

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

Co-ops build up Tennessee

In November, the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association (TECA) held its annual meeting. I, along with several Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation staff members and directors, attended that event in Nashville. The theme of the meeting was "Build Up," and many of the presentations focused on the tremendous impact co-ops have on our state.

Electric co-ops serve more than 2.5 million Tennesseans, 71 percent of the state and 84 of the state's 95 counties. Co-ops keep the lights on 99.96 percent of the time and provide career opportunities to more than 2,400 Tennesseans. Co-ops pay some \$63 million in taxes and have awarded more than \$39 million in U.S. Department of Agriculture loans and grants to recruit and retain rural jobs.

Despite the impressive statistics and positive impact of co-ops, many hurdles remain for our rural and suburban communities.

David Callis, TECA general manager, concluded his remarks to the annual meeting crowd by saying, "I'll leave you with this challenge: Think carefully about your co-op and your co-op members. What are their needs? What are their expectations? What opportunities exist for your co-op to take action to improve everyday life for your members? We have an important

role to play, and together co-ops can build up Tennessee."

This is a serious challenge, and it is something our board and staff consider each day. We love the communities we serve, and we take seriously our responsibility to improve everyday life for our members.

We believe that there is a role for CEMC that goes far beyond simply keeping the lights on. That is why we are working with local economic development groups to help recruit jobs

and investments to our service area. We work to prepare the next generation of leaders through our Youth Leadership Summit and Washington Youth Tour programs.

I appreciate the impact co-ops have had on rural and suburban Tennessee. Our employees and retirees can be proud of the role CEMC has played in developing this region over the years. However, we cannot be content to stop where we are. Our communities have tremendous potential, and I think our best days lie ahead.



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

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Consider insulating your hot water pipes. Doing so can reduce heat loss, allow you to lower the temperature setting and save an additional 3 to 4 percent per year on water heating.

Source: Energy.gov



Trees of Giving provide winter clothing during holidays

Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation thanks everyone who participated in its annual Trees of Giving community project.

Your generous donations helped spread a little extra warmth to those in need this holiday season.

Hundreds of gloves, hats, scarves, socks, coats and other cold-weather clothing — along with some nonperishable food items — were collected during the month of December. The clothing items were used to

“decorate” the Christmas trees in each of CEMC’s lobbies leading up to Christmas and were then delivered to local community assistance agencies in each district for distribution.

The Trees of Giving community project is made possible each year by high school students participating in various clubs and organizations as well as CEMC employees and members across the entire five-county service area.



Clockwise from top: The Stewart County High School men's basketball team decorated Dover's tree, Cheatham County Central High School's art club decorated Ashland City's tree, Montgomery Central High School's National Honor Society decorated Clarksville's tree, Portland High School's Academic Team decorated Portland's tree and Greenbrier High School's Future Teachers of America decorated Springfield's tree. Not pictured is White House High School's National Honor Society, which decorated White House's tree.

Winter storm safety

Snow and ice storms are inevitable parts of the winter season. While pretty to look at, they can lead to downed power lines and outages. Remember these tips to stay safe and warm should you find yourself in the dark after a severe winter event:

- Never touch a fallen power line, and assume all wires on the ground are electrically charged. Call Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation at 1-800-987-2362 to report it immediately. Avoid contact with overhead lines during cleanup and other activities.
- In the event of an outage, an alternate heating source — such as a fireplace, propane space heater, or wood stove — can be used. Extreme caution must be taken.
- Plan to stay in an area of the home where the alternate heat source is located.
- Fuel- and wood-burning heating sources must be vented. Be sure to follow manufacturer's directions.
- Make sure carbon monoxide detectors and smoke detectors are working properly.
- Do not use a gas-powered oven for heating. A gas oven may go out or burn inefficiently, leading to carbon monoxide poisoning.



- Do not use a gas or charcoal grill inside the home. Do not use charcoal briquettes in the fireplace.
- If you use a portable generator to power a heating source, be sure the generator is located outside your house for proper ventilation. Do not use a generator in an attached garage. Follow manufacturer's directions for operating the generator.

- Take special care not to overload a generator. Use appropriately sized extension cords to carry the electric load. Make sure the cords have grounded, three-pronged plugs and are in good condition.
- Never run cords under rugs or carpets.
- Never connect generators to power lines. The reverse flow of electricity can electrocute an unsuspecting utility worker.

Ideally, your family will stay warm until the power comes back on. But keep an eye on family members for signs of hypothermia, which include shivering, drowsiness and mental and physical slowness. The elderly and young children are particularly vulnerable to hypothermia. Call 911 immediately if you notice these symptoms. In case of a power outage, keep in your house at least one telephone that does not depend on electricity.

Three ways to stay warm this winter

You had your heating system serviced and added extra blankets to all of the beds in your home. But you're still chilly indoors during this coldest month of the year. Try this:

- 1. Check your windows.** Even energy-efficient, double-pane windows won't keep the cold out if they're not completely closed. Latch them, too; if it's not easy to do that, chances are the window isn't closed all the way.
- 2. Close your fireplace flue and install an electric insert.** The fire in your fireplace doesn't help

heat your home. In fact, because you have to open the flue to let the smoke out, you're inviting a lot of cold, outdoor air into your living room.

- 3. Adjust your ceiling fan.** The blades are supposed to push heat down into the room in the winter. On most fan models, that means they should spin clockwise. In the summer, they spin counter-clockwise and pull warm air up to the ceiling. You may have to manually switch the direction of the blades each season.

Fire extinguishers

A little preparation can go a long way

House fires can happen in seconds: In one instant, you could go from whipping up dinner to watching flames spring up from the stovetop.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, 410,500 fires — or 78 percent of all reported structure fires — occur in homes. In the right hands, a household fire extinguisher can save lives and protect property should a small fire start.

“Every home should have at least one fire extinguisher, and you need the right type and must know how and when to use it,” says John Drengenberg, consumer affairs manager at Underwriters Laboratories (UL), the Chicago-based not-for-profit firm that tests and sets minimum standards for electric-consuming items.

Fire extinguishers should be placed in easily accessible areas of the home, close to where they might be needed (such as in a kitchen, garage or bedroom). Remember these basic rules to keep in mind when using household fire extinguishers:

1. If the fire is not spreading and remains confined to a small area, use the appropriate type of extinguisher. Select a multipurpose extinguisher (rated A, B or C) with the UL mark that can be used on all types of fires such as wood, cloth, paper, flammable liquids (gasoline, oil, grease,

oil-based paint) and energized electrical equipment, including wiring, fuse boxes, circuit breakers and appliances.



Remember to **PASS** when operating a fire extinguisher:
Pull the pin, hold the extinguisher away from you and release the locking mechanism.
Aim low, pointing the extinguisher at the base of the fire.
Squeeze the lever slowly and evenly.
Sweep the nozzle from side to side.

2. Know both your limits and those of the fire extinguisher.
3. Periodically inspect your extinguishers to determine if they need to be recharged or replaced. Extinguishers need to be recharged or replaced after each use — even if you haven’t used the entire extinguishing agent. Check the gauge on the fire extinguisher for this information.
4. When operating a fire extinguisher, stand at least 6 feet away from the fire and keep your back to a door so you can escape easily, if necessary. Remember the word **PASS**:
 - Pull the pin, hold the extinguisher away from you and release the locking mechanism.
 - Aim low, pointing the extinguisher at the base of the fire.
 - Squeeze the lever slowly and evenly.
 - Sweep the nozzle from side to side.

“Fire extinguishers for home use are not designed to fight large or spreading fires,” stresses Drengenberg. “Rather than fighting the fire, your No. 1 priority should be getting out safely.”

Source: Underwriters Laboratories

Feb. 22 is deadline for youth programs

Students interested in submitting short stories for the Washington Youth Tour writing contest, applying for the senior scholarship program or entering the calendar art contest: Mark your calendars for **Thursday, Feb. 22**, which is the deadline for each of Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation's youth programs.

The Washington Youth Tour writing contest is open to high school juniors within CEMC's service area. To enter, students are required to write short stories titled "Electric Cooperatives — Going Beyond the Wires," describing how co-ops provide communities with much more than electric power. Each writer of the top 12 entries will win an expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., June 8-14. Complete details about the 2018 Washington Youth Tour writing contest can be found on CEMC's website: www.cemc.org/youthprograms.asp.

CEMC's Senior Scholarship Program will help graduating seniors pay for college by awarding 12 scholarships of \$1,000 each to qualifying students. Anyone wishing to apply must submit a completed application, including two letters of reference and an original essay of at least 300 words describing what the student most looks forward to about attending college and how a scholarship, in terms of financial assistance, will help in completing his or her education. Applicants must have also attained a minimum 3.0 cumulative grade point average, enroll or plan to enroll as a full-time student at an accredited Tennessee college (Murray State and Western Kentucky universities are included)

and be a graduating senior whose parents or guardians are members of CEMC and receive electric service from CEMC at his or her primary residence. Applications are available through school guidance counselors and can be found on CEMC's website: www.cemc.org.

The 2019 Calendar Art Contest is available to students in grades kindergarten through 12 who live within CEMC's service area. Winning entries will receive cash prizes and be featured in CEMC's 2019 calendar.

Entries will be accepted through participating schools, and each grade has been assigned a calendar month to illustrate as follows: January, sixth grade; February, seventh; March, eighth; April, ninth; May, 10th; June, 11th; July, kindergarten; August, first; September, second; October, third; November, fourth; and December, fifth. Seniors will design the cover.

POLITICIANS ATHLETES CEOs YOU

YOUTH TOUR DELEGATES HAVE CHANGED THE WORLD. IS IT YOUR TURN?

TRAVEL RECOGNITION SCHOLARSHIPS CONNECTIONS

TENNESSEE WASHINGTON YOUTH TOUR

Presented by Tennessee's electric cooperatives
YOUTHTOUR.TNELECTRIC.ORG

CEMC rewards super spellers

Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation is proud to sponsor the Cheatham County School System's District-Wide Spelling Bee each year. This year's spelling bee was held Nov. 20 and 21 at Cheatham County Middle School with two competitions over the two-day event: one for fourth-grade students and another for students in grades five through eight.

Participants in the fourth-grade spelling bee were:

Ashland City Elementary - Anna Trice, Jaxon Demonbreun, Malaya Morrow and alternate Kaydin Pike

Kingston Springs Elementary - Lucas Barton, Miles Coile, Jake Parsley and alternate Erik Hass

Pleasant View Elementary - Chase Steel, Amanda Veith, Garrett Johnson, and alternate Carly Batson

East Cheatham Elementary - Isabella Gwyn, Eli Perry, Mackenzie Moon, and alternate Madolyn Sheler

Pegram Elementary - Eli Johnson, Sawyer Binkley, Amelia Austin, and alternate Natalya Rosseau

West Cheatham Elementary - Karina Rojas, Diana Gonzalez and Drew Clendenning

Participants in the competition for grades five through eight were:

Fifth Grade - Sydnee Mitchell, Cheatham Middle School; Caris Rowe, Cheatham Middle School; Brady

Wilson, Harpeth Middle School; Sam Lawless, Harpeth Middle School; Kreala Fox, Sycamore Middle School; and Anna Kate Saylor, Sycamore Middle School

Sixth Grade - Austin Campbell, Cheatham Middle School; Zachary Nash, Cheatham Middle School; Polly Conley, Harpeth Middle School; Everett Morrison, Harpeth Middle School; Dylan Dean, Sycamore Middle School; and Brooklyn Hager, Sycamore Middle School

Seventh Grade - Eli Johnstone, Cheatham Middle School; Alex Heine, Cheatham Middle School; Jacob Capps, Harpeth Middle School; John Dalton, Harpeth Middle School; Kolby Ervin, Sycamore Middle School; and Perrin Lane, Sycamore Middle School.

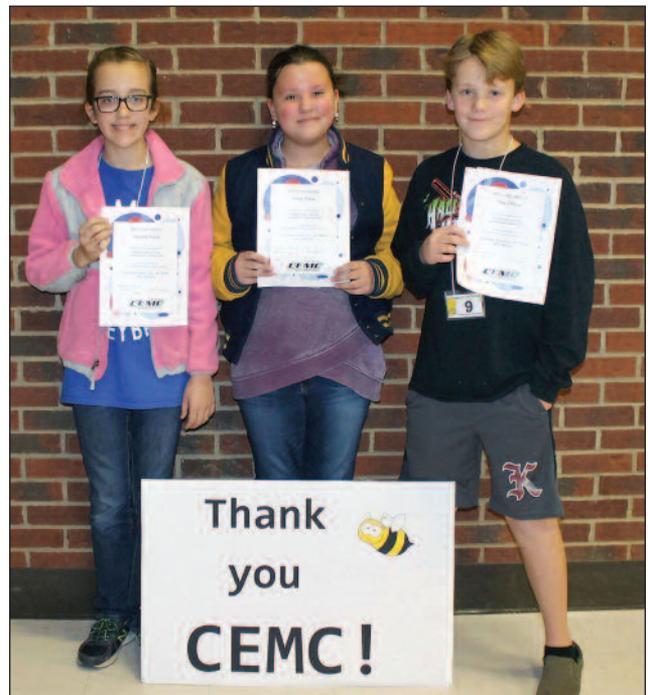
Eighth Grade - Charles Roberson, Cheatham Middle School; Makayla Christie, Cheatham Middle School; Caleb Riopelle, Harpeth Middle School; Mallory McKaskle, Harpeth Middle School; Keegan Biladou, Sycamore Middle School; and Gracie Parrish, Sycamore Middle School.

As an event sponsor, CEMC provided cash prizes for students who placed first, second and third in each competition. Pictured below are the winners from each age group.

Congratulations to all on a job well done!



Fourth-grade spelling bee winners are, from left, Amelia Austin, second place, Pegram Elementary School; Eli Johnson, first place, Pegram Elementary School; and Chase Steel, third place, Pleasant View Elementary School.



Middle school spelling bee winners are, from left, Brooklyn Hager, second place, Sycamore Middle School; Polly Conley, first place, Harpeth Middle School; and Eli Johnstone, third place, Cheatham Middle School.

Electricity theft: not worth the risk

Every year, electric cooperatives across the country cope with thieves — folks who deliberately tamper with their electric meter to steal power. Not only is this practice extremely dangerous, it's also a serious crime that can result in hefty fines and jail time.

Co-ops have witnessed people doing some dangerous things — using knives, forks, magnets, jumper cables and any number of other objects to get around paying for the power they use. However, not only are these thieves stealing from their fellow co-op members, they're also risking their lives and those of our workers.

According to the Cooperative Research Network, a division of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, power surging through a compromised meter can cause an electrical catastrophe. A short-circuit could produce an arc flash bright enough to cause blindness and powerful enough to launch fragments of shrapnel-like, red-hot debris. Serious injury or death from electrocution, explosion or fire often results from meter tampering. Only trained Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation personnel wearing protective clothing should work on meters.

Electricity theft is not a victimless crime. CEMC loses revenue and expends resources to investigate tampering. These costs are then passed on to the entire membership.

Since everyone pays for lost power, please let us know if you suspect meter tampering. Call CEMC at 1-800-987-2362 to report possible theft of service. All information can be given anonymously.

DO NOT TAMPER WITH YOUR ELECTRIC METER

Meter-tampering can result in electric shock, is illegal and increases electricity rates for other co-op members.

60824

WATT HOURS METER

- ⊘ Never break a meter seal.
- ⊘ Never open a meter base.
- ⊘ Never remove a meter or alter an entrance cable in any manner.

If you know or suspect that someone has tampered with a meter, please contact us immediately.

AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

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