



## CONTACT US

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### Tazewell Office

Service Requests: 423-626-0707

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Outages/Trouble/Other Inquiries: 423-626-5204

### Jonesville Office

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Outages: 276-346-6065

Other Inquiries: 276-346-6016

### Sneedville Office

All Inquiries: 423-733-2207

### General Manager & CEO

Randell Meyers

### 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



*Randell Meyers*

*General Manager & CEO*

## Storm Safety

Electricity plays a vital role in our lives — from powering home appliances and cellphones to keeping factories and hospitals running. While electricity is incredibly useful, it can be dangerous. May is National Electrical Safety Month. This is a great time to look around your home to identify potential safety hazards.

I hope you will check out page 21 for some great electrical safety tips that are simple and easy steps you can take to make your home a safer place.

May is also the time of year that our crews pay a little more attention to the weather. Spring brings warmer temperatures and blooming flowers, but it also means increased possibilities of severe weather here in Virginia.

Please consider these tips to keep your family safe when severe weather threatens:

### BE PREPARED

Don't allow yourself to be caught off guard. Have a way to receive alerts when they are issued — either a NOAA Weather Radio or a cellphone that receives alerts. Postpone outdoor activities if thunderstorms are likely. Have a place prepared for you and your family to shelter when the need arises — you don't want to have to empty out a closet when time is of the essence. An emergency kit that includes a radio, flashlight, batteries,

first-aid kit and medicine should also be ready to go at a moment's notice.

### ACT QUICKLY

If you hear thunder, you are close enough to be in danger from lightning. If your area is under a severe weather watch, pay attention. If a warning is issued, act immediately. Take shelter in a substantial building or in an interior closet. Get out of mobile homes that might blow over in high winds. Shutter windows and close outside doors securely. Do not take a bath or use plumbing. If you are driving, exit the road and find a safe place to ride out the storm.

### BE SMART AFTER THE STORM

Be aware of hazards and debris left by the storm. Never touch downed power lines or anything in contact with downed lines. If it is dark when you are inspecting your home, use a flashlight rather than a candle to reduce the risk of fires or explosions. Be sure your family is safe, and then look for opportunities to help friends and neighbors.

Regardless of what the weather brings, our crews are prepared to respond 24 hours a day, seven days a week. We take seriously our responsibility to keep the power on and restore service quickly.

You can report an outage by calling your local PVEC office.

—Randell Meyers



## Closing Notice

On this Memorial Day, let us pause with reverence to remember those Americans who made the ultimate sacrifice for all of us, for our freedom and for our country's values.

In observance of Memorial Day, Powell Valley Electric Cooperative offices will be closed Monday, May 25. As always, cooperative dispatchers will be on duty to take your emergency calls. Have a happy and safe holiday.

## Heat Pump Financing Available

The Tennessee Valley Authority continues to offer heat pump financing for Powell Valley Electric Cooperative customers who qualify through the TVA's eScore program. The current interest rate is good through Oct. 31, 2020.

Call the Powell Valley Electric Cooperative office nearest you for details on this residential heat pump loan program.

# Claiborne and Cumberland Gap High Schools Awarded TVA STEM Education Grants



From left, Ashley Walker, Darian Sandifer, Dr. Linda Keck, David Hamilton, Jessica Smith, Danna Smith.

From left, Meredith Arnold, Mike Wilmoth, Jessica Smith, Dr. Linda Keck, Ashley Walker.

Claiborne High School and Cumberland Gap High School recently were awarded with \$5,000 grants by the Tennessee Valley Authority, in partnership with Bicentennial Volunteers Incorporated for a STEM (science, technology, education and math) education project.

Claiborne High School's large animal science class will partner with PDT Consultants to examine the use of Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology in livestock management. Cumberland Gap High School's auto collision repair class will incorporate use of the 3M Total Automotive Sanding System into its classes. Students will complete these courses with a familiarity of the newest technology available in these areas of the workforce.

"Powell Valley Electric Cooperative congratulates these schools on the continued investment in STEM education," says Randell Meyers, general manager of Powell Valley Electric Cooperative.

The grant award is a part of \$600,000 in competitive STEM grants awarded to 142 schools across TVA's service territory. The competitive grant program provided teachers an opportunity to apply for funding up to \$5,000, and preference was given to grant applications that explored TVA's primary areas of focus: environment, energy, economic, career development and community problem solving. Schools that receive grant

funding must receive their power from a TVA distributor.

"This is the second year we offered this program to the entire Valley and we saw a major increase in grant

applications this year," says Community Engagement and Senior Program Manager Rachel Crickmar. "There is a demand in the Valley for workforce development through STEM education, and I am proud of the way TVA and our retirees

are responding to that demand by supporting teachers in the classroom."

For additional information about the TVA STEM grants and to see a full list of recipients, visit: [tva.gov/Newsroom/Press-Releases/TVA-Partnership-Awards-600000-in-STEM-Grants](http://tva.gov/Newsroom/Press-Releases/TVA-Partnership-Awards-600000-in-STEM-Grants).

**\$600,000 was awarded to 142 schools in TVA service territory.**



PVEC Tazewell Area Supervisor Ronnie Williams (left) accepting the plaque from Rodney England of Woodlake.

## Woodlake Recognizes Powell Valley Electric Cooperative Employees

In appreciation of Powell Valley Electric Cooperative and the hard work of the employees, Rodney and James England of Woodlake Lodge, Golf and Country Club recently provided breakfast for PVEC employees.

"We are very proud of the hard work that our employees do on a daily basis," says Randell Meyers, general manager & CEO of Powell Valley Electric. "We truly appreciate this act of kindness shown to our employees."

Rodney England expressed his sincere

gratitude and appreciation for the dedication of PVEC employees who work hard every day to keep our community in power. He presented a plaque during the breakfast and read the inscription on the plaque: "We acknowledge the unwavering endurance of wind, rain, sleet, cold and darkness exhibited by the employees of the PVEC in order to provide comfort to those they serve. We therefore express our sincerely offered admiration and appreciation for your dedication and perseverance in this endeavor."



## 2020 Washington Youth Tour Writing Contest Winners

Powell Valley Electric Cooperative is pleased to announce the winners of the 2020 Washington Youth Tour Writing Contest. Winners were scheduled to embark on a weeklong, expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C.

Unfortunately, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has caused organizers to cancel the 2020 Youth Tour to safeguard the health of its more than 1,500 participants. The cancellation should not diminish the achievement of the youths who were tapped for the prestigious honor, as well as the many volunteer chaperones. They represent the best of their co-ops and we appreciate their commitment to Youth Tour.

Students wrote short stories competing for prizes, including a weeklong tour of Washington, D.C., cash awards and college scholarships. This year's theme was "Electric Cooperatives: The Power to Be." The short stories are judged by an outside source and scored based on originality, appropriate treatment of theme, knowledge of the subject, grammar and composition.

Alyssa Livesay, a Cumberland Gap High School student, was the top winner. Her story will also compete with the top stories from throughout Tennessee for \$3,000, \$2,000 and \$1,000 college scholarships sponsored by the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association. Other top winners were Olivia Nichols, J. Frank White Academy, second place; Daniel Gao, J. Frank White Academy, third; and Clarissa Trent, Claiborne High School, fourth.

We are proud to offer this amazing opportunity to the youth in our community. Congratulations to all of these students for their accomplishments.

## Bylaw Article on Nominations

On Saturday, Sept. 19, 2020, Powell Valley Electric Cooperative's annual meeting will be held at Claiborne High School in New Tazewell, Tennessee.

An important part of your annual meeting is the election of directors. Below is an excerpt from the cooperative's bylaws regarding nominations.

### Article IV. Directors, Section 4, Nominations.

*It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to appoint, not more than one hundred twenty (120) days before the date of a meeting of the members at which directors are to be elected, a committee on nominations consisting of not less than five (5) nor more than eleven (11) members who shall be selected so as to give equitable representation on the committee to the different districts delineated as director districts. No officer or member of the board of directors shall be appointed a member of such committee. The committee shall prepare and post at all the offices of the Cooperative, at least ninety (90) days before the meeting, a list of nominations for directors.*

*Any fifteen (15) or more members may make other nominations in writing over their signatures. Such nominations in writing are required to be in a cooperative office by 5:00 p.m. not less than sixty (60) days prior to the meeting.*

*The Secretary shall cause the said petition to be posted at the same places where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted. The Secretary shall cause to be mailed with the notice of the meeting a statement of the number of directors to be elected, showing separately the nominations made by petition, if any. Nominations to fill vacancies on the board of directors, and the election of the respective directors, shall be for the particular district or districts where the vacancy or vacancies exist or the term or terms thereof is expiring.*

This means that any nominations by petition are to be in a Powell Valley Electric Cooperative office not less than 60 days prior to the Cooperative's annual meeting. Nominations by petition, therefore, must be in one of Powell Valley Electric Cooperative's offices by 5 p.m. on July 22, 2020.



From left, Danna Smith, Jason Richards, Travis Tolliver, Chance Lail, Sherry Lail, Nick Epperson, Meredith Arnold.

## High School Career Presentation

Recently, GEAR UP TN students at Claiborne High School welcomed students from Cumberland Gap High School to campus as they hosted a presentation by PVEC's aerial right-of-way contractor, Treeline Helicopters. GEAR UP TN is a federally funded college access program that aims to expand the college-going culture and empower students to succeed. Some of the items discussed during the presentation included the following: the requirements to become a helicopter pilot; the training and employment opportunities available for those interested in the welding field; and the steps involved in developing a professional skill set and building a business literally from the ground up. We are proud to have been a part of this opportunity to provide occupational information for our future members.



## Jonesville Area Supervisor Jason Stapleton Shares Safety Tips

Powell Valley Electric Cooperative is celebrating National

Electrical Safety Month, and we want to challenge you to take a look around your home to identify and correct potential safety hazards.

Remember that every electrical device has a purpose and a service lifespan. While we can extend their operations with maintenance and care, none of them are designed to last or work forever. When electricity is involved, failures can present electrical hazards that might be avoided with periodic inspections. Here are a few places to start:

### GROUND FAULT CIRCUIT INTERRUPTERS

Outdoor outlets or those in potentially damp locations — kitchen, bathroom or laundry room — often include GFCI features. They are designed to sense abnormal current flows, breaking the circuit to prevent potential electric shocks from devices plugged into the outlets. The average GFCI outlet is designed to last about 10 years, but in areas prone to electrical storms or power surges, they can wear out in five years or less. Check them frequently by pressing the red test button. Make sure you hit the black reset button when you are done. Contact a licensed electrician to replace any failing GFCI outlets.

Unstable electrical outlets or wall switches with signs of heat damage or discoloration can offer early warnings of potential shock or electrical fire hazards. Loose connections can allow electrical current arcing. If you see these warning signs, it may be time to contact an electrician.

### SURGE PROTECTORS

Power strips with surge protectors can help safeguard expensive equipment like televisions, home entertainment systems and computer components from power spikes. Voltage spikes are measured in joules, and surge protectors are rated for the number of joules they can effectively absorb. That means if your surge protector is rated at

1,000 joules, it should be replaced when it hits or passes that limit. When the limit is reached, protection stops, and you're left with a basic power strip.

Some surge protectors include indicator lights that flicker to warn you when they've stopped working as designed, but many do not. If your electrical system takes a major hit or if you don't remember when you bought your surge protector, replacement may be the best option.

### EXTENSION CORDS

If you use extension cords regularly to connect devices and equipment to your wall outlets, you may live in an underwired home. With a growing number of electrical devices connecting your family to the electricity you get from Powell Valley Electric Cooperative, having enough outlets in just the right spots can be challenging. Remember that extension cords are designed for temporary, occasional or periodic use.

If an extension cord gets noticeably warm when in use, it could be undersized for the intended use. If it shows any signs of frayed, cracked or heat-damaged insulation, it should be replaced. If the grounding prong is missing, crimped or loose, a grounded cord will not provide the protection designed into its performance. And always make sure extension cords used in outdoor or potentially damp locations are rated for exterior use.

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, approximately 51,000 electrical fires are reported each year in the United States, causing more than \$1.3 billion in annual property damage.

Electricity is an essential necessity for modern living, and Powell Valley Electric Cooperative is committed to providing safe, reliable and affordable power to all our members. We hope you'll keep these electrical safety tips in mind so you can note any potential hazards before damage occurs.

Do you have questions about electrical safety? Give us a call, and we will do our best to answer your questions. You can also check out



## MAY IS NATIONAL MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH

### What's a-Cooking?

Jamie Hughes shares his wife Delores' recipe for Lucile Perry Lemon Dessert. Jamie has worked in the Jonesville area since 2007.

#### Crust Ingredients

- 1 cup self-rising flour
- 1 stick margarine
- ¼ cup brown sugar
- ½ cup chopped nuts (optional)

#### Filling Ingredients

- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 1 cup Cool Whip
- 8 oz. cream cheese

#### Topping Ingredients

- 2 small packages instant lemon pudding (or desired flavor)
- 2 ½ cups milk

#### Directions:

Combine ingredients for crust and press into a pan. Bake crust at 350 degrees for 15 minutes. Combine ingredients for the filling and spread on crust. Combine ingredients for the topping. Spread topping on the filling and refrigerate the dessert.