

## 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*

### Electric cooperatives are ready to work with elected officials

As the nation prepares to welcome a new Congress and presidential administration, America's electric cooperatives are ready to welcome back old friends and introduce ourselves to newcomers. The co-ops' message to elected officials — old and new, Republican and Democrat — will be the same: We all need to work together to protect consumer access to safe, reliable and affordable electric service.

We have reason to believe this message will be well-received. After all, co-ops speak for more than 42 million electric consumers nationwide, a sizeable constituency by any measure.

Moreover, whatever you thought of the 2016 campaign, one message came through loud and clear: Many, many people don't believe their concerns are being heard. For member-owned cooperatives, listening to people is at the heart of our business model. And we carry our members' concerns to public officials every day.

As co-ops reach out to engage with elected officials, we will build on the strength of Co-ops Vote, the grassroots initiative to reverse declining voter turnout in rural areas.

Co-ops Vote did more than register voters. It sent a strong message to the country's elected officials that rural electric consumers matter.

And co-ops will be reinforcing this message with a request that policymakers keep the needs of consumers front and center — needs such as funding for infrastructure, especially transmission lines and access

to natural gas, increasing the efficiency of the electric system and determining the future of hydropower and nuclear energy. Elected officials will be making decisions affecting every aspect of the electric system.

Advocating for these issues is nothing new. In fact, we've been doing it for years. And we're ready to continue the fight on your behalf.

Now is the time to reach out to all elected officials, new and returning.

Here at Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation, we will be reaching out to local, state and federal officials. In initial conversations, we will be explaining the unique member-owned, not-for-profit co-op business model. And we will be reminding longtime politicians of our co-op's commitment to its members.

In Washington, D.C., our national trade association, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, will be conducting similar introductions, speaking with key agencies and departments within the new administration. It is likely that many of these new policymakers will know little or nothing of the co-op model.

Forging an energy future that serves rural consumers and protecting access to safe, reliable and affordable electric power will be a bipartisan effort. Electric co-ops are optimistic. As we work with our elected leaders, we hope to renew a spirit of cooperation in the nation's capital and in statehouses across the country.

After all, cooperation is what co-ops do best!



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

# 2018 calendar art contest

Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation is calling on local student artists to submit entries for its annual calendar art contest. Winning entries will earn their creators cash prizes and be featured in CEMC's 2018 calendar, which will be displayed in homes, schools and businesses throughout the co-op's five-county service area.

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 Wednesday, Feb. 22. 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.

Though 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 light-colored, unruled



*The artwork of White House High School student Eli Creasy is featured on the cover of CEMC's 2017 Eastern Region calendar.*

paper no larger than 11 by 14 inches and no smaller than 8.5 by 11 inches.

Complete contest details and instructions are available at [www.cemc.org](http://www.cemc.org) or by contacting CEMC Community Relations Coordinator Stephanie Lobdell at 800-987-2362, ext. 1143, or via email at [slobdell@cemc.org](mailto:slobdell@cemc.org).

## Stay aware to avoid scams

The world, it seems, never lacks for folks who want to separate you from your hard-earned money. And as means of information have gotten more sophisticated, so have thieves. With this in mind, Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation would like to remind its members to be alert for scams that target utility consumers.

Scam artists, often posing as CEMC employees, are using various methods to approach individuals and businesses to demand payment on supposed past-due accounts. Most commonly, members have reported receiving unsolicited phone calls from individuals falsely claiming to be CEMC representatives. The scammers warn that CEMC will disconnect the member's electric service if the member fails to make a payment — usually within a short timeframe.

Scammers have even duplicated CEMC's Interactive Voice Response system, so when members call back a phone number provided by the scammer, it sounds like a legitimate CEMC phone number. Some of these criminals

also use caller ID spoofing to replicate CEMC's customer service number.

These red flags indicate scam activity:

- The thief becomes angry and tells the member his or her account is past-due and service will be disconnected if a large payment isn't made — usually within less than an hour.
- The thief instructs the member to purchase a prepaid debit or credit card — widely available at retail stores — then call him or her back to supposedly make a payment to CEMC.
- The scammer asks the member for the prepaid card's receipt number and PIN number, which grants instant access to the card's funds.

Please note that CEMC never contacts members demanding payment over the phone or in person, nor will we send emails asking for credit card information.

Members who have doubts about the legitimacy of a phone call or email should always contact CEMC directly at 1-800-987-2362, even if it appears the call or email is coming from CEMC.

# 2017 Washington Youth Tour contest

**E**ach year, 12 high school juniors from Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation’s service area have an incredible chance to spend a week in our nation’s capital, getting a front-row view of government, leadership and public policy.

The Washington Youth Tour, sponsored by CEMC and the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association, provides young leaders with an opportunity to explore Washington, D.C., learn about government and cooperatives and develop their leadership skills.

Students are selected for the trip by writing winning short stories titled “Electric Cooperatives — Going Beyond the Wires” that explain how co-ops provide communities with much more than electric power. 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 must be typewritten and double-spaced and will be judged on appropriate treatment of theme, knowledge of the subject, originality, creativity, grammar and composition.

The contest deadline is Wednesday, Feb. 22, and winners will be announced in April. Writers of the top 12 stories in CEMC’s service area will join the 180-plus delegation from Tennessee and more than 1,400 representatives from across the country for the 2017 Washington Youth Tour June 9-15.

CEMC’s Youth Tour delegates also have the opportunity compete for Tennessee’s spot on the Youth Leadership Council to represent the state at the 2018 National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Annual Meeting.



PACK YOUR BAGS BECAUSE

## 900 WORDS CAN CHANGE EVERYTHING

**TENNESSEE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CREATIVE WRITING AND SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION**

High school juniors can win a once-in-a-lifetime trip to our nation’s capital, win thousands of dollars in scholarships and have a chance to network with other young leaders from across the nation. **It only takes 900 words.**



TENNESSEE WASHINGTON YOUTH TOUR



TRAVEL RECOGNITION SCHOLARSHIPS CONNECTIONS

Presented by Tennessee’s electric cooperatives  
[YOUTHTOUR.TNELECTRIC.ORG](http://YOUTHTOUR.TNELECTRIC.ORG)



*CEMC’s 2016 Washington Youth Tour delegates and chaperones pose for a picture in front of the White House.*

Additionally, TECA will award scholarships of \$3,000, \$2,000 and \$1,000 for the state's top short stories. Winners of the TECA scholarships will be announced during the 2017 Washington Youth Tour.

"The Youth Tour is an incredible opportunity for these students to actually experience history up-close and personal," says Stephanie Lobdell, CEMC community relations coordinator. "Delegates experience a whirlwind of a week, visiting museums, monuments and other landmarks."

President Lyndon Johnson inspired the tour in 1957 when he encouraged electric cooperatives to send youngsters to the nation's capital. In the years since, more than 6,000 young Tennesseans have been delegates for the Washington Youth Tour.

"Our commitment to community is what sets cooperatives apart from other businesses," said Jim Coode, CEMC general manager. "The Washington Youth Tour is one way we show the youth of our service area that their co-op is more than their electricity provider. We genuinely care about the prosperity of our communities, and that includes providing special opportunities for these exceptional students and preparing them for future success."

The Washington Youth Tour Creative Writing and Scholarship Competition is open to high school juniors living in CEMC's five-county service area. Additional



*2016 WYT delegates visit the grounds of the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C.*

details about the 2017 Washington Youth Tour Writing Contest can be found on CEMC's website, [www.cemc.org](http://www.cemc.org), or by contacting CEMC Community Relations Coordinator Stephanie Lobdell at 1-800-987-2362, ext. 1143, or [slobdell@cemc.org](mailto:slobdell@cemc.org).

## Senior scholarship opportunities

**C**umberland Electric Membership Corporation will invest in future leaders by awarding scholarships to deserving high school seniors through its Senior Scholarship Program.

Twelve students will be chosen to receive one-time awards of \$1,000, which can be used toward their freshman year expenses such as tuition, textbooks, lab fees or other required classroom materials. The program is coordinated through each school's senior guidance counselor.

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 2017 (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.

Applications are available through the senior guidance counselors at each school and can be found on CEMC's website: [www.cemc.org](http://www.cemc.org). Deadline for scholarship entry is Wednesday, Feb. 22. Children of CEMC, Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association or Tennessee Valley Authority employees, directors or attorneys are not eligible to apply.

# Young members fuel community food drive

**T**hroughout the month of October, Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation joined forces with local elementary schools to host its annual community food drive. Because of the efforts of the students, parents, teachers and communities involved, CEMC was able to donate thousands of nonperishable food items to help put food on the tables of those less fortunate this holiday season. All items collected were donated to local food banks for distribution.

“We are so grateful for the support we received during our food drive this year,” says CEMC Community Relations Coordinator Stephanie Lobdell. “Your generous donations will be a blessing to those who receive them.”

Participating elementary schools were East Robertson, West Cheatham, Clyde Riggs, Watt

Hardison, Cumberland Heights, Sango and North Stewart.



*Watt Hardison Elementary*



*Cumberland Heights Elementary*



*East Robertson Elementary*



*Sango Elementary*



*Clyde Riggs Elementary*

# CEMC honors spelling superstars

Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation was a proud sponsor of the Cheatham County School System's annual District-Wide Spelling Bee held Nov. 21 and 22 at Cheatham County Middle School. Two competitions were held during the spelling bee — one for fourth-grade students and another for students in grades five

through eight. As a sponsor, CEMC provided cash prizes for students who placed first, second and third in each competition. Pictured here are the winners and participants from each competition. Congratulations to all on a job well done!



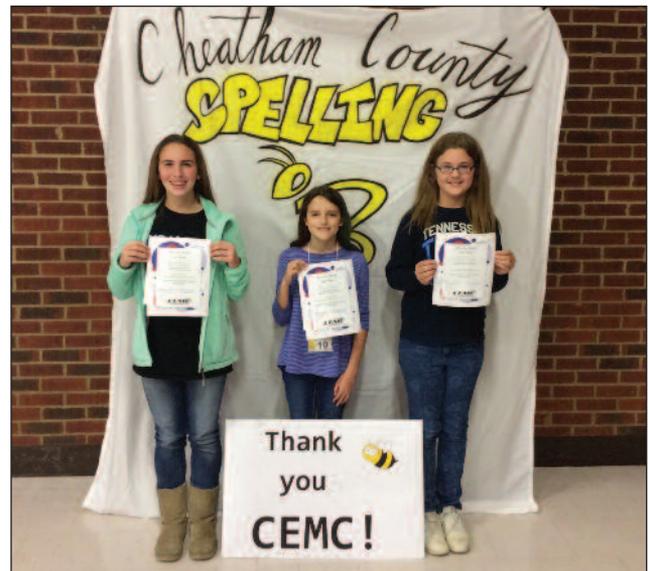
Fourth-grade students from Ashland City Elementary, East Cheatham Elementary, Kingston Springs Elementary, Pegram Elementary, Pleasant View Elementary and West Cheatham Elementary Schools participated in the annual spelling bee.



Fourth-grade spelling bee winners are, from left, Ava McGlone, Kingston Springs Elementary School, first place; Autumn Payne, Ashland City Elementary School, second place; and Sophie Haggard, Pleasant View Elementary School, third place.



Students in grades 5 through 8 from Cheatham Middle, Sycamore Middle and Harpeth Middle Schools took part in the district-wide spelling competition.



Taking top honors in the middle school competition are, from left, Alex Barnhill, Sycamore Middle School, first place; Savana McGlone, Harpeth Middle School, second place; and Dorothy Roach, Sycamore Middle School, third place.

# Energy savings for every season

By Anne Prince

While saving money through greater energy efficiency may be a year-round objective for many consumers, the way to achieve this goal will vary by season. A number of factors impact energy efficiency, including weather, the age and condition of the home and desired comfort levels. During fall and winter months, when the outdoor temperature is chilly, consumers desire a warm home and seek to keep the cold air out. Conversely, in the spring and summer, the focus is on keeping the hot air from infiltrating cool abodes.

## Fall and winter: keeping heat in

To maintain a warm indoor environment in chillier weather, there are simple steps you can take to increase energy efficiency. Fall is a great time to examine seals on doors and windows to check for air leaks. Caulk and weather strip as needed to seal in warm air and energy savings. Similarly, examine outlets for air leaks, and, where necessary, install gaskets around outlets to prevent drafts. During the day, open curtains or drapes on south-facing windows to enable sunlight to heat your home naturally. Close curtains or drapes at night for an added layer of window insulation.

As the temperature drops lower with the onset of winter, schedule a service appointment for your heating system to ensure it is operating at an optimal level. Low-cost or no-cost steps for energy savings include taping or affixing heavy, clear plastic to the inside of your window frames to create an additional barrier against cold air. Ensure that the plastic is tightly sealed to the frame to help reduce infiltration. Use a programmable thermostat to set the temperature as low as is comfortable when you are home (ideally around 68 degrees). When you are asleep or away, turn the temperature down 10-15 degrees for eight hours. According to the Department of Energy,

this small adjustment can help you save approximately 10 percent a year on heating and cooling costs.

## Spring and summer: keeping your cool

During warmer months, energy savings and efficiency will require different measures, many of which are inexpensive. If you live in a climate that is cool, open your windows in the evening and turn off your cooling system while sleeping. In the morning, shut the windows and blinds to hold in the cool air. Where practical, plant trees and shrubs that provide shade in warm months and sunlight in winter. In addition to the aesthetic value, well placed trees can take heat gain from the sun and provide needed shade by creating a canopy for the house.

In extremely hot weather, your cooling system works harder to close the gap between the high outdoor temperature and the cool indoor thermostat setting. To lessen the difference in temperature between the two and to lower cooling costs, set the thermostat as high as you can while maintaining your comfort level. Moreover, using a ceiling fan in conjunction with your air conditioning can allow you to increase the thermostat setting to approximately 4 degrees with no reduction in comfort levels.

During the hottest months, it's all the more critical to replace any remaining incandescent bulbs with LEDs. The waste heat from the old bulbs impacts energy use and creates wasteful and unwanted heat. Employ a programmable thermostat to adjust the settings a few degrees higher when no one is home or your family is sleeping.

To learn more about additional energy-saving tips and programs, visit [www.cemc.org](http://www.cemc.org).

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

### 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.