

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

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
Stephen E. Douglass, Stewart Co.
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 63, No. 10, 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 local leadership

Make your voice heard — Join us for director voting

Since our cooperative was founded in 1938, Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation has hosted an annual membership meeting. This event, held each fall at various locations within our five-county service area, has always been a special time for co-op members to gather, share experiences, hear from co-op leadership and, perhaps most importantly, vote to elect new board members.

As you may already be aware, CEMC recently made the decision to cancel its 2020 annual meeting out of concern for the safety of our members and employees due the COVID-19 pandemic. This was a difficult decision to make because the annual meeting is a unique opportunity for our members to engage with co-op directors and employees; however, the safety and well-being of our members and employees are our ultimate priorities.

In lieu of a traditional annual meeting, in-person voting in the 2020 director elections will take place at each CEMC office on Friday, Oct. 9, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and again on Saturday, Oct. 10, from 8 to 11 a.m. Voting will be conducted outside each office via drive-thru, and safety precautions — including physical distancing — will be observed.

Four seats on the board of directors will be filled this year. Members will elect directors to fill these positions for three-year terms: North Stewart, North Montgomery, South Sumner and director at large. You can learn

more about each of the candidates on pages 20-21 of this magazine.

Members voting in director elections will be entered for a chance to win electric bill credits and will receive a giveaway, while supplies last (one per registered member, please).

We encourage you to take this opportunity to exercise one of the greatest benefits of being an electric co-op member: voting for the upcoming year's board of directors.

Your electric co-op is not owned by faraway investors, and it is not run by an appointed board of directors. Your electric co-op is run by a democratically elected board that is given the privilege to serve because of your vote.

So, even though this year's director elections may look a little different, by participating, you will feel good knowing you had a voice in a very important decision that impacts one of our most vital resources: electricity.

We hope to see you this year at our offices for drive-thru voting, and we look forward to returning to our traditional annual meeting next year!



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

Meet CEMC's director candidates

Four seats on Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation's board of directors are up for election this year. In lieu of the co-op's traditional annual meeting, which was cancelled out of concern for the safety of our members and employees due to the COVID-19 pandemic, in-person voting will take place at each CEMC office on Friday, Oct. 9, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and again on Saturday, Oct. 10, from 8 to 11 a.m. Voting will be conducted outside each office via drive-thru, and safety precautions, including physical distancing, will be observed.

Members will elect directors to fill these positions for three-year terms: North Stewart, North Montgomery, South Sumner and director at large.

CEMC's nominating committee met Aug. 4 and recommended incumbent directors Charles Hancock, Edward Oliver, Joe Whitaker Sr. and Shela Williams for re-election for new three-year terms. Nominated by petition is J. Dannie Funderburk, who is vying for the South Sumner County seat.

Charles R. Hancock is the nominee from North Stewart County. Hancock was appointed to the board in 2013 to serve the remainder of the term vacated by Jerry T. Peacher upon his retirement.

Hancock is a self-employed farmer in Bumpus Mills where he and his wife, Jennifer, have raised three daughters. The family belongs to Bumpus Mills Church of Christ.

Hancock has earned the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Credentialed Cooperative Director certification. Hancock also serves as president of the Stewart County Farm Bureau and is a state director for the Tennessee Farm Bureau.

Edward L. Oliver is the nominee from North Montgomery County. Oliver was appointed to serve

the remainder of the term vacated by Carrol O. Poole in June 2013.

Oliver is retired executive vice president of Clarksville Department of Electricity where he worked for 35 years. Prior to his employment at the electric department, Oliver served in the U.S. Air Force. He has earned the advanced certified power executive designation from the Tennessee Valley Public Power Association and has earned the NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director certification, Board Leadership certification and Director Gold certification. Oliver attended Community College of the Air Force, Austin Peay State University, Nashville State Community College and the University of Tennessee Electric Meter School. He is also a graduate of Leadership Clarksville.

Oliver and his wife, Melissa, live in Clarksville.

Nominated by petition for director of South Sumner County is **J. Dannie Funderburk**. A retired information technology application and software manager, Funderburk was previously employed by Zycron at Nashville Electric.

While working at Nashville Electric Service, he was responsible for the support and development of all operational business and work management systems along with the associated budgets.

"With my information technology background, I have worked for major companies in manufacturing, finance, banking and utilities," says Funderburk. "All of which gives me a very wide base of business knowledge and experience that I feel can benefit CEMC and its members."

Funderburk has served on various homeowners' associations and is involved in many activities with his local church. "Now that I am retired and have the



Hancock



Oliver



Funderburk



Whitaker



Williams

time, I wanted to get involved with something that would be beneficial to my community,” says Funderburk. “I feel that working with the CEMC board and membership will be an excellent way of accomplishing that.”

Funderburk and his wife, Diana, have one son and live in Cottontown.

Joe H. Whitaker Sr. is the nominee from South Sumner County. Whitaker joined the CEMC board in 1999 and served as board president for 13 years. He is a Credentialed Cooperative Director and also holds a Board Leadership Certificate and a Director Gold Certificate from NRECA.

Whitaker, who lives in Gallatin, is a real estate property manager, an occupation he has practiced for more than 30 years. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in business from Eastern Kentucky University.

Whitaker, a former member of the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association board of directors, is also active in the United Chambers of Commerce,

Greater Gallatin Chamber of Commerce, Sumner Academy, Leadership Sumner and Cairo Community Club. He has two grown children and two grandchildren.

Shela K. Williams of Stewart County is the nominee for the at-large seat on the 10-member board of directors. Williams, who joined the board in 1999, holds Director Gold, Board Leadership and Credentialed Cooperative Director certificates from NRECA and has served as secretary-treasurer on CEMC’s board since 2004.

Williams recently retired from F&M Bank in Clarksville where she served as senior vice president of marketing/branch administrator. She is a graduate of Leadership Clarksville, Tennessee School of Banking, Southeastern School of Sales Leadership at Vanderbilt University and American Institute of Banking.

She and her husband, James S. Williams, live in Bumpus Mills. They have one grown son and one granddaughter.

Don't miss your chance to win an electric bill credit

Even though Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation is unable to host a traditional annual meeting this year due to COVID-19, there is still an opportunity to win some great prizes: electric bill credits! Members voting in CEMC’s 2020 director elections will be entered for a chance to win electric bill credits — a total of 100 \$50 bill credits will be given away this year. Voting will be conducted via drive-thru at each CEMC location on Friday, Oct. 9, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. or Saturday, Oct. 10, from 8 to 11 a.m. Bill credit winners will be notified via telephone the week of Oct. 12 and will be announced in a future issue of *The Tennessee Magazine*.

Members who participate in the election process will also receive giveaways that include a CEMC bucket and a mini portable surge protector, while supplies last (one per registered member, please).

Things may look a little different this year, but we encourage all members to participate in voting for our directors, and we look forward to seeing you at next year’s annual meeting!



By participating in the election process, all participants and winners grant CEMC/Cumberland Connect exclusive permission to use their names, likenesses and other personally identifiable information in connection with the announcement of winners and promotion of cooperative activities.

Cumberland Connect update

By Kaitlyn Bonds, Creative Director

A little more than a year has passed since Cumberland Connect officially announced its plans to construct a fiber optic network across Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation's service territory. From the onset, our goal has been to introduce reliable broadband services to our region, thus providing access to high-speed fiber internet services to all eligible CEMC members.

Not too long ago, an internet connection was still considered to be a luxury by many. But in recent years, as internet-dependent technology became more integrated into everyday life, a reliable internet connection became what many consider to be a utility. In the past few months, however, access to a reliable, fiber-fast internet connection has moved from being a utility to a true necessity for a growing number of us. The ways we learn, work and entertain ourselves are more reliant than ever on a state-of-the-art internet connection. Cumberland Connect understands this necessity for the communities we serve, and that's why one year into our fiber-to-the-home project, we have worked diligently to construct more than 1,000 miles of fiber lines and have connected well over 1,000 homes and businesses.

For many of you, this is exciting

progress, and while we know that others may be anxiously awaiting our services, keep in mind that it took CEMC more than 80 years to build out the 8,000-plus miles of distribution lines that provide that safe, reliable and affordable electricity we enjoy today. From the beginning, Cumberland Connect's fiber-to-the-home project has been an approximate six-year plan as the fiber optic network is being constructed along this existing CEMC electrical infrastructure that is 80-plus years in the making.

We understand that for many of you, Cumberland Connect fiber services can't reach you soon enough. Please know that we won't be slowing down, and we will continue working as quickly as possible to bring you and your neighbors the reliable services you so badly need and deserve.



CUMBERLAND CONNECT
powered by CEMC

WE CAN'T THINK OF A BETTER GROUP OF PEOPLE TO SERVE

Learn more about Cumberland Connect's Fiber-to-the-Home project online at www.CumberlandConnect.org

Lineworkers power Tennessee

Across Tennessee, there are 3,500 electric lineworkers — including those who work at Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation — who put their lives on the line to bring power to homes, farms, hospitals, schools and factories across the state.

In 2019, Tennessee’s electric cooperatives, including CEMC, worked with state lawmakers to introduce a specialty license plate to honor the important work Tennessee’s electric lineworkers do each day.

Funds raised through the sale of the Powering Tennessee specialty plates go to the Tennessee Lineworker Lifeline Fund, a nonprofit foundation

established to support lineworkers and their families in the event of a serious injury or fatality while on the job.

While we hope that the funds never have to be used,

the foundation is ready to assist lineworkers and their families when tragedy strikes.

The Powering Tennessee plates have been available for just over a year, and already hundreds of motorists in our service area are

using them. You don’t have to be a lineman to order one, and we encourage you to join us in supporting Tennessee’s electric lineworkers. Learn more about the Powering Tennessee license plate or find out how to order your own at poweringtennessee.org.



Cooperative members help their neighbors

The word “cooperative,” in the context of “electric cooperative,” means that your utility is organized as a cooperative business; that is, it is owned by the consumers who buy its services.

It also means something else. One of any cooperative’s guiding principles is “cooperation among cooperatives,” which means if a nearby electric cooperative needs help, yours will gladly pitch in. Likewise, the consumer-owners of the cooperative have a proud history of helping each other during hard times — like these.

During the pandemic, your neighbors have been helping each other out by:

- Checking in on elderly neighbors or those who live alone to ask if they need anything.

- Doubling up on grocery shopping so they can pick up food for those who can’t get out — as long as they’re going to the store anyway.
- Sewing cute masks and distributing them to people who can’t find any or can’t afford to buy them.
- Lending a shoulder to cry on or a friendly ear to bend for neighbors who are down on their luck or feeling extra stress during the pandemic. It’s a great way to show your cooperative spirit.

What else can you do to help your fellow electric cooperative members?

October is National Cooperative Month. Show your cooperative spirit this month by pitching in around your own neighborhood to show that we’re all in this together.

Avoid outlet overload

Each year, we become the owners of more and more items that require electricity. Whether it's large TVs, computers or chargers for our phones, we must plug these items in to use or charge them. Frequently, our needs outnumber the available electrical outlets, especially in older homes that have fewer sockets.

Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation reminds homeowners to resist the temptation to use multiple extension cords and power strips. Overloading outlets can lead to a fire.

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, some 5,300 residential fires each year are caused by overloaded outlets or circuits. Many times, multiple outlets — or even entire rooms — can be on a single circuit. Even if you are using multiple outlets, you can still experience issues if all of the outlets are fed by the same circuit. Circuits should be marked on the breakers in your breaker box. If your breakers are not labeled, you can turn them off one by one to identify which outlets, appliances or household systems are affected. If this doesn't work, you should contact an electrician for assistance.

How do you determine how much is too much? Grab your calculator.

First, calculate the total wattage off all the items that are powered by a single circuit — most electronics will be labeled. Divide this combined wattage by the voltage of the circuit (120 volts is typical for most homes). The result will be the amount of amps you're using on the circuit.

Go back to your breaker box to see what size breaker is used for the circuit — most will be 15 or 20



amps. You should only use about 80 percent of the available amperage on a circuit. If you are above 80 percent, consider moving some of your devices to other circuits.

Of those 5,300 home fires caused by overloaded outlets and circuits each year, about 2,000 occur during the holidays. You may be surprised how much energy Christmas trees, lights and other electrical holiday décor can consume. Be sure to be aware of the extra wattage you're adding, and take the necessary precautions.

Pole testing in CEMC service area

Osrose Utilities Service Inc., a contractor working for Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation, will be working to inspect, test and treat wood utility poles within the cooperative's service area. Workers are expected to be present for the next several months.

The purpose of the program is to inspect and treat the poles on a cyclical basis. CEMC hopes to prolong the life of existing poles by applying decay-

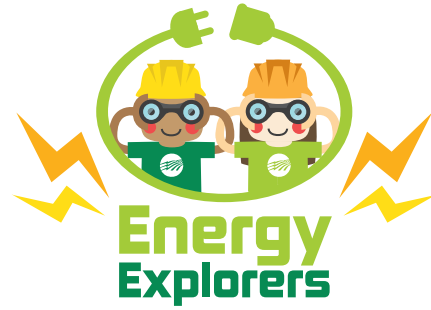
preventing treatments and replacing those that are no longer safe enough to keep in its plant.

Osrose workers can be identified by the hard hats and brightly colored safety vests they wear. They will also carry laminated ID badges, and their vehicles will be marked with magnetic signs. Members who have concerns about the legitimacy of workers on their properties are encouraged to contact CEMC at 800-987-2362 for more information.

CO-OP MONTH FILL-IN-THE-BLANK

Did you know October is
National Co-op Month?

Complete the fill-in-the-blank activity below
to learn about a few ways co-ops are unique!
Use the word bank if you need help.



1. Co-ops and their members work together toward a common _____.
2. Co-ops are _____ organizations, so they understand the communities they serve.
3. All co-ops operate according to the same set of seven cooperative _____.
4. Concern for _____ is the seventh cooperative principle.
5. Co-ops don't have customers; we have _____.
6. Co-ops are _____ by the members they serve.

WORD BANK

LED
LOCAL

GOAL
PRINCIPLES

MEMBERS
COMMUNITY

Answer Key: 1) goal 2) local 3) principles 4) community 5) members 6) led