

# This is not the way I wanted to start my retirement

Almost immediately after the Tennessee Valley Authority announced its largest rate increase in 34 years, some of my friends good naturedly accused me of walking away just as things are getting uncomfortable. I reminded them that when I announced my retirement 10 months ago, no one could have foreseen the circumstances responsible for the average 20-percent wholesale power rate increase that goes into effect Oct. 1.

As you are aware, the lion's share of the increase — 16.9 percent — is for TVA's first quarter (fiscal year 2009) fuel cost adjustment, which covers the rising costs of coal, natural gas and hydro used to generate electricity.

The remaining 3.1 percent is a base rate increase needed to replace TVA's coal supplies, which cannot be recovered through the FCA. This increase will collect \$275 million of a \$375 million cash shortfall and will require TVA to borrow an additional \$100 million. It all adds up to an extra \$14.10 for 1,000 kilowatt-hours of electricity for CEMC residential consumers.

It's a lot of money. And, yes, I have heard some of you say it's your money. You're absolutely right.

It may be small consolation to tell you that rising energy prices are not unique to the Tennessee Valley. Electricity is becoming more expensive everywhere you look, and the trend of rising prices shows no signs of ending

in the near future. The one silver lining that I see, even though it comes at the expense of residents outside Tennessee, is that even with these higher rates, our per-kilowatt-hour rate for electricity is still below the national average.

We will continue to promote energy efficiency ideas, and we will most certainly pass them along to you as we hear of them. Our commitment to provide reliable service at the lowest possible cost remains the same.

Finally, my retirement date of Oct. 15 is fast approaching. After 35 years at CEMC, it is with a mixture of excitement and regret that I leave —

excitement for the new life ahead with Rita and our family and regret over issues left unresolved.

It has been my privilege to serve as general manager for the past 11 years. The opportunity to meet and become friends with so many of you is a memory that I will cherish as the years pass.

The board of directors and employees of CEMC are capable, hard-working individuals and are dedicated to providing you with the best service possible. I know that as the years pass and challenges arise, they will continue to provide you with the service that you deserve and expect.

I'll still be a CEMC member, and I look forward to seeing you again in my new "civilian" capacity.

Thanks again for everything!



**Carl Wilson Jr.**  
General Manager  
Cumberland Electric  
Membership  
Corporation

## CEMC Management and Staff

Carl W. Wilson Jr., General Manager  
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Randy Holt, Operations Manager  
Lynne Wilson, Administrative Services Manager  
Chris Davis, Engineering Division Manager  
Michael Batson, Financial Services Manager  
Barbara Harper, Member Services Manager  
Howard Whitaker, Eastern Regional Manager  
Kevin Cain, Western Regional Manager

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Clarksville office  
J.D. Bumpus, District Operations Supervisor

Dover office  
Terry Odom, District Manager

Gallatin office  
Allan Cook, District Manager

Portland/White House offices  
Homer Mayes, District Operations Supervisor

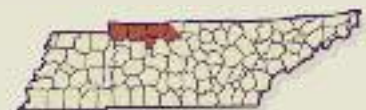
Springfield office  
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## CEMC Board of Directors

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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.



## Summary of CEMC rate changes

Here are the new rates at Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation effective Oct. 1, 2008, as a result of TVA's first quarter fiscal year 2009 fuel cost adjustment (FCA) and base rate increase. All additional fees, while collected by CEMC, are paid to TVA for purchased power.

Rate Class	Old	New
<b>RS Residential</b>		
Customer charge	\$12	\$12
Energy charge per kwh	.07746	.07966
FCA charge per kwh	.00729	.01919
<b>GSA1 Equal to or less than 50 kw</b>		
Customer charge	\$18	\$18
Energy charge per kwh	.08459	.08708
FCA charge per kwh	.00719	.01893
<b>GSA2 51-1,000 kw or more than 15,000 kwh</b>		
Customer charge	\$100	\$100
Demand charge first 50 kw	None	None
Over 50 kw, per kw	\$13.19	\$13.53
Energy charge first 15,000 kwh	.08465	.08714
Additional kwh	.04242	.04382
FCA charge first 15,000 kwh	.00719	.01893
Additional kwh	.00708	.01864
<b>GSA3 1,001-5,000 kw</b>		
Customer charge	\$350	\$350
Demand charge first 1,000 kw	\$12.79	\$13.15
Over 1,000 kw	\$14.50	\$14.92
Energy charge, per kwh	.04353	.04493
FCA charge	.00708	.01864

## Final notice

This is your final reminder that CEMC's 2008 Annual Meeting is Saturday, Oct. 4, at Rossview High School in Clarksville. Doors open at 8 a.m. We'll CEMC you there!

## 2008 CEMC food drive enlists student helpers

Area school children taught Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation a thing or two about how to have a successful food drive last year, which is, "Let us take the lead."

Good gracious, did they ever lead! And did they ever succeed!

"We worked with three schools last year, and the amount of food the students donated was amazing," says Barbara Harper, CEMC member services manager. "We quickly realized that we needed to capitalize on our young members' energy and enthusiasm.

Students in the schools listed below will collect nonperishable food items throughout the month of October with the common theme of "Helping our Communities."

"Each school will set a collection goal for its students, and classrooms will compete within each grade level for special recognition," Harper says.

Food banks in each local community will receive the items in time for holiday giving.

"It's great to see kids coming together to help other people. They are really good at it!" says Harper.

**Cheatham County:** Pleasant View and West Cheatham elementary schools;

**Montgomery County:** Cumberland Heights and East Montgomery elementary schools;

**Robertson County:** Coopertown and East Robertson elementary schools;

**Stewart County:** North Stewart and Dover elementary schools;

**Sumner County:** J.W. Wiseman and George Whitten elementary schools.



Last year, Cumberland Heights Elementary School students were rewarded with a pizza party for donating more than 1.5 TONS of food during CEMC's food drive.

# Early days of electricity recalled as CEMC o

Seventy years ago this fall, the people who organized Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation were busy selling \$5 memberships in anticipation of bringing electricity to the rural areas of northern Middle Tennessee. Up until that time, only those who lived in the cities had access to the power grid and the modern conveniences it afforded — things



like refrigerators, freezers, washing machines and irons.

To commemorate our founding, and to celebrate Co-op Month, we went in search of stories about the early days of rural electrification. The individuals pictured on these pages were there, and their stories are testament to the life-changing wonder of electricity.

*“One summer power lines were strung across our land;  
All of our neighbors sure thought that was grand.  
And in October of the year nineteen and thirty-nine  
Electricity was put in that home of mine.  
Each room of the house got what they called a drop light —  
A bulb coming from the ceiling on a green cord twisted tight.  
So we no longer used our glass lamps filled with oil  
With thin chimneys that the soot would always soil.*

*We put our one Aladdin lamp on a shelf upstairs,  
For electricity had solved all our lighting cares.  
How has electricity changed this life of mine?  
Why it’s changed it from plain ordinary to extra fine!  
So one thing’s for certain; Electricity is here to stay,  
And none of us would ever want it any other way.”*

*By Elma Bumpus Lane*

Those words were last published in this magazine in 1988 on the 50th anniversary of CEMC. They were written many years earlier by Elma Bumpus Lane of Cunningham. Ms. Lane was so awed by the marvel of electrical lights and appliances then coming into use in rural Montgomery County that she wrote a 102-line poem describing the thrill of each discovery!

In the poem, Ms. Lane says her household didn’t receive electric heat until the early 1950s, but the miracles they did enjoy included an electric washer, a second-hand refrigerator and a new cabinet radio.

“I loved them all, but the refrigerator was the best,” she says.

Nowadays, Ms. Lane is a regular fixture at Robyn’s Diner on the outskirts of Clarksville where she frequently gathers for breakfast with her many friends.



**Elma Bumpus Lane of Cunningham**



**Delwyn Mayo of Sandy Springs**

Delwyn Mayo remembers sitting on the back porch of his parents’ home on Head’s Chapel Church Road in Sandy Springs watching men from CEMC dig a hole with handheld posthole diggers. The year was 1939, and Mayo was 16 years old.

“They worked hard to dig that hole and set that pole. It didn’t happen in a day, either!” Mayo says.

Now 86, Mayo still lives in the same attractive Robertson County farmhouse with his wife, Blanche.

His family was so excited about electricity coming to their community that they purchased a refrigerator from Sears, Roebuck and Co. and wired their home before that pole was ever set.

“Yep, no more icebox for us, and soon after we bought an electric radio,” he says.

“I’ll tell you what, it was an exciting time!”

# Observes 70th anniversary and Co-op Month

Lillian Carter grew up on Dry Fork Creek Road in Sumner County without electricity. It was not until four years after she was married — 1942 — that electric lights came into her Hendersonville home. But it was years later, when she moved back to the Graball community in 1956, that she got her first electric appliance, a stove. A short time later, the Carters purchased a refrigerator and a radio.

Today, Mrs. Carter still lives in that house with all the modern electrical conveniences she never had while growing up.

“They’re all important to me,” she says, but her favorite one of all is the Wizard electric sewing machine that her late husband, James, bought at the Western Auto store.

“It (electricity) has made a big difference in my life,” she says. “The young people of today could not handle life without electricity.”



**Lillian Carter at home in Graball**



**Ada Mae and Buck Walter of Portland**

Katherine Smock was a 19-year old bride in 1944 when electricity came to her Cheatham County home. One of the first appliances she got was an electric washing machine.

“Washing clothes was an all day job back then — you didn’t just throw in a load of clothes and go wash the dishes,” she says. “You stayed with it all day. The clothes were scrubbed, boiled, rinsed, scrubbed again, rinsed again and then hung on the line to dry. And you hoped you wouldn’t drop the clothes when hanging them up,” she recalls.

Later on, they got a refrigerator and a freezer. The modern conveniences greatly changed the household labor and the farming chores, too.

“Electric lights were kind of like a new world when you were used to carrying an oil lamp around. It was a different life back then, but we enjoyed it,” Mrs. Smock says.

Buck Walter gets a gleam in his eyes as he tells the story of when electric power first came to his family’s Portland home in Sumner County.

Walter vividly remembers a drop cord that hung from the living room ceiling and knew it would be fun for a 6-year-old boy like himself to swing on if only he could reach it. The cord represented his father’s foresight when building the home in 1926 to have it wired for electricity.

“Many folks thought my dad was crazy, but he knew we would have electricity one day,” Walter says. That day finally came 21 years later, in 1947.

The first electric appliance the family purchased was a Frigidaire refrigerator. “It was just absolutely out of this world!” he says.

“It was like magic when you flipped that switch and a light came on,” Walter says. “It just changed this country.”



**Katherine Smock of Chapmansboro**

## Energy efficiency behind the wheel

As increasing gasoline prices cause consumers to reach deeper into their wallets, buying an electric-gasoline hybrid vehicle like a Toyota Prius or a Ford Escape SUV has become a new craze. But if buying a more fuel-efficient hybrid to reduce your “pain at the pump” (and carbon footprint) isn’t in your budget, here are some steps that can trim gas consumption and improve vehicle mileage:

- Observe the speed limit — While each vehicle reaches its optimal fuel economy at a different speed (or range of speeds), gas mileage usually decreases rapidly at speeds above 60 mph. Each 5 mph you drive over 60 mph, in fact, becomes the equivalent of spending an extra 30 cents per gallon for gas.
- Remove excess weight — Avoid keeping unnecessary items in your vehicle, especially heavy ones. An extra 100 pounds in your vehicle could reduce your miles per gallon by up to 2 percent. The reduction is based on the percentage of extra weight relative to



the vehicle’s weight and affects smaller vehicles more than larger ones.

- Avoid excessive idling — Cars with larger engines typically waste more gas at idle than cars with smaller engines.
- Use cruise control — Using cruise control on the highway helps you maintain a constant speed and, in most cases, will save gas.
- Use overdrive gears — When you use overdrive gearing, your car’s engine speed goes down. This saves gas and reduces engine wear.
- Drive sensibly — Aggressive driving (speeding and rapid acceleration and braking) wastes gasoline. It can lower your gas mileage by 33 percent at highway speeds and by 5 percent around town. In addition, sensible driving makes things safer for you and others.

*Source: U.S. Department of Energy and [www.fueleconomy.gov](http://www.fueleconomy.gov)*

## CEMC supports 100 Percent Graduation Initiative

Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation has signed on as a business partner in support of efforts to encourage all students to graduate from high school.

The 100 Percent Graduation Initiative is a collaborative effort among the education, business, faith and civic communities to help every child in the Clarksville-Montgomery County School System graduate from high school.



Statistics show students who do not graduate from high school often have negative economic and safety impacts on a community. For example, 75 percent of all state prison inmates are high school dropouts, and children who drop out of high school are twice as likely to slip into poverty as high school graduates. The cost to house a prison inmate in Tennessee is \$20,000 per year. But the cost to educate a child in Clarksville-Montgomery County is approximately \$7,000 per year.

We want to see every child get his or her diploma and have a better life.

**CEMC employees J.D. Bumpus, left, Clarksville district operations supervisor, and Kevin Cain, center, western regional manager, greet ninth-graders at Montgomery Central High School at the beginning of the school year.**