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General Manager & CEO

Randell Meyers

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

A message from your General Manager



Randell Meyers

General Manager & CEO

A strong co-op. A strong community.

In just a few months, the coronavirus has challenged our communities, nation and world in unprecedented ways. Both a public health and financial crisis, it seems that the impacts of COVID-19 will be with us for some time.

I am incredibly proud of the way our team at Powell Valley Electric Cooperative has responded to the virus. Even in the face of difficult restrictions designed to protect their health and the communities they serve, our people have met the challenges they faced with incredible resolve and determination to serve their friends and neighbors.

Likewise, it is uplifting to see the communities we serve rally to overcome our current difficulties. Local leaders, teachers, medical professionals, ministry leaders and others have stepped up to the plate, made the tough calls and provided compassion to those in need. When things needed to be done, you stepped up and did what was right.

Strong co-ops and strong communities have a few things in common.

WE ADAPT.

The challenges of the last few months are unlike anything most of us can remember. Businesses, schools, churches and factories all closed to keep people safe from the virus, and creativity was infectious. Small

businesses provided new options.

Teachers modified their curriculum and mailed it to their students. Ministers moved their church services online and have designed drive-in services. Even the co-op had to find new ways to provide the services our communities depend on. We are strong because we adapt to overcome the challenges we face.

WE CARE.

One of the unexpected blessings of the pandemic has been an outpouring of goodwill that has been shown in the communities that we serve. We are strong because we care about the people around us.

WE POWER ON.

Our communities are resilient. The people who live here are resilient. The employees of your co-op are resilient. When things are difficult or even frightening, we don't quit. We don't sit down and give up. We do the things that need to be done. We persevere. We power on.

Regardless of the challenges we face, I am confident that the people of northeast Tennessee and southwest Virginia will find ways to adapt, demonstrate boundless compassion and, above all, power on. A strong co-op. A strong community.

– Randell W. Meyers



Holiday Closing Notice

Powell Valley Electric Cooperative offices will be closed Friday, July 3, in observance of the Independence Day holiday. Have a safe and fun-filled holiday!

Energy Efficiency Tip for June



Home cooling makes up a large portion of your energy bills. Try to keep the difference between the temperature of your thermostat setting and the outside temperature to a minimum. The smaller the difference, the more energy you will save.

Local Students Earn Electric Co-op College Scholarships



Three area students have each earned \$1,000 college scholarships awarded by the Education Scholarship Foundation of the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives. They are:

- **Robert Burchett** of Jonesville, Va., a student at Lee High School.
- **Rylie Davis** of Tazewell, Tenn., a student at Claiborne High School.
- **Thomas Justice** of Cumberland Gap, Tenn., a student at Cumberland Gap High School.

The students were eligible for consideration because their parents are members of Powell Valley Electric Cooperative.

"We commend these students on their outstanding academic achievements," says Russell G. "Rusty" Brown, chair of the VMDAEC Education Scholarship Foundation Committee and vice chairman of the board of directors at Northern Neck Electric Cooperative. "Our electric cooperatives are delighted to provide support to these worthy students, as they represent a future generation of leaders in their communities."

Recipients are chosen based on a competitive screening process that considers both financial need and academic achievement. Applicants must be graduating seniors from either high school or home school in 2020.

They must also provide evidence of their acceptance into a post-high school educational institution or program. These grants can be used to pay for tuition, fees and books.

This year, the Foundation awarded 57 Worth Hudson scholarships to students who live in areas served by electric cooperatives in Delaware, Maryland and Virginia. The scholarships are named in honor of Hudson, the Foundation's first chairman.

Since 2001, the Foundation has provided approximately 780 scholarships totaling more than \$740,000 to aspiring college students as well as to the next generation of electric lineworkers.

The Foundation is funded through tax-deductible donations and bequests from individuals, proceeds from benefit fundraising events and CoBank's Sharing Success Program.

Safety Tips

From Sneedville Area Supervisor
Joey Southern



Most dads love power tools, and they're easy to find and order online. Help the father in your household celebrate Father's Day with the gift of a new tool – and some advice for using it safely.

Here are a few common-sense precautions to take when using electric tools:

- Read the instructions that come with the tool. Even if you have used similar tools in the past, heed safety warnings.
- Equip the garage, basement and outdoor outlets with ground-fault circuit interrupters before starting work in those areas. GFCIs can prevent a tool-user from getting shocked or even electrocuted, especially in areas that are prone to dampness.
- Inspect tools – even new ones – before and after using them. Wear and tear can damage tools. Damaged tools can catch on fire or malfunction in a way that can harm the user.
- Don't use power tools near gasoline, paint thinner or any other flammable liquids.
- Clean-up work areas so sawdust, shavings and other debris don't become a fire hazard.

We Need Your Current Phone Number

Please check the phone number listed on the detachable portion of your electric bill to make sure it is correct. We need your updated phone number to ensure that we continue to provide you with the most efficient service. To update your phone number, please choose one of the following options:



1. Enter your correct phone number on the bottom portion of your electric bill and return the stub when making your payment.
2. Call your local PVEC office and one of our customer service representatives will be happy to help you make this change.
3. Visit billing.pve.coop. If you currently have a User ID, simply click on "My Account" then "Account Profile." If you do not have a User ID, you will be required to create one.



eScore Self Audit

The eScore Self Audit is a home evaluation tool that allows customers to take an active role in saving energy in their homes. The tool assesses the home's energy use and then provides information on how to lower electric bills by becoming more energy efficient.

Complete the online audit and receive a personalized report to help identify opportunities to improve your home's energy efficiency. The report includes an action plan with suggested home improvements.

A free energy savings kit is mailed to all participants within 4-6 weeks of completion of the eScore Self Audit. The eScore Self Audit can be accessed by going to 2eScore.com and selecting the "eScore Self Audit" link on the right-hand side of the page or you may pick up a paper self-audit at your local PVEC office.

Electric Utilities and Environmental Groups Join Forces on an Innovative Energy Future

by Paul Wesslund

When it comes to electricity, it's time to think bigger. By looking at electricity in a new light, we can reveal surprising ways to make our lives better — from saving money to helping the environment.

Keith Dennis agrees with this approach. He works as vice president of consumer-member engagement for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. Over the past four years, he has been part of a group promoting an approach to electricity that unites utilities and environmental advocates; redefines the meaning of energy efficiency; and reduces costs. That new way of thinking is catching on.

It's called "beneficial electrification," a tongue twister that refashions our notion that electricity is something we buy to run our refrigerators and charge our phones. Instead, it's a concept that reveals new ways that energy can improve our quality of life from our everyday lives at home, to the more effective operation of the nation's electric grid.

ELECTRICITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL GOALS

Dennis explains beneficial electrification this way: Think about your gasoline-powered lawnmower. Maybe you love it. Maybe the size of your mowing job takes longer than a battery lasts. On the other hand, thinking through the advantages of an electric mower could uncover surprising reasons. No more gas cans to fill and store in a garage. You don't have to worry about gas fumes or yank a cord hoping the motor will start up this time. An electric mower is quieter, less intrusive on neighbors and family in the house or on the porch. From there the benefits go global. An idle mower plugged in for recharging becomes part

of the electric grid. In the future, with enough mowers plugged in, timing could be coordinated so the charging happens when people are using the least amount of electricity, maybe in the middle of the night. That would allow electric utilities to operate more efficiently, evening out electricity use over a 24-hour period. More immediately, and if you're concerned about the environmental effects of your energy use, more and more of your electricity is being generated by wind and solar energy.

That renewable energy trend is part of what led to one of the nation's leading environmental groups to become part of the beneficial electrification movement. The National Resources Defense Council has worked with NRECA to form the Beneficial Electrification League.

In 2018, the NRDC published a report outlining a broad plan to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions over the next 30 years. A key part of that plan calls for using electricity for a bigger share of our energy consumption — a lot more. The NRDC plan calls for increasing the electricity's contribution to all end-use energy from about 20% today to 45% in 2050.

The NRDC sees four main ways beneficial electrification can help reduce greenhouse gases:

1. Renewable fuels are generating a rapidly growing share of electricity, which means using more electricity

emits less greenhouse gases;

2. Electric cars are more efficient at converting energy into motion, plus, the increase of renewable energy to generate electricity means a rise in the share of electric cars would lead to a drop in greenhouse gas emissions;

3. Heat pumps are far more efficient than natural gas or oil furnaces, and other electric technologies in industry and new buildings can create more efficiencies;

4. The smart grid is a way of using digital technology to coordinate electricity use across the nation's power lines. Smart thermostats, electric water heaters and even electric vehicle batteries could be linked to make the most effective use of energy.

NRDC data shows that a more aggressive pursuit of energy efficiency, renewable energy, electrification of end uses and an enhanced power grid can indeed put the U.S. on the path to cutting its greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050.



CONSERVATION IS NOT EFFICIENCY

Dennis describes the NRDC's support of beneficial electrification, saying, "When they do the math, they find out that electrification of more things is the answer. It's one of the only pathways to a low-carbon future."

Dennis says that beneficial electrification shows the need to rethink what energy efficiency means. It's not conservation, he says. As initiatives like the federal government's Energy Star program help consumers save money on the most efficient electric products, and the advantages of beneficial electrification become more well-known, he says energy efficiency can actually mean using more electricity.

"When people talk about energy efficiency, they don't necessarily take into account the system-wide benefits of electricity," he says. "There's a big opportunity for electrification to meet many objectives: saving folks money; reducing environmental impact; increasing the quality of life and; helping the electric grid."

Electric co-ops, Dennis says, are especially well-suited to rethink the role of electricity. When electric co-ops were first formed in the 1930s, it wasn't to deliver electricity to areas without the service, but to improve the quality of life with the benefits electricity could bring.

"The idea of beneficial electrification is really in the DNA of electric co-ops," says Dennis. "Just like 80 years ago when they saw the chance to improve people's quality of life, today they're continuing to find ways to help people. It's second-nature to the co-ops."

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

Be Prepared for Summer Storms

Get your power-outage emergency kit ready now

Power outages can occur at any time of the year, whether a result of ice on power lines in the winter, spring storms that bring down trees on lines, car crashes that break poles or an errant squirrel that meets an untimely end. Power at the flick of a switch is something we take for granted, and we may be surprised how much our daily lives depend on a steady flow of electricity if the power goes out.

It's always a good plan to have an emergency-preparedness kit on hand, stocked with necessities that will help you make it through an extended power outage as safely and comfortably as possible. This is especially important if you know ahead of time that a power outage may be coming your way, such as when ice storms or tornadoes are predicted. Don't wait until the last minute to stock up on the essentials.

Some items to consider are water for drinking, cooking and sanitary needs; food that doesn't need to be cooked or that can be prepared on a camp stove or grill outside with proper ventilation; a manual can opener; an adequate supply of necessary medications and first-aid supplies; flashlights with batteries; candles and matches (keeping in mind

that you will need to practice the necessary safety precautions when using open flames); plenty of warm clothing, coverings and perhaps sleeping bags if it's winter; and radios or TVs that are battery-powered or powered by other means such as solar or hand crank. It is also important to keep your cellphones and power banks charged.

If you have a back-up generator, be sure that it is installed and operated properly. For details on how to operate a generator safely, read the guidelines provided by the U.S. Department of Energy: [energy.gov/ceser/activities/energy-security/emergency-preparedness/using-portable-emergency-generators-safely](https://www.energy.gov/ceser/activities/energy-security/emergency-preparedness/using-portable-emergency-generators-safely).

One item you might not think of but will be handy to have at the ready is the manufacturer's instructions on how to open your garage door manually. While it's understandable to want to protect your vehicle from damaging weather, you will also need to be able to get the car out if an emergency arises. Also, make sure your vehicle's gas tank is full in advance.

For more suggestions of items to include in an emergency-preparedness kit, contact Powell Valley Electric Cooperative or go to [redcross.org](https://www.redcross.org) and search for "survival kit."

