

Keeping in touch

Tennessee's electric cooperatives made their presence known at the State Legislature last month. Pickwick Electric Cooperative board members and president attended sessions that educated them on the legislative issues facing our cooperative.

More than 200 co-op representatives from across the state made the rounds through the halls of the legislature. Each cooperative's delegation visited the senators and house members who represent the districts in the co-op's service area. Each came not only as a constituent but also as

a representative of their member-owned utility.

Among major issues discussed were: Senate Bill 0668 and House Bill 1832, which was introduced by Sen. Jerry Cooper and Rep. Randy Rinks. The bill would limit the amount that can be charged for pole attachments by municipal or cooperative utilities.

Our legislators were told that Tennessee's electric cooperatives and municipal electric systems own the vast majority of the poles in the state. The

poles are expensive to install and maintain.

Legislators were urged to vote against this bill because setting rates artificially low will benefit attachers to the pole but will unfairly increase the cost of power for utility customers.

Senate Bill 0655 and House Bill 1139 was introduced by Sen. Mae Beavers and Rep. Frank Buck. The bill would require rural electric and community services cooperatives to have voting machines

that would "reasonably accommodate" voters in any contested election.

Electric cooperatives hold district and annual meetings of their members, providing members a voice in ownership as well as electing a board of directors. A variety of methods are used to elect directors. There is no reason to change a process that is working properly.

The sponsors of this legislation agreed with our members and have decided not to push the bill.

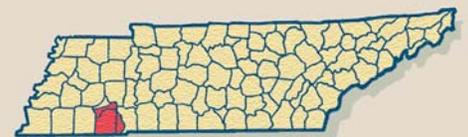


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Pickwick Electric Cooperative

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.

Pickwick Electric Cooperative
Quality Service
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This Memorial Day
 Let's honor those
 who gave their lives
 for our country...
 We salute them
 in our hearts
 and mind.



The Pickwick Electric Cooperative office will be closed
 Monday, May 30, in observance of the Memorial Day Holiday.
 Should there be an emergency, we will have standby crews available.
 Have a safe and enjoyable holiday.



Cagle and Gillentine Attend Leadership Summit

Deanna Cagle of Adamsville High School and Jordan Gillentine of McNairy Central High School were among 42 high school juniors from across the state who attended this year's Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association's annual Youth Leadership Summit held recently at the Crowne Plaza in Nashville. Cagle and Gillentine were sponsored by Pickwick Electric Cooperative.

Outstanding students, representing 21 electric cooperatives in Tennessee, were selected to participate in the summit, "because of their interest in government and their leadership abilities," says Joe Jackson, TECA director of youth and member relations.

"The annual summit gives students an opportunity to learn about electric cooperatives and how they affect their lives," Jackson says. "It also gives them an opportunity to see the legislative process for themselves."

Two days of activities began with an overview of the legislative process. In preparation for their visit to the Legislative Plaza, students heard an address by Rep. Chris Newton of Turtletown, who participated in the Youth Leadership Summit as a student in 1988. Newton encouraged students to be an active part of their communities.

Participants were treated to a tour of the State Capitol. After touring the Capitol the 11th-graders were able to sit in on Senate and House committee meetings at the Legislative Plaza and had an opportunity to see state government in action.

Next on the agenda, the students participated in leadership team-building activities at the Joe C. Davis YMCA Outdoor Center on Percy Priest Lake. The evening was topped off with a movie and a bus tour of Nashville's well-known sites.

"It is encouraging to see this high caliber of future leaders in our service area," says Larry Gage, PEC member services director, who accompanied the students on the trip.

Students also had an opportunity to participate in an Energy Battle competition. Teams competed against each



Elected representatives met with PEC participants in front of the Tennessee Capitol. From left are PEC's Larry Gage, Deanna Cagle, Lt. Gov. John Wilder, Jordan Gillentine and Rep. Randy Rinks.

other by answering trivia questions about electric cooperatives, the state and current events.

The summit was hosted by TECA and funded in part by the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation, a not-for-profit cooperative financing institute that provides an independent source of financing to member cooperatives nationwide.

Karl Dudley, president of Pickwick Electric Cooperative, says the Youth Leadership Summit helps students "learn by experience."

"We offer these educational experiences for our students — our future members — because we want them to understand what makes a cooperative special," Dudley says. "It's not like we're dealing with their grandparents, who might remember what it was like to live without electricity. These young people have had modern conveniences all their lives."

"We want them to be able to appreciate their electric cooperative and understand why it was so important to form electric cooperatives in the first place," Dudley said.

Deanna is the daughter of Dean and Pam Cagle of Leapwood, and Jordan is the son of Emily Crabb of Ramer and Ricky Gillentine of Corinth, Miss.

Writing contest winners announced

Pickwick Electric Cooperative has announced the winners of the 2005 Washington Youth Tour Writing Contest offered to area high school juniors.

More than 300 students competed for prizes including a week-long tour of Washington D.C., cash awards and college scholarships. PEC is proud to sponsor this program because it gives students the opportunity to learn more about their cooperative and government.

Local high school juniors participated in the contest,

writing short stories related to the theme “Electric Cooperative: Going Beyond the Wires.” These students are to be congratulated for their accomplishments.

Five first-place winners will receive all-expense-paid trips to Washington D. C., the week of June 17-23. These winners are: Corey Carter and Megan Bridges from Adamsville High School and Jordan Gillentine, Fallon Cone and Ben DiChiara from McNairy Central High School.



The winners from Adamsville High School are, from left, front row, Stephanie Thacker, Brooke Napier and Brenda Spence. Back row, Tommy Sheets, Megan Bridges and Corey Carter.



Winners from McNairy Central High School are seated, from left, Jordan Gillentine, Fallon Cone, Ben DiChiara and Alicia Whitaker. Back row, Cory Littlejohn, Dustin Gibbs, Mistie Littlejohn, David Duncan and Nicholas Drumwright.

Thinking of installing a pool.... Think electrical safety

Spring is prime time for installing swimming pools. So if you're considering adding a pool this year, make sure you choose your site carefully. Make sure there aren't any power lines located overhead or underground. When installing a pool, consider these key points:

- Make sure overhead electrical lines do not pass over the pool. In fact, it's best to keep your pool at least 25 feet away from lines in all directions.
- Never build an in-ground pool or set up an above-ground pool over underground electrical cables. Pools and

pool decking should be installed at least five feet away from all underground utility lines.

- Except for specially designed lighting fixtures, don't put electrical fixtures or receptacles within five feet of a pool. Any electrical wiring that is within 20 feet of a swimming pool should have protection from a ground fault circuit interrupter.
- Allow at least 18 feet of clearance between overhead power lines and a diving board, deck, slide or observation area.



Price and Rickman attend lineman school

Tommy Price and Matt Rickman have completed the Apprentice Lineman Fundamental Training School in Atlanta. This 10-day school is designed to give future linemen a good understanding and hands-on experience of the job.

Seventeen students from various electric systems attended the school. The first day consisted of getting the proper tools issued, going over the rules and regulations and watching training films. The next day found the students attending a safety meeting and receiving instructions on pole-climbing and how to properly tie knots. Students learned to tie 14 different knots each of which had to be tied in six seconds or less. After that, it was off to the pole yard to do some climbing.

Each student started out on 10-foot poles and throughout the week gradually worked their way up to 35-foot poles. Overall, the students took 22 tests and were required to maintain a 70 average.

“We are happy to offer this training to our apprentice linemen because we feel it is the best training available,” said Pickwick Electric Cooperative President Karl Dudley.



Tommy Price

Both employees agreed that while this was a tough and demanding 10 days, it was worth it. They highly recommend this school to anyone who wants to become a lineman.

Price began his employment with PEC on Aug. 31, 1998, as utility man. Later, he was promoted to meter-reader and on Aug. 30, 1999, was promoted to tree-trimmer, the position that he held until his recent promotion to apprentice lineman. Prior to joining PEC, Price



Matt Rickman

worked for Nissan in Smyrna. He and his wife, Damaris, along with daughter Macie Morgan live in Michie.

Rickman came to the cooperative on Oct. 25, 2004, and has been working in the Right-of-Way Department. Before his employment with PEC, he worked for the Selmer Utility Department. He is a 2003 graduate of McNairy Central High School, lives in Selmer and attends Grace Baptist Church.

The Shocking Truth

Just about every electrical accident is preventable if you know some basics about how electricity works.

The most important fact to keep in mind is that electricity will always seek the shortest path to ground. Electricity looks for a good conductor, such as metal that transmits it readily.

Because the human body is about 70 percent water, we make excellent conductors of electricity! If you touch anything with a live current — a bare wire or faulty connection — electricity will pass through you to the ground. Depending on the strength of the current, the electricity could seriously injure or fatally shock you.

So be wise! Take extra care when working with or around electricity.