



Powell Valley Electric Cooperative News

General Manager's Message



Electricity has provided a way for rural America to grow and prosper

Randell W. Meyers
General Manager
& CEO

The Fourth of July is a day on which we celebrate our nation's independence, by enjoying cookouts and fireworks with family and friends. The freedom to celebrate the liberties and rights of this great country was directly influenced by our forefathers.

The same determination and effort that our forefathers had in bringing our nation its independence was seen when a group of rural farmers came together to help improve the lives of this community. When we think about what life would have been like in rural east Tennessee and southwest Virginia if our founding members had not taken it upon themselves to form this cooperative, we would all have to agree that our community and our lives might be very different. Without electricity, we wouldn't have what we now consider basic necessities — lights, air conditioning, refrigeration and hot water. And it is hard to imagine an economy without electricity and the resulting impact on job opportunities and economic growth. Electricity has provided a way for rural America to grow and prosper, and we consider it a privilege to provide you with reliable power at some of the most reasonable and economical rates that you will find not only in this area, but also across the country.

Our quality of life improved because of our forefathers' vision and determination. Powell Valley Electric Cooperative has followed their example and strives to improve the quality of life of this area. As life around us continues to advance, it is our goal to learn from our cooperative's founders and continue with a vision and determination to provide opportunities and a better way of life for the people in our communities.

— Randell W. Meyers

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.pve.coop

You may also contact us at info@pve.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.

Nominees by Nominating Committee

On June 5, 2018, the Powell Valley Electric Cooperative Nominating Committee met for the purpose of nominating three candidates for the cooperative's board of directors for three-year terms to begin in September. The individuals nominated are as follows:

District 2	Roger Ball
District 7	Mike Shockley
District 8	David Kindle

The cooperative's board of directors consists of nine members who are representatives of their respective districts across the cooperative's service area.

The Billing Corner

Have you ever received a bill and thought, “How can my bill be that high, I haven’t changed anything?” We have been asked that exact question a few times and we can help solve that mystery.

The number-one culprit that can increase usage is the weather outside. During the winter and summer, even without touching your thermostat, a heating/cooling unit has to operate to accommodate the change in the temperature outside. (Living in our area, it seems as if we can see winter, spring, summer and fall within a couple of days — if not the same day!)

As we go through the hot days of summer, the temperatures outside can climb into the 80s and 90s. If our thermostats are set on a chilly 70 degrees Fahrenheit, our cooling system has to maintain that temperature — regardless of the temperature outside. For example, if the temperature outside is 80 degrees Fahrenheit, then the cooling system has to cool the temperature inside by 10 degrees F. The greater difference between the outside and inside temperatures can be the culprit that causes that high bill. Having an efficient heating/cooling system is the first defense against weather-related usage changes, along with routine maintenance of that system to help protect your wallet.

There are other mysterious culprits we need to look at when it comes to solving the High Bill Mystery. Water heaters, household appliances, well pumps, lighting and all the numerous electronic devices with which we surround ourselves can all be offenders. One culprit high on the suspect list is a water heater with a heating element that has gone bad or has developed a leak.

We do see higher variations of electric usage in the winter and summer, but sometimes high bills can appear out of nowhere. Doing a little investigation can usually help determine what has changed and will help solve the High Bill Mystery.

Beating the Peak!

It’s summertime, and in keeping with our efforts to provide you with reliable, affordable power, we want to share information about peak demand and how to beat the peak during the hot summer months.

KWHs + DEMAND + O & M = YOUR CHARGE PER KWH ON YOUR ELECTRIC BILL

If we can lower any of these — the number of kilowatt-hours (KWH) you use, the **demand** charge we pay, or operations and maintenance (**O & M**) costs — we can lower electricity bills for all of us, or with the rising costs of everything today, help keep our rates from increasing. The easiest of the three to control is our demand.

We pay TVA monthly for the electricity we use to meet the needs of all our members, plus we pay TVA a charge to meet peak demand for the month because TVA must either generate enough capacity to meet peak or go to the wholesale market and buy electricity when it is most expensive. Our demand charge is based on the single hour each month that our demand for power is at its highest. By cutting back on the power we buy from TVA during these peak periods, we can reduce our power costs, and that helps hold down your cost. It’s a simple matter of using energy wisely.

HERE’S HOW TO DO IT

1. Turn your thermostat up a degree or two between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. After these peak hours, set your thermostat back to its normal setting.
2. Use major appliances such as washing machines, clothes dryers and dishwashers before 3 p.m. or after 6 p.m.
3. Delay using hot water as much as possible until after 6 p.m. Wait awhile before washing those dishes.
4. If you prepare meals before 6 p.m., think about going outside and using the grill, or use the microwave, toaster or convection oven as much as possible rather than the stove or oven. Not only will these use less electricity, they will generate less heat in your kitchen.

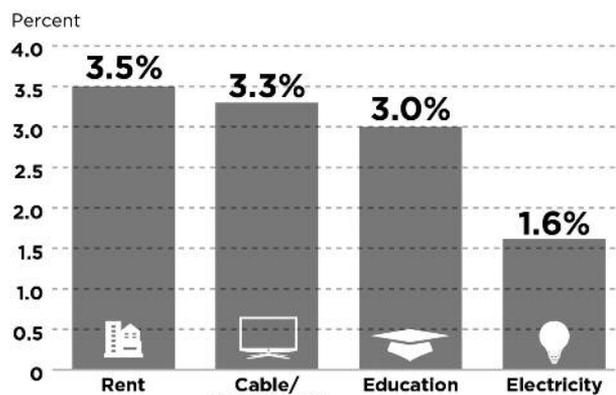
5. Turn off all unnecessary lights during peak hours.
6. Close window shades and drapes to help keep heat out.

Here at Powell Valley Electric we are always looking for better and more economical ways to serve our members. Lowering demand not only saves money on our electric bills, but also helps us continue to have the lowest rates in the Valley. We encourage you to conserve or limit energy use during peak energy times, then go back to your customary activities and your normal way of living! *Let’s all work together — it will make a difference. We can beat the peak!*

ELECTRICITY REMAINS A GOOD VALUE

The cost of powering your home rises slowly when compared to other common expenses. Looking at price increases over the last five years, it’s easy to see electricity remains a good value!

Average Annual Price Increase 2012-2017



Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
Consumer Price Index



Visit to Local School



Third-grade students at TNT Primary had the opportunity to listen to presenters share information about several different occupations during career day. Tyler DeBusk, first class lineman at Powell Valley Electric Cooperative, discussed electrical safety, demonstrated how to climb a pole and showed the group how a bucket truck operates. Participation in local career days is just another way that we engage the communities we serve.



Local Spotlight: Swinging Bridges

A fun and popular attraction in Virginia is visiting the swinging bridges. Both Scott and Lee counties contain a number of swinging bridges. These swinging bridges were used as pedestrian bridges that provided access when the water was too high to either ride or drive across. The majority of these bridges are maintained.

Source: www.ilovelee.org/attractions.html

Tazewell Area Supervisor Ronnie Williams shares safety tips



It wouldn't be the Fourth of July without fireworks. But setting them off is not a do-it-yourself job. Professionals like firefighters or trained reps of fireworks companies know how to handle the sparkly explosions safely. Chances are, you don't.

So leave the fireworks displays to the pros.

Mishandled fireworks can cause serious fires and life-threatening burns. Exploding fireworks are especially dangerous if they come into contact with power lines.

The National Council on Fireworks Safety reports that more than 9,000 people are treated for fireworks-related injuries every year. Even tiny sparklers — a favorite of little kids — can reach a staggering 1,800 degrees, quickly causing dangerous burns even with minor skin contact.

Keep kids entertained with safe alternatives. Buy inexpensive glow sticks or glow-in-the-dark necklaces and bracelets that will stay lighted all night. Battery-operated fiber-optic sparklers will put on a colorful show year after year without the danger of fireworks.

Instead of putting on an amateur show at home, take your family to see a local display that's supervised by fire officials.

If at-home fireworks displays are legal in your community and you do choose to light them, follow these safety tips from the National Council on Fireworks Safety:

- Check that all fireworks come from a reputable source. Follow all safety directions on the package.
- Light fireworks outdoors only, and keep a bucket of water nearby in case of fire.
- Never let small children touch, hold or light fireworks.
- Prepare an area for shooting off fireworks and keep spectators far away.

What's a-Cooking?

Shirlene Hall shares a Chocolate Gravy recipe that her mom made on cold winter mornings. Shirlene has worked in the Tazewell area since 1992.

Ingredients

- 1½ cups sugar
- 2 tablespoons cocoa powder
- ¾ cup flour
- 3 cups milk
- 2 tablespoons butter

Mix all of the dry ingredients, and slowly add the milk. Cook on medium heat, stirring constantly until thick. Add the butter. Remove from heat and pour over hot biscuits.



Stay Away from Electrical Substations

An electrical substation converts electricity to a lower voltage so it can be safely routed and delivered to your home. Because high-voltage power runs through substation equipment, please avoid substation areas and the fences that surround them. Keep the following safety tips in mind:

Never release metallic balloons near substations. If they get caught in the equipment or lines, they can cause power outages.

Never fly kites or drones near electrical substations. If you do and the kite or drone gets caught inside the fence, let us retrieve it for you.

Teach youngsters to stay away from electrical substation fences. The area is dangerous, and these fences are NOT for climbing.

If you see a substation fence or transformer cabinet that is open or looks to be vandalized, please contact us immediately.

 AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

Honor Our Flag

In the Armed Forces of the United States, at the Ceremony of Retreat, the flag is lowered, folded in a triangle fold and kept under watch throughout the night as a tribute to our nation's honored dead. The next morning it is brought out, and at the Ceremony of Reveille, run aloft as a symbol of our belief in the resurrection of the body.

The portion of the flag denoting honor is the canton field of blue containing the stars, representing states our veterans served in uniform. The canton field of blue dresses from left to right and is inverted only when draped as a pall on a casket of a veteran who has served our country honorably in uniform.

1. The first fold of our flag is a symbol of our belief in God.
2. The second fold is a symbol of our devotion to the United States of America.
3. The third fold is made in honor and remembrance of the veterans who have departed our ranks.
4. The fourth fold represents our reliance on God for guidance and strength.
5. The fifth fold is a tribute to freedom and all that it means to us.
6. The sixth fold represents our heart, for it is with our heart that we pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.
7. The seventh fold is a tribute to our Armed Forces, for it is the Armed Forces who protect our country and our flag against all her enemies.
8. The eighth fold is a tribute to honor our mothers; faith, love, loyalty and devotion that have shaped the character of the men and women who have made this country great.
9. The ninth fold is a tribute to fathers, who give their sons and daughters for the defense of our country.

10. The tenth fold is a tribute to American families everywhere. Our strength is built upon their strength.

11. The eleventh fold is a symbol of our belief in justice and equality for all.

12. The twelfth fold represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies our faith in God.

13. The thirteenth fold is a symbol of our 13 original colonies.

When the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost, reminding us of our national motto "In God We Trust." After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a cocked hat, ever reminding us of the American soldiers who first served under Gen. George Washington to establish and preserve the rights, privileges and freedoms we enjoy today.



Holiday Closing Notice

Powell Valley Electric Cooperative offices will be closed Wednesday, July 4th, in observance of the Independence Day holiday. Have a safe and fun-filled holiday!