

# Duck River Electric Membership Corporation

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative 

## Elmore retires from DREMC after more than four decades

**T**ommy Elmore retired from Duck River Electric Membership Corporation in December, completing 43 years of service with the cooperative.

Elmore grew up in Bedford County and graduated from Community High School in Unionville. Following graduation, he spent time farming.

Elmore began his DREMC career in July of 1966 in the Shelbyville office as a member of the right-of-way crew.

After working in Shelbyville for three years, job opportunities became available in Decherd and Columbia.

Elmore applied for the Decherd position primarily because he had worked with Decherd employees Willie Frank Thomas, Floyd Kelley and Johnny Sullivan on previous right-of-way jobs.

In 1969, he began the apprentice lineman program in the Decherd district and topped out as a lineman in 1973.

“I have really enjoyed working with the crews, being outside and have made many friends,” said Elmore. “DREMC has been good to me and my



**Tommy Elmore, lineman in the Decherd office, has retired from Duck River Electric Membership Corporation, bringing to an end a 43-year career with the cooperative.**

family and helped me put two daughters through college.”

The biggest change Elmore has seen over his four decades of employment has been the advancement of equipment. He remembers starting out in the right-of-way crew and was handed a bush ax every morning and spray tanks for stump-spraying. He believes the right-of-way maintenance program DREMC now implements is a great improvement.

Tommy has witnessed many examples of treacherous working conditions, including the ice storms of 1985 and 1998 and the Franklin County

tornado of 1974, which claimed five lives.

Elmore states, “Ice storms are more dangerous for the linemen because of the slippery conditions and driving hazards.”

Reflecting back on his employment with DREMC, he states that “it went fast.”

Elmore and his wife plan to spend time traveling, visiting with their five granddaughters and helping with the senior citizens in their community.

DREMC thanks Tommy for his many years of dedicated service to the cooperative and wishes him many happy years of retirement.

### DREMC MANAGEMENT AND STAFF

Jim Allison, President/CEO  
Jim Martin, Director of Financial Services  
Blake Butler, Director of Engineering  
Charles McDonald, Director of Member Services  
Michael Watson, Director of Operations  
DREMC Office Hours —  
Monday through Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Shelbyville Office  
Marsha Bolin, District Manager  
Phone: 684-4621  
After Hours, Holidays, Weekends: 684-4623

Lynchburg Office  
Eugene Cartwright, Area Manager  
Phone: 759-7344  
After Hours, Holidays, Weekends: 759-7371

Decherd Office  
Bill Elliott, District Manager  
Phone: 967-5578  
After Hours, Holidays, Weekends: 967-5579

Sewanee Office  
Lee Wayne Pettes, Area Manager  
Phone: 598-5228  
After Hours, Holidays, Weekends: 967-5579

Lewisburg Office  
Ronald Aldridge, District Manager  
Phone: 359-2536  
After Hours, Holidays, Weekends: 359-2537

Columbia Office  
Michael Trew, District Manager  
Phone: 388-3131  
After Hours, Holidays, Weekends: 388-3482

Manchester Office  
David Young, District Manager  
Phone: 728-7547  
After Hours, Holidays, Weekends: 728-7548

DREMC Co-op News Editor  
Connie Potts  
P.O. Box 89  
Shelbyville, TN 37162-0089  
Phone: 680-5881

DREMC BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
Brent Willis, Chairman  
Coffee, Warren counties  
Buford Jennings, Vice Chairman  
Moore, Lincoln counties  
Barry Cooper, Secretary  
Bedford, Rutherford counties  
John Moses, Treasurer  
Marshall, Giles counties  
Nelson Crouch, Franklin, Grundy, Marion counties  
Philip Duncan, Franklin, Grundy, Marion counties  
Laura L. Willis, University of the South  
Bob Dubois, Maury, Hickman, Lawrence, Lewis, Williamson counties  
Dwight Fox, Maury, Hickman, Lawrence, Lewis, Williamson counties  
Kenneth Stacey, Marshall, Giles counties  
Mike England, Coffee, Warren counties  
Glenn Norfleet, Coffee, Warren counties  
Wayne Tucker, Bedford, Rutherford counties  
Web site: [www.dremc.com](http://www.dremc.com)

**Visit [www.dremc.com](http://www.dremc.com)  
for energy-saving  
suggestions.**

# Board Leadership certifications presented

Laura Willis, Duck River Electric board member representing The University of the South, and Dwight Fox, board member representing Maury, Hickman, Lawrence, Lewis and Williamson counties, recently received certification from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association for completing the Board Leadership Program.

These directors previously completed the requirements to

become Credentialed Cooperative directors. In order to obtain the Board Leadership certificate, applicants must complete an additional 10 hours of selected courses.

“The knowledge these directors have obtained through NRECA’s education and training courses will benefit the cooperative and the communities the directors represent,” said Jim Allison, DREMC president and CEO.



**DREMC board member Laura Willis is presented her Board Leadership certificate by National Rural Electric Cooperative CEO Glenn English.**



**DREMC director Dwight Fox, left, receives his Board Leadership certificate from NRECA CEO Glenn English.**

# Southeast Woodlands inspects poles

Duck River Electric is continuing its effort to ensure the safety and reliability of the electric distribution system by enhancing the method used to inspect and treat utility poles.

With more than 111,000 poles system-wide, this process is divided into seg-

ments and will continue until the herbicide spraying begins this spring.

All poles that are five years or older are inspected by Southeast Woodlands Service, a contractor hired by DREMC to perform this process. Its vehicles are



**With the Southeast Woodlands crew are DREMC’s Christy Burdette and George Johnson, far right.**



clearly identified with “DREMC Contractor” signs prominently displayed and work from around 7:30 a.m. until sundown, weather permitting. The crew consists of four men and a foreman with a four-wheeler and a pickup truck.

Two crew members dig down beside each pole to a depth of

about 18 inches, allowing the other two members to inspect and treat the pole by boring a hole at the ground line and injecting preservatives in the

hole if there is evidence of decay. The pole site is then backfilled. If the pole is deemed in need of replacement, it is tagged with a red metal tag as shown in the photo at left.



# DREMC holiday foods tradition continues

At the conclusion of 2008, many were disappointed to learn that Ann Throneberry would be retiring from Duck River Electric Membership Corporation, ending her 34 years of presenting her annual Holiday Foods programs.

Much to the delight of everyone, DREMC worked out an arrangement with Throneberry to bring her annual presentations back to the cooperative's members in November. These festive productions have become a tradition for many and a wonderful way to start off each holiday season. More than 1,200 attendees across the DREMC service area listened intently this year as Throneberry shared her festive display, recipe booklet and entertaining ideas.

We've included one of Throneberry's favorite recipes below:



## Strawberry Fudge

Just one of the great recipes from "Christmas Cuisine"

3 cups sugar

$\frac{3}{4}$  cup butter

5 fluid ounces evaporated milk

12 (1-ounce) squares white chocolate

1 (10-ounce) package strawberry marshmallows

1 cup chopped pecans

1 teaspoon strawberry flavoring

Line a 9-inch pan with aluminum foil, allowing foil to hang over edges. In a heavy saucepan, combine sugar, butter and evaporated milk. Bring to a boil over medium heat, stirring frequently. Continue to cook until mixture reaches 234 degrees on a candy thermometer. Add white chocolate, marshmallows, pecans and strawberry flavoring, stirring to combine. Pour into prepared pan. Cool at least four hours. When set, pull up on excess foil to remove fudge from pan. Peel back foil and cut into 1-inch squares. *Yield: 60 pieces*

## Free recipe booklets

If you were unable to attend one of the programs or did not receive a recipe booklet, please feel free to download a copy at [www.dremc.com](http://www.dremc.com).



## DREMC's Watson, McDonald speak at TVPPA conference

Duck River EMC Director of Operations Michael Watson recently told the crowd of more than 180 at the Tennessee Valley Public Power Association Customer Service and Communications Conference that "DREMC is practicing what we're preaching."



**DREMC Director of Operations Michael Watson addresses the TVPPA Customer Service and Communications Conference.**

DREMC is always encouraging members to use energy wisely, and geothermal heating and cooling is the most efficient way to heat and cool a building.

DREMC has installed three geothermal systems to date. The system installed at the cooperative's headquarters building in Shelbyville is saving more than 500,000 kilowatt-hours per year. "Additionally, we are retrofitting our headquarters with more efficient fluorescent lighting, saving about \$15 per year per fixture," said Watson. With more than 300 fixtures in the building, that is a lot of potential savings.

DREMC has also programmed night setbacks into the heating and cooling schedule to save energy daily.

Doing some small things and some large things to save ener-

gy all add up to considerable savings in the long run.

DREMC Director of Member Services Charles McDonald outlined for the crowd the cooperative advertising campaign that is being televised for the electric power companies of Middle Tennessee.

"This is a cooperative television advertising venture among municipal and cooperative power distributors of Middle Tennessee," said McDonald. Supported financially by the Tennessee Valley Authority and the Central District TVA staff, this association is composed of 22 participating power distributors.

The 30-second commercials are produced by Garmezy Media of Nashville. "These commercials include actual distributor employees and children," said McDonald. He



**DREMC Director of Member Services Charles McDonald describes the power companies' advertising campaign.**

added that because reports indicate most adults get their news from TV, this is the perfect way to instill lifestyle changes that reinforce energy efficiency and ways to reduce energy use in the home, thus lowering electric bills.

## Newell Rubbermaid manufacturing facility honored



T.W. Frierson Contractor Inc. hosted an appreciation luncheon to celebrate the completion of the Newell Rubbermaid manufacturing facility in the Coffee County Interstate Industrial Park. Duck River Electric provides the electrical requirements for the new facility.

Among other products, the plant is the single manufacturing site for the ink used in Sharpie pens worldwide. The plant is a state-of-the-art facility in safety and manufacturing.

**At the appreciation luncheon are, from left, George Shuff, Middle Tennessee Industrial Development Association executive director; Deborah A. Cameron, project manager for the Middle Tennessee Region of the Tennessee Valley Authority Economic Development; Dan McFadden, Newell Rubbermaid global manager of chemical manufacturing and technology; and David Young, Manchester DREMC district manager.**

# Power out? Light your house in a 'flash'

The flashlight has been illuminating dark homes since its invention in 1898. Joshua Lionel Cowen — the same guy who invented toy Lionel trains —



claimed he also invented the flashlight. The owner of the American Eveready Battery Co., Cowen said he used a metal tube with a light bulb and a dry cell battery to illuminate flower pots. When he got bored with his invention, the story goes, he passed it along to a salesman at the company, Conrad Hubert, who used the device to make the world's first flashlight.

You probably have a drawer full of flashlights — but how many have batteries in them that work? Stock up on batteries that fit your flashlights so you'll be prepared if a winter storm knocks your power out temporarily.

More tips for seeing in the dark:

- Store your flashlights — and fresh batteries — in lots of locations around your home so they'll be close by if the lights go out.
- Locate the circuit breakers in your house and learn how to check for tripped breakers or blown fuses. If your power does go out, it could be a problem with your electrical panel. Check there before calling your electric cooperative.
- Attach the phone number for your electric cooperative to your phone or refrigerator so you'll know where to find it in case you need to report a power outage.

## Energy-savings tips

# A watt is a watt, no matter what

With the large number of styles and shapes of electric heaters, it's no wonder consumers are confused on which ones to purchase to satisfy their needs. The first step is to understand the three different types of heaters: high-temperature radiant, natural convection and fan-forced heaters.

**High-temperature radiant heaters** are characterized by their red-glowing heating elements with a shiny reflective material behind the coils. Radiant heaters do not attempt to heat the air but rely on beaming their warmth directly to people or objects.

**The natural convection-style heaters** transfer heat differently. Instead of red-hot coils, they distribute the same amount of heat over a wider surface area. This allows the flow of air over the surface to transfer heat to the air. One type of this heater is the cast iron radiators with oil or other fluids. On watt-for-watt equivalent, natural convection heaters put out just as much warmth, but you do not feel the intense heat as from a radiant-type heater.

**Fan-forced heaters** rely on a blower to push air over the heating coils. Fan-forced heaters are often smaller in size than the other two types of heaters because they do not rely on a large surface area to transfer their heat to the air.

Each of the three heaters described above uses a process called "electric resistance heating." This simply means that electricity is sent through a material that is resistant to the flow of current.

Because all heaters use this same process, they all have the same efficiency — 100 percent. (A watt of heat energy is produced for every watt of electricity used.) There are no energy losses. Whatever the heater's shape, size or marketing claims, the amount of heat coming out is the same as the amount of electricity going in. Therefore, any two types of heaters with a rating of 1,500 watts on the nameplate will deliver the same amount of heat and use the same amount of electricity no matter what they look like, assuming they are operated on the same thermostat setting.

