



# Powell Valley Electric Cooperative News

## General Manager's Message



Randell W. Meyers  
General Manager  
& CEO

## Local young leaders learn about government during electric co-op event in Nashville

Clinch High School student **Noah Jones** and Claiborne High School student **Mary Lipfird** were in Nashville March 12-14 for the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association's annual Youth Leadership Summit. These students were selected by the principal and guidance counselor at each school and were sponsored by Powell Valley Electric Cooperative. Delegates to the annual event receive a hands-on look at state government, learn networking and leadership skills, and develop a better understanding of their local electric cooperatives.

While in Nashville, the students visited the State Capitol Building where they were welcomed to Nashville by members of the Tennessee General Assembly. Alan Whittington, assistant chief clerk of the Senate, explained the process required to pass legislation, and students debated and voted on a mock bill.

In addition to lawmakers, students also heard from Tennessee leaders like Ms. Tennessee 2018 Caty Davis; Adam Hammond, anchor for Nashville's NewsChannel5; and Trooper Jeffrey Buchanan with the Tennessee Executive Protection Detail.

Delegates to the Youth Leadership Summit are encouraged to be leaders in their hometowns and use their talents to improve rural Tennessee. "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," says Todd Blocker, Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association vice president of member relations and director of the Youth Leadership Summit. "They will be the next generation of leaders in rural Tennessee, and we want to prepare them for the challenges and opportunities they will face."

These students will soon be our community leaders — and electric cooperative members. We want them to share our passion for rural Northeast Tennessee and Southwest Virginia, so it is an honor for Powell Valley Electric Cooperative to help prepare them for the opportunities that are ahead. We want them to see what makes their electric cooperative special. We want them to 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. The future of our rural communities depends on a new generation of strong leaders like these.

— *Randell W. Meyers*



Above, from left: Noah Jones, Sen. Frank Niceley, Mary Lipfird, Shane Bunch. Left, from left: Rep. Gary Hicks, Noah Jones, Mary Lipfird, Shane Bunch.

### POWELL VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

420 Straight Creek Road  
P.O. Box 1528  
New Tazewell, TN 37824

Office Hours: M-F 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

#### Tazewell Office:

Service Requests: (423) 626-0707  
Billing Inquiries: (423) 626-0706  
Outages/Trouble: (423) 626-5204  
Other Inquiries: (423) 626-5204

#### Jonesville Office:

Service Requests: (276) 346-6003  
Billing Inquiries: (276) 346-6003  
Outages: (276) 346-6065  
Other Inquiries: (276) 346-6016

#### Sneedville Office:

All Inquiries: (423) 733-2207

Calls to all PVEC locations will be answered by emergency operators after office hours, on weekends & holidays.

Visit us at [www.pvec.coop](http://www.pvec.coop)

You may also contact us at [info@pvec.coop](mailto:info@pvec.coop)

Randell Meyers  
General Manager & CEO

Ronnie Williams  
Tazewell Area Supervisor

Jason Stapleton  
Jonesville Area Supervisor

Joey Southern  
Sneedville Area Supervisor

*Powell Valley Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

# Bylaw Article on Nominations

On Saturday, Sept. 15, 2018, Powell Valley Electric Cooperative's annual meeting will be held at Hancock County High School in Sneedville, Tennessee.

An important part of your annual meeting is the election of directors. Below is an excerpt from the cooperative's bylaws regarding nominations.

## Article IV. Directors, Section 4, Nominations.

*It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to appoint, not more than one hundred twenty (120) days before the date of a meeting of the members at which directors are to be elected, a committee on nominations consisting of not less than five (5) nor more than eleven (11) members who shall be selected so as to give equitable representation on the committee to the different districts delineated as director districts. No officer or member of the board of directors shall be appointed a member of such committee. The committee shall prepare and post at all the offices of the Cooperative, at least ninety (90) days before the meeting, a list of nominations for directors.*

*Any fifteen (15) or more members may make other nominations in writing over their signatures. Such nominations in writing are required to be in a cooperative office by 5:00 p.m. not less than sixty (60) days prior to the meeting. The Secretary shall cause the said petition to be posted at the same places where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted. The Secretary shall cause to be mailed with the notice of the meeting a statement of the number of directors to be elected, showing separately the nominations made by petition, if any. Nominations to fill vacancies on the board of directors, and the election of the respective directors, shall be for the particular district or districts where the vacancy or vacancies exist or the term or terms thereof is expiring.*

This means that any nominations by petition are to be in a Powell Valley Electric Cooperative office not less than 60 days prior to the Cooperative's annual meeting. Nominations by petition, therefore, must be in one of Powell Valley Electric Cooperative's offices by 5:00 p.m. on July 18, 2018.

## The Billing Corner

### Drive-through deposit box now available!

For your convenience we have installed a drive-through deposit box at the New Tazewell office. The deposit box is located along the drive at the front of the office. You may now deposit payments at any time without ever leaving your car. As we suggest with our regular night deposit box, please do not deposit cash.

### What to do if you don't receive a bill

Not often, but occasionally, consumers report that they did not receive their electric bill or they have misplaced it. If this happens to you, please contact our office and request the amount of your bill and the due date. Failure to receive a bill does not relieve one of the responsibility of paying on time.

### Paying your bill online

We would like to notify our members about websites that take online payments. Whenever paying your electric bill online, be sure to verify you are on the cooperative's official site. Two ways to verify if the website is Powell Valley Electric Cooperative's (PVEC) is to look first for fine print stating "no affiliation with Powell Valley Electric" and secondly, for the information you have to provide. The cooperative's website will show the balance due on your account, whereas other websites require you to provide the payment amount. If payment is made to a website other than PVEC's own website, your account is NOT automatically credited. It often takes several days before PVEC receives payment. Your account is subject to late penalties and disconnection until payment is received by PVEC. If you would like to pay online, type [www.pve.coop](http://www.pve.coop) in the address bar of your web browser. Payments made at this address will automatically be credited to your account.

### Attention, dog owners

It is your responsibility to keep your dog penned up or on a leash away from the meter so that we have access at all times to our equipment. Our employees will not provoke your dog, but they will use caution and protect themselves. Each year, more than 4.5 million people in the U.S. are bitten by dogs. National Dog Bite Prevention Week® takes place during the third full week of May each year, and focuses on educating people about preventing dog bites. For more information on dog bite prevention, go to [www.avma.org/public/Pages/Dog-Bite-Prevention.aspx](http://www.avma.org/public/Pages/Dog-Bite-Prevention.aspx).

## Our Website — A New Look!

If you have visited Powell Valley Electric Cooperative's website in the past and have just visited it again, you might notice that it looks different this time. That's because the site has been updated with a new design, new features and new content. If you want to pay your bill online, you can access the bill pay site through the link "pay bill." We are excited to offer this updated website to our members. Please take a look around at [www.pve.coop](http://www.pve.coop).



## Closing Notice

On this Memorial Day, let us pause with reverence to remember those Americans who made the ultimate sacrifice for all of us, for our freedom and for our country's values.

In observance of Memorial Day, Powell Valley Electric Cooperative offices will be closed Monday, May 28. As always, cooperative dispatchers will be on duty to take your emergency calls. Have a happy and safe holiday.

## Heat Pump Financing Available

The Tennessee Valley Authority continues to offer heat pump financing for Powell Valley Electric Cooperative customers who qualify through the TVA's eScore program. If this is the first time a member has participated in the eScore program, an energy evaluation of the home will be completed. The current interest rate is good through Sept. 30, 2018.

Call the Powell Valley Electric Cooperative office nearest you for details on this residential heat pump loan program.

## What's a-Cooking?

**B**obby Johnson shares his wife Renea's recipe for a delicious and creamy grape salad topped with brown sugar and chopped pecans. Bobby has worked in the Sneedville area since 1994.

### Ingredients:

- 1 (8-oz.) package cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup sour cream
- 3 tablespoons sugar
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 2 pounds seedless green grapes
- 2 pounds seedless red grapes

### Topping:

- 3 tablespoons brown sugar
- 3 tablespoons chopped pecans

### Directions:

In a large mixing bowl, beat together the cream cheese and sour cream until smooth. Add sugar and vanilla until blended. Add grapes and toss to coat. Refrigerate until serving. Top with brown sugar and pecans before serving.

## 2018 Washington Youth Tour Writing Contest Winners

**P**owell Valley Electric Cooperative is pleased to announce the winners of the 2018 Washington Youth Tour Writing Contest. Winners will embark on what others before them have referred to as a "trip of a lifetime" — a week-long, expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C.



Bailey Hopkins



Taylor Kinsler



Katie Nichols



Brittany Cruz

Students wrote short stories competing for prizes, including a week-long tour of Washington, D.C., cash awards and college scholarships. This year's theme was "Electric Cooperatives: Beyond the Wires." The short stories are judged by an outside source and scored based on originality, appropriate treatment of theme, knowledge of the subject, grammar and composition.

**Bailey Hopkins**, a Hancock County High School student, was the top winner. Her story will also compete with the top stories from throughout Tennessee for \$3,000, \$2,000, and \$1,000 college scholarships sponsored by the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association. Other top winners were **Taylor Kinsler**, Clinch High School, second place; **Katie Nichols**, Clinch High School, third; and **Brittany Cruz**, Claiborne High School, fourth.

We are proud to offer this amazing opportunity to the youth in our community. Congratulations to all of these students for their accomplishments.



CARRIE POORE PHOTOS

## Local Spotlight:

**L**ocated in the southwest corner of Virginia, the Wilderness Road State Park offers a variety of activities, including picnicking, hiking, and nature and living history programs. Programs offered throughout the year include the annual Raid at Martin's Station, Heritage Festival, Candlelight Ghost Tour, Mystery Dinner Theatre and Pumpkins in the Park. Visitors will also find picnic shelters, a 100-seat amphitheater, a playground, sand volleyball court and horseshoe pits. The 8.5-mile Wilderness Road Trail or the .77-mile Indian Ridge Trail can be enjoyed by all.

Source: [www.historicmartinsstation.com/park.html](http://www.historicmartinsstation.com/park.html)

# May is Electrical Safety Month

## Everyday safe

Recently the manager of a co-op from another state shared the story of a young lineman who came in contact with an energized line while restoring power following a storm. The young man's injuries were significant and he passed away a few days later. It was a tragic story and vivid reminder of the dangers of our industry.

"Electric lineworker" is routinely named one of the top 10 most dangerous jobs in America. In this line of work, even small mistakes can be deadly.

Safety is a serious subject at our co-op. New hires undergo extensive training, and all of our lineworkers participate in monthly safety meetings. Crew leaders have tailgate discussions to review the risks and dangers of each and every job. Our crews learn quickly to watch out for one another — everyone on the job site is encouraged to speak up about potentially dangerous situations.

We are building a culture of safety.

This means that safety is, or should be, a part of our DNA. It is a characteristic

feature and a shared attitude that influences every member of our team. We monitor and track near-misses of accidents in order to understand them, share "lessons learned" and improve in the future.

We encourage our crews to be "everyday safe" — always vigilant, aware of surroundings and mindful of co-workers.

Our culture of safety also extends to our community. Powell Valley Electric Cooperative offers electrical safety presentations at schools and shares electrical safety tips with our members each month through the cooperative's magazines.

Each year our industry celebrates May as National Electrical Safety Month. According to the Electrical Safety Foundation, thousands of people in the United States are critically injured and killed each year because of electrical fires, accidents and electrocution in their own homes.

There are simple things you can do to keep yourself and your community safe around electricity. Don't attempt electrical DIY projects or overload your outlets.



**May is National Electrical Safety Month**

This month, we encourage all members to take extra time to plug into safety.

**#ElectricalSafetyMonth**

When working with heavy equipment, ladders or even flying kites, be aware of power lines and keep your distance. Call us to report downed power lines, unlocked substations or padmount transformers, low-hanging power lines or anything else that looks amiss.

Help us celebrate Electrical Safety Month by establishing a culture of safety in your family, church, workplace or school.



Jason Stapleton

## Jonesville Area Supervisor Jason Stapleton shares safety tips

Every May, National Electrical Safety Month reminds us to sweep our homes of hazards that could lead to unnecessary accidents and fires.

This year, resolve to:

### Install ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs).

They can protect your family from electrocution. In fact, the Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates that GFCIs could prevent half of all home electrocutions. Install them in any room that could get wet, including bathrooms, garages, kitchens and laundry rooms, and on outdoor receptacles and on any outlet that is within 6 feet of a faucet.

### Prevent fire with arc-fault protection.

When electrical wiring or devices get damaged or overheated, an arc fault can occur. An arc fault is a discharge of electricity that turns into heat and can break down a wire's insulation.

That can cause a fire. In fact, the National Fire Protection Association estimates that 47,000 home fires a year involve some sort of electrical malfunction and half of those could be prevented by arc-fault circuit interrupters.

### Childproof your home.

Your 2- to 4-year-old can remove plastic outlet caps within 10 seconds, according to research by Temple University. Outsmart your little one by installing tamper-resistant receptacles, which are designed with toddlers in mind. Childproof electrical outlets in every room of your house so your little one can't insert anything into them, which can cause a shock.