



# 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.*

## Stay serious about safety

Whether it is for work or for personal reasons, many people often need to travel by airplane.

At the start of each flight, the attendants give a safety demonstration. They show you what to do if the oxygen masks deploy, and they show you how to use a seatbelt.

Comedian Jerry Seinfeld has a funny routine about airline safety demonstrations. “They show you how to use a seatbelt,” he jokes, “in case you haven’t been in a car since 1965.”

The first time I traveled by plane, I listened to every word the flight attendant spoke as she gave the demonstration. Her words and instructions seemed very important. Today, however, the demonstration just blends into the other noises in the busy cabin, and many people move on to other activities like checking email or reading a magazine.

They have heard it before, so it hardly seems important.

Like the airlines, safety is serious business at Powell Valley Electric Cooperative.

Our lineworkers attend mandatory safety meetings each month, and complacency is something they’re cautioned about frequently. When you do the same things day after day, it is tempting to take shortcuts, but second chances are rare for lineworkers who accidentally come in contact with power lines. The consequences of mistakes are incredibly high.

We remind our employees to be “everyday safe” — to give each job the same care and attention to detail as they did on their first days at the co-op. We stress the importance of following

practices and procedures carefully and watching one another’s backs.

In addition to our employees, we also work to educate the general public about the dangers of being complacent around electricity. According to the Electrical Safety Foundation, thousands of people in the United States are critically injured or electrocuted each year as a result of electrical fires, accidents and shocks in their own homes. Many of these accidents are preventable.

May is National Electrical Safety Month — a time to educate yourself and your family about the dangers of electricity. Like our employees, we encourage you to be “everyday safe.” You can find great tips to do that on page 20 and online at [everydaysafe.org](http://everydaysafe.org).

I suspect our messages about electrical safety probably garner the same level of attention as travelers pay to flight attendants. It is just more noise that blends into the background of our already-busy lives.

Even though I seldom pay attention to airline safety demonstrations, I think I would know what to do if there were ever an emergency on a plane. I have heard the same thing enough that it has sunk in, and that is why we continue to talk about safety. It may not be very exciting, but it is incredibly important.

Now, sit back, relax and enjoy the rest of your day.

— Randell W. Meyers

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

Hancock County High School student Ellie Yount and Claiborne High School student Lucas Duncan were in Nashville March 3-6 for the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association's annual Youth Leadership Summit. The juniors were chosen by school guidance counselors and 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 members of the Tennessee General Assembly welcomed them. Summit attendees also held a mock session in the Senate Chambers, debating and voting

on bills. In addition to lawmakers, students heard from Tennessee leaders like Miss Tennessee 2018 Christine Williamson; Adam Hammond, anchor for Nashville's News Channel 5; and trooper Jeffrey Buchanan and K-9 Major with the Tennessee Executive Protection Detail.

The Youth Leadership Summit also included tours of Middle Tennessee Electric Membership Corporation in Murfreesboro and the Tennessee Valley Authority's Gallatin Steam Plant.

Delegates to the Youth Leadership Summit are encouraged to be leaders in their hometowns and use their talents to improve rural communities.

"Local electric co-ops, school officials and guidance counselors chose these deserving students to attend the summit



Above, from left: Sen. Frank Niceley, Ellie Yount, Lucas Duncan, PVEC employee Jessica Smith, Rep. Gary Hicks. Left, from left: Rep. Jerry Sexton, Lucas Duncan, Ellie Yount, Jessica Smith.

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, 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 member-owners," says Randall Meyers, general manager of Powell Valley Electric Cooperative. "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. The future of our rural communities depends on a new generation of strong leaders like these."

## 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 27. As always, cooperative dispatchers will be on duty to take your emergency calls. Have a happy and safe holiday.

## The Billing Corner

It's vacation time in Virginia! With warmer weather and summer break for our children, routines change and more time is spent away from home. Take a break from having to remember to pay your electric bill with the convenience of the many payment options we have available for all of our members. Automatic payments using checking/savings accounts or credit/debit cards can be set up using our smartphone apps (visit Google Play or the Apple App Store — search for PVEC), online on our website ([pve.coop](http://pve.coop)), or by contacting the billing department. As always, be sure to notify us if you have changed your telephone number or mailing address. We hope you enjoy your vacation time!

# 2019 Washington Youth Tour Writing Contest Winners

Powell Valley Electric Cooperative is pleased to announce the winners of the 2019 Washington Youth Tour Writing Contest. Winners will embark on what others before them have referred to as a “trip of a lifetime” — a weeklong, expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C.

Students wrote short stories competing for prizes, including a weeklong tour of Washington, D.C., cash awards and college scholarships. This year’s theme was “Electric Cooperatives: Connecting Communities.” 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.

Dustin Caleb Daniels, a J. Frank White Academy student, was the top winner. His 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 Brandon Meadows, Hancock County High School, second place; Blaine Caylor, Claiborne High School, third; and Kayla Pritchard, Cumberland Gap 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.



Dustin Caleb Daniels  
First-place winner



Brandon Meadows  
Second-place winner



Blaine Caylor  
Third-place winner



Kayla Pritchard  
Fourth-place winner



## Jonesville Area Supervisor Jason Stapleton shares safety tips

Electricity plays many roles in our lives, from powering baby monitors, cellphones and lighting, to running HVAC systems and appliances. No wonder we get so comfortable with its instant availability that when we flip a switch, we expect most systems or devices to do the job.

Since May is National Electrical Safety Month, it’s a great time to look around your home and check for potential safety hazards. Remember, every electrical device has a purpose and a service lifespan. While we can extend their operations with maintenance and care, none of them are designed to last or work forever. When electricity is involved, failures can present electrical hazards that might be avoided with periodic inspections.

### Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters

Outdoor outlets or those in potentially damp locations in a kitchen, bathroom or laundry room often include GFCI features. They are designed to sense abnormal current flows, breaking the circuit to prevent potential electric shocks from devices plugged into the outlets.

The average GFCI outlet is designed to last about 10 years, but in areas prone to electrical storms or power surges, they can wear out in five years or less. Check them frequently by pressing the red test button. Make sure you hit the black reset button when you are done. Contact a licensed electrician to replace any failing GFCI outlets.

### Loose or Damaged Outlets or Switches

Unstable electrical outlets or wall switches with signs of heat damage or discoloration can offer early warnings of potential shock or electrical fire hazards. Loose connections can allow electrical current arcing. If you see these warning signs, it may be time to contact an electrician.

### Surge Protectors

Power strips with surge protectors can help safeguard expensive equipment like televisions, home entertainment systems and computer components from power spikes. Voltage spikes are measured in joules, and surge protectors are rated for the number of joules they can effectively absorb. That means if your surge protector is rated at 1,000 joules, it should be replaced when it hits or passes that limit. When the limit is reached, protection stops, and you’re left with a basic power strip.

Some surge protectors include indicator lights that flicker to warn you when they’ve stopped working as designed, but many do not. If your electrical system takes a major hit, or if you don’t remember when you bought your surge protector, replacement may be the best option.

### Extension Cords

If you use extension cords regularly to connect devices and equipment to your wall outlets, you may live in an underwired home. With a growing number of electrical devices connecting your family, having enough outlets in just the right spots can be challenging. Remember, extension cords are designed for temporary, occasional or periodic use.

If an extension cord gets noticeably warm when in use, it could be undersized for the intended use. If it shows any signs of frayed, cracked or heat-damaged insulation, it should be replaced. If the grounding prong is missing, crimped or loose, a grounded cord will not provide the protection designed into its performance. And always make sure that extension cords used in outdoor or potentially damp locations are rated for exterior use.

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, approximately 51,000 electrical fires are reported each year in the United States, causing more than \$1.3 billion in annual property damage.

Electricity is an essential necessity for modern living. Keep these electrical safety tips in mind so that you can note any potential hazards before damage occurs.

# Bylaw Article on Nominations

On Saturday, Sept. 21, 2019, Powell Valley Electric Cooperative's annual meeting will be held at Thomas Walker High School in Ewing, Virginia.

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 p.m. on July 24, 2019.

## 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. The current interest rate is good through Sept. 30, 2019.

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

## What's a-Cooking?

Dakota Banks shares his wife Tabitha's recipe for Crockpot Chicken Dip. Dakota has worked in the Jonesville area since 2015.

### Ingredients:

- 1 pack boneless, skinless chicken breast
- 1 can of corn
- 1 can of black beans
- 1 stick of cream cheese
- 1 jar of salsa
- 1 pack of ranch dressing seasoning
- 1 pack of taco seasoning

### Directions:

Cook the chicken breast in boiling water on the stove until done. Mix the chicken, corn, black beans, cream cheese, salsa, ranch dressing seasoning and taco seasoning together in the crockpot. Cook on high for 10 to 15 minutes until mixed together. Enjoy with tortilla chips.



## School Visit

First Class Lineman Matt Rodgers met with students from the Alpha School located in New Tazewell, Tennessee. Students learned about electrical safety. Rodgers explained the safety measures that a lineman takes every day to stay safe. Students also watched Rodgers demonstrate how the cooperative's bucket truck operates.

