



# Powell Valley Electric Cooperative News

*A message from your General Manager:*



Randell Meyers  
General Manager  
& CEO

## 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 [pve.coop](http://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  
Sneedville Area Supervisor

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

## 77 Cents of Every Dollar

**A**s many of us did, I challenged myself back in January to eat healthier this year. There are many benefits of a healthy diet: weight loss, more energy, reduced risk of cancer and even improved memory.

It's hard to argue against making smarter choices when it comes to the food we eat.

Unfortunately, one of my weaknesses is a good cheeseburger, and it so happens that there are restaurants near our office that serve very tasty burgers. These restaurants don't actually have a herd of cows out back. Their success depends on a quality supplier for their ground beef and other ingredients.

You may think that Powell Valley Electric Cooperative (PVEC) has little in common with a restaurant, and that's probably true, but we both need quality suppliers to be successful. We are best known for electricity, but we don't actually make it. We buy it — and we buy lots of it.

In 2018, PVEC purchased over \$46 million of electricity from our wholesale energy supplier, the Tennessee Valley Authority. TVA generates power and delivers it to each of our 10 electric substations located throughout our service area.

Our wholesale power cost, or the money we pay to TVA for power, represents our single largest expense. In fact, 77 cents of every dollar you pay on your monthly power bill goes directly to TVA.

Obviously, what happens at TVA matters.

In 2018, TVA's CEO Bill Johnson announced his retirement, and the TVA board is going through the process of selecting a new CEO. We expect an announcement to be made any day now, possibly even before you read this. The board's selection will have a significant impact on TVA, but it will also impact your co-op and your energy bill.

PVEC has been vocal to the TVA board regarding our expectations for the new CEO. We challenged the TVA board to select a candidate who understands the industry, the region and our not-for-profit model. More importantly, we challenged board members to select as CEO someone who shares our commitment to deliver safe, affordable and reliable energy to the people we serve.

Like successful restaurants care what goes on with their suppliers, we care about what happens at TVA. The benefits of making smart choices are significant.

—Randell W. Meyers

## Closing Notice

**Powell Valley Electric Cooperative offices will be closed April 19th in observance of Good Friday. Our best wishes to all of you for a blessed Easter! As always, PVEC dispatchers will be on duty throughout the holiday weekend to take your emergency calls.**





# 'A Cooperative Effort'

The comments that follow are from organizers of the Stand in the Gap Coalition. We have long recognized that low incomes and lack of resources in our area have been driving contributors to many of the social issues we are experiencing every day in our communities. At PVEC our mission is to improve the lives of those we serve, and we are constantly working toward ways to do just that, whether it is through economic development projects; our goal to provide broadband services to our members; or of course, providing reliable power at the lowest cost possible. Our involvement in the Coalition movement is another effort to help meet the needs of people in our area.

In the late summer of 2010, two people from Harrogate, Tennessee, drove 70 miles to Manchester, Kentucky, in Clay County to view a documentary called *Appalachian Dawn*. This documentary chronicled the desperate conditions of local people and communities of Appalachia due to a scourge of illicit and illegal drug activities in their region.

Much like many different communities of eastern Tennessee, Kentucky and southwestern Virginia, an area known as Appalachia, families were being torn apart, children losing their lives or their parents. It was a desperate time in the late 1990s and early 2000s. Clay County was known nationally as the "OxyContin Capitol" of America, a poor commentary on a land loved by generations of mountaineers.

After viewing the *Appalachian Dawn* video, our two people traveled back to Claiborne County with a heightened sense of urgency that a "cooperative effort" must be attempted to reclaim and restore the lands and communities of our Tri-State area from the ever-increasing influences of drug and alcohol abuse and the associated family violence that so often accompanies these activities.

With prayerful consideration, a visit was scheduled with Dr. Edwin Robertson of Harrogate, Tennessee, a well-known veterinarian and community activist, to explore the possibilities of raising up a group of local people who would stand together against the harmful activities of substance abuse in the Tri-State area around Cumberland Gap, Tennessee.

After several local showings of *Appalachian Dawn* and preliminary organizational meetings, a small group of volunteers started gathering in February 2011 on the Pinnacle Overlook of the Tri-State area from the Cumberland Gap National Park to prayerfully look for guidance in reclaiming and taking back our

lands and communities from the debilitating results of substance abuse in our communities, schools, churches and homes. The Stand in the Gap Coalition (SIGCO) was taking shape as a cooperative effort of local people dedicated to keeping our communities free of substance abuse. 2 Chronicles 7:14, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land," was the new foundational message. A "Healing of Our Land" was now a primary focus of SIGCO.

On Nov. 11, 2011, an estimated gathering of 8,000 Tri-State residents walked into the historic town of Cumberland Gap, Tennessee, wearing bright green T-shirts with "Stand in the Gap" logo and 2 Chronicles 7:14 in print. A low-hanging cloud against an otherwise blue sky was observed in the eastern sky that was in the form of a cross and seen as an unmistakable signature of confidence for this large gathering of Tri-State people who were willing to make this most important stand for their families and communities.

Several other public marches and walks sponsored by SIGCO have continued the visible and vocal support of our communities since November 2011, seeking to promote their desires for a safer, healthier and drug-free region. Notable in 2014 was the "Stand at the Cross" in Campbell County at the foot of the massive 100-foot cross along I-75 and just north of Caryville, Tennessee, where an estimated 3,000 people from across eastern Tennessee prayerfully walked over a mile to take a "Stand" against the scourge of drug and alcohol substance abuse that is plaguing our region.

In continuing this cooperative regional spirit, during the fall of 2018, the Stand in the Gap Coalition was extremely blessed to be offered an opportunity to move its office

location from Cumberland Gap, Tennessee, to the old Powell Valley Electric Cooperative (PVEC) main office building at 325 Straight Creek Road, New Tazewell, Tennessee.

A new era of cooperative effort will now be greatly enhanced because of this new location that is more centrally located to the SIGCO endeavors. Having a more opportune facility and floor plan, this new office will allow SIGCO the ability to conduct educational training on-site with our school-aged children and conduct prevention-awareness meetings for the various people of our Tri-State area.

The Stand in the Gap Coalition has been given another cooperative opportunity by receiving a new Prevention Coalition grant in November 2018 from the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (TDMHSAS), Nashville, Tennessee. In receiving this grant, SIGCO is now designated a Prevention Coalition. As such, SIGCO will cooperate and coordinate with local government, health department agencies, city and county law enforcement, school and educational programs and our faith-based communities. As a Prevention Coalition, SIGCO will promote and pursue three primary focus areas as defined by the TDMHSAS new grant. Specifically, binge drinking among 14- to 25-year-olds; tobacco use among 12- to 17-year-olds; and non-medical prescription drug use among all age groups.

2019 is poised to bring a variety of cooperative opportunities for the Stand in the Gap Coalition and residents of our Tri-State communities. SIGCO intends to take full advantage of this new year in concert with our many friends and concerned agencies. A most significant march into this new year is being made by the new association of SIGCO and PVEC through the opening of our new office spaces at 325 Straight Creek Road, New Tazewell, Tennessee. Now, the need for volunteers involved with the SIGCO programs is greater than ever!

Who are the "volunteers" at SIGCO? Folks from all walks of life and vocations, who have desires for a safer and healthier place to live, educate and grow our region's assets. Young people, parents, grandparents, pastors, teachers, all occupations and vocational backgrounds! Join up with this new cooperative venture of 2019 and become a team member with the Stand in the Gap Coalition. Call **(423) 300-1302** or email **Standtngap@gmail.com** and find your place in giving back to your communities!

# Maintaining the Cooperative's Rights-of-Way

Powell Valley Electric Cooperative (PVEC) has more than 3,500 miles of transmission and distribution power lines and has a responsibility to maintain its rights-of-way along those lines. After extensive evaluation, PVEC has determined that the best and most effective way to maintain its rights-of-way includes the herbicide ground-spraying program. The cooperative has been very pleased with the results of this program and believes that you will be impressed with the results as well. In 2016 and 2018, PVEC's spraying contractor treated the same miles of line. During the 2018 spraying season the amount of herbicides used to treat these same miles of line was reduced by almost 90 percent, which demonstrates our rights-of-way have improved and the program is on the right course as projected. PVEC has the responsibility to provide reliable and economical power to all consumers. This requires a good, clear right-of-way.

As a landowner you have the right to take care of your own property. If a landowner does not want herbicides used on his or her property, PVEC will provide the landowner the opportunity to clear his or her own property to PVEC's specifications. This clearing must be done at the property owner's expense. A landowner choosing to clear his or her own right-of-way must remember that working around power lines is extremely dangerous and should only be done by someone specially trained and qualified for that type of work.

Members affected by the 2019 right-of-way program will be notified through their electric bills. If you have questions or comments about this program, feel free to give us a call at your local area office — Jonesville (276) 346-6003, Sneedville (423) 733-2207 or Tazewell (423) 626-5204. This herbicide application is one of the many efforts used by PVEC to provide maximum reliability of service at the lowest possible rates.

## Sneedville Area Supervisor Joey Southern shares safety tips



You teach your kids to stay far away from power lines while they're playing outdoors in the spring and summer. Heed that advice when you're working in the yard or on the roof. Contact with a live wire can damage your equipment. Worse, if you happen to be touching the equipment when it touches the wire, you could get electrocuted.

Here are a few springtime safety tips:

- Don't move a ladder or any tall equipment within 15 feet of any power line. A ladder that tips over should easily clear the wire.
- For safety's sake, assume every wire is live. Do not assume the wire is a telephone or cable line. Call your electric cooperative to make absolutely sure.
- Never touch a branch if it is touching a wire. Report the situation to your electric cooperative and keep everyone away from it until help arrives.
- Don't work outdoors in the rain. You could slip and fall, causing your ladder or equipment — or yourself — to topple onto a power line.

## What's a-Cooking?

Ronnie Williams shares his wife Jeanine's recipe for Apple Dumplings. Ronnie has worked with the cooperative since 1974.

### Ingredients:

2 cans of croissants  
2 Granny Smith apples cut into 8 slices  
2 sticks of real butter  
1 ½ cups of sugar  
1 can of Mountain Dew  
Cinnamon

### Directions:

After apples are sliced, wrap each in a croissant. Place in an 11-inch-by-9-inch pan. Melt butter in a saucepan and then add sugar. Stir until sugar is dissolved and pour mixture over the croissants. Pour the can of Mountain Dew over the croissants and sprinkle with desired amount of cinnamon. Bake at 375 degrees for approximately 40-45 minutes or until croissants are golden brown.





## Change Your Clocks, Change Your Batteries

**T**he second Sunday in March will trigger Daylight Saving Time, when we “spring ahead” and set our clocks forward one hour. That’s also the best day to change the batteries in smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors — even if the batteries aren’t dead.

If you don’t have fire alarms and CO detectors, your family is at risk. The alarms will loudly warn you if smoke or gas is present in your home — so you can get out.

Carbon monoxide is a clear, odorless gas that is deadly but hard to detect. If you don’t have an alarm, it’s unlikely you will know if your home has a CO leak.

Carbon monoxide doesn’t come just from cars. Your gas furnace or stove is a potential source of the gas. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency offers these tips for poison prevention:

- Keep gas appliances properly adjusted.
- Use electric space heaters, not gas space heaters.
- Install an exhaust fan, vented to the outdoors, over a gas stove.
- Open flues when wood-burning fireplaces are in use.
- Choose properly sized wood stoves with tight-fitting doors that are certified to meet EPA emission standards.
- Have a trained professional inspect, clean and tune up your central heating system — including furnaces, flues and chimneys — annually. Repair leaks promptly.
- Do not idle your car inside the garage.

## Billing Corner

Looking for an easier way to manage your account? Look no further — use Powell Valley Electric Cooperative’s (PVEC) smart app to access your electric account. Look for PVEC in the Google Play Store or in the Apple App Store. The app is free to download and install.

As a customer you can view your bill, sign up for alerts and reminders, view account-payment history, pay a bill and more using PVEC’s mobile app. To view addresses, maps or phone numbers to our offices simply open the app and use the “Locations” link.

For more assistance with the mobile app, visit [pve.coop](http://pve.coop) and check out the Mobile App Support page, or contact your local PVEC office.

## Clean the Lint Trap — and More

It’s automatic for most people to wipe the lint out of the clothes dryer’s lint trap after every load of clothes. But that’s not enough to keep your dryer from becoming a fire hazard.

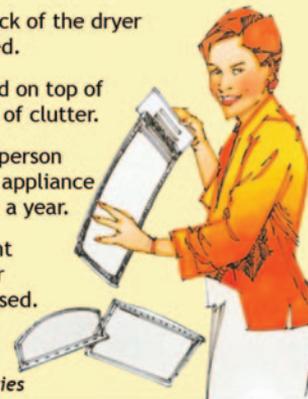
Here’s what else you can do:

- If your clothes are still damp when the dryer shuts off, it’s possible the machine’s exhaust duct is clogged or blocked. Don’t use the dryer again until you clear it.
- Clean the dryer vent and exhaust duct at least once a year. The duct is the coil that sends the hot dryer air to the outdoors. The vent is the hole where the hot air leaves the house. Both can get clogged with lint and overheat, send dirty, moist air back into your home, or even catch on fire. You might have to disconnect the exhaust duct from the dryer and from the vent to remove a blockage.
- Sweep behind your dryer regularly. Lint can accumulate there and also underneath. Move the dryer and clean the back of it. This might be a job for a service technician rather than one for a do-it-yourselfer.
- If your exhaust duct is plastic or foil, replace it with a rigid or corrugated, semi-rigid metal duct. Plastic and foil are too flexible and trap lint easily. They’re also easier to crush, which will prevent air from flowing through to the vent.
- Don’t throw gasoline-, oil- or chemical-soiled clothes and towels into the dryer. Wash them several times and line-dry them. If you have to use the dryer for them, choose the lowest setting, and remove them the minute the cycle is finished. Even washed-and-dried clothes that have come into contact with volatile chemicals can ignite. Instead, safely dispose of the clothes.

### Stay Safe, Energy Efficient, and Lint Free

For energy efficient and safe dryer performance, lint must be removed from the dryer and vent to allow air to circulate freely. Here are ways to avoid lint buildup:

- Clean the lint filter after each load.
- Occasionally remove the lint filter and clean it with a nylon brush and hot, soapy water.
- Periodically clean the back of the dryer where lint can be trapped.
- Keep the area around and on top of the dryer clean and free of clutter.
- Have a qualified service person clean the interior of the appliance and venting system once a year.
- Thoroughly clean the vent system if you notice your drying times have increased.



Source: Underwriters Laboratories