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Mission Statement

Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation is committed to meeting the needs of our membership by delivering safe, affordable and reliable services the cooperative way.

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Between the Lines

News from your local leadership

The greatest achievement

In February 2000, the National Academy of Engineering compiled a list of the 20 greatest achievements of the 20th century. The list includes a number of truly extraordinary innovations: Automobiles were No. 2, airplanes No. 3. Television, refrigeration and spaceflight also made the list.

These are some truly amazing human endeavors, so you may be wondering what the voting delegates named as the greatest achievement of the century. The top spot was reserved for the electric power grid.

North America's power grid has been called "the most complex machine ever built." This trillion-dollar web of generation stations and millions of miles of power line span the continent, connecting the most densely populated cities and the most remote rural communities.

Massoud Amin, a professor of electrical engineering at the University of Minnesota, said, "Its engineering is an amazing undertaking that underpins everything – from our economy to the quality of life of society."

Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation is responsible for a relatively small but important part of this network. We connect 100,000 homes, farms and businesses in our five-county service area. To do this, we operate and maintain 8,000 miles of line and 30 substations.

Each year our co-op and thousands of other utilities across the nation invest

billions of dollars to maintain and update this infrastructure. It's important, and here's why:

The grid is an essential part of our economy. Without energy provided by

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The grid supports health and education. Modern medicine and education become far less efficient – or, in some cases, completely unfeasible – without reliable power and communication.

The grid is necessary for future green energy innovations. It may come as a surprise, but green energy sources such as wind and solar farms depend on the grid to move the power they produce to the people and businesses that need it.

Simply put, civilized society as we know it depends on the power grid.

I wholeheartedly agree with the National Academy of Engineering. The reliability, complexity and critical nature of the power grid make it one of mankind's greatest achievements, and that is why our team at CEMC takes the responsibility to maintain our part of this massive system so seriously.



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

CEMC cancels annual meeting

To safeguard against COVID-19 and the spread of the 2019 novel coronavirus, Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation has cancelled the 2020 annual members' meeting that was scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 10, at Stewart County High School in Dover. In-person voting for director elections will be held at each CEMC office on Friday, Oct. 9, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 10, from 8 to 11 a.m. Watch for full details in the October issue of *The Tennessean Magazine*.

Two factors played into the decision to cancel annual meeting:

The safety and well-being of our consumer-members are our ultimate priorities. The state of Tennessee and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have cautioned against large in-person gatherings where it is difficult for individuals to remain spaced at least 6 feet apart. CEMC's annual meeting typically draws a large crowd, and we are unable to provide social distancing for our members. We care about the communities we serve,

and CEMC wants to do our part to keep our members safe and prevent the spread of the virus in our communities.

Electric co-op employees are stewards of critical

infrastructure. Spread of the illness among co-op employees represents a real threat to the communities we serve. We have a heightened responsibility to protect the health and well-being of our workforce, and cancelling our annual meeting is a logical response.

"This is a difficult decision to make because the annual meeting is a unique

opportunity for our members to engage with co-op directors and employees," says Chris A. Davis, CEMC general manager. "I sincerely hope we can look back on this as an unnecessary precaution, but our utmost responsibility is the safety of our members, employees and community."

Next year's annual meeting will be held in the fall of 2021, with the date and location to be announced at a later date.





The best of both worlds

The introduction of rural broadband is making a difference

By Kaitlyn Bonds, Creative Director

Whether you were born and raised in Tennessee or moved here from out of state, so many people have put down their roots and have chosen to call the Volunteer State their home. The sounds of wildlife, the beautiful scenery and the neighborly lifestyle are what make our Southern state so desirable. However, many residents were surprised to find that with the charm and tranquility of rural life often came a lack of reliable connection to the outside world.

Modern times have added additional challenges for many of those living in rural communities. High-speed internet has become so commonplace in so many areas that the world seems to be taking off at the speed of light while other communities have been left behind to make do with whatever connectivity is available (which, oftentimes, is none at all).

But to give up the dream of living with that sense of yesteryear, that scenery, that tranquility, all for the sake of having reliable internet? One might ask, “Why can’t we have both?”

In recent years, fiber to the home projects began sprouting up across the country, and word of broadband being introduced in rural communities has spread like wildfire. Communities have strengthened and lives have been changed by organizations stepping up to fulfill the need for reliable high-speed internet in rural communities. Right here in Tennessee, Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation is doing just that by way of its broadband subsidiary, Cumberland Connect.

These days, access to reliable high-speed internet is a necessity for homes and businesses and has shown to be a major attraction for new industries. This can ultimately increase job opportunities in these communities, which can spark economic growth. In addition to that, high-speed internet can provide students with access to more educational tools, which can improve grades.

The advancements in today’s world and the promises of more to come with constant developments of new technology show that the access to reliable high-speed internet should no longer be considered a luxury but, instead, a utility available to all. CEMC and Cumberland Connect share this belief, and that is why we are building a fiber optic network to provide access to gigabit speed internet services to our cooperative members and to invest in the future of our communities.

It should not matter if you prefer the quaintness of a small town or the hustle and bustle of big city living; you should be able to have access to a reliable Internet connection regardless. The winds of change are blowing through Middle Tennessee as Cumberland Connect crews work to build and expand a fiber optic network that will bring not only world-class technology to our communities but, truly, the best of both worlds to our members.

For more information on Cumberland Connect’s fiber to the home project, visit cumberlandconnect.org.

QCN excellence leads to eScore success

By Joseph Woodard, CEMC Energy Programs Inspector

eScore reaches milestone

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

Since January 2015, eScore has helped more than 1,900 Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation members make home improvement choices to save more than 3.2 million kilowatt-hours, equating to more than \$320,000 in energy savings directly to participating CEMC members.

By the numbers

In 2019, heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) contractors earned CEMC members \$15,700 in qualifying rebates and an estimated 296,428 kWh in energy savings. In total, 1,647 upgrade measures were performed to more than 367 homes. Projects include new heat pumps and central air conditioners, tuneups, new or sealed existing ductwork, windows and doors and attic insulation.



Accepting the Eastern Region's 2019 QCN Excellence Award for Derryberry's Heat and Air are Nick Brosche, left, and John McEachen.

QCN members perform admirably

The eScore program's success is directly attributed to the contractors that make it possible. 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. These contractors go the extra mile to ensure that the installs are completed correctly in timely fashion and that the homeowners can fully realize the anticipated savings for the life of the equipment.

Top performers

CEMC annually awards the top performing QCN members in each region with the QCN Excellence Award. For 2019, the award was earned by Derryberry's Heat & Air in the Eastern Region and Baggett Heating & Cooling in the Western Region. These locally owned businesses achieved a combined 37,052 kWh annual savings to CEMC's service area by installing 63 measures across 49 homes in 2019 while generating more than \$7,000 in qualifying rebates to homeowners.



Accepting the Western Region's 2019 QCN Excellence Award for Baggett Heating and Cooling are, from left, Nicole Darke, Alana Ward and Kirt Neal.

Quality Contractor Network eScore Residential Energy Efficiency Program

2019 QCN EXCELLENCE AWARD

Baggett Heating & Cooling Inc.

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

Action Air

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

Brown & Son Company

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

Comfort Air Heating & Cooling

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

Dawson-Dawson

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

Denney Mechanical

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

H&H Heating & Air Conditioning Refrigeration Inc.

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

Harris One Hour Heating & Cooling

370 Robert S. Brown Drive No. 1
Clarksville, TN 37043
931-905-2356

Haskins Heating & Cooling

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

Indoor Comfort Heating & Cooling

9060 Highway 79 North
Springville, TN 38256
731-644-1287

Kimbro Service

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

2019 QCN EXCELLENCE AWARD

Derryberry's Heat & Air

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

Mainstream

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

McCarroll Heating & Air

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

Morton Mechanical

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

Precision Air Inc.

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

U.S. Air Heating & Air

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



IMPORTANT ELECTION DATES

OCTOBER 5
REGISTRATION
DEADLINE

OCTOBER 14-29
EARLY
VOTING

OCTOBER 27
ABSENTEE
DEADLINE

NOVEMBER 3
ELECTION
DAY

TECA Tennessee Electric
Cooperatives

CO-OPS  **VOTE**
A PROGRAM OF AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

 GOVOTETN.COM

Robertson County: Minutes from Nashville, miles from ordinary

Did you know that Robertson County has more cities than any other county in the state of Tennessee? Did you know that Robertson county is home to the Bell Witch? How about that before prohibition, the largest whiskey distillery began in Robertson County and was run by a woman?

Join the Robertson County Chamber of Commerce at Experience Robertson County on Saturday, Sept. 12, for a full day of fun and learning about the rich roots of the beautiful Robertson

County. It is truly an experience you will not forget, and the best part is the experience is FREE!

Experience Robertson County is a countywide tourism event designed to shine a spotlight on Robertson County and the 11 municipalities that make up the beautiful and unique county. Guests will tour Robertson County and experience the smoking barns of the fall, the



Spirit of the Bell Witch, the historic whiskey industry and the amazing soil that feeds our agricultural roots.

As guests visit each stop, they will truly experience the community they are visiting. Before visitors leave,

each host will stamp the guest's official Robertson County passport. Each stamp collected gives participants an opportunity to win one of three grand prizes totaling \$1,500 in cash!

Everyone is invited to participate! This is not a race but an experience in

Robertson County. There are no minimum stops required, so feel free to stop at one or all, and be sure to bring your stamped passport to the historic Springfield square to enter into the cash prize drawing before you leave.

For more information about the event, visit www.robertsonchamber.org.

Save energy this fall

While families spend more time at home, they use more electricity. Luckily, mild fall weather brings with it an opportunity to save energy without sacrificing comfort. Some tips:

- Take advantage of the sun's warmth. Once you no longer need to run the air conditioner, open the curtains on your home's south-facing windows to let the daylight in. The natural heat will stave off the need to turn on the furnace for a while. Close the curtains at night so chilly air won't sneak into your home through exposed windows.
- Open windows on both sides of the home when it's warm enough. That will create a nice breeze indoors and help you air the house out.
- If you have drafty windows, fall is a good time to address the problem. Cover the windowpanes with clear plastic film or hang insulating drapes.
- Use caulk to seal around indoor holes in your exterior walls for electric lines, cables, plumbing pipes and phone wires. Do the same around

windows and recessed light fixtures in ceilings.

- Keep the fireplace damper closed when you're not burning a fire.
- Keep a sweater handy. Sometimes it's just the solution to a chilly evening that comes too early in the season to run the heater.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Clothes dryers make up a large portion of your appliance energy consumption. Clean the lint filter after each cycle, and scrub the filter with a toothbrush once a month to remove film and increase air circulation.

Source: energy.gov



RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES WORD SEARCH



The electricity that powers our homes is generated by a variety of fuel sources, including renewables. Renewable energy comes from natural resources like the wind and the sun. Can you find all the renewable energy-related words in the puzzle below?



WORD BANK:

- HYDROPOWER • GEOTHERMAL
- WIND TURBINE • BIOMASS
- RENEWABLE • GENERATION
- SOLAR PANELS • SOLAR ENERGY
- WIND ENERGY

