



## Holiday Closing Notice

Powell Valley Electric Cooperative offices will be closed Monday, Sept. 7, in observance of Labor Day.

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

Have a happy and safe holiday!



## Annual Meeting: Saturday, Sept. 19

### A message from your General Manager



Randell Meyers | General Manager & CEO

As the time grows near for this year's annual meeting, this September has a different feel to it from years past. We are in the midst of a pandemic, and almost everyone has been affected in some way by the COVID-19 virus. For some, it has been suffering through the illness with friends, family or self. For others, it has been the financial impact of economic shutdowns. Still for others, it is the closing of one school year and the start of another under different circumstances than previously experienced. "Lives have changed" is an understatement.

Our annual meetings are almost always held at the area high school, but due to restrictions and the need for social distancing, this year's Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, Sept. 19, at the Powell Valley Electric Cooperative main office in New Tazewell, Tenn. Registration will open at 9 a.m. and the business session will start at 11 a.m. Unlike previous years, the COVID-19 virus will impact this Annual Meeting in a number of ways. Out of concern for the health and well-being of our members and employees, and to still provide a full program for the Annual Meeting, the following changes have been made for this year's meeting:

- Director Elections will be conducted via Early Voting for five days preceding the Annual Meeting at the New Tazewell Office between 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. Voting will not take place the day of the Annual Meeting.
- Attendance will be limited to one person representing each membership.
- Those attending will be required to wear a mask, and social distancing is strongly advised during the event.
- Unfortunately, this year there will be no health fair, activities, lunch, door prizes or gift bags.

We have put much thought and consideration into putting together a meeting as close to normal as possible, given the current situation. On behalf of the directors, management and employees of Powell Valley Electric Cooperative, we appreciate your understanding and patience as we navigate these new circumstances. We look forward to returning next year to our more traditional annual meetings when we could freely fellowship and enjoy a celebration of this Cooperative's service to our community.

### CONTACT US

420 Straight Creek Road, P.O. Box 1528  
New Tazewell, TN 37824

### Office Hours

Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Web  Email  
pve.coop info@pve.coop

### Tazewell Office

Service Requests: 423-626-0707

Billing Inquiries: 423-626-0706

Outages/Trouble/Other Inquiries: 423-626-5204

### Jonesville Office

Service Requests/Billing Inquiries: 276-346-6003

Outages: 276-346-6065

Other Inquiries: 276-346-6016

### Sneedville Office

All Inquiries: 423-733-2207

### General Manager & CEO

Randell Meyers

### Tazewell Area Supervisor

Ronnie Williams

### Jonesville Area Supervisor

Jason Stapleton

### Sneedville Area Supervisor

Joey Southern

Powell Valley Electric Cooperative is an  
Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

## IMPORTANT NOTICE: Director Election

Voting for the election for directors will take place from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m. on Monday, Sept. 14, through Friday, Sept. 18, at Powell Valley Electric Cooperative's New Tazewell office. There will be no voting the day of the Annual Meeting. The results of the election will be announced during the business session.

Only the individual listed on the account will be permitted to register. For married couples, only one registration will be allowed between the couple, since it would only be one membership.

# OFFICIAL NOTICE

## ANNUAL MEETING ORDER OF BUSINESS POWELL VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ANNUAL MEETING

Sept. 19, 2020

Powell Valley Electric Cooperative  
New Tazewell Headquarters Office  
420 Straight Creek Road, New Tazewell, Tenn.

**Special Note:** Voting for the Election of Directors will take place the five (5) business days (09/14/2020 – 09/18/2020) prior to the Annual Meeting at the New Tazewell Office during the hours of 10 a.m. until 7 p.m. The results of the election will be announced at the Annual Meeting on September 19, 2020. CDC-recommended guidelines of social distancing and wearing of masks will be required.

### ANNUAL MEETING – SEPT. 19, 2020

9-11 a.m. Registration

**Special Note:** Attendance will be limited to one person representing each membership. Attendees will be required to wear masks and social distance during the event.

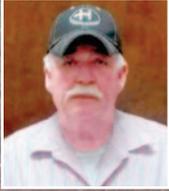
11 a.m. Call to Order – Roger Ball, President  
Invocation  
Reports  
Business Session – Roger Ball, President

### ANNUAL MEETING ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Report on number of members present.
2. Reading of the notice of the meeting and proof of the due publication or mailing thereof, or the waivers of notice of the meeting, as the case may be.
3. Reading of unapproved minutes of previous meetings of the members and the taking of necessary action thereon.
4. Presentation and consideration of, and acting upon, reports of officers, directors and committees.
5. Election of directors.
  - a. Report of Committee on Nominations. Pursuant to the Bylaws, the Board of Directors has appointed a Committee on Nominations. This Committee has met and nominated the following members for your consideration:
    - District 1 - Mikel Sharp
    - District 3 - Judith Robertson
    - District 6 - Dale McNiel
  - b. Report on nomination by petition. The following nomination was made by petition:
    - District 6 - Bill Surber
6. Unfinished business.
7. New business.
8. Adjournment.

/s/ Judith Robertson, Secretary

\*Any customer with special needs, i.e., ramp for access by wheelchair, etc., at the annual meeting location, please notify the cooperative at 423-626-5204.



## Farm Safety Tips

Joey Southern  
Sneedville Area Supervisor

**F**all is a fun time of year filled with pumpkin patches and corn mazes. It's also a time when farmers take to the fields to harvest crops before the cold winds of winter arrive. As another year of hard work comes to a close, Powell Valley Electric Cooperative encourages farmers to take a moment in this busy season to be aware of electrical hazards.

Even with today's more advanced farming equipment with GPS-guidance and auto-steering systems, it's still necessary for human eyes to watch for nearby power lines. Automated systems do not always recognize the location of electric poles and wires. Large equipment like combines, extension augers and the raised beds of grain trucks take up a lot of room, and it's possible to misjudge distances and hit power lines.

Powell Valley Electric Cooperative recommends that farm equipment be kept at least 10 feet away from power lines in all directions. It may be necessary to use a spotter to be sure that clearance is maintained while equipment is moving.

Farmers should never attempt to raise lines out of the way. If a line appears to be lower than normal or if you need assistance moving equipment while maintaining clearance, be sure to call us first.

If your equipment does make contact with electric lines, the safest place is in the cab of the vehicle. Call 911 and explain the situation. Warn others to stay away until utility crews arrive to cut the power. The only time you should leave the truck or equipment is if it's on fire. In that case, the same as if you're in an automobile accident in which power lines come down, it is imperative that you not have contact with the machinery and the ground at the same time. Jump free of the vehicle or equipment with your feet together and then continue to jump in that same manner until you are well clear of danger. You must keep your feet together so that one foot isn't closer to the energy source than the other.

The average American farmer feeds more than 150 people. Modern farmers produce twice the output as previous generations all while using less land, energy and water. Your contributions to our community and our country are critically important, and Powell Valley Electric Cooperative salutes you for the sacrifices you make to feed and clothe the rest of us. We wish you a safe and bountiful harvest this year.

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## Bright Lights for Long Nights

Outdoor lighting can have a significant impact on safety and security for both homes and businesses. As the days get shorter and the nights longer, this is a great time to consider outdoor lighting options from Powell Valley Electric Cooperative.

We also have affordable solutions for businesses and churches. Contact your local PVEC office for more information on our outdoor lighting program.

Improving lighting is a low-cost way to significantly improve the safety, security and overall comfort of your home, business or church. Effective lighting can bring the light of day to the darkest nights.

## Save Energy This Fall

While families spend more time at home, they use more electricity. Luckily, mild fall weather brings with it an opportunity to save energy without sacrificing comfort. Some tips:

- Take advantage of the sun's warmth. Once you no longer need to run the air conditioner, open the curtains on your home's south-facing windows to let in daylight. The natural heat will stave off the need to turn on the furnace for a while. Close the curtains at night so chilly air won't sneak into your home through exposed windows.
- Open windows on both sides of the home when it's warm enough. That will create a nice breeze indoors and help you air the house out.
- If you have drafty windows, fall is a good time to address the problem. Cover the windowpanes with clear plastic film or hang insulating drapes.
- Use caulk to seal around indoor holes in your exterior walls for electric lines, cables, plumbing pipes and phone wires. Do the same around windows and recessed light fixtures in ceilings.
- Keep the fireplace damper closed when you're not burning a fire.
- Keep a sweater handy. Sometimes it's just the solution to a chilly evening that comes too early in the season to run the heater.

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## What's a-Cooking?

Carl Hilton shares his wife Cindy's recipe for Corn Casserole. Carl has worked with the cooperative since 2008.

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 can cream corn
- 1 can whole kernel corn
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1 stick margarine, melted
- 1 small box Jiffy corn muffin mix

### DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Mix all ingredients in order given, ending with corn muffin mix. Bake in a 9-by-12-inch cake pan for 45 minutes.



## Four Ways to Be Cyber-Safe

**W**e all know the internet can be dangerous and scary, and we've all seen the lists of ideas for better cybersecurity.

The problem is, cybersecurity tips aren't helpful unless we act on them. Sure, we should use long passwords and change them regularly — but will we really do that?

This article includes four tips for making yourself safer from cyber scammers and hackers, but first, let's look at a few reasons that might encourage you to put those tips into action.

Be afraid. Be very afraid. Bad things really can happen on the internet. A smooth-talking con artist on the end of the phone can charm or bully you into revealing your Social Security number or credit card number, or malware can monitor your keyboard and capture your password to your favorite website. Criminals use this information to access your credit cards and bank accounts, especially if you use the same password for multiple accounts. Children can also be victimized by cyberbullying. Think about what's on your computer or your smartphone that you don't want to lose or give away. Keeping those dangers top of mind can help motivate you to take small steps to prevent them.

Make your own rules. When you see a good cyber-safety tip but don't think you'll really take the advice, figure out a way you might be able to put it into action. Maybe you're the kind of person who pays attention to a reminder note on your refrigerator. Maybe you know you won't keep track of different passwords on all your internet-connected devices, but you might be more likely to regularly update a strong password on the server in your home — that can be a good option if all your connections are coming through that one point of entry.

The time is now. Experts warn of a triple-threat these days. First, scammers are taking advantage of COVID-19

uncertainty, from offering phony cures and tests, to promises of financial assistance. Second, with more people working from home due to social distancing, there may be fewer office-based security measures in place. Third, the FBI warns that increased use of mobile banking offers more chances for cybercrime. And if you're the sort of person who thinks in terms of months, October is Cybersecurity Awareness Month, which can be a great time to act on this year's theme, "Do your part #BeCyberSmart — If You Connect It, Protect It."

So, here are four cybersecurity tips to keep you safe:

1. Use strong passwords. And change them regularly — many sites and apps make that easy to do by clicking on the "forgot your password" link. The best passwords are at least eight characters and include different types of characters — try using a memorable verse from your favorite song and adding a few numbers and special characters, (\$ ! \_ & ) or even a space. If you are like most people, remembering all your passwords is a challenge. Choose a security option based on the value of what you're protecting. The options you use to secure your bank and retirement account passwords might be different than how you store your social media passwords. Password apps keep them in one place and may be a great option for some passwords, but you can be in big trouble if you forget the password that lets you into that app. Keeping passwords on paper or in a notebook might be more secure than using the same password for everything, depending on how secure and hidden that paper is from other people at the office or kids at home.

2. Install software updates. Your apps and operating systems will periodically send updates. Install them — they often include protections against the latest security threats. But remember, those

updates come from the apps and not from emails or social media notices. An email containing an update may be a scam — instead of clicking on the link, go to the app's website to see if there really are updates available.

3. Use two-factor authentication. That phrase is just a fancy way of saying this technique adds an extra layer of security in addition to a password. Banks increasingly use this system — when you try to connect with them, the bank may text a code number to your phone that you type in to complete the sign-in process for your account. Keep in mind that answering a security question is similar to having a password — both are something you know. Answering a security question won't provide the same level of additional security as that of a second factor. A second factor will be something you have, like your phone to receive a passcode, or something you are, like a biometric fingerprint, in addition to something you know, like a password or security question.

4. Think before you click. Be wary of any offer or link that comes through the internet, whether by email or social media, or even a phone call instructing you to get online. Don't click on a link unless you know for certain what it is. Ideally, you should be expecting to receive the link. Even emails from friends should be suspect — hackers can impersonate someone you know to send a link or an attachment. Either can result in you downloading malware that can take control of your computer in ways you may not even be able to detect. If you have any doubt, whether it's a link to a software update or an attachment to a funny cat video, give the sender a phone call to find out if they really sent it or if it's a scam.

To take advantage of the great promise of the internet, we must also recognize the peril. These are relatively simple steps you can take now to keep yourself reasonably safe.