

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
Member Services Department
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

New 'cars' drive power costs

A new car arrives with fresh paint, a great smell and a hefty price tag. After a few years of regular payments the scent changes, but there's value in owning an older car that's still running well.

Most of America's electric cooperatives bought a fleet of new "cars" — power plants — in the 1970s and 1980s. This ample stock of generation allowed co-ops to maintain a safe, reliable and affordable supply of power. Current conditions may place affordability and reliability at risk.

Half of the nation's total generating capacity passed the 30-year mark by the end of 2010, according to the U.S. Energy Information Association. As with an older vehicle, there are costs associated with maintaining a power plant — expenses compounded by a slew of environmental regulations. In fact, these rules could result in a chunk of America's coal-fired power plant fleet shutting down by 2018.

In addition, some co-ops need to head back to the dealership to add new generation plants to meet growing demand. However, with required environmental controls coupled with rising prices for construction materials, new power plants — as well as older ones "in for maintenance" — are going to be much, much more expensive.

All of these factors will impact our electric bills for many years to come. China has surpassed the U.S. as the top global energy user, and in just over two decades it's predicted to consume 68 percent more power than we do. Americans are using more energy, too, despite efficiency measures. It's easy to see why — TVs, laptops, "iGadgets" and other electronics crowd power outlets. A

typical Tennessee home uses 1,393 kilowatt-hours every month — a 145-kWh increase in just one year.

Generally, when there's increased demand — say, for the latest-model car — manufacturers open a new assembly plant to roll more models into showrooms. But at a time when electricity needs are rising, our affordable power supply is beginning to dwindle.

Today, nearly 80 percent of the power provided by electric co-ops nationwide comes from coal, compared to about half for the rest of the electric utility industry. Why the difference? The majority of co-op coal power plants were built between

1975 and 1986, when building natural gas facilities was restricted by the federal Powerplant and Industrial Fuel Use Act due to concerns that natural gas reserves were running low. Those worries proved to be unfounded, and the law was repealed in 1987. But by then co-ops had already built a generation of coal-fired power plants — the same plants that are now being saddled with heavy regulatory costs.

Don't get me wrong — I'm not against clean and green energy. But I want to make sure lawmakers in Washington, D.C., keep balance, common sense and affordability in mind

when adding layer upon layer of requirements to the way we generate power.

Working with the folks at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, we're urging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to consider how increased electric power costs affect consumers like you and me. Visit www.ourenergy.coop to learn more about these issues and how you can help us keep the price of power affordable.



Jim Coode
General Manager
Cumberland Electric
Membership
Corporation

"At a time when electricity needs are rising, our affordable power supply is beginning to dwindle."

Cumberland Furnace family represents CEMC at Young Leaders Conference

By Stephanie Lobdell, public relations coordinator

Brandon Chambers and his wife, Kendyl, of Cumberland Furnace participated in the Young Leaders Conference Feb. 10 and 11 at the Double Tree Hotel in Jackson. Sponsored by Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation, they joined more than 200 others from across the state for the annual conference.

Designed to bring young leaders together, the conference focused on “Communicating Leadership Cooperatively” and offered a variety of topics affecting rural Tennesseans. It is cosponsored by the Tennessee Council of Cooperatives (TCC) and the Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation (TFBF) Young Farmers and Ranchers organization.

TCC is composed of a variety of cooperatives across the state, including electric, dairy, farm supply, telephone and tobacco co-ops, farm credit banks and Farm Bureau.

The Young Farmers and Ranchers is an organization within the Farm Bureau for men and women under 40 who have an interest in agriculture. The purpose of the group is to develop future agricultural leaders and generate new ideas to help the Farm Bureau keep up with the constantly changing world of agriculture.

Conference participants are selected and sponsored by TCC businesses or TFBF’s Young Farmers and Ranchers to attend the motivational, recreational and educational weekend. The conference gave the Chamberses the opportunity to attend sessions and workshops addressing areas of interest to young farmers and cooperative members. Topics included the Tennessee Agricultural Enhancement Program, cooperative education, a legislative update and Young Farmers and Ranchers contest information.

Chambers graduated from Austin Peay State University with a degree in business administration and concentration



Home for Brandon and Kendyl Chambers and their family is their picturesque and productive family farm in Montgomery County.

in accounting. He is employed by Hutson John Deere in Clarksville, and when he isn’t selling John Deere products, he works on his farm, raising cattle, corn and soybeans. He’s been around beef cattle all his life.

“Since the turn of the 19th century, there have always been cattle around this farm,” he says. “It belonged to Dr. Sullivan, a doctor during the Civil War, until it was purchased by my granddaddy and his brother.”

Chambers is currently serving on the board of the Montgomery County Farm Bureau and is acting chairman of the Farm Service Agency Board. Kendyl received her degree in interdisciplinary studies from APSU and is currently working full time at home as the proud mother of three beautiful children.

As a young boy, Chambers was active in 4-H as well as Future Farmers of America.

“I never showed calves or sheep growing up; however, my daughter, Mary Morgan, plans to show sheep in 4-H this year,” he boasts. Mary Morgan is hoping to get sheep for her birthday and has already named them — Darby and Polly.

Community electric safety presentations

By Julie Wallace, member services assistant



Youngsters try on linemen gloves for size while learning the importance of electrical safety.

Chad Corlew, Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation energy programs inspector, recently gave a safety demonstration to Boy Scout Troop 428 in Ashland City, focusing on examples of people performing everyday tasks without realizing how close they are to electrical wires and seriously injuring or killing themselves.

The high-voltage safety demo by CEMC is designed to demonstrate the dangers of coming in contact with high-voltage power lines. Scenarios covered include downed power lines, digging into underground lines, flying kites and climbing trees near lines and making home repairs near service wires. In addition to going over the dangers associated with contact made with high-voltage power lines, low-voltage dangers are also discussed.

CEMC's electrical safety program is offered at no cost to members and can be presented to schools, community groups or businesses. If you would like to have this presentation given to your group or organization, please contact the Member Services Department at 1-800-987-2362.



Scouts look on as CEMC energy programs inspector Chad Corlew warns of dangers associated with downed power lines.

The AWANA youth group at Pleasant View Baptist Church in Clarksville was able to experience first hand the importance of electrical safety by attending a demonstration presented by Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation. This high-voltage demonstration is used to promote awareness of electrical safety to even our youngest members.

“We at Cumberland Electric are very concerned about safety, and we want to do what we can to educate our members on how to be safe around electricity,” says Stephanie Lobdell, CEMC public relations coordinator.

QCN contractors' annual appreciation lunches



The East Region group enjoys lunch at The Catfish House in Springfield.



The West Region group lunches at Outback Steakhouse in Clarksville.

In January, Quality Contractor Network (QCN) members working within the Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation service area were CEMC's guests for lunch and heard updates on the TVA Heat Pump Program directly from Todd Thompson, TVA program manager, who also detailed various techniques and things for the contractors to watch for when bidding and in-

stalling jobs. Bill Jenkins, senior account manager with Conservation Services Group, also joined the groups of contractors from CEMC's East and West regions for lunch.

Members of the QCN install heating and cooling equipment to the highest standards, ensuring quality service and reliability. For a list of the QCN contractors in your area, visit CEMC's website at www.cemc.org.

Students learn from 'Energy Detective'



Students listen as Neil Spencer explains their next exercise in learning how to become energy-efficient.

Approximately 200 Stewart County Middle School students participated in the "Energy Detective" presentation by Neil Spencer of the Educational Touring Theatre. The presentation at their school focused on learning how electricity is generated and what uses electricity. Students later learned more about electricity use at a hands-on workshop.

If your school would like an educational presentation on electricity or energy efficiency, contact Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation's Member Services Department at 1-800-987-2362.

'Loyalty, professionalism, humor'

CEMC mourns Scott Shelton

Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation was saddened with the passing of Scott Shelton, CEMC communications coordinator and section editor of the co-op's local pages in *The Tennessee Magazine*. Shelton, 57, died Monday, Jan. 23, after a courageous battle with cancer. Hundreds attended the visitation and memorial service Saturday, Jan. 28, at Madison Street United Methodist Church in Clarksville, where Shelton was a lifelong member.

Born Feb. 22, 1954, in Clarksville to Joy Goodlett Shelton Gass and the late William Hardy Shelton, he graduated from Clarksville High School and the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

"Scott's work at CEMC was precise, and he was known for his timeliness and attention to detail," said CEMC General Manager Jim Coode. "Scott faced his illness with a determined resolution as witnessed by us all. He will be missed."

His attention to detail served Shelton well during his 10 years as communications coordinator at CEMC. His strict adherence to timelines rubbed off on his co-workers.

"Scott was our department's deadline monitor for projects and events; he kept us all on our toes!" said Barbara Harper, CEMC member services manager. "He showed all of us what true commitment was, working right up to the hours before his untimely death. We all miss him and his 'radio personality.'"

Before joining CEMC, Shelton was, in fact a radio personality on stations in Nashville, Clarksville and Knoxville and served on the Tennessee Radio Broadcasters board. He was also press secretary for Steve Hewlett of the Tennessee Public Service Commission, public affairs director for the city of Clarksville and account manager at Bibb, Lott & Fryer Marketing.

"The three words that instantly come to mind when describing Scott are loyalty, professionalism and humor," said Lynne Wilson, Administrative Services Division manager. "There was never a doubt about his loyalty when Scott talked about his family, friends, sports teams or beliefs, and he was the ultimate professional in his work."

"What I personally will miss the most, though, is his sense of humor. He had the unique ability to find humor in every situation, even on the days when he was not feeling well. He will be deeply missed."

Shelton is survived by his wife of 27 years, Elise Frederick Shelton, and two sons, Adam Taylor Shelton and William Connor Shelton, all of Clarksville. He is also survived by his mother and stepfather, sister, nieces, nephews, aunt and several cousins.



Mark your calendar for CEMC's 2012 Member Appreciation Days

Dates are set and plans are being made for this year's return of Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation's highly anticipated annual Member Appreciation Days. Mark your calendar to join the employees who serve your community for a picnic at your local co-op office.

CEMC employees will be serving lunch at each location from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on the following days:

- Tuesday, April 10 — Gallatin and White House
- Wednesday, April 11 — Ashland City
- Friday, April 13 — Portland
- Monday, April 16 — Springfield
- Tuesday, April 17 — Clarksville
- Friday, April 20 — Dover



Come join the fun and register to win a Meco Electric Grill!

CEMC 2013 Calendar Art Contest: Entries due Thursday, March 15

For contest rules, visit www.cemc.org.



The 2012 CEMC west calendar featured artist *Cal-lie Anderson's* winning picture of a sunny March day.



The 2012 CEMC east calendar featured winner *Gracie Woodall's* artwork reminding everyone of the luck of the leprechauns.