



Reminders



• Electric Cooperative Creative Writing and Scholarship Competition deadline: **March 1**



• Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives Education Scholarship deadline: **April 1**

Fiber Update Info

as of 1/17/2022

Miles of backbone – 1,664
Services installed to the home – 2,737

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

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Email

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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.*

Fulfilling Legacies

In a span of a few weeks, Powell Valley Electric Cooperative lost two great leaders, and each will be profoundly missed. The passing of one leader in the co-op family is difficult, so the passing of these two, following the passing of Director Mike Sharp a few months earlier, was hard to comprehend, almost unthinkable. The cooperative was deeply saddened by the passing of former General Manager Randell Meyers and Board Director John Short since the writing of the last magazine article. They were different individuals, each unique, but shined in their fields, and the cooperative was very fortunate to have benefitted from their combined gifts and contributions. They created a balance of



Manager's Message

Brad Coppock
General Manager

We appreciate everything the three of these men did. They were a lot alike in many ways, and still very different, with diverse talents and perspectives, each contributing in a very special way, but all working for the common good of the members of the co-op.

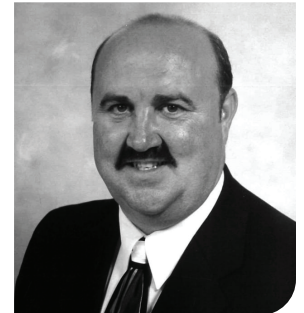
These men worked tirelessly for the cooperative, and from my perspective as general manager, I would have them know



Randell Meyers



Dr. John Short



Mike Sharp

personalities and talents. These individuals had a tremendous effect on the lives of the people in the communities in the cooperative's service area.

A "tribute" honors or acknowledges or shows respect for someone's accomplishments, and we feel it is fitting to use this space that is designated for my comments in tribute to them. You may read about Randell and Dr. Short in this magazine, two short pages, about their life and work. We wish to honor them by celebrating their memory and their legacies, their positive influences and the genuine good they did.

that we at the cooperative will continue with their work and will also do all we can to fulfill their legacies and the legacies and work of those before them. In tribute not only to them, but because we too are dedicated to the mission of the co-op, we will work toward fulfilling their visions for the co-op.

One promise we can make to them is that we will work toward completing the projects they were involved in, especially the broadband project. They shared a commitment of service to the community, and rest assured, we share that same commitment.

In Memoriam

A Man for the Ages

Dr. John A. Short

We do not think it's a stretch of the imagination to assign this description to Dr. Short. Part of the meaning of this expression is that this is someone who will be remembered for a long time, and we have no doubt this description fits him. What an impact he made on people's lives, in his service to his fellow man and to the community.

It is with most admiration and respect that we honor him and pay tribute to this most amazing man. Dr. Short, PVEC Board Director for the Sneedville District, was all about serving people, caring for people. Many tributes have been made to him, and we can hardly add anything different, only that the person we saw and worked with here at the cooperative for almost 20 years was exactly as the tributes described him. We can't say it any better, but we can reaffirm much of what has been written and said about him — “dedicated, went above and beyond, much beloved.” Yet, he was still a humble, gentle person who did not seem to realize the level of admiration and respect we had for him. His actions spoke volumes, along with the helpful hand and the gentle spirit. During his practice, he was honored as the Outstanding Practitioner of the Year by the Tennessee Primary Care Association and was recognized in the Heartland Series aired on TV as “Legend of the Country Doctor.” Almost unheard of in today's world, but practicing in the mountains of Hancock County, Dr. Short still made house calls to those patients unable to come into the office. His compassion for people was praiseworthy.

We at PVEC were saddened by the passing of our own Dr. Short this past month. What can we add to everything that's already been so eloquently said? Only that we, too, cared for



him and will miss him, and that for nearly 20 years he filled a very special place at the co-op. He was a dedicated member of the cooperative's Board and his efforts to serve its members were commendable. He was committed to fulfilling the cooperative's mission to improve the lives of the people in East Tennessee and Southwest Virginia by providing dependable and affordable power and by promoting efforts to overall improve the standard of living for the people of the region.

We thought it fitting that his friends paid their respects at the place where we are told he spent many hours relaxing and at peace. There at the river's side, out in the wide open, the people who cared about him and respected him and his family, stood patiently to honor him. Dr. Short touched so many lives and he will be missed by many people. We will always remember his friendship and his service to the cooperative, just a part of the legacy that will live on in the outstanding and exemplary work he did for his fellow man.

Years-of-Service Awards

Cooperative employees were recently recognized and presented years-of-service awards. Employees receive awards beginning with their fifth year of employment and at five-year intervals thereafter. Pictured are cooperative employees with PVEC General Manager Brad Coppock, as he presents their service awards.



Jeremiah Day – 5 years



Bradley Collins – 15 years



Lisa Tarver – 15 years



Jean Giermann – 20 years

In Memoriam

Saying ‘So Long’ to a Legend

Randell W. Meyers

He would be the first to tell us that “life goes on,” and indeed it does. The lights are still burning, which he would truly appreciate, and nothing on the surface has changed. But, just the same, saying goodbye was hard for many, as was witnessed by the hundreds of people who came to pay their final respects, regardless of the torrential rain that fell for hours.

On Dec. 26 one of the giants among leaders in the co-op family and in the community passed away. Having worked at PVEC for 57 years, he was among those who helped to make Powell Valley Electric the great organization that it is today. He possessed a wealth of knowledge and information, not just about Powell Valley Electric and the electric industry, but about the world around us.

They say he was a legend, and some say it is the end of an era. There are many stories told of Randell as a young man and his reputation and talents as a top-notch lineman. Whether fact or fiction, all were interesting. One was that he was so fast he could drop his hardhat from up atop a pole and scamper down to the ground and catch it before it hit the ground. (Randell laughed at that and said he was fast, but didn’t think he was ever that fast.)

In reality, Randell’s was the ultimate success story. He epitomized the work ethic of his generation. He started on ground level at PVEC as an apprentice lineman and moved up to serve in just about every operation and supervisory capacity, eventually becoming the co-op’s general manager and CEO. He was a visionary and worked with a visionary and progressive Board. He was proud, and rightly so, of the special projects that literally save the cooperative’s members millions of dollars on electric bills throughout the years.

Randell was also a community leader. He served on the Tazewell City Council and, in that capacity, once went to the U.S. Supreme Court. There, he fought for the right for Tazewell to purchase electricity from TVA and not from Kentucky-based utilities, which had a tremendous impact for the community.

A most unique and gifted man, we were honored to work with him and learn from him. He cared deeply about people; was always concerned about them, and had great compassion for their circumstances. Having grown up in humble beginnings, he very much identified with those that were struggling, and he desired to make their lives better.

He continued to be a visionary to the end, still looking forward, planning for the future, passionate about getting broadband to all the cooperative’s members. He believed it was what people, especially the children, truly needed in this area to keep up with the rest of the world, and he was still doing all he could do to make that happen.



At the conclusion of his service on Dec. 30, PVEC made a “final call” to Unit 54 over the radio. Of course, there was no answer from the man with the booming voice, the booming personality. But as the PVE dispatcher said, “Randell Meyers left a lasting imprint on PVEC,” adding that “All is well, and may he rest in peace.” Randell left a lasting legacy. He was a friend to many and will be missed.

They say he was a legend, and some say it is the end of an era.

Right: Meyers congratulates a member at a PVEC annual meeting.
Below: Meyers, fifth from right, joins other leaders at the U.S. Capitol.



Maintaining the Cooperative's Rights-of-Way

Powell Valley Electric Cooperative is responsible for maintaining the rights-of-way along its 3,500 miles of transmission and distribution power lines. After extensive evaluation, PVEC has determined that the best and most effective way to maintain its rights-of-way includes the herbicide ground-spraying program. The cooperative has been very pleased with the results of this program and believes that you, as co-op members, will be impressed with the results as well.

As a landowner, you have the right to take care of your own property. If a landowner does not want herbicides used on his or her property, PVEC will provide the landowner the opportunity to clear his or her own property to PVEC's specifications. This clearing must be done at the property owner's expense. A landowner choosing to clear his or her own right-of-way must remember that working around power lines is extremely dangerous and should only be done by someone specially trained and qualified for that type of work.

Members affected by the 2022 right-of-way program will be notified through their electric bills. If you have questions or comments about this program, feel free to give us a call at your local area office:

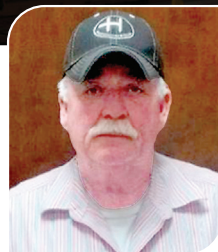
- Jonesville - 276-346-6003
- Sneedville - 423-733-2207
- Tazewell - 423-626-5204

This herbicide application is one of the many efforts used by PVEC to provide maximum reliability of service at the lowest possible rates.



Safety Tips

Joey Southern | Area Supervisor, Sneedville



There's a little bit of a do-it-yourselfer in everyone. But some projects are best left to professionals. Leave complicated jobs — especially those involving electricity — to the pros. Even the most seasoned handymen stay away from jobs that could put them in danger or start a fire.

- If you work with electricity, your tools need insulated grips.
- Switch off the circuit breaker that corresponds to the project you'll be working on.
- If you're repairing a lamp, appliance or other plugged-in device, unplug it before you start your work.
- Plug power tools into ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). That will prevent you from getting shocked.
- If you need an extension cord for your power tool, choose one with a cord that measures less than 100 feet.
- Water and electricity don't mix, so don't use power tools in wet areas.
- If you're drilling into a wall, check that you will not come into contact with electrical wires or water pipes.
- Shield your eyes and ears and suit up with heavy-duty gloves and other protective gear when you power up your tools.
- Wear sturdy, protective shoes and long pants when using power tools — even your lawn mower.