

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

Kenny Davis,
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

CEMC Board of Directors

Joe H. Whitaker, Sumner Co., President
Wesley H. Aymett, Cheatham Co., Vice President
Shela K. Williams, At Large, Secretary-Treasurer
Jerry T. Peacher, Stewart Co., Assistant Secretary-Treasurer
Gene E. Cook, Robertson Co.
Stephen E. Douglass, Stewart Co.
Michael A. Mason, Robertson Co.
C. David Morgan, Montgomery Co.
Carrol O. Poole, Montgomery Co.
Tommy G. Whittaker, 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.

AS I SEE IT

Manager's Viewpoint

Focus on youth

Each month my column focuses primarily on the many variables/functions of our electric cooperative businesses. Today my thoughts are focused on our youth, as 12 of our members' children participated in the annual Rural Electric Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. Steve Sorrells, Greenbrier High principal who went with the students, and Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation chaperones assured me that our American heritage will continue to grow because we will be in the good hands of this group of young adults we sent to D.C.

August is here, and many members' children and grandchildren will soon be back in school. Some are preparing to go to college. Everyone is readjusting for the many fall activities that come with school starting back. Like the many educators who have been preparing for the 2011-2012 school year, CEMC employees are busy as well.

All electric cooperatives are very involved in their communities and schools by promoting various electric safety and energy-efficiency programs. In addition to those programs, we work with our schools on community projects such as annual food drives with elementary schools in each of the counties served by CEMC.

The pictures featured on CEMC's calendars are the artwork of our youth in kindergarten through 12th grade. Scholarships are awarded each year to 10 graduating seniors across our service

area to assist them in their life goals by furthering their educations. CEMC sponsors several sixth- and seventh-graders to attend 4-H Electric Camp to learn about electric safety and the science of electricity in general. With the assistance of electric distributor employees, the campers made electric lamps, extension cords, battery testers and other related items.

The Washington Youth Tour and the 4-H Electric Camp are two educational programs we sponsor annually. Through these programs and similar educational opportunities made possible by CEMC, our future members experience firsthand how we energize their communities with special programs as well as affordable electricity.

Our involvement with youth and communities includes numerous events. We attempt to highlight a few each month so that you can enjoy the accomplishments of the many children and young adults who participate. On the following pages, I hope you enjoy pictures from the 2011 4-H Electric Camp and Washington Youth Tour.



Jim Coode
General Manager
Cumberland
Electric
Membership
Corporation

Coming next month

The September issue of *The Tennessee Magazine* will contain everything you need to know about Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation's 2011 Annual Meeting. This year we're returning to Rossview High School in Clarksville. Please plan to be part of the crowd on Saturday, Sept. 24, for the biggest event in the life of your electric cooperative. There will be director elections, entertainment, a delicious free breakfast and lots of great door prizes, plus activities for the kids.

CEMC sends 62 to 4-H Electric Camp



Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation was proud to send 62 sixth- and seventh-grade students to the University of Tennessee Knoxville campus for 4-H Electric Camp June 28-July 1. Most of this year's CEMC campers were from Stewart County.



Above left, students from Robertson County work on building meter lamps. At right, Sumner County students sand the wooden bases for their lamps. Below left, students from Cheatham, Robertson and Sumner counties relax between events. Below right, Cheatham County students wait to have their finished lamps tested. All campers enjoyed their experiences on the UT Knoxville campus.



Looking back on a successful

By Barbara Harper, CEMC Member Services Manager

At 6 a.m. on Friday June 10, Stephanie Lobdell, Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation public relations coordinator, and I were at the Nashville office of our statewide organization, the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association, with high school students, teachers and co-op employees to load our “home on wheels” for the week of June 10-16. At 7 a.m. sharp, Joe Jackson, TECA director of youth and member relations, radioed to the four Tennessee bus leaders, “All aboard and ready to roll!” — signaling to all attendees the official start of the 2011 Washington Youth Tour (WYT). As we rolled across the great state of Tennessee, we picked up dozens more traveling Tennesseans, bringing our state’s total attendance to 190.

Students won their spots on the expense-paid trip to the nation’s capital for writing winning short stories titled “Electric Cooperatives: iPower the Future.” In Washington, they joined approximately 1,500 students from across the country



for a week of touring monuments, memorials and historical sites and meeting their U.S. senators and representatives.

To help capture this year’s tour, the Tennessee group was given the opportunity to post pictures and comments on TECA’s Facebook page, keeping everyone at home updated throughout the week. Even parents watched the updates, and many posted their own comments. To see highlights of our trip, go to www.facebook.com/youthtourTN.

Students representing CEMC proved to be excellent ambassadors for their families, schools and communities. Lobdell and I were honored to accompany them and were equally impressed with how considerate these 12 students were of others and their great appreciation of the chance to visit many historical sites during the week, bringing their study of history to life. Tours included many famous sites

such as the White House; memorials to past presidents Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Franklin Delano Roosevelt and to those who served in World War II and the Vietnam and Korean conflicts; and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Other fun stops included George Washington’s Mount Vernon and Thomas Jefferson’s Monticello, the Smithsonian Institution museums, a performance of “Shear Madness” at



the Kennedy Center, the Sunset Parade and a boat cruise on the Potomac River.

The group was given a special after-hours VIP guided tour of the historic U.S. Capitol and met Reps. Diane Black, Scott DesJarlais and Phil Roe. We also got to spend time and take pictures with Tennessee’s senators, Lamar Alexander and Bob Corker, on the steps of the Capitol and with Reps. Black and Stephen Fincher in their offices.

The short story penned by Greenbrier High’s Jill Vernich also won her principal, Steve Sorrells, a spot on the 2011 trip.

“How do you pack our nation’s history into six days? WYT comes very close,” Sorrells said. “What a fantastic opportunity for young people to experience leadership develop-



2011 Washington Youth Tour



Vietnam Veterans Memorial

ment and meet potential leaders from all over the U.S.”

Like those who came before them, the 2011 WYT attendees claimed the trip the best of their lifetime! Both the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and TECA have been hearing this praise since 1965. In addition to the tour being their “best trip ever,” the winners go home

telling their friends and family what a great experience they had in D.C. — all thanks to a short-story writing assignment.

“This trip was outstanding,” said White House High student Luke Hilliard. “It completely changed my view of how our nation’s capital functions.”



Watergate Hotel

“Not only did I love seeing and touring all the sites, but I loved all the people I met,” said Hillary Keel, Stewart County High. “I’ve made friends that I know I will have for a lifetime.”

“In the American History Museum, there was a quote that sums up the experience for me: ‘No matter how far the stream goes, it always remembers its source,’” said Victoria (Tori) Roberts, Sycamore High. “All that I have seen and done along with the people with whom I experienced it have greatly influenced who I am.”

“Throughout the many vacations and leadership conferences that I have been a part of, NOTHING has yet compared to what I have experienced on the Youth Tour,” said

Haley Marie Creek, Portland High. “This was so much more than a tour of Washington, D.C. Every second of every day completely took my breath away.”

“The trip to Washington, D.C., was truly amazing!” said Taylor MacLeod, Jo Byrns High. “I love history, and to see the monuments and visit the museums was incredible. Not only that, but I met great new people and made lots of friends.”

“Washington, D.C., was a memorable and monumental trip for me,” said Mary Ruth Prince, Greenbrier High. “It was better than any vacation I’ve ever been on!”

Since 2009, the Austin Peay State University Department of Languages and Literature has judged the CEMC entries to determine our winners for the trip. Vernich’s short story, ranked by APSU as CEMC’s top story for the 2010-11 school year, can be found on page 20.

Will you or someone you know be a high school junior this fall? If so, 2012 WYT entry details can be found in guidance counselors’ offices, the January 2012 issue of *The Tennessee Magazine* and on CEMC’s website, www.cemc.org.

ON THE COVER — Standing on the grounds of the U.S. Capitol are CEMC’s representatives to this year’s Washington Youth Tour. From left are Maci Burnette, Jo Byrns High; Hayley Creek, Portland High; Luke Hilliard, White House High; Kaylee Hofstetter, Portland High; Hillary Keel, Stewart County High; Destiny LaGarce, Sycamore High; Taylor MacLeod, Jo Byrns High; Mary Prince, Greenbrier High; Dakota Rakestraw, Stewart County High; Tori Roberts, Sycamore High; Emily Tate, White House High; and Jill Vernich, Greenbrier High. Also shown are Steve Sorrells, principal at Greenbrier High School and CEMC employees Barbara Harper and Stephanie Lobdell.



Bring your own shade!

Student's short story earns her a trip to Washington, D.C.

By Jill Vernich, Greenbrier High School

As I neared the local homeless shelter, I noticed that a line had already started forming out the front door. I politely excused myself through the crowd of tired and hungry visitors. Once inside, I headed toward the kitchen to wash my hands and to slip an apron over my head.

"There are even more people than last week," I whispered to another volunteer. "I'm glad we can feed them all." I smiled to myself, thinking of how many people we were helping and what it meant to them.

"As long as they're getting a good meal in their bellies and a warm place to sleep for the night, they'll keep coming back for more," she assured me.

I ran my finger down the list of food we would need in order to prepare dinner and went to the refrigerator to select each item. After opening the refrigerator door, I greatly admired all the food so neatly packed into each compartment.

"Did you know that families used to keep their food cold by storing it in cellars or springhouses before electricity became available to rural areas?" I asked the young volunteer.

"That must have not been very convenient to go down into a dark, scary cellar for a snack!" she replied.

"Imagine if we had to do that today! Luckily, when homes were electrified, refrigerators made food accessible inside the home. This solved the problem of food spoilage." I set the food down on the counter. The manager of the shelter walked in behind me as I said, "What if all this food spoiled? Then we couldn't feed the people standing right outside those doors."

"That's right," he chimed in. "Not only do we make a difference by feeding the needy a hot meal, but we also offer a safe, warm, comfortable place to sleep." I nodded in agreement.

The other volunteers were busy making the meal when one looked up with a questioning expression on her face. She must have overheard our conversation and asked, "But how does our community afford all these things? The food and the bedding — it all seems so expensive. How do we know we are getting the best deal possible for the products we use here at the homeless shelter?"

"Thanks to our electric cooperatives, it doesn't have to be expensive," I said proudly. "What do electric cooperatives have to do with a homeless shelter?" she continued.

"More than you think," I said as I placed a stack of trays at the beginning of the meal line. "Our electric cooperatives provide more than just electricity. They're a nonprofit, member-owned business with membership open to those who use its services. Because the co-op's employees are also its customers and owners, they make sure to use their time and resources to better each community it serves," I replied to the volunteer.

"So by serving our community and the people in it, we are kind of like electric cooperatives, right?" queried my young friend.

"In a way, yes we are. They help us so we are able to help the people in our community. It's sort of like a chain reaction," I explained as more volunteers listened in. "Our electric cooperatives provide many products and services that are designed to reduce our energy and electricity bills. Things like geothermal heat pumps, compact fluorescent lamps and heat pump water heaters are only a few of the many technologically advanced appliances they have created for our benefit."

"Wow, you know a lot about this!" someone said.

"That's because our local co-op visited my high school last week to teach us about safety around electricity, one of their community-strengthening programs. We also learned about green power, energy efficiency, youth programs, job creation and industrial development, all of which are offered by our electric co-ops," I said as I scooped food onto each plate for hungry people waiting outside.

"From what I've heard, co-ops are constantly searching for additional products and services to

benefit their communities, but can we really count on continuous improvement of existing services?" asked an older volunteer.

"Of course," I said simply. "The Tennessee Valley Authority's energy right New Homes Program offers cash incentives to its electric cooperative members who build all-electric homes by following energy-savings standards."

"What does that mean?" she asked.

"It basically means lower electric bills, and who wouldn't want that?" I said with a laugh.

"Are there other ways we can save money?" someone chimed in.

"There are plenty of ways to save money! The geothermal heat pumps I mentioned earlier cut energy use in half while providing year-round comfort. Heat pump water heaters use 50 percent less energy than natural gas water heating, and compact fluorescent lamps, or bulbs, last 10 times longer than incandescent bulbs. The possibilities are endless," I replied.

"This brings me back to the question of what electric cooperatives have to do with a homeless shelter," I directed to the volunteer who asked me earlier. "Electric co-ops put forth their best effort to provide reliable products and services that better their community in more ways than one. They care about their members, strive for continual success and it's a win-win situation for everyone! What could be better than that?"



Jill Vernich
Greenbrier High School