

# Extreme heat calls for conservation measures

As this column is being written, it is early July, mid-morning and already nearly 90 degrees outside my office window. Of all the things in my life for which I am grateful, air conditioning is right up there!

If our weather this month is like previous Augusts, we're in for more scorching-hot days.

Preliminary figures show this summer is running hotter than normal. Based on our degree days from May 1 through June 25, temperatures are 37 percent warmer than the same period last year.

Fortunately, residents of Middle Tennessee are accustomed to the heat and humidity we experience each summer. The media cautions us regularly about heat index and over-exertion with outdoor activity.

It is in the spirit of personal safety that the following suggestions are offered to help you cope with the heat wave, especially if you must spend much of your time outdoors:

- Drink plenty of nonalcoholic fluids.
- Wear a hat, and wear lightweight and light-colored clothing to help reflect the sunlight.
- Take frequent rest breaks in the shade, and try to avoid sunburn.
- Keep abreast of the latest weather information in case any heat advisories are issued.

Electrical equipment on the Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation system reacts similarly to heat. The rating of transformers in the summer is much less than in cooler months when the ambient temperature aids in the cooling process. Although electrical load is

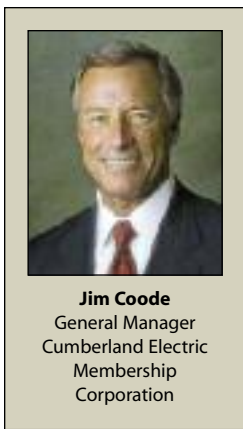
historically greater in the winter for the CEMC system, summer peak demand can be more of an issue because of the effect of summer weather on equipment.

Supply and demand are as real in the purchase of wholesale electricity as in other businesses. The cost of power is greatest when supply is minimal. We purchase 100 percent of our wholesale power from the Tennessee Valley Authority. In the summer months, the entire TVA portfolio of electric generation resources is utilized. If generation units are out of service or demand exceeds total supply, power must be purchased from off the TVA system. These purchases come at a high price.

The message to conserve electrical energy is urgent because energy saved postpones the need for additional generation, and the cost of new generating facilities today is substantial, to say the least. Efforts to promote energy efficiency are evident across the Valley on behalf of all TVA distributors. However, the greatest benefit of these conservation efforts is realized in the periods of peak energy consumption.

Whether a national energy bill is crafted and enacted this year is unknown, but at some point, policy will strongly encourage conservative measures. Using less is an immediate address to concerns of power supply.

The comfort electrical energy affords is especially evident in these summer months. Recognizing that supply and demand apply to the electrical power industry is a positive step toward ensuring affordable and reliable electric service.



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

## CEMC Management and Staff

Jim Coode, General Manager  
Randy Holt, Operations Division Manager  
Lynne Wilson, Admin. Services Div. Manager  
Chris Davis, Engineering Division Manager  
Michael Batson, Financial Services Manager  
Barbara Harper, Member Services Manager  
Howard Whitaker, District Operations Manager

CEMC Co-op News Editor  
Scott Shelton  
P.O. Box 3300  
Clarksville, TN 37043

Open Monday–Friday, 7:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.  
800-987-2362

Ashland City office  
Nicky Roberts, District Operations Supervisor

Clarksville office  
J.D. Bumpus, District Operations Supervisor

Dover office  
Terry Odom, District Operations Supervisor

Gallatin office  
Allan Cook, District Operations Supervisor

Portland/White House offices  
Homer Mayes, District Operations Supervisor

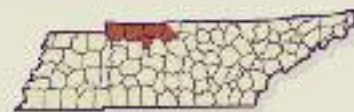
Springfield office  
Larry Richardson, District Operations Supervisor

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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.



## Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation

Serving Cheatham, Montgomery, Robertson, Stewart and Sumner counties.

# CEMC and TVA tout renewable energy

The Tennessee Valley Authority is resuming new enrollments in its Generation Partners pilot project to encourage renewable energy use across the TVA service territory.

Each qualifying solar, wind, biomass or hydroelectric project of up to 200 kilowatts will be eligible for the Generation Partners incentives, which include a \$1,000 payment to offset startup costs. In addition, TVA will buy 100 percent of the green power that participants produce, paying the retail rate and any fuel cost adjustment, plus a premium per kilowatt-hour, depending on the type of renewable energy produced.

TVA briefly held up new enrollments in June to adjust to overwhelming customer response.

"TVA launched Generation Partners as a pilot project, with periodic adjustments expected along the way, to encourage customer interest in small- to medium-sized renewable energy projects such as rooftop solar panels," said John Trawick, TVA senior vice president of commercial operations and pricing. "The response has exceeded all expectations, prompting us to expand and enhance the program to include additional projects and help support public interest in renewable energy."

"TVA is honoring more than 260 agreements, and we are launching a process to evaluate additional projects totaling more than 200 kilowatts each," Trawick said. "Our goal is to encourage more widespread use of renewable energy



Installing solar panels on a residential rooftop

resources across the TVA service territory."

Earlier this year, TVA began approving participation in advance to make it easier for customers to finance projects. Since April 1, TVA and distributors such as Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation have received more applications than expected, necessitating modifications to accommodate the larger number of projects.

"It's a good thing when you realize that your program is increasing in popularity," Trawick said. "But like any other business that experiences unexpected demand, we need to take another look at the program's structure to make sure it accommodates customer demand and stays within budget."

"Renewable generation produces no air emissions, which supports TVA's goal of providing a larger percentage of its electricity from non-carbon or low-carbon sources," he said. "The nation is moving toward requiring more low-carbon and non-carbon electricity generation, and TVA believes it prudent to begin finding ways to work toward this objective."

"Because many renewable electricity technologies are in early stages of development, we hope that Generation Partners and similar programs — which help subsidize early adoption of these new power sources — will help foster their further progress and make them more affordable for the future."

## Disaster assistance available

Seventy-three counties across the Tennessee Valley Authority service area have been affected by recent natural disasters (flooding, tornadoes, severe storms, mudslides).

To assist residents whose lives are affected by these events, TVA and Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation are offering incentives to homeowners for the installation of high-efficiency replacement heat pump systems and weatherization measures as they rebuild, helping them save energy and money on future power bills.

Through TVA's In-Home Energy Evaluation Program, which is available to members of CEMC, homeowners can get up to \$500 in cash incentives and/or con-



venient financing when they install energy-efficiency improvements to their homes. As part of this initiative, TVA will waive an initial energy evaluation requirement for homeowners who have a Federal Emergency Management Agency Home Repair Eligibility Letter, making it easier to access cash incentives and/or financing for installation of eligible weatherization and heating and cooling improvements.

This offer is available for properties affected by natural disasters beginning April 1, 2010, and ends Dec. 31, 2010.

A toll-free number is available to assist with questions regarding this initiative.

Call 1-877-634-9442 or contact CEMC's Member Services Department.

# After traveling to Washington students report increased appreciation

By Barbara Harper, CEMC member services manager

This was my fifth year to travel with the student winners of the Washington Youth Tour Writing Contest sponsored by Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, and each year, the young adults who go on the trip amaze me. Sharing with you what a remarkable group represented our co-op members, their families, their schools and their communities the week of June 11-17 in Washington, D.C., is always an honor and fun.

The week began in Nashville at the office of our statewide co-op organization, the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association, at 6 a.m. to load four chartered buses with luggage, lots of water, students, teachers and co-op employees. That morning all the students, parents and teachers were thinking, "Why so early?"

Our traveling party soon realized that this was our late morning! "Rise and shine" came very early most mornings, as our schedules were crampacked with so much to see in just five days because our first and last days were strictly for travel and bonding with each other.

CEMC participants rode Bus 2, driven by



**Natalie Kela, left, Josiah Brown and Erin Weakley ride on the Metro, the D.C. subway.**

Ms. Valerie, with students from Caney Fork Electric Cooperative, Duck River Electric Membership Corporation, Fayetteville Public Utilities and Volunteer Energy Cooperative. Once our bus started rolling, I knew within minutes that Bus 2 was the best bus, rocking and rolling to D.C. as enthusiastic high school seniors, teachers and electric cooperative chaperones were chattering away as they all became friends and like family. As we traveled across Tennessee, making stops to pick up additional passengers, the students did a fantastic job welcoming the next group aboard.

With walking shoes on and cameras ready to snap, we were all set to visit the memorials, the museums, our U.S. senators and representatives and the many different sites and events scheduled to tour during our fast-paced visit. The students on the four Tennessee buses were anxious to begin an amazing week in our nation's capital, as were the students from the other 46 states participating in the 2010 Washington Youth Tour (WYT), a grand total of 1,492 students plus teachers and electric co-op employees representing the electric co-ops across our great nation. The Tennessee co-ops hosted a total 180 dele-



**Our group is all smiles with the Fénykövi Elephant at the National Museum of Natural History.**

gates, the highest attendance for all states, and this was most obvious when the students began swapping state pins, as I am sure every student attending had an opportunity to receive a Tennessee pin, if not two!

As in years past, meeting members of Congress and having photos made with them is always one of the many favorite scheduled events for the students. When we visit the Washington National Cathedral, Monticello, Mount Vernon, Arlington National Cemetery, war and presidential memorials and many other sites, I always enjoy watching the expressions on the students' faces as the history they have studied in school comes alive and takes on a new meaning for each of them. I recognize that I am very fortunate to experience this with our younger

members, and as I watch this young group discover another side of themselves and their nation, I know that when the time comes, our future will be good in their hands.

One of our favorite moments at the state group meeting was during the bus competitions (Yes, Bus 2 was the best!) and announcements of the short story scholarship winners. We are proud to report that CEMC's top short story for 2010, written by Katie Warren of Stewart County High, won first place in the statewide



**Something high off the ground has the attention of Casey Williams and Chase York.**

# Washington, D.C., on co-op Youth Tour, Association for American citizenship

## On the cover

On the steps of the Capitol Building are CEMC's 2010 Washington Youth Tour participants. From left are Barbara Harper, Nicole Wolowicz, Dalton Barrow, Kaitlyn Warren, Chase York, Brittney Meador, Josiah Brown, Lesley Wallace, Taylor Genz, Erin Weakley, Casey Williams, Hailey Keith, William Holder, Natalie Kela and Stephanie Lobdell.

with knowledge and memories that I will cherish for a lifetime. I expected it to be great, and it was!" — Erin Weakley, Montgomery Central High

"Before the trip, I was expecting to meet new people and see much of Washington. The end result was one that I will never forget, and this trip has given me a great chance to gain new friends." — Taylor Genz, Stewart County High

"I've made great friends, learned and seen a ton, and made great memories! This has been one of the greatest experiences of my life. Thanks!" — Hailey Keith, Greenbrier High

"I expected the week in Washington, D.C., to be like a 'laid-back' vacation, but I got a truly unique trip where I learned a lot and had a great time. My favorite event was going to the Kennedy Center to see the play 'Thurgood' starring Laurence Fishburne." — Casey Williams, Montgomery Central High



Taylor Genz shows off his fine collection of state pins.

competition, and she will receive a \$3,000 scholarship to the college or university of her choice. Be sure to read Katie's story on page 20.

Each year, our students' quotes clearly summarize the benefits and importance of this tremendous program for the youth in our co-op service areas. Here are a few of the 2010 WYT winners' comments:

"The WYT was the most hectic, memorable and enjoyable trip that left me



With U.S. Rep. Bart Gordon, left, are Hailey Keith, Brittney Meador, Dalton Barrow and Nicole Wolowicz.

Central High

"After visiting several memorials, I now have an even greater respect for the presidents and servicemen and women who helped shape our country into the great nation it is today. This educational opportunity brought about a deeper appreciation for my country. More than ever, I am proud to be an

American." — Kaitlyn Warren, Stewart County High

"I wasn't expecting to make so many friends. I was expecting this trip to be a great way to see Washington, D.C., and it definitely was. I am so thankful I saw all I did and could come on this trip. Touring D.C. with CEMC has made me feel like a VIP, and experiencing D.C. on the Washington Youth Tour has caused me to seriously consider a career of public service through our nation's government." — Josiah Brown, Sycamore High

"Washington, D.C., is one of the most exciting places I

have visited. There was so much to learn about, and seeing all the memorials made me realize how lucky I am to be here and to live in our country." — Brittney Meador, Portland High

"I got a once-in-a-lifetime trip where I saw the most amazing things, met the most amazing people and had one of the most fun trips of my life. I honestly loved this trip." — Lesley Wallace, Stewart County High

Along with Stephanie Lobdell, CEMC member services assistant, and coach William "Dusty" Holder, Stewart County High School American history teacher, I witnessed an astounding group "come

together in D.C."



For their trip to the White House, what could be more fitting than matching tuxedo T-shirts from CEMC?



For Brittney Meador, left, and Lesley Wallace, ice cream was a welcome relief from the Washington heat.

# Short story writer wins \$3,000 scholarship

By Kaitlyn 'Katie' Warren, Stewart County High School

*"Sitting down to write my story, I didn't expect to win. I took my passion, art, and tied it in with how our local co-op is active in bettering our community." — Katie Warren*

When I paint, I always try to remember that the subject is more important than the quality. For example, I could paint the most realistic bowl of fruit, but no one can relate to a bowl of fruit, and no one can understand why I painted it. Instead, I choose a subject that means something to me.

My life revolves around community service. I use my painting skills to create educational murals around my town. Because I enjoy bettering my community, it only made sense to paint a mural about Tennessee's electric cooperatives.

As expected, a small crowd gathered to watch as I dipped my paintbrush and started to create.

"What is an electric cooperative?" someone asked.

"They bring electricity to rural areas like ours," I said. "It's a member-owned business with membership open to those who use its service."

"Why would you want to paint a mural about that?" a little boy asked.

I smiled. "Electric cooperatives not only provide us electricity, they also give back to their community," I told the little boy. "I'm trying to follow their example by helping my community."

The boy's mother looked just as confused as he did. "So you're helping your community by painting a mural about businesses that provide us with electricity?"

I nodded. "Electric co-ops are not like investor-owned utilities, and they are not in this to make a profit. They offer all kinds of programs that help their communities, including safety presentations at schools to inform children of the hazards when dealing with electricity."

The little boy grinned. "We just had one of those at my school!"

A man next to him spoke up. "I think I understand the importance of the community service part, but what's so important about an electric company?"

"If it were not for our electric co-op, we would not have electricity. Urban areas in the early 1900s were the only ones who had electricity. Electric cooperatives were started when people from rural communities got together to resolve this problem. We are so used to everything that electricity offers us. However, we were the last area of rural America to receive the benefits of electricity. Private power companies considered it unprofitable to build lines to rural areas," I continued. "Can you imagine what it would be like to live without electricity?"

"It would be very difficult."

"It *would* be very difficult. Did you know around 1,000 rural electric cooperatives provide electricity to 30 million people



Kaitlyn "Katie" Warren

across the United States?"

His eyes grew wide. "That's pretty impressive."

"Extremely impressive," said someone next to him.

"What are you painting now?" the little boy asked.

"A compact fluorescent bulb," I said. "They help you save energy, which means lower electric bills."

"What does that have to do with electric cooperatives?"

"Tennessee's electric cooperatives encourage consumers to use less electricity. With help from the Tennessee Valley Authority's *energy right*<sup>®</sup> program, local co-ops are assisting members with

free energy audits. Cooperatives and TVA also offer in-home energy evaluations. They perform on-site inspections of members' homes and make specific recommendations to help members save energy. Cooperatives encourage all their members to find out how they use electricity and to take steps to be more efficient."

"That's unexpected from a company that sells electricity," said the man.

"They even offer cash incentives to co-op members who build all-electric homes following energy-saving standards."

"That's amazing!" he said.

The mother asked, "Why are you painting plants?"

"The Tennessee Valley Authority and electric cooperatives promote a Green Power Switch program, a renewable energy initiative, to bring green power — which is electricity generated by cleaner, renewable resources — to Valley consumers," I told him. "It is sold in 150-kilowatt-hour blocks. Each block adds only \$4 to a consumer's monthly power bill."

"Only \$4 extra to 'go green?'" asked the mother.

"That's right." I grinned as I dipped my hand in a paper plate of green paint and then placed my handprint on the wall.

"What are you doing now?" asked the little boy.

"I'm pledging to help my community, whether it be 'going green,' conserving energy or just painting murals. The smallest step can make a big difference." I handed him the plate. "Do you want to pledge?"

"Yeah!" he exclaimed.

"I'll do it, too," his mother said.

"Me too," said the man.

We are the members of the community helping the community. Our movement may start out small, but like ripples in a pond, it will begin to grow and do great things. That is why small-town people grow to admire electric cooperatives; they started out just as members of small communities and became an organization that many people today rely on. No matter where you come from, whether it is a large city or a small town, anyone can make a difference.

# 51 middle school students represent CEMC at 4-H Electric Camp

Each summer, Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation sends a group of seventh- and eighth-graders to the Knoxville campus of The University of Tennessee for 4-H Electric Camp. While there, students learn about energy, electricity and basic sciences as well as make new friends while participating in recreational activities.

For this year's camp, held June 29–July 2, CEMC was represented by 51 students from throughout the cooperative's service area.

Several specific learning areas were set up for the campers, including:

- **Electronic Battery Tester**, where students soldered resistors, light-emitting diodes and integrated circuit chips on a circuit board to make a working battery tester;
- **“Hands-On” Energy Conservation Activities**, which taught campers ways to lower their homes' energy costs; and,
- **Electric Lamp**, where students were given a lamp kit and some electric insulators for making a working electric lamp.

In addition to the work, students enjoyed swimming, a pizza party and a trip to Dollywood.

Next year, 4-H Electric Camp will celebrate its 20th year educating our young members about the many ways electricity enriches our lives.



(1) Joe Keese generates electricity using a kilowatt bike; (2) Jesse Preston assembles a lamp; (3) Lexi Barrow makes a battery tester; (4) Meagan Garst, left, and Joseph Urban make friends with Hannah Reavis of Coffee County.



CEMC's 4-H Electric Campers pose for a photo in the amphitheatre outside the Clarence Brown Theatre at UT.