

# Our marching orders: *Affordable power*

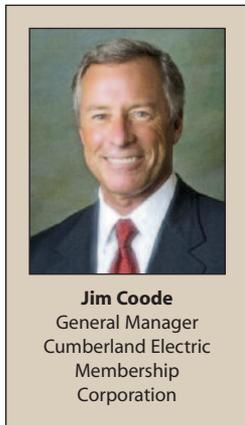
After a visit to Washington, D.C., last month, I couldn't help but reflect on and be impressed by the long-range planning and precision of our nation's military. But no matter how prepared they might be, the military can't make a move without marching orders from the top.

It reminds me of the bind electric cooperatives are in right now. We excel at long-range planning — most of the power you use today was designed three or four decades ago. We stand at the ready with plans for new infrastructure, power plants and innovative technologies to provide electricity for the next 30 years. But there's a problem — we're waiting on marching orders from our nation's leaders.

I was proud to join thousands of electric co-op representatives in our nation's capital this spring. We told our elected officials that now more than ever we have to plan for a safe, reliable and affordable energy future. To get there, we need to know the rules for power generation — and we need to know now. Rolling blackouts in Texas earlier this year reminded all of us that electricity must be used as quickly as it's produced; we don't have the technology yet to store large amounts of power to fall back on when renewable generating resources like wind turbines don't work.

For our children's — and grandchildren's — sake, we need to make some tough decisions soon — and we need to get them right.

With a flurry of proposed regulations being discussed for power plants (and more to come), the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has been following its own set of marching orders and deadlines set by the courts. However, what the final regulations will look like remains unclear. Co-ops need to know the rules — our marching orders — for power generation. Until the government provides more certainty, we can't enact our plans for the next three decades. As our appetite for electricity grows and threatens to outstrip our nation's



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

generation capacity, we need to build more power plants. But what type of facilities should they be that will make the most sense financially?

Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation's mission was set by you, our members, 73 years ago. You charged us to provide safe, reliable and affordable power. Where this power comes from impacts a sizable portion of your electric bill — 76 percent of each dollar you pay us goes to buy wholesale power from the Tennessee Valley Authority. Bucket trucks, poles and wire, right-of-way trimming, payroll and other operating expenses are covered by the rest.

Although expensive, power plants and expanded transmission systems are an investment in a better future for all of us. We'll keep our ultimate mission at the forefront of our efforts as we work with Congress to get our marching orders and keep the lights on for the next 30 years. It's one more way we're looking out for you.

## 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

## CEMC Board of Directors

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

## 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.

# No matter the name, folks love CEMC cookouts

For five years now, Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation has hosted what are *officially* known as Member Appreciation Days in the towns where the cooperative has a district business office.

Whether the name is too long or too nondescript, Member Appreciation Days are starting to be called by different, hipper names by some who attend the free cookouts.

“Hot Dog Days” has been heard multiple times, but a couple of suggestions, based on popular music festivals, show real creativity. Would you be inclined to come to Wieniepalooza? How about Bunnaroo?

Well, we’re not really contemplating a name change. Whatever people call the event, we’re just glad to have opportunities to visit with CEMC members and show them a little appreciation for their business. And judging by the number of people who attend and consume hundreds of grilled hot dogs, bags of chips, cookies and soft drinks, Member Appreciation Days have become a popular tradition throughout the CEMC system.

You may notice on this page the absence of an event photo and the name of a grill winner in Ashland City. That’s because inclement weather forced us to postpone that cookout for a couple of weeks.

Thanks to everyone who attended, and be watching for information about next year’s Member Appreciation Days!

## They’ll be grilling

Congratulations to these members who attended the Member Appreciation Day event in their communities and were the lucky winners of new electric grills:

Shayna Smith in Dover  
William Conley in Clarksville  
Melvin Street in Portland  
Jeff Aydelotte in White House  
David Fields in Springfield  
Carson McCullough in Gallatin



Working Foreman Steve Borens fills up a “to-go” bag of hot dogs for Melinda Holliday and Carla Anderson on a beautiful opening day in Dover.



Member Appreciation Day is not only about hot dogs; there are also free balloons, as this Clarksville youngster discovers.



Many Portland members take advantage of fine spring weather to enjoy a CEMC picnic in a spacious new location — the company pole yard!



A drizzly, cool morning gave way to more hospitable weather conditions in White House. We even had to run to the store for more hotdog buns!



Another good thing about Member Appreciation Days is family togetherness. These folks were guests at our Springfield event.



Russell White, left, is welcomed to the Gallatin office by CEMC President Joe Whitaker. Mr. White and his wife come to this event every year!

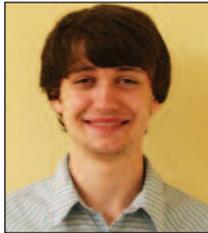
# Elected by short story to go to Washington, D.C.



**Maci Burnette**



**Hayley Creek**



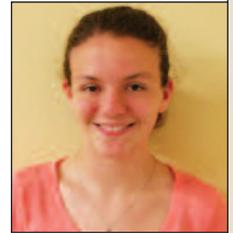
**Luke Hilliard**



**Kaylee Hofstetter**



**Hillary Keel**



**Destiny LaGarce**



**Taylor MacLeod**



**Mary Prince**



**Dakota Rakestraw**



**Tori Roberts**



**Emily Tate**



**Jill Vernich**

## Annual Washington Youth Tour happens June 10-16

It's been called "the trip of a lifetime" by those who have gone before, and those who are about to embark on the week-long Washington Youth Tour will probably agree with that assessment.

Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation is sending a dozen rising high school seniors to the nation's capital as a reward for short stories they wrote titled, "Electric Cooperatives: iPower the Future." They will join hundreds of their peers from across America on what has become an annual pilgrimage for co-op kids since the late 1950s. Last year, more than 180 Tennessee students and chaperones representing 22 electric cooperatives and one municipal system took part in the Youth Tour.

In addition to a free learning vacation, each student is competing for college scholarships valued at \$1,000 to \$3,000 as judged by the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association. The top three essays written by Tennessee students will be awarded the scholarships. Last year, one of CEMC's students captured the top scholarship prize!

The trip begins Friday, June 10, as multiple buses traverse the state en route to an overnight stop in Staunton, Va. For the next five days it will be a whirlwind of visits to the numerous tourist destinations of Washington, D.C., including monuments, memorials, museums and even the halls of Congress and meetings with elected officials.

Attending this year's Washington Youth Tour from the CEMC service area are:

**Maci Burnette**, daughter of Rhonda and Scott Burnette of Cedar Hill. Maci attends Jo Byrns High School.

**Hayley Creek**, daughter of Susan Creek of Portland. Hayley attends Portland High School.

**Luke Hilliard**, son of Tonya and Randy Hilliard of Cotton-town. Luke attends White House High School.

**Kaylee Hofstetter**, daughter of James and Nena Pace of Portland. Kaylee attends Portland High School.

**Hillary Keel**, daughter of Deana and Eugene Keel of Dover. Hillary attends Stewart County High School.

**Destiny LaGarce**, daughter of Brandy Phillips of Chapmansboro. Destiny attends Sycamore High School.

**Taylor MacLeod**, daughter of Donna and Joe MacLeod of Cedar Hill. Taylor attends Jo Byrns High School.

**Mary Prince**, daughter of Sonya Prince of Goodlettsville. Mary attends Greenbrier High School.

**Dakota Rakestraw**, son of Russell and Rae Switzer of Dover. Dakota attends Stewart County High School.

**Tori Roberts**, daughter of Rick and Shannon Roberts of Pleasant View. Tori attends Sycamore High School.

**Emily Tate**, daughter of Sonya and Joey Tate of Cotton-town. Emily attends White House High School.

**Jill Vernich**, daughter of Wilma and Bill Vernich of Greenbrier. Jill attends Greenbrier High School.

Serving as chaperones will be two employees of CEMC and James Steven Sorrells, principal at Greenbrier High School.

The group will fly into Nashville on Thursday, June 16.

If past history is any indicator, Youth Tour participants return home with a greater understanding not only of the value of their electric cooperative but of what it means to be an American. Armed with new friendships, indelible memories and a souvenir or two, these Youth Tour veterans may walk a little taller, speak a little more intelligently and exhibit a greater sense of citizenship than before they took the trip of a lifetime.

# CEMC scholarships help pay college costs

**For writing a paper, each winner has been awarded \$1,000**

For 13 years, Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation has been involved in helping deserving students achieve their dreams by continuing their formal educations beyond high school. Again this year, 10 individuals will enroll in the colleges of their choice with \$1,000 scholarships from CEMC's Citizen/Scholar Scholarship Program.

To be eligible for the award, students wrote papers about how attending college would help them achieve their life goals. The winning students pictured on this page were chosen, based on their papers, by a panel of retired school teachers. They were among 123 applicants from 23 schools in the CEMC service area.

"These students and their families have made a tremendous investment in their education for the past 12 years, and it is our pleasure to help keep the ball rolling as they strive to continue their education," says Barbara Harper, CEMC member services manager.

Congratulations to these 2011 Citizen/Scholar Scholarship winners:

**Dylan Bullock**, son of Elise Nugent of Cottontown. Dylan is a graduate of Station Camp High School and will be attending The University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

**Devin Earheart**, son of Kim and Michael Earheart of Dover. Devin is a graduate of Stewart County High School and will attend University of Tennessee at Martin.

**Kaitlyn Forest**, daughter of Lisa and Robert Forest of Woodlawn. Kaitlyn is a graduate of Northwest High School and will attend Lipscomb University.

**Blake Garrett**, son of Sherry and Larry Garrett of White House. Blake is a graduate of White House Heritage High School and will attend Austin Peay State University.

**Kayla Hancock**, daughter of Jennifer and Charles Hancock of Bumpus Mills. Kayla is a graduate of Stewart County High School and will attend Murray State University.

**Mark Hembree**, son of Susan and James Hembree of Cedar Hill. Mark is a graduate of Jo Byrns High School and will attend Austin Peay State University.

**Shean Hubbard**, son of Yvette and Rob Hubbard of Greenbrier. Shean is a graduate of Greenbrier High School and will attend The University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

**Tucker Kimbrough**, son of Kara and Charles Kimbrough of Hendersonville. Tucker is a graduate of Station Camp High School and is undecided on which college to attend.

**Chelsea Lyons**, daughter of Colleen and Shaun Lyons of Hendersonville. Chelsea is a graduate of Beech High School and will attend Belmont University.

**Tanner Owen**, son of Anissa and Trace Owen of Chapmansboro. Tanner is a graduate of Cheatham Central High School and will attend Vanderbilt University.

"We wish them all the best during their college years and beyond," Harper says.



**Dylan Bullock**



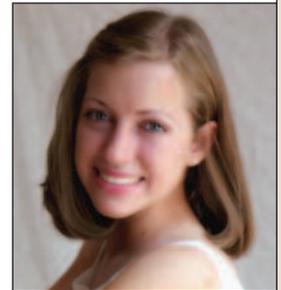
**Devin Earheart**



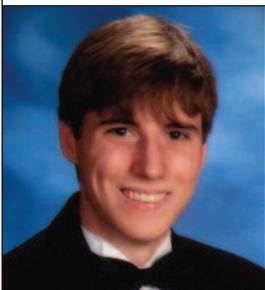
**Kaitlyn Forest**



**Blake Garrett**



**Kayla Hancock**



**Mark Hembree**



**Shean Hubbard**



**Tucker Kimbrough**



**Chelsea Lyons**

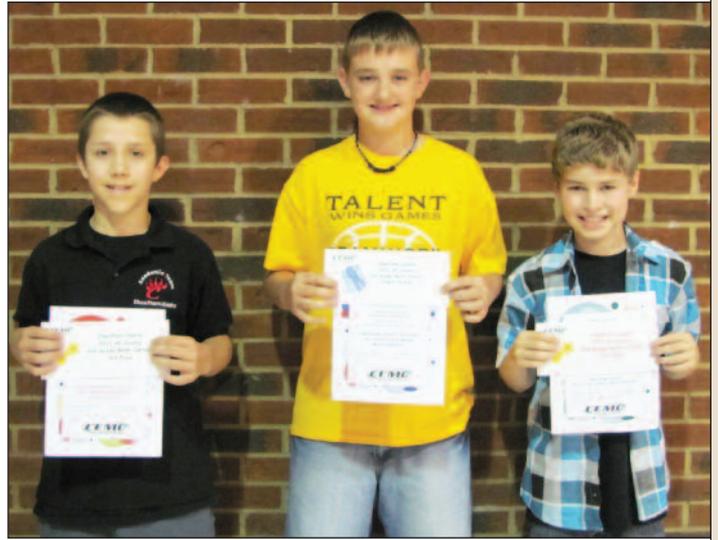


**Tanner Owen**

## CEMC salutes Cheatham's math masters



Winners of Cheatham County's Fourth-Grade Math Contest, held April 26 at Cheatham Middle School, are, from left, Dillon McCormick, second-place winner from Pegram Elementary; Jonathan Mayberry, first-place winner from West Cheatham Elementary; and Camden Filer, third-place winner from Kingston Springs Elementary. CEMC provided prizes for the top three contest winners.



On April 28, Cheatham County's brightest sixth-grade math students competed in a countywide contest at Cheatham County Middle School. The top three finishers are, from left, Dallas Prater, third-place winner from Cheatham Middle; Adam Richardson, first-place winner from Sycamore Middle; and Grayson Wilson, second-place winner from Harpeth Middle. CEMC provided prizes for these winners as well.

### Ready to replace your old heating and cooling system with a new, energy-efficient heat pump?

TVA has extended 6-percent heat pump financing for certain high-efficiency units through Sept. 30, 2011. Contact CEMC's Member Services Department for details.

## Will Shelton wins power distributors scholarship

Will Shelton of Clarksville High School has been awarded a \$4,000 college scholarship from the Tennessee Valley Authority and Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation through the TVA Power Distributors Scholarship Program.

One of 30 scholarship winners for 2011, Shelton graduated with a 3.87 grade point average and will attend The University of Tennessee in Knoxville. He is the son of Scott Shelton, CEMC communications coordinator, and his wife, Elise.

All scholarship recipients were chosen by an eight-member selection team of educators from colleges and universities in the seven states of the Tennessee Valley. Selections were based on academic



Will Shelton

achievement, standardized test scores, leadership qualities, letters of recommendation and written essays.

TVA and distributors of TVA power created the scholarship program in 1995 for the children of distributors' employees to encourage students to excel and to recognize the strength of partnerships among TVA and its distributors.

TVA is the nation's largest public power provider and is completely self-financed. TVA provides power to large industries and 158 power distributors that serve approximately 9 million consumers in seven Southeastern states.

CEMC distributes electricity to about 89,000 members throughout Cheatham, Montgomery, Robertson, Stewart and Sumner counties.