

**CEMC Management and Staff**

**Chris A. Davis,**  
General Manager  
**David Abernathy,**  
Operations Division Manager  
**Mark T. Cook, P.E.,**  
Engineering Division Manager  
**Annebelle Chester,**  
Administrative Division Manager  
**Michael Blackwell,**  
District Operations Manager  
**Seth Roberts,**  
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800-987-2362

**Ashland City office**

**Josh Gill,**  
District Operations Supervisor  
**Clarksville office**

**Kenny Davis,**  
District Operations Supervisor  
**Dover office**

**Terry Odom,**  
District Operations Supervisor  
**Bobby Joiner,**  
District Operations Supervisor  
**Gallatin office**

**Travis Akins,**  
District Operations Supervisor  
**Portland/White House offices**

**Todd Hesson,**  
District Operations Supervisor  
**Springfield office**

**Chad Crabtree,**  
District Operations Supervisor

**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  
**Stephen E. Douglass,** Stewart Co.  
**Charles R. Hancock,** Stewart Co.  
**Michael A. Mason,** Robertson Co.  
**C. David Morgan,** Montgomery Co.  
**Edward L. Oliver,** Montgomery Co.  
**Joe H. Whitaker,** Sumner Co.

**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.

## Patriotism in action

Perhaps no other day of the year evokes the sense of patriotism that Independence Day does. With flags rippling in the wind; red, white and blue bunting adorning porches and storefronts; and local parades and marching bands on display, it's easy to feel a swell of pride for our country.

Another — perhaps deeper — form of patriotism is active engagement in public and civic life. Involvement in your town promotes a richer community life and ensures that institutions thrive and communities remain vibrant and inviting places to live, work and play. Besides being enjoyable, your participation in community events and activities — together with your friends, neighbors and co-workers — makes a difference.

In fact, there are civic engagement opportunities through Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation. You may recall that one of our most important cooperative principles is that of democratic participation. If you pay your bill, you are a member of the co-op with an opportunity to provide input through voting during our annual meeting.

Like other types of co-ops, CEMC was formed to serve a need that was not being met by traditional for-profit electric companies. While providing reliable electricity is our top priority, we are exploring other needs that might not be met otherwise — such as renewable energy options, for example. We make decisions based on long-term thinking — what decisions will benefit the larger community where we operate? One of

the best ways you can engage with your co-op is by casting your vote when it's time to elect board members. These are folks just like you, from our community, who provide guidance to co-op leadership on a myriad of issues and decisions both short and long term.

Perhaps you haven't voted in the past because you didn't think you were qualified to weigh in on a particular topic, or maybe you simply didn't have time to vote. But you do have an opinion on the issues that affect our community, and CEMC wants your particular perspective.

Everyone has valuable experience that informs their decision-making process.

Diverse perspectives benefit the whole community. You may have a different view than your neighbor, but together, those perspectives provide a more balanced view of the community. You could be bringing new information that hadn't been previously considered. We seek more members participating in the process because greater numbers reflect a consensus on the direction of the future and the will of the people.

The next opportunity to vote in the board election is Saturday, Sept. 15. I would argue that voting, whether in the co-op or in local and national elections, is a form of patriotism, reflecting a devotion to one's community and commitment to ensure that it thrives.

Democracy is not a spectator sport; it takes active civic engagement by citizens to thrive. This Independence Day, I hope you will embrace the local celebrations and actively participate in your community — and vote at every opportunity!



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

# Coode retires, Davis named general manager

**J**ames B. Coode, Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation's seventh general manager, retired on June 30. Coode had been employed with CEMC for 40 years, including the last nine years as general manager. During that time, he has represented the cooperative on numerous boards and committees, including the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association's board of trustees, of which he served as president from November 2015 to November 2017.



*James B. Coode*

Coode's CEMC career began in September 1977. A recent college graduate with a degree in electrical engineering, he was first hired as a field engineer. He has held various management positions throughout his accomplished tenure, including five years as operations

manager, before succeeding Carl Wilson as general manager in October 2008.



*Chris A. Davis*

Succeeding Coode as the cooperative's eighth general manager is Chris A. Davis, a 34-year CEMC veteran who has spent the past year as assistant general manager. Prior to that role, he served four years as manager of the Administrative Division and eight years as manager of the Engineering Division.

Davis' CEMC career began in January 1984 when he was hired as a part-time dispatcher in the system control center. He later held the titles of field engineer, power use and marketing advisor, metering technician, planning engineer, project engineer and transmission and distribution supervisor.

## **Jim Coode's CEMC Career**

- Employed Sept. 16, 1977** – Field Engineer, Engineering Services Department
- Nov. 1, 1979** – Operations Engineer, Engineering Services Department
- May 1, 1980** – District Engineer, Springfield District Office
- May 1, 1983** – Engineer, Technical Services Department
- Feb. 1, 1984** – Supervisor, Technical Services Department
- Sept. 1, 1988** – Manager, Technical Services Department
- May 27, 1997** – Manager, Engineering Services Department
- Jan. 1, 2003** – Manager, Operations Division

**July 1, 2008** – Assistant General Manager

**October 15, 2008** – General Manager

**June 30, 2018** – Date of retirement

## **General Managers of CEMC**

1. M.C. "Mr. Mike" Northington Sr., 1938-1959
2. John R. Dolinger, 1959-1984
3. Robert M. Bellamy, 1984-1989
4. Wayne M. Poole, 1989-1997
5. Walter Haynes, April-July 1997
6. Carl W. Wilson, 1997-2008
7. James B. Coode, 2008-2018
8. Chris A. Davis, 2018-present

# Director candidates must meet July 17 deadline

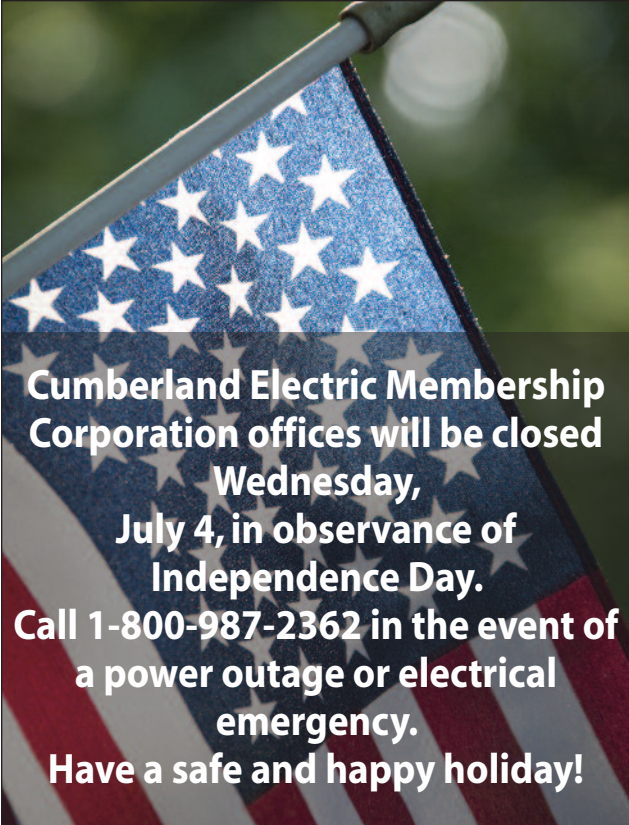
**A**ny member of Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation who is interested in serving on the board of directors can obtain a petition from the general manager's office. Each petition must be signed by at least 15 members.

The petition must be completed and turned in by the deadline of Tuesday, July 17, which is 60 days prior to the 2018 annual meeting. This year's meeting will be held Saturday, Sept. 15, at Portland High School in Sumner County.

An election will be held for each of the following director positions: South Stewart, North Robertson and North Sumner.

Anyone with a valid membership in good standing as of July 17 can vote in director elections. Those applying for membership after July 17 will not be eligible to vote in this year's election but are welcome to attend the meeting and register for prizes.

(CEMC Bylaws Article 3 — Section 3.05)



**Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation offices will be closed Wednesday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day. Call 1-800-987-2362 in the event of a power outage or electrical emergency. Have a safe and happy holiday!**

Tennessee-Kentucky  
Threshermen's Association  
49th Annual Threshing Show  
*Friday and Saturday, July 20 and 21*  
Bell School Grounds in Adams



Steam engines • Antique tractors •  
Wheat-threshing • Sawmilling •  
Antique gas and diesel engines • Tractor pulls •  
Arts and crafts • Live music • Parade

Admission: \$10; children 12 and under FREE  
Gates open at 8 a.m. with FREE parking.

Visit [www.tnkythreshermenshow.com](http://www.tnkythreshermenshow.com) or  
[facebook.com/TnKyThreshermenShow](https://www.facebook.com/TnKyThreshermenShow)  
for more information.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

*Here's a cool tip for your fridge!  
Cover liquids and wrap foods  
stored in your refrigerator.  
Uncovered foods release moisture,  
causing the compressor to work  
harder.*

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



# Nearly 1,000 attend appreciation Day

**M**ember Appreciation Day was observed May 17 at each of Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation's seven district business offices. This annual picnic has become a favorite springtime event for CEMC employees and members alike.

Co-op employees served nearly 1,000 members free lunches of hot dogs, chips, cookies and soft drinks. Besides lunch, members also received CEMC vehicle sun shades as a token of appreciation for their business and support.

In drawings at each location, these members won electric grills:

Ashland City — Jeff Morris

Clarksville — Tammy Phillips

Dover — Jan Shemwell

Gallatin — Betty Harris

Portland — Drew Jennings

Springfield — Wanda Baldwin

White House — Sherry Tackett

Be sure to watch future issues of *The Tennessee Magazine* as well as CEMC's website and Facebook page for information regarding next year's event.



Members register for the electric grill giveaway in Ashland City.



A large crowd gathers for Member Appreciation Day in Dover.



CEMC board member Joe Whitaker, left, visits with members in Gallatin.



Members enjoy food and fellowship at the picnic in Clarksville.

# CEMC is prepared for summer storms

Summer is here, school is out and the days are a little longer — and a little hotter. Summer brings with it a slower pace and more family time, but it also brings the possibility of severe storms. When that happens and the lights go out, you can be certain that Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation crews are prepared to respond.

Most power outages are caused by falling trees and branches. We work year-round to ensure that trees, branches or other types of vegetation grow a safe distance from our power lines.

Despite these efforts, major storms sometimes cause damage to our power distribution system. When this happens, our priority is to safely restore power to as many members as possible in the shortest amount of time.

During widespread outages, one of our first tasks is to assess the damage. This helps us prioritize the repairs and quickly respond to any safety issues. This also explains why our crews may enter your neighborhood and leave without restoring power. Before we can safely make repairs, we must first know exactly what is damaged.

Once we assess the system, we can begin restoration. We prioritize the repairs that will restore power to the most homes and businesses. This typically means that we fix main feeder lines first, followed by lines that serve neighborhoods or streets. Finally, we make repairs to service wires that feed individual homes. If the equipment connected to your home — like your meter base — is



*Major storms can cause damage to the power distribution system like this broken pole.*

damaged, remember that an electrician must make those repairs before we can restore your service.

During these events, the more information we have, the better. If your power goes out, please let us know by calling 1-800-987-2362. Outages can also be reported via CEMC's SmartHub mobile app. Don't assume that someone else has reported the outage.


When outages occur, our crews take their responsibilities seriously. They work hard — day or night — in all types of weather to get the lights on quickly and safely for the communities we serve.

**Keep this number handy:**

**1-800-987-2362**

Monitored 24 hours a day to serve you.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative   
The power of human connections®

# Move over — it's the law!

**E**lectric lineworkers face many dangers — high voltage, heights and extreme weather conditions. Despite these challenges, one of the most dangerous aspects of the job has less to do with what they do and more to do with where they do it.

Lineworkers frequently work alongside busy roadways, often only feet away from passing cars.

Tennessee's "Move-Over" law was passed in 2006 to protect first responders like police officers, firefighters and paramedics. In 2011, Tennessee's electric cooperatives led a coalition to revise the state's move-over law to include utility workers as well. Unfortunately, seven years after the law was passed, many motorists do not follow it.

The requirements of Tennessee's move-over law are simple. On a four-lane road, if safety and traffic conditions allow, a driver approaching a utility vehicle with flashing lights must move into the far lane. On a two-lane road or when changing lanes is not possible, a driver must reduce speed.

Electric co-op vehicles aren't the only utility vehicles covered; service vehicles used by municipal electric systems, telephone companies and utility districts are also protected by the law.



*On a four-lane road, if safety and traffic conditions allow, a driver approaching a utility vehicle with flashing lights must move into the far lane.*

"This month is the seventh anniversary of the expansion of the law, but too many drivers either don't know about it or simply don't care," says Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation General Manager Chris Davis. "Our lineworkers perform an important job for our community. Changing lanes or slowing down to give them a little space is a simple courtesy that could save a life."

More information about the law is available at [moveovertennessee.org](http://moveovertennessee.org).

## Your pool and electricity: potential trouble

**A**ny conversation about swimming pool safety will revolve around drowning. But it should also address electrocution. Although far less common than drowning, electrocution in or near a swimming pool takes the lives of a small handful of people every year. One was a 7-year-old boy who was electrocuted by a faulty pool light.

Here are a few tips for preventing electrical accidents while you're enjoying your pool:

- Keep TVs, radios and extension cords far from the water.
- Have your pool equipment inspected and maintained every season. Faulty, malfunctioning or improperly installed equipment like pool lights can be hazardous.
- Have the pool inspected when it is first installed or before you buy a new house that comes with an already-installed pool.
- Don't do your own electrical work on your pool lights or other electrical components. Call a licensed electrician.
- Keep electrical devices and cords at least 5 feet away from the edge of the pool.
- Supervise children and party guests who are using the pool.
- Look for signs of trouble like flickering lights or equipment that performs erratically.
- If a swimmer is twitching or unresponsive, it's possible the water is electrified.
- Make a plan in case someone gets electrocuted at the pool. You're less likely to panic if you know exactly what to do: Turn off the power, clear the pool area without touching anything metal and call an ambulance.

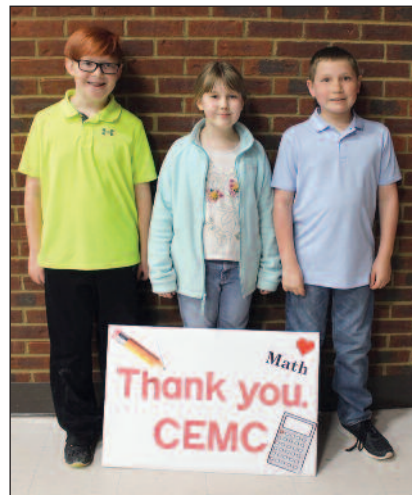
# CEMC congratulates math contest winners

The Cheatham County School District held its annual math contest for students in grades 3-5 on March 23 at Cheatham Middle School. Participating schools were Ashland City Elementary, East Cheatham Elementary, Kingston Springs Elementary, Pegram Elementary, Pleasant View Elementary, West Cheatham Elementary, Cheatham

Middle, Harpeth Middle and Sycamore Middle. Each elementary school sent its top three math students to the competition, and each middle school sent its top four. Winners from each grade level were awarded cash prizes courtesy of Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation. Congratulations to all winners and participants!



Winners from the third grade are, from left, Nicholas Stehle, East Cheatham Elementary, first place; Aniston Allgood, Kingston Springs Elementary, second; and Addison Knobel, Kingston Springs Elementary, third.



Fourth-grade math contest winners are, from left, Cade Krantz, West Cheatham Elementary, first place; Elle Russell, Kingston Springs Elementary, second; and Chase Steel, Pleasant View Elementary, third.



Math contest winners from the fifth grade are, from left, Lorelai Caraway, Cheatham Middle, first place; Sydnee Mitchell, Cheatham Middle, second; and Isaac Christy, Sycamore Middle, third.

## Keep kids safe all summer

You might not be able to keep your eyes on your children every minute this summer while they're roaming around the neighborhood, having fun. So teach them how to keep themselves safe, especially around electricity.

- The most important lesson about outdoor electrical safety is to never touch a power line. A downed line might seem like it's "dead," but it may still be energized. Touching it with a hand, toy or stick could electrocute someone.
- If a toy gets caught in an overhead power line, do not try to dislodge the toy by throwing shoes or other items at it. Call your electric cooperative if you must retrieve it.
- Stay far away from overhead power lines while flying kites or using large toys so they don't come into contact with energized lines.
- Do not climb utility poles or trees that are close to power lines.
- Don't post signs, balloons, ribbons or anything else on utility poles or electrical equipment.
- Stay out of electrical substations — even to rescue a pet. Those substations house high-voltage equipment that can electrocute someone.
- Don't touch electrical toys that are submerged in water like a puddle or pool.