



# 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.*

## 80 Years and Counting

The history of your electric cooperative began in the fall of 1938 when, thanks to the dauntless efforts, determination and extraordinary foresight of local residents who had set their grand plan in motion only weeks earlier, Powell Valley Electric Cooperative, your electric cooperative, was issued a charter by the Virginia State Corporation Commission. Their mission was to bring electricity to areas that investor-owned utilities would not serve. Then, on Nov. 4, 1939, a monumental event took place — the local countryside began to be wondrously illuminated, and, as a result, the lives of rural residents would be enriched beyond measure, as would life for generations to follow! Most people cannot remember life without electricity and can only imagine the anticipation and excitement of what some have called an almost miraculous event — when the lights came on for the very first time.

Now, 80 years later, the importance of the role Powell Valley Electric Cooperative continues to play has not diminished; as a matter of fact, it's just the opposite. More and more folks have become increasingly

dependent on the high-quality product the cooperative delivers and the continued reliability of all the services it provides. The concept of everyday life without the blessings provided by electricity is not a scenario that we would even want to consider. As an example of how many people felt about getting electricity in their homes, here is a quote from *The Next Greatest Thing* of a farmer giving witness in a rural church in the early 1940s after getting electricity to his farm: "Brothers and sisters, I want to tell you this. The greatest thing on earth is to have the love of God in your heart, and the next greatest thing is to have electricity in your house."

This year we have been celebrating the cooperative's 80th year, and as we do, we reflect on the fascinating history that has had such an amazing impact on us all. We are excited about the cooperative's future and our new mission to provide access to broadband in our entire service area — what we believe is the "Next, next greatest thing!" We can only imagine what the next 80 years will bring!

— Randell W. Meyers

## 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!

# Outside Operations

At Powell Valley Electric Cooperative it is the normal order of business for employees to work diligently each day to keep reliable electricity available to you at the flip of a switch. A major part of the effort to do that is performed by the employees in outside operations. These are the employees who, during a typical day, literally build and maintain the distribution lines, transmission lines and the service lines to homes, businesses and other structures.

This process has changed tremendously over the years. In the early years at the co-op, poles were set by hand and linemen had to climb each pole. Although there are still times when we have to get creative using bulldozers and helicopters to set poles, today poles are mainly set using a derrick truck and much work is performed from a bucket truck. There are times, however, when you will still find our linemen climbing poles to restore your service or perform maintenance. These same men also connect and disconnect services, hang and repair security lights, and follow up if you have a problem with your service.

Our outside operations crews must work safely and efficiently because their lives and the lives of coworkers are on the line. There can be no slip-ups or careless actions. These men attend monthly safety and training meetings to reinforce safety rules and procedures that are needed to ensure a safe working environment.

Many days their work is pretty routine, but when severe weather strikes and interrupts service to your home, it is our outside crews who put their lives on the line. They are available when the phone rings at 2 a.m., when a little more sleep would be welcomed. Instead, these men

leave their families to ensure your power is restored as quickly and safely as possible. These employees are standing by to serve you 24 hours a day, every day of the week, including holidays and weekends.

Our service area is delineated into three districts: Jonesville, Sneedville and Tazewell.



Jonesville District, from left: Jason Stapleton, Dakota Banks, John Collins, Frankie Garrett, Chaz Garrett, Jamie Hughes, Jared Newton, Jeremy Blanken.



Sneedville District, from left: Nathan McFarland, Tracy Odom, Travis Harrison, Jake Rosenbalm, Joey Southern, Bobby Johnson.



Tazewell District, from left: Tony Mallicoat, Justin Robbins, Shane Bunch, Harold Gibbons, Matt Rodgers, Danny Sexton, Jerry Allen, Jessie Cupp, Danny Baker, Chris Rosenbalm, Tyler DeBusk, Brad Collins, David Smith. Not pictured: Dennis Collins, Jeremiah Day, Ronnie Williams.

## Holiday Closing Notice

Powell Valley Electric Cooperative offices will be closed Monday, Sept. 2, in observance of Labor Day.

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



# Local students visit capital on Washington Youth Tour

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Above, from left, Jessica Smith, Brandon Meadows, Ellie Yount, Blaine Caylor, Caleb Daniels, Curtis Massengill pose at the U.S. Capitol Building in Washington, D.C.

Students from Powell Valley Electric's service area spent a week in our nation's capital as delegates of the 2019 Washington Youth Tour. Caleb Daniels, J. Frank White Academy; Brandon Meadows and Ellie Yount, Hancock County High School; and Blaine Caylor, Claiborne High School, were among 135 students from across Tennessee on the weeklong trip that began Friday, June 14.

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 short stories titled "Electric Cooperatives — Connecting Communities" that explain how co-ops provide communities with much more than electric power.

"The Youth Tour is a unique opportunity for these young people to experience history and public policy up close and personal," says Randell Meyers, general manager for Powell Valley Electric Cooperative. "Tour delegates experience an exciting week visiting museums, monuments and other landmarks and learning about leadership, history and government."

"We take great pride in recognizing the best and brightest from across Tennessee," says Todd Blocker, vice president of member relations for the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association and tour director. "By honoring their accomplishments through programs like the Washington Youth Tour, we show these future leaders that their co-op cares about the future. We want these young people to come home with a better understanding of their nation and new passion to serve their community."

While in Washington, D.C., Tennessee's Youth Tour delegates saw the White House

## What's a Cooking?

Michael Watson shares his wife Ginger's recipe for **Garden Fresh Tomato Salsa**. Michael has worked with the cooperative since 1988.

### Ingredients:

Tomatoes (Romas work great, but any kind will do) enough to make about a gallon when chopped  
Cilantro, fresh is best  
Onion, cut into large pieces  
Peppers of choice, cut into large pieces  
Lime juice  
Salt



### Directions:

Fill a food processor half full with tomatoes that have been cut into large chunks. You do not have to peel them. Add 2 tablespoons fresh cilantro, a handful of cut onions and peppers. Process a few seconds until blended and chopped but still chunky. Empty into a large bowl and repeat three more times to make about a gallon.

Then add to that mix about 1 ½ tablespoons salt and 2-3 tablespoons lime juice and stir. Serve with tortilla chips.

If not using a food processor, simply chop all ingredients into large bowl to make about a gallon, then add the salt and lime juice.

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 and 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 fun stops included historic homes of former presidents — George Washington’s Mount Vernon and Jefferson’s Monticello — as well as Ford’s Theatre and a boat cruise down the Potomac River. The group also paid a solemn and sobering visit to Arlington National Cemetery where the delegates laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns.

For many, the highlight of the trip was hearing from Holocaust survivor Ms. Esther Starobin at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum. Her advice to the delegates is, “Don’t be a bystander in this world. You have to know history and pay attention to it. Get involved and learn as much as you can with more than a single viewpoint.”

The group was welcomed to the U.S. Capitol by Sens. Lamar Alexander and Marsha Blackburn and members of the Tennessee congressional delegation who posed for photos and answered questions.

President Lyndon Johnson inspired the Washington Youth Tour in 1957 when he encouraged electric cooperatives to send youths to the nation’s capital. In the years since, more than 6,000 young Tennesseans have been delegates on the Washington Youth Tour.

## The Billing Corner

# Levelized Billing takes the guesswork out of budgeting for your electric bill

Powell Valley Electric Cooperative offers a way to take the guesswork out of your monthly electric bill.

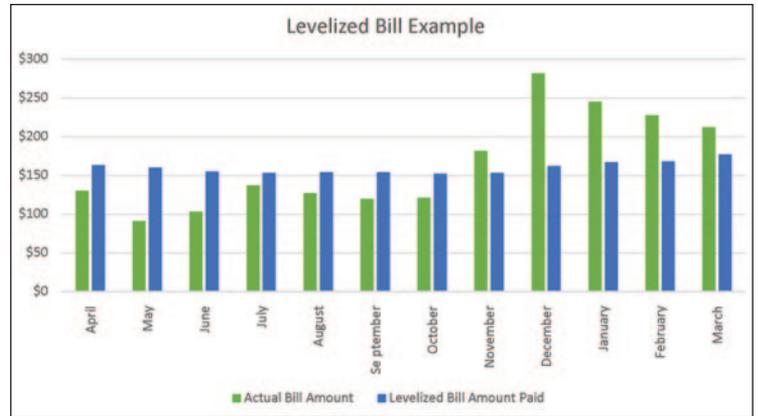
PVEC’s Levelized Billing Plan is a great option for those on a budget. One advantage of the plan is knowing the approximate amount of your bill, which allows you to plan ahead for that monthly expense.

Each month, your current month’s bill is combined with your previous 11 months’ bill to determine the average bill over the past 12 months. This rolling 12-month average makes your electric bills approximately the same each month. The bill amounts can vary a small amount each month.

The chart shows an example of an actual levelized bill over the past year. The green bars represent the

actual bill amount and the blue bars represent the levelized amount the customer actually paid. The highest bill during the 12-month history was in December. Instead of paying the bill amount of \$281, the customer paid \$162 due to the levelized bill amount. The remaining balance of that bill is accrued as an account balance that will be paid off during the months of lower usage.

Are you ready to sign up for Levelized Billing? Call your local PVEC office to find out more information about this program. In order to sign up for the program, participants must have an account balance of \$0.



## Jonesville Area Supervisor Jason Stapleton shares safety tips

We all know electricity plays a major role in our everyday lives, and it is a powerful resource that should be respected. Unfortunately, our children often do not understand the dangers of electricity. We encourage you to share electrical safety tips and lessons with your

little ones as often as possible. We also understand their attention spans run short, so here are a few creative ways to get them involved.

Depending on the age of your child, consider designating an “electronics deputy.” The deputy should be responsible for pointing out electronics in your home that are not in use and keeping appliances safe from liquids. Reward your deputy for pointing out overloaded outlets or other potentially dangerous situations.

Emphasize the importance of fire prevention with your children, and create a family fire drill plan as an extra precaution. Incentivize your children by rewarding those who followed the plan and made it safely out of the home.

While it is fun and engaging to turn safety into a game, it is important to ensure your children understand the risks they are facing if they do not practice electrical safety.

One of the most important safety tips you can give your kids is to avoid any downed power lines. In fact, it is best to avoid power lines, transformers and substations in general. A downed power line can still be energized, and it can also energize other objects, including fences and trees. Make sure your children understand the potential dangers of coming in contact with a downed power line or low hanging wire.

Here are a few other safety tips you can share with your children:

- Never put metal objects in outlets or appliances.
- Do not overcrowd electrical outlets.
- Never mix water and electricity.

No matter how you choose to get your kids interested in staying safe around electricity, we are here to help.