

Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation

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CEMC Board of Directors

Tommy G. Whittaker,

Sumner Co., President

Wesley H. Aymett,

Cheatham Co., Vice President

Shela K. Williams,

At Large, Secretary-Treasurer

K. Jean Beauchamp, Robertson Co.,

Assistant Secretary-Treasurer

Stephen E. Douglass, Stewart Co.

Charles R. Hancock, Stewart Co.

Michael A. Mason, Robertson Co.

C. David Morgan, Montgomery Co.

Edward L. Oliver, Montgomery Co.

Joe H. Whitaker, 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

79th annual meeting returns to Montgomery County

On behalf of the directors, management and staff of Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation, I invite our members to attend our cooperative's 2017 annual membership meeting. This year's meeting will be Saturday, Oct. 21, at Rossview High School in Clarksville. It has been a few years since our last meeting in Montgomery County, and we look forward to returning to RHS.

Doors will open at 8 a.m. for registration and breakfast, followed by the business session at 10 a.m. Prior to the business session, we invite you to browse through the selection of door prizes to be given away, pick up your annual meeting gift (one per registered member, while supplies last), visit informational booths, enjoy musical entertainment provided by the Backlot Pickers, view a high-voltage safety

demonstration provided by CDE Lightband and visit the Youth Corner.

An election to fill four seats on our board of directors will be held, and the results will be announced during the business session. You can learn more about each candidate on the following pages. We will also highlight the financial report and give a recap of the cooperative's activities during the last fiscal year.

If you are unable to attend the meeting, you can vote early in the director elections on Friday, Oct. 20, from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. at your local office. Names of those who voted early will be entered in a drawing at their voting locations for \$100 electric bill credits.

On a more personal note, this will be my final annual meeting as general manager of CEMC, so I hope to see and thank as many of you as possible before I begin my retirement next year.



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



CEMC board of directors — From left are, seated, Shela K. Williams, secretary-treasurer; Tommy G. Whittaker, president; Wesley H. Aymett, vice president; and K. Jean Beauchamp, assistant secretary-treasurer. Standing: board members C. David Morgan, Michael A. Mason, Charles R. Hancock, Stephen E. Douglass, Edward L. Oliver and Joe H. Whitaker and CEMC General Manager Jim Coode.

Meet the director candidates

Four seats on Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation's board of directors will be filled during the cooperative's 2017 annual membership meeting on Saturday, Oct. 21, at Rossvie High School. Members will elect directors to fill these positions: North Stewart, North Montgomery, South Sumner and director at large.

CEMC's Nominating Committee met Aug. 8 and recommended incumbent directors Charles Hancock, Edward Oliver, Joe Whitaker Sr. and Shela Williams for re-election for new three-year terms. Nominated by petition are Jamie Reynolds, who is vying for director at large, and Thomas Staten, running for the South Sumner County seat.

Charles R. Hancock is the nominee from North Stewart County. Hancock was appointed to the board in 2013 to serve the remainder of the term vacated by Jerry T. Peacher upon his retirement. Hancock is seeking his second elected term as director.

Hancock is a self-employed farmer in Bumpus Mills where he and his wife, Jennifer, have raised three daughters. The family belongs to Bumpus Mills Church of Christ.

Hancock has earned the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Credentialed Cooperative Director certification. He also serves as president of the Stewart County Farm Bureau and is a state director for the Tennessee Farm Bureau.

Edward L. Oliver is the nominee from North Montgomery County. Oliver was appointed to serve the remainder of the term vacated by Carrol O. Poole in June 2013 and is now seeking his second elected term as director.

Oliver is retired executive vice president of Clarksville Department of Electricity where he worked for 35 years. Prior to his employment at the electric department, he served in the U.S. Air Force. Oliver has

earned the advanced certified power executive designation from the Tennessee Valley Public Power Association and NRECA's Credentialed Cooperative Director, Board Leadership and Director Gold certifications. Oliver attended Community College of the Air Force, Austin Peay State University, Nashville State Community College and University of Tennessee Electric Meter School. He is also a graduate of Leadership Clarksville.

Oliver and his wife, Melissa, live in Clarksville and have two children.

Nominated by petition for director at large is **Jamie Reynolds** of Springfield. Reynolds, a graduate of Vanderbilt University, is a retired electrical engineer with more than 40 years of experience in the consulting engineering industry where he was responsible for the electrical design of commercial, industrial and power facilities. He held the position of electrical department manager for more than 25 years.

He is a senior life member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers (IEEE) and a member of the IEEE Industrial Society and Power and Energy Society. He presently holds or has held a Professional Engineering license in 14 states.

"With the rapid growth of industry in our counties, I would like to offer my experience to the members of CEMC," says Reynolds. "One aspect that will qualify our members for jobs in growing industries is computer skills. This year the Tennessee Broadband Accessibility Act, which permits Tennessee's private, nonprofit electric cooperatives to provide retail broadband service and provides grants and tax credits to assist in making broadband available to unserved homes and businesses, was passed. As well as providing reliable and cost-effective electrical service, I would like our cooperative

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Hancock

Oliver

Reynolds

Staten

Whitaker

Williams

Meet the director candidates

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to explore the feasibility of providing broadband service.”

Nominated by petition for director of South Sumner County is **Thomas O. Staten** of Hendersonville. Staten is a civil servant who has worked for the United States Department of Veterans Affairs as a realty specialist/quality assurance auditor for the past 34 years. He also serves as senior pastor at Hickory Grove Baptist Church in Castalian Springs. Prior to his employment with the Department of Veterans Affairs, Staten served in the United States military, completing two tours of duty in Vietnam.

Staten is a graduate of Volunteer State Community College, where he received an associate degree in applied science in business; Trevecca University, where he received a Bachelor of Arts in management and human resources; and American Baptist College, where he graduated summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in theology.

Staten is also treasurer on the board of Good Neighbor Mission of Sumner County, chair of the supervisory committee of the U.S. Community Credit Union in Nashville, a member of Prince Hall Masonic Lodge Freemont No. 270 in Gallatin, a former Tennessee Promise mentor and a former coach for the Upward Basketball Program at Beech Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Hendersonville.

“I have been directly involved in and worked with the nonprofit sector for more than 15 years in an effort to make our community a better place,” Staten says. “I also share the same concerns for our communities that are the guiding principles of CEMC. Because of my passion for these same principles, I feel my presence and expertise would enhance the ability of the board to lead CEMC into the future and make our community a great place to live, work and play.”

Staten and his wife, Beverly, have two children: Juan Lamont and Tamika Nicole.

Joe H. Whitaker Sr. is the nominee for South Sumner County. Whitaker joined the CEMC board in 1999 and served as board president for 13 years. He is a Credentialed Cooperative Director and also holds a Board Leadership Certificate and a Director Gold Certificate from NRECA. He is seeking his seventh term as director.

Whitaker, who lives in Gallatin, is a real estate property manager, an occupation he has practiced for more than 30 years. He holds a bachelor of science degree in business from Eastern Kentucky University.

A former member of the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association board of directors, Whitaker is also active in the United Chambers of Commerce, Greater Gallatin Chamber of Commerce, Sumner Academy, Leadership Sumner and Cairo Community Club. He has two grown children and two grandchildren.

Shela Williams of Stewart County is the nominee for the at-large seat on CEMC’s 10-member board of directors. She joined the board in 1999; holds Director Gold, Board Leadership and Credentialed Cooperative Director certificates from NRECA; and has served as secretary-treasurer on CEMC’s board since 2004. She is seeking her seventh term as director.

Williams is employed by F&M Bank in Clarksville where she is senior vice president of marketing/branch administrator. She is a graduate of Leadership Clarksville, Tennessee School of Banking, Southeastern School of Sales Leadership at Vanderbilt University and American Institute of Banking.

She and her husband, James S. Williams, live in Bumpus Mills. They have a grown son and a granddaughter.



2017 Nominating Committee — From left are Connie Rosson, Montgomery County; Donna Lancaster, Stewart County; Ken Spradlin, Montgomery County; Rodney Swearingen, Robertson County; Joe Henry, Cheatham County; Eddie Swan, Sumner County; Robert Lyle, Montgomery County; Gaines Shearon, Cheatham County; Edward Douglass, Sumner County; and Mike Luton, Stewart County. The committee met Aug. 8 and nominated all incumbent directors for re-election to the board of directors.

Look at what we're giving away!

The Outdoor Maintenance Package includes tools to help tackle your lawn care projects.



The Pick Tennessee Products Package includes a quilt made by Bona Perry, a Hinkle rocker and Lodge cast-iron cookware.



The Smart Home Package includes a smart thermostat, smart lightbulbs and a virtual assistant to help manage energy use electronically.

GRAND PRIZE



The Grand Prize is a "create-your-own" energy-efficiency makeover from Lowe's. The winner will receive a Lowe's gift card to purchase new Energy Star-qualified products for the home.



The Gatlinburg Getaway includes accommodations at the Gatlinburg Black Bear Inn and Suites, tickets to Dollywood and a Peddler gift card.



The Home Entertainment Package includes a flat-screen television and a Blu-Ray player.



Six college scholarships worth \$500 each will be given away!

Multiple bill credits valued between \$50 and \$250 will be given away!

The Youth Corner will feature age-appropriate prizes, including bikes and various gift cards.

Project Help donations help neighbors in need

Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation, in cooperation with local energy-assistance agencies, offers a program in which members who choose to participate can make donations each month to help provide some relief to individuals who are struggling to pay their utility bills.

The program, Project Help, allows members to pay an additional \$1 on their electric bills each month to help pay the utility bills of the elderly, disabled and/or those who are not economically self-sufficient. Project Help is a voluntary program. All money collected from Project Help goes to community action agencies, which determine how these special funds are distributed. Here's how the Project Help program works:

Who is eligible to receive Project Help funds?

To qualify, Project Help recipients must contact their local energy assistance agencies. Recipients will be required to provide proof that they are unable to bear the cost of heating their homes and that they do not exceed the annual income limit established for the assistance program.

How are the funds administered?

When CEMC receives your Project Help donation, 100 percent of the money goes directly to the

assistance agency that administers the program in your county. The agency distributes the assistance based on qualifying needs.

Who contributes to Project Help?

Everyone can contribute to CEMC's Project Help program. The minimum donation is \$1 per month.

How long do I donate to Project Help?

You are billed each month on your CEMC statement for the amount you wish to donate. You will continue to be billed each month until you notify CEMC that you would like to discontinue your donation.

How will I know I am donating each month?

You will see a separate line on your CEMC statement to show your Project Help donation.

How do I sign up?

If you would like to donate \$1 or more each month to Project Help, you can do so by marking the box on your bill stub and completing the Project Help section on the back of your bill or by contacting CEMC Customer Service either by phone at 800-987-2362 or live chat on our website, www.cemc.org.

By donating to Project Help, you can make a difference for someone in need this winter. Please consider joining us in warming the homes of our neighbors by contributing to Project Help. A dollar a month can truly make a difference.



Help us celebrate National Co-op Month



“Electric co-ops commit” Co-op Month 2017 #coopmonth

Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation is joining 30,000 cooperatives nationwide in October to celebrate National Co-op Month, which recognizes the many ways cooperatives are committed to strengthening the local communities they serve. “Co-ops Commit” is the theme for this year’s celebration, spotlighting the countless ways cooperatives meet the needs of their members and communities.

“Our cooperative delivers electricity to members in our five-county service area of Middle Tennessee,” says CEMC General Manager Jim Coode. “Delivering safe, reliable, affordable power is our top priority, but we are also invested in our communities because we are locally owned and operated.

Rural America is served by a network of about 1,000 electric cooperatives, most of which were formed in the 1930s and ’40s to bring electricity to farms and rural communities that large, investor-owned power companies had no interest in serving because of the higher costs involved in serving low-population and low-density areas.

In addition to providing the vital power co-op members depend on, CEMC engages with local communities through its participation in activities such as Relay for Life, electrical safety demonstrations, Washington Youth Tour, Read Across America, food drives and scholarship programs.

In conjunction with National Co-op Month, CEMC is joining cooperatives across the state to participate in the first Tennessee Electric Co-op Day of Service on Thursday, Oct. 5. CEMC is celebrating by hosting a community food drive at each of its business offices.

CEMC employees and members are encouraged to participate by bringing in nonperishable food items to any CEMC business office on Oct. 5 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Members who donate five or more items will receive, while supplies last, a free light-emitting diode (LED) bulb.

All items collected will be distributed to those in need through local food banks.

Thank you in advance for your support and joining in on our celebration of Co-op Month!

Stop the vampires!

The little vampires who ring your doorbell on Halloween night aren't the only ones you should be afraid of. Electricity vampires are all over your house — all year long.

Electrical vampires are appliances and electronics that continue to pull electricity even when they are turned off.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy, vampires account for up to 5 percent of the energy use in your house.

To save you from a witch hunt, here is a list of the most likely vampires in your home:

1. Computers, modems, routers, printers and other related equipment.



2. Your flat-screen TV. The larger it is, the more energy it uses, even when turned off.
3. Home theater equipment, including surround-sound devices.
4. Your cable or satellite TV box.
5. Anything with a digital time display like your microwave oven or DVD player.

If an electrical device has a continuous display (like a digital clock), charges batteries (your mobile phone charger) or has a remote control (your TV), it's a vampire.

The best way to stop these vampires is to unplug them when you're not using them.

You can also consider purchasing power strips so you have to pull just one plug to stop a group of electronics from using vampire electricity.

What to do if the power cuts out

The house goes dark, and everything inside is silent. No fans whirring, microwaves beeping, no TVs broadcasting the daily news. Your power has just gone out, perhaps because of the raging storm outside.

During a power outage, stick to these safety procedures:

- Use flashlights, not candles, which can start a fire if you drop one in the dark.
- Keep your refrigerator door closed, and it will keep food cold for four hours. A closed freezer will stay cold for up to two days without electricity.
- Dress in layers indoors when it's cold outside and your heater has stopped.

- Never, never heat your house with the oven or a charcoal grill. Instead, see if a family member or friend can take you in temporarily.
- Unplug appliances and electronics in case of a sudden surge of power, which could damage your equipment.
- Your backup generator belongs outdoors, not in your house or garage. The carbon monoxide in the exhaust could be hazardous to your family.

Once the power comes back on:

- Toss out food that has been exposed to temperatures higher than 40 degrees for more than two hours. Also, get rid of anything that smells or feels like it has spoiled.
- Restock emergency supplies like batteries and canned food.

Brace for the cold

Stay cozy indoors this fall and winter without sending your energy bills soaring. Here's how:

- Tape heavy-duty, clear plastic sheets to the inside of the frames of drafty windows. Or purchase drapes or shades that fit snugly into the window frame.
- Lower the dial on the water heater to 120 degrees. Heating water accounts for 18 percent of the energy your home uses, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.
- Lower the thermostat by 10 to 15 degrees for eight hours a day to save up to 10 percent on heating and cooling bills. Try it overnight or while you're at work all day. Or

install a programmable thermostat that will automatically set itself back at the times you want.

- Scour the house for gaps around plumbing pipes and cables for TVs, routers and landlines. Cold air can get into the house and heated air can escape through these openings. Caulk or weatherstrip those gaps and around doors and windows.
- Close the damper to your wood-burning fireplace when you're not warming by a fire. Better yet, avoid using it. Those old fireplaces suck the warm air right out of a room and send it outdoors.