

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.

AS I SEE IT

Manager's Viewpoint

The road to self discovery

Youth Tour reflections

For many teens, the Rural Electric Youth Tour is full of “firsts.” It may be the first time they left the state, flew on a plane, visited the nation’s capital or have been away from their family for an extended period of time. Even more are seeing and experiencing the larger world through their own eyes rather than from their parents’ perspective. That’s the most important first as it’s truly a “leap” to their next phase and where their journey to adulthood begins.

In preparation for Youth Tour, teens learn about cooperatives, our history and grassroots advocacy. Youth Tour sprang from a suggestion of then Sen. Lyndon Johnson to a national gathering of co-ops. Johnson felt that youth from rural areas would benefit by visiting Washington to see first-hand how government works and gain a wider perspective through the experience. From this idea, Youth Tour evolved. High school juniors selected by their electric co-ops participate in a weeklong trip to the nation’s capital. The program has grown exponentially since its inception, and this past year, we saw more than 1,700 high school juniors participate from co-ops in 43 states. Tennessee typically sends a delegation of around 140 students, 12 of whom are sponsored by Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation.

The week is interspersed with visits to many D.C. monuments and sites, including Capitol Hill. Activities with Youth Tour delegations from across the country enable teens to meet a broad spectrum of co-op kids. Our program

creates a safe space for teens to discover the adults they are striving to be. Teens leave behind their hometown identity and venture forward with a fresh slate. Students are encouraged to stretch themselves by talking to those with whom they would not ordinarily interact.

A highlight of Youth Tour includes a meeting with our congressional delegation. Teens learn first-hand that their elected officials work for their hometown communities. Students often have the opportunity to discuss issues with legislators, and our chaperons are always impressed with the interactions and questions asked by our students.

I can say that nearly all teens who have participated in our Youth Tour program look back with fond memories of an educational, interesting and eventful week. Many make lifelong friends. For a few, Youth Tour is a transformational experience. Parents remark how their children returned noticeably different — more mature, more confident with bigger goals and aspirations; they have a sense of purpose.

Youth Tour is one of the most important programs that CEMC undertakes. I am constantly impressed by the caliber of students our co-op sponsors. Our teens are our future, and it’s looking brighter every day. I hope you will consider urging your teen to “take the leap” and join our next Youth Tour delegation.

For more information about the Youth Tour program, see pages 22 and 23 of this magazine or visit our website at www.cemc.org.



*Jim Coode,
General Manager,
Cumberland
Electric Membership
Corporation*

Look out for scams

Unfortunately, scams are inevitable in today's world. Scammers can threaten you with everything from legal action involving the IRS to turning off power to your home.

Utility scams often involve an individual or group posing as an employee of your electric cooperative. The scammer may use threatening language in order to frighten you into offering your credit card or bank account information. Don't fall victim to these types of scams. Understand the threats posed and your best course of action:

- If someone calls your home or cell phone and demands you pay your electric bill immediately, gather as much information as you can from that individual, hang up the phone and contact the local authorities. Scammers often use threats and urgency to pressure you into giving them your bank account number or loading a pre-paid credit or debit card (such as a Green Dot card). Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation will never ask you to offer up personal finance information over the phone. If you have any doubts about your utility bill, contact our office either in person or over the phone at 1-800-987-2362.
- If someone comes to your home and claims to be an employee of CEMC who needs to collect money or inspect parts of your property, ask for identification and

call us to verify the person is, in fact, an employee. If he or she is not, call local authorities for assistance and do not let the individual in your home.

There are other types of scams consumers should watch out for:



- Government agencies like the IRS will never call to inform you that you have unpaid taxes or other liens against you. You will always receive this type of information in the mail. If someone calls claiming to be the IRS, hang up immediately.
- If you receive an email from an unknown sender, an email riddled with spelling errors and typos or an email threatening action unless a sum of money is paid, do not click any links provided within the email, and do not respond to the email. Simply delete the email or send it to your spam folder.

- If someone calls your home and claims to have discovered a virus on your computer, hang up. This caller's intent is to access personal information you may be keeping on your computer. CEMC wants to make sure you avoid any type of scams that could put you or your financial information in jeopardy. If you have any questions or would like more information about how you can protect yourself from scammers, give us a call at 1-800-987-2362 or visit www.cemc.org.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Looking for an easy way to make your home cozier? Try using an area rug to increase the insulation levels of your floors. Area rugs are stylish and can keep cool air from entering through your floors. Your toes will thank you!

Source: U.S Department of Energy



CEMC's offices will be closed Monday, Jan. 1, in observance of New Year's Day. To report an outage, please call 800-987-2362.

Happy New Year!

Electric Cooperatives: Going Beyond the Wires

Each year, 12 high school juniors from Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation's five-county service area have an incredible chance to spend a week in our nation's capital, getting a front-row view of government, leadership and public policy.

The Washington Youth Tour, sponsored by CEMC and the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association, provides young leaders with an opportunity to explore Washington, D.C., learn about government and cooperatives and develop their leadership skills.

Students are selected for the trip by writing short stories titled "Electric Cooperatives — Going Beyond the Wires" that explains how co-ops provide communities with much more than electric power. Stories must not exceed 900 words, including articles ("a," "an" and "the"), and the exact word count must be included on the cover page. Entries must be typewritten and double-spaced and will be judged on appropriate treatment of theme and knowledge

of the subject, originality and creativity and grammar and composition.

The contest deadline is Thursday, Feb. 22, and winners will be announced in April. The top 12 entries in CEMC's service area will join 140-plus other delegates from Tennessee and more than 1,800 representatives from across the country for the 2018 Washington Youth Tour June 8-14.

CEMC's Youth Tour delegates also have the opportunity to compete for Tennessee's spot on the Youth Leadership Council to represent the state at the 2019 National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Annual Meeting.

Additionally, TECA will award scholarships of \$3,000, \$2,000 and \$1,000 for the state's top short stories. Winners of the TECA scholarships will be announced during the 2018 Washington Youth Tour.

"The Youth Tour is an incredible opportunity for these students to actually experience history up-close and personal," says Stephanie Lobdell, CEMC community



PACK YOUR BAGS BECAUSE

900 WORDS CAN CHANGE EVERYTHING

TENNESSEE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
CREATIVE WRITING AND SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

YOUTHTOUR.TNELECTRIC.ORG



-  TRAVEL
-  RECOGNITION
-  SCHOLARSHIPS
-  CONNECTIONS



CEMC's 2017 Youth Tour delegates stand on the grounds of the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C.

relations coordinator. "Delegates experience a whirlwind of a week, visiting museums, monuments and other landmarks."

President Lyndon Johnson inspired the tour in 1957 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.

"Our commitment to community is what sets cooperatives apart from other businesses," said Jim Coode, CEMC general manager. "The Washington Youth Tour is one way we show the youth of our service area that their co-op is more than their electricity provider. We genuinely care about the prosperity of our communities, and that includes providing special opportunities for these exceptional students and preparing them for future success."

The Washington Youth Tour Creative Writing and Scholarship Competition is open to high school juniors living in CEMC's five-county service area. Additional details about the 2018 Washington Youth Tour Writing Contest can be found on CEMC's website, www.cemc.org, or by contacting Stephanie Lobdell at 1-800-987-2362, ext. 1143, or slobdell@cemc.org.

Senior scholarships available

Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation is honored to invest in future leaders by awarding scholarships to deserving high school seniors through the Senior Scholarship Program.

Twelve students will be chosen to receive one-time awards of \$1,000 that can be used toward their freshman year expenses such as tuition, textbooks, lab fees or to purchase other required classroom materials. The program is coordinated through each school's senior guidance counselor.

To be eligible, applicants must meet these requirements:

- Must be a graduating high school senior whose parents or guardians are members of CEMC and receive electric service from CEMC at his or her primary residence
- Must have attained a minimum 3.0 cumulative grade point average
- Must enroll or plan to enroll as a full-time student at an accredited Tennessee college, university or trade school by fall 2018 (Murray State and Western Kentucky Universities are included)
- Must submit a completed application, including two letters of reference: one from a teacher or other school official and one from a community leader
- Must write an original essay of at least 300 words



explaining what the student most looks forward to about attending college and how a scholarship, in terms of financial assistance, will help in completing his or her education. All essays will be judged on the basis of content, composition, grammar and neatness.

Applications are available through the senior guidance counselors at each school and can be found on CEMC's website: www.cemc.org. Deadline for scholarship entry is Thursday, Feb. 22. Children of CEMC, Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association or Tennessee Valley Authority employees, directors or attorneys are not eligible to apply.

Co-op employees receive service awards

Each quarter, Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation recognizes employees who have reached milestones in their cooperative careers. These employees receive service awards as to-

kens of appreciation for their service not only to the cooperative but to their communities as well. Here, along with their years of service, are those who celebrated anniversaries in the past year.



Receiving service awards for the fourth quarter of 2016 are, from left, Dale Ross, Dover meter reader, 15 years; Clint Marshall, Dover serviceman, 15 years; Denise Parker, lead customer service representative, 10 years; Larry Head, joint use-engineering technician, 10 years; and Jeff Williams, information technology supervisor, 15 years.



Employees receiving service awards for the second quarter of 2017 are, from left, Leah Jenkins, operations assistant, 15 years; Kevin Cain, transmission engineer, 40 years; and Connie Heggie, plant accountant, 30 years.



Service award recipients for the first quarter of 2017 are, from left, Henry Odom, Ashland City lineman, 10 years; Randy Gilliam, Portland meterman collector, 20 years; John Quick, construction crew lineman, 10 years; Matt Douglas, vehicle maintenance mechanic, five years; Michael Cox, Springfield serviceman, 20 years; Nancy Hunt, Clarksville meter reader, 10 years; Tom Farmer, Springfield working foreman, 30 years; Michelle Eskildson, meter tester, 20 years; and Stephanie Lobdell, community relations coordinator, 15 years.



Service award honorees for the third quarter of 2017 are, from left, Joe Woodard, energy programs inspector, five years; Matt Walker, system control supervisor, 15 years; Garrison Goostree, Clarksville lineman, five years; Dillan Streetman, Clarksville lineman, five years; Trissi Malcom, accountant, 25 years; Bruce Anderson, information systems specialist, 10 years; and Jim Coode, general manager, 40 years.

Not pictured are Phillip Amons, Portland serviceman, 15 years; Joe Farmer, Ashland City storeroom janitor, 30 years; Jamie Edgin, Ashland City customer account representative, 10 years; Jim Crowder, Ashland City lineman, 15 years; Damian Maloney, records compliance/risk specialist, five years; Shannon Samuelson, district business office supervisor, five years; Robin Singer, Gallatin customer account representative, 20 years; Chad Watkins, communications engineer, 25 years; Jake Smith, system control technician, five years; Joe Jackson, substation technician, 15 years; and Jim Parson, Gallatin district engineer, 35 years.

Co-ops push for common-sense replacement rule in place of CPP

By Dan Riedinger

In October, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced plans to repeal the Clean Power Plan, a regulation that would have increased costs and impacted many electric cooperatives across the nation. Now the EPA, informed by public comment, must work to develop a common-sense replacement plan.

Cumberland Electric Cooperative is glad to see the rule go. We're working with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), our national trade association, to encourage the EPA to replace the rule with a plan that focuses on individual power plants. We hope the agency will craft a replacement rule to address power plant emissions legally, provide co-ops with the certainty and flexibility they need to meet their members' needs and support co-ops in their mission to provide affordable and reliable electricity.

Electric co-ops depend on a diverse fuel mix to meet the energy needs of 42 million members across the nation, protect reliability of the energy system and ensure affordable power. The fact is that no two electric co-ops are exactly alike. The nation's 900 electric co-ops rely on a diverse fuel mix to meet members' energy needs, maintain reliability and ensure affordability. Each co-op makes strategic long-term investments in energy sources that make the most sense. Any new regulation needs to account for this reality.

This flexibility to pursue a diverse fuel mix allows co-ops to respond to local and regional factors and member preferences while ensuring affordable and reliable power. Past federal policy pushed cooperatives away from natural gas use for electricity to developing coal-based electric generation. In many cases, co-op members are still paying for those facilities — and the roughly \$12 billion in

pollution control measures that were added to them since the early 1990s.

But as it turns out, electric co-ops and other utilities are already making significant changes in how they generate power. Co-ops and their members value a healthy environment and vibrant rural communities. Market forces and members' interests are driving co-ops to further diversify their electric generation portfolios. As a result, co-op-owned coal-fired generation has dropped 9 percent since 2014, and co-op solar capacity has increased five times in just the past two years.

We live in a carbon-constrained world, and electric co-ops are reducing their carbon footprint. In fact, since 2005, co-ops have increased electric generation by 15 million megawatt-hours while reducing carbon dioxide emissions by nearly 10 percent.

Given the progress happening without the Clean Power Plan, you may ask why we want the EPA to go back to the drawing board to come up with a replacement rule. The main reason is certainty. A workable, common-sense rule that adheres to the law clarifies the rules of the road for co-ops, which will then be better able to make smart, long-term investments in electric generation. Regulatory certainty is an essential ingredient in ensuring a reliable supply of affordable power.

Co-ops are looking forward to working with the EPA on a plan that gets it right this time around.

Dan Riedinger writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Virginia-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

Members rewarded for completing annual meeting survey

Six members who attended the annual meeting of Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation in October and completed surveys regarding their experiences were randomly selected to receive electric bill credits as a token of the co-op's appreciation for their input.

Congratulations to Jessica Weber of Hendersonville, Kathryn Nicholson of Ashland City, Edmond Kerr of White House, Jeane Dodd of Ashland City, John West of Springfield and Jerry Horton of Clarksville. Each received a \$50 bill credit.

Student art sought for calendar contest

The 2019 Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation calendar art contest has officially begun, and the cooperative is calling on local students to submit their entries. Winners will receive cash prizes and have their artwork published in CEMC's 2019 calendar, which will be displayed in homes, schools and businesses throughout the co-op's service area. Calendars are free and available at each of CEMC's offices beginning in November of each year.

The contest is open to all students — grades kindergarten through 12 — who reside within CEMC's service area. Entries will be accepted through participating schools and are due by Thursday, Feb. 22. Each grade (for which the student is currently enrolled) has been assigned a calendar month to illustrate as follows: January, sixth grade; February, seventh; March, eighth; April, ninth; May, 10th; June, 11th; July, kindergarten; August, first; September, second; October, third; November, fourth; and December, fifth.

Seniors will illustrate the cover. While there is no specific theme for the cover, rural scenes, barns, wildlife and items that illustrate CEMC's service (bucket trucks, utility poles, etc.) are a few suggestions.

Artwork will be judged on artistic merit, creativity and how well the assigned month is depicted. All



The artwork of Richview Middle School student Ashley Champagne was named overall winner of the Western Region in the 2018 contest.

elements of the artwork must be the work of the student submitting the entry. Artwork must be on white or light-colored, unruled paper no larger than 11 by 14 inches and no smaller than 8.5 by 11 inches.

Complete contest details and instructions are available at www.cemc.org or by contacting CEMC Community Relations Coordinator Stephanie Lobdell at 800-987-2362, ext. 1143, or via email at slobdell@cemc.org.

Local students power food drive

Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation partnered in the fall with local elementary schools to host its annual food drive. Thanks to the efforts of the schools and the generous donations received from the community, CEMC was able to deliver thousands of nonperishable food items to help feed families in need this holiday season.

"We would like to thank all who supported our food drive this year," says CEMC Community Relations Coordinator Stephanie Lobdell. "Our students worked extra hard, making this year's food drive one of the largest in recent years."



Students at East Robertson Elementary collected four truckloads of food to help those in need in their community!

Participating elementary schools were Clyde Riggs, Watt Hardison, Sango, Cumberland Heights, East Robertson, West Cheatham and North Stewart.