

## 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.

### The Tennessee Magazine

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## Co-op Concerns

*News from your community*

### Power and opportunity

*Amazon recently announced that it will build a new operations center in Nashville. This is big news for the entire state as the project will bring more than 5,000 jobs and millions of dollars in investment to the region. Chattanooga, Knoxville and Memphis have recently made headlines for industry announcements as well.*

This attention on the state's urban centers makes it easy to think that you can only find opportunity in a big city. We shouldn't think that because opportunity is all around us.

Last year, nearly half of all new jobs in Tennessee — more than 9,700 — were created in the state's rural and suburban counties. These communities may not be growing as fast as Nashville or Knoxville, but you don't have to look too hard to see good things happening right here.

Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation provides energy to five counties in northern middle Tennessee, but our interest in the communities we serve goes far beyond power. We are working to be sure that our part of the state is strong and well prepared to compete in the modern economy.

In November, I attended the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association's annual meeting in Nashville. The theme for the event was Power and Opportunity. It was a good reminder of the impact CEMC has on the communities we serve.

We provide more than power. We provide power and opportunity.



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

Our economic development efforts help bring new jobs to our service area.

Our youth programs help young people develop important leadership skills. In 2018, CEMC sent 12 young people to Washington, D.C., to learn about government and public policy. We also sent two high school students to Nashville for the Tennessee Electric Co-op Youth Leadership Summit to strengthen their leadership and networking skills.

Recently, we began exploring options to provide high-speed internet service to the homes and businesses we serve. This has big implications for families and businesses across the region.

The things that happen in Dover, Ashland City or Portland may not get as much attention as those in Nashville, but what goes on here matters. It matters to the people who live here, and it matters to our co-op.

CEMC wants to see the communities we serve succeed. We want this to be a place where businesses thrive, families prosper and opportunities are abundant.

# Florim USA receives TVA Carbon Reduction Award



*Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation General Manager Chris A. Davis, center, presents Florim USA CEO Marco Fregni, left, with TVA's Carbon Reduction Award. Joining them is Florim USA Environmental Manager Don Hayes.*

**F**lorim USA, a Clarksville-based manufacturer of Italian-designed porcelain tile, was recently recognized by the Tennessee Valley Authority and Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation for its efforts to reduce overall carbon emissions during the 2017 calendar year.

The manufacturer is among the recipients of TVA's inaugural Carbon Reduction Award for businesses served by local power companies. This new award recognizes businesses with the lowest carbon emission rates in calendar year 2017 as well as companies with the largest year-over-year carbon emission improvements for 2016-2017.

"TVA cares about the environment, and we want to recognize Valley businesses that share our commitment to improve air quality and the health of our communities,"

said Dan Pratt, TVA vice president of customer delivery. "These businesses have not only lowered their own as-delivered carbon rates, but their actions have also helped to lower TVA's system carbon rate as a whole, which is good for all who live in the Valley."

Pratt explains that TVA continues to provide its customers with a combination of price and carbon content, attracting capital investment to the Valley and powering a strong clean energy economy. The award recognizes TVA's partnership with those businesses that go above and beyond to make a significant difference in their carbon emissions each year.

"Businesses with low carbon footprints are assets to their communities because they have made a commitment to making a positive impact to improving the environment," Pratt adds.

During 2017, Florim USA produced an average of 793 pounds of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) per megawatt-hour — a 15 percent reduction over TVA’s reported average of 850 pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> per megawatt-hour among a group of 42 similarly sized rubber, plastic and nonmetallic manufacturers served by local power companies in TVA’s footprint.

Florim USA was the only flooring manufacturer in the state of Tennessee to be honored by TVA for its conservation efforts.

Taking a cue from its parent company, Italy-based Florim Group, a dedication to environmentally friendly production processes is at the core of Florim USA’s operations. In 2017, Florim USA completed its first Environmental Product Declaration, an independent analysis of the ways its products impact the environment during its life cycle.

“We follow the example of the Florim Group as it relates to producing tile while still reducing our carbon footprint as a manufacturer,” Florim USA CEO Marco Fregni said. “We do this by constantly staying at the forefront of sustainable manufacturing through investing in new energy-saving equipment.”

According to Pratt, TVA carbon dioxide emissions are down 47 percent and are on track to be about 60 percent below 2005 levels before 2020 — that is about twice as much as the U.S. energy industry as a whole for the same time period. This performance has also helped make the region’s air quality better now than when measurements began in the 1970s.

“We could not have achieved these reductions alone,” said Pratt. “It takes a team of TVA, local power companies and Valley industries that are committed to reducing carbon emissions.”

## Students fuel community food drive



Elementary school students from West Cheatham, left, and North Stewart, right, pose proudly with their donations to the annual CEMC community food drive.

**T**his fall, Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation teamed up with local elementary schools to host its annual community food drive. With the help of the students, parents, teachers and communities involved, CEMC was able to donate thousands of nonperishable food items to help put food on the tables of those in need this holiday season. All items collected were delivered to local food banks for distribution.

“Thank you to all who supported our community food drive,” says CEMC Community Relations Coordinator Stephanie Lobdell. “Your generous donations will mean so much to those who receive them.”

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

# 'Connecting Communities'

*An electric cooperative creative writing and scholarship competition*

**E**ach year, 12 high school juniors from Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation's five-county service area spend an incredible 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 winning short stories describing how electric cooperatives are "Connecting Communities," strengthening their rural hometowns, improving lives across their service areas and providing safe, reliable, affordable energy.

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

The contest deadline is Thursday, Feb. 21, and winners will be announced in April. Writers of 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 2019 Washington Youth Tour June 14-20.

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 2020 National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Annual Meeting in New Orleans.

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 2019 Washington Youth Tour.

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

"Commitment to community is what sets cooperatives apart from other businesses," said Chris A. Davis, CEMC general manager. "The Washington Youth Tour is one way we show the youth of our service



WASHINGTON YOUTH TOUR

**900 words can  
change everything**

**The Tennessee electric  
cooperative creative writing  
and scholarship competition  
for high school Juniors**

 **LEARN MORE**

[YOUTHTOUR.TNELECTRIC.ORG](http://YOUTHTOUR.TNELECTRIC.ORG)

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 2019 Washington Youth Tour Writing Contest can be found by visiting [www.cemc.org/youthprograms.asp](http://www.cemc.org/youthprograms.asp) or by contacting



*CEMC’s 2018 Youth Tour delegates stand on the grounds of the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C.*

Stephanie Lobdell at 1-800-987-2362, ext. 1143, or by email at [slobdell@cemc.org](mailto:slobdell@cemc.org).

## CEMC to award 12 senior scholarships

Each year, Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation invests in future leaders by awarding scholarships to deserving high school seniors through the Senior Scholarship Program.

Twelve students will be chosen this year 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](http://www.cemc.org). Deadline for scholarship entry is Thursday, Feb. 21. Children of CEMC, Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association or Tennessee Valley Authority employees, directors or attorneys are not eligible to apply.

# 2020 CEMC Calendar art contest underway

The 2020 Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation calendar art contest has begun, and the cooperative is calling on local students to submit their best entries. Winners will receive cash prizes and have their artwork published in CEMC's 2020 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. 21. 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 elements of the artwork must be the work of the student



The artwork of Cheatham County Central High School student Safiyah Bakari was one of the overall winners in the 2019 contest.

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](http://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](mailto:slobdell@cemc.org).

## Install carbon monoxide detectors

Any home with gas heat or other gas appliances needs carbon monoxide detectors. You can't see or smell carbon monoxide, which is a potential byproduct of burning fossil fuels like natural gas, propane and kerosene. Your home should have at least one carbon monoxide detector to alert you of the presence of gas.

Follow these safety guidelines:

- The safest use of carbon monoxide detectors is to install one outside of the bedrooms on every floor that has bedrooms. The alarm that goes off in case of a gas leak can alert your family to wake up and get out of the house.
- Place your detectors at least 15 feet away from a gas stove or oven, which could emit a small amount of carbon monoxide on startup.
- Detectors don't operate properly in humid areas like bathrooms.
- Replace the batteries in your alarms twice a year.
- Properly maintain your gas appliances, including the furnace and stove. The same goes for devices like the lawnmower that use gasoline.
- Know the warning signs of too much carbon monoxide in the house: stuffy, stale air; condensation on windows; yellow burner flames on the stove; and fluttering or extinguishing pilot lights.
- If you see the signs or your alarm sounds, turn off your gas appliances, open doors and windows, and leave the house. Then call 911.
- Don't idle your car in the garage if it's connected to your house. Car exhaust is a source of carbon monoxide.

# Bundle up for winter storms

By Abby Berry

Severe winter storms often bring heavy accumulations of ice and snow, which can lead to downed power lines and extended outages. Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation crews will work hard to restore power, but having a winter survival kit on hand is a smart idea.

- **Food:** Store food that does not require cooking such as canned goods, crackers, dehydrated meats and dried fruit. Keep a large supply of water on hand. Ready.gov recommends 5 gallons per person.
- **Medication:** Be sure to refill all prescriptions in the event of a major power outage.
- **Identification:** Keep handy all forms of identification such as driver's licenses, photo IDs and Social Security cards. Bank account information and insurance policies are also good to have on hand.
- **Other items:** first-aid kit, blankets, flashlight, battery-powered radio and extra batteries.

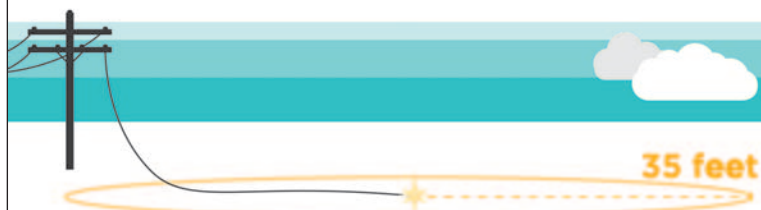
If an outage occurs, you should plan for an alternate heating source. A fireplace, propane space heater or wood-burning stove would be sufficient. Fuel- and wood-burning heating sources must always be vented, and make sure carbon monoxide and smoke detectors are working properly. Always practice extreme caution when using alternate heating sources.

Follow these tips, and your family will stay warm in the event of a power outage. For more information on preparing for winter storms, visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).

*Abby Berry writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Virginia-based service organization for the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.*

## Downed and Dangerous

If you see a downed power line, always assume it is energized and dangerous. Avoid going near it or anything in contact with the power line.



Downed power lines can energize the ground up to 35 feet away — so keep your distance.



Never drive over a downed line or through water that is touching the line.



If you see a downed line, notify the local authorities immediately.



Never try to move a downed power line, even if you think the line is de-energized or if you're using a nonconductive item — this will not prevent injury or death!

Source: [ESFI.org](http://ESFI.org)