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### General Manager & CEO

Randell Meyers

### Tazewell Area Supervisor

Ronnie Williams

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### Sneedville Area Supervisor

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

## Co-ops Give Back

### A message from your General Manager

Randell Meyers | General Manager & CEO



Cooperatives around the globe adhere to the 7 Cooperative Principles that guide our activities — from how we run the co-op to how we engage with our local communities. Concern for Community is the seventh principle, and it is one that our team at Powell Valley Electric Cooperative takes seriously. As we approach the end of a challenging year, Concern for Community seems especially important.

Under normal circumstances, we show our concern for the communities we serve through economic development and support for local schools. These efforts have a meaningful impact on our communities and our future leaders.

This year, though, as the coronavirus pandemic impacted our communities in significant ways, our team sought out unique, meaningful ways for the co-op to serve. Many of these efforts were led by our employees and board, and it was inspiring to see how they worked to support their neighbors and friends in need.

Beginning in March, out of concern for our members who had been affected by the pandemic, we temporarily

suspended disconnects and late fees. We were able to assist many families when they needed it most. We continue to work on a case-by-case basis with those who are struggling to pay their energy bills.

Powell Valley Electric Cooperative partnered with the Tennessee Valley Authority to support families and businesses impacted by the pandemic. PVEC utilized the TVA COVID-19 Community Care Fund to contribute \$20,000 to the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Programs in the counties that are served by Powell Valley Electric Cooperative. The work of these groups ensures that people in our communities have access to food, housing and other urgent needs.

I'm glad to share that we are not alone. In fact, across the state, electric co-ops have given more than \$1.5 million to support their communities in 2020.

Concern for Community is a principle that drives co-ops, but, more importantly, it is a principle that drives our employees. I am fortunate to work with a team that truly has a passion for the people and places we serve.

## Holiday Closings

In observance of the upcoming holidays, PVEC offices will be closed on:

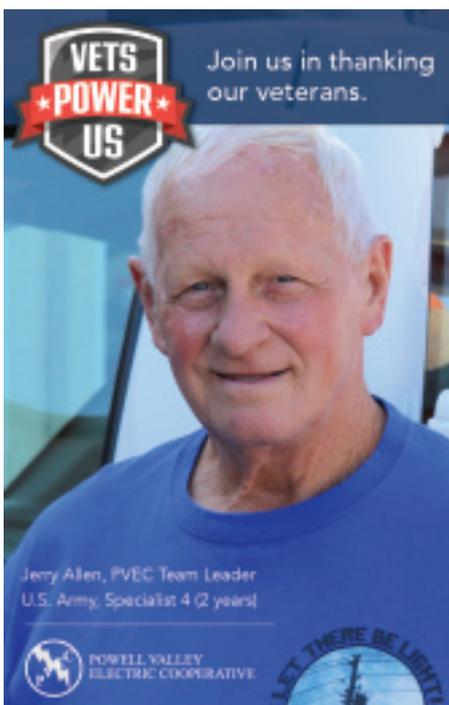
**Thanksgiving Day** – Thursday, Nov. 26

**Christmas Eve and Christmas Day** – Thursday, Dec. 24, and Friday, Dec. 25

**New Year's Day** – Friday, Jan. 1, 2021

As always, cooperative dispatchers will be on duty to take your emergency calls during the holidays.

Powell Valley Electric Cooperative's board of directors, management and employees wish you and your family a joyous and safe holiday season!



# 2020 Annual Meeting

PVEC General Manager & CEO Randell Meyers addresses members during the meeting.



This year's annual cooperative meeting was very different from those in the past. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, changes were made to the normal annual meeting program.

Board President Roger Ball welcomed those in attendance to the annual meeting and called the meeting to order. John McDaniel, assistant director of finance and benefit administration, gave the cooperative's annual financial report. Additionally, a report regarding the operations of the cooperative during the past year was given by the General Manager.

Highlights of the report presented to the membership by General Manager/CEO Randell Meyers follow:

This year's annual meeting is very different from any annual meeting we have ever had. For the first time in our lives we are experiencing a pandemic first hand. I never thought we would see a pandemic in my lifetime.

We have made a real effort to modify this year's annual meeting so that we can carry on the important business of the co-op. The program is as close to normal as we could plan it and still look out for your health and well-being.

Our program is scaled to a minimum, but will cover all the requirements. We regret we cannot have all the activities we've had in the past.

The scenario everywhere has changed, including at Powell Valley Electric. Lobbies are now reopened, but with new measures taken to protect our members and our employees. Also, out of caution and consideration for our

members and employees, the board implemented a full week of early voting for the director election.

This virus has changed the way we work, our families' lives, the way we educate our children — it has changed the world we live in. This is the new normal, and we're all working our way through it together.

We do have some good news to share coming out of this situation — the TVA Pandemic Relief Credit. TVA has implemented several different programs to address ongoing needs of the public during the pandemic. TVA has just approved a special \$200 million pandemic relief credit to help communities and businesses recover more quickly from the pandemic.

A 2.5% base rate credit to the wholesale power bill will be applied beginning in October and will remain in effect through the end of fiscal-year 2021 for all TVA customers. Your Board of Directors has made the decision to pass this credit directly to the members.

More good news is that our 10-year

forecast does not show that we will need any kind of rate increase.

Now to update you on other matters that I think are important to you. We'll start with PVEC Fiber.

We've made a good start toward fulfilling the commitment of the board, myself and employees to make broadband services available to all members throughout all the co-op's system. This past year, in partnership with Scott County Telephone Cooperative, we received a matching \$1.9 million grant to expand broadband services in the Sharps Chapel/Union County area. We also partnered to expand services in the Treadway area and in areas of Virginia.

As of this week, we have hung 275 miles of fiber. We now have 206 services connected, or scheduled to be connected in the near future, and about 25 Wi-Fi services at Norris Landing.

Dependable broadband is even more necessary now for our members, as more people work from home and our children are being educated at home. It

A PVEC member registers to early-vote for the 2020 director election.



# Shop Locally to Support Your Neighbors

One of the biggest casualties of the pandemic is the locally owned small business.

Do your part this holiday season to help them stay in business. Here's how:

**Stop ordering everything from Amazon.** Check on Main Street for businesses that sell the same items you buy online. Even if they're not open yet, they're probably taking online and telephone orders. Buy the bulk of your holiday gifts, decorations and food from locals.

**Go to farmer's markets.** Many of them stayed open during the pandemic, and now is the time to repay the favor. Some are allowing customers to pre-order. How great would a fresh turkey from a local farm taste during your Thanksgiving feasts? What could be better than fresh, locally grown vegetables as side dishes and pies homemade by someone with a business right down the street from your home?

**Shop for the holidays and beyond.** As long as you're shopping, think about the birthday and anniversary gifts you'll need over the next year – and buy them now. That way, you'll give some local businesses a boost when they need it the most. Plus, you'll be prepared when it's time to wrap those gifts up later.

**Invest in gift cards.** Buying gift cards now to spend once the economy improves infuses your favorite small business with cash at a time when it might be cash-strapped. You would spend the money anyway; why not do it in advance if you can afford it now?

**Order carry-out.** Start buying your morning coffee from a local café instead of from a national chain store. Find a favorite restaurant with outdoor dining and go there with your family whenever you're feeling like a socially distanced evening on the town. Pick up carry-out from a locally owned diner a little more often than you ordinarily would.

**Write a review.** Get on Yelp and on the website of your favorite businesses and talk them up. Online reviews go a long way toward attracting customers. It will take you just a minute to post a rave review that might just save someone who lives in your community from shuttering a neighborhood institution.



A PVEC member early-votes with social distancing measures in place.

## Annual Meeting (continued)

will take a few years to reach all members; PVEC is pursuing all avenues to provide reliable, high-speed internet.

Maintaining the right-of-way is one of the most important and vital measures that can be taken to ensure dependable, reliable service. We have over 3,500 miles of line to maintain, and we use a combination of methods to keep our rights-of-way clear and the lights burning.

As we have traditionally done, we contract with tree trimmers who cut and trim trees manually. This is still a necessary part of right-of-way maintenance. One of the best and most effective ways to maintain the right-of-way is the ground-spraying program. We do this work in cycles, and we've just completed this year's work.

As part of our efforts to reduce the risk of outages, this year for the first time, we retained a helicopter service to perform aerial saw right-of-way work on our system. The precision and skill involved in trimming the overhanging tree limbs away from the lines is really amazing, and the results have been very effective.

Keeping our rights-of-way clear is an ongoing challenge, but we are getting very good results using a combination of these three methods.

Last, we have an update on upgrades at our Sneedville and Jonesville facilities.

We are building a brand-new office and new warehousing facility in Sneedville, and building a new warehouse and garage in Jonesville, as

well as renovating the Jonesville office.

The construction of the new Sneedville office and warehouse are well underway and all the labor is being done in house. It is looking really good. We'll move on to the Jonesville upgrades when this work is finished.

This completes my report. I do want to say that regardless of the changes that lie ahead, we will continue to focus on — and renew — our commitment to improve the lives of the residents of the communities we serve by providing the best possible service at the lowest possible cost.

During the business session, presided over by Board President Roger Ball, incumbent directors Mikel Sharp, representing District 1, and Judith Robertson, representing District 3, were reelected to the Board of Directors without opposition. Early voting was held for five days prior to the annual meeting at the New Tazewell office. A representative of the Election Committee announced that Bill J. Surber III had won the election to Board District 6.

During the reorganizational meeting of the board, officers reelected were Roger Ball, president; David Kindle, vice president; and Judith Robertson, secretary-treasurer.

We look forward to being able to once again sharing fellowship with the cooperative's members. We appreciate your understanding and patience during this unprecedented time.



## Safety Tips

Jason Stapleton  
Jonesville Area Supervisor

If you're trying to save a little money by heating your most-used rooms rather than your whole house this fall, a space heater can do the trick.

But anyone who uses space heaters needs to pay attention to them.

The makers of space heaters have built in lots of safety features to ensure the devices that keep you toasty warm when the weather turns crisp don't become a fire hazard.

Here a few precautions to take to keep your home and family safe during space-heater weather:

- Space heaters are not designed to be your home's main heat source. They're best used as supplemental heat when you want to warm up a room while you're sitting in it.
- Choose a space heater with a safety label from UL and insist on one with a feature that automatically turns the device off if it tips over or overheats.

• Keep space heaters at least 3 feet away from drapes and furniture that could catch fire. Keep it far away from your Christmas tree.

• Don't use extension cords with space heaters. Move the heater closer to the outlet so you don't need one.

• Inspect the heater's cord periodically for frayed wire or damaged insulation. Don't use a space heater with a damaged cord.

• If the heater's plug gets hot, the problem could be inside the outlet. Call an electrician.

• Place your heater on a flat, level surface, never on upholstered furniture or a bed. The heater shouldn't wobble, which can cause it to tip over and catch something on fire.

• Unless the heater is designed for use outdoors or in bathrooms, don't use it in wet areas.

## What's a-Cooking? Baked Macaroni and Cheese

Kim Sandlin shares her recipe for baked macaroni and cheese. Kim has worked at PVEC since 2019.

### INGREDIENTS:

- 2 tablespoons butter
- 2 tablespoons all-purpose flour, sifted
- 2 cups milk
- 10-oz. block extra sharp cheddar cheese, shredded
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 6-oz colby jack cheese or three cheese in block form to be shredded, your preference
- ¼ teaspoon ground red pepper (optional)
- ½ (16-oz.) package elbow macaroni, cooked

### DIRECTIONS:

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Microwave milk on high for 1 1/2 minutes. Melt butter in large skillet. Whisk in flour until smooth. Cook, whisking constantly, for one minute. Gradually whisk in warm milk. Cook, whisking constantly, for five minutes, or until thickened. Whisk in cheese. Whisk in salt, black pepper, 6-oz shredded cheese, and, if desired, red pepper until smooth. Stir in pasta. Spoon pasta mixture into a lightly greased 2-quart baking dish. Top with extra sharp Cheddar cheese. Bake at 400 degrees for 20 minutes or until golden and bubbly.

### SPECIAL NOTES:

- Whisk warm milk into flour mixture to ensure a lump-free sauce.
- Shred your own cheese for a creamier texture.

## Winter Peak

Every month of the calendar year has a peak hour. Unlike PVEC's commercial accounts that are billed on their highest 30-minute demand, TVA bills PVEC for our highest 60-minute demand. Demand charges set during the 60-minute period influence PVEC's wholesale power bill. This is why we want to share with you information about the winter peak months.

The winter peak months, November through March, are here, so we want to offer tips for these months. Winter peaks are most likely to occur during the morning hours between 6 and 9 a.m. when you are getting ready for school or work. There are several things that we can do to lower the peak that will not change our way of life.



### HERE'S A FEW WAYS TO BEAT THE PEAK

1

#### Dial down the heat.

Adjust your home's thermostat down a degree or two between 6 and 9 a.m. After these peak hours, set your thermostat back to its normal setting.

2

#### Delay use of appliances.

Postpone certain household chores that involve major appliances like washing machines, clothes dryers and dishwashers. Wait until after 9 a.m. before doing laundry or washing dirty dishes.

3

#### Flip the switch.

Turn off all unnecessary lights during peak hours.