



Pickwick Electric Cooperative

Serving members in all of McNairy County and portions of Chester, Hardeman and Hardin counties in Tennessee and Alcorn and Tishomingo counties in Mississippi



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These five pages contain local

news and information

for members of Pickwick

Electric Cooperative.

Cooperative directors are looking out for you

These days, the responsibilities of a board of directors are somewhat different from what we've seen in the past.

Directors of any organization are responsible for looking out for the well-being of the organization. Today we're finding that this responsibility and expectation is greater than at any time in history. All you have to do is pick up the newspapers and read about what is happening to those who are not carrying out their responsibilities.

Electric cooperative directors, though, are unique. Electric cooperative directors have responsibilities beyond what other directors in other organizations have, particularly in those states in which the electric cooperatives do not come under the jurisdiction of a public utility commission. Electric cooperative directors are looked upon not just as protecting the financial well-being of the cooperative; they also are expected to be regulators.

Our federal lobbyists regularly inform legislators on Capitol Hill that electric cooperative directors are mem-

bers of the electric cooperative and they are elected to represent the membership by the membership. They are, in fact, elected regulators for their co-op.

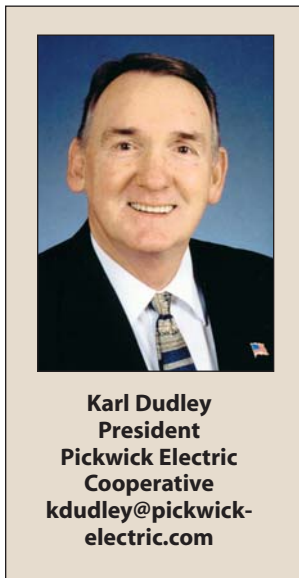
Throughout the history of the electric cooperative program, directors have provided political strength for their electric cooperatives. It is their responsibility to stay in touch, as good elected officials do, with their constituency. It is also their responsibility to make certain that the

membership is informed and recognizes the importance of being engaged in the political process.

We've all heard that the electric cooperative program was born in politics and, should it ever die, it will die in politics. Directors are the critical link.

It is the directors' responsibility to protect the interests of the cooperative and the members' interest. In the end, this is all about providing the finest service at the lowest rates, to be able to go out and help their friends and neighbors and to be able to make a contribution to the community in which they live.

From left, PEC directors Harold Finley and Jimmy Dickey meet with State Sen. John Wilder while attending the 2007 Legislative Conference in Nashville.



**Karl Dudley
President
Pickwick Electric Cooperative
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Electrical safety in the home and garden

For most people, the home is a place where friends and family can come together to rest and relax. However, if electrical appliances are not maintained or used properly, this safe haven can be diminished in a matter of seconds.

Electrical appliances within the home are part of our everyday life — from the hair-curler and blow-dryer to the toaster, heaters, microwave, television and stereo. If these appliances are not maintained, stored or used properly, they can pose a serious safety hazard.

Here are some safety precautions for electrical appliances in the home:

- Do not use electrical appliances around water.
- When carrying appliances, hold them by the handle, not the cord.
- Keep appliances that get hot such as heaters, toasters and light bulbs away from materials that can burn.
- Turn off or unplug small appliances when they're not in use.
- If an appliance repeatedly blows a fuse, trips a circuit breaker or has given you a shock, unplug it and have the appliance repaired or replaced.

Electrical appliances can also be found outside of the home. Appliances are used outside for mowing the lawn, trimming bushes and flowers and cutting tree limbs. Appliances that are used for yard work should be labeled for outdoor use. Here are some tips for practicing safety precautions when working with electrical appliances outside of the home:

- Unplug electrical tools and disconnect spark plug wires on gasoline-powered tools before making adjustments or clearing jams near moving parts.
- Be sure power tools are turned off and made inoperable if they must be left unattended so children can't use them.



- Handle gas carefully. Never fill gasoline tanks while machinery is on or when equipment is still hot. Wipe up spills. Store gas in an approved container, away from the house. Finally, never smoke or use any type of flame around gasoline or gasoline-powered equipment
 - Never work with electrical power tools in wet or damp conditions.
 - Be sure that extension cords are in good condition, are rated for outdoor use and are the proper gauge for the electrical current capacity of the tool.
 - Inspect the mower periodically for potential hazards.
- Source: North Carolina Association of Electric Cooperatives*



GE Consumer Products



'Electric Cooperatives: Where Tradition Powers Today'

By Stephanie Griffin, area winner of Pickwick Electric Cooperative

The wind blew aimlessly through the trees, forcing the finger-like branches to beat rhythmically against the window panes. Accompanying this was the patter-pat of the rain that shone with each blinding flash of lightning that heralded the boom of thunder that shook the little, darkened town of Hope. The storm had created dangerous roads throughout the town, which had led to an unfortunate accident in the hub of Hope. While no one was seriously injured, the crash had created a small complication for the town: no power. The entire town was shrouded in darkness, lighted only by the occasional flash of lightning. Rarely did the town have to endure such things; complete blackouts were considered freak accidents.

Since power outages were so rare, many of the children found the absence of light almost as frightening as the storm. As soon as the lights shut off, the children dived beneath their blankets and called out to their parents in hope that they could drive away the Boogiemán. One such child was 7-year-old Erick.

Despite his age, Erick was a bit of a scaredy-cat. Things that most thought laughable sent a chilling sensation racing down his spine. So he found tonight especially frightening. From behind his small barricade of action figures and pillows, Erick could clearly see that his dad had somehow neglected to shut the closet door. This put the boy in a state of alarm. Yet the one thing Erick thought more frightening than the blackout and the storm was the sight of two big, glowing, green eyes staring back at him from the crack of the closet door.

The possessor of such lovely, yet utterly horrifying, eyes was Ibbor. Ibbor loved his job; every night, Ibbor would creep into the rooms of children. However, unlike his brethren, Ibbor did not go into the room to scare the children. Instead, Ibbor wanted to befriend the kids and play games with them until the morning came. He found it difficult to do so tonight. Poor Ibbor not only had a fear of storms, but he was also afraid of the dark. It was for this reason that Ibbor remained in the safety of the closet.

Erick was afraid of the green eyes in his closet. He had seen eyes like those before. They were not so friendly the last time he encountered them. Yet, as time passed, he grew

increasingly curious as to why the monster had not emerged from his closet to scare him. "Maybe this monster is different," thought Erick. That's when something caught his attention. A small sniffing sound could be heard from the closet where the monster remained. With a burst of courage, Erick

slid off his bed and cautiously approached the closet door. "What's the matter?" Erick asked in a cooing voice.

"I-I don't like the dark," Ibbor replied timidly, as though he was ashamed to admit such a thing. Erick felt sorry for the monster. He knew what it felt like to be afraid. He didn't want Ibbor to feel the same.

"Hey," Erick started, his voice picking up a little, "you wanna' know what got rid of my fears?" No reply. "Well, a few months ago we learned about how our electric company works with other cooperatives to power the entire town! After I learned about how fast they worked, I forgot all about being afraid of the dark!" Erick paused, then added, "I did a whole report, by myself." He said this with pride. He had worked tirelessly on his report about the cooperatives. He began to recite his speech to Ibbor, who listened with quiet curiosity. He included

everything he could recall — from its beginnings in Washington to the services they provided today. Erick paid special attention in detailing what his father did.

"... In fact, I wouldn't doubt it if they turned on the lights in the next couple of minutes!" Erick finished. By some strange coincidence, the lights blinked on in Erick's room. They welcomed the lights with a small cheer as Ibbor crawled out of the closet. "Wow, I guess they do work fast!" Ibbor exclaimed.

For the rest of night, Erick and Ibbor played in the light of his room. When morning came, Ibbor said his goodbyes and returned to the closet. As the closet door shut with a click, Erick's door opened. "Good morning, Erick," his father said with a smile as he kissed him on the forehead. After a short conversation, Erick watched his father with pride as he walked out the door. His father had worked all night to return power to Hope and willingly returned to work the next morning with a smile. Erick knew that his father, along with many others, worked to make modern life possible for him.



Stephanie Griffin is the daughter of Robbie and Erick Griffin of Selmer. She will be a senior at McNairy Central High School next year.



PEC linemen— Their lives are on the line

Many years ago there was a song out by Glen Campbell titled the “Wichita Lineman.” In the song is a line that goes, “And the Wichita lineman is still on the line.”

At Pickwick Electric Cooperative, whether it be during a thunderstorm, ice storm or after a tornado has ripped through the county, you can rest assured that the PEC linemen are on the line to restore your power.

These men are to be admired because they are dedicated to work that is potentially dangerous. They work in inclement weather conditions during all hours of the day and night. But no matter the circumstances, they accept the challenge of getting the job done.



Jeremy Hurst
Journeyman Lineman

Since they work around an invisible force that can kill, linemen need almost as much intuition as they do skill. In many situations, they have to rely on their co-workers for their own protection as well as for the protection of consumers. They must know and practice hundreds of safety and regulatory guidelines each year.

Math and science are an everyday part of their job. In addition, it takes a lot of strength and agility to work effi-

ciently in the cumbersome safety equipment linemen are required to wear.

Can you imagine what it would be like to climb a pole in a downpour while wearing a tool belt and protective equipment or what it feels like to work in flame-retardant clothing and work boots during the heat of the summer months? Linemen do their jobs and seldom complain.

As a general rule, they are pretty quiet. Most are family men, and many are involved in their communities. Many of you know them by their first names and perhaps you have their phone numbers to report an outage. Without their skill and work ethic, we could say goodbye to reliable electric service.

They are proud of their profession, and we are proud of them.




David Tacker disconnects the neutral to make repairs.



PEC apprentice linemen are, from left, Logan Doyle, Justin Shirley, Tony Smith, Jay Durbin, Tommy Price, Tim Jones and Matt Rickman.



PEC journeyman linemen are, from left, Bart Barnes, Randall Taylor, David Tacker and Wes Harrison.



**“Thanks to the
energy right[®] Program, we
got our heat pump
installed worry-free
and hassle-free.”**

***“Keeping up with these two
keeps me pretty busy.***

So when I needed a heat and air system installed, I got it done right — I called my local utility company. They put me in touch with their Quality Contractor Network — people who know how to install a heat pump right the first time. Once it was installed, I received a free, detailed inspection so we knew everything was done right. So now I save on my monthly bills, and I actually have an easy and affordable payment plan for everything. It’s wonderful!”



www.energyright.com

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