

CEMC seeks to improve outage communication in 2009

Power outages can be frustrating for consumers, especially when there is seemingly no plausible reason for one's lights to blink or go out. Does the utility have a capacity problem or faulty equipment? In the Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation service area, the answer to those questions is almost assuredly "No." What, then, is the cause when weather is not the culprit?

Vehicular crashes involving utility equipment are not uncommon, and weather is not always a contributing factor. Animals inadvertently contribute to outages. We have had seasonal problems with squirrels in certain areas. Birds, whether alighting on equipment or dropping materials while building nests, cause nuisance

outages. Snakes, raccoons and cats have been found to have climbed on energized substation equipment. There was even a report of a tree frog on a pole-mounted transformer years ago in

Stewart County, but that story remains unconfirmed. Members have cut trees on power lines during fair weather, causing protective devices to trip energized lines.

At CEMC, we realize it is important to pass along information regarding outages. Cause and time of restoration are important to those affected. We intend to

focus on better informing our members of this information as it avails itself to our dispatchers. Improving communication to our membership is a goal we intend to attain in 2009.



Jim Coode
General Manager
Cumberland Electric
Membership
Corporation



Substation technicians Ricky Cooksey, left, and Danny Smith work to restore power after an outage by switching the electrical load from one substation breaker to another.

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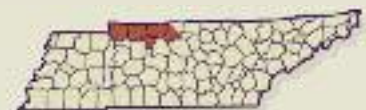
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Mission Statement

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.

One million and growing

Our Energy, Our Future: A Dialogue With America

Just before the New Year, electric cooperatives achieved an unprecedented milestone: The number of postcards, letters and e-mails sent from co-op consumers to elected officials in Congress as part of the Our Energy, Our Future grassroots awareness campaign exceeded the 1.5 million mark.

“This total represents a momentous achievement,” says Glenn English, CEO of the Arlington, Va.-based National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. “Never in the history of electric co-ops have we attempted a grassroots effort on such a scale. I can guarantee you that folks on Capitol Hill are getting the message. Lawmakers now have additional proof that cooperatives genuinely speak for their consumers,



which reinforces our credibility and reframes the national energy debate.”

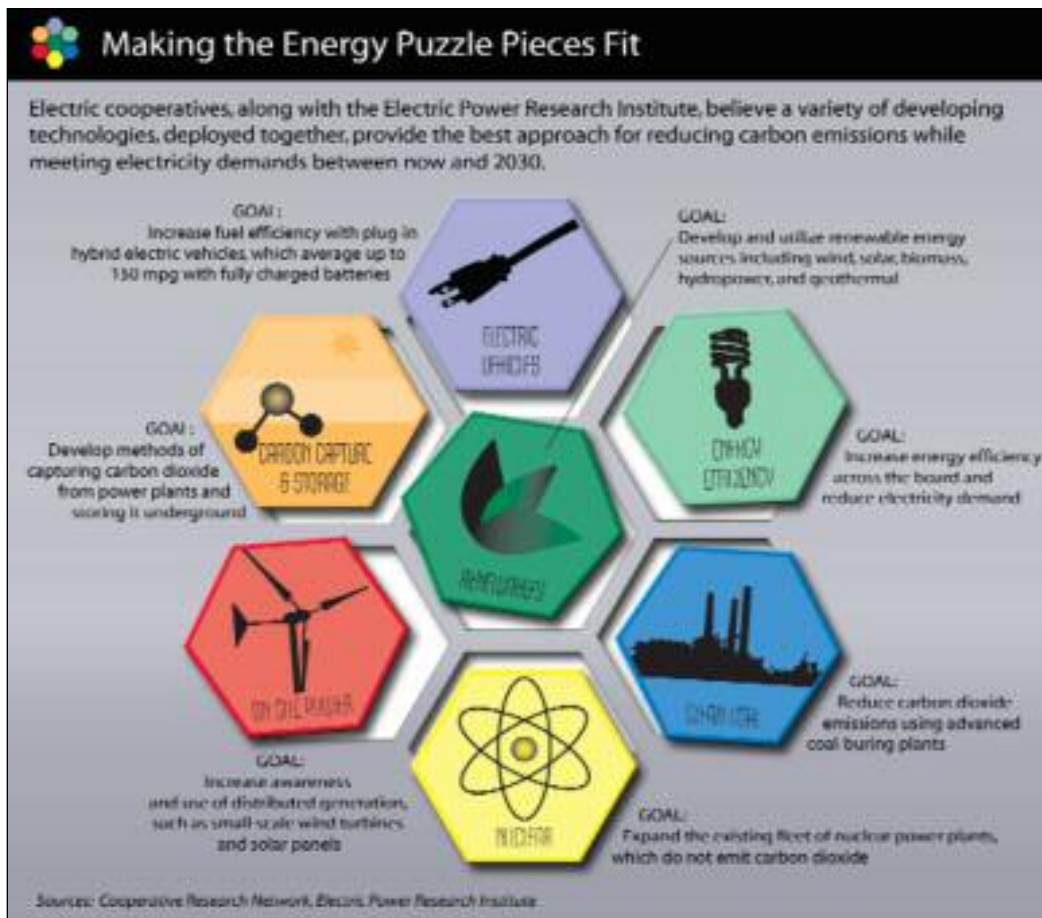
Through the Our Energy, Our Future campaign, co-op consumers pressed their congressional representatives on three critical questions regarding capacity, technology and affordability, jump-starting discus-

sion on the complexities associated with providing safe, reliable and affordable power in an environmentally responsible fashion over coming decades. Now with a new president and a new Congress taking office, the need to get the solution right in a smart, affordable way must be stressed all the more. Electric cooperatives will need to continue the conversation.

We must invest in renewable energy, clean coal technology, nuclear power, an updated transmission grid and improvements in energy efficiency across the board, and our policy-makers must spearhead this monumental effort. It is vital that any path taken keeps electric bills affordable.

“Partnership with government is key to keeping the lights on and electric bills low,” stresses English. “Our Energy, Our Future: A Dialogue With America lays the foundation for this partnership. In 2009, we plan to continue the drumbeat for responsible energy policy that meets the needs of consumers.”

Please join the conversation or continue making your voice heard by visiting www.ourenergy.coop.





Good writing could bring scholarships for seniors, Washington, D.C., trips for juniors

If you know someone planning on beginning college in the fall, please tell them about the scholarship opportunity available through Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation!

Citizen-Scholar Scholarship Program

CEMC's scholarship program is designed for students who will be graduating from high school this coming spring. Ten students will be chosen to receive a one-time award of \$1,000, which can be used toward their freshman year expenses such as tuition, textbooks, lab fees or other required classroom materials. The program is coordinated through each school's senior guidance counselor.

To be considered, applicants must meet the following eligibility requirements:

- Be a graduating high school senior (minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA) whose parent(s) or guardian(s) is a member of and receives electric service from CEMC at their primary residence.
- Be enrolled or plan to enroll as a full-time student at an accredited Tennessee college, university or trade school by fall 2009.

Western Kentucky University and Murray State University are eligible out-of-state institutions.

- Submit a completed application, including two reference letters, one from a teacher or other school official and one from another community leader.
- Write an essay of at least 300 words as part of the application. All essays will be judged on the basis of content, composition, grammar and neatness.

The deadline to apply is Friday, Feb. 20, 2009. Children of CEMC/TECA/TVA employees/directors/attorneys are not eligible to apply.

Washington Youth Tour Short Story Writing Contest

A fabulous weeklong trip to our nation's capital awaits 12 local high school juniors who write the best short stories in the Washington Youth Tour Writing Contest. Expenses will be paid by CEMC and the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association,

but as an added incentive, the top three writers in the state will be awarded college scholarships valued at \$1,000, \$2,000 and \$3,000.

Last year, more than 180 Tennessee students and chaperones joined their peers from across America in visiting the unforgettable sites of Washington, D.C., including meetings with members of Tennessee's congressional delegation. The trip is set for June 12-18.



Karen Stasiowski, guidance counselor at Northwest High School in Montgomery County, puts up a poster informing seniors about the CEMC scholarship program.

To enter, students must write a short story on the subject, "Electric Cooperatives: Energizing Our Communities." Stories must not exceed 900 words. Students interested in the trip only and not the scholarship opportunities may submit a five-to-eight minute Power-Point presentation, video or speech on the same topic.

Participants must be high school juniors whose parents or guardians are members of CEMC and receive electric service from CEMC at their primary residence. CEMC has conducted presentations about the program to various junior history and English classes, but the contest is open to all eligible stu-

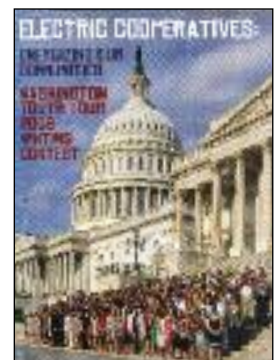
dents throughout our service area whether they had access to a presentation or not. This includes home-schooled students. Presentations may be scheduled through Friday, Jan. 30. A short video on the 2008 Washington Youth Tour, produced by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, is available for viewing on the CEMC Web site — www.cemc.org.

The deadline to enter is Friday, Feb. 20, 2009. Trip winners will be notified by letter in April.

TECA will announce the winners of the three scholarships during the trip.

Complete contest rules are contained in the booklet shown at right, which is available at area high schools or by contacting the CEMC Member Services Department at 800-987-2362.

Good luck, students!



Student power assures food drive success

There's nothing like the enthusiasm and determination of a child to accomplish a goal. Multiply that energy by several hundred, and you've got a force to be reckoned with.

The goal in this case was to fill up the shelves at area food banks in time for the holidays, which has been a project for employees of Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation for several years. But this was the first time schools in each county throughout the cooperative's service area were invited to take on the project. The question now is, why didn't we think of this sooner?

"A special thank-you goes to all the students who helped stock the food banks where they live," says Barbara Harper, CEMC member services manager. "They seemed to enjoy the competition as much as they enjoyed knowing that they were helping people in need. They really did an excellent job!"

As a reward for participating schools, the classroom of each grade level bringing in the most food was treated to a popcorn and movie party.

Participating schools not pictured are J.W. Wiseman and Clyde Riggs elementary schools in Portland.



Students from West Cheatham Elementary School pose with CEMC's Joe Farmer and their donations.



At Pleasant View Elementary School, CEMC's Henry Odom packed up a truckload of donated food.



At Coopertown Elementary School, members of Brownie Troop 1287 helped organize cans for pick-up.



Food from East Robertson Elementary students filled three pickups, a minivan and a bucket truck!



North Stewart Elementary students pose with CEMC's Bryan Norfleet, Carmella Dunsmoor and Dale Ross.



Dover Elementary School students wait to help CEMC employees load the food they collected.



Cumberland Heights Elementary students filled their school entrance with boxes and boxes of food!



Amanda Hill's fourth-grade class won the food drive competition at East Montgomery Elementary.



George Whitten Elementary School gave a truckful of food to CEMC's Scott Hobby and Charlie Jones.

Six linemen advance at CEMC

Former lineman admitted as apprentice substation technician

Six employees at Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation have taken a step forward in their careers as electrical linemen. Their advancements were approved by CEMC's Apprentice Committee based on each lineman's performance during field training proficiency requirements.

Those recently promoted, with the length of their employment at CEMC in parentheses, were:

Brian Shupe (seven months), advancing from apprentice lineman trainee to second period apprentice in the Dover District;

Timmy Jernigan (four years), advancing from second period to third period apprentice, Springfield District;

Stephen Fitzhugh (two years), advancing from third period to fourth period apprentice, Dover District;

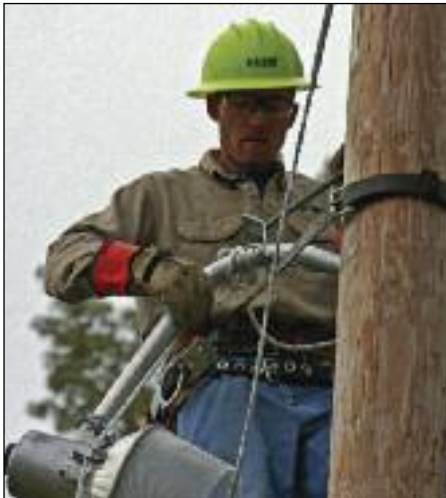
Kevin Casey (five years) and Shawn Butler (four years), advancing from third period to fourth period apprentice, Clarksville District; and,

Jimmy Smith (seven years), advancing from fourth period apprentice to journeyman lineman, the top position for professional lineworkers. Smith works in the Springfield District.

We are also proud to recognize veteran lineman Danny Smith (12 years) for being admitted into the apprentice program as a first period apprentice substation technician in CEMC's Technical Services Department.



Danny Smith



Brian Shupe



Stephen Fitzhugh



Timmy Jernigan



Kevin Casey



Jimmy Smith



Shawn Butler