

## Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation

### 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,**  
Member Services Manager

District Operations Supervisors:

**Ashland City office**

**Josh Gill,**

**Clarksville office**

**Kenny Davis,**

**Dover office**

**Bobby Joiner,**

**Gallatin office**

**Travis Akins,**

**Portland/White House offices**

**Todd Hesson,**

**Springfield office**

**Chad Crabtree**

### 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.

### The Tennessee Magazine

(ISSN 0492746X), Volume 61, No. 9, is published monthly by Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association, 2964 Sidco Drive, Nashville TN 37204. Periodicals Postage Paid at Nashville TN and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The Tennessee Magazine*, PO Box 100912, Nashville TN 37224-0912.

## Co-op Concerns

*News from your community*

### Join fellow co-op members for CEMC's 80th annual meeting

Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation's 80th annual meeting is set for Saturday, Sept. 15, and we want you to attend! This year's meeting will be held at Portland High School, located at 600 College St. in Sumner County.

Doors will open at 8 a.m. for registration and breakfast. After enjoying a free meal, we invite you to browse the selection of door prizes to be given away, pick up your annual meeting gift (one per registered member, while supplies last) and visit informational booths before the business session begins at 10 a.m. If you have children, be sure to visit the Youth Corner.

An election to fill three seats on our board of directors will be held, and the results will be announced during the business session. You can learn more about each candidate on pages 20-21 of

this magazine. The financial report will also be highlighted, and during the business session, we will give a recap of the cooperative's activities during the past fiscal year.

If you are unable to attend, you can vote early in the director elections on Friday, Sept. 14, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at your local CEMC office. Names of those who vote early will be entered in a drawing at their voting locations for a chance to win \$100 electric bill credits.

I hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to learn more about your co-op, enjoy breakfast with neighbors and maybe even win a prize!



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



CEMC board of directors — From left are, seated, Shela K. Williams, secretary-treasurer; Tommy G. Whittaker, president; Wesley H. Aymett, vice president; and K. Jean Beauchamp, assistant secretary-treasurer. Standing: board members C. David Morgan, Michael A. Mason, Charles R. Hancock, Stephen E. Douglass, Edward L. Oliver and Joe H. Whitaker and CEMC General Manager Chris A. Davis.

# Meet the director candidates



*Stephen E. Douglass*



*Michael A. Mason*



*Rodney Swearingen*



*Tommy G. Whittaker*

Three seats on Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation's board of directors will be filled during the cooperative's 2018 annual meeting Saturday, Sept. 15, at Portland High School. Members will elect directors to fill the South Stewart, North Robertson and North Sumner positions.

CEMC's Nominating Committee met July 10 and recommended incumbent directors Stephen E. Douglass, Michael A. Mason and Tommy G. Whittaker for re-election for new three-year terms. Nominated by petition is Rodney Swearingen, who is vying for the North Robertson County seat.

## **South Stewart County — Stephen E. Douglass**

The nominee from South Stewart County is Stephen E. Douglass of Dover. Douglass has served as director since 2007. He is a Credentialed Cooperative Director and holds a Board Leadership Certificate and Director Gold Certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

Douglass is an agent at Sills Insurance Agency in Dover and has worked in the insurance business since 1973. He is a graduate of Murray State University where he was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree in 1970 and a Master of Science degree in 1971.

His community activities include service as chairman of the Stewart County Emergency Communications District/911 Committee and chairman of Dover's Industrial Relations Committee.

Douglass is the father of a son, John S. Douglass.

## **North Robertson County — Michael A. Mason**

Michael A. (Andy) Mason is the nominee from North Robertson County, an area he has represented as director since 1997.

Mason is a graduate of the University of Tennessee where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in animal science

in 1979. He has continued his education since becoming a director in 1997 and holds Credentialed Cooperative Director, Board Leadership and Director Gold certificates from NRECA.

Mason is a self-employed turfgrass farmer in Springfield where he and his wife, Denise, have raised three daughters: Kayla, Kari and Kelsi. The Masons also have two sons-in-law, Adam and J.C., and a grandson, Collins. Andy and Denise are members of Temple Baptist Church in White House, and they are also helping in the continuing of a ministry with Springfield Fellowship.

"It has been an honor to serve as director not only for North Robertson County but for all of the members of CEMC," says Mason.

## **North Robertson County — Rodney Swearingen**

Nominated by petition for director of North Robertson County is **Rodney Swearingen** of Cross Plains.

Swearingen is an agency manager for Farm Bureau Insurance in Robertson County where he has been employed for the past 12 years. In 2017, his was named the state's top agency. He is a 2000 graduate of the University of Tennessee at Martin, where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in criminal justice. He is also a certified Life Underwriter Training Council Fellow.

"I am a lifelong resident of Robertson County," says Swearingen. "As a child growing up, my siblings and I were raised and provided for by the diligence my father put in with Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation until his retirement in 2017. I've seen firsthand through his hard work and long hours what made CEMC the corporation it has become. I have a vested interest and goal in trying to reach the rural areas with internet access with the help of the Tennessee Broadband Accessibility Act. I also feel passionately about providing the employees with the tools and training for what they may need to continue to bring service to us all."



*On July 10, the Nominating Committee of Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation met and nominated incumbent directors for re-election to the board of directors. Committee members are, from left, Rylee Alcorn, Robertson County; Mike Luton, Stewart County; Shannon Crutcher, Stewart County; Connie Rosson, Montgomery County; Robert Lyle, Montgomery County; and Joe Henry, Cheatham County.*

Swearingen and his wife, Lori, have two children: Hayden and Reese. The Swearingens are members of the Life Center Church in Cross Plains.

**North Sumner County — Tommy G. Whittaker**


North Sumner County’s board nominee is Tommy G. Whittaker of Portland, who has served on the board since 2004 and has been board president for the past five years.

Whittaker is president and CEO of The Farmers Bank in Portland where he has been employed for more than 40 years.

A 1974 business administration graduate of the University of Tennessee, Whittaker is a member of the Portland Lions Club and the Portland Industrial Development board and serves on the University of Tennessee board of trustees. He has also completed the required coursework for Credentialed Cooperative Director, Board Leadership, and Director Gold certifications from NRECA.

Whittaker and his wife, Shirley, are the parents of a daughter, Susan, and a son, Joseph.



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative   
The power of human connections

# What can you win at CEMC's annual meeting?



*Six college scholarships worth \$500 each will be given away!*



*The Pick Tennessee Products Package includes a quilt made by Bona Perry, a Hinkle rocker and Lodge cast-iron skillet.*



*The Home Entertainment Package includes a flat-screen television and a Blu-Ray player.*



*The Smart Home Package includes a smart thermostat, smart lightbulbs and a virtual assistant to help manage energy use electronically.*

## GRAND PRIZE



*The Grand Prize is a "create-your-own" energy-efficiency makeover from Lowe's.*

*The winner will receive a Lowe's gift card to purchase new Energy Star-qualified products for the home.*



*The Gatlinburg Getaway includes accommodations at the Gatlinburg Black Bear Inn and Suites, tickets to Dollywood and a Peddler gift card.*

**The Outdoor Maintenance Package includes tools to help tackle your lawn care projects.**

**Multiple bill credits valued between \$50 and \$250 will be given away!**

**The Youth Corner will award kids age-appropriate prizes, including bikes and various gift cards.**

# 2018 4-H Electric Camp 'Going Beyond the Wires'

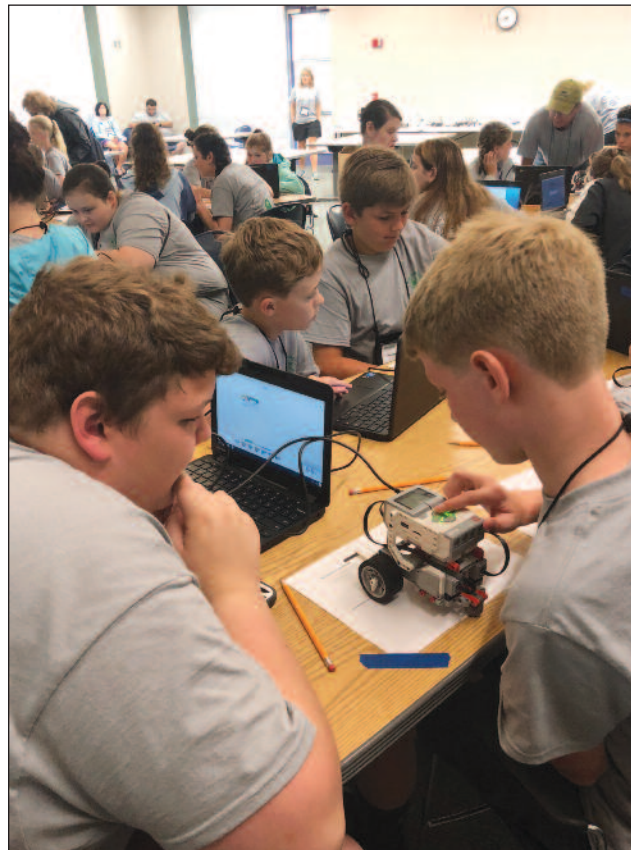
**C**umberland Electric Membership Corporation sent a group of rising seventh- and eighth-grade students to 4-H Electric Camp June 26-29 on the University of Tennessee Knoxville campus. CEMC's campers joined hundreds of other students from across the state in discovering the world of electricity by participating in various camp learning centers that provided activities in which 4-H'ers could "learn by doing." Here are features of his year's learning centers:

**Electric Clock** — You probably know that some clocks use electricity to drive small electric motors that, in turn, cause the hands on the dial to rotate. In this learning center, campers built their own electric clocks to see how direct current (DC) electricity drives electric motors.

**Electric Motors** — 4-H'ers learned about the different parts of an electric motor and how electromagnetism makes a motor turn. They then put to use what they learned to build their own electric motors.

**Robotics** — Once only seen in science fiction movies, today robots are used to do many tasks. In this learning center, students saw the latest robot technology and tried their hand at controlling a robotic arm.

**Home Energy Conservation** — We use electricity to light our homes, cook our food, play music and operate televisions. But as we use more electricity, our electric bills rise. In this activity, campers learned how conserving electricity in their homes not only helps to lower their electric bills but also helps to protect our environment and conserve resources.



**Electric Vehicles** — Campers learned about batteries as well as DC and how it is used to propel electric vehicles. They also demonstrated their driving skills by maneuvering an electric golf cart through an obstacle course.

**Electrical Safety** — Though electric power does a tremendous amount of work for us, we must be careful around it because it is such a powerful force. This learning center taught campers how to play it safe around high-voltage power lines.

The 4-H Electric Camp is a joint venture of the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association and its member cooperatives, including CEMC; University of Tennessee Extension; Tennessee Municipal Electric Power Association and its municipal power systems; and the Tennessee Valley Authority.

*At left, 4-H Electric Camp attendees prepare to build electric clocks. Above, campers try their hand at controlling a robotic arm.*





## CEMC offers do-it-yourself energy-efficiency workshops

### Learn how to save on energy costs at home

Join Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation for a **FREE** do-it-yourself energy-efficiency workshop and learn easy energy-efficiency improvements that anyone can do at home.

These two-hour workshops will cover how electricity is consumed and billed and include suggestions on low- to no-cost upgrades that can be completed by homeowners to lower energy costs. Hands-on training will teach how to properly caulk, replace weather stripping, install spray-foam sealant and more.

These sessions are limited to the first 25 households that register, and each will receive a **FREE** energy-saving tool kit valued at \$25 to help you get started.


### Rebates and financing for home upgrades!

**Learn easy ways to reduce energy use for FREE!**

**Receive a FREE energy-saving kit!**

*Register at [www.cemc.org](http://www.cemc.org)  
for the workshop in your area.*



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative   
*The power of human connections*

Saturday, Sept. 22

9-11 a.m.

Robert Coleman

Community Center

303 Portland Blvd.

Portland

---

Saturday, Sept. 29

9-11 a.m.

Springfield CEMC

1201 Fifth Ave. W.

Springfield

---

Saturday, Oct. 6

9-11 a.m.

Dover CEMC

404 Spring St.

Dover

# Downed power lines: always a risk

**Y**ou teach your children not to mix water and electricity in the bathroom, kitchen and laundry room. But when a late summer rainstorm knocks down power lines outdoors, do they know to stay far away from them?

Here's what your family needs to know:

- If someone nearby comes into contact with electricity, do not touch that person or anything the person is touching. Instead, call 911. If the source of electricity is an appliance, grab the plug — not the cord — and pull it out of the outlet. If you cannot safely remove the plug, turn off the power at the fuse or circuit breaker.
- If an electric wire falls on your car, do not get out of the car. You are safe inside your vehicle.
- Not all power lines are insulated, so they are never safe to touch. When a wire falls to the ground, it may still be live, even if you don't see sparks. Call 911 and your electric cooperative if you see a downed wire. Warn others to keep their distance.



*Downed power lines may still be live, even if you don't see sparks. Always keep your distance and report to your local co-op immediately.*

- Wood is a poor conductor of electricity, but it is still a conductor, especially when wet. Do not use a wooden ladder near a power line. If a ladder begins to fall into a power line, don't grab it. Let it fall and call your electric cooperative.
- Only pure rubber is an insulator, and most household products aren't pure rubber. Don't try to handle electric emergencies at home even when you're wearing rubber gloves or shoes.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

*Turn off kitchen, bath and other exhaust fans within 20 minutes after you're done cooking or bathing. When replacing exhaust fans, consider installing high-efficiency, low-noise models.*

*Source: energy.gov*



Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation will be closed Monday, Sept. 3, in observance of Labor Day.

CEMC personnel will be available in the event of an emergency by calling 1-800-987-2362.

CEMC wishes you a safe and happy Labor Day!