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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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# Manager's Viewpoint

*News from your community*

## Make your voice heard — vote!

If you pay much attention to the news, it is easy to think that our nation is headed for a crisis. I find the constant bickering and fighting among politicians, political parties and D.C. “experts” terribly frustrating, and I wonder what, if anything, is being accomplished.

In this atmosphere, it should be no surprise that nearly 45 percent of eligible voters chose not to participate in the 2016 presidential election. This means that nearly half of all Americans sat on the sidelines as we elected leaders for our nation. Historically, voter turnout is even lower for midterm, primary and local elections.

American writer Louis L'Amour once said, “To make democracy work, we must be a nation of participants, not simply observers.”

There are several important elections coming up, and I want to encourage you to be a participant, not an observer.

This year, Tennesseans will select a new governor, senator and members of the U.S. House. Locally, you might have a chance to select a new county mayor, sheriff or school board member.

Regardless of how big or small the office, every vote in every race will matter.

In Tennessee, federal and state primaries and county general elections will be held on Thursday, Aug. 2. Federal and state general elections will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 6.



**By Chris A. Davis**  
General Manager,  
Cumberland  
Electric Member-  
ship Corporation

Voting is a part of the DNA at Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation because each year we ask our members to vote for our board of directors. Because our co-op is led by members like you, we are

“Regardless of how big or small the office, every vote in every race will matter.”

responsive to the needs of our community. CEMC members will have an opportunity to vote in director elections Sept. 15 at our annual meeting, which will be held at Portland High School this year. Your input shapes the decisions we make.

America is home to the world's oldest continuous democracy, and our strength depends on active and engaged citizens. Whether it is at the national, state or local level, the more people who vote, the more accurately leadership reflects the will of the people.

We may not always see eye to eye on the issues. We may have differing opinions about which solutions are best. But, perhaps, we can all agree on this: The strength of our nation lies in our freedom to vote.

Whether you vote in every election or have never cast a ballot, I challenge you to study the issues, learn about the candidates and vote.

I hope to see you at the polls.

# CEMC sends short-story winners on Washington Youth Tour

**T**welve students from Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation's service area recently spent a week in our nation's capital as delegates on the 2018 Washington Youth Tour. Lauren Binkley, Pleasant View Christian; Rae Delligatti, Jo Byrns High School; Fulton Earheart, Jo Byrns High School; Anastasia Hawkins, Portland High School; Hunter Hayes, Montgomery Central High School; Eric Herring Jr., Jo Byrns High School; Alaina Horne, Montgomery Central High School; Harley Mathis, Stewart County High School; AJ Sanchez, Portland High School; Samantha Stacey, Springfield High School; and Kalena Taylor and Anna Welker, Stewart County High School, were among 135 students from across Tennessee on the weeklong trip that began Friday, June 8.

The annual event, sponsored by CEMC and the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association, provides young



Youth Tour delegates visit Monticello, home of Thomas Jefferson, our nation's third president and author of the Declaration of Independence. Below, students take a break from exploring the Smithsonian's Museum of Natural History to pose for a photo.

leaders with an opportunity to explore the nation's capital, learn about government and cooperatives and develop their leadership skills. Students were selected for the trip by writing winning short stories titled "Electric Cooperatives — Going Beyond the Wires" that explained how co-ops provide communities with much more than electric power.

"CEMC is pleased to provide this opportunity for the young people in the communities we serve," says Stephanie Lobdell, CEMC community relations coordinator. "It is a great trip and a wonderful chance for these delegates to learn about history, government, co-ops and leadership."

"The investments co-ops make in Youth Tour pay real dividends for these young people and the communities where they live," said Todd Blocker, vice president of member relations for the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association and tour director. "They come home with a deeper understanding of history and government. More importantly, we want them to be prepared to have a positive influence on their hometowns and to consider leadership roles when the opportunities come along."

**On the cover:** In front of the U.S. Capitol are, from left, Back row: Joe Woodard, Anna Welker, Kalena Taylor, Fulton Earheart, Eric Herring Jr., AJ Sanchez and Alaina Horne. Front row: Stephanie Lobdell, Harley Mathis, Lauren Binkley, Rae Delligatti, Anastasia Hawkins, Hunter Hayes, Samantha Stacey and Melissa Lindsey.





*CEMC's 2018 Washington Youth Tour delegates visit the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial. From left are, back row, Fulton Earheart, Eric Herring Jr., AJ Sanchez, Hunter Hayes, Samantha Stacey, Rae Delligatti, Lauren Binkley, Anastasia Hawkins and Harley Mathis. Front row: Alaina Horne, Anna Welker and Kalena Taylor.*

While in Washington, D.C., Tennessee's Youth Tour delegates saw the White House and memorials to past presidents Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Franklin Delano Roosevelt as well as monuments honoring the sacrifices of veterans of World War II and the Vietnam and Korean Wars. During visits to the museums of the Smithsonian Institution, the touring Tennesseans saw and experienced natural, historical and artistic treasures. Other stops included historic homes of former presidents — George Washington's Mount Vernon and Jefferson's Monticello — as well as Toby's Dinner Theatre, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and International Spy Museum. Among other Youth Tour highlights was a solemn and sobering visit to Arlington National Cemetery where the group laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns.

The group was welcomed to the U.S. Capitol by Sens. Lamar Alexander and Bob Corker and members of the Tennessee congressional delegation who posed for photos and answered questions.

While in D.C., winners were announced in the statewide competition for the Robert McCarty Memorial Scholarships. Silas Freeze from Gibson Electric Membership Corporation was awarded the \$3,000 first-place scholarship for writing the top-judged short story of the more than 10,000 papers submitted across the state. McKinley Thomas from Sequachee Valley Electric Cooperative earned second-place honors and a \$2,000 scholarship, and Mary Kate Sheppard from Forked Deer Electric Cooperative, third place, received a \$1,000 scholarship.

McCarty was an employee of Volunteer Energy Cooperative and longtime chaperone on the annual Youth Tour. He lost a valiant battle with cancer in 2015, and sponsoring cooperatives renamed the scholarships in honor of his love for young people.

Matthew Byrd of Tipton County, a recent graduate of Munford High School, was awarded a \$10,000 Cooperative Youth Ambassador Scholarship. Byrd was a 2017 delegate for Southwest Tennessee Electric Membership Corporation on the Washington Youth Tour. In the year following the tour, delegates who remain engaged with their sponsoring cooperatives and complete certain community service requirements are eligible for the scholarship. Byrd's name was randomly selected from 37 delegates from across the state who completed the requirements.

"The excitement that co-op leaders and chaperones have for these students tells the story," said David Callis, CEO of the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association. "These young people are the next generation of doctors and teachers and farmers in the communities we serve. We want them to be passionate about their communities and prepared to lead when those opportunities come along."

President Lyndon Johnson, as a U.S. senator from Texas in 1957, inspired the Washington Youth Tour when he encouraged electric cooperatives to send youngsters to the nation's capital. In the years since, more than 6,000 young Tennesseans have been delegates on the Washington Youth Tour.

# Coming next month: CEMC's 80th annual meeting

**B**e sure to keep an eye out for next month's issue of *The Tennessee Magazine* as it will contain everything you need to

know about Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation's 80th annual membership meeting.

We hope you will join us Saturday, Sept. 15, at Portland High School for CEMC's biggest event.



Director elections will be held, a complimentary breakfast will be served, entertainment will be provided, youth activities will be available and some exciting prizes will be

given away.

Mark your calendar for Saturday, Sept. 15, and make plans to join us as we celebrate 80 years of serving you!

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## CEMC hosts teacher externship

**T**his summer, Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation participated in the Clarksville-Montgomery County School System's Summer Teacher Externship Program. CEMC hosted six teachers from Montgomery Central, Cumberland Heights and East Montgomery elementary schools who spent two days shadowing engineers, linemen, energy-efficiency experts and other cooperative employees, exploring ways to better understand the application of the subjects they will teach the future workforce. Teachers worked with co-op employees in identifying daily challenges that translate into teachable lessons for students.

The externship program was designed to bring the components of STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) into real-world, work-based scenarios for teachers to improve classroom instruction. CEMC proved to be an excellent fit for the program. The teachers especially found relevance in learning about the electrical distribution system.

"Our community has no idea how fortunate they are to be taken care of by such a passionate and



*Clarksville District Operations Supervisor Kenny Davis discusses the process of setting a power pole with Rachel Stone of Cumberland Heights Elementary while Lynda Trent of East Montgomery Elementary takes photographs. Clarksville-Montgomery County School System teachers toured a CEMC job site during the summer externship program.*

dedicated workforce," says Montgomery Central Elementary School teachers

Candyce Brooks and Misty Habersetzer. "We learned much about the entire electrical distribution process from beginning (TVA) to end (home) that we plan to teach our kiddos."

"It's always a pleasure working with the teachers who are leading the students in our communities," says CEMC Community Relations Coordinator Stephanie Lobdell. "Collaborations such as this externship program help strengthen not only our schools and businesses but our community as a whole."

# An escape plan can save your family during a fire

**I**nstalling smoke and carbon monoxide detectors on every floor of your home — and replacing their batteries twice a year — are important first steps to keeping your family safe in the rare case of an electrical fire.

But when that unexpected alarm sounds, your children can panic.

Before an emergency strikes, prepare your kids — and yourself — to respond calmly and sensibly. The best way to do that is to plan for what everyone should do and where they should go in case of a fire or gas leak.

Here's how to get started:

- Draw a map of the house's floor plan and outline the best escape route. Teach your children what to do if a doorway is blocked by fire. Create an alternate route, especially from the child's room or from areas of the house without easy access to the outdoors.
- Agree on a meeting place outside the house so the family will immediately know when everyone is safe.
- Kids can memorize the familiar fire-safety drill, "Stop, drop and roll," but words alone won't keep them safe. Have children act out the moves. Then make a practice run through your escape routes, and demonstrate to children how they should crawl and stay low to the ground to prevent smoke inhalation.
- If you have a fire extinguisher in the house, show children how to use it. Still, remind them that their safest action is to escape as quickly as possible.
- Keep a cell phone in a visible and easily accessible place in case of emergencies. That way, you can get out of the house and then call 911.
- Don't waste time grabbing documents. Keep important or irreplaceable items like birth certificates and photo negatives in a fireproof box or safe deposit box at the bank.

# Hot days remind us to use energy wisely

**T**he hottest days of summer remind us that poor energy habits can make our homes uncomfortable. It's never too late to make a few changes around the house to help keep things cool. A bonus: You could lower your energy bills during air-conditioning season.

- Check for loose or leaky window panes. And notice if your home still has single-pane windows, which are typically so energy-inefficient that they allow cool air to escape from your home during the summer and hot air to escape in the winter. Replacing old, inefficient windows now is an investment that will pay for itself in energy savings year-round — and keep your home more comfortable, too.
- If you're still using your old stash of incandescent lightbulbs in lamps and overhead fixtures, it's time to make the switch to compact fluorescent bulbs or LED fixtures. Both are far more energy-efficient than old-fashioned light bulbs. One reason: Incandescents produce more heat than light. And that can compete with the job your air-conditioning system is trying to do during the summer.
- When air-conditioner filters get dirty, they get clogged — and the air can't flow freely through them. That forces your A/C to work harder. Replace your dirty air filters once a month during cooling season.
- Install a programmable thermostat, which automatically adjusts the temperature so you use less energy to cool your home when no one is there. The device can save you up to \$100 a year on cooling and heating bills.
- Move appliances and lamps away from your thermostat. Because they emit heat, they can trick your thermostat into "thinking" the house is warmer than it really is — and make your A/C work harder to cool your home more than it needs.



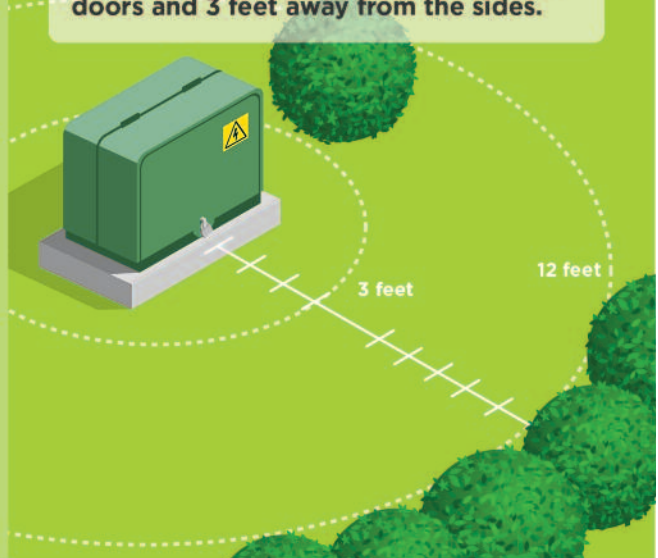
# Avoid the Big Green Box

Please stay away from pad-mounted transformers (the big green box). While safe, they are not meant for touching, climbing or playing. Pad-mounted transformers carry high voltages of electricity that serve many homes in our communities.

Never touch, climb or play on pad-mounted transformers. Never put fingers, sticks or other objects through cracks in the transformer.



Keep areas surrounding the pad-mounted transformer clear so that workers can safely maintain transformers as needed. Keep shrubs and structures at least 12 feet away from the transformer doors and 3 feet away from the sides.



Never dig near a pad-mounted transformer. They are surrounded by underground cables. Hitting the cable could result in electrical shock or disruption of service. Always dial 8-1-1 before you dig.



Report problems. If you notice anything amiss, like an unlocked transformer or one that has been damaged, please contact us immediately.



# Portland hosts Farm to Table Dinner

**S**aturday, Aug. 18, the Portland Chamber of Commerce will host the second annual Farm to Table Dinner. The event held under the lights on Main Street will be catered by Carolyn Berry. Live music and appetizers will start at 7 p.m. with dinner beginning at 7:30 p.m. Assorted wines from Sumner Crest Winery are also included. The acoustic duo Dean & Jerry will provide entertainment.

Tickets are \$75 each and can be purchased at [www.portlandcofc.com](http://www.portlandcofc.com) or by calling 615-325-9032. RSVPs are required for this event and must be made by Friday, Aug. 10.

For more information regarding the Farm to Table Dinner or the Portland Chamber of Commerce, visit [kristen@portlandcofc.com](mailto:kristen@portlandcofc.com) or call 615-325-9032.



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## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

*Look for LED products and fixtures for outdoor use as pathway, step and porch lights. Many include features like automatic daylight shut-off and motion sensors. You can also find solar-powered lighting for outdoor spaces.*

*Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)*