryan Watson**, Stewart Co.

**Eddie Swan**, 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*

## Join us for CEMC's 83rd annual meeting

Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation's 83rd annual meeting is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 2, and we hope you will make plans to attend! The meeting will be held at Stewart County High School, located at 120 Robertson Hill Road in Dover. This is the first time in our 83-year history to hold our cooperative's biggest event in Stewart County, and we are certainly looking forward to it!

Doors will open at 8 a.m. for registration and voting, and the business session begins at 10 a.m. Between times, we invite you to enjoy a complimentary breakfast, browse through the selection of door prizes to be given away and pick up your annual meeting gift (one per registered member, while supplies last). Musical entertainment will be provided by the Backlot Pickers, and the Youth Corner — including age-appropriate prizes — will also be available.

An election to fill three seats on our board of directors will be held, the results of which will be announced during the business session. You can learn more about the candidates on pages 20-21 of this magazine. We will

also highlight the financial report and give a summary of the cooperative's activities during the past fiscal year.

Early voting will be available on Friday, Oct. 1, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at each of CEMC's district offices for those who are unable to attend the meeting. Names of those who vote early will be entered in a drawing at their voting locations for a chance to win \$100 electric bill credits.


The annual meeting is a perfect opportunity for members to learn more about their electric cooperative, catch up with friends and neighbors, and, most importantly, vote in director elections. Make plans to join us in Dover on Oct. 2 for our annual meeting. You might even win a prize!



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

**Please note: Event details are subject to change due to COVID-19. Please visit [cemc.org](http://cemc.org) and monitor CEMC's social media channels for the latest information.**



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative   
*The power of human connections*

# Meet CEMC's director candidates

**T**hree seats on Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation's board of directors will be filled during the cooperative's 2021 annual meeting Saturday, Oct. 2, at Stewart County High School in Dover.

Members will elect directors to fill the South Stewart, North Robertson and North Sumner positions.

CEMC's nominating committee met July 13 and recommended incumbent directors James B. Watson, Michael A. Mason and Tommy G. Whittaker for re-election for new three-year terms. Nominated by petition is Dawn Graves Arnold, who is vying for the North Robertson county seat.

## South Stewart County — James B. Watson

The nominee from South Stewart County is James (Bryan) Watson of Dover. Watson was appointed in December 2020 to serve the remainder of the term of Steve Douglass, who passed away Oct. 26, 2020.

Watson, who is a graduate of Murray State University, serves as the branch manager and vice president of the Dover branch of F&M Bank, a position he has held for the past 20 of his 39-year career in the banking industry.

Watson also serves as director of Mid-Cumberland Area Development Corporation, chairman of Stewart County Economic Community Development, chairman of the Stewart County Industrial Development Board and finance committee chairman and backpack program volunteer at Fort Donelson Memorial United Methodist Church and is an EdPro Development Inc. board member.

He and his wife, Tracy, reside in Dover. The Watsons have two grown daughters, Jessica and Kristin, and five grandchildren.



Watson



Mason



Arnold



Whittaker

## North Robertson County — Michael A. Mason

Michael (Andy) Mason is the nominee from North Robertson County, an area he has represented since 1997.

Mason is a graduate of the University of Tennessee where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in animal science in 1979. He has continued his education since becoming a director in 1997 and holds Credentialed Cooperative Director, Board Leadership and Director Gold certificates from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

Mason is a self-employed turfgrass farmer in Springfield where he and his wife, Denise, have raised three daughters: Kayla, Kari and Kelsi. The Masons also have two sons-in-law, Adam and J.C., two grandsons, Collins and Kason, and one granddaughter, Laynee. Andy and Denise are members of Temple Baptist Church in White House, and they are also helping in the continuing of a ministry with Springfield Fellowship.

"It has been an honor to serve as one of your directors," says Mason. "I am excited that I have been involved in helping get Cumberland Connect up and running. But we still have work to do so all members will have the same opportunity to enjoy fast internet."

## North Robertson County — Dawn Graves Arnold

Nominated by petition for director of North Robertson County is Dawn Graves Arnold of Adams.

Arnold most recently served as key account director for E Source, a research and consulting firm where she was employed for nine years. Prior

to her employment with E Source, Arnold worked for the Tennessee Valley Authority for 23 years before retiring as general manager of distributor delivery.

Arnold is a graduate of Middle Tennessee State University where she received a Bachelor of Science degree in computer science with minors in math and aerospace. She completed the Vanderbilt University Owen Graduate School Emerging Leaders Program, received certification as a Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer and is a Tennessee Valley Public Power Association Certified Power Executive.

Arnold attends Porters Chapel United Methodist Church where she has served on the board and various committees. She is a member of the Women’s International Network of Utility Professionals, Women Leaders — The Global Association of Women Leaders and Executives, a former Junior Achievement teacher at public schools, a loan executive for Combined Federal Campaign and an associate member of Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association and Tennessee Municipal Electric Power Association through her employment with E Source.

Arnold and her husband, David, are the parents of a son, Blake, and daughter, Ashley.

“I have a sincere interest and passion to serve the CEMC members,” says Arnold. “I would like to help keep the cooperative business model and find ways to continue to bring you low-cost, reliable and environmentally friendly electricity. I was born, raised and continue to live in Robertson County and would like to give back to the community and all CEMC members by using my 30-plus years of experience in the utility industry.”

#### **North Sumner County — Tommy G. Whittaker**

North Sumner County’s board nominee is Tommy G. Whittaker of Portland, who has served on the board since 2004 and has been board president since 2014.

Whittaker is president and CEO of The Farmers Bank in Portland where he has been employed for 45 years.

A 1974 business administration graduate of the University of Tennessee, Mr. Whittaker is a member of the Portland Lions Club and the Portland Industrial Development Board. He has also completed the required coursework for Credentialed Cooperative Director, Board Leadership and Director Gold certifications from NRECA.

Whittaker and his wife, Shirley, are the parents of a daughter, Susan; son, Joseph; and grandson, Grayson.



2021 Nominating Committee — From left are, back row, Dale Binkley, Montgomery County; Joe Henry, Cheatham County; Robert Lyle, Montgomery County; Rylee Alcorn, Robertson County; Penny Barnes, Sumner County; and Nicole Minnis, Sumner County. Front row: Sandra Saunders, Montgomery County; Lisa Collins, Stewart County; and Connie Rosson, Montgomery County.

# Did someone mention prizes?

Here's a peek at some of the prizes to be given away at this year's annual meeting



The Gatlinburg Getaway includes a Visa gift card for lodging, tickets to Dollywood, a gas card and a Peddler gift card.



The Pick Tennessee Products Package includes a quilt made by Bona Perry, two Hinkle rocking chairs and Lodge cast-iron skillets.

**The Backyard Fun Package includes a Blackstone 17-inch Electric Tabletop Griddle, Blackstone grilling accessories and a yard game.**



The Home Security Package includes a Ring Alarm Home Security System and a Ring Video Doorbell.

**GRAND PRIZE**

The Lowe's logo is displayed in white text on a blue background with a house silhouette.

The Grand Prize is a "create-your-own" energy-efficiency makeover from Lowe's. The winner will receive a Lowe's gift card.



The Explore Outdoor Package includes a Pelican kayak and paddle and an adult universal life vest.

**The Youth Corner will feature age-appropriate prizes for kids, including bikes and various gift cards.**

**Six college scholarships worth**

A pink piggy bank is shown wearing a black graduation cap and holding a rolled-up diploma tied with a red ribbon.

**\$500 each will be given away!**

**Multiple bill credits valued between \$50 and \$250 will be awarded!**

# Fall checklist: Check for safety, maintenance issues

The blistering summer heat isn't far behind us, but it won't be long until heating season arrives and the house is full of company for the holidays.

Head off any potential problems by scheduling maintenance and safety checks for your home's heating and electrical devices now. Here's where to start:

**Furnace.** A qualified HVAC tech should do a twice-a-year check of your system: once in the fall for heating and again in the spring for air conditioning. Before you need to turn on the heat, make sure yours is in good working condition. The tech can spot problems before they ruin your system or shut down when your house is full of company.

**Thermostats.** If your home doesn't have a programmable thermostat, you could be paying more to heat and cool your home than you have to. Programmable thermostats automatically turn the heat up or down depending on the times of day when your family is home or away.

**Ground-fault circuit interrupters.** A licensed electrician can install GFCIs in your bathroom, kitchen

and laundry room; around hot tubs and pools; and under windows. All of those areas have the potential to get wet. A GFCI will shut off the electricity to an appliance that does. In addition, it can interrupt a circuit if it's overcharged.

**Smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors.** If you don't have them near all bedrooms in your home, it's time to install them. Then, check them twice a year to make sure they're still working and that they have fresh batteries.

**Overloaded outlets.** You can overload an electrical circuit by plugging an appliance that uses a heavy amount of electricity — like a range, dishwasher, refrigerator or even some entertainment systems and exercise equipment — into a circuit that is designed for a smaller load. You can also overload a circuit by using a power strip to plug too many appliances into a single outlet. Ask a licensed electrician to inspect your home for potential circuit overloads, which can cause fires.



The offices of Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation will be closed Monday, Sept. 6, in observance of Labor Day.

CEMC personnel will be available in the event of an outage by calling 1-800-987-2362.

CEMC wishes you a safe and happy Labor Day!

# Don't fall victim to utility scams

Every day, millions of Americans are targeted by scammers online, in person and through phone calls, emails and text messages. Scammers' tactics can change daily, which is why it's important for consumers to stay on top of the latest scam reports from local and national news outlets as well as your local utility companies.

This past year, we've heard several reports of Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation members who were targeted through phone scams where the callers demanded immediate payment and threatened to shut off power if the money was not received. Remember: CEMC will never call members, asking for personal account information, demanding payment, soliciting services or asking for credit card information either over the phone, online or in person.

We want you to be aware of two trending scam tactics. One is the overpayment trick, where a scammer contacts you and claims that you have overpaid your utility bill. The scammers will say they need your personal banking information to deposit the credit back to your checking account. Don't fall for this trick! If you make an overpayment on your energy bill, CEMC will automatically apply the credit to your account, which will carry over to your next billing cycle. Another trending scam is smishing (short for SMS phishing). Many consumers know to watch out for suspicious emails, but we tend to trust text messages sent to our smartphones. Always question suspicious texts, especially from someone claiming to represent a utility. CEMC will only send you important updates via text if you've signed up for our SmartHub notifications. These are just a couple examples of trending scams, so it's important to watch for any red flags.



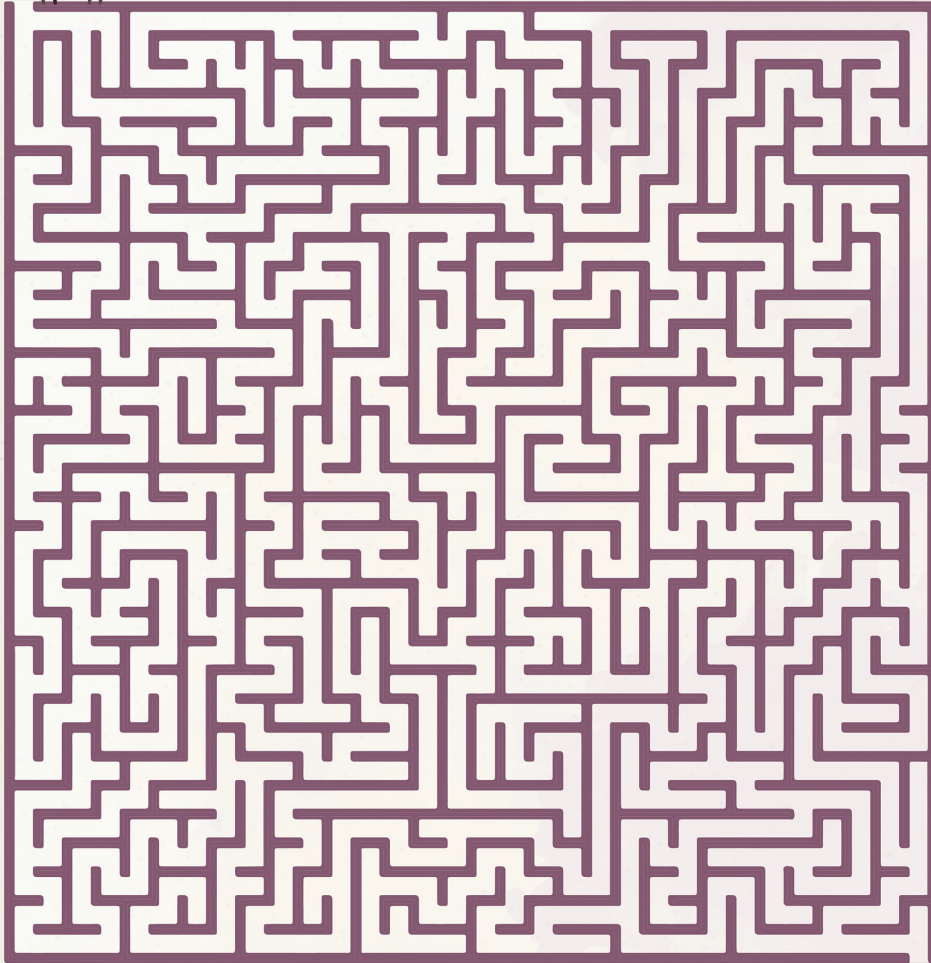
- Our employees will never show up at your door to demand payment.
- Never give personal information to an unknown caller or visitor. Our representatives have access to the details they need to service your account.
- Demands for immediate payment by wire transfer, cryptocurrency, gift cards or cash reload cards should immediately raise red flags.
- If you think you've been contacted by a scammer falsely representing the co-op, please let us know as soon as possible.

Here are a few reminders on how to take control of the situation when you've been targeted by a scammer:

- **Take your time.** Utility scammers try to create a sense of urgency so that you'll act fast and hand over personal information, especially over the phone. Take a moment to think about the situation before acting.
- **Be suspicious.** Scammers typically request immediate payments through prepaid debit cards or third-party apps. Unusual requests like this should raise red flags. Remember: If the request seems strange and out of the ordinary, you're likely being targeted by a scammer.
- **Confirm before you act.** If you're contacted by someone claiming to represent CEMC or another utility but you're unsure, just hang up the phone and call the utility directly. You can reach us at 1-800-987-2362 to verify the situation.

Our increasingly connected world provides scammers with more opportunities to connect with unsuspecting consumers. Be vigilant, and please report any utility scams to CEMC so we can let others in our community know. Together, we can help prevent our friends and neighbors from being victimized.

September is here, and we are excited for all things fall! Whether it's enjoying the fall breeze, autumn leaves, hayrides, and s'mores — or staying inside to stream your favorite movies — September brings the perfect season for lots of family fun!



Solve the maze above and help the deer find its way home!



[www.CumberlandConnect.org](http://www.CumberlandConnect.org)

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