

Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation

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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.

AS I SEE IT

Manager's Viewpoint

Electric co-ops and a 'Culture of Safety'

There is a children's book titled "Safety 1st, Safety Always." As you can imagine, it encompasses many of the traditional safety lessons parents should teach their children.

We drill youngsters about safety from an early age because we know how important it is to protect ourselves and those we care about. In the spirit of May being National Electrical Safety Month, let's take a look at how electric cooperatives have been stepping up to the plate when it comes to safety.

Up until 2007, there was an alarming national trend among electric co-ops that the number of "lost-time" accidents was increasing. Lost time is defined as anything resulting in an employee missing time at work; these accidents can range from a sprained ankle to the ultimate tragedy of a fatality.

This is why Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange, which insures the vast majority of electric co-ops nationwide, initiated a campaign called "Culture of Safety" to create a much greater awareness about safety issues among all electric co-ops.

Through the use of strategy labs across the country, Federated brought together co-op CEOs and general managers, operations supervisors, safety directors and linemen to better understand how each group viewed

safety. In doing so, differences in perceptions regarding safety within cooperatives were identified, allowing for much-needed conversations and evaluations of how to raise awareness and improve local safety cultures. The Speak Up, Listen Up program is designed to empower anyone who sees a potentially unsafe situation to "speak up" and encourages everyone to "listen up" to these concerns. Results have been dramatic, with a more than 30-percent decline in the number of accidents over the past nine years.

As an electric co-op member, you, too, have a role. If you see any potential dangerous situations or practices, you should report them as soon as possible to Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation.

Implementation and success of the Culture of Safety program demonstrate a very important point: If we are intentional about our actions, we can, indeed, change the culture in our organizations. The same is true for our families, our teams and any groups to which we belong.

We also know that living our cooperative principles and values is equally important. We have the best business model because it puts our members at the center of our efforts.

We look forward to being your safe electricity provider and energy adviser long into the future.



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

Members take co-op message to legislators

Directors and staff from Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation were among more than 200 electric co-op leaders in Nashville on Monday and Tuesday, March 7 and 8, for the 2016 Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association's Legislative Conference. Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation Board President Tommy Whittaker, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer Jeannie Beauchamp and director David Morgan joined General Manager Jim Coode and Engineering Division Manager Mark Cook in meetings with legislators on Capitol Hill to help them better understand electric cooperatives and the issues that impact rural and suburban Tennessee.

House Speaker Beth Harwell welcomed the group to Nashville. "You serve 71 percent of our state and 2.5 million Tennesseans," she said. "We recognize the impact you have on our state."

Tennessee's electric cooperatives maintain a visible presence in Nashville and Washington, D.C., to protect the interests of co-op members. "We are here to give a voice to rural Tennesseans," said David Callis, CEO of the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association (TECA). "We must tell the electric cooperative story and educate lawmakers about the impact of proposed legislation."

"Decisions made in Nashville can have serious consequences for our co-op, our members and the communities we serve," said Coode. "We have a responsibility to our members to see that their voice is heard." Attendees reminded legislators that co-ops are not-for-profit, member-owned and -regulated private businesses that impact rural and suburban Tennessee in many ways.



CEMC General Manager Jim Coode, left, meets with Sen. Kerry Roberts to discuss issues affecting Tennessee's electric cooperatives during the TECA Legislative Conference in Nashville.

Visits focused on specific legislation that impacts co-ops and the communities they serve. Co-op leaders expressed support for a bill that allows electric co-ops to provide broadband Internet service. "We serve the areas with the greatest need for broadband," said Mike Knotts, TECA's vice president of government affairs. "We have a role to play in bringing high-speed connectivity to rural Tennessee."

Co-ops also voiced their support of legislation that modernizes the tax code for co-ops and discussed the impact of the recent Supreme Court decision to halt implementation of the Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan.

"Educated and informed legislators are necessary for us to provide low-cost, reliable power, and our members make a powerful impression when they come to Nashville," said Knotts. More than 100 legislative visits were made during the conference, and dozens of legislators from across the state attended a reception honoring members of the Tennessee General Assembly.

Gardeners attend Young Leaders Conference

Eric and Pamela Gardner of Robertson County were sponsored by Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation to attend the 2016 Young Leaders Conference held Feb. 26 and 27 at the Drury Plaza Hotel in Franklin. The Gardeners joined more than 300 others from across the state for the annual conference, which brings couples and individuals together from rural communities to learn about cooperatives, share their views about agriculture and discuss current issues facing rural Americans.

The Tennessee Council of Cooperatives (TCC) co-sponsors the annual conference with Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation's Young Farmers and Ranchers organization.

This year's event covered a variety of subjects aimed at educating leaders about cooperatives and agricultural issues and strengthening their leadership skills. Attendees discussed issues facing rural Tennessee and were given an overview of Farm

Bureau's Ag-in-the-Classroom program. Tennessee State University's Dr. John Hall led a breakout session



Representing Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation at the 2016 Young Leaders Conference were Eric and Pamela Gardner of Cedar Hill.

on "Core Values," and the University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture's Lisa Stearns discussed "Raising the Profile of Tennessee Agriculture." Amy Gallimore, chief executive officer of Four16 Training Solutions, taught valuable lessons in perseverance and attitude, and David Turner entertained attendees.

Joe Jackson, retired Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association director of member services and a pivotal leader in establishing the Young Leaders Conference, was presented an annual award given by TCC to an individual who has shown dedication to the cooperative cause in Tennessee. TCC made a \$1,000 contribution in Jackson's honor to the

John Willis Memorial Scholarship fund, which provides financial aid to deserving college agriculture students in the state.

Eagle Fest 2016: A Salute to Freedom

The town of Dover invites you to gather the family and head out to its annual Eagle Fest, which takes place Friday, May 20, through Sunday, May 22, at City Park in Dover. Eagle Fest promises a variety of activities for all ages. Come out and enjoy a car show, local music, arts and crafts, concessions and much more. Join the community as we remember those in the armed forces who fought for our freedom and honor those who continue to maintain that freedom today.

Robertson County welcomes Taste of Country

Robertson County's Taste of Country USA is coming to Courthouse Square in Springfield Saturday, June 11, bringing your chance to experience real country food, live music and much more. The event runs from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

There will be activities for everyone in the family, including an amazing Taste cooking competition, a fantastic Wet N' Wild Kids Country (wear your water shoes and bathing suits), live talent competition and more.

Plus, if you like gospel, contemporary Christian or folk art music, this is the place to see our amazing local talent for free. There will be exciting live entertainment throughout the day on our Main Street stage as well.

Of course, what would a Taste of Country USA be without lots of good, old-fashioned, country cooking? Organizers are pulling out the stops to showcase Robertson County's top chefs at the Taste of Robertson County. They will be serving up their mouth-watering specialties and tasty treats with plenty of small-town Southern charm. Be sure to purchase your taste

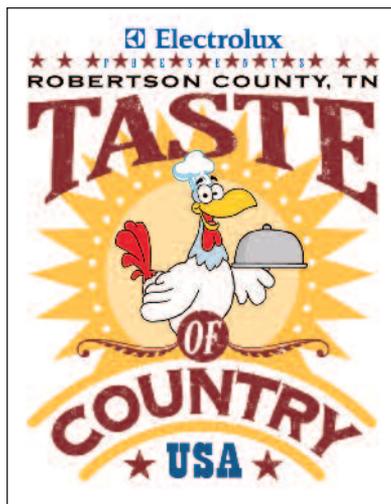
tickets before the event starts; a limited number will be sold.

Kids Country is the place to be for Wet N' Wild fun. Enjoy water slides, water inflatables, wading pools, slip-and-slides, water guns and balloons and kid-sized tasty treats!

Amazing local artisans and craftspeople will be showcasing their wares, and displays of our unique local agricultural heritage will round out the day.

Don't miss our Spirits of the South: Harvest Time. We will honor our heritage this year by recognizing our farmers. Table sponsorships will be sold, and tickets will be given to the farmers who have worked hard to create the foundation for Robertson County. Spirits of the South is an exclusive wine, bourbon and beer-tasting event on June 4. Selections from wineries, distilleries and breweries will be available for your delight.

The Southern cuisine will be amazing and the atmosphere unforgettable. For tickets to this event or more information, call the Robertson County Chamber of Commerce at 615-384-3800.



Barrel Festival commemorates cooperage history

The town of Coopertown will host its Fourth Annual Barrel Festival Saturday, June 4, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Old Coopertown Road in Robertson County. Kentucky-based Speyside Cooperage Master Cooper John Beatson will headline this year's outdoor activities, providing live demonstrations and discussions on the art of barrel-making throughout the day.

Hundreds of merchants will line Old Coopertown Road with barn wood crafts, exhibits for local causes and next-door-neighbor creations. Icons like the Greenbrier Distillery and Wild Bill's Old Fashioned Cream Soda will join the array of food and refreshment vendors. Springfield Guitar and The Main Stage will host a variety of live music on two different stages, featuring acts such as the Ridgetop Ramblers. LifeHouse Fellowship will present the Kids Zone with inflatables,

face-painting, woodworking, wooden barrel games and other activities from Lowe's and Honeysuckle Hill.

In addition to the Barrel Fest 5-Miler, competitions will also be held for the "Best in Show" tractor and Cooper (Woodworking) Contest.

There will be shade and seating, free shuttles and free parking at this rain-or-shine event. Thanks to many community partners, the Barrel Festival continues to grow to benefit the community within Coopertown, educating and uniting residents and celebrating the town's rich heritage in cooperage.

For more information on the Speyside Cooperage, the history of coopering, or a look at tools of the trade, visit speysidecooperageky.com. Event

information for vendors and attendees can be found at facebook.com/coopertownbarrelfestival, www.barrelfestival.com or www.coopertowntn.org or by calling 615-382-4470.



ESFI warns public about the dangers of electric shock drowning

Despite being categorized as leisure activities, swimming and boating can quickly become dangerous.

While water-safety behaviors such as wearing life jackets and maintaining safe boating speeds have become commonplace, a serious hazard often remains overlooked. This silent killer, classified as electric shock drowning, occurs in fresh water when a typically low-level alternating current passes through the body, causing muscular paralysis and eventually leading to drowning.

According to Brett Brenner, president of the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI), "Although there are reported incidents every year, there is a lack of awareness about the dangers of electric shock drowning."

A 21-year-old Illinois man died in 2015 when touching a dock ladder at the Lake of the Ozarks in Missouri. Additionally, there were at least two fatalities in Kentucky in 2013 and a pair of deaths in both Missouri and Tennessee during the Fourth of July holiday in 2012. Each of these victims was under the age of 13. Further, electric shock drowning deaths are usually recorded as drowning because victims show no signs of burns, so many instances remain undocumented.

While a lack of awareness persists about the dangers of electric shock drowning, positive strides are being taken to combat the problem. In Tennessee, state legislators passed the Noah Dean and Nate Act in 2014, which protects state residents from electric shock injuries and drowning deaths near marinas and boat docks. The bill is named in memory of 10-year-old Noah Dean Winstead and 11-year-old Nate Lynam, who died from electrical injuries they suffered on July 4, 2012, at a marina in Tennessee. Jessica Winstead, Noah Dean's mother, was the driving force behind the bill, the result of her tireless crusade to prevent similar tragedies from occurring.

Under the Noah Dean and Nate Act, Tennessee marinas must install ground fault protection, post notices about the danger of electrical leakage into waters surrounding a marina and undergo a safety inspection conducted by the state fire marshal between Jan. 1, 2015, and Dec. 31, 2017, and every five years thereafter. The law went into effect



April 1, 2015. A similar law was passed in West Virginia in 2013 following the death of Michael Cunningham, three years after he died at the age of 15, as well as in Arkansas in 2012 after several electrocutions near docks there and in surrounding states.

The 2011 National Electrical Code addresses the dangers in marinas and boatyards by requiring the main overcurrent protective device to be GFCI-protected. However, this only applies to installations and inspections, which are recommended annually but not enforced.

Protect yourself and your loved ones from the risk of electric shock drowning and common boat electrical hazards with these handy tips from ESFI:

- Don't allow yourself or anyone else to swim near docks. Avoid entering the water when launching or loading your boat.

- Always maintain a distance of at least 10 feet between your boat and nearby power lines.
- If you feel a tingle while swimming, the water may be electrified. Get out as soon as possible, avoiding the use of metal objects such as ladders.
- Have your boat's electrical system inspected and upgraded by a certified marine electrician who is familiar with National Fire Protection Association Codes: NFPA 303 and NFPA 70.
- Have GFCIs installed on your boat, and test them once a month.
- Consider having equipment leakage circuit interrupters (ELCI) installed on boats to protect nearby swimmers from potential electricity leakage into water surrounding your boat.
- Only use shore or marine power cords, plugs, receptacles and extension cords that have been tested by Underwriters Laboratories (UL), Canadian Standards Association (CSA) or Intertek (ETL).
- Never use cords that are frayed or damaged or that have had the prongs removed or altered.
- Never stand or swim in water when turning off electrical devices or switches.
- Electric shock drowning can also occur in swimming pools, hot tubs and spas. Have an electrician inspect and upgrade your pool, spa or hot tub in accordance with applicable local codes and the National Electrical Code.

For ESFI's complete collection of boating and marina safety resources, visit www.esfi.org.

Nine ways to save money this summer

Why pay more for electricity than you have to? The less you use, the more you'll save. Here are nine easy ways to pare your use of electricity this summer:

1. Move lamps, the TV or any other heat-emitting electric appliance away from your thermostat. The heat can trick the thermostat into "thinking" it's hotter in the house than it is. In response, your system will make the house colder than it should.
2. If you're still using leftover incandescent lightbulbs, switch to compact fluorescent bulbs or LED fixtures. The newer bulbs emit less heat and use less electricity when they're turned on.
3. Turn the air conditioner up to 78 degrees. If you usually run it at 72 degrees, you can save between 6 percent and 18 percent on your cooling bill, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.
4. Plant trees outside of windows on the sunny side of your house. The shade can save you up to \$250 a year.
5. When you turn your air conditioner on, turn your ceiling fans on. Running them together will make your house feel 4 degrees cooler — so you can raise the thermostat by 4 degrees. Turn fans off when you leave a room; fans cool people, not the air.
6. Lower the temperature of your water heater to 120 degrees. That will save you money — and it's safer than a higher setting because 120-degree water won't scald anyone.
7. Give your oven and stovetop a break on hot days. Use the microwave oven, a toaster oven or an outdoor grill instead and you'll cut your energy use — plus you'll put less unneeded extra heat into the house.
8. Summertime is no time to coop yourself up indoors with your computer. Turn it off and enjoy the great outdoors. Don't leave it on when you're not using it; that wastes up to \$75 a year in electricity.
9. Still don't have a programmable thermostat? It's time to get one. Choose a model that can automatically turn the air conditioner way up when you're not home and crank it back on in plenty of time to cool things off so you're be comfortable when you return.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Avoid placing lamps or TV sets near your room air-conditioning thermostat. The thermostat senses heat from these appliances, which can cause the air conditioner to run longer than necessary.

Neal and Presson attend Youth Leadership Summit

Brianna Neal and Jacob Presson of Ashland City were in Nashville March 21-23 for the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association's annual Youth Leadership Summit. These students were chosen and sponsored by Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation.

Beth Harwell welcomed attendees to Nashville on Tuesday morning, March 22, in the House Chamber of the Tennessee State Capitol and spent time explaining her role as Speaker of the House and the process that is required to pass legislation.

Rep. Kevin Dunlap also addressed the group and encouraged students to stay active and involved. "You are already leaders, or you would not be here today," he said. He also helped students understand the role electric cooperatives play in rural Tennessee. "The electric co-ops were created because there was a problem: Rural Tennessee did not have the privilege of electricity," said Dunlap. "Our leaders and citizens worked together to form the electric cooperatives and solve the problem."

Sens. Mike Bell, Richard Briggs and Ferrell Haile and Reps. Kent Calfee, Dan Howell, Jay Reedy and David Shepard joined Harwell and Dunlap for a town hall meeting with students in the House Chamber.

The theme of this year's summit was "Small Towns, Big Ideas," and attendees were encouraged to use their talents to improve rural Tennessee. "Local electric co-ops, school officials and guidance counselors chose these deserving students to attend the summit based on their interests in government and strong leadership abilities," said Todd Blocker, vice president of member relations for the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association.



Brianna Neal, left, and Jacob Presson met Rep. Mary Littleton outside the House Chamber of the Tennessee State Capitol during the 2016 Youth Leadership Summit.

"During this year's Youth Leadership Summit, we taught these exceptional students that advances in technology have created unique career opportunities in their hometowns. They will be the next generation of leaders in rural Tennessee, and we want to prepare them for the challenges and opportunities they will face."

"These students will soon be our community leaders — and electric cooperative member-owners," said Jim Coode, CEMC general manager. "We want them to share our passion for rural communities so it is an honor for Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation to help prepare them for the opportunities that are ahead. We need their talents and leadership more than ever."

The Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association provides legislative and communication support for Tennessee's 23 electric cooperatives and publishes *The Tennessee Magazine*, the state's most widely circulated periodical. Visit tnelectric.org or tnmagazine.org to learn more.