

## Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation

### CEMC Management and Staff

**Jim Coode**, General Manager

**Randy Holt**,

Operations Division Manager

**Chris A. Davis**,

Administrative Division Manager

**Mark T. Cook, P.E.**,

Engineering Division Manager

**Annabelle Chester**,

Human Resources Manager

**Seth Roberts**,

Member Services Manager

CEMC Co-op News Editor

**Julie Wallace**

P.O. Box 3300

Clarksville, TN 37043

Open Monday-Friday,  
7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
800-987-2362

**Ashland City office**

**Josh Gill**,

District Operations Supervisor

**Clarksville office**

**Kenny Davis**,

District Operations Supervisor

**Dover office**

**Terry Odom**,

District Operations Supervisor

**Gallatin office**

Travis Akins,

District Operations Supervisor

**Portland/White House offices**

**Todd Hesson**,

District Operations Supervisor

**Springfield office**

**Nicky Roberts**,

District Operations Supervisor

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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

# Where will the young go? Or will they stay?

## How co-ops can make a difference

In June, Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation will send 12 students from its service area to Washington, D.C., for the annual Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. There they will join more than 1,600 high school students from rural areas around the country. Like past years, it is expected that these young people will have the trip of their lives.

They will meet U.S. legislators; hear from co-op leaders; see the U.S. Capitol, Arlington National Cemetery and Smithsonian Institution museums; and meet hundreds of kids just like themselves. They will return home filled with great memories. Then what? Where will the young go? Will they leave the place they've called home? Or will they stay to help create stable communities?

Nearly 60 percent of rural U.S. counties shrank in population in 2013, and the trend is up from 40 percent in the 1990s. While some economists might see this as simply the "market" acting efficiently, we know that communities like ours cannot survive if this trend continues.

According to a study on Rural Youth Migration, many young people living in rural areas have a negative view of their communities when compared to major urban centers. There is a perception that rural areas

offer limited economic and social opportunities. As we all know, your perception is your reality.



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

Cooperatives are a business model. But unlike investor-owned companies that focus almost exclusively on turning a profit, cooperatives serve both an economic and social purpose. So if the cooperative is operating in concert with our seven cooperative principles and values, we can change the perception that rural areas offer limited opportunities.

We can ensure that young people know and understand that they have a critically important role to play in our community.

CEMC was created to improve the quality of life in rural areas by providing safe, reliable and affordable electricity. While that mission has been accomplished, it needs to be maintained and expanded.

Sending our best and brightest to Washington, D.C., for a week is a wonderful start, but we need to take the next step. We're committed to engaging youth in our community through scholarship opportunities, sponsorships, involvement with school programs and much more.

Our challenge is to ensure that everyone in our community is working together to find economic and social opportunities for our youth to stay put. Together, we can do this.

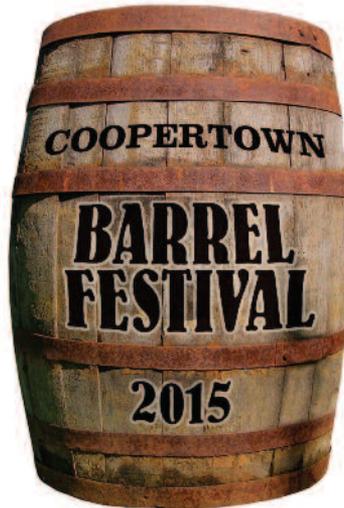
# Barrel Festival returns to Coopertown

Coopertown's Community Development Committee will host the Third Annual Coopertown Barrel Festival Saturday, June 6, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the historic district on Old Coopertown Road between Woods and Battle Creek roads in Robertson County.

The festival will boast more than 200 vendors offering merchandise, including crafts, antiques, baked goods, farm-fresh produce, woodworking, jewelry and much more. The Main Stage will feature live music and dancing from local students and performers as well as artists like TalentWatch TV Host Jessica Ford and Roundabout Records' Lillie Syracuse. Other highlights include the Kids Zone featuring the Lil' Cooper table, games and more; corn hole and checkers tournaments; a tractor display; historical exhibits; and many more family-friendly activities.

With continued focus on the rich heritage of Coopertown, this year's community-wide, rain-or-shine event will highlight the Cooper of the Year contest. This wood and craft contest allows woodworkers and local craftsmen to showcase their skills while competing for the title of Cooper of the Year. The first place, \$100 prize will be awarded to the entry that best represents the idea

or best incorporates the theme of the wooden barrel. "The goal is to continue to weave this cooper theme throughout the event," says Valorie Buck, community development chairman.



The awarding of finishers' medals, crafted by Tennessee Woodcrafters Inc., for this year's Barrel Fest 5-Miler is another interesting element of the event.

"Of all the compliments received last year from our 123 runners and walkers, the one-of-a-kind finishers' medals were among the most noted," says race director Vicky Bumgardner.

The five-mile race takes place at 7 a.m. on a loop course that begins and ends at Coopertown City Hall and includes a portion of the historic Trail of Tears. Each race participant will receive a goodie bag containing coupons to local businesses and vendors at the Barrel Festival, and those who register by May 28 will receive a Barrel

Festival shirt. Cash prizes will be awarded to overall winners as well as three-deep age group awards.

Thanks to community sponsors, the Barrel Festival will again offer free admission, free parking and free shuttles for attendees. For more information about the festival or the race, visit [www.barrelfestival.com](http://www.barrelfestival.com) or [www.facebook.com/coopertownbarrelfestival](http://www.facebook.com/coopertownbarrelfestival).

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## Dover welcomes Eagle Fest 2015

The town of Dover invites you to attend its Ninth Annual Eagle Fest, which takes place Friday, May 15, through Sunday, May 17, at the Dover City Park in Stewart County.

Eagle Fest will feature a host of activities for the entire family, including music, games, food, children's activities, vendor booths offering unique gifts and novelties and much more.

This fun, family-friendly event allows guests to come together to pay tribute to and remember those who fought for our freedom and to honor those who continue to maintain this freedom today. Don't miss this opportunity to experience patriotism, plenty of fun for all ages and the small-town charm Dover has to offer.



# Hanner, Gregory visit Nashville for Youth Leadership Summit

**S**arah Hanner of Jo Byrns High School and Will Gregory of East Robertson High School were sponsored by Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation to attend the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association's 2015 Youth Leadership Summit March 16-18 in downtown Nashville. Sarah, daughter of Jason and Julie Newberry of Cedar Hill, and Will, son of Mark and Polly Gregory of Cross Plains, were among 46 high school juniors representing the state's 23 electric cooperatives who attended the annual event.

"The Youth Leadership Summit recognizes the best and brightest from our electric co-op service areas and teaches these young ambassadors about their hometown cooperatives and Tennessee state government," said Todd Blocker, TECA director of member relations. "Local electric co-ops, school officials and guidance counselors chose these deserving students to attend the summit based on their interests in government and strong leadership abilities."

"Sarah and Will are fine examples of the future leaders we're raising in our local communities," said Stephanie Lobdell, CEMC community relations coordinator. "CEMC is pleased to provide motivated students with this opportunity to join their peers from across Tennessee to learn about rural electric co-ops and experience the legislative process in the State Capitol."

The summit began Monday evening, March 16, at the group's hotel, the Millennium Maxwell House, with get-acquainted activities, an introduction to cooperatives led by electric co-op leaders and a leadership development presentation by Amy Gallimore of Four16 Training Solutions.

Tuesday morning's breakfast included presentations led by TECA Executive Vice President David Callis and

Director of Government Affairs Mike Knotts in advance of the group's visit to Legislative Plaza. Senator Ken Yager of Kingston and Rep. John Forgety of Athens welcomed the

students to Nashville and answered their questions about legislative issues. The 11th-graders then toured the Capitol and saw state government in action at Senate and House committee meetings before posing for photos in front of the historic building.

Following the visit to Capitol Hill, the group enjoyed lunch and leadership activities at a Nashville-area YMCA camp, where

the students were also treated to a hot-line trailer demonstration by Tri-County Electric Membership Corporation and Sunbelt Rentals. TCEMC employees showed that electric power does a tremendous amount of work for us, but because it is such a powerful force, we must be careful around it and always exercise safety around power lines. The fun continued with a tour of Bridgestone Arena and a Nashville Predators hockey game, and the busy day was capped off by special guest speakers Miss Tennessee Hayley Lewis and Sgt. Mike Morgan of the Tennessee executive protection detail.

Wednesday morning, the students learned more about electric cooperatives and their daily operations through interactive games. Then they got an overview of the history of electric cooperatives and answered trivia questions about electric co-ops and the state in the "Energy Battle" competition.

"These students will soon be our community leaders — and electric cooperative member-owners," said CEMC General Manager Jim Coode. "We want them to see what makes their electric cooperative special, appreciate all their co-op provides for their communities and understand why it was so important to form electric co-ops in the first place."



*From left, Sarah Hanner, Rep. Sabi "Doc" Kumar (R- Springfield) and Will Gregory meet for a photo in front of the State Capitol.*

# Whites attend Young Leaders Conference

**D**errick and Jana White of Cedar Hill were sponsored by Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation to participate in the 2015 Young Leaders Conference Friday and Saturday, Feb. 27 and 28, at the Drury Plaza Hotel in Franklin. The Whites joined more than 300 others from across the state for the annual weekend of motivational, recreational and educational segments.

The Young Leaders Conference brings couples and individuals together from rural communities to learn about cooperatives, share their views about agriculture and discuss current issues facing rural Americans. This year's event, themed "Cooperatively Building a Better Tennessee," covered a variety of subjects aimed at educating leaders about cooperatives and agricultural issues.

The Tennessee Council of Cooperatives (TCC) co-sponsors the annual conference with Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation's Young Farmers and Ranchers organization. CEMC is a member of TCC, an organization composed of a variety of cooperatives across the state, including electric, dairy, farm supply, telephone and tobacco co-ops as well as farm credit banks and the Farm Bureau.

The 2015 conference offered a wide range of sessions, from leadership skills to issues facing rural Tennessee to an overview of Farm Bureau's Ag-in-the-Classroom program. Middle Tennessee State University's Dr. Alanna Vaught led a breakout session on "Preparing the Next



*Representing Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation at the 2015 Young Leaders Conference are Derrick and Jana White. They are shown here with their children, Bella and Mason.*

Generation," and University of Tennessee Institute of Agriculture's Lisa Stearns discussed "Raising the Profile of Tennessee Agriculture." Bill Johnson, chief executive officer of Farm Credit Mid-America, addressed the group in a general session, and Cowboy Dan and his band entertained attendees.

Conference participants also toured Second Harvest Food Bank in Nashville, where they donated 211 pounds of food and volunteered to pack boxes for families struggling with hunger.

Dan Wheeler, former Tennessee commissioner of agriculture, was presented an annual award given by TCC to an individual who has shown dedication to the cooperative cause in Tennessee. TCC made a \$100

contribution in Wheeler's honor to the John Willis Memorial Scholarship fund, which provides financial aid to deserving college agriculture students in the state.

TCC President Keith Harrison, Tennessee Farmers Cooperative marketing manager, said delegates to the Young Leaders Conference are the future leaders of cooperatives across the state.

"It's humbling and inspiring to see a new group of young leaders every year at this conference," said Harrison. "Our future is in the hands of these incredibly bright young people who want to make their mark in improving our state's rural economy."

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



*Keep cool this summer! ENERGY STAR-certified refrigerators are about 9 percent to 10 percent more energy-efficient than models that meet the federal minimum energy-efficiency standard.*

*Source: energystar.gov*

# Putting safety first this month — and throughout the year

**I**t's May, and Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation is celebrating National Electrical Safety Month. While safety for our members is top priority year-round, Electrical Safety Month is a time to acknowledge the importance of safety excellence.

This year, we're focusing on electrical safety in the home. Electricity is the cause of some 140,000 fires each year, resulting in more than 500 deaths, 4,000 injuries and \$1.6 billion in property damage, according to Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI).

There are many measures you can take to ensure the safety of your loved ones. Use these helpful tips from ESFI to safeguard your home:

## *In the kitchen*

- Vacuum refrigerator coils every three months to eliminate dirt buildup that can reduce efficiency and create fire hazards.
- Ensure all countertop appliances are located away from the sink.
- Keep all appliance cords away from hot surfaces. Pay particular attention to cords around toasters, ovens and ranges. Cords can be damaged by excess heat.
- The top of the cooking range and the area above it should be free of combustibles such as potholders and plastic utensils. Storing these items on or near the range may result in fires or burns.

## *Light the way to safety*

- Match the wattage of the bulbs you use in your home to the wattage indicated on the light fixture. Overheated fixtures can lead to fires.
- Check lamp cords to make sure they are in good condition and not damaged or cracked. Do not attempt to repair damaged cords yourself. Take any item with a damaged power cord to an authorized repair center.
- Don't use extension cords to provide power on a long-term or permanent basis. Have additional receptacles installed by a professional to provide power where needed.



## *Be prepared*

- Nearly two-thirds of fire deaths result from fires in homes without working smoke alarms. Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, inside each bedroom and outside each sleeping area.
- Test smoke alarms every month. Change batteries at least once a year — or sooner if indicated in the manufacturers' instructions. All smoke alarms should be replaced at least every 10 years.
- Talk to your family about an emergency plan in the event of a fire in your home. If you have small children, include them in planning an emergency escape route — they are more likely to remember the plan if they're involved in creating it.

Electrical safety awareness and education can save lives. For more tips and information about electrical safety, visit [www.esfi.org](http://www.esfi.org).