

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

The power behind your power

As April arrives, it brings with it the showers that produce spring flowers. It also heralds the beginning of a potentially stormy season that can inherently include power outages. While Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation strives to provide reliable electricity to our members, there are times when Mother Nature has other plans. Most of us can ride out a storm from the comfort and convenience of our homes. However, there is a group of professionals — co-op lineworkers — who spring into action when the weather takes a turn for the worst.

Braving stormy weather and other challenging conditions, lineworkers often must climb 40 or more feet in the air, carrying heavy equipment to restore power. Listed as one of the 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S., lineworkers must perform detailed tasks next to high-voltage power lines. To help keep them safe, lineworkers wear specialized protective clothing and equipment at all times when on the job. This includes special fire-resistant clothing that will self-extinguish, limiting potential injuries from burns and sparks. Insulated and rubber gloves are worn in tandem to protect lineworkers from electrical shock. While the gear performs a critical function, it also adds weight and bulk, making the job more complex.

In addition to the highly visible tasks lineworkers perform, their job

today goes far beyond climbing to the top of a pole to repair a wire. They are also information experts that can pinpoint an outage from miles away and restore power remotely. Line crews use their laptops and cell phones to map outages, take pictures of the work they have done and troubleshoot problems. In our community, CEMC lineworkers are responsible for keeping 7,888 miles of lines across five of counties working in order to bring power to your home and our local community 24/7, regardless of the weather, holidays or personal considerations.

While some of the tools that lineworkers use have changed over the years with advancements in technology, the dedication to the job has not. Being a lineworker is not a glamorous profession. At its essence, it is inherently dangerous working near high-voltage lines in the worst of conditions at any time of the day or night. During hurricanes, wildfires or storms, crews often work around the clock to restore power. While April is known for spring showers, there is also a day set aside to “thank a lineworker.”

Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 9. So during the month of April, if you see lineworkers, please pause to say thank you to the power behind your power. Let them know you appreciate the hard work they do to keep the lights on regardless of the conditions.



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

CEMC pays nearly \$4 million in property taxes

As a business locally owned by its members, Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation pays our fair share of ad valorem property taxes in Cheatham, Dickson, Montgomery, Robertson, Stewart and Sumner counties.

This year, we have paid nearly \$4 million in property taxes based on the assessed value of the

cooperative's electrical distribution system (consisting of such items as poles, wires, transformers, meters and property) located in the counties we serve.

The taxes we pay are used by our communities to pay teachers, police officers and firemen, build roads and parks and fund many other activities that are important to our co-op members.

Comparison of 2016 and 2017 ad valorem taxes

| | 2017 taxes paid | 2016 taxes paid | Dollar difference | Percentage change |
|--------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Cheatham County | \$384,267.00 | \$359,949.00 | 24,318.00 | 6.76% |
| Ashland City | 13,827.00 | 13,733.00 | 94.00 | 0.68% |
| Dickson County | 5,634.00 | 5,554.00 | 80.00 | 1.44% |
| Montgomery County | 1,227,554.00 | 1,222,446.00 | 5,108.00 | 0.42% |
| Clarksville | 129,101.00 | 132,609.00 | (3,508.00) | -2.65% |
| Robertson County | 849,298.00 | 931,063.00 | (81,765.00) | -8.78% |
| Adams | 6,889.00 | 6,058.00 | 831.00 | 13.72% |
| Cedar Hill | 946.52 | 1,074.47 | (127.95) | -11.91% |
| Coopertown | 5,704.66 | 6,288.28 | (583.62) | -9.28% |
| Greenbrier | 14,900.88 | 16,799.13 | (1,898.25) | -11.30% |
| Springfield | 16,163.00 | 11,554.00 | 4,609.00 | 39.89% |
| White House | 20,777.00 | 22,665.00 | (1,888.00) | -8.33% |
| Ridgetop | 10,051.00 | 11,503.00 | (1,452.00) | -12.62% |
| Portland | 7,705.61 | 8,839.49 | (1,133.88) | -12.83% |
| Millersville | 2,899.00 | 2,752.00 | 147.00 | 5.34% |
| Stewart County | 302,518.00 | 310,259.00 | (7,741.00) | -2.50% |
| Cumberland City | 2,597.43 | 2,747.80 | (150.37) | -5.47% |
| Dover | 44,287.00 | 45,537.00 | (1,250.00) | -2.75% |
| Sumner County | 792,663.05 | 772,686.63 | 19,976.42 | 2.59% |
| Gallatin | 23,437.00 | 21,767.00 | 1,670.00 | 7.67% |
| Hendersonville | 17,098.00 | 17,093.00 | 5.00 | 0.03% |
| Millersville | 4,327.00 | 3,760.00 | 567.00 | 15.08% |
| Mitchellville | 6,382.66 | 6,482.17 | (99.51) | -1.54% |
| Portland | 77,670.95 | 71,531.15 | 6,139.80 | 8.58% |
| White House | 27,286.00 | 27,656.00 | (370.00) | -1.34% |
| Total Taxes Paid | 3,993,984.76 | 4,032,407.12 | (38,422.36) | -0.95% |

Upcoming co-op events

A graphic for Member Appreciation Day. It features a red and white checkered background. In the center is a large white plate with a scalloped edge. The text "Member Appreciation Day" is written in bold black letters on the plate. Below the title, in red text, it says: "Join us at your local CEMC office on Thursday, May 17, for free hot dogs, chips, cookies, soft drinks AND a chance to win an electric grill. Lunch will be served from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at each location." Below the plate, there are two condiment bottles, one red and one yellow, and a hot dog in a bun with yellow mustard.

**Member
Appreciation Day**

Join us at your local CEMC office on Thursday, May 17, for free hot dogs, chips, cookies, soft drinks AND a chance to win an electric grill. Lunch will be served from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at each location.

We hope to see you there!

2018 Annual meeting

Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation is preparing for its 2018 annual meeting, which will be held Saturday, Sept. 15, at Portland High School in Sumner County. Doors will open at 8 a.m. for registration, and the business session will begin at 10 a.m. Join us for a complimentary breakfast, browse through the selection of door prizes, visit our information booths and be sure to check out the Youth Corner. Watch for additional information in future issues of *The Tennessee Magazine*.

Switch to paperless billing, and you could win a \$100 electric bill credit!



All CEMC members enrolled in paperless billing prior to Monday, April 30, will be entered into a drawing for a **\$100 electric bill credit**. A total of five lucky members will win! To sign up, visit www.cemc.org, log in to your SmartHub account and choose “Yes” when prompted to turn off paper bills. It’s that easy! If you are already signed up for paperless billing, you will be entered in the contest automatically.

Paperless billing members receive an email notification when the bill is ready each month.



CEMC thanks area schools that make Washington Youth Tour possible

Partnership among local schools and Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation creates big opportunities for area students.

Each year in June, CEMC sends 12 high school juniors to Washington, D.C., for a week to explore, learn about government and cooperatives and develop leadership skills. This opportunity is made possible thanks to CEMC’s strong partnership with area high schools and English teachers.

Students enter the Washington Youth Tour Creative Writing and Scholarship Contest by writing short stories titled “Electric Cooperatives — Going Beyond the Wires” that explain how co-ops provide communities with much more than electric power. Youth Tour delegates also have the opportunity to win a share of \$16,000 in

scholarships from CEMC and Tennessee’s electric cooperatives.

“We recognize how important it is to prepare the next generation of rural leaders,” says CEMC Community Relations Coordinator Stephanie Lobdell. “We could not do this without the support we receive from area schools and teachers.”

CEMC works with schools throughout its five-county service area to promote the Washington Youth Tour Writing Contest. As schedules permit, Lobdell visits schools, making presentations about Youth Tour in January and February each year. (NOTE: The deadline for the 2018 contest has already passed.) Winners of the 2018 Washington Youth Tour contest will be selected and notified this month and announced in the June issue of *The Tennessee Magazine*.

Portland celebrates annual Middle Tennessee Strawberry Festival

The Portland Chamber of Commerce is organizing the 77th Annual Middle Tennessee Strawberry Festival to be held Tuesday, May 8, through Saturday, May 12. Festival planners have set a fun-filled week of activities and entertainment the whole family can enjoy.

This year's event, themed "Stars, Stripes and Strawberries," will feature veterans and current members of the U.S. armed forces as grand marshals for the parade.

For more information about the 2018 Strawberry Festival and a complete schedule of events, visit www.middletnstrawberryfestival.com or call the Portland Chamber of Commerce at 615-325-9032. Be sure to check out the following lineup of events, and make plans to join the fun. And don't forget to pick up some of Portland's famous fruit at the festival!

May 5: Strawberry Pageant sponsored by Portland High School cheerleaders.

May 8-12: Enjoy the Carnival all week at Richland Park.

May 8: Annual Four-Person Golf Scramble at Kenny Perry's Country Creek Golf Course in Franklin, Kentucky. Entry fee is \$360 per team, which includes breakfast and barbecue lunch.

May 9: Strawberry Story Hour: 3:30-4:30 p.m. at the Portland Public Library.

May 11: Strawberry Slam Wrestling Event featuring Jerry "The King" Lawler at 7:30 p.m. at the Portland High School gym. Visit the festival website, www.middletnstrawberryfestival.com, to purchase tickets.

May 12: Festival Day!

- Portland Rotary Club Pancake Breakfast — 7 a.m. at First Baptist Portland.
- Strawberry Stride 5K and fun run sponsored by Portland Athletics — 8 a.m. at Portland High School
- Game Stage — Strawberry-Eating Contest and more! (Games are free; limited space; preregistration suggested)
- Kid Town USA, where it's all about the kids. Main Street is full of inflatable jumps, obstacle courses and more. Play all day for \$5.



The 2018 Middle Tennessee Strawberry Festival, themed "Stars, Stripes and Strawberries," will feature veterans and current members of the U.S. armed forces as grand marshals for the parade.

- Strawberry Jam Live Entertainment from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Market Street.
- Strawberry Lane: Strawberries for sale — while supplies last — beginning at 11 a.m.
- Visit more than 125 vendors in three locations.
- Parade begins at 4 p.m. (applications for entry available online).
- Free concert featuring Four on the Floor on Market Street at 6 p.m. Bring a lawn chair (or rent one for \$2) and enjoy great music ranging from '60s tunes to today's hits.
- A fireworks display immediately follows the concert at 8:30 p.m.

If it's not in use, turn off the juice!

By Anne Prince

Reducing household energy use doesn't mean doing without. It doesn't require walking around your house wearing extra sweaters and earmuffs in the dead of winter or stripping down to the bare essentials in the summer. It means being smarter about how you manage the energy you do use. Consider your local electric cooperative a trusted resource for exploring energy-saving strategies. Not-for-profit, member-owned electric co-ops want to help their member-owners. Sometimes that involves lowering their members' bills, and other times it means increasing efficiency options to reduce operating costs.

Energy efficiency means performing the same job and getting a similar outcome using less energy. This efficiency is often achieved through a mechanical change such as replacing an older, less-efficient appliance or mechanical unit with a new model, but sometimes a minor change of habit is all that's needed. Examples could include dimming lights, turning down the thermostat or washing clothes in cold water instead of hot.

The benefits of energy efficiency and conservation

So why are energy conservation and energy efficiency more important than ever to members? What are the benefits of efficiency and conservation? The short answer is that energy reduction in your home saves you money, improves our economy by enabling consumers and businesses to spend and invest in other areas and reduces the amount of pollution emitted from power generation.

The more complex answer is that modern life means we are placing increasing demands on all forms of energy. For example, consumers are more reliant on devices, computers, phones (with charging stations), sophisticated media/home entertainment and video gaming systems and "smart" technology that all rely on electricity. The wide array of new electronic devices is improving our quality of life, and electric co-ops are promoting efficiency to bring new conveniences at a lower cost.

Energy efficiency: the 'first fuel'

In this period of rapidly changing technology, Americans are increasingly aware of the need to reduce energy consumption. Many now call energy savings the

FIVE TIPS FOR SAVING ENERGY AT HOME

- 1** Set a programmable thermostat to turn down the heat when the house is empty or everyone is asleep.
- 2** Insulate your electric water heater.
- 3** Plug leaks around windows, doors, and power outlets with caulk and weather stripping.
- 4** Purchase ENERGY STAR® products.
- 5** Monitor your energy use to spot trends and sudden changes.

"first fuel" because the easiest way to reduce fuel cost and carbon emissions is to save energy. Energy is a valuable commodity, and while the discussions over climate change and carbon footprints continue, we must all do our part to conserve this precious resource. Protecting and preserving the quality of water and air are also our shared responsibility. Using less energy may even boost the economy by relieving the ever-tightening family budget, allowing dollars to be spent on more tangible goods.

Americans have demonstrated a willingness to take steps toward reducing their energy consumption, both to save money and out of concern for the environment. According to the January 2014 Nielson U.S. Consumer Energy Sentiments Report, 91 percent of consumers are willing to change their energy-use behaviors to save money on energy costs. The same report indicates that 77 percent would change their behaviors out of concern for the environment.

Electric co-ops can help you use less electricity

Consumers recognize that conserving energy and becoming more energy-efficient are the smart and right things to do. But they are also looking for guidance on how to do just that. Electric co-ops are a great local resource for helping consumers develop individual plans tailored to their needs and the local environment. Co-op employees understand better than most that every household has its own complex energy system.

Your co-op offers energy audits, energy-saving tips, recommendations on the latest technology and advice on choosing and maintaining heating and cooling systems. The first step in this process is easy — simply reach out to your cooperative for help with taking control of your own energy use, and you'll be well on your way to achieving the ideal balance of efficiency and conservation. In turn, you will be helping yourself, your community and the environment — and that benefits all of us.

Anne Prince writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Virginia-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.

Dig safely this spring

Spring is finally here! With the snow melted and the ground ready for planting, eager homeowners like you are gearing up to start those outdoor digging projects. Before you reach for that shovel to start digging, remember to call 811, Tennessee's call-before-you-dig number, to ensure that your buried utility lines are marked.

April is National Safe Digging Month, and Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation reminds our members that a complex network of pipelines, wires and cables lies just underground. Striking an underground utility line while digging can cause harm to you or those around you, disrupt service to an entire neighborhood and potentially result in fines and repair costs.

A call should be placed to 811 before every digging project — from simple landscaping projects like planting trees or shrubs to building a deck or installing a rural mailbox. Every nine minutes, an underground utility line is damaged because someone decided to dig without first calling 811. Don't become part of the statistic — make sure to call 811!

Here's how it works:

- One free, simple phone call to 811 makes it easy for Tennessee 811 to notify all appropriate utility companies of your intent to dig.



- Call at least a few days prior to digging to ensure enough time for utility lines to be properly marked.
- When you call 811, a representative from Tennessee 811 will ask for the location and description of your digging project.
- Tennessee 811 will notify affected utility companies like CEMC, each of which will then send a professional locator to the proposed dig site to mark the approximate location of your lines.
- Once lines have been properly marked, roll up those sleeves and carefully dig around the marked areas.

Celebrate Earth Day April 22

Earth Day, an annual celebration of the environment, is a good time to resolve to save some energy around your home. Start this month by taking these steps:

- Caulking around windows and doors to seal air leaks and adding insulation to your attic will prevent air-conditioned air from getting out of your house through the roof this summer. Wasting less energy is the easiest way to save it.
- Unplug the TV, stereo, computer, printer and other electronics when you're not using them. Unplug cell phone chargers once you remove the phone.
- Replacing your old thermostat with a programmable model could save up to 10 percent on cooling and heating, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.
- Invest in LED light fixtures. You'll save energy, and you won't have to replace any light bulbs for up to 10 years.
- Lower the water heater's temperature to 130 degrees. Wrap your storage tank in a blanket designed to keep it warm so it will use less energy to heat the water.
- Wash clothes in cold water. You could save more than \$60 a year.
- Replace your air conditioner's filters before the cooling season begins. Clean filters help the system operate more efficiently.
- Put off using the air conditioner, especially at night, until the weather gets hotter. Open the windows instead, and let the spring breezes into the house to keep you cool.