

New law will change Tennessee Valley Authority Board structure

On Dec. 8, 2004, President Bush signed into law a bill that requires TVA to change its current three-member, full-time board of directors to a nine-member, part-time board. This major restructuring of the governance of TVA is the first in its 71-year history.

Since 1933, TVA has been controlled by a three-member board appointed by the president and charged with the task of operating the TVA for the benefit of the residents of the Valley area. These political appointees were empowered to not only oversee the day-to-day operation of this federal corporation with annual sales of \$7 billion, but they had the authority to set the electric rates for you and me.

Your cooperative has partnered with TVA for seven decades in providing low-cost, reliable electricity service to our area, and we are concerned anytime there is a change at TVA.

Approximately 75 cents out of each dollar we receive goes to TVA for elec-

tricity, and a small miscalculation at TVA can make a big change in your electric bill. An example of this is the large debt that TVA acquired in the 1970's during construction of a number

of nuclear generators. The debt load eats up a large portion of their revenue, and since TVA receives no federal appropriation, this cost of debt is reflected in your power bill.

Pickwick Electric Cooperative along with other distributors of TVA power have entered into negotiations with TVA to structure and secure a long-term power contract that will allow TVA to reduce its debt while going forward and

still maintain reliable electric service for our members.

Only time will tell how the change at the top of TVA will affect the residents of the Valley, but we will do everything possible to protect the affordable reliable electric service we have enjoyed for 70 years because at PEC, we work for you.



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

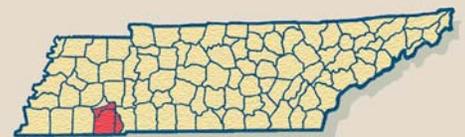
Facts about the board restructuring

- * The nine board members will be appointed by the President of the United States and confirmed by the Senate.
- * Current board members will be allowed to fill out their terms.
- * The chairman will be selected by the fellow board members.
- * The nine members will be appointed for five-year terms on a staggered basis. No term limits will apply.
- * Seven of the board members must have a legal residence in the TVA service area.
- * The board will meet a minimum of four times a year.
- * The board will hire a chief executive officer.
- * The board will determine policy issues and establish broad goals, while the CEO will direct the day-to-day TVA operations.
- * The federal salary cap has been eliminated.



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



530 Mulberry Avenue

P.O. Box 49

Selmer, TN 38375

Phone numbers:

(731) 645-3411

(731) 632-3333

1-800-372-8258

Web site:

www.pickwick-electric.com

These five pages contain local

news and information

for members of Pickwick

Electric Cooperative.



Are electrical hazards cooking in your kitchen?

From coffeemakers to toasters, blenders to waffle irons, microwaves to ovens — today's modern kitchen sports more electrical appliances than ever before. These appliances, like other electrical devices in your home, need to be operated safely and conscientiously in accordance with manufacturers' guidelines. As an increasing number of electrical appliances in our homes become necessities, our home's power circuits will grow more overloaded. This puts you and your family at risk. To ensure you don't have a potential safety hazard brewing in your kitchen, the Leviton Institute urges you to follow these important safety tips:

1. Unplug kitchen appliances, like toasters and coffeemakers, when you're not using them, and never allow appliances like a stove or microwave to remain running when you leave home.
2. Never use a fork, knife or other metal object that conducts electricity to clean debris from "live" kitchen appliances such as toasters and toaster ovens. For routine cleaning, make sure these appliances are switched off and disconnected before you clean their internal parts.
3. Avoid using electricity near water and other liquids. Clean up all spillages in or around an electrical appliance after making sure the power supply has been disconnected. Never submerge an appliance or its electrical cord or plug in water or any other liquid.
4. Install a sufficient number of ground-fault circuit interrupters in your kitchen. GFCIs are designed to prevent shock hazards by interrupting power if electrical current leaks from a damaged cord or appliance.
5. Always check your kitchen appliances for damaged cords or plugs before you use them. Contact with a faulty or frayed power cord or a broken appliance can cause electric shock. If an appliance malfunctions or appears to be damaged in any way, make sure the appliance is disconnected from the power outlet and

have it repaired or replaced immediately.

6. Never let power cords or plugs dangle over the edge of counters or come in contact with hot surfaces. Dangling cords are a danger to small children who might pull them. Kitchen appliances should never be placed near a hot gas or electric burner.

Tips for using your microwave oven

In recent years, microwaves have become among one of the most popular kitchen appliances. Be wary of the dangers associated with using them.

- To prevent facial burns or exposure to radiation from a defective appliance, microwaves should be kept high



above the reach and eye level of children.

- Use only containers and tableware stamped "microwave safe." Cooking trays made of metal or aluminum should never be used to heat meals. Never put aluminum foil in a microwave since it can ignite.
- If food you're preparing catches on fire, unplug the cord immediately, but do not open the door. This will only feed oxygen to the fire. Wait for the fire to extinguish and then remove the contents from the oven.
- Always use caution when removing items from your microwave. While your microwave stays cool, what's being cooked inside becomes very hot.

Source: Leviton Institute



Joey Lawson passes professional engineer's exam

Joey Lawson received notification from the Tennessee Board of Architectural and Engineering Examiners on Dec. 20 that he had passed the Principles and Practices of Engineering Exam. Passing the examination qualifies Lawson for registration as a Professional Engineer.

The professional engineering test consisted of an eight-hour written examination on applied engineering prepared by the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying.

To take the exam, an engineer must be a graduate of a four-year school

with an approved engineering curriculum, pass the engineer-in-training exam, and have four years of progressive experience under the supervision of a professional engineer after graduation.

Lawson came to PEC on May 30, 2000, as the cooperative's civil engineer. He has been computer mapping the co-op's service area and is about half finished with this project.

A graduate of Mississippi State University with a bachelor of science degree in civil engineering, Lawson fulfilled his work requirement at PEC under the supervision of PEC's Profes-



Joey Lawson

sional Engineers Keith Johnson, John Bowers and Alan Hennington with Patterson and Dewar Engineers of Decatur, Georgia.

Lawson is married to the former Jennifer Shannon, and they live in Selmer.

Employees Recognized for safe driving

Four Pickwick Electric Cooperative employees recently received awards for safe driving. Employees receiving the awards were: Scotty Ashe, 10 years; Clyde Garrison, 20 years; Larry Hall, 20 years; and Willie Jones, 30 years. These employees have a combined total of 80 years of safe driving. President Karl Dudley made the presentation to the employees.

Last year, PEC's 70 employees drove more than one half a million miles.

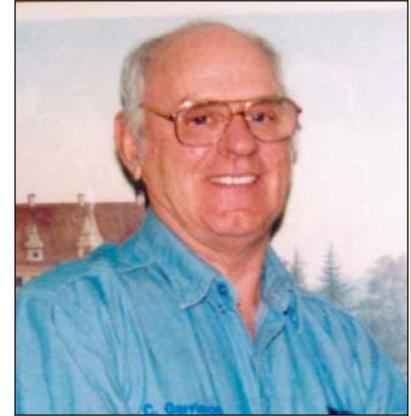
To be eligible for an award, employees must meet the requirements outlined by the National Safety Council. These rules are followed in determining the number of years of safe driving, while PEC policy determines the award.

Wearing a seat belt is more than the law — it's life!

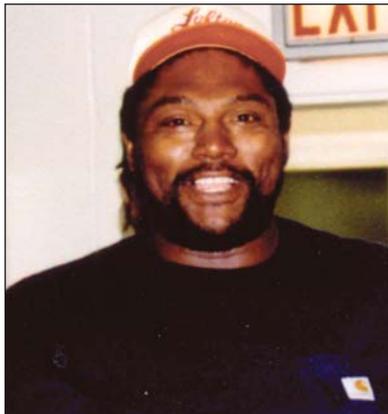
- * About 1,000 deaths and 50,000 auto related injuries take place on Tennessee roads annually.
- * Automobile accidents are the leading cause of death for children, teenagers and adults between the ages of 5 and 34 in Tennessee.



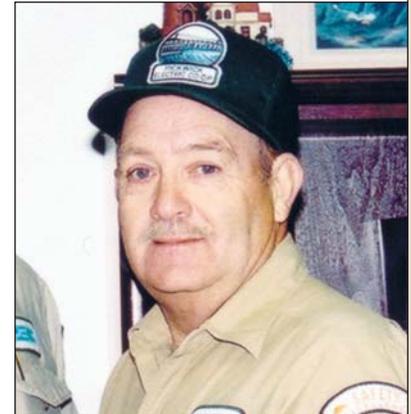
Scotty Ashe



Clyde Garrison



Larry Hall



Willie Jones

Plant the right tree in the right place

Taller trees should be planted away from overhead utility lines.

Trees are prized possessions in our communities. They give needed shade in summer, help clear the air of pollutants, provide a home for songbirds and wildlife and please the eye with beauty. But when a tree's branches start to come close enough to actually touch utility power lines, a potentially hazardous situation is created.

Trees and power lines can co-exist, and potential conflicts can be avoided by selecting and planting trees with size and growth characteristics appropriate to their location.

Low Zone — beneath power lines and for 20 feet to either side of them, plant species that will not exceed 25 feet in height. Taller existing trees in this zone should be pruned by Pickwick Electric Cooperative to grow around the wires.

Medium Zone — trees that grow no more than 40 feet in height are recommended for areas immediately adjacent to the Low Zone in order to avoid high branches that would topple into the lines during severe storms.

Tall Zone — higher trees could be used in any locations at distances of 50 feet or more from power lines. Trees near your house can provide significant energy benefits by providing cooling shade in the summer and giving protection from winter winds.

Please contact PEC if you have questions about where or what trees to plant near power lines. For a free copy of a brochure, "The Right Tree for the Right Place," write The National Arbor Day Foundation, 100 Arbor Avenue, Nebraska City, NE 68410.

Why is maintaining right of way so important?

Trees falling and coming into contact with power lines are by far the most common cause of power outages on the PEC system. That's why your cooperative has a strong and proactive program to keep trees and brush away from the lines.

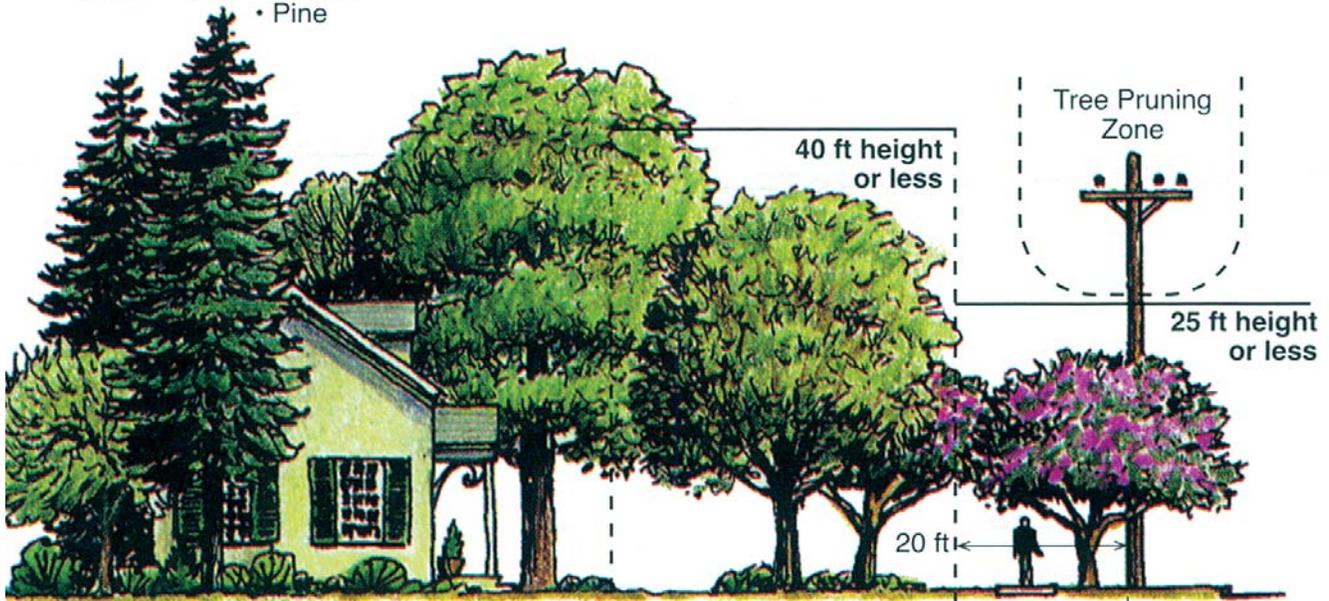
Service interruptions are inconvenient for members, not to mention costly.

PEC has right-of-way crews to maintain rights of way for the cooperative. Guidelines used to trim trees are designed to reflect recommendations of urban foresters and experts from the National Arborist Association and the International Society of Arboriculture.

Rights of way are donated to the cooperative by members when they join. This keeps costs lower because PEC doesn't have to purchase the land.

Tall trees, such as:

- Maple • Oak • Spruce
- Pine



 **The National Arbor Day Foundation®**
arborday.org

50 ft ←

- Medium trees, such as:**
- Washington hawthorn
 - Goldenrain tree

- Small trees, such as:**
- Redbud • Dogwood
 - Crabapple



McNairy County Family and Community Education clubs make a difference



Members honored for 500 hours of community service for 2004 are: front row, from left: Linda Smith, Gloria Coln, Barbara Isbell, Wilma Moore, and Sandra Bass. On the back row, from left: Mary Dona Miller, Ouida Lott, Mary Nell Browning, Mary Ruth Surratt, and Martha Nell Crowe.



Mary Ruth Surratt was recognized for 50 years of service in what is now the Family and Community Education Club.

For more than 75 years, McNairy County Family and Community Education Clubs have shared common goals with other clubs across the state. These goals are to learn through shared experience, improve home and community life, strengthen adult education and promote projects that enhance family and community life.

Through their rich history, these clubs have grown from small community clubs to a worldwide network. In the past these clubs were known as Home Demonstration Clubs and Homemakers.

Today, McNairy County has five FCE clubs with a membership of more than 100. These clubs are located in Acton, Lawton, Leapwood, Stantonville and Selmer.

McNairy County FCE clubs meet monthly, and at each meeting an education program is presented to the group in the area of family and consumer science. These include such topics as: family economics, healthful eating, money management, environmental education and safety.

Community service is the cornerstone for FCE clubs. Each year they provide the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of families by participating in projects that meet the needs of the local community.

If you would like to become a member of a FCE club, please contact Rita Casey, Extension agent, at 645-3598. Casey meets monthly with each of these clubs. Her office hours are Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Her office is closed for lunch from noon to 1 p.m.

Holiday Closing

The Pickwick Electric Cooperative office will be closed Friday, March 25, in observance of Good Friday. Should you have an emergency, we will have crews on standby to take care of your needs. We can be reached by calling 645-3411, 632-3333 or 1-800-372-8258.