

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

General manager addresses membership

These are the remarks made by Jim Coode, general manager of Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation, at the cooperative's annual member meeting held Sept. 24 at Rossview High School.

First I would like to congratulate our incumbent directors, re-elected today. Your entire board works for the good of the entire membership and does not focus on one facet of the organization. It is indeed a pleasure to work for them.

Fiscal year 2010-2011 was a good year for Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation. We were able to pay down a significant amount of long-term debt while acquiring no new debt. This was partially due to this last year being a period of low member growth. When growth is slow, we do not have to make system improvements and add services as rapidly as in years of higher growth. Prior to 2008, Cumberland was adding between 2,000 and 2,500 members per year. Last year we added only 497 new members. This is not necessarily a bad thing, for it has given us the opportunity to attend to some much-needed maintenance. After all, we maintain more than 7,600 miles of electric distribution line.

There were significant improvements made this year, one of which was the building of the new White House Substation at a cost of \$3.15 million. This new substation not only enhances reliability for the area but also doubles the electric capacity available for this growing area. Additionally, because TVA built six miles of 161,000-volt transmission line to White House, we were able to retire an old sub-transmission line and return the easements back to the property owners.

Adjacent to our Springfield District, we purchased from Farm Bureau a piece of property that has a suitable building for a new Disaster Recovery Center. Our existing Recovery Center is adequate but is in close proximity to our headquarters office. By relocating the new center to Springfield, we hope to reduce the likelihood of the same disaster event affecting both facilities. This property also will address a need for a larger pole yard at our Springfield District.

As most of you know, vegetation is the primary contributor to our power interruptions. We spent approximately \$3.2 million on right-of-way management last year. The Sky Trim device is an effective way of cutting right of way for some locations. We do not own this machinery; we contract its use, and we will continue to aggressively maintain our rights of way in future years.

The storms we experienced this spring seemed to appear weekly with no end in sight. CEMC members experienced several outages and significant damage in some locations. However, we did not have to look too far to the west or the south to realize how lucky we were. The damage sustained in southern Tennessee, northern Mississippi and Alabama was the most extensive ever to TVA's transmission system. TVA did an excellent job in restoring power to this area.



Jim Coode
General Manager
Cumberland
Electric
Membership
Corporation

(Continued on page 20)

Four incumbent directors re-elected

Members attending this year's annual meeting voted new three-year terms for four incumbent directors who were running unopposed.

According to board attorney Roger Maness, each of the four received approximately 1,000 votes in retaining his or her position.

Congratulations to Jerry T. Peacher, North Stewart County representative; Carrol O. Poole, North Montgomery County representative; Joe H. Whitaker Sr., South Sumner County representative; and Shela K. Williams, director-at-large.

Their new terms began in October.



Jerry T. Peacher



Carrol O. Poole



Joe H. Whitaker



Shela K. Williams

Scenes from the 2011 annual meeting



Upper left: Rossvie High School's Golden Rhapsody performed a spirited program of patriotic and Disney tunes. Upper right: Pike Electric put on an informative electric safety demonstration. Lower left: part of the breakfast crowd that filled the cafeteria. Lower right: this young man had a big time playing on the inflatables in the Youth Corner.



Annual meeting made winners



Terry Lackey of Bumpus Mills claimed the Pick Tennessee Products Package.



The UT Tailgating Trip was won by Susan Paisley of Cedar Hill.



Greg Duke of Clarksville won the Home Entertainment Package.

Congratulations to all the Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation members who won prizes at this year's annual meeting! In addition to the big-prize winners whose pictures appear on these pages, the following members were randomly selected to receive \$50 bill credits for completing the post-meeting survey:

- Joe S. Wilkinson of White House;
- Judy A. Hicks of Greenbrier;
- David Shores of Ashland City;
- Judy M. Tidwell of Adams;
- Martha Walker of Springfield;
- and Marilyn Griffy of Clarksville.

Visitors to the Youth Corner who won prizes were Lacey Yarbrough of Clarksville, Bella Russell of Clarksville, Izabella Everett of Dover, John Lilley of Palmyra, Nicholas Wood of Clarksville and Hillary Keel of Dover.

Early-voting bill credits valued at \$100 were given to Edward O'Bryan of Clarksville, James Ratzler of Springfield, Richard Bass Jr. of Portland, Michael Harper of Galatin, Katie Hudgens of Ashland City, Mark Fitzhugh of Dover and Thomas Bearden of White House.

Is it worth it to attend CEMC's annual member meeting? Ask any of these prize winners. Our guess is they're already looking forward to next year's meeting!



These young people all won something good in the Youth Corner, whether it was a new bicycle or a gift card for gas, food or new clothes.

out of these members



Betty and David Cairra of Cedar Hill were winners of the grand prize — an ENERGY STAR-rated washer and dryer with pedestals valued at more than \$1,500!



Winner of the Cool Springs Shopping excursion was Dell (Mrs. David) Ross of Cedar Hill.



Winners of \$500 scholarships were, from left, Raymond Sheppard of Clarksville, Cynthia Dabalos of Palmyra, Jerry Crabtree of Hendersonville, Jackie Struckmeyer of Adams, Julie Bisgaard of Clarksville and Kay Keen of Portland.



Debra Smith of Cunningham won the Front Porch Haven Package. Also shown is her daughter, Ashley Aquino.



Frankie Kellett of Clarksville won the Backyard Family Fun Package.



The Gatlinburg Retreat went to Maxwell Shepherd of Indian Mound.

General manager's address

(Continued from page 16)

CEMC crews were dispatched to Cleveland, Tenn., to aid Volunteer Energy Cooperative as a result of this devastation.

Cooperatives are required by the Rural Utilities Service to furnish annual interruption data. This data is collected and divided by the system's total number of members. For 2010 our interruption duration average was 2.48 hours per member. This compares favorably to the national average, which was 3.11 hours per member. We will continue to focus on managing interruptions as reliably as possible.

There is a cost for our system's reliability. CEMC purchases all its power from TVA at a delivery point, which, in our case, is a substation. We build the substations, extend the circuits and build the services to your homes and businesses. We maintain the rights of way and repair any damage the system incurs. There are also administrative costs associated with the electric system such as billing and metering. Seventy-six percent of all our revenue is paid to TVA for power costs. The other 24 cents out of each dollar collected goes toward expenses and capital expenditures for the year. CEMC's rates are about in the median with our neighboring cooperatives. One factor involved in rate design is a utility's density, number of cus-

tomers per mile. Today, CEMC has 12 customers per mile as opposed to our neighboring municipality, Nashville Electric Service, which has a density of 63 customers per mile. It becomes very obvious that if the two systems' rates are the same, NES would take in five times the revenue as would CEMC. But customer density is not something that we can control.

As mentioned before, we have an all-requirements power contract with TVA, and TVA has some enormous challenges in front of it. Environmental impacts today and those that are yet to be determined will surely force electric rates upward. There have been hints of a new Energy Bill this fall, but we would encourage lawmakers to consider enough time for technologies to develop so that the economic impact is not so severe initially. TVA has stated that it wants to be a leader in clean energy and renewables, and by building Watts Bar and Bellefonte nuclear reactors, it is doing just that. We are in favor of solar and wind technologies, but the capacity needs of the U.S. today can only be met by forcing steam through a turbine. There are three ways of doing that: burning coal or natural gas or installing a nuclear reactor. TVA is not only our power provider and regulator, it is our partner, and in order for CEMC to succeed, TVA must succeed.

I appreciate your attendance here today.

Holiday closing notice

CEMC offices will be closed for the Christmas and New Year's holidays on Friday, Dec. 23, Monday, Dec. 26, and Monday, Jan. 2.

If you should need emergency electrical service on these dates, please call 1-800-987-2362.

Happy Holidays!



What's your story?

In 2013, Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation will be 75 years old.

In preparation for this milestone, we'd like to gather stories from members who remember when CEMC first brought electricity to their home or business.

Tell us your story of when the lights came on! These stories will be published in future issues of *The Tennessee Magazine*.

If you are willing to share your story, please contact Scott Shelton, CEMC communications coordinator, by calling 800-987-2362, ext. 1158, or send an email to sshelton@cemc.org.

We can't wait to hear your stories about how electric power changed things for your family all those years ago!

Help us decorate the Trees of Giving

Visitors to any Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation office this month will see a Christmas tree decorated not with ornaments and tinsel but with cold-weather clothing.

“We’re collecting hats, gloves, coats and other items that will be donated to the charitable agencies in our service area for distribution to people in need,” says Barbara Harper, CEMC member services manager.

CEMC employees join with school organizations to fill up the trees, but CEMC members are encouraged to take part in the project as well.

“We’ve had great participation from the membership and are hopeful of another year of member involvement,” Harper says.

Donations will be accepted through Dec. 20. CEMC office hours are 7:30 a.m. through 4:30 p.m.

Anyone wishing to donate nonperishable food items is welcome to do so.

“We know the need is great, and every donated item will help alleviate the needs of the people in our communities,” Harper says.



Students from White House Heritage High School helped decorate the Tree of Giving in CEMC’s White House office last year.

Safe holiday decorations are a must

Few traditions are as unique to the holidays as festooning our homes and yards with twinkling lights and festive decorations. While these displays add to the magic of the season, they also increase our risks for holiday fires and injuries. So follow these steps to ensure that your traditions result in a safe, bright and happy time for your family.

Carefully inspect each electrical decoration and extension cord before use, and discard any damaged items. Cracked sockets, bare or frayed wires and loose connections may cause a serious shock or fire. Avoid overloading outlets, which can overheat and also cause fires.

The Electrical Safety Foundation International recommends never connecting more than three strands of incandescent lights together. Do not pinch cords in windows or doors or under heavy furniture.

When decorating outside, make sure outdoor outlets are equipped with ground fault circuit interrupters. Check that all items and extension cords are marked for outdoor use.



Make sure connections are secure and cords are not worn or frayed.

Source: Underwriters Laboratories

And exercise extreme caution when decorating near overhead power lines. Use a wooden or fiberglass ladder instead of metal. Keep yourself and all of your equipment at least 10 feet from power lines.

Take special care with Christmas trees. If purchasing a live tree, check for freshness. Heated rooms dry out live trees — even fresh ones — rapidly. Place the tree at least 3 feet away from all heat sources, including fireplaces and space heaters. Be sure to keep

the stand filled with water. For artificial trees, look for “fire resistant” on the label.

Decorate your tree, live or artificial, with noncombustible or flame-resistant materials. Never use burning candles on or near your tree.

Whether your house is the most festive on the block or you prefer a more low-key style, make safety an important part of your holiday preparations.

Source: Electrical Safety Foundation International