

Holiday Closings

In observance of the upcoming holidays, our offices will be closed on these days:

Nov. 25, Thanksgiving Day
Dec. 23-24, Christmas holidays
Dec. 31, New Year's holiday

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 would like to wish you and your family a joyous and safe holiday season!

Fiber Update as of 9/20/21

Miles of backbone - 1,399

Services Installed to the home - 1,720

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

pve.coop



Email

info@pve.coop

Tazewell Office

All Inquiries: 423-626-5204

Jonesville Office

All Inquiries: 276-346-6003

Sneedville Office

All Inquiries: 423-733-2207

General Manager

Brad Coppock

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.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR GENERAL MANAGER

Brad Coppock | General Manager



Annual Meeting 2021

This year's annual cooperative membership meeting was held at Hancock County High School in Sneedville, Tenn. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and to ensure the safety of our members, changes were once again made to the Annual Meeting program.

During registration, members had the opportunity to speak with a group of electric vehicle owners who shared information about the electric vehicles on display at the meeting. The meeting was called to order by Board President Roger Ball. The cooperative's director of accounting and finance, John Hoyle, presented the annual financial report. An additional 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, Brad Coppock, follow:

Just like last year, this year's annual meeting is very different from years prior to the pandemic. Last year, we met at the Tazewell warehouse to carry on the important business of the cooperative. As I stood in the warehouse, wearing a mask, looking over a very different crowd at our annual meeting than the previous years, I thought to myself, this is a once in a lifetime occurrence and we'll be back to normal next year. Little did I know, the pandemic would carry on into this year and continue to affect our daily lives in ways no one could have ever imagined.

I'm sure most of us in attendance today know of someone that has been impacted by the pandemic, and possibly lost someone close to you, and for that you have my sympathies.

As the last year and a half has demonstrated, we never know what tomorrow might bring in the way of challenges or opportunities. So, for the second year in a row, we've had to modify our meeting to protect the health and well-being of our members. Just like last year, our program has been scaled down, but will cover all the requirements.

So for now, our hope is that next year we will meet at Thomas Walker High School and, once again, be able to have our regular activities such as free health services, bucket truck rides, face painting for children, lunch and door prizes.

In the meantime, we must continue to take preventative measures while we conduct the business of the cooperative. Luckily, at our offices we have been able to keep our lobbies open to our members. We continue to frequently sanitize, social distance and stagger work schedules where possible. The virus may have changed how we work, our families' lives, and the way we educate our children, but it has not changed our commitment to serving the members of the cooperative.

Now, over the next few minutes, I will give an update on the status of the cooperative.

As John just reported, despite the lingering pandemic, your cooperative had a strong financial year. We also have a financial consultant look over our finances, and I'm happy to report the financial health of the cooperative will remain strong for the foreseeable future. I would like to talk about the net margins that John mentioned in his report. What does your cooperative do with those net margins? Well, the beauty of the public power model is the net margins

(continued on page 16)

will be invested back into the cooperative's system. And we do this in a couple of ways.

This past year, I'm pleased to report that along with our partners at TVA, we gave back \$40,000 to our communities to assist businesses and families affected by the pandemic. As of May, TVA and local power companies across the Tennessee Valley provided nearly \$8 million to organizations to assist efforts to help those most impacted by the pandemic. This was a tremendous accomplishment. Another way we invest these margins is by investing back into our infrastructure. We use these funds to upgrade substation equipment, our distribution lines, and we just completed a SCADA upgrade that allows us to communicate with our substations and over 60 downline devices on our distribution system such as reclosers, capacitors and voltage regulators. Also, we have recently started a 5-year project to upgrade our AMI (metering) system that allows us to read over 33,000 meters every day. These upgrades position your cooperative to provide the reliable service you've come to expect.

BROADBAND

We also use these margins to invest in broadband. As many of you know, your cooperative has partnered with Scott County Telephone Cooperative to form PVECFiber. This was to fulfill a commitment made by our board of directors to provide high-speed internet to all members throughout our service area. To date, we have hung over 1,300 miles of fiber and we have connected nearly 1,600 services.

Now more than ever, reliable high-speed internet is crucial for our members. Because of the pandemic, more adults are working from home, and more children are attending class from home. We are also working with Scott County Telephone Cooperative to obtain grants to offset the cost of deploying fiber. To date, our partnership has been awarded over \$7 million in grants, and we believe we'll be able to announce another \$3 million grant at the end of the month. It will take a few years to complete, but rest assured, we are pursuing all avenues to bring high-speed internet to all homes and businesses in our service area as quickly as possible.

Next we'll talk about our long-term partnership with TVA.

Last year, TVA approved a special \$200 million Pandemic Relief Credit to help communities and businesses recover more quickly from the pandemic; and, at last year's annual meeting it was announced that PVEC's board of directors had made the decision to pass this credit on to our members. That credit will end this month. However, TVA's board of directors approved an extension to this credit through fiscal year 2022. I'm happy to report, at the last Powell Valley board meeting, your Board of Directors has, once again, made the decision to pass this credit directly to the members. So that is great news for the members of our cooperative.

Last we have an update on upgrades at our Sneedville and Jonesville Facilities

The construction of our new Sneedville Office and a new warehouse is complete. It looks fantastic. Nearly all the labor was done in house. The lots have recently been paved and we're working on the landscaping. In the very near future, we will be planning a ribbon-cutting ceremony. If you haven't seen the new buildings, you should make the drive down on Jail Street. It's really something all our members should be proud of. This past year, building supplies and materials have been very difficult to come by, and there have been considerable delays, but we do still have plans for upgrades at our Jonesville facilities.

At this time, I'd like to thank the folks at the school for all their help and for allowing us to use their facility. We'd also like to thank those who arranged to have the electric cars on display, to the health department for their participation, and to Mitchel and Mike Cosby for providing the sound system. We appreciate all of you.

To our employees, I appreciate the job you do each and every day to serve our members. Throughout this pandemic you rose to the occasion to face any challenge that came our way, and remained committed to those we serve.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and myself, thank you for the fantastic job you have been doing.

To the Board, I want to personally say "thank you" on behalf of the employees for the job that you do, to make our job possible, as we all work together to serve our members.

At this time I'd like to recognize a

"This past year, I'm pleased to report that along with our partners at TVA, we gave back \$40,000 to our communities to assist businesses and families affected by the pandemic."

— Brad Coppock

person who played a very important role at the co-op and was instrumental through his guidance and vision in making Powell Valley Electric what it is today. That person is former General Manager and CEO Randell Meyers. So when you see Randell, on behalf of the board, the employees, and the members, please recognize him for his 57 years of dedicated service to the cooperative. Thank you, Randell — we appreciate you.

This completes my report. I would like to say, regardless of what lies ahead, we will continue to focus on our commitment to improve the lives of our members by providing the best possible service at the lowest possible price.

We were pleased to once again have with us David Callis, general manager of the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association, at this year's annual meeting.

We also welcomed Director Tracey Sharp, present for her first meeting as representative for Board District 1.

During the business session, presided over by Board President Roger Ball, incumbent directors Roger Ball, representing District 2; Mike Shockley, representing District 7; and David Kindle representing District 8, were reelected to the board of directors without opposition.

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

We look forward to once again be able to gather with you — members of the co-op community — to catch up, hear what you have to say and enjoy some good entertainment, food, and fellowship. Thank you for your continued patience and understanding as we work to continue to provide safe, reliable, affordable power during this pandemic.

Where You Charge Your EV May Not Be as Important as How It Looks and What It Costs

by Paul Wesslund

What electric cars need to become a top choice for American drivers is a nationwide network of charging stations to overcome fears of running out of juice on long trips.

Or maybe that's not true at all.

There are already nearly one-third as many charging sites in the U.S. as there are gas stations. And that doesn't even count the "refueling stations" found in the electric outlets of every home in America.

Plus, the range of electric cars already exceeds how far most people drive in a day. Ninety percent of Americans drive less than 45 miles a day, and the average range for electric vehicles is 250 miles.

The ballyhoo over charging stations has created a powerful conventional wisdom that they're a necessary step toward overcoming the "range anxiety" about getting stranded in the middle of nowhere. President Biden's American Jobs Plan proposes a national network of 500,000 charging stations by 2030, up from the Department of Energy's current count of 50,000.

But the conventional wisdom masks a different road ahead.

Range anxiety may be the least of the reasons there aren't more electric vehicles on the road, says Brian Sloboda, director of consumer solutions for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

"There are people who argue we need the charging network for the electric vehicle market to be successful. They might be right, but I'm not one of those people," says Sloboda. "Let's say your electric vehicle is only used for commuting and you're just driving it from your home to the grocery store to work. It is very likely that you would never even use public charging stations because you can charge your EV at home for a very reasonable price."

Sloboda is quick to list the advantages of electric vehicles, from how they affect the environment to their lower maintenance costs to the fact that you can wake up every morning with a full tank of "gas." But he sees bigger issues than a lack of charging stations standing in the way of greater acceptance.

He says, "You have limited model availability, limited body styles, limited manufacturers, high prices and most people are unfamiliar with the technology."

But Sloboda sees those problems as solvable. Right now, you'll pay about \$10,000 extra for an electric model. But those costs are coming down as batteries get cheaper and more powerful.



And competition is heating up. Every major car manufacturer has high-profile plans for electric models — Ford has announced an electric model of its popular F-150 pickup. Although electric vehicles make up less than 4% of the auto market, that's doubled from just one year ago.

Even if charging stations are not the most important determiner of the future of electric vehicles, they are a growing part of the landscape. To find the nearest charging station, a variety of apps will guide you. Many electric co-ops are also responding to the rising interest.

"Co-ops are looking at what they can do to support public charging," says Sloboda. "They do it to meet the needs of their members, but they also do it as economic development to bring tourists into the community to support local businesses like hotels and parks."

While trends point to strong growth for electric vehicles, forecasting the future of charging stations is trickier. It's not as easy as comparing the number of charging stations to gas stations. For one thing, people don't have a gasoline pump in their garage, which is essentially the case with an electric vehicle. And while an internal combustion engine might take 4 minutes for a fill, it could take more than an hour to recharge an electric vehicle.

"It's something everyone is wrestling with," says Sloboda. "But if you're truly interested in making the switch to electric, don't let the current charging infrastructure deter you."

Focus on your daily driving needs, your budget and read reviews from trusted sites like Consumer Reports, Motor Trend, and Car and Driver."

Paul Wesslund writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national trade association representing electric cooperatives in Virginia, Maryland and Delaware, and across the country.

Have a Yummy and Safe Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving dinner marks the start of the winter holidays and can be a time for family, fun and fabulous food.

It also creates a risk for kitchen fires, usually because of unattended cooking, the use of cooking fryers and the increase in the amount of baking and cooking.

Year-round, cooking starts more house fires and in-home injuries than any other activity. Increased cooking time around the holidays increases the chance of a fire.

Here are some tips for safe Thanksgiving meal prep from the National Fire Prevention Association:

- If the stovetop burners are turned on, you should be in the kitchen.
- Turkeys need to roast for hours. Check on yours often while the oven is working.
- Keep children three feet away from the hot stove. Not only could they burn themselves on a working burner, the splatter from steam, hot gravy and brewing coffee can harm them.
- Clean up before you cook. Too much clutter in the kitchen – especially near the stove or on the floor – can cause people to trip, hot food to spill and small appliances or pans to fall over.
- Don't leave knives out when you're not handling them. It might be inconvenient to take them out and put them away all day long, but that makes it harder for a child to pick one up or a cook's helper to accidentally brush against one.
- Candlelight adds ambiance to the Thanksgiving table, but don't light the candles until everyone is ready to sit down. And blow out the flames before you leave the room.
- Check the batteries in your home's smoke alarms. Simply push the test button and listen for the beep.



Safety Tips

Jason Stapleton
Jonesville Area Supervisor

They're right around the corner! Along with all the fun and family time the holidays bring some situations where electrical safety can be a concern.

To make sure Powell Valley Electric Cooperative members enjoy an injury-free holiday season, we want to share some reminders for the upcoming season.

- Be sure to inspect your indoor and outdoor light strands for broken sockets, frayed wires and loose connections. If it's time to replace your old lights with new ones, look for ones that have been approved by nationally recognized testing labs — and only buy from reputable retailers.
- If your philosophy is 'the more lights, the better,' avoid overloading outlets. And make sure you use the right kind of light strand for the right application. Lights rated for indoor use only feature a green holographic mark on the tag next to the plug, while a red mark indicates the lights are safe for both indoor and outdoor use.
- Outdoor lights should be plugged into ground fault circuit interrupter outlets. Use only heavy-duty extension cords outside, making note of the wattage rating of the cord as well as the power requirements of the lighted

decorations you're planning to plug into it.

- If a ladder is needed to hang your lights, use one that is made of a nonconductive material like wood or fiberglass — just to be on the safe side. And always unplug that amazing light display before you leave home or go to bed.
- Always plug space heaters into a wall outlet — not a power strip. Make sure space heaters are placed on the floor at least 3 feet away from flammable objects. If you're in the market for a new heater, look for UL-approved units that offer built-in shutoffs that automatically cut the power if they are tipped over or become too hot. And last but not least, never leave a space heater running in a room unattended.
- Always have someone on duty when cooking is underway; accidents can happen when stove burners or the oven is left unattended. Keep pot holders, dish towels and other flammable items away from heat sources. It should go without saying, but for those folks who opt for a deep-fried Thanksgiving turkey, never use an outdoor frying setup indoors — no matter how cold it is outside!

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 a.m. and 9 a.m. when you are getting ready for school and 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 a.m. 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.