



# Powell Valley Electric Cooperative News

## General Manager's Message



## What is Grid Resiliency?

Randall W. Meyers  
General Manager  
& CEO

**R**esiliency of the grid is one of the most popular concepts being talked about in the electric industry today. This concept recently made headlines in the wake of Hurricanes Irma and Maria, which caused extraordinary damage to Puerto Rico's electric grid resulting in the longest sustained outage in U.S. history.

Lack of resilience became the go-to phrase to describe Puerto Rico's grid. Here in Virginia, what does grid resiliency mean for you? Resiliency is many things — it's reliability in your electric service, it's our ability to efficiently restore your power, it's being able to meet the demands of new technology and it's how we serve you with various generation sources without skipping a beat. Ultimately, resilience is how we deliver on our promise to improve the quality of life for our member-owners.

When it comes to having a resilient electric grid, it begins with a system that is designed and built to withstand high winds, powerful storms, cybersecurity threats and other disruptions that could result in outages. A resilient grid is also flexible and adaptable by allowing different types of generation — such as wind, solar, coal and hydro — to seamlessly work together to provide you with safe and reliable power. The way our systems react to advancements in technology — from demand-response investments to serving the needs of electric vehicles — all factor into the resilience of our grid.

Resiliency is a 24/7, 365-days-a-year task. Whether it's the power lines, substations or generation facilities on our grid, it takes proactive maintenance and investment to keep them running smoothly. With thousands of consumers without power for months, the lack of resiliency in Puerto Rico's power grid wasn't solely caused by hurricane damage; it was the result of years of neglect in taking care of their system and preparing for a worst-case scenario.

In a similar way to how we maintain our vehicles with regular oil changes, inspections and tire rotations, a grid must also be properly maintained. Throughout the year, we regularly conduct pole and line inspections. Our goal is to find a problem before it becomes one. For example, if we find a weak pole that has damage from termites, we replace that pole. Doing so ensures that pole is as strong — or as resilient — as it can be.

Living in Virginia, we know that significant power outages can occur, especially as we enter spring and summer storm season. Whether we're at the mercy of summer storms or tornadoes, we have confidence in the resiliency of our system to recover from the situation with as little disruption as possible. In the dictionary, resilience is defined as "the ability to bounce back, recover quickly and go back into shape or position after being stretched." When it comes to providing our member-owners with resilient service, this is what we work toward — day in and day out!

— Randall W. Meyers

### POWELL VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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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](http://www.pve.coop)

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

Randell Meyers  
General Manager & CEO

Ronnie Williams  
Tazewell Area Supervisor

Jason Stapleton  
Jonesville Area Supervisor

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



### Holiday Closing Notice

Powell Valley Electric Cooperative offices will be closed Monday, Sept. 3, in observance of Labor Day.

As always, cooperative dispatchers will be on duty to answer your emergency calls.

Have a happy and safe holiday!

# PVEC sponsors four youths on trip to nation's capital

Students from Powell Valley Electric's service area spent a week in our nation's capital as delegates of the 2018 Washington Youth Tour. Bailey Hopkins, Hancock County High School, Taylor Kinsler and Katie Nichols, Clinch High School, and Brittany Cruz, Claiborne High School, were among 135 students from across Tennessee on the weeklong trip that began Friday, June 8. The annual event, sponsored by Powell Valley Electric Cooperative and the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association, provides young leaders with an opportunity to explore the nation's capital, learn about government and cooperatives and develop their leadership skills. Students were selected for the trip by writing winning short stories titled "Electric Cooperatives — Going Beyond the Wires" that explained how co-ops provide communities with much more than electric power.

"Powell Valley Electric Cooperative is pleased to provide this opportunity for the young people in the communities we serve," says Randell Meyers, general manager for Powell Valley Electric Cooperative. "It is a great trip and a wonderful chance for these delegates to learn about history, government, co-ops and leadership."

"The investments co-ops make in Youth Tour pay real dividends for these young people and the communities where they live," said Todd Blocker, vice president of member relations for the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association and tour director. "They come home with a deeper understanding of history and government. More importantly, we want them to be prepared to have a positive influence on their hometowns and to consider leadership roles when the opportunities come along."

While in Washington, D.C., Tennessee's Youth Tour delegates saw the White House and memorials to past presidents Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Franklin Delano Roosevelt, as well as monuments honoring the sacrifices of veterans of World War II, the Vietnam and Korean wars. During visits to the museums of the Smithsonian Institution, the touring Tennesseans saw and experienced natural, historical and artistic treasures. Other



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In front of the U.S. Capitol are, from left, PVEC Chaperone Jessica Smith, Taylor Kinsler, Bailey Hopkins, Brittany Cruz and Katie Nichols.

stops included historic homes of former presidents — George Washington's Mount Vernon and Thomas Jefferson's Monticello — as well as Toby's Dinner Theatre, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum and International Spy Museum. Among other Youth Tour highlights was a solemn and sobering visit to Arlington National Cemetery where the group laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns. The group was welcomed to the U.S. Capitol by Sens. Lamar Alexander and Bob Corker and members of the Tennessee congressional delegation who posed for photos and answered questions.

While in D.C., winners were announced in the statewide competition for the Robert McCarty Memorial Scholarships. Silas Freeze from Gibson Electric Membership Corporation was awarded the \$3,000 first-place scholarship for writing the top-judged short story of the more than 10,000 papers submitted across the state. McKinley Thomas from Sequachee Valley Electric Cooperative earned second-place honors and a \$2,000 scholarship, and Mary Kate Sheppard from Forked Deer Electric Cooperative, third place, received a \$1,000 scholarship. McCarty was an employee of Volunteer Energy Cooperative and longtime chaperone on the annual Youth Tour. McCarty lost a battle with cancer in 2015, and sponsoring cooperatives renamed the scholarships in honor of his

love for young people. Matthew Byrd of Tipton County, a recent graduate of Munford High School, was awarded a \$10,000 Cooperative Youth Ambassador Scholarship. Byrd was a 2017 delegate for Southwest Tennessee Electric Membership Corporation on the Washington Youth Tour. In the year following the tour, delegates who remain engaged with their sponsoring cooperatives and complete certain community service requirements are eligible for the scholarship. Byrd's name was randomly selected from 37 delegates from across the state who completed the requirements.

"The excitement that co-op leaders and chaperones have for these students tells the story," said David Callis, CEO of the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association. "These young people are the next generation of doctors and teachers and farmers in the communities we serve. We want them to be passionate about their communities and prepared to lead when those opportunities come along."

President Lyndon Johnson, then a senator from Texas, inspired the Washington Youth 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 on the Washington Youth Tour.

## Your Cooperative Membership

Since our annual meeting is just a few weeks away, we wanted to remind you that in order for an individual to register at the annual meeting, that person must have a membership with the cooperative. For a married couple, if only one spouse's name is on the membership, only that individual would be permitted to register. If the couple would like to have both their names listed on that membership so that either spouse could register, we can process a valid request to do so at no charge. Of course, that would mean that only one registration would be allowed between the couple since it would still be one membership.

If a membership is in the name of a deceased individual, no surviving family member may register at the annual meeting. In the case of a surviving spouse, we will process a valid request to change a membership to the surviving spouse's name free of charge.

Any valid change that is made on a membership to permit an individual to register at our annual meeting would need to be made prior to the meeting date.

If you have questions about your membership, please give us a call!

## Jonesville Area Supervisor Jason Stapleton shares safety tips



It's back-to-school time across America. For parents, it's a bittersweet reminder of the passage of time as we watch our children grow and become increasingly independent. It's also a time when we think about their safety.

Your electric cooperative shares that concern. With the beginning of every school year, thousands of co-op lineworkers are keeping an eye out for your children on their way to and from school.

At first glance, it may seem that there is little connection between school kids waiting for their bus and the line crew in the local co-op's truck. But look again. Those line crews working on utility poles probably have kids waiting for their school bus alongside yours. Making sure all our children stay safe is part of what holds local communities together, and it's part of the work your local cooperative takes pride in every day.

The following precautions should be practiced when your children take the bus to and from school:

- Make sure your children know what to do if they miss the bus: come back home, or if at school, report to a teacher. They must never accept a ride from a stranger.
- If it is dark on the way to or from the bus, make your children visible. Use retroreflective tape on their clothing and avoid dark colors.
- Make sure they wait away from the roadway and stay back until the bus has come to a full stop and the doors open.
- Children should always walk at least 10 feet in front of the bus and never walk behind it. If you can't see the

bus driver, the driver can't see you. Forbid running, pushing and horseplay.

- Tell your children to come straight home from the bus, with no detours.

Practice these safety tips and have a safe and happy school year!

## What's a-Cooking?

Summer Upton shares her Nana Judy's Punch recipe. Summer has worked in the Tazewell area since 2007.

### Ingredients:

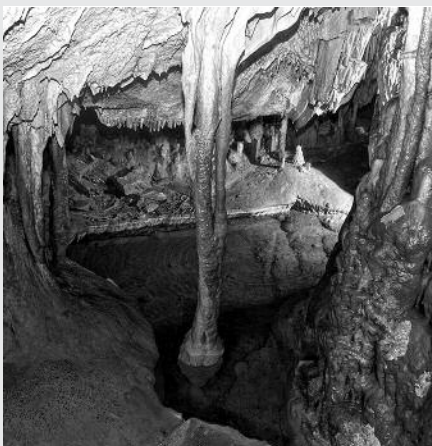
- Tea
- 1 box of Jell-O (the flavor you want the punch to be)
- 3 cups of sugar
- 1 large can concentrated orange juice, frozen
- 1 large can concentrated limeade, frozen
- 1 large can concentrated lemonade, frozen
- 1 large Dole pineapple juice
- 2-liter bottle Canada Dry ginger ale

Steep 4 cups strong tea. Allow to cool. Bring to boil 4 cups of water and remove from heat. Add 1 box Jell-O and 3 cups of sugar. Allow to cool.

Add orange juice, limeade, lemonade and pineapple juice.

Mix all the above together. Separate into three containers equally. Add water to make a ½ gallon each. When ready to serve, add 2-liter bottle of Canada Dry ginger ale.

## Local Spotlight: Gap Cave



Gap Cave is located in the Cumberland Gap National Historical Park. Formerly known as Cudjo's Cave, Gap Cave lies on the Virginia and Tennessee border and is located just below the Pinnacle Overlook Trail.

You can also join park rangers on an exciting two-hour adventure exploring this majestic underground cathedral! The 1.5-mile tour explores four levels of the cave and includes a 1-mile hike along the historic Wilderness Road.

For more information about Gap Cave tours, visit [www.nps.gov/cuga/planyourvisit/guidedtours.htm](http://www.nps.gov/cuga/planyourvisit/guidedtours.htm).



# An escape plan can save your family during a fire

Installing smoke and carbon monoxide detectors on every floor of your home — and replacing their batteries twice a year — is an important first step to keeping your family safe in the rare case of an electrical fire. But when that unexpected alarm sounds, your children can panic.

Before an emergency strikes, prepare your kids — and yourself — to respond calmly and sensibly. The best way to do that is to plan for what everyone should do and where everyone should go in case of a fire or gas leak.

Here's how to get started:

- Draw a map of the house's floor plan and outline the best escape route. Teach your children what to do if a doorway is blocked by fire. Create an alternate route, especially from the child's room or from areas of the house without easy access to the outdoors.

- Agree on a meeting place outside of the house so the family will immediately know when everyone is safe.
- Kids can memorize the familiar fire-safety drill: "Stop, drop and roll," but words alone won't keep them safe. Have children act out the moves. Then make a practice run through your escape routes and demonstrate to children how they should crawl and stay low to the ground to prevent smoke inhalation.
- If you have a fire extinguisher in the house, show children how to use it. Still, remind them that their safest action is to escape as quickly as possible.
- Keep a cellphone in a visible and easily accessible place in case of



emergencies. That way, you can get out of the house and then call 911.

- Don't waste time grabbing documents or keepsakes. Keep important or irreplaceable items like birth certificates and photo negatives in a fire-proof box or a safe deposit box at the bank.

## FIRE PREVENTION IT'S IN YOUR HANDS

From 2010 to 2014, the National Fire Protection Association estimated an average of 45,210 home fires caused by electrical failure or malfunction, resulting in an estimated 420 deaths, 1,370 injuries, and \$1.4 billion in property damage each year.

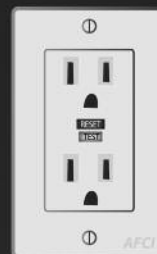


### PREVENTION

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The National Electrical Code has had 15 revisions since 1974, the year the average home was built. Is your home adequately protected?



AFCI breakers and receptacles protect against arc faults and can prevent the majority of electrical fires.

52%

of electrical fires are caused by an arc or short circuit.

1999

Was your home built before 1999? Call an electrician to ensure your home has AFCIs.



Any electrical maintenance should be performed by qualified electricians to ensure proper NEC and fire prevention standards.



EVERY SECOND COUNTS. PLAN 2 WAYS OUT.™

For more fire prevention tips visit [ESFI.org](http://ESFI.org)