

CEMC Management and Staff

Chris A. Davis, General Manager
David Abernathy,
Engineering and Operations
Division Manager
Annebelle Chester,
Administrative Division Manager
Mark T. Cook, P.E.,
Broadband Manager
Michael Blackwell,
District Operations Manager
Jonathan Fielder,
Engineering Services Manager
Seth Roberts,
Member Services Manager
Brad Taylor,
Financial Services Manager
Beau Baggett,
Manager of Member Experience

District Managers

Ashland City office
Josh Gill
Clarksville office
Kenny Davis
Dover office
Bobby Joiner
Gallatin office
Travis Akins
Portland/White House offices
Scott Brown
Springfield office
Chad Crabtree

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
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 meeting the needs of our membership by delivering safe, affordable and reliable services the cooperative way.

The Tennessee Magazine

(ISSN 0492746X), Volume 64, No. 1, is published monthly by Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association, 2964 Sidco Drive, Nashville TN 37204. Periodicals Postage Paid at Nashville TN and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The Tennessee Magazine*, PO Box 100912, Nashville TN 37224-0912.

Between the Lines

News from your community

Let's build a brighter Tennessee

As I prepare this column, a tumultuous year is coming to a close, and I'm looking forward to the promise and opportunity that 2021 holds. The beginning of a new year is a time I pause before a blank slate, review the accomplishments and trials of the previous 12 months and look ahead to my next goals.

Last year certainly presented challenges unlike any we've ever seen. A global pandemic led to economic hardship and combined with a divisive political climate. It's easy to let those struggles drag us down and dim our outlook on the days to come, but in reassessing how we've met these challenges, I'm certain that brighter days are ahead.

Here at Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation, our dedicated employees have risen to the occasion. We made adjustments to help protect our members and employees. We continued our outreach to our communities — our hometowns — helping struggling neighbors in these uncertain times. Folks at the co-op buckled down in adopting new safety practices while continuing to provide the high-quality service our consumer-members expect and deserve.

It hasn't always been easy, but our goal continues to be to go above and beyond in service to our communities. It's not enough to simply supply electricity. At CEMC, we think of ourselves as craftsmen. That means we're not simply building something; we're building it well — with pride and purpose.

It's not enough for us to pick up the phone when you call with questions. We give you options for engaging with your

electric cooperative so you can use the method that's most convenient for you. We ensure your safety in our lobbies and in the communities where our employees work outside the office. We provide opportunity for our future members, encouraging the area's youth to dream big and helping them develop the skills they need to join tomorrow's workforce. We provide energy-saving information so you can get the most out of your energy dollars.

I can't express how proud I am of our entire team for showing such resilience. Like linemen who brave the fiercest weather or overcome long odds to string lines to the most remote reaches of our service area, all our employees are craftsmen with keen eyes and uncommon skill earned through busted knuckles and sleepless nights. Through service and sacrifice, we're the people who build stuff — artisans who work in wood, wire and steel to light the countryside and energize our communities.

CEMC takes great pride in the work we do, the infrastructure we build and the communities we serve. We are crafting the future of our rural and suburban areas — investing in comfort and connection, in energy and opportunity, in people and places.

We're building a brighter Tennessee.



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

CEMC mourns board member Douglass

Stephen E. Douglass of Dover, who represented South Stewart County on Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation's board of directors, died Oct. 26, 2020, at the age of 72. Mr. Douglass had served on CEMC's board since 2007.

"Mr. Douglass truly cared about the needs of our members," says CEMC General Manager Chris A. Davis. "His leadership will be missed."

Son of the late John Earl and Dulcie Mae Swann Douglass, he was born Jan. 29, 1948, in Murray, Kentucky.

He was a graduate of Murray State University where he was awarded a Bachelor of Science degree in 1970 and a Master of Science degree in 1971.



Stephen E. Douglass
1948-2020

Mr. Douglass was co-owner and president of Sills Insurance Agency in Dover, where he began working in 1973. In addition to serving on CEMC's board of directors, he was also chairman of the Stewart County 911 Board. He was a member of Fort Donelson Memorial United Methodist Church.

Besides his parents, he was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Susan Sills Douglass. He is survived by his loving son and daughter-in-law, John and Nicole Douglass, all of Dover; brother and sister-in-law, Jim and Nancy Myers, of Dover; and cousins,

Gary Grogan, of Frankfort, Kentucky, and Jennifer Partin, of Louisville, Kentucky.

Beware of third-party payment processors

Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation cautions its members when using third-party payment processors like Doxo.com. Such companies, which allow consumers to pay a variety of bills online — including CEMC bills — often charge a fee for their service. While third-party bill payment processors are legal, they can be misleading. Doxo.com and similar services may appear to be affiliated with CEMC; however, they are not. Nor are they official payment sites for CEMC.

If using Doxo.com, be aware that member payments may arrive late, resulting in late fees or even disconnection due to nonpayment.

The quickest, most economical way for CEMC members to make a payment is by using one of the convenient payment options offered by CEMC — none of which charges a fee.

Bank draft: Payments are automatically drafted from your checking/savings account each month on your due date.

Auto Pay: Payments are automatically drafted from credit or debit card each month on your due date.

Credit/debit card by phone: Pay your bill by phone using your credit card or debit card.

Mail: Mail your payment in the return envelope included with your monthly statement. (To avoid late fees, please mail payments several days prior to the due date.)

SmartHub: Pay your bill through the app or online with a credit/debit card.

District offices: You can make payments at our district offices, which are open 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. For your convenience, each district office is equipped with a payment kiosk station that is available 24/7. Kiosks accept cash and credit/debit cards.

Please contact us at 1-800-987-2362 or visit us online at cemc.org for more information about any of these payment options.

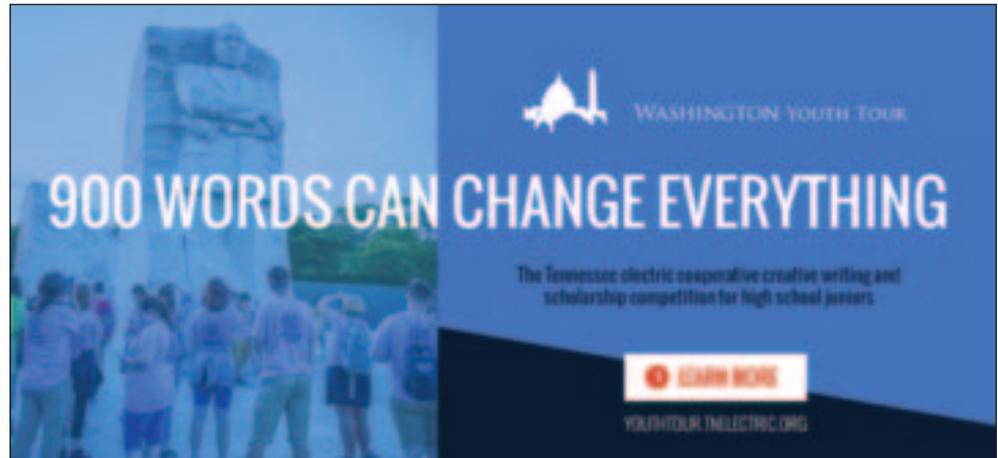
‘Building a Brighter Tennessee’: An electric cooperative creative writing and scholarship competition

For more than 50 years, the Washington Youth Tour, an electric cooperative creative writing and scholarship competition, has been sending high school juniors from rural electric co-ops to our nation’s capital on what has often been described as “the trip of a lifetime.” Past delegates have had the opportunity to explore Washington, D.C., visit historic monuments and museums, meet their elected officials and experience a front-row view of government and leadership — all while learning about the impact electric cooperatives have on their communities.

This year, due to the threats posed by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Tennessee’s Electric Cooperatives have made the difficult decision to cancel the travel portion of the 2021 Washington Youth Tour. Travel restrictions, local government requirements and the closure of hotels, museums and other venues make it impossible to give winners the quality trip that has been provided for more than 50 years. More importantly, the health and safety of our Youth Tour delegates are our highest priorities, and Tennessee’s electric co-ops are unable to ensure the wellbeing of students while in Washington, D.C. Other components of the program, including scholarships, recognition and networking opportunities, will still be available for this year’s winners.

In lieu of the trip to D.C., Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation will award 12 high school juniors from across its service area with \$1,000 college scholarships to assist with their continued education.

To enter the contest, students must write short stories explaining how electric co-ops are “Building a Brighter Tennessee” through investments in energy, education, broadband, economic development and more.



Stories must not exceed 900 words, including articles (“a,” “an” and “the”), and the exact word count must be included on the cover page. Entries, which must be typewritten and double-spaced, will be judged on appropriate treatment of theme, knowledge of the subject, originality, creativity, grammar and composition.

The contest deadline is Friday, Feb. 26, and winners will be announced this spring. Writers of the top 12 entries in CEMC’s service area will win \$1,000 college scholarships and will have the opportunity to compete for additional scholarships awarded by the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association. TECA will award scholarships of \$3,000, \$2,000 and \$1,000 for the state’s top three short stories. Additional scholarships on the national level will be awarded by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association as well.

Winners can also choose to participate in the Cooperative Youth Ambassador program. Delegates who remain active and engaged with CEMC for 12 months following the contest will qualify for a drawing for a \$10,000 scholarship to the school of the winner’s choice.

The Washington Youth Tour Creative Writing and Scholarship Competition is open to high school juniors living in CEMC’s five-county service area. Resource materials and additional information can be found by visiting youthtour.tnelectric.org or by contacting Stephanie Lobdell, CEMC community relations coordinator, at 1-800-987-2362, ext. 1143, or by email at slobdell@cemc.org.

Young artists sought for calendar art contest

Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation's 2022 calendar art contest is underway, and we're calling on our local student-artists to submit their best entries. Winners will receive cash prizes and have their artwork published in CEMC's 2022 calendar, which will be displayed in homes, schools and businesses throughout the co-op's service area. Calendars are free and available at each of CEMC's offices beginning in November of each year.

The contest is open to all students — grades kindergarten through 12 — who reside within CEMC's service area. Entries will be accepted through participating schools and are due by Friday, Feb. 26. Each grade (for which the student is currently enrolled) 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 illustrate the cover. While there is no specific theme for the cover, rural scenes, barns, wildlife and items that illustrate CEMC's service (bucket trucks, utility poles, etc.) are a few suggestions.

Artwork will be judged on artistic merit, creativity and how well the assigned month is depicted. All elements of the artwork must be the work of the student submitting the entry. Artwork must be on white or



The artwork of Merrol Hyde Magnet School Devi Bell was the overall winner in the 2021 CEMC Calendar Art Contest.

light-colored, unruled paper no larger than 11 by 14 inches and no smaller than 8.5 by 11 inches.

Complete contest details and instructions are available online

at cemc.org or by contacting CEMC Community Relations Coordinator Stephanie Lobdell at 800-987-2362, ext. 1143, or via email at slobdell@cemc.org.

Cooperative scholarships available

Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation recognizes that our youth are the future of the communities we serve. For this reason, we are proud to invest in our future leaders by offering scholarship opportunities to graduating high school seniors through our Senior Scholarship Program.

This year, 12 students will be awarded one-time scholarships of \$1,000 that can be used toward their freshman year expenses such as tuition, textbooks and lab fees or to purchase other required classroom materials.

To be eligible, applicants must meet these requirements:

- Must be a graduating high school senior whose parents or guardians are members of CEMC and receive electric service from CEMC at his or her primary residence.
- Must have attained a minimum 3.0 cumulative grade-point average.
- Must enroll or plan to enroll as a full-time student at an accredited Tennessee college university or trade

school by fall 2021 (Murray State and Western Kentucky Universities are included).

- Must submit a completed application, including two letters of reference: one from a teacher or other school official and one from a community leader.
- Must write an original essay of at least 300 words explaining 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. All essays will be judged on the basis of content, composition, grammar and neatness.

Applicants can apply online at cemc.org. Deadline for scholarship entry is Friday, Feb. 26. Children of CEMC, Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association or Tennessee Valley Authority employees, directors or attorneys are not eligible to apply.

For additional information, contact CEMC Community Relations Coordinator Stephanie Lobdell at 800-987-2362, ext. 1143, or via email at slobdell@cemc.org.

How to safely volunteer during COVID

Nonprofits need help during this time when so many would-be volunteers are staying home instead of helping out. If you have the volunteer spirit, consider pitching in — safely. Here are five ideas:

Donate. Chances are you're spending some of your at-home time organizing closets and cleaning the basement or garage. Sort through your junk before having it hauled away to discover hidden treasures that you don't want but that are in good shape and might be useful to others.

Most charities have bins for dropping off donations so you won't come into contact with other people.

Organize a food drive. Set up a plastic bin on your porch, and encourage your neighbors to fill it

with nonperishable grocery items like soup, pasta, peanut butter and cereal. Every time it's full, haul it to a local food bank that has a contactless system for accepting donations.

Visit a neighbor. If someone in your neighborhood is older or can't get to the store, ask for a shopping list the next time you're heading out for yourself. You can drop the items off on the neighbor's porch instead of handing them off in person.

Take phone calls. You can volunteer at a crisis helpline from the safety of your home — via telephone. Many crisis centers are conducting virtual training and sending routine calls to volunteers' home or mobile numbers.



Five ways to stay cozy this winter

By Abby Berry

Baby, it's cold outside! When you're feeling chilly at home, there are several budget-friendly ways you can keep comfortable without turning up the thermostat.

Here are five easy ways to stay cozy this winter.

1. Whether you're experiencing extremely cold winter temps or you simply "run cold," an electric blanket can deliver quick warmth like a regular throw or blanket cannot. Electric blankets can include a variety of features like timers and dual temperature settings (if your cuddle buddy prefers less heat). This winter, consider an electric blanket instead of turning up the heat, and your energy bill will thank you.

2. One of the easiest ways to stay cozy at home is to keep your feet warm. Our feet play a critical role in regulating body temperature, so when your feet are warm, your body automatically feels warmer. Try a pair of comfortable wool socks or house slippers to stay toasty.

3. On winter days when the sun is shining, take advantage and harness natural warmth from



Electric blankets deliver quick warmth and can include a variety of features like timers and dual temperature settings. Photo Credit: Abby Berry, NRECA

sunlight. Open all curtains, drapes and blinds in your home to let the sunshine in — you'll be able to feel the difference.

4. Another way to make your home cozier is to use a humidifier. Cold air doesn't hold water vapor like warm air, so by adding humidity inside your home, you can feel a little warmer. A favorable level of humidity inside your home can also help clear sinuses, soften skin and improve sleep.

5. Beyond adding visual appeal to your home, area rugs can also provide extra insulation and a warm surface for your feet on cold winter days. Use large area rugs in rooms where you spend the most time. You'll enjoy the new colors and textures of the rug, and the additional warmth will help keep your home comfortable.

These are just a few ways you can stay cozy this winter without turning up the thermostat. Don't forget the hot chocolate!

Abby Berry writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing more than 900 local electric cooperatives. From growing suburbs to remote farming communities, electric co-ops serve as engines of economic development for 42 million Americans across 56 percent of the nation's landscape.

**Energy Efficiency
Tip of the Month**

Replace standard power strips with advanced power strips to save energy. Advanced power strips look like ordinary power strips, but they have built-in features that are designed to reduce the amount of energy used by standby electronics that consume energy even when they're not in use (also known as phantom load).

The National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) estimates that the average home loses \$200 annually to energy wasted by phantom load.

Source: www.nrel.gov

The graphic features a green background with a stylized yellow leaf on the right side and a yellow power strip icon at the bottom. The text is in white and yellow.

2021 ENERGY EFFICIENCY CALENDAR



There are so many ways you can save energy! Saving energy helps reduce your family's monthly bills – and it helps our environment. Change your energy use habits by following the monthly tips below. Keep this calendar on your refrigerator to remind family members to be energy efficient throughout the year.

JANUARY

Turn off ceiling fans when you leave room.



FEBRUARY

Instead of turning up the heat, put on an extra layer of clothing or stay cozy under a blanket.

MARCH

Turn off lights when you leave a room.



APRIL

Ask an adult to help you plant a tree to help shade your home in the summer.

MAY

Decorate your backyard or porch with solar-powered lights.

JUNE

Take short showers instead of baths.



JULY

Dry heavy linens outside on a clothesline instead of using the dryer.

AUGUST

Ask an adult to help you schedule a reminder to change the A/C filter every 60-90 days.

SEPTEMBER

Turn off running water while brushing your teeth.



OCTOBER

Unplug energy vampires like chargers, gaming consoles and cable/satellite boxes.

NOVEMBER

Remind family members to use cold water when washing clothes.



DECEMBER

Decorate your home with energy-saving LED holiday lights.