

Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation

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Mission Statement

Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation is committed to providing dependable, affordable electric service through the expertise and dedication of competent leadership and a well-trained and responsive workforce.

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Co-op Concerns

News from your community

A life on the line

In December 2014, the board of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association adopted a resolution recognizing the second Monday of April as National Lineman Appreciation Day. This event was first observed the next year on April 10.

In the years since, there has been some confusion about which day to observe the annual event. Some utilities choose to follow the pattern set the first year and celebrate on April 10. Others stick with the intention of the original resolution and celebrate on the second Monday of April.

Regardless of when we observe National Lineman Appreciation Day, there should be no confusion about this: Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation's 75 lineworkers are dedicated servants who deserve more honor than they receive.

CEMC maintains 8,000 miles of energized distribution line, and we keep the lights on 99.96 percent of the time. In 2018, the average outage on our system lasted only 106 minutes. While that may seem like an eternity when you are missing your favorite TV show, it is remarkably efficient when you consider that a lineman had to stop what he was doing, gather the correct equipment and materials, drive to who-knows-where and make a repair — likely in weather conditions that were not ideal.

Every day, our lineworkers put their lives on the line. For us, this means two things.

This career involves a certain amount of risk. In 2018, electrical lineworker was ranked as the 13th most dangerous job in the country — just behind law enforcement officers. Our lineworkers are extensively trained, and they watch one another's backs, but heights, high voltage, distracted drivers and other risks

are always present. Each day, our lineworkers put their lives on the line.

It also means that their lives are frequently interrupted by the demands of the job. The phone might ring at any time. They are asked to leave birthday parties and ballgames. They get up in the middle of the night, put on their boots and leave their families. Their lives, and the lives of their loved ones, are impacted by what happens out on our distribution lines. It is more than a job — again, they very much put their lives on the line.

I've seen our lineworkers return to the office after a big storm. Their coats are soaked, their hands are dirty and their faces wear both the pride of a job well done and the exhaustion of a night with no sleep. These good people are the first-responders of the utility industry, and I personally appreciate all they do for our co-op and our community.

Please join us in celebrating the hard work and sacrifice of our lineworkers on National Lineman Appreciation Day. You can also recognize lineworkers you know on social media with the hashtag #thankalinenman.

We plan to celebrate on April 8, but the date doesn't really matter.

Whether it is April 8 or some other day, the next time you see one of our lineworkers out around town, I hope you will take a moment to give him a pat on the back, buy him a cup of coffee or just say, "Thanks for putting your life on the line."



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

CEMC pays \$3.9 million in property taxes

As a business locally owned by its members, Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation pays our fair share of ad valorem property taxes in Cheatham, Dickson, Montgomery, Robertson, Stewart and Sumner counties.

This year, we paid \$3.9 million in property taxes. The taxes we pay are based on the assessed value of

the cooperative's electrical distribution system (consisting of such items as poles, wires, transformers, meters and property) located in the counties we serve.

The taxes we pay are used by our communities to pay teachers, police officers and firemen, build roads and parks and fund many other activities that are important to our co-op members.

Comparison of 2017 and 2018 ad valorem taxes

	2018 taxes paid	2017 taxes paid	Dollar difference	Percentage change
Cheatham County	\$367,076.00	\$384,267.00	(17,191.00)	-4.47%
Ashland City	16,833.00	13,827.00	3,006.00	21.74%
Dickson County	4,619.00	5,634.00	(1,015.00)	-18.02%
Montgomery County	1,231,745.00	1,227,554.00	4,191.00	0.34%
Clarksville	126,859.00	129,101.00	(2,242.00)	-1.74%
Robertson County	875,360.00	849,298.00	26,062.00	3.07%
Adams	6,882.00	6,889.00	(7.00)	-0.10%
Cedar Hill	1,217.58	946.52	272.06	28.77%
Coopertown	6,836.96	5,704.66	1,132.30	19.85%
Greenbrier	20,970.90	14,900.88	6,070.02	40.74%
Springfield	16,616.00	16,163.00	453.00	2.80%
White House	22,196.00	20,777.00	1,419.00	6.83%
Ridgetop	9,976.00	10,051.00	(75.00)	-0.75%
Portland	9,000.49	7,705.61	1,294.88	16.80%
Millersville	4,090.00	2,899.00	1,191.00	41.08%
Stewart County	312,850.00	302,518.00	10,332.00	3.42%
Cumberland City	2,458.68	2,597.43	(138.75)	-5.34%
Dover	44,120.00	44,287.00	(167.00)	-0.38%
Sumner County	700,343.10	792,663.05	(92,319.95)	-11.65%
Gallatin	22,560.00	23,437.00	(877.00)	-3.74%
Hendersonville	15,832.00	17,098.00	(1,266.00)	-7.40%
Millersville	6,017.00	4,327.00	1,690.00	39.06%
Mitchellville	5,442.75	6,382.66	(939.91)	-14.73%
Portland	78,424.79	77,670.95	753.84	0.97%
White House	23,244.00	27,286.00	(4,042.00)	-14.81%
Total Taxes Paid	3,931,570.25	3,993,984.76	(62,413.51)	-1.56%

Co-ops meet legislators, Gov. Lee during 2019 Day on the Hill

More than 150 electric co-op members from across the state were in Nashville Feb. 11 and 12 for the 2019 Legislative Conference to deliver an important message to lawmakers: Electric co-ops are important to Tennessee.

The 2018 election brought seven new senators and 26 new representatives to this year's General Assembly. Co-op members, directors and staff met with familiar faces and with many new ones during 100 separate meetings with lawmakers on Feb. 12.

Representing Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation at the Legislative Conference were General Manager Chris Davis, Operations Manager David Abernathy and directors Tommy Whittaker, Jeannie Beauchamp, Steve Douglass, Andy Mason and David Morgan.

"While many of these freshman legislators know about co-ops, some do not," says CEMC General Manager Chris Davis. "It is important for us to tell the story of electric co-ops, and we went to Nashville to deliver a powerful message: Rural and suburban Tennessee matter, and electric co-ops are a big part of their growth and prosperity."

"State lawmakers are often asked to make tough decisions that can impact electric co-ops and the lives of the 2.5 million consumers they serve," says Mike Knotts, vice president of government affairs for TECA. "Electric co-ops maintain a presence in Nashville and Washington, D.C., to help lawmakers understand how legislation will impact the people back home."

During visits, co-op members spoke to legislators about local governance, tax issues, broadband and other



CEMC staff and directors meet with Rep. Sabi Kumar during the 2019 Legislative Conference in Nashville. From left are Kumar, Jeannie Beauchamp, Andy Mason and Chris Davis.

regulatory concerns that affect the ability of electric co-ops to provide affordable and reliable energy and other services that matter to rural and suburban communities.

The evening after the visits, Gov. Bill Lee stressed the importance of rural Tennessee while speaking with electric co-op leaders.

"I grew up in rural Tennessee, so rural issues matter a lot," said Lee, a resident of Fernvale and member of Middle Tennessee Electric Membership Corporation. "I think what happens in rural Tennessee should matter to every Tennessean. That's why our first executive order was in fact to strengthen our rural communities and to require every department of state government to give an impact statement on how they impact rural communities."

Lee spent nearly an hour with co-op members and staff discussing the administration's plans and policy positions and the role that co-ops play in the communities they serve. Broadband was a popular topic of discussion.

"In my own home, we don't have broadband," said Lee. "I have firsthand experience what a challenge that can be. I don't run my business out of my home, and I am not educating children there, but I have a taste of how difficult that would be. It is really important that we continue to expand broadband service so that Tennesseans all across the state have access to it."

Electric co-ops are best known for energy, but they have far-reaching impacts on rural and suburban areas of the state. From economic development to youth programs to broadband expansion, electric co-ops enable many Tennessee communities to grow and prosper. Learn more at tnelectric.org/cooportunity.



Board President Tommy Whittaker, left, speaks to Gov. Bill Lee during the Legislative Conference.

Switch to paperless billing, and you could win a \$100 electric bill credit!

paperless billing 

All Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation members enrolled in paperless billing prior to Monday, April 22, will be entered into a drawing for **\$100 electric bill credits**. A total of five lucky members will win! To sign up, visit www.cemc.org, log in to your SmartHub account and choose “Yes” to turn off paper bills when prompted. It’s that easy! If you are already signed up for paperless billing, you will be automatically entered in the contest.

Paperless billing members receive an email notification when the bill is ready each month.



CEMC Member Appreciation Day coming May 16

Join us at your local CEMC office on Thursday, May 16, for Member Appreciation Day! We’ll be serving a FREE picnic lunch consisting of hot dogs, chips, cookies and soft drinks from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at each CEMC office (Dover, Clarksville, Ashland City, Springfield, White House, Portland and Gallatin locations).

Members can also register for a chance to win electric grills, one of which will be given away at each location. (Only one entry per household, please. Only members in attendance can register.)

We hope to see you there!



Members enjoy food and fellowship at last year's Member Appreciation picnic in Clarksville.

Portland celebrates 78th annual Strawberry Festival

The Portland Chamber of Commerce is making plans for the 78th Annual Middle Tennessee Strawberry Festival and would love to see *you* there! Festival organizers have planned a fun-filled week of activities and entertainment for the whole family beginning Saturday, May 4, and running through Saturday, May 11.

The year's event, themed "Berried Treasure," will feature a free showing of "Pirates of the Caribbean" May 10 and a meet-and-greet with "Capt. Jack Sparrow" May 11.

For more information about the 2019 Strawberry Festival and a complete schedule of events, visit www.middletnstrawberryfestival.net or call the Portland Chamber of Commerce at 615-325-9032. Be sure to check out the following lineup of events, and make plans to join the fun. And don't forget to pick up some of Portland's famous fruit at the festival!

May 4: Strawberry Pageant sponsored by Portland High School cheerleaders.

May 4: Strawberry Slam Wrestling Event featuring Jeff Jarrett at 7 p.m. at the Portland High School gym. Visit www.prowrestlingent.com to purchase tickets.

May 7-11: Enjoy the carnival fun all week at Richland Park.

May 7: Annual Four-Person Golf Scramble at Kenny Perry's Country Creek Golf Course in Franklin, Kentucky. Entry fee is \$ 400 per team and includes breakfast and lunch.

May 8: Strawberry Story Hour: 3:30-4:30 p.m. at the Portland Public Library.

May 10: Movie on Main Street presented by Spine Stop Chiropractic. Free showing of "Pirates of the Caribbean" at 7 p.m. Seating, vendors and activities begin at 6 p.m.

May 11: Festival day!

- Portland Rotary Club Pancake Breakfast — 7 a.m. at First Baptist Portland.
- Strawberry Stride 5K and fun run sponsored by Portland Athletics — 8 a.m. at Portland High School.
- Kid Town USA, where it's all about the kids. Main Street is full of inflatable jumps, obstacle courses and more. Play all day for \$5.



- Strawberry Jam Live Entertainment from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Market Street.
- Strawberry Lane: Strawberries for sale — while supplies last — beginning at 11 a.m.
- Visit more than 100 vendors in three locations.
- Bingo beginning at 1 p.m.
- Mascot Meet-and-Greet at 3 p.m. followed by the Mascot Race at 3:45 p.m.
- Parade begins at 4 p.m. Applications for entry are available online.
- Free concert featuring Lee Gibson on Market Street at 6 p.m. Bring a lawn chair or rent one for \$2 — while supplies last.
- A fireworks display immediately follows the concert at 8:30 p.m.

The chamber and the city of Portland look forward to seeing new and familiar faces at the 78th Annual Strawberry Festival!



BENEFITS OF TREE TRIMMING

Clearing trees and overgrown vegetation is vital to provide safe, reliable power to our members.

We clear certain areas in our service territory, known as rights of way, to:

- Keep power lines clear of tree limbs
- Restore power outages more quickly
- Keep crews and members of our community safe
- Reduce unexpected costs for repairs

Vegetation management improves service reliability for you - our members!



Local young leaders learn about government during electric co-op event in Nashville



From left, Sen. Kerry Roberts, students MiKayla Hernandez and Rudy Tucker and CEMC's Stephanie Lobdell meet during the 2019 Youth Leadership Summit in Nashville.

Jo Byrns High School student Rudy Tucker and East Robertson High School student Mikayla Hernandez were in Nashville March 3-6 for the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association's annual Youth Leadership Summit. The juniors were chosen by school guidance counselors and sponsored by Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation. Delegates to the annual event receive a hands-on look at state government, learn networking and leadership skills and develop a better understanding of their local electric cooperatives.

While in Nashville, the students visited the State Capitol Building where they were welcomed by members of the Tennessee General Assembly. Summit attendees also held a mock session in the Senate Chambers, debating and voting on a bill they developed.

In addition to lawmakers, students also heard from Tennessee leaders like Miss Tennessee 2018 Christine Williamson; Adam Hammond, anchor for Nashville's News Channel 5; and trooper Jeffrey Buchanan and K-9 Major with the Tennessee Executive Protection Detail. The Youth Leadership Summit also included tours of Middle Tennessee

Electric Membership Corporation in Murfreesboro and the Tennessee Valley Authority's Gallatin Steam Plant.

Delegates to the Youth Leadership Summit are encouraged to be leaders in their hometowns and use their talents to improve rural Tennessee. "Local electric co-ops, school officials and guidance counselors chose these deserving students to attend the summit based on their interests in government and strong leadership abilities," says Todd Blocker, Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association vice president of member relations and director of the Youth Leadership Summit. "They will be the next generation of leaders in rural Tennessee, and we want to prepare them for the challenges and opportunities they will face."

"These students will soon be our community leaders — and electric cooperative member-owners," says CEMC General Manager Chris Davis. "We want them to share our passion for rural Middle Tennessee, so it is an honor for CEMC to help prepare them for the opportunities that are ahead. The future of our rural communities depends on a new generation of strong leaders like these."