

CEMC is 'at the table' for Washington, D.C., conference

Each May, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association welcomes co-op grassroots advocates to Washington for the annual Legislative Conference. The group, made up of directors, managers and employees of member-owned electric cooperatives, comes from across America to spend time on Capitol Hill talking to their congressional delegations about legislative issues affecting electric cooperatives and their member-owners.

As you read this, I am in Washington attending this important conference on behalf of Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation. With me are four members of the CEMC board of directors: Joe Whitaker, president; Wesley Aymett, vice president; Shela Williams, secretary-treasurer; and David Morgan. Engineering Manager Chris Davis rounds out the CEMC delegation.

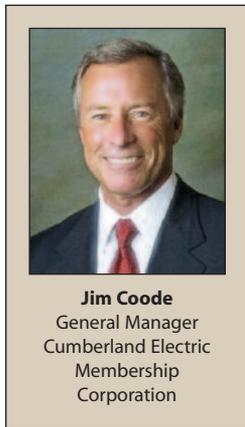
There is an old saying in politics: "If you're not at the table, you're on the menu!" It means that one has to be involved politically. You can't sit on the sidelines. Only by participating in

the process do you have an opportunity to make a difference.

Electric cooperatives are facing enormous challenges on Capitol Hill. The Our Energy, Our Future campaign allows us to flex our grassroots muscle with our letters, e-mails and video messages to members of Congress, but nothing is more effective than face-to-face meetings with your legislators.

Electric cooperatives must meet the enormous demands for new generation, efficiency programs, renewable power and research and development to design technologies that will reduce carbon emissions while providing our member-owners with safe, reliable electric power in the most cost-effective manner possible.

All the above challenges must be met in a difficult political climate where key decision-makers are determined to use the regulations to transform the way the nation both generates and uses electricity. It is apparent that the electricity sector, including cooperatives, is on the cusp of enormous change. The challenge to electric co-ops is how to engage policymakers in order to protect our consumers.



Jim Coode
General Manager
Cumberland Electric
Membership
Corporation



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Electronics account for 8.1 percent of your home's energy use. Cut costs by plugging items into a power strip and turning the strip off when not in use. A "smart" power strip is another good option — when one master device like a TV is turned off, it cuts power to other selected items (DVD players, gaming consoles, stereos, etc.).

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

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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.

CEMC gearing up for 2011 annual meeting

The 2011 Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation Annual Membership Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 24, at Rossview High School in Clarksville.

Please circle this date on your calendar and start making plans to be a part of the biggest event in the life of your electric cooperative.

Voting in the election of four CEMC directors will be held prior to the start of the meeting at the school and also the day

before the annual meeting at all CEMC district business offices.

As usual, the morning of the meeting will start with a nice breakfast, registration for door prizes, information booths and activities for children.

This is your cooperative and your annual membership meeting. We hope to see a big crowd at Rossview High School in Clarksville on Sept. 24!

Portland readies for strawberry-lovers

The Portland Chamber of Commerce is organizing the 70th Annual Middle Tennessee Strawberry Festival® to be held May 13-21 with the theme, "Preserving our Heritage."

Events are scheduled every day for your participation. Bring your entire family for an opportunity to be a part of this great festival. Don't forget while you are there to pick up some of Portland's famous strawberries. Review the lineup below and join the fun! Also check out the website www.middletennesseestrawberryfestival.net for additional information.

- May 13-14: Strawberry Pageant sponsored by Portland High School cheerleaders.
- May 15: Bradley Kountry Acres Open House, 1-5 p.m.
- May 16: Merchant Scavenger Hunt — \$25 registration fee per team of four. The winning team will receive \$1,000.
- May 17: Annual Four-Person Golf Scramble at Kenny Perry's Country Creek Golf Course in Franklin, Ky.
- May 18: Choir Night at Portland First Baptist Church (in partnership with Portland Ministerial Association).
- May 19: Strawberry Story Hour at the Portland Public Library, 321 Victor Reiter Parkway.
- May 20: Berry Best Bake Contest — Submit your favorite strawberry dish and compete for the top prize of \$50.
- May 21: The main festival day!
 - Enjoy great food, fun, fellowship, and the best strawberries around! Start your morning off at the Portland Rotary Club Pancake Breakfast.
 - The Strawberry Stride will allow you to work off the calories from those pancakes.
 - If you are not full after all the pancakes, try the strawberry-eating contest at 11 a.m. (preregistration required).
 - Make sure you bring the children to Kid Town USA. Main Street is full of inflatable jumps, and kids can play all day for \$5.
 - Grab a spot in town for the parade that will begin at 2 p.m.
 - Enjoy live entertainment from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. during the Strawberry Jam on Market Street.

As the day winds down, stick around for Family Fun Night in the Park. Admission is free. The night includes a performance by comedian Charlie McCoin and a movie in the park, "Despicable Me." Bring your blankets and lawn chairs and enjoy a night with the entire family.

Eagle Fest returns to Dover

Eagle Fest 2011 is Dover and Stewart County's fifth annual salute to freedom. This event, held May 26-30, gives citizens of the community an opportunity to remember those in the armed forces who fought for the freedoms Americans enjoy today and at the same time honor those who continue to strive diligently to maintain this freedom.

"Eagle Fest 2011 is an opportunity to showcase the community," says Jeff Knott, Dover city administrator. "A variety of activities — including a parade, fireworks show, local music, car show, arts and crafts exhibits, food concessions and numerous activities for people of all ages and all walks of life — will be available.

"This year we are adding a carnival to our festival and plan to have a Family Fun Night on Thursday, May 26, from 5 to 10



p.m. We hope the carnival, which will run Thursday through Sunday, will draw more participants to the festival."

The official opening of the festival will be Saturday, May 28. This year's guest speaker at the opening ceremony will be Vicki Yates of WTVF NewsChannel 5. A street dance and fireworks show round out Saturday's activities.

All events will be held in downtown Dover at the old Gateway Ford parking lot. Special rates on the carnival rides and games will be offered. There will also be a special exhibit by the local Veterans of Foreign Wars Club in the courthouse parking lot.

A memorial service will close out the activities on Monday, May 30, at Fort Donelson National Cemetery.



Co-ops sponsor Youth Leadership Summit

Spencer Morris of Portland High School and Kindle Williams of White House High School were among 44 high school juniors representing 22 electric cooperatives across the state who attended the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association's annual Youth Leadership Summit March 21-23 in downtown Nashville. Morris is the son of Kenneth and Phyllis Morris of Cottontown, and Williams is the daughter of James and Eileen Williams of White House. Both families live in the Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation service area.

"The annual summit teaches the students how important electric cooperatives are to Tennessee's rural communities and provides them an opportunity to see, in person, the legislative process in the Tennessee Capitol," said Joe Jackson, TECA director of youth and member relations.

"We had another excellent group of outstanding young leaders attend this year's summit. Through a highly selective process, local electric cooperatives, along with school officials and guidance counselors, chose these students based on their interest in government and strong leadership abilities."

"Leadership: The Wave of the Future" was the theme of the 2011 summit hosted by TECA and funded in part by the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation, a not-for-profit cooperative financing institute that provides an independent source of funding to member cooperatives nationwide.

"These motivated students are an example of the future leaders we're raising in our local communities," said Stephanie Lobdell, CEMC member services assistant. "CEMC is privileged to provide them with this opportunity to join their peers from across Tennessee to learn about state government and rural electric co-ops."

The summit began Monday evening, March 21, with dinner at the group's hotel, the Millennium Maxwell House. Get-acquainted and leadership-development activities followed, led by cooperative employees and special guests 2010 Miss Tennessee Nicole Jordan and Tennessee Titans cheerleaders.

Students rose early on Tuesday, March 22, for breakfast and preparations for a visit to Legislative Plaza to meet their



From left, Sen. Kerry Roberts meets with CEMC's Youth Leadership Summit participants, Spencer Morris, Kindle Williams and Stephanie Lobdell, on the Legislative Plaza.

state legislators and sit in on House and Senate committee meetings. Amy Gallimore, director of leadership with TRI Leadership Resources LLC, gave the keynote address on the value of leadership before TECA Director of Government Affairs Mike Knotts introduced Rep. Andy Holt of Dresden. Holt welcomed the students to Nashville and answered their questions about legislative issues. TECA Vice President of Statewide Services David Callis explained the important role lobbyists play in the political

process, discussed current bills affecting cooperatives and described what everyone would experience in the legislative committees they were to visit.

The 11th-graders then took a tour of the State Capitol and saw state government in action at the committee meetings before posing for photos in front of the historic Capitol.

Following the visit to Capitol Hill, the group enjoyed lunch and leadership activities at a Nashville-area YMCA camp. After dinner, students attended a Nashville Predators hockey game at Bridgestone Arena followed by a tour of Tennessee's capital city. The busy day was capped off with an ice cream social.

Wednesday morning, the students learned more about Tennessee's electric cooperatives and the vital role co-ops play in the communities they serve. Students were divided into teams and competed in "W.A.V.E." (Working Alongside and Valuing Everyone), an interactive game in which they formed their own co-ops and worked together to "buy" and "sell" power distribution supplies — power poles, wire, transformers, meters and trucks. Then they got an overview of the history of electric cooperatives during "Surfing USA." Later, they put together all they'd learned, answering trivia questions about electric cooperatives and the state in the "Energy Battle" competition.

"In the not-too-distant future, these students will be our communities' leaders — and electric cooperative member-owners," said Jim Coode, general manager of CEMC. "We want them to see what makes their electric cooperative special, appreciate all their co-op provides for their communities and understand why it was so important to form electric co-ops in the first place."

Room-to-room home safety is focus of National Electrical Safety Month

May is National Electrical Safety Month, and the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) is launching its annual campaign to increase public awareness of electrical hazards and the importance of electrical safety.

“Modern homes run on electricity, but if you don’t properly maintain your electrical products, they can create hazards,” warned ESFI President Brett Brenner. “The good news is that eliminating electrical hazards from your home doesn’t have to be difficult or expensive.”

In the U.S., home electrical problems annually cause more than 51,000 fires, resulting in more than 490 deaths, 1,400 injuries and \$1.3 billion in property damage, according to the National Fire Protection Association. Statistics from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission show that nearly 400 people are electrocuted in the United States each year.

ESFI sponsors National Electrical Safety Month each May to increase public awareness of the electrical hazards around us at home, work, school and play. This year’s campaign challenges people across the country to evaluate the electrical safety of their homes, learning in the process more about their electrical systems and devices.

This year, ESFI is focusing on the electrical safety of a different area of the home each week during May:

Cooking Up Safety in the Kitchen (May 2–6): The kitchen is where families gather to cook favorite recipes, share warm meals and reconnect with each other, but it’s also the location where two-thirds of all home fires start. Identify and eliminate potential hazards in your kitchen before someone gets hurt.

Plug into Safety in the Family Room (May 9–13): The family room is an area of the home where many people go to unwind, but there are often many electrical appliances and devices in use in this area. Learn to recognize electrical hazards that can exist in common areas of your home.

Wake Up to Safety in the Bedroom (May 16–20): The average adult sleeps almost eight hours per night, spending at least one-third of every day in the bedroom. Take steps to make sure your bedroom is safe — you’ll sleep better!

Build a Foundation of Safety in the Basement (May 23–27): Heating equipment and electrical distribution systems are two of the leading causes of home fires. Help keep your home safe by learning the basics of how these systems work and making sure they are properly maintained.

New resources featured in ESFI’s 2011 National Electrical Safety Month Toolkit such as the Home Electrical Safety Challenge have been designed to teach people of

all ages to identify and correct potential electrical hazards before a more serious situation can result. This complimentary toolkit can be downloaded on the foundation’s website at www.electrical-safety.org.

To coincide with National Electrical Safety Month this May, ESFI has completed renovations on its Virtual Home online tool. This dynamic, interactive resource guides users as they navigate a virtual home room by room, building understanding about potential home electrical dangers and electrical safety.

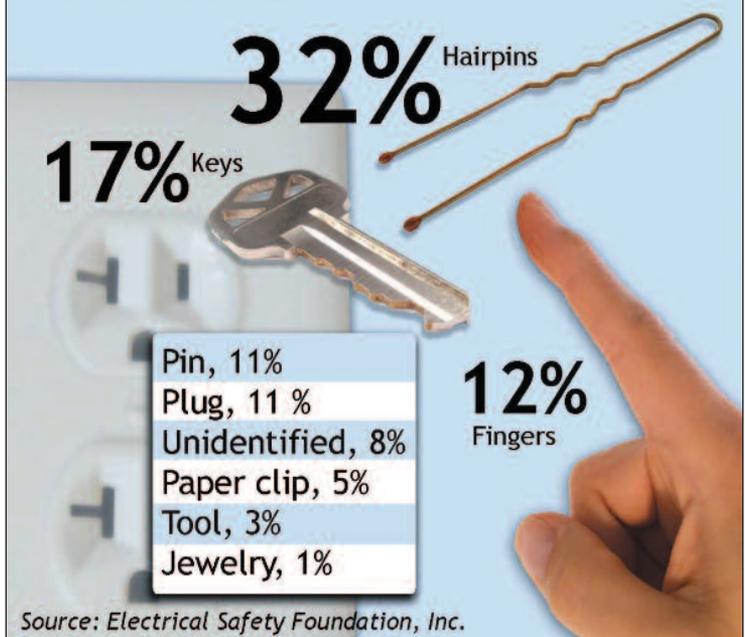
“A healthy respect for electricity and a basic knowledge of electrical safety practices can help keep your family and home safe from electrical hazards all year long,” noted Brenner.

Visit ESFI’s Virtual Home at <http://virtualhome.esfi.org/> to learn more.

ESFI is a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated exclusively to promoting electrical safety. ESFI proudly sponsors National Electrical Safety Month each May and engages in public education campaigns throughout the year to prevent electrical fires, injuries and fatalities. To learn more about ESFI and National Electrical Safety Month, visit www.electrical-safety.org.

Objects Commonly Placed in Electrical Outlets

Every year, 2,400 children are injured after inserting household objects into electrical outlets. These are the most common objects placed in outlets:



Help electric cooperatives battle copper crime

Soaring metal prices have been blamed for an increase in thefts of copper and aluminum, primary components of electric distribution lines. Recent thefts of copper wire and equipment from electric utilities have been responsible for power outages, additional maintenance and expenses, diminished service reliability and, in some cases, serious injury or death.

Copper in wire is appealing to thieves who want to sell the metal for scrap. Burglars will often climb power poles, scale fences and break into buildings to steal the precious metal. A 542-percent increase in the price of copper since 2001 has prompted thieves to become bolder and more inventive.

In Oklahoma, members of one electric co-op are facing an estimated \$1 million repair bill because copper thieves wrecked a substation for just \$100 worth of the metal last year. In New Mexico, a man was found dead beneath a power pole, electrocuted while trying to cut copper wiring from a live transformer. A Texas man lost his life when he cut into a live power line while trying to steal copper. Similar accidents have been reported across the country.

“To a would-be thief, stealing copper may seem like a quick way to make a buck,” says Randy Holt, operations manager at Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation. “But it’s illegal, it’s costly and it’s not worth a life. Working with any metal and electricity is a dangerous combination, even for trained employees using proper equipment.”

Some electric cooperatives stamp copper and aluminum wire with an identification number to deter theft. Stolen wire is commonly brought to recycling centers and traded for cash. Although many state laws require recycling centers to keep records of transactions, enforcement can be difficult. Without identifying marks, stolen wire is hard to track and is rarely recovered.

Thieves may not understand that they are risking their lives by taking copper from substations, where high transmission voltage is “stepped down” to a lower current for distribution lines. All power lines carry a potentially deadly charge.

CEMC urges you to follow these guidelines to guard against electrical dangers and prevent copper theft:

- Never enter or touch equipment inside a substation; stay away from power lines and anything touching them.
- If you notice anything unusual with electric facilities — such as an open substation gate, open equipment or hanging wire — contact your electric co-op immediately.
- If you see anyone around electric substations or electric facilities other than co-op personnel or contractors, call the police.
- Install motion-sensor lights on the outside of your house and business to deter possible thieves.
- Store tools and wire cutters in a secure location, and never leave them out while you are away.
- If you work in construction, do not leave any wires or plumbing unattended or loose wire at the job site, especially overnight.
- Help spread the word about the deadly consequences that can result from trying to steal copper or aluminum.

Please help us prevent these thefts. If you notice anything unusual, call CEMC immediately at 1-800-987-2362.



Only small lengths of copper grounding lines remain in a substation after thieves stole the wires. The loss of grounding on electricity distribution infrastructure increases the risk of electrocution to anyone in the area. But with the price of scrap copper skyrocketing, burglars risk life and limb to score a quick buck.