



Powell Valley Electric Cooperative News

A message from your General Manager:



Randell Meyers
General Manager
& CEO

1,035 Years

We have 58 employees on the team here at Powell Valley Electric Cooperative. Combined, our employees have more than 1,035 years of service to our co-op and the communities we serve.

We have employees who have been with us for decades and some who have only been with us for a short time. We have employees who climb poles and others who work at computers. Some of our people build websites and others build regulator banks. We have employees who keep track of energy consumption and employees who keep track of nuts, bolts, poles and wires.

Regardless of the differences in their everyday jobs, the people on our team have a couple of things in common.

They are committed to safety. This is a dangerous business. Electric energy powers our modern conveniences, but it also can be deadly.

We provide our people with the equipment and training they need to be safe, but nothing is better than having someone watching your back. Our people look out for others on their crew and for the people in their communities.

They love the places we serve. To the people who work here the communities that we serve are not just places on a map. Our employees live here. We want to see these places succeed — not because it is good for the co-op — but because it is good for our families and the people we care about. Our loved ones work and live here, too, and that makes a difference.

They understand the communities and people we serve. Few people know more about the places we serve than our employees. Each day they talk with families and business owners, and they are up close and personal with the needs of the counties and people we get to serve. This awareness helps us as a co-op better respond to the needs of our consumers.

1,035 years is more than the total time that our employees have worked here. To me, it represents a deep commitment to improve everyday life for the people and places we serve. I am grateful for our employees who choose to get up each day and work to make the places we serve better.

These good folks are an asset to our co-op and our communities, and it is an honor to work alongside them each day.

— *Randell W. Meyers*

POWELL VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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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

You may also contact us at 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.*

REMINDERS:

- Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives' Education Scholarship deadline: Feb. 8th.
- Washington Youth Tour short-story contest deadline: March 1st.

Years-of-Service Awards

Cooperative employees were recently recognized and presented years-of-service awards in the company of their co-workers. Employees receive awards beginning with their fifth year of employment and at five-year intervals thereafter. Pictured are cooperative employees with PVEC General Manager/CEO Randell Meyers, as he presents their service awards.



Gerry Wright – 5 years of service



Tanya Sword – 15 years of service



Shane Bunch – 20 years of service



Dennis Collins – 20 years of service



Kyle Livesay – 20 years of service



Tony Mallicoat – 20 years of service



Jason Stapleton – 20 years of service



Tami Ledford – 30 years of service



Nathan McFarland – 5 years of service

Keep Warm, Save Energy

February can be hard on energy bills. But cold winter weather is no match for a home that is prepared to fight it. Address these common winter culprits throughout your house:

- **Drafty doors and windows.** An easy fix with a big payback is weather-stripping. Caulk or apply weather-stripping around all window and door seams, especially those leading to the basement or the attic. Weather-strip your attic-access door.
- **Dirty filters.** Dirty filters make your HVAC system work harder to heat the air. Aim to change the filter every three to six months.
- **Leaky ducts.** A contractor can test your ducts for leakage and repair any problems. Repair visible or accessible leaks with metal tape — not duct tape.
- **Chilly water heater.** If your water heater is older or not well insulated, wrap it in an insulating jacket.
- **Wood fireplace.** Traditional fireplaces pull heated air out of the house. When not in use, check that the damper is completely closed.

Linemen complete Journeyman Lineman requirements

Recently, employees of Powell Valley Electric Cooperative were presented with Journeyman Lineman certificates. These linemen have successfully completed

requirements of the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives' Line Technician Apprenticeship Program to become a Journeyman Lineman. We would

like to congratulate each of these men on his accomplishment. Area Supervisors Joey Southern, Jason Stapleton and Ronnie Williams present the graduates with their certificates.



Chaz Garrett and Jason Stapleton



Nathan McFarland and Joey Southern



Dakota Banks and Jason Stapleton



Travis Harrison and Joey Southern



Ronnie Williams and Matt Rogers



Jared Newton and Jason Stapleton



Jonesville Area Supervisor Jason Stapleton shares safety tips

Like any electrical appliance, personal space heaters need their space. It's especially important to locate space heaters pretty far away from anything that could catch on fire. Although the handy

appliances come with lots of safety features, it's up to you to make sure they don't get close enough to catch something on fire.

Here's how important that is: The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates that more than 25,000 residential fires every year are associated with the use of space heaters, causing more than 300 deaths.

To use a space heater safely, use it wisely. Follow these tips for smart use:

- Stick with space heaters that carry the UL mark. Those models will offer the most current safety features.

- Keep all objects, bedding, people and pets at least 36 inches away from the space heater.
- Replace your space heater if it seems to short out or if the electrical cord is frayed or otherwise damaged.
- Look for safety features like automatic shut-off in case the device tips over.
- Place your heater on the floor, not on a stand or a desk where it could get knocked over.
- Choose a space heater with a thermostat to avoid overheating the room.
- Oversized heaters waste energy. Buy the correct-sized heater for the room.

What's a-Cooking?

Jessica Smith shares her grandmother's cheese potatoes recipe. Jessica has been employed in the Tazewell area since 2012.

Ingredients

Potatoes (peeled and sliced)	1 tablespoon butter
1 cup milk	6-7 slices of your choice of cheese
1 heaping tablespoon flour	salt

Cheese sauce

In a double boiler whisk the milk, flour and butter constantly until sauce begins to thicken. Add sliced cheese and stir until cheese melts.

Cook potatoes until almost done. Pour drained potatoes into a greased casserole dish and salt according to taste. Pour sauce over the potatoes making sure all potatoes are covered with sauce. Bake in oven at 400 degrees until bubbly and the potatoes begin to brown.

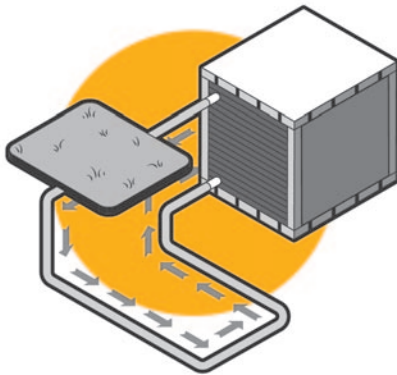
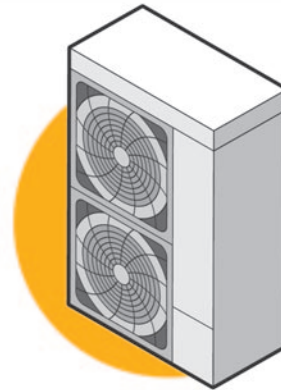
Types of Heat Pumps

There are three main types of heat pump systems. Use the information below to determine the system that's best suited for your climate and home.

Air-Source Heat Pumps

- Most commonly used heat pumps
- Moves heat rather than converting it from a fuel like combustion heating systems do
- Can reduce heating costs by about 50 percent when compared to baseboard heaters or electric furnaces
- Newer, more efficient systems now represent a legitimate space heating alternative in colder regions like the Northeast and Midwest.

Note: If temperatures in your area drop below 10 to 25 F, you will need an auxiliary heating system (depending on the size of the system).

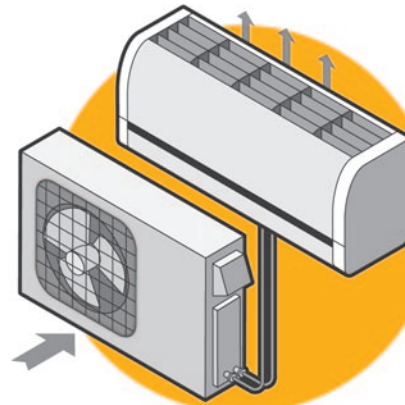


Geothermal Heat Pumps

- More expensive to install but provide more energy savings for heating and cooling
- Move heat through pipes buried underground
- When compared to a conventional heating system, can reduce energy use by 25 to 50 percent
- Effective in extreme climates
- Not ideal for smaller lots and certain soil conditions

Ductless Mini-Split Heat Pumps

- Easier to install, quiet, small in size
- Flexible for heating and cooling individual rooms and smaller spaces
- No energy loss through ductwork, which accounts for more than 30 percent of a home's energy use for space heating/cooling.
- Installation can be pricey, but federal incentives may be available



Heat pump systems should be installed by a licensed professional. Contact your local electric cooperative for more information about options and potential incentives.

Sources: Dept. of Energy and Consumer Reports

