

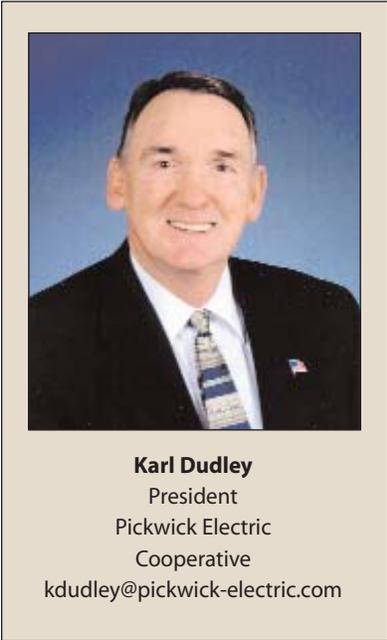
Make plans to attend PEC's annual meeting

The time is rapidly approaching for us to meet again for Pickwick Electric Cooperative's annual meeting. This meeting is used by the members and management to make reports, exchange information and conduct the business of the cooperative.

We invite all members to attend and help us celebrate 71 years of service to the community. The 2006 event will kick off at 4:30 p.m. on

Tuesday, Sept. 12, at McNairy Central High School with free hot dogs and soft drinks, party jumpers, dis-

plays and entertainment for everyone. Each of the first 500 members to register will receive a 25-foot extension cord.



Karl Dudley
President
Pickwick Electric Cooperative
kdudley@pickwick-electric.com

The Step-N-Tyme Band will perform at this year's annual meeting, along with the McNairy Central Jazzcats. Both groups will offer a wide variety of music that will be pleasing to the ear.

In addition to the extension cords, food and entertainment, there will be a number of nice door prizes given

away.

Please join us as we celebrate this special occasion.

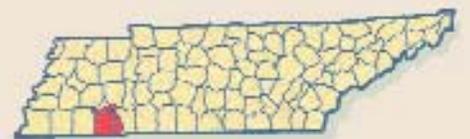


The Step-N-Tyme Band — left to right, Kenneth Sanders, bass guitar/singer; Billy Pickens, lead guitar/back-up vocals; Joanie Pickens, singer/rhythm; Gayle Cotner, singer/sound; Randy Cotner, drummer; and Dennis Rose, singer/rhythm guitar — will perform at this year's PEC annual meeting.



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.



Services provided by Pickwick Electric Cooperative

Pickwick Electric Cooperative's top priority is to provide our members with excellent service at the lowest possible cost. For our members who would like to participate, PEC offers these additional services:

Heat pump financing program: Loans of up to \$10,000 for one unit and \$12,500 for two units. Interest rate of 8 percent. Finance period up to 120 months with payments added back to electric bill. Must meet requirements.

New home program: \$200 rebates are available for all-electric new homes that meet program standards.

Surge protection: PEC offers the installation of a lightning arrester at the weatherhead for a one-time fee of \$50, which may also be added to your electric bill.

Security lighting: Monthly fees vary.

Levelized billing plan: Levelized billing is being offered to our customers as a means to even out their monthly electric payments. By participating in this program, members will be able to smooth out the high and low seasonal fluctuations in their electric bills. With levelized billing, the monthly bill amount will automatically be recalculated each month. A separate calculation is made on each service based on the levelized billing formula. A safety calculation of 120 percent has been implemented to keep a customer's levelized bill from jumping too much from one month to the next. This means a bill is guaranteed not to differ more than 20 percent from the customer's average bill from month to month. It is important to remember there will be months when your overall account balance will be a credit and other periods when this account will show you owe more than your monthly levelized payment. As long as you continue to pay the level payment amount each month, your account will be automatically adjusted to keep it from accumulating too much of a credit or debit balance. This plan won't affect the amount of electricity used or how much is paid for each kilowatt-hour. Meter readings of these accounts will still be required each month. In order for a customer to be eligible for levelized billing, there must be at least 12 months of continuous service and the account must be paid in full and have a fair or better pay rating with the cooperative. Once a customer has signed up for levelized billing and decides he or she no longer wants to participate, all the member has to do is call the PEC office and ask to be removed from the program.

Bill payment information: Payments will be accepted by bank draft, credit card, mail, night drop box or in person.

Commercial and industrial program: Assistance with expansions, wiring, power factor recommendations, heating and cooling loads and lighting are available at no charge to the customer.

Energy audit: A free energy audit of your home or business is available upon request.

Lighting and sound equipment: Stage lighting, sound equipment and projectors are available at no charge.

School and community programs: High-voltage demonstrations, Louie the Lightning Bug Program, In Concert with the Environment, Youth Leadership Summit, 4-H Electric Camp, Washington Youth Tour Writing Contest and Council of Electric Cooperative Couples Conference.

PEC writing contest winners tour Washington, D.C.

Hundreds of teens from Tennessee and across the nation began their summer vacation with an exciting, unforgettable trip to Washington, D.C., as winners of a highly competitive short story writing contest sponsored by their local electric cooperatives.

Representing Pickwick Electric Cooperative were Lacey Emmons and Devona Hamm from Adamsville High School and Barton Hamilton, Blake Browder, Jenny Bledsoe and Kirby Kennedy from McNairy Central High School. Delise Teague, English teacher from McNairy Central High School, and PEC representatives Bobby Barnes, Beverly Lambert and Donna Kennedy participated as advisers.

The trip offered students a tremendous opportunity to learn about electric cooperatives, American history and U.S. government. They visited with their representatives in the House and the Senate and therefore were able to gain knowledge about their roles as citizens.

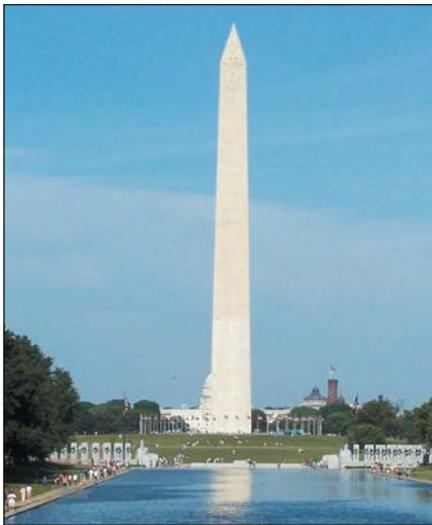
While touring the Washington area, the group visited several historical sites. The first stop on the tour was Monticello, home of Thomas Jefferson. The tour continued with a visit to the Smithsonian Museums Complex, Arlington National Cemetery, the Washington National Cathedral, Mount Vernon, home of George Washington, the Jefferson Memorial, World War II Memorial, the Holocaust Memorial Museum, the Library of Congress and a guided tour of the Capitol.

The group also had the pleasure of watching a Washington Nationals baseball game and a production of “Oklahoma” at Lazy Susan’s Dinner Theatre.



Above: While touring the Washington area, the PEC group visits Monticello. They are, front row, from left, Donna Kennedy, Blake Browder, Devona Hamm, Lacey Emmons and Kirby Kennedy; back row, Beverly Lambert, Jenny Bledsoe, Barton Hamilton, Bobby Barnes and Delise Teague. **Below,** from left: Stops on the tour included the Capitol, Washington Monument, Arlington National Cemetery and Mount Vernon.

PEC’s goal is to provide our members with the best electric service possible, but also to go beyond the wires by helping educate and send leaders out into our community. “We feel that the youth tour contributes to that goal, and we’re proud to be involved in an activity that offers students in our service area the opportunity to take part in such a worthwhile educational process,” says PEC President Karl Dudley.





Local students attend 4-H Electric Camp: “A Bright Idea for 15 Years”

Every summer, 4-H'ers from across the state of Tennessee flock to the University of Tennessee campus in Knoxville to attend 4-H Electric Camp. Of the 275-plus students in attendance this year, 13 were from the Pickwick Electric Cooperative service area.

“A Bright Idea for 15 Years” was the theme for this year’s camp, sponsored by PEC, other power distributors, Tennessee Valley Authority, UT Extension and other industries. The purpose of the camp is to give young people a better understanding of energy, electricity and basic science through fun, informative “hands-on” workshops. The camp helps 4-H members develop leadership abilities, build character and assume citizenship responsibilities.

During the 15th annual camp, 4-H'ers were involved in several fun learning experiences like constructing a

meter lamp and a trouble light, both of which they kept and took home. They also learned about electric vehicles and got to drive an electric golf cart. Other activities included a Wheel of Fortune energy game and visual instruction concerning electric safety around high-voltage power lines.

In addition, the campers were treated to an afternoon at Dollywood in Pigeon Forge. Other leisure-activities included swimming and a pizza party.

Application to attend Electric Camp is made through your local county 4-H Extension agents.

“We at PEC want our young people to have a better understanding of what electricity does for them,” says Karl Dudley, PEC president.

“Through sponsorship of the Electric Camp,

we have the opportunity to educate today’s youth about the value of electricity and the vital role it plays in their lives.”



Students attending this year’s 4-H Electric Camp from the Pickwick Electric service area are, from left, Sidney Henry, Hanna Martin, Julie Kiser, Samantha Dillon, Sheena Russell, BreAnna Damron, Brittany Kelsey, Kayla Berry, Ethan Flatt, Austin Flatt, Justin Carlisle, Hunter Roberts and Tucker Robinson. Participating as advisers were Kevin Roy, far left, and Larry Gage.



Students assemble trouble lights with instructions from Larry Gage.



Kevin Roy looks on as students assemble meter lamps. Students get to take their completed meter lamps and trouble lights home to show off their workmanship.



Facts about energy-efficient water heaters

Knowing the facts about energy-efficient water heaters can save you lots of cash when you need to buy one. Electric storage water heaters are very simple appliances. Modern units consist of a glass-lined steel tank surrounded with foam insulation. If you have an old electric water heater, check the type and thickness of insulation. You can see the insulation at one of the holes in the water heater's outer shell or around the opening to the combustion chamber. If it has one or two inches of fiberglass, the water heater was manufactured before 1991 and will be quite inefficient due to heat loss through the tank's shell.

The efficiency of water heaters is rated by their Energy Factor (EF). This is the percentage of energy that remains in the hot water you use compared to the energy that

was used to heat that water. For example, the best new electric water heaters have an Energy Factor of 0.95. This means that 95 percent of the energy used to heat the water is still there when it enters your water lines and that 5 percent escaped through the walls of the tank before you used the water. Gas water heaters have a much lower Energy Factor than electric units because they also lose energy up the chimney.

Before 1991, fiberglass-insulated electric water heaters had Energy Factors ranging from 0.80 to 0.86. The National Appliance Energy Conservation Act of 1987 required electric water heaters manufactured after 1991 to meet a minimum Energy Factor of 0.88. As a result, manufacturers switched to foam insulation that increased the thermal

resistance to as high as R-16 when using two and a half inches of foam. The best new electric water heaters now have three inches of foam insulation.

When you next shop for an electric water heater, remember that electricity is a precious resource. Choose the best unit available with an Energy Factor of 0.92 to 0.95. If your existing electric water heater has an Energy Factor of 0.86 and the new one is 0.95, you'll save more than 400 kilowatt-hours (kwh), or \$25-\$35 per year.

By the way, if you have an old water heater, it may be better to replace it now rather than to wait until it fails. If you wait until you have an emergency (as when your water heater springs a leak), your local appliance dealer may not have the most efficient models in stock.

Tank volume	Recommended Energy Factor	Annual energy use (kwh/year)	Best available Energy Factor	Annual energy use (kwh/year)
Less than 60 gallons	0.93	4,721	0.95	4,622
More than 60 gallons	0.91	4,825	0.92	4,773

Pickwick Electric Cooperative residential electric water heater incentive program

A \$50 incentive will be paid toward the purchase of a new electric water heater when an existing electric water heater is replaced.

A \$200 incentive will be paid when a new electric water heater is installed in an all-electric new home.

A \$50 incentive will be paid when a new electric water heater is installed in a new home with gas heat.

A \$200 incentive will be paid when a gas water heater is replaced with a new electric water heater.

For more details, call 646-3786, 646-3825 or 646-3764.

Guidelines to follow to receive electric water heater incentives

1. Notify Pickwick Electric Cooperative that your water heater has been replaced and that you are requesting incentive money.
2. The Member Services Department will set up a date to verify installation.
3. The homeowner, tenant or contractor must provide PEC with a copy of the invoice showing the date, place of purchase and the cost of the electric water heater (new homes excluded).
4. PEC must have a signed document stating whether the incentive is to be paid to the homeowner, tenant or contractor.
5. All incentives will be processed after the member services representative has verified that the new electric water heater has been installed.