

# U.S. energy problems require collaboration and leadership

I have a lot of respect for the men and women who serve our country as members of Congress, whether or not I agree with their positions on proposed legislation. Having observed them for years, I know that being an elected official in Washington, D.C., is not a part-time job or hobby. These citizen-legislators are on the job all the time.

When several representatives of Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation visited members of Tennessee's congressional delegation in May, I was again impressed with how familiar they and their staffs were with the subjects we came to talk about. It proved to me that our elected officials are aware that a crisis is shaping up over this country's energy sufficiency and gave me hope that they will work with us to solve some rather serious problems, such as:

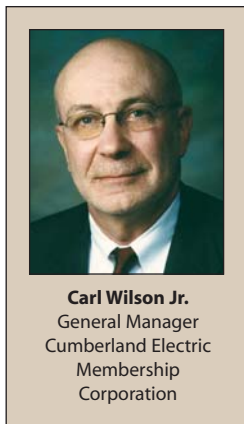
## Demand

The United States could have an additional 45 million residents in just 12 years. The Energy Information Administration projects electricity needs will grow nationally 1.1 percent from 2006 through 2020, requiring 118,000 megawatts of new generating capacity. Among electric cooperative consumers, demand growth is projected at twice the national average because more and more people are moving into co-op areas.

## Affordability

In the next decade, U.S. consumers will see rising and volatile electricity prices unlike anything they've ever seen. Coal plants are not being built to generate electricity because of carbon

constraints, and nuclear power plants take a long time to get going, so the nation is turning to natural gas. But the price of natural gas is up 97 percent since August 2007.



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

## Reliability

Rapidly thinning capacity means the people whose daily behind-the-scenes efforts keep the electric grid intact are already seeing reliability "near misses" when key lines or power plants go down. If we fail to address our growing energy infrastructure and technology development needs, some regions face

increasing probabilities of brownouts and blackouts in the near future.

## What can we do?

What's needed is a sustainable electric power policy that balances the need for new generation resources and infrastructure, the state of available technology, costs to consumers and climate change goals.

Achieving this balance will require a significant and sustained plan and constant efforts to innovate. Faced with serious challenges in the past, our nation has forged partnerships between government and industry to get the job done. The next decade's energy challenges require collaboration once again with the scope, vision and leadership that accomplished rural electrification and construction of the interstate highway system.

I urge you to contact your congressman and senators and let them know of your concerns. If enough of us do that, I'm sure they will notice. A good place to start is at this Web site: [www.ourenegy.coop](http://www.ourenegy.coop).

## CEMC Management and Staff

Carl W. Wilson Jr., General Manager  
Jim Coode, Operations Manager  
Lynne Wilson, Administrative Services Manager  
Chris Davis, Engineering Manager  
Michael Batson, Controller  
Barbara Harper, Member Services Manager  
Randy Holt, Eastern Regional Manager  
Kevin Cain, Western Regional Manager

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### Dover office

Terry Odom, District Manager

### Gallatin office

Allan Cook, District Manager

### Portland/White House offices

Homer Mayes, District Operations Supervisor

### Springfield office

Larry Richardson, District Manager

## CEMC Board of Directors

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Wesley H. Aymett, Cheatham County,  
Vice President  
Shela K. Williams, At Large,  
Secretary-Treasurer  
Jerry T. Peacher, Stewart County,  
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Carrol O. Poole, Montgomery County  
Tommy G. Whittaker, Sumner County

## 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.



# Board picks Coode as CEMC general manager

## New duties begin when current manager Carl Wilson retires in October

**J**ames B. (Jim) Coode will become the seventh general manager of Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation, succeeding Carl Wilson, who will retire Oct. 15 after 35 years at the company. Wilson has been the cooperative's general manager for the past 11 years.

Coode has been employed with CEMC for more than 30 years, beginning Sept. 16, 1977, when the recent college graduate was hired as a field engineer. Coode has been able to use his degree in electrical engineering (Tennessee Technological University, 1977) in a variety of positions at CEMC, including operations engineer, Springfield District engineer, supervisor of technical services, manager of technical services, manager of engineering services and, most recently, operations manager, a title he has held for the past five years. As manager of the operations division, Coode has been in charge of a myriad of functions related to the reliability of CEMC's electrical system, including:

- Engineering Department
- The cooperative's Eastern and Western regions and seven business offices
- Customer Contact Center
- Metering Department
- Substation Maintenance
- Vehicle Maintenance
- Buildings and Warehouse
- Construction Crew
- Safety
- System Control, formerly known as "SCADA"
- Right-of-Way
- Purchasing

"I am very pleased with the board's decision, and I feel good about the future of the cooperative under Jim's leadership," Wilson said. "During his 30-year career at CEMC, Jim has ably demonstrated both a dedication to the cooperative principles and a passion for keeping CEMC either on top of or ahead of the curve in technological advancements to better serve our members. I have no doubt he will move the co-op forward in his new position."

"What impresses me the most about Jim is his experience and his expertise," said Joe H. Whitaker, president of the CEMC board of directors. "He's been with us more than 30

years in numerous positions, and he knows what's going on with our system."

According to Whitaker, Coode was the only formal applicant for the job after the position was posted internally.

"We (the directors) did not restrict ourselves to only consider inside applicants; we just started our search on the inside.

But to Jim's credit, we were completely satisfied with his answers to our questions, and, after talking with him, we saw no reason to look outside," Whitaker said.

"I look forward to the challenges of this job," Coode, 53, said. "All of my post-graduate employment has been here, so I feel like I'm intimately familiar with the intricacies of Cumberland Electric. It's my home."

Coode grew up in Nashville where he received an early education in the electric utility industry from his father, James B. Coode Jr., a 35-year employee of Nashville Electric Service. Like his son, the elder Coode started in the engineering department and also served as operations manager.

"As a kid I ran those halls on Saturdays or when I was out of school when he was there working. I was familiar with the industry in a general sense from that exposure. I always hoped to be in the operations end one day because of my father," Coode said.

Like each of his general manager predecessors, Coode's primary goal will be to try to hold electric rates down while maintaining and improving the reliability of the electric system.

"We're fortunate to be in the Tennessee Valley Authority system, which allows us to keep our rates lower than a big part of the rest of the country," he said. "That's going to be one of our greatest challenges with the regulations and the political climate concerning global warming, carbon emissions and natural gas prices. Legislation is going to dictate what our rates are, to a large extent.

"As for the other side of the coin, we have an excellent record of reliability over the past five to 10 years, and our annual outage hours per customer are under our benchmark."

Coode is the father of three children: Katherine, age 20; Rett, 18; and Nick, 15. He is a member of the Institute of Electric and Electronics Engineers and is a former member of the Montgomery County Industrial Development Board.



**Jim Coode will become general manager of CEMC in October.**



**THE SWEET "SPELL" OF SUCCESS** — Winners in Cheatham County's fourth grade spelling bee, sponsored by CEMC, are, from left, Dylan Parchman, West Cheatham Elementary School, third place; Emily Hickerson, Pegram Elementary School, second place; and Ayla Patton, East Cheatham Elementary School, first place. Each winner received a certificate and cash award from CEMC.

## Heat pump loan rate drops to 6 percent

For a limited time, residential consumers can take advantage of a reduced loan rate for the purchase of an energy-efficient electric heat pump.

The Tennessee Valley Authority and Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation, partners in the *energy right*® Program, will offer financing at 6-percent interest through Sept. 30, 2008. This promotional rate will apply to all heat pumps with a minimum seasonal energy efficiency rating (SEER) of 14 and advanced heat pumps.

At the end of this promotional period, the interest rate is expected to return to 8 percent.

A heat pump is the cleanest, most-efficient and least-expensive way to heat and cool your home. In the summer, a heat pump removes warm air from inside your home and moves it outside, and in the winter, it

captures warm air outside and pumps it inside, keeping your home warm.

For information on applying for a low-interest heat pump loan, contact CEMC's Member Services Department at 800-987-2362.

Please note that there will be no refinancing of existing heat pump loans.



## Awareness of lightning dangers could prevent injury or death

In the United States, lightning kills an average of 66 people per year and injures another 300, according to the National Weather Service. In an effort to decrease these numbers, Safe Electricity offers the following tips to stay safe during storms:

- If you're close enough to the storm to hear thunder, you're most likely close enough to be struck by lightning. Seek shelter immediately.
- Do not seek shelter under trees, picnic or rain shelters or in open-frame vehicles.
- Don't plug in or unplug anything electrical during the storm.
- Don't use corded telephones — phone use is the No. 1 cause of indoor lightning injuries in the United States.
- Avoid contact with water, pipes, washers or dryers.
- If you can't find shelter in a building or in a closed-frame vehicle, keep your feet together and sit on the ground away from water, high ground or open spaces.
- If a person is struck by lightning, call 911 and care for the victim immediately. You cannot be harmed by touching the victim after he or she has been struck.

Visit [www.SafeElectricity.org](http://www.SafeElectricity.org) for more information on electrical safety. © Safe Electricity, all rights reserved





## Prospective CEMC director candidates have until Aug. 5 to submit petitions

Anyone interested in running for a seat on the Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation board of directors must first submit a petition signed by at least 15 members.

Petitions are available in the office of the General Manager, 1940 Madison St., Clarksville, TN 37043. Completed petitions must also be returned to this address.

The deadline for petitions is Aug. 5, which is 60 days before the 2008 Annual Membership Meeting to be held Oct. 4 at Rossvie High School in Clarksville. Winners will be determined based on balloting held at each CEMC business office on Oct. 3 and at the annual meeting the following day.



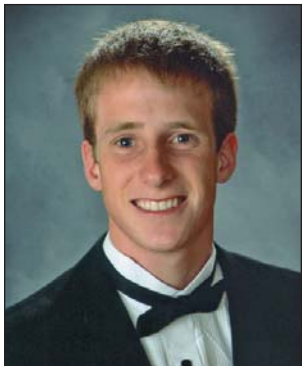
Four seats on the 10-member board will be decided this year:

- North Stewart County, currently held by Mr. Jerry T. Peacher;
- North Montgomery County, currently held by Mr. Carrol O. Poole;
- South Sumner County, currently held by Mr. Joe H. Whitaker; and,
- The at-large seat, currently held by Mrs. Shela K. Williams.

The term of office is three years.

Anyone with a valid membership in good standing as of Aug. 5 may vote in the director elections. Anyone applying for membership after that date will not be eligible to vote. (CEMC Bylaws, Article 3 — Section 3.05)

## Coode earns power distributors scholarship



**Rett Coode**

Rett Coode, a 2008 graduate of Maryville High School, has won a \$4,000 college scholarship from the Tennessee Valley Authority and Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation through the TVA Power Distributors Scholarship Program.

One of 32 scholarship winners chosen from 137 applicants, Coode graduated with a 3.95 grade point average and

now plans to attend The University of Tennessee.

Coode is the son of Jim Coode, current operations manager and general manager-designate at CEMC.

TVA and its distributors created the scholarship program in 1995 for the children of distributor employees to encourage students to excel and to recognize the strength of the partnerships between TVA and distributors of TVA power. The program has provided more than \$1 million in scholarships to 267 individuals over the past 10 years.

TVA is the nation's largest public power provider and is completely self-financed. TVA provides power to large industries and 159 power distributors that serve approximately 8.8 million consumers in seven Southeastern states.



**Tennessee-Kentucky Threshermen's Association**

**39th Annual Threshing Show**

**July 18-19**

**Bell School Grounds in Adams, Tenn.**

**Sponsored in part by**

**Cumberland Electric Membership Corp.**

## CEMC offices closing on July 4

Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation offices will be closed Friday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day. Crews will be on call in the event of an emergency.

To report an outage or other power emergency, call CEMC's toll-free telephone number: 800-987-2362.

Enjoy the holiday!





# National Civil War Quilt Trail decorates Dover

Setting poles and hooking up electric lines are activities for which the linemen of Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation are quite well known. Lately, they've even become proficient at hanging magnificent pieces of art from the sides of buildings.

In Dover, CEMC workmen with bucket trucks volunteered to assist the Stewart County Arts and Heritage Council in hanging a large quilt commemorating a significant episode in the history of the local community.

"We just could not have done this without the help of CEMC," says Carolyn Darke, the artistic force behind the Medallion Sampler Quilt shown at right, which has been designated as the centerpiece of "A Stitch in Time — The National Civil War Quilt Trail."

It was at the battle of nearby Fort Donelson in February 1862 where Union forces, led by Brig. Gen. U.S. Grant, got their first important victory of the Civil War. Darke's great-grandmother, young Letitia Smith, played a role in helping Confederate Col. Nathan Bedford Forrest's cavalry cross Lick Creek, thereby eluding capture and surrender to Grant's army.

But Letitia was also a quilter, and two of her works inspired the design of her great-granddaughter's Medallion Sampler Quilt, which now adorns the Good Samaritan Center building in downtown Dover.

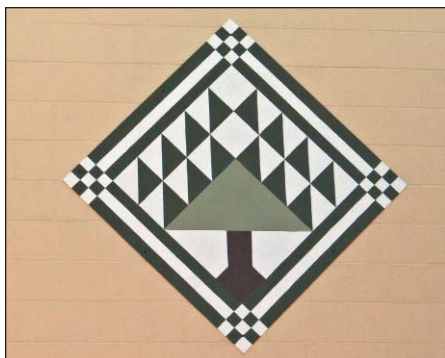
The painting is chock full of symbolism, including the blue and gray colors of the Union and Confederacy. Representing the butternut uniforms worn by Confederate soldiers at Fort Donelson is a background of subdued golden brown. Key figures such as President Abraham Lincoln and Southern Gen. Robert E. Lee are also represented. Most of the patterns used date from the Civil War period. Others are variations, symbolic designs or artistic expressions.

The National Civil War Quilt Trail honors quilters everywhere, along with the memory of their ancestors who experienced those dramatic times.



The centerpiece of the National Civil War Quilt Trail is "Letitia's Quilt," inspired by local Civil War heroine Letitia Smith Walter. It was designed by her great-granddaughter and local artist, Carolyn Walter Darke, third from left above. Also pictured are Betsy Tumelson, third from right, who assisted in the painting of the quilt, and employees from CEMC who helped raise and attach the 16-foot-by-16-foot quilt to the side of the Good Samaritan Center, 303 Donelson Parkway, in downtown Dover. On the left are Stephen Fitzhugh and Clint Marshall, and on the right are Donnie Burkhardt and Steve Fielder.

Throughout Stewart County, there are a total of 15 locations where the quilt block artwork can be viewed. Other examples are shown below.



The "Pine Tree" quilt block is located behind Brigham Hardware, 213 Donelson Parkway, in downtown Dover.



The "Basket" quilt block is located at 301 Spring Street next to Anglin Funeral Home in downtown Dover.



The "Triple Irish Chain" quilt is visible at 521 Donelson Parkway in downtown Dover.