

## 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.

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## Co-op Concerns

*News from your community*

### Keep your electric bill low when the temps get high

*I'm sure you have already noticed, but summer has arrived in Tennessee. There are lots of things to enjoy about this time of year. Hammocks, fresh fruits and vegetables, the beach and backyard cookouts are all things that are best enjoyed in the longer days of summer.*

Unfortunately, the long summer days also bring with them sweltering heat and humidity that can make life uncomfortable both indoors and out.

Heat and humidity can also have a significant impact on your monthly energy bill.

Electric co-ops like Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation are unique — few other businesses provide their consumers with advice on how to use less of the products they sell.

Because we are a consumer-owned utility, we frequently share tips to help our consumers make wise choices when it comes to energy. Our mission is not to sell more energy but to serve our communities.

Nothing has a greater impact on energy use than the weather. In fact, the two largest uses of residential energy in Tennessee are cooling followed closely by heating.

Even when you don't adjust your thermostat, you will still see increases in energy consumption when the temperature goes up. Why is that?

Let's say you keep your thermostat on 75 degrees in the

summer. If the outside temperature is 78 degrees, your air conditioner only has to cool the inside of your home by 3 degrees. However, if the outside temperature is 95 degrees, your air conditioner has to cool the

inside of your home by 20 degrees. It will have to run longer and use more energy to cool the space.

Even though most homeowners see their electric bills rise in the summer, there are

some smart and easy things you can do to save money. Check out page 23 for our list of seven smart ways to save energy this summer.

Need even more help? CEMC provides energy-efficiency programs such as the eScore Residential Energy-Efficiency Program and the EneRight New Homes Program to help homeowners make smarter energy decisions. Information about these programs can be found at [www.cemc.org](http://www.cemc.org) or by calling 1-800-987-2362.

Preparing your home for summer can make your living area more comfortable and save you energy and money.



**By Chris A. Davis**  
General Manager,  
Cumberland Electric  
Membership  
Corporation

**“Our mission is not to sell more energy but to serve our communities.”**

# Washington Youth Tour Writing Contest Winners

**T**welve high school students have been selected to represent Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation on the 2019 Washington Youth Tour. The students earned their spots on the weeklong, expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., by writing winning short stories describing how local electric co-ops are “Connecting Communities,” strengthening their rural hometowns, improving lives across their

service areas and providing safe, reliable and affordable energy.

CEMC’s delegates will join nearly 2,000 other students representing co-ops from across the country as they tour numerous monuments, memorials and museums and meet elected officials in our nation’s capital June 14-20. Students will also have the opportunity to compete for college scholarships.



*John Adkins  
Portland High School*



*Madisen Blackwell  
Clarksville High School*



*Austin Burkhardt  
Stewart County  
High School*



*Addison Dorris  
Portland High School*



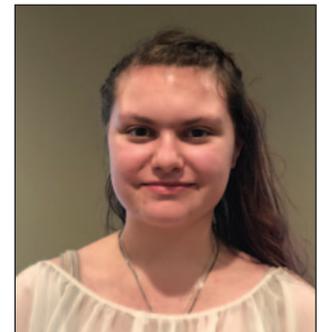
*Chandler Edgin  
Pleasant View Christian*



*Logan Livingston  
Portland High School*



*Megan McFaul  
Montgomery Central  
High School*



*Margaret Merchant  
Jo Byrns High School*



*Shelby Plank  
Jo Byrns High School*



*Matt Rosa  
Portland High School*



*Nick Rye  
Montgomery Central  
High School*



*Ashley Thompson  
Stewart County  
High School*

## Electric Cooperatives: Connecting Communities

By Megan McFaul, Montgomery Central High School

When I get home from school, I grab a snack and head to my room. I open my chemistry book to study for the test I have tomorrow. After working for a while, I hear the front door open and my mom, dad and little brother walk in. I go to the kitchen to see what my mom is cooking for dinner.

"Where have you all been?" I ask, realizing they are home later than usual.

"We were at our electric cooperative meeting," my mom responds. She sets down her keys and purse on the counter and begins to get out some pots and pans to cook dinner. It's my brother's favorite tonight: spaghetti and meatballs with garlic bread.

"People go to those things?" I inquire disbelievably.

"Well, yes, it's an important part of being an active and responsible member in our community. Your mom and I are responsible for the decisions made by the electric cooperatives, or co-ops, as most of us call them. After all, they are member-owned, and we are the members."

"Are they really that important?" I did not see what is so important. I thought we just pay the electric bill and hope the power doesn't go out when we have a major storm.

"If you like your power to be 99.98 percent reliable," my mom responds while draining the water from the noodles and then adding them to the meatballs in the sauce.

"How do you make sure the power is that reliable though?"

"Through the investment of \$10 million a month for the maintenance and upgrade of new technology across the state. This new technology has allowed us to bring broadband internet to more rural communities. Which, in turn, allows more schools and businesses to reach a wider population of people," my dad explains to me.

"Yeah, but what if you don't want to spend that much money on something that you cannot see the immediate results?" We all sit down at the table to eat dinner.

"Well, that is why we have a democratic member control. It allows us to control where the money is spent and what policies are accepted. It also helps to develop new communities."

"But bringing better electricity and internet to a town doesn't suddenly spark a whole sense of community, does it?"

"Pass me the pasta, please," my brother eagerly asks.

"Well, no, not exactly," my dad replies while handing the bowl of pasta to my little brother. "The expansion of broadband internet and the availability of new reliable

resources combined with our efforts of recruiting new businesses and schools allow new communities to grow and prosper."

"Mrs. Robinson's little clothing boutique is a great example of how co-ops bring new businesses to little towns," my mom adds.

"I love that boutique," I exclaim while thinking about all the cute clothes I have bought from there. I go shopping there all the time with my best friend, and we have fun trying on almost everything in the store before deciding on our favorite outfits to buy."

"Or even Mr. Wilson's ice cream shop," my dad chimes in. We usually go there on Sunday afternoons — especially in the summertime when it's hot outside. I remember the time we went there last summer, and my brother ate a huge chocolate sundae and ended up with it all over his face. My friends and I sometimes go there after school to hang out or study for a big exam. We always have a fun time there."

I begin to realize how important these places are in creating a community. They have brought me so many great memories and laughs. Without co-ops, I would have never become good friends with some of the best people I know.

"There are even opportunities for young people such as yourself," my mom says.

"There are?" I ask. I thought being an active member of your community was a job for adults.

"There's actually a trip we were discussing at our meeting tonight that we thought you may be interested in. It's called the Washington Youth Tour," suggests dad.

"What's that?"

"Well, it's a great opportunity for high school juniors who are interested in going to Washington, D.C., for a week and visiting some of the best historic monuments in America. You would be able to meet kids from across the country while exploring the wonderful sights and food of the city. It's completely free, and all you would have to do is write a narrative essay to enter the contest," my mom explained to me. It sounded very interesting. I always love traveling and meeting new people.

"That sounds amazing!"

I am so thankful we have electric co-ops that allow new businesses and schools to be created. They also have excellent opportunities for young people that will let them learn and experience new cities and gain valuable communications skills. I am glad my parents told me about how important co-ops are to our community.

# CEMC awards 12 senior scholarships

Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation is pleased to announce its 2019 Senior Scholarship recipients. Each of the following students has been awarded a \$1,000 college scholarship that can be used toward freshman year expenses such as tuition, textbooks and lab fees.

**Lauren Binkley of Ashland City.** Lauren is a graduate of Pleasant View Christian and will attend Volunteer State Community College.

**Mary Katherine Brown of Hendersonville.** Mary Katherine is a graduate of Merrol Hyde Magnet School and will attend Rhodes College.

**Mary Duke of Joelton.** Mary is a graduate of Sycamore High School and will attend Austin Peay State University.

**Jason Herlick of Adams.** Jason is a graduate of Clarksville Academy and will attend Western Kentucky University.

**Caroline Howell of Dover.** Caroline is a graduate of Stewart County High School and will attend the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

**Lillian Mays of Cedar Hill.** Lillian is a graduate of Jo Byrns High School and will attend Union University.

**Joshua Osborne of Dover.** Joshua is a graduate of Stewart County High School and will attend Austin Peay State University.

**Noah Owsley of Springfield.** Noah is a graduate of White House Heritage High School and will attend Tennessee Technological University.

**Hanna Sermons of Portland.** Hanna is a graduate of East Robertson High School and will attend the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

**Lily Tignor of Bethpage.** Lilly is a graduate of Gallatin High School and will attend the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

**Tatyana Torres of Portland.** Tatyana is a graduate of Portland High School and will attend Western Kentucky University.

**Jessica Troyani of Palmyra.** Jessica is a graduate of Montgomery Central High School and will attend Middle Tennessee State University.

To qualify for the award, students were required to complete applications, each including two letters of recommendation, and write 300-word essays describing what they look forward to most about attending college and how scholarships, in terms of financial assistance, will help them complete their educational goals. The applications were judged by a panel of retired teachers.



*Lauren Binkley*



*Mary Katherine Brown*



*Mary Duke*



*Jason Herlick*



*Caroline Howell*



*Lillian Mays*



*Joshua Osborne*



*Noah Owsley*



*Hanna Sermons*



*Lily Tignor*



*Tatyana Torres*



*Jessica Troyani*

# Nelson earns Power Play Scholarship

**E**mily Nelson of Chapmansboro has been awarded a \$4,000 scholarship through a program made possible by Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation and other local power companies across the Tennessee Valley Authority's seven-state service area.

Emily, the daughter of CEMC Ashland City District Working Foreman Myles Nelson and his wife, Anna Faye, is among 30 recipients of this year's Power Play Scholarship provided by the Power Play Scholarship Association to recognize outstanding academic performance and a commitment to



*Emily Nelson*

community service among high school seniors whose parents are employed by local power companies.

A graduate of Cheatham County Central High School, Emily will attend Austin Peay State University where she will pursue a degree in nursing.

Since being established in 1995, a total of 608 Power Play scholarships have been awarded through contributions and fundraising efforts by the Power Play Scholarship Association and its members. In 2019, 142 applications were received from across the Tennessee Valley.

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## Seven smart ways you can save energy this summer

**W**ith long, hot days of summer just around the corner, Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation provides some simple tips to save energy and money.

There are some small things you can do to have a big impact on your electric bill. Taking a little time now can pay off big as temperatures rise.

**Use blinds and shades to keep your cool inside.**

Close draperies on windows in direct sunlight to keep the heat out.

**Make wise choices with the thermostat.**

The smaller the difference between the outside temperature and the thermostat setting will reduce your cooling bill. Keep your thermostat as high as you can while remaining comfortable. We recommend 75 degrees. Programmable thermostats can automatically adjust the temperature when you are not home or awake.

**Keep your HVAC unit in good working condition.**

Be sure your filters are clean. This is a cheap but essential thing to do every month or so. Schedule regular maintenance to clean and maintain your system.

**Use fans to increase comfort.** Running a fan will allow you to increase your thermostat setting by 4 degrees without reducing comfort, but remember to turn fans off when you leave the room. You can also use bathroom and kitchen fans to move humidity outside.

**Seal the hot air out.** A tube of caulk and some weather stripping can go a long way. Seal cracks to keep hot air out and cool air in.

**Avoid using appliances and lights that create heat.** Replace traditional lighting with LEDs that produce no heat. On hot days, avoid using ovens or stoves and instead use the microwave or grill outside.

**Plant some trees.** This takes some time to pay off, but it will eventually. Trees can shade your home and have a significant impact on your energy bill. Just be sure to remain mindful of CEMC's right-of-way. Don't place trees underneath power lines, and call to have underground utilities located before performing any digging task.

Visit [www.cemc.org](http://www.cemc.org) or contact your local office for more tips and suggestions.

# Quality installers = savings to CEMC members

By Joseph Woodard, CEMC Energy Programs Inspector

## Continued eScore success

Since January 2015, eScore has helped more than 1,780 Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation members make home improvement choices to save more than 2.8 million kilowatt-hours, equating to more than \$280,000 in energy savings on top of \$583,000 in rebates paid directly to CEMC members.

The eScore Residential Energy Efficiency Program began in 2015 to help homeowners achieve energy savings through quality upgrades to their homes. Upgrades can be installed to increase a home's energy efficiency, and homeowners receive rebates and financing options on top of the annual energy savings from the measures completed.

## QCN members perform admirably

The Quality Contractor Network (QCN) provides trained, reputable local companies that are dedicated to quality installation and materials to ensure that each participating CEMC member can achieve his or her full potential savings. Many of these companies have been part of the QCN for decades, and these relationships strengthen the message that CEMC wants to be an energy partner, not just an energy provider.

CEMC's QCN contractors performed 228 heating, ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC) upgrades at members' homes in 2018, including new heat pumps and central air conditioners as well as tuneups and new or sealed existing ductwork.

## By the numbers

In 2018, contractors earned CEMC members \$66,715 in rebates and an estimated 286,367 kWh in energy savings. A total of 257 homes were upgraded with more than 516 energy-efficiency upgrades resulting in 454,943 kWh saved across CEMC territory. This reduction in power load is equivalent to removing 25 homes from the grid! We are thankful for these local companies that make sure CEMC members receive the best service and greatest savings from the work the contractors provide.

## Top performers

CEMC annually awards the top performing QCN members in each region with a QCN Excellence Award. This year, the award was earned by Baggett Heating & Cooling in the Western Region and Derryberry's Heat & Air in the Eastern Region. These outstanding installers provided more than \$19,000 in member rebates while saving 65,000 kWh (equivalent to \$6,500 in energy cost.) We thank these contractors for their continued dedication to the CEMC membership and to the quality of our energy programs.



Alana Ward accepts the Western Region's 2018 QCN Excellence Award for Baggett Heating and Cooling.



John McEachen, left, and Nick Brosche receive the Eastern Region's 2018 QCN Excellence Award for Derryberry's Heat & Air.

# Quality Contractor Network eScore Residential Energy Efficiency Program

## **Baggett Heating & Cooling Inc.**

825 Main St.  
Clarksville, TN 37040  
931-645-2859

**2018 QCN EXCELLENCE AWARD**  
**2017 QCN EXCELLENCE AWARD**  
**2016 QCN EXCELLENCE AWARD**

## **Derryberry's Heat & Air**

212 N. Water Ave.  
Gallatin, TN 37066  
615-452-8121

**2018 QCN EXCELLENCE AWARD**  
**2017 QCN EXCELLENCE AWARD**  
**2016 QCN EXCELLENCE AWARD**

## **Action Air**

868 Kraft St.  
Clarksville, TN 37040  
931-647-8525

## **H&H Heat A/C & Ref. Inc.**

2547 Madison St.  
Clarksville, TN 37043  
931-358-2600

## **Mainstream Heating & Cooling**

1539-A New Ashland City Road  
Clarksville, TN 37040  
931-647-9610

## **Brown & Son Company**

1028 N. Church St.  
Portland, TN 37148  
615-325-2624

## **Harris One Hour Heating & Cooling**

370 Robert S. Brown Drive  
Clarksville, TN 37043  
931-905-2356

## **McCarroll Heating & Air**

231 Molly Walton Drive  
Hendersonville, TN 37075  
615-824-4844

## **Comfort Air Heating & Cooling**

40 Old Highway 149  
Erin, TN 37061  
931-289-4017

## **Haskins Heating & Cooling**

5470 Highway 41-A  
Joelton, TN 37080  
615-746-6390

## **Morton Mechanical**

1878 New Ashland City Road  
Clarksville, TN 37040  
931-648-3982

## **Dawson-Dawson Heating & Cooling**

1891 Ashland City Road  
Clarksville, TN 37043  
931-552-6699

## **Hiller Plumbing, Heating & Cooling**

915 Murfreesboro Pike  
Nashville, TN 37201  
615-292-6110

## **Precision Air Inc.**

117 Spence Lane  
Nashville, TN 37210  
615-834-3777

## **Denney Mechanical**

1016 Christopher Lane  
Pleasant View, TN 37146  
615-746-2604

## **Kimbro Service**

134 Volunteer Drive  
Hendersonville, TN 37075  
615-824-8098

## **U.S. Air Heating & Air**

7731 Highway 41-A  
Cedar Hill, TN 37032  
615-505-5044

## Director candidates must meet July 23 deadline

**M**embers of Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation who are interested in serving on the board of directors can obtain petitions from the general manager's office. Each petition must be signed by at least 15 members.

The petition must be completed and turned in by Tuesday, July 23, which is 60 days prior to the 2019 annual meeting. This year's meeting will be held Saturday, Sept. 21, at White House Heritage High School in Robertson County.

An election will be held for the following director positions: Cheatham, South Robertson and South Montgomery.

Anyone with a valid membership in good standing as of July 23 can vote in director elections. Those applying for membership after July 23 will not be eligible to vote in this year's election but are welcome to attend the meeting and register for prizes.

(CEMC Bylaws Article 3 — Section 3.05)