

Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation

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Operations Division Manager

Chris A. Davis,
Administrative Division Manager

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Engineering Division Manager

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Gallatin office

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Todd Hesson,
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CEMC Board of Directors

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Sumner Co., President

Wesley H. Aymett,
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Edward L. Oliver, Montgomery Co.

Joe H. Whitaker, Sumner Co.

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

We are prepared for summer storms

Summer is here, school is out and families are gearing up for a few months of fun and relaxation. While summer brings much fun in the sun, it can also bring the occasional severe storm. In the event of a power outage, you can trust that Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation is ready to respond.

The major cause of most power outages comes from damage to power lines due to falling trees and branches. We work year-round — through right-of-way clearing — to ensure power lines in our service territory stand little risk of being damaged by trees, branches or other types of vegetation.

Despite our best efforts, during major storms, damage can occur to transmission stations, substations and power lines. When this happens, our first priority is to safely restore power to as many members as possible in the shortest amount of time.

We start by mobilizing our line crews and other critical staff. Every phone line available is utilized to take your outage report calls. The big problems are handled first — like damage to transmission lines, which serve tens of thousands of people.

These problems must be corrected before we can focus on other areas where more localized damage may have occurred.

CEMC's line crews inspect substations to determine if the problem starts there or if there could be an issue down the line. If the root of the problem is at the substation, power can be restored to thousands of members.

Next, crews check the service lines that deliver power into neighborhoods and communities. Crews repair the damaged lines,

restoring power to hundreds of people. If your outage continues, there may be damage to a tap line outside your home or business. Make sure you notify CEMC so crews can inspect these lines.

We will do our best to avoid power outages, but sometimes Mother Nature has other plans. Be sure to check our website, www.cemc.org, on your smartphone for the latest updates during a power outage.



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

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Avoid setting your thermostat at a colder setting than normal when you turn on your air conditioner. It will not cool your home any faster and could result in excessive cooling and unnecessary expense.

Source: energy.gov

CEMC mourns former board member Cook

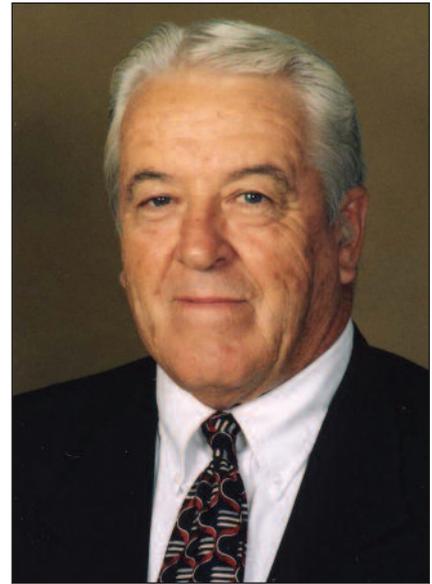
Gene E. Cook, former member of the Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation board of directors, passed away April 11 at the age of 87. Mr. Cook represented South Robertson County on CEMC's board from 1998 until 2012.

Mr. Cook, son of the late James E. and Mary Corinne Bracy Cook, was born Aug. 21, 1928, in Robertson County.

He was a master electrician and worked for Hollingsworth Oil Company for 24 years. Mr. Cook served as a Robertson County commissioner from 1990 until 2010. A member of Crossroads Baptist Church, he had a great love for gospel music, singing in several

quartets throughout his life. Mr. Cook was a loving husband, father, stepfather, grandfather and great-grandfather.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his first wife, June C. Cook; son, James Andrew Cook; brother, Loy O. Cook; and sister, Dot Cook Grubbs. Survivors include his wife, Louise Williams Cook; daughters, Angela Reynolds and her husband, Kenneth, and Liz Amick and her husband, Kevin; step-daughters, Hope Williams Rhoades and her husband, Chris, Sandra Williams Colvin and her husband, Steve, and Andrea Williams Machen and her husband, Shawn; and seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.



Gene E. Cook
1928-2016

Stay safe during and after storms

No one knows electrical safety better than the experts who practice it every single day. Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation encourages you to practice safety with these reminders for during and after a summer storm:

Avoid wires and water — When lightning strikes a home during a storm, the electrical charge can surge through pipes and utility wires. That means you can get

zapped if you're touching water or any device that's plugged in, whether it's a landline phone or toaster.

Skip the makeshift shelter — During a storm, it's tempting to take cover under a picnic gazebo or golf cart, but in open-sided structures with no conductors to channel strikes, a bolt's path of least resistance to the ground could be you. On top of that, these structures raise your risk of a lightning strike because of their height. Keep moving toward suitable shelter.

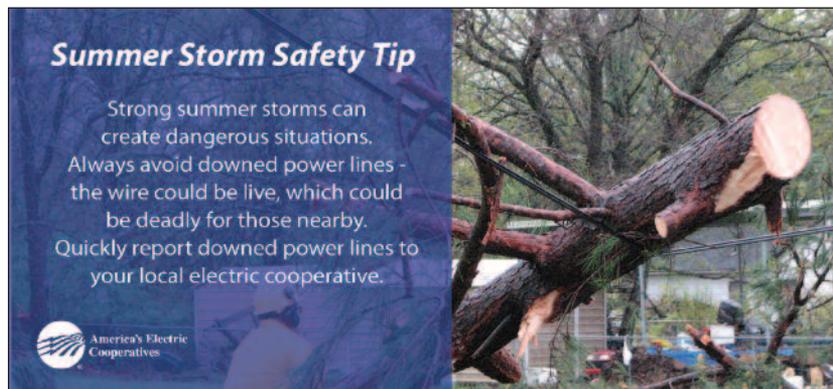
Take special care with portable generators — Though these generators provide a good source of power, if

improperly installed or operated they can become deadly. Do not connect generators directly to household wiring. Power from generators can back-feed along power lines

and electrocute anyone coming in contact with them, including co-op line workers making repairs. It's best to hire a qualified, licensed electrician to install your generator and ensure that it meets local electrical codes.

Beware of flooded areas — Stay away from downed power lines, and avoid walking through flooded areas. Power lines could be submerged and still live with electricity. Report any downed lines you see to CEMC by calling 800-987-2362 immediately.

Never use electrical equipment that is wet — This holds especially true for outdoor electrical equipment, which could be a potential danger after a summer storm. Water can damage electrical equipment and parts, posing a shock or fire hazard.



2016 Washington Youth Tour winners named

Twelve deserving high school students are prepared to embark on what others before them have referred to as “the trip of a lifetime” – a weeklong, expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation is sponsoring these remarkable students to attend the 2016 Washington Youth Tour as a reward for writing winning short stories titled “Electric Cooperatives: Powering Everyday Life.” They will join hundreds of other students from across the country on what has become a tradition for co-op students since the late 1950s.

In addition to earning a spot on this educational trip, students will also be competing for \$6,000 in college scholarships.

The trip begins June 12 with multiple buses crossing the state en route to an overnight stop in Staunton, Virginia. The days that follow will include visits to the numerous tourist destinations of D.C., including monuments, memorials and museums as well as the U.S. Capitol and the opportunity to meet with elected officials.

Representing CEMC on this year’s Youth Tour are:

Shelby Adcock of Ashland City. Shelby attends Cheatham County Central High School.

Caroline Collins of Clarksville. Caroline attends Montgomery Central High School.

Jaz Crook of Portland. Jaz attends Portland High School.

Dalton Cunningham of Ashland City. Dalton attends Cheatham County Central High School.

Erica Juriasignani of Indian Mound. Erica attends Stewart County High School.

Grace Kuchenbecker of Cunningham. Grace attends Montgomery Central High School.

MaKayleigh Lackey of Cumberland City. MaKayleigh attends Stewart County High School.

Thomas Littleton of Indian Mound. Thomas attends Stewart County High School.

Lucinda Shea of Greenbrier. Lucinda attends Greenbrier High School.

Kayde Stroud of Cedar Hill. Kayde attends Jo Byrns High School.

Estelle Turner of White House. Estelle attends White House Heritage High School.

Carder Veneble of Portland. Carder attends Portland High School.

Kathryn Van Mater, Cheatham County Central High School teacher, will also attend as CEMC’s faculty representative, and CEMC employees Stephanie Lobdell, community relations coordinator, and Susie Yonkers, member services assistant, will serve as chaperones.



Shelby Adcock



Caroline Collins



Jaz Crook



Dalton Cunningham



Erica Juriasignani



Grace Kuchenbecker



MaKayleigh Lackey



Thomas Littleton



Lucinda Shea



Kayde Stroud



Estelle Turner



Carder Veneble

2016 CEMC Senior Scholarship recipients



*Matt
Cobasky*



*Jason
Cummings*



*Tristen
Denney*



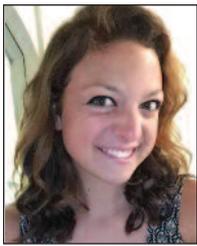
*Hailey
Klapwyk*



*Emily
Masencup*



*Kayla
Massey*



*Morgan
Oates*



*Angela
Peterson*



*Natalie
Prichard*



*Alexis
Rayburn*



*Maecy
Traugher*



*Kellie
Warren*

Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation is pleased to assist in making the dream of obtaining a college degree a reality for 12 local high school seniors. Each of the students pictured above has been awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to help with costs associated with continuing his or her formal education beyond high school.

To qualify for the award, each student was required to complete an application that included two letters of recommendation as well as a 300-word essay describing what he or she looks forward to most about attending college and how a scholarship, in terms of financial assistance, will aid in completing that education. The papers were judged by a panel of retired teachers who chose the top 12 applicants from among many entries.

Matt Cobasky of Woodlawn. Matt is a graduate of Northwest High School and will attend Austin Peay State University.

Jason Cummings of Portland. Jason is a graduate of Portland High School and will attend Western Kentucky University.

Tristen Denney of Pleasant View. Tristen is a graduate of Sycamore High School and will attend Western Kentucky University.

Hailey Klapwyk of Hendersonville. Hailey is a graduate of Station Camp High School and will attend Lipscomb University.

Emily Masencup of Greenbrier. Emily is a graduate of Greenbrier High School and will attend The University of Tennessee at Martin.

Kayla Massey of Indian Mound. Kayla is a graduate of Stewart County High School and will attend the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

Morgan Oates of Pleasant View. Morgan is a graduate of Sycamore High School and will attend the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

Angela Peterson of Cedar Hill. Angela is a graduate of Jo Byrns High School and will attend Austin Peay State University.

Natalie Prichard of Portland. Natalie is a graduate of Portland High School and will attend Tennessee Technological University.

Alexis Rayburn of Clarksville. Alexis is a graduate of Montgomery Central High School and will attend Austin Peay State University.

Maecy Traugher of Cedar Hill. Maecy is a graduate of Jo Byrns High School and will attend Austin Peay State University.

Kellie Warren of Dover. Kellie is a graduate of Stewart County High School and will attend the University of Tennessee at Knoxville.

We appreciate our members!

Throughout the month of April, Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation welcomed members to enjoy lunch with the co-op at its annual Member Appreciation Day events.

These free springtime events have become favorites for the members who join us each year and for the employees who have the privilege of serving them.

Each of CEMC's business offices hosted a picnic lunch of hotdogs, chips, cookies and drinks to serve as a small token of appreciation for our members. Attendees also received free CEMC window thermometers, and one lucky member at each office won an electric grill!

We're already looking forward to next year's Member Appreciation Days. Be sure to keep an eye out for the 2017 schedule in an upcoming issue of The Tennessee Magazine. We hope to see you there!

**They'll be grilling!
Congratulations to each
of these members who won
an electric grill during CEMC's
2016 Member Appreciation Days:**

Ashland City - Krystyn Knight

Clarksville - Linda Matherly

Dover - Kathy Earhart

Gallatin - Elsie Cislo

Springfield - Lydia Gezley

Portland - Amy Petitt

White House - Larry Leftwich



The Member Appreciation Day event in Dover draws a record number of attendees!



Members enjoy a beautiful day at the event in White House.



Members in Springfield register for a chance to win an electric grill.



District Operations Supervisor Travis Akins, left, catches up with members in Gallatin.

What's in it for 'we?'

By Adam Schwartz

One of the most attractive features of cooperatives is that we answer the popular question, "What's in it for me?" with "What's in it for we!" Cooperatives are formed when the market fails to offer a good or service with decent quality at an affordable price. Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation was formed in 1938 because when investor-owned utilities realized there was not enough profit to be made in our community, they refused to offer electricity.

The founding members of CEMC went door to door to collect \$5 in order to raise a portion of the original investment the co-op needed. Each of those "go-getters" realized that the only way to get electricity for "me" was to get it for "we," the whole community.

Cooperative ownership is in the hands of the people who use the co-op's goods and the services (not investors), so not only do co-ops start out answering the question of "What's in it for we?" they continue to answer that question for as long as they exist.

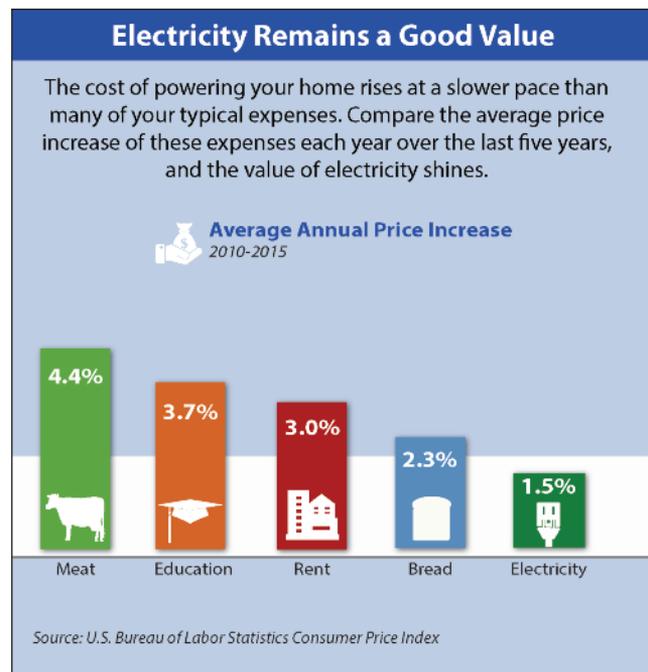
These days, we often hear about companies that abandon their local communities and move overseas in search of cheaper labor. This negatively impacts the community through job loss, decline in housing values and school closures. Because local residents own a majority of cooperatives, they are less likely to leave their community. In fact, it would be impossible for CEMC to leave our communities. The co-op is a critical part of what makes the community a community.

The way co-ops continue to answer the question, "What's in it for we?" is critical to their survival. It is imperative that we keep you — our members — as the primary focus. Keeping rates as low as possible is one

major part of that focus, but ensuring that we provide real value as your trusted energy adviser is also extremely important.

By maintaining that focus with your help and support, we will continue to be able to serve the "me" and the "we" in our community long into the future.

Adam Schwartz is the founder of The Cooperative Way, a consulting firm that helps co-ops succeed. He is an author, speaker and member-owner of the CDS Consulting Co-op.



Buying an older home? Make a few energy updates

Some homeowners swear by their older houses because of their sturdy construction and attention to detail. But most older homes are energy hogs. If you live in one — or are planning to — invest in a few energy-saving upgrades:

- Replace the windows. Single-pane windows allow cool, air-conditioned air to escape from the home and invite the summer heat indoors. Double-pane windows are more energy-efficient and can considerably trim your air-conditioning expenses.
- Install a programmable thermostat. The older your home is, the less likely it is to feature a thermostat that automatically resets itself after your family's morning rush hour. Keeping the house comfortably

cool while nobody's in it during the day is a waste of energy.

- Plug leaks and cracks. They're inevitable as a home ages. Caulk around electrical and cable outlets, windows, window air conditioners and the dryer vent and in cracks in bricks, siding or stucco.
- Add attic insulation. Chances are, your home wasn't built with enough. And what it has is likely to have diminished over the years or become detached from the floors and walls it's designed to insulate.
- Replace appliances that are more than 10 years old. Newer models of water heaters, clothes dryers and dishwashers are so much more efficient that they use up to 50 percent less energy than outdated devices.

Don't drive blindfolded down the highway

By Anne Prince

Would you drive on a highway blindfolded? Of course not. However, if you text while driving 55 miles per hour on a highway, you are essentially doing just that.

Five seconds is the average time your eyes are off the road while texting. When traveling at 55 mph, that's like driving the length of a football field while blindfolded. Talking on a cell phone also carries significant risks. According to the National Safety Council, drivers can miss seeing up to half of what's around them — traffic lights, stop signs, pedestrians — when talking on a cell phone.

In our digital world, people feel pressure to remain in constant contact, even when behind the wheel. As mobile technology use increases, distracted driving — talking, texting, sending emails — is a growing threat to community safety. We have all seen distracted drivers, and, most likely, we, ourselves, have used a phone while driving. Drivers don't realize the dangers posed when they take their eyes off the road and their hands off the wheel to focus on activities other than driving.

According to the Centers for Disease Control, each day in the U.S., more than nine people are killed and more than 1,153 people are injured in crashes that are reported to involve a distracted driver. The National Highway Administration notes that 3,154 people were

killed and an estimated 424,000 were injured in motor vehicle crashes involving distracted drivers in 2013.

Texting and cell phone use behind the wheel take your eyes off the road, your hands off the wheel and

your focus off driving — putting the driver and others in danger, including passengers, pedestrians, other drivers and bystanders. On the tragic end of the spectrum, victims' families, friends, co-workers and community are impacted.

At this time of year in particular, when more people are on the roads and kids are out of school, our goal at your electric cooperative is to raise awareness and spur conversation about the dangers of distracted driving. Talking on a cell phone quadruples your risk of an accident, about the same as if you were driving drunk. Risk doubles again if you are texting while driving. We are committed to eliminating this unnecessary risk and believe that no conversation or text is worth the potential danger.

Help promote a culture of safety. We encourage

everyone to join us and help keep our families, friends and neighbors safer by putting their phones down and focusing on the road when they drive. Together, we can put the brakes on distracted driving.

Anne Prince writes on cooperative issues 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.

