



## Holiday Closings

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

- Nov. 23 – Thanksgiving Day
- Dec. 25-26 – Christmas holiday
- Jan. 1 – New Year's Day

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 Info as of 9/18/2023

Miles of backbone – 1,801  
Services installed to the home – 7,645

### CONTACT US

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New Tazewell, TN 37824

### Office Hours

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

### Web

pve.coop



### Email

info@pve.coop

### Jonesville Office

All Inquiries: 276-346-6003

### Sneedville Office

All Inquiries: 423-733-2207

### Tazewell Office

All Inquiries: 423-626-5204

### General Manager

Brad Coppock

### Director of Operations

Travis Tolliver

### Jonesville Area Supervisor

Jason Stapleton

### Sneedville Area Supervisor

Joey Southern

### Tazewell Area Supervisor

Tyler DeBusk

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



## 2023 Annual Meeting

Members from across Powell Valley Electric Cooperative's service area met for its annual meeting on Saturday, Sept. 16, at Claiborne High School. Attendees were served refreshments and enjoyed bluegrass music played by Tennessee 90.

Board President Roger Ball called the meeting to order, and cooperative employee Danny Sexton gave the invocation. John Hoyle, director of accounting and finance, presented the annual financial report. This report expounded on PVEC's financial stability and steady growth.

I gave an additional report addressing the cooperative's operations during the past year. Highlights of that report are as follows:

"It's good to see everyone out this morning, and it's certainly good to see our annual meeting getting back to normal with music playing, food and door prizes to be given away after the business session.

"This year wraps up the 84th year since the organization of your cooperative in the fall of 1938. This cooperative has an amazing history, and all of us who work for your cooperative are proud to be part of this great organization.

"Since our last annual meeting, we



## Manager's Message

*Brad Coppock  
General Manager*

have been faced with many challenges. Remembering back over the past few months, it seems we experienced windstorms every other week. We also had two F1 tornadoes that landed in Southwest Virginia this past May and the TVA mandated rolling blackouts during Winter Storm Elliot, but while we experienced these challenges, our cooperative has experienced growth and progress.

"Over the past year, your cooperative has seen growth in membership as families and businesses leave their home states and relocate to East Tennessee and Southwest Virginia. And although natural disasters and a foreign war have led to industry-wide material shortages, which has been driving up material cost and creating long delivery times, your cooperative has continued to meet the increasing demand for new electric services in a timely manner.

"Building new electric lines, and

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# Annual Meeting

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maintaining existing ones for reliability, are at the core of our business. Since our last annual meeting, your cooperative has installed or replaced approximately 600 transformers for nearly 900 new services. Construction crews have installed or replaced nearly 1,150 poles and built or re-conducted over 60 miles of overhead and underground lines.

“We are also in the third year of a five-year plan to upgrade our AMI system that allows the cooperative to read nearly 34,500 meters every day. We are also replacing aging equipment in our substations and on our distribution lines. In efforts to improve reliability, we continue to commit more resources to our right-of-way program. We are also making significant investments in cybersecurity to combat hackers who work to disrupt the daily business of the cooperative. The equipment upgrades, continued focus on keeping our rights-of-way clear and the significant investments in cybersecurity demonstrate your Cooperative’s commitment to provide the safe and reliable service you’ve come to expect.

“Broadband availability has also played a vital part of our cooperative’s growth. Now more than ever, reliable high-speed broadband is crucial for our members living or moving into unserved or underserved areas. As you know, your cooperative partnered with Scott County Telephone Cooperative to form PVECFiber to build a high-quality, reliable broadband network. This is a

costly endeavor, so we are working with our partners at Scott County to obtain grants to offset the cost of deploying fiber. Fortunately, Virginia, Tennessee and the federal government are making enormous investments to close the digital divide. Since last year’s annual meeting our partnership has been awarded approximately \$18 million in grants. In three years, PVECFiber has built over 1,800 miles of fiber backbone and installed high-speed broadband for nearly 8,000 families and businesses in our service area. It will probably take another year to complete, but rest assured, we are pursuing all avenues to bring affordable, high-speed broadband to all homes and businesses in our service area as quickly as possible.

“As John reported, your cooperative remains financially strong and well-equipped to handle the challenges that lie ahead. This past year, I’m pleased to report that along with our partners at TVA, we gave back \$22,000 to our communities to assist families having difficulty paying their electric bills.

“Next, we’ll talk about our long-term partnership with TVA.

“I’m sure many of you remember the record cold temperatures that Winter Storm Elliot brought to much of the country on Dec. 23rd and 24th. Our



Tennessee 90 provides entertainment.

power supplier, TVA, saw increased demand for energy with both TVA and your Cooperative setting new records for energy demand. The Tennessee Valley region needed more energy than TVA could generate, and when demand exceeds supply, catastrophic damage can occur to the power grid, resulting in long-term and widespread power outages.

“So, for the first time in TVA’s nearly 90-year history, they mandated rolling blackouts — twice in a 24-hour period. Cooperative employees sprang into action to manage the situation and our efforts minimized the impact on families, businesses and critical infrastructure. After Winter Storm Elliot, TVA determined that more generation is needed to meet the growing demand of the Tennessee Valley.

“Many have probably heard that TVA has announced a 4.5% increase to wholesale rates to build new generation assets. Moreover, TVA has also announced the elimination of the Pandemic Relief Credit; which, for the



Board President Roger Ball addresses the cooperative membership.



Youth Tour delegates Madison Lyons and Anna Evans attend the 2023 Annual Meeting.



Director of Accounting and Finance John Hoyle presents the annual financial report.



Delores Brownell of Tazewell wins the grand prize.

last three years, the PVEC Board of Directors voted to pass the Pandemic Relief Credit onto PVEC members, which resulted in lower energy bills.

“So, what does this mean to a residential member of the Cooperative? The 4.5% rate increase along with the elimination of the Pandemic Relief Credit will increase a typical residential member’s bill \$5 per month.

“Presently, many utilities are adding an increase on top of TVA’s wholesale rate increase, but I’m happy to report that your cooperative will not be adding a rate increase in addition to the one handed down by TVA.

“It is important to put these changes into context. Even with the increase, Powell Valley Electric Cooperative’s rates remain far below the national average. In June, the national average price for residential energy was 16.11 cents per kilowatt-hour, approximately 5 to 6 cents higher than PVEC’s average residential cost.

“While rates may change from time to time, one thing remains the same: We are committed to improving the lives of our members by providing the best possible service at the lowest possible price.

“I would like to thank Claiborne High School for allowing us to conduct the annual meeting here, and I’d like to thank Tennessee 90 for the great music.

“Also, we have two of the four winners of the Washington Youth Tour with us today. Please stand and be recognized: Madison Lyons from Clinch School and Anna Evans with J. Frank White

Academy. Congratulations on your successful essays. Also with us today is Robbie Ansary, who is the customer relations manager at TVA. Last, but certainly not least, we have with us Jim Robertson, member services manager, with the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives, located in Glen Allen, Va., of which your cooperative is a member.

“At this time, on behalf of the employees and myself, I’d like to thank the board for their leadership, support and guidance, and I’d like to thank the employees for their outstanding dedication in providing service to our members. They are the REAL power behind our electric cooperative.

“And THANK YOU for being with us for the 2023 Annual Meeting and allowing us the privilege to serve as your energy provider.”

Following this report, door prizes donated by vendors and local businesses were given to members. The grand prize of a Samsung TV was won by Delores Brownell of Tazewell, Tenn.

During the business session, presided over by Board President Roger Ball, incumbent directors Tracey Sharp, representing District 1; Judith Robertson, representing District 3; and Bill J. Surber representing District 6, were reelected to the board of directors without opposition.

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

## Safety Tips



Jason Stapleton  
Jonesville Area Supervisor

Sometimes, you just need a bit more heat in a room that doesn’t heat up as fast as the rest of the house. In that case, a space heater can solve your problem.

Still, use them with caution.

Space heaters are designed as a supplemental source of heat, not as the main source. So you shouldn’t use them constantly, especially in rooms that you don’t use much. Check your space heaters for an Underwriters Laboratories seal, and follow these guidelines for safely using it:

- Keep space heaters at least 3 feet away from drapes and furniture that could catch fire.
- Don’t use extension cords with space heaters unless absolutely necessary.
- Inspect the heater’s cord periodically for frayed wire or damaged insulation. Don’t use a space heater with a damaged cord.
- Check periodically for a secure plug/outlet fit. If the plug gets hot, the outlet may need to be replaced by a qualified electrician. This could be the sign of a home wiring issue.
- Place your heater on a flat, level surface. Don’t place heaters on furniture, as they may fall and break or even start a fire.
- Unless the heater is designed for use outdoors or in bathrooms, don’t use it in wet areas.



## Get Your Refrigerator Ready for the Holidays

As the holidays approach, your refrigerator is probably getting as full as you do at the Thanksgiving dinner table.

Can it handle the extra food you're storing? How about the constant use as everyone opens and closes it more often to find leftovers and cold drinks? If your fridge is more than a decade old, the holidays might be too much for it.

Consider replacing your old fridge before the holidays. This time, buy one that bears the Energy Star label, which means it uses at least 15% less energy than federal standards require, and 40% less than one that's been around for a decade or more, according to the Department of Energy.

More than 60 million households have refrigerators that are more than 10 years old, DOE says. By replacing it with a new, energy-efficient model, you could save up to \$300 in electricity charges over its lifetime.

When shopping for a new refrigerator or freezer, read the Energy Guide label. It tells you how many kilowatt-hours of electricity the unit will consume over a year of operation. The smaller the number, the better. Look for refrigerators that have a freezer on the bottom or the top, as side-by-side designs consume more energy. Chest freezers are typically better insulated than upright models.

Whether you're buying a new fridge this year or not, follow these tips for more efficient use around the holidays:

- Brush or vacuum your refrigerator's coils regularly to improve efficiency by as much as 30%.
- Keeping your refrigerator full shouldn't be hard this time of year, and doing so will help your unit retain cold better. If you have trouble keeping it stocked, fill the extra space with bottles or containers of water.
- If your milk is frosty in the morning, reduce the refrigerator's temperature.
- Refrigerators should be set between 36 degrees and 40 degrees Fahrenheit. Freezers should stay between 0 degrees and 5 degrees.
- Put a dollar bill in the door's seal to see if it is airtight. If the dollar slips out easily, so will cold air.



**E**very 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 from 6-9 a.m. when you are getting ready for school and work. There are several things we can do to lower the peak that will not change our way of life.

### HERE ARE A FEW WAYS TO BEAT THE PEAK

1. Dial down the heat. Adjust your home's thermostat down a degree or two from 6-9 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.

**PVECFiber Options**  
Leased wireless routers are available at an additional monthly fee of \$5.00.

Speed	Monthly Fee
100/100 Mbps	\$59.95 per month
500/500 Mbps	\$79.95 per month
700/700 Mbps	\$89.95 per month
1 Gig / 1 Gig	\$99.95 per month

Unlimited phone service is also available for \$24.99 per month.