



Powell Valley Electric Cooperative News

A message from your General Manager:



Randell Meyers
General Manager
& CEO

POWELL VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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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

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.

Celebrate Our Communities

In July 1776, the Second Continental Congress voted to approve legal separation of the American colonies from Great Britain. Though we celebrate Independence Day on July 4, Congress actually voted to approve the resolution of independence in a closed session on July 2.

On July 3, John Adams, a member of the Continental Congress and later president, wrote to his wife Abigail: “The second day of July, 1776, will be the most memorable epoch in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more.”

Mr. Adams was right to say that July 2 was a truly monumental day in American history. However, it was two days later when Congress finalized the Declaration of Independence. The date on this heavily publicized document was July 4, and America has celebrated its independence on the 4th day of July ever since.

Regardless of the exact date, there is much to celebrate about America. As one of the world’s oldest democracies, our nation serves as a beacon of hope for the oppressed and demoralized.

I hope your pride in America extends to your local community as well. The America that we know best is right around us — the people, places, food and events that we encounter each day.

Join me in celebrating our communities. As Mr. Adams once said, America, including the communities we call home, is worthy of a little “pomp and parade.” I hope you have a safe and happy Independence Day.

— Randell W. Meyers

Nominees by Nominating Committee

On June 4, 2019, 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 4 — Allen Parkey
- District 5 — Dr. John Short
- District 9 — Gary Russell

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

TVA partnership awards STEM grants to Midway Elementary and Clinch School

The Tennessee Valley Authority, in partnership with Bicentennial Volunteers Incorporated (a TVA retiree organization), recently awarded \$5,000 dollars to Midway Elementary School and \$500 dollars to Clinch School for a STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) education project.

The grant award is a part of \$580,000 in competitive STEM grants awarded to 161 schools across TVA's seven-state service territory.

"Powell Valley Electric Cooperative would like to congratulate Midway Elementary School and Clinch School for being selected to receive funding for the STEM projects," said Randell Meyers, general manager of Powell Valley Electric Cooperative. "This is a great opportunity to promote STEM education in our local schools."

Across the valley, educators submitted projects large and small to further their STEM education initiatives in the classroom.

The competitive grant program provided teachers an opportunity to apply for funding up to \$5,000. Preference was given to grant applications that explored TVA's primary areas of focus: environment, energy, economic and career development



and community problem solving. Schools that receive grant funding must receive their power from a TVA distributor.

"The goal of the program was to help further STEM education across the valley," said Rachel Crickmar, TVA community

relations program manager. "We knew this program would be popular and competitive and now we're looking forward to seeing the impact these projects have."

A full list of the grant recipients can be found at tvastem.com.



PVEC visits local schools

Students at Clinch-Powell Head Start and TNT Primary had the opportunity to listen to presenters share information about several different occupations during "career day." Matt Rodgers (left) and Tyler DeBusk (inset), both first-class linemen at Powell Valley Electric Cooperative, discussed electrical safety 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.

The Billing Corner

Are you paying at the PVEC website?

Paying online using bill-pay services is a convenient and expedient way to pay monthly bills. Online payments may be made through personal banking bill-pay services or at the website of a business. When choosing to pay on the business website, extra care should be taken to ensure the website is the actual website of that business. Some websites that can take payments for Powell Valley Electric are actually only bill-pay services. Payments are received from these services, but there is a processing fee for using them, and payments are forwarded to us. The delivery of those payments may be delayed. In comparison, when you make your payment on our website (pve.coop) the payment is credited to your account immediately. Always read the "small print" on websites for statements like "... is not an affiliate of Powell Valley Electric Cooperative" to ensure you are on our website. Technology is a wonderful thing, but care needs to be taken when using the *World Wide Web!*

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.

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

If we can lower any of these — the number of **KWH** (kilowatt-hours) 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.
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!*



Tazewell Area Supervisor Ronnie Williams shares safety tips

Fireworks and the Fourth of July go hand-in-hand, and we want you to have a safe, fun-filled celebration! About two-thirds of all fireworks-related injuries occur between June 16 and July 16, so keep these safety tips in mind:

- Make sure fireworks are legal in your community before using them.
- Never buy professional-grade fireworks. They are not designed for safe consumer use.
- Keep small children a safe distance from all fireworks, including sparklers, which can burn at temperatures in excess of 2,000 degrees.
- Never reignite or handle malfunctioning fireworks. Keep a bucket of water or a garden hose nearby to thoroughly soak duds before throwing them away.
- Keep pets indoors and away from fireworks to avoid contact injuries or noise reactions.

What's a-Cooking?

Tyler DeBusk shares his wife Haley's recipe for Pistachio Fluff. Tyler has worked in the Tazewell area since 2007.

Ingredients

- 2 small boxes of pistachio instant pudding mix
- 16-oz. nonfat vanilla yogurt
- 16-oz. Cool Whip, thawed
- 15.25-oz. can crushed pineapple, drained
- 15-oz. can Mandarin oranges, drained and diced (or use a food processor)
- 2.25-oz. bag of pecan chips

First, combine the instant pudding mix and yogurt together, then add in all the remaining ingredients.

For best results, refrigerate overnight before serving.

Engineering Department

Last month, we shared with you information about how our Billing Department has changed throughout the years. Continuing with this trend, we would like to feature our Engineering Department. We understand how important service reliability is to our customers. The Engineering Department is one piece of the puzzle that helps in providing you, our members, reliable electricity at the lowest price possible. The Engineering Department is also responsible for planning the construction of new lines, as well as upgrading existing lines as needed.

New Service

If you decide that you need electricity run to a new location, then our staking engineer will meet with you to discuss your options. Once a decision is made, a work order is drawn, and after any applicable charges are paid, the order will be given to the construction crew. We can plot the new line with GPS and add this information to our Engineering Information System (EIS) and mapping system, which we can use to perform a system analysis of our electrical system.

Construction Work Plan

Periodically, Powell Valley Electric Cooperative (PVEC) develops work plans utilizing PVEC's system model to accurately determine the system upgrades that are essential to ensure reliable and economical operations for future load growth.

Pole Inspections

Strong, sturdy poles are the backbone of our electric distribution system. Poles may



From left, Brad Coppock, John McDaniel, Carl Hilton, Jean Giermann, David Minor

need to be replaced for reasons such as age or damage caused by weather or birds. Our pole inspector thoroughly inspects the poles along our electrical lines. If a pole is bad, an order will be created to replace this existing pole. By eliminating bad poles, when severe weather strikes, it is less likely that an outage caused by a broken pole will occur.

TWACS

TWACS is our Two-Way Automatic Communications System that provides readings for our Billing Department. Through this technology, we are able to communicate with your meter at any time. If you are experiencing an outage, we can request a reading from your meter. If a reading is available, we know that you have power to your meter. Another benefit of TWACS is the blink-count feature. By collecting daily blink counts, PVEC is able

to correct potential problems before they are realized by our members. Failing connections and tree limbs touching energized lines can be seen by the meter as a blink. Several blinks in a specific area alert PVEC personnel that there is a potential problem, and an order to investigate the cause is created. Many times we're able to correct a potential issue before it becomes a problem or outage to our members.

Water Heater Switches

The water heater switches allow us to reduce demand during our peak time. We have asked you before to help shift energy use to off-peak hours to lower our peak demand. By using our water heater switches, we help lower the peak load.

Meet the Engineering Department

Senior engineer Brad Coppock, P.E., works with the mapping system, compiles work plans and completes analyses of a variety of projects. David Minor is the senior staking engineer who stakes and draws orders of new electrical lines in the Tazewell area. Our records engineer, John McDaniel, works mainly with the TWACS system and water heater switch programs. Carl Hilton performs the duties of pole inspector. Jean Giermann, engineering clerk, creates orders for retirements, maintains the Engineering Information System and assists during power outages.



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