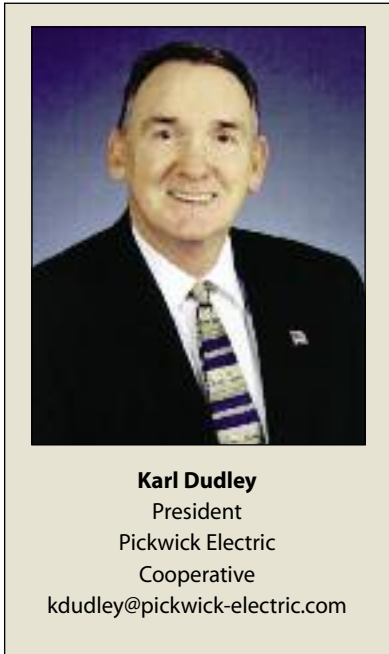


# Join us as PEC celebrates 74 years of service

On behalf of the board of directors, management and employees of Pickwick Electric Cooperative, you are cordially invited to attend our annual meeting Tuesday, Sept. 15, and help us celebrate 74 years of service to the community. This meeting is used by the members and management to make reports, exchange information and conduct the business of the cooperative.



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

dogs and soft drinks, party jumpers, displays and entertainment for everyone. Each of the first 400 members to register will receive a 25-foot extension cord.

The Renewed Gospel Ministries Quartet will provide the entertainment again this year.

In addition to the extension cords, food and entertainment, there will be a number of nice door prizes awarded to the registered mem-

The 2009 event will kick off at 4:30 p.m. at McNairy Central High School with free hot

members. Please make plans to join us as we celebrate this annual event.



The Renewed Gospel Ministries Quartet from Dyersburg will perform again at this year's annual meeting. From left are Mike Hoffman, Danny Presley, Charles Vaughn and Keith Ozment.



## 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 Ave.

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](http://www.pickwick-electric.com)

These five pages contain local

news and information

for members of Pickwick

Electric Cooperative.



# History and Washington, D.C.

For more than 100 Tennessee students, history truly jumped out of the books when they arrived in Washington, D.C., for the 2009 Washington Youth Tour. The students experienced a feeling of patriotism they had not known before as they visited the monuments and memorials, all thanks to their electric cooperative.

Each year, Tennessee electric cooperatives sponsor short-story writing contests and take the winners on an expense-paid, six-day tour of the nation's capital. The delegates, all high school juniors, leave their small towns and farms to see how our political system works and visit historic monuments and museums. Along the way, they learn about the rural electrification program and why it's still an important part of their lives back home.

Representing Pickwick Electric Cooperative were Kelsey Copeland, Brandi Adkins and Hillary Combs from Adamsville High School and Jessica Holmes and Gabbi Charette from McNairy Central High School. Cristy King, McNairy Central High School assistant principal, and PEC representatives Beverly Lambert and Chris Combs participated as advisers.

The tour is coordinated at a statewide level by the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association and at a national level by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

The group enjoyed seeing all the famous landmarks in the Washington, D.C., area: Mount Vernon (home of George Washington); Monticello (home of Thomas Jefferson); the Jefferson, Vietnam Veterans, Korean War Veterans, World War II and Lincoln memorials; a VIP tour of the Capitol led by Reps. Zach Wamp and Lincoln Davis; the Tomb of the Unknowns in Arlington National Cemetery; the Smithsonian Museums Complex; the Holocaust Memorial Museum; and the Library of Congress.

In an opportunity few Americans take advantage of, the Youth Tour delegates met face-to-face with their Senate and

## On the Cover

From left are Chris Combs, Jessica Holmes, Brandi Adkins, Hillary Combs, Kelsey Copeland, Gabbi Charette, Beverly Lambert and Cristy King.



While in the D.C. area, the group toured Mt. Vernon, home of George Washington, above, and the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial, left. Above, from left, are Beverly Lambert, Kelsey Copeland, Hillary Combs, Gabbi Charette, Jessica Holmes, Brandi Adkins, Cristy King and Chris Combs. It was President Roosevelt who created the Rural Electrification Administration in 1935 when he saw a need for electricity in the rural areas.

House representatives. Among them were Rep. Marsha Blackburn and Sens. Lamar Alexander and Bob Corker.

The group also had the pleasure of seeing a play at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts and taking a cruise down the Potomac River.

PEC's goal is to provide our members with the most reasonable, reliable electric service possible, but it is also our wish to enrich the lives of our members by improving local economies and sponsoring educational programs for students and adults alike.

"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 themed ‘Electricity Rocks’

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 308 students in attendance this year, five were from the Pickwick Electric Cooperative service area.

“Electricity Rocks” was the theme for this year’s camp, sponsored by PEC, other power distributors, Tennessee Valley Authority, UT Extension and 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 annual camp, 4-H members were involved in several fun learning experiences, including constructing an electric motor and making an

extension cord, both of which they were able to keep and take home with them. They also learned about electric vehicles and got to drive an electric golf cart.

Other activities included a rock band competition and learning electric safety measures to heed around high-voltage power lines.

In addition, the 4-H’ers were treated to an afternoon at Dollywood. Other leisure activities included swimming, dancing and a pizza party.

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

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



Above are advisers Larry Gage, far left, and Kevin Roy, far right, with local students from Pickwick Electric Cooperative’s service area at the 2009 4-H Electric Camp at the University of Tennessee.

## Energy-efficiency Tip of the Month

Replacing just four 75-watt incandescent lightbulbs with four 23-watt compact fluorescent equivalents will save almost \$200 over the life of the bulbs.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

# Preparation key for home fire safety

Each year, nearly 4,000 Americans die in house fires, and another 20,000 are injured, according to the U.S. Fire Administration. Most residential fires occur between 8 p.m. and 8 a.m., with the majority of deaths occurring between midnight and 4 a.m. — when most people are asleep.



In the event of fire, immediately leave your home and do not waste time saving property. If you must escape through smoke, remember to crawl low on the ground and keep your mouth covered.

Fire experts recommend sleeping with doors closed. It takes 10 to 15 minutes to burn through a wooden door, which gives you more

time to escape.

When arriving at a closed door during a fire, use the back of your hand to feel the door — especially around cracks and the knob — to see if it is hot. If it feels hot, use another exit. Even if the door feels cool, open it carefully, bracing yourself to close it if necessary to keep smoke and fire from entering.

If you are trapped in a room, keep doors closed between you and the smoke or blaze. Stuff blankets in cracks around the door and cover vents to keep smoke out. If there's a phone in the room, call 911 to notify the fire department of your exact location. Wait by the window and signal with a sheet or flashlight.

Families should designate a meeting place — such as a specific tree or the end of the driveway — to make sure all members have gotten outside safely. Assign one person to go to a neighbor's house to phone the fire department. Remember to escape first and then dial 911.

Children as young as 3 can be taught to exit a home safely in the event of fire. Have children practice crawling on the floor and teach them not to hide under beds or in closets when they are scared but to exit as planned. Some children are afraid of firefighters dressed in full gear. Take them on a tour of a local fire station and see firefighters in uniform.

Special care should be taken with infants, toddlers and the elderly or disabled who may need extra help. Individual plans should be developed for these folks as part of your fire escape plan.

*Source: U.S. Fire Administration*

## Smoke alarms

Installing smoke alarms on every level of a home helps prevent such tragedies. Smoke alarms should be placed near bedrooms but not so close to the kitchen that you experience problems from alarms going off when cooking.

It's a good idea to have a smoke alarm in each bedroom, too, especially if you sleep with the door closed. Smoke alarm batteries should be tested every month and changed with new ones at least once a year. Also, replace the entire smoke alarm every 10 years or as the manufacturer recommends.

## Escape plans

Unless a small fire can be easily controlled, leave firefighting to professionals and vacate your residence. A home fire can become deadly in as little as three minutes.

Because every second counts when escaping from fire, develop a fire escape plan and practice it with all members of the family at least twice a year. The first step involves creating a floor plan and marking regular and secondary evacuation routes. The backup route could be out a window that leads onto an adjacent roof or down a collapsible ladder. Only purchase ladders evaluated by a nationally recognized expert such as Underwriters Laboratory.

Make sure windows can be opened easily, screens removed quickly and security bars equipped with quick-release devices. Have all members of the family practice opening windows.

## Don Reynolds retires with 30 years of service



**Don Reynolds**

After 30 years at Pickwick Electric Cooperative, Don Reynolds retired on June 19. He says of his career at PEC, “I gained the most satisfaction from serving the customers and the appreciation they showed us after

Bartlett and three grandchildren, Caleb, Annabelle and Henry.

Reynolds began his employment with PEC as right-of-way laborer, progressed to assistant storekeeper and advanced to technician-special equipment, the position he held until retirement.

“Times have changed,” Reynolds says of his tenure at PEC. “We have progressively moved into the age of computers and automated meter reading and are able to serve our customers more efficiently.”

As for the future, Reynolds plans to do some traveling, spend more time with his family and enjoy his hobbies, which include hunting, fishing and woodworking.

“We’d like to thank Don for his many years of service to PEC and wish for him good health and happiness in the future,” says PEC President Karl Dudley.

restoring their power.”

Reynolds was born and raised in McNairy County, graduated from Ramer High School and attended Crump Vocational School. He lives in Ramer with his wife, Donna, and they attend Antioch Church of Christ. They have two children, Jeremy and Skye of

## Use tax credits to fund efficiency upgrades

The idea of living in a more efficient home and paying lower utility bills has widespread appeal. But finding ways to fund improvements can be difficult during hard economic times.

Fortunately, the federal government offers two ways to recover some of your expenses when planning upgrades: energy-efficiency tax credits and renewable-energy tax credits.

Through the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act — known as the federal stimulus bill — Uncle Sam offers a personal tax credit of up to \$1,500 for energy-efficiency measures made at existing homes in 2009 and 2010. You can recover 30 percent of the cost of adding insulation materials and exterior doors, windows and roofs designed to help reduce your home’s heat loss or gain. The credit also covers efficient central air conditioners, air-source heat pumps, hot water boilers and biomass stoves.

With a maximum value of \$1,500 for all improvements made in 2009 and 2010, the credit may be applied toward material costs on all projects. You can also use it on installation costs for heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems and biomass stoves.

If you want to start generating your own power, consider taking a renewable-energy tax credit covering 30 percent of the cost of materials and installation for solar panels, solar water heaters and geothermal heat

pumps. This credit applies to both existing homes and new construction. Projects must be placed into service between Jan. 1, 2009, and Dec. 31, 2016.

Energy Star, a joint program of the U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, provides guidelines on what qualifies for both tax credits at [www.energystar.gov](http://www.energystar.gov), keyword “Tax credits.”

You can file for energy tax credits using Internal Revenue Service Form 5695. Remember to get a Manufacturer Certification Statement (a signed statement from the manufacturer certifying that the product or component qualifies for the tax credit) for your records. Both of the energy tax credits are nonrefundable — they can increase your refund by reducing the taxes you owe, dollar for dollar, and can be carried forward to reduce your taxes in following years. But you won’t get a separate check for the credit amount.

Some electric cooperatives and state government offices offer further subsidies or rebates to consumers who want to make their homes more efficient. For a listing of state and local energy-efficiency assistance available, visit the Database for State Incentives for Renewables and Efficiency, a project funded by the U.S. Department of Energy, at [www.dsireusa.org](http://www.dsireusa.org).

*Sources: Energy Star, Database for State Incentives for Renewables and Efficiency*