

## New TVA board takes office

Six new TVA board members took the oath of office on March 31 and joined two current board members in holding the first board meeting under a new governance structure approved by Congress and signed into law by President George W. Bush.

Under the old system three full-time board members governed TVA. The new governing structure will consist of nine part-time members and a chief operating officer. The legislation requires that at least seven of the nine board members be residents of TVA's service territory.

In its first item of business, the new board elected Knoxville businessman Bill Sansom as its new chairman. In addition to Sansom, other board appointees are Dennis Bottorff of Nashville; Don DePriest of Columbus, Miss.; Mike Duncan of Inez, Ky.; Howard Thrailkill of Huntsville, Ala.; and Susan Richardson Williams of Knoxville. The new members join existing board members Bill Baxter, who served as the last full-time TVA chairman, and Skila Harris. All the nominees have significant business and management experience and will help bring the TVA board in line with other corporations of TVA's scope, which was the intent of the legislation.

President Bush is expected to nominate a ninth board member soon. New board members will serve five-year terms, instead of the current nine-year terms.

The new board also appointed

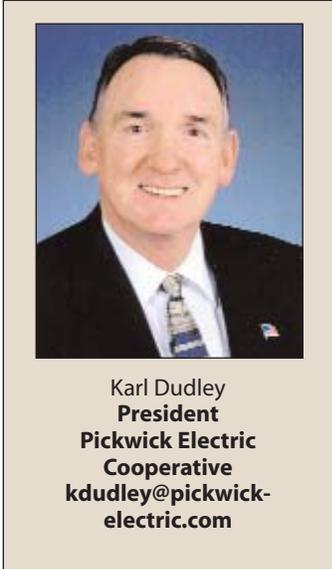
Officer Tom Kilgore as acting chief executive officer. Sansom made it clear that the board would leave day-to-day business to Kilgore and the TVA staff.

New board members have assured us that they will continue to listen to customers and employees, but the board will operate much differently because it will not be involved in day-to-day operations. We think this is a positive step to have a corporate board running TVA, making policies and determining strategy.

We are confident that the changes in the board structure will enable TVA to be more efficient and responsive, doing an even better job in the areas of energy, the environment and economic development. It will increase the breadth of expertise at the board level. The characteristics of the restructured board will help TVA as it transitions to a competitive marketplace.

As these changes occur, it is important to remember what is not changing: TVA's fundamental mission to improve the quality of life in the Tennessee Valley region by providing affordable and reliable electricity. TVA helps make the Valley a better place to live, work and raise a family. We look forward to working with new board members to advance that mission for the people of the Tennessee Valley.

TVA and the 158 utilities like Pickwick Electric Cooperative supply electricity to 8.5 million consumers in Tennessee and parts of Alabama, Mississippi, Kentucky, Georgia, Virginia and North Carolina.

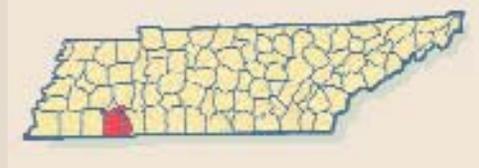


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President  
Pickwick Electric  
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## Pickwick Electric Cooperative

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These five pages contain local

news and information

for members of Pickwick

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## PEC supports McNairy County Foundation for Academic Excellence

Several years ago, Pickwick Electric Cooperative and TVA began an alliance with the McNairy County Foundation For Academic Excellence. The foundation was chartered in 1996 and is a private, non-profit charitable corporation. The goal of the foundation is to provide community support mechanisms to fund special initiatives and to provide positive messages about the importance of community support for education.

Each year the foundation awards grants to teachers who develop innovative programs and concepts to enhance the educational opportunities available for the leaders of tomorrow. Approximately 15 to 20 grants in the amount of \$500 each are awarded to classrooms based upon completion and merits of the proposal. These grants are competitive among teachers, and each grant application is submitted to the Education Department of Freed Hardeman University for evaluation.

“We believe that education begins with a firm foundation, but students in today’s world need more than the basics,” says Gene Herbert, chairman of McNairy County Foundation for Academic Excellence. “That’s where



**From left are PEC President Karl Dudley, TVA Customer Services Manager Kerry Brannon and McNairy County Foundation for Academic Excellence Chairperson Gene Hebert, who accepted contributions from PEC and TVA to the foundation. The commitment to education programs for young people throughout McNairy County is a priority for PEC and TVA.**

the foundation helps. The grants given to teachers provide funds earmarked specifically to underwrite the type of innovative instructional programs and teaching techniques that will give the students of McNairy County the edge in their fast-paced, highly competitive world. The foundation was established to work for years to come and currently has more than \$40,000 in our growing endowment. This endowment will continue to allow the foundation to spark excellence in our schools far into the future.”

Grants are awarded each year at the annual teachers appreciation breakfast at which the school system recognizes teachers and support personnel for years of service. In addition, outstanding teachers from each school in the county are recognized, and the McNairy County Outstanding Teacher receives a \$1,000 award sponsored by the foundation and funded by Henco Inc. and the Hendrix Educational Foundation.

Pickwick Electric Cooperative and TVA are proud to have supported the foundation since its inception. If you would like to support the foundation, please contact Gene Hebert at 645-3315 or 645-3255.

## What Makes a Dad

*God took the strength of a mountain,  
The majesty of a tree,  
The warmth of a summer sun,  
The calm of a quiet sea,  
The generous soul of nature,  
The comforting arm of night,  
The wisdom of the ages,  
The power of the eagle’s flight,*

*The joy of a morning in spring,  
The faith of a mustard seed,  
The patience of eternity,  
The depth of a family need,  
Then God combined these qualities,  
When there was nothing more to add,  
He knew His masterpiece was complete,  
And so, He called it ... Dad*



# 'Electric Cooperatives: Going beyond the Wires'

By Blake Browder, area winner of Pickwick Electric Cooperative

Flowing through the wires of Tennessee provided by your electric cooperatives is a bolt of electricity known as Volt. He goes from house to house providing electricity, and boy does he think he is hot stuff.

"I go to people's homes and give them electricity; if it wasn't for me, they couldn't make it through a day," he said. "I make almost everything they own work such as their stoves, refrigerators, televisions and almost everything else. They wouldn't know what to do without me. If their power went out, they would call the electric cooperative immediately."

Then one day it happened. A rural home's power went out and Volt couldn't get through. The electric cooperative sent a lineman who started working on the problem immediately, while Volt was waiting to get through. When the lineman fixed the problem, there was a surge of power, and Volt shot through and shocked him. When this happened, Volt saw the lineman's inner thoughts and could see many things flashing by him, but what stuck out were the pieces of information about the local electric cooperatives. He could see all the services they provide besides electricity. They offer a tremendous amount of programs and do many things for the community besides putting up poles and connecting wires.

"I had no idea I was such a small part of all the many things they do," Volt exclaimed. "They do so much for so little. They are a nonprofit organization and do a lot more than I do for the community. They hold essay contests for high school students and send them on an expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., if they win. They offer scholarships to students as well. They provide loans to businesses and help members and area organizations with special needs. They help sponsor local school sports teams and do safety demonstrations. The electric cooperatives also offer cash incentives to people who buy all-electric homes following energy-saving standards. Local co-ops address environmental concerns through the Green Power Switch and In Concert with the Environment programs. Green Power Switch offers customers the opportunity to buy blocks of electricity produced by "green" means such as wind,

solar and methane gas. In Concert with the Environment teaches children about the importance of conserving energy," he stated with a look of disbelief.

All this time Volt thought that he was what it was all about. He thought he was the cream of the crop, until now. He could not offer near as much as the electric cooperatives.

"The only thing I do is offer electricity; they go beyond the wires by offering so many different programs and scholarships, and the list just keeps going. There is no way I can compete with that."

After this incident he went back to what he had always done, providing everyone with electricity. But Volt didn't do it with as much enjoyment and enthusiasm as he did before. He felt a sadness come over him because he thought that he wasn't very important, that he held no real significance and did not stand out in the community.

Every time he thought about what he saw when he shocked the lineman, he tried to forget about it. As time went on, he thought about it more and more,

and one night while going around providing the electricity, a thought struck him.

"I understand now," he exclaimed.

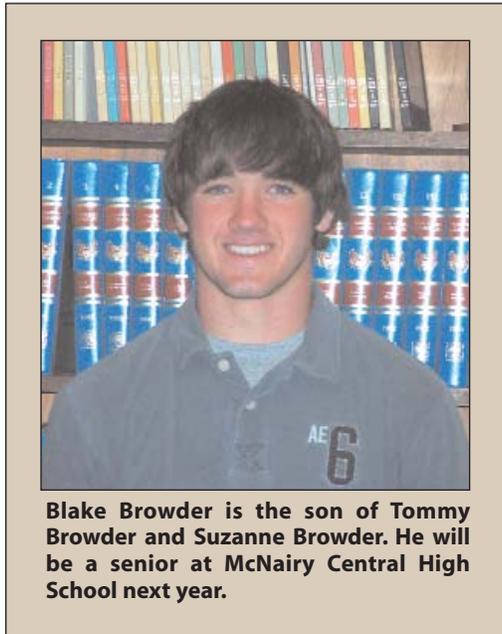
Volt realized he should not feel sad or down about himself at all. He should feel better than he had before. It finally hit him that he was a part of something much more special than just providing electricity.

"I should be the happiest bolt of electricity in the world. I was here when it first started. I am the building blocks of the electric cooperatives. I should be happy that they have grown into what they are today."

With this new-found excitement and joy of what he was doing, he beamed through peoples' houses and provided them with the best service possible.

"As our communities' needs grow, I know that the services of our local electric cooperative will grow right along with them."

Volt was finally happy again by just being a bolt of electricity. He continues to offer the most efficient electricity that money can buy.



**Blake Browder is the son of Tommy Browder and Suzanne Browder. He will be a senior at McNairy Central High School next year.**



# Larry Gage to retire with 37 years of service

When Larry Gage began his employment at Pickwick Electric Cooperative in April 1969, he had no idea he would spend the next 37 years at the same place. As he closes out his career on Wednesday, July 5, he says there are no bad memories, only happy ones.

Gage, a native of McNairy County, graduated from Adamsville High School in 1962 and attended college at the University of Tennessee at Martin and Knoxville, where he received an agricultural engineering degree in 1966. After graduation, he served in the Army for two years, with a tour of duty in Vietnam.

He began his employment with PEC as electrification advisor. He held this position until 1987 when he became director of member relations upon the retirement of Noel P. Landreth.

During Gage's years at PEC, he has worked for five different managers: William M. Roberts, T. Wayne Brown, Noel Landreth (who served as interim manager), Leslie Gwin and current president, Karl Dudley.

Working with and meeting members is something Gage has certainly enjoyed during his career at PEC. He met many of those on the job, at district and annual meetings or through one of the community organizations he served.



Larry Gage

Gage has been very involved with the public and devoted his time to many organizations. He was an active member of the Selmer Jaycees for 15 years, served as McNairy County Chamber of Commerce president and is a charter member of McNairy County Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry, organized in 1984. He also serves as an elder at Mt. Vernon Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

Thirty-six years ago he and his wife, Rose, were united in marriage. They have two children, Karla, who is working on her master of biology degree at the University of Memphis, and Sarah, who is a biology teacher at McNairy Central High School. Rose currently works at Selmer

Middle School but plans to retire with Larry.

PEC President Karl Dudley speaks highly of Gage: "Larry and his tenured experience will certainly be missed, but we are happy for him as he reaches this milestone in his life and career. He has earned the respect of our members and everyone who has worked with him. We wish you well, Larry, in your retirement with all the blessings that you truly deserve."

When asked what he planned to do upon retirement, Gage replied, "I plan to take one day at a time and enjoy each one of them. I also plan to do some traveling, ride my Harley and spend time with my family."



Dr. Joe Driscoll, left, presents Larry Gage with the Jaycees Outstanding Young Man of the Year Award, 1984.



After retirement, Larry plans to spend more time riding his Harley-Davidson motorcycle.



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