

Investing in our youth

Like the blooming of the cherry trees in Washington, D.C., we, too, have an annual rite of spring here at Pickwick Electric Cooperative: the selection of high school students to visit the nation's capital and see the sights and sounds of our government in action and learn about the electric cooperative movement.

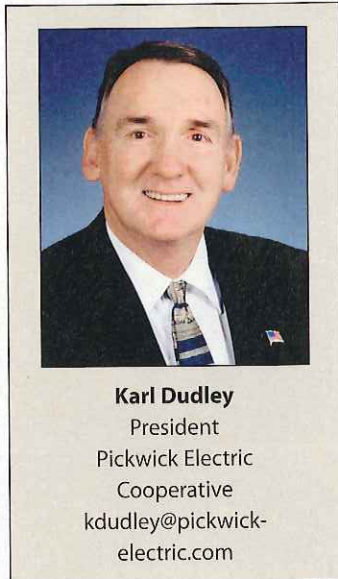
I'm proud of this year's students — Lacey Emmons and Devona Hamm of Adamsville High School and Jenny Bledsoe, Blake Browder and Barton Hamilton of McNairy Central High School — who will be participating in the 2006 Washington Youth Tour in June. They will do an admirable job of representing themselves, PEC, their families and our community.

Our students won't be going alone. They will join others, selected by their local cooperatives, and together make a strong delegation representing our state and nation. Right now, 43 other states are doing the same, selecting from among their best and brightest students to represent their local electric cooperatives.

This annual youth tour is no small undertaking. It brings more than 1,400 students, chaperones and school teachers together from across the country. Alaska and Hawaii, along with almost all the continental states, are represented.

Why is this program important? This is a question that we revisit every year. Here are some other questions we ask ourselves: Is it

important to reach out to the younger members of our communities? Is it important for our future



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leaders to meet their legislators and to see government at work? Is it important for local students to share ideas and experiences with others just like them, from all across the country? Is it important for these students to learn what a cooperative is and how it works? And finally, will these students, as a result of this experience, be better citizens in the communi-

ties where they choose to live?

The answers to these fundamental questions are always a resounding "yes." The value is undeniable. The facts speak for themselves. This program, in its more than 40 years, has attracted more than 40,000 participants from all across the country.

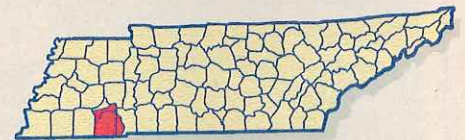
Past Youth Tour participants are now current state legislators, farmers, housewives, attorneys, business owners and even a few congressional staffers. Stories are told of former attendees now sending their own sons and daughters off to this program. With this kind of endorsement, I'm sure we'll have third-generation attendees soon. Often the investment in the lives of these individuals isn't seen in the short term, but it is one that will pay dividends for years to come.

And like the rituals of spring, we look forward to participating in the Washington Youth Tour program that returns high school students to the nation's capital every year.



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.**



Moore and Smith attend Youth Leadership Summit

Josh Smith of Adamsville High School and Katie Moore of McNairy Central High School were among 44 high school juniors from across the state who attended the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association's annual Youth Leadership Summit held Feb. 27-March 1 in downtown Nashville.

"Local electric cooperatives chose these outstanding students based on their interest in government and their leadership abilities," said 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 said of the students representing 23 of Tennessee's electric cooperatives. "It also gives them an opportunity to see, in person, the legislative process in the Tennessee Capitol."

Two days of activities began with an overview of the legislative process. In preparation for their visit to the Legislative Plaza, TECA Director of Government and Public Affairs David Callis discussed the legislative process with the students. They also heard an address by Rep. Chris Crider of Milan.

While in Nashville, the 11th-graders were able to sit in on Senate and House committee meetings at Legislative Plaza, affording them the opportunity to see state government in action. Smith and Moore also met with Rep. Randy Rinks in his office.

Participants were treated to a tour of the historic Capitol and participated in team-building and leadership activities at Vanderbilt University. The evening activities included dinner and a movie at Opry Mills shopping mall and was topped off with a night tour of Nashville.

In addition to those at Vanderbilt, students took part in leadership activities throughout the summit that were led by cooperative employees and special guests, including 2005 Miss Tennessee Tara Burns and University of Tennessee Extension Specialist Amy Gallimore.



Elected representatives meet with the PEC delegation in front of the Capitol. From left are PEC employees Larry Gage and Beverly Lambert, Lt. Gov. John Wilder, Josh Smith, Katie Moore and Rep. Randy Rinks.

"It is encouraging to see this high caliber of future leaders in our service area," said Larry Gage, PEC director of member relations.

Students also had an opportunity to participate in an Energy Battle competition. Teams competed against each other by answering trivia questions about electric cooperatives and the state.

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 PEC, says the Youth Leadership Summit helps students to "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 said. "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.

Josh is the son of Dwayne and Carol Smith of Adamsville, and Katie is the daughter of Dr. Darryl and Shelva Moore of Bethel Springs.

Writing contest winners announced

Pickwick Electric Cooperative has announced the winners of the 2006 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

and wrote short stories relating to the theme "Electric Cooperatives: Going Beyond the Wires." These students are to be congratulated for their accomplishments.

Five first-place winners will receive expense-paid trips to Washington, D.C., June 9-15. These winners are Lacey Emmons and Devona Hamm from Adamsville High School and Jenny Bledsoe, Blake Browder and Barton Hamilton from McNairy Central High School.



Writing contest winners from Adamsville High School are, from left, Stephen Harville, Lacey Emmons, Devona Hamm, Kelly Sowell and Melissa Potts. Not pictured is Cody Cox.



Writing contest winners from McNairy Central High School are, front row from left, Jennifer Perrigo, Amanda Berry, Lindsay Volner and Whitney Eason, and back row, Scott He'bert, Barton Hamilton, Blake Browder, Jenny Bledsoe and Todd Treece.

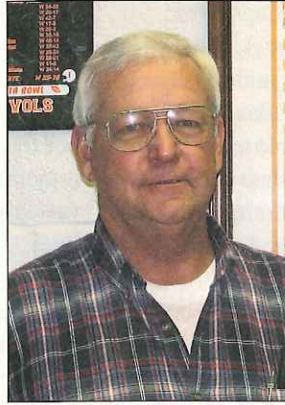
Three employees receive safe-driving awards



Donna Kennedy



Randall Taylor

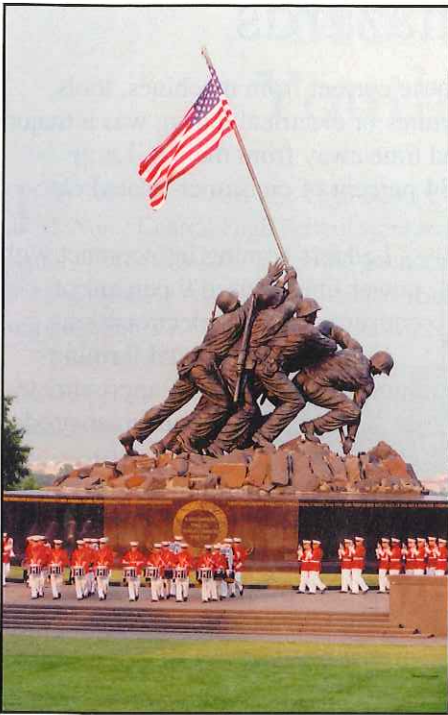


Jackie Weaver

Three Pickwick Electric Cooperative employees recently received awards for safe driving. They were Donna Kennedy, Randall Taylor and Jackie Weaver.

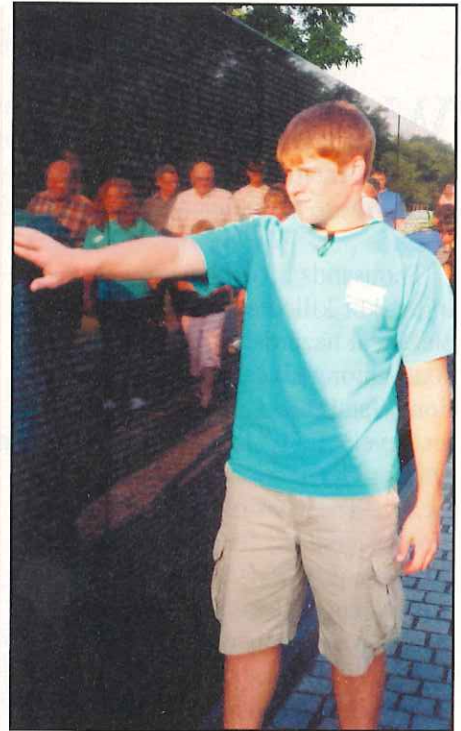
These employees have accumulated a combined 75 years of safe driving. Last year, PEC's 70 employees drove its fleet of 43 vehicles a total of 536,603 miles.

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.



Iwo Jima Statue

**This Memorial Day,
let's honor
those who gave
their lives for
our country...
We salute them
in our hearts
and minds.**



Vietnam Veterans Memorial



World War II Memorial



Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

The Pickwick Electric Cooperative office will be closed Monday, May 29, in observance of the Memorial Day holiday. Should there be an emergency, we will have standby crews available. Have a safe and enjoyable holiday.

Avoid outdoor electrical hazards

Warmer weather brings an increase in outdoor work in many parts of the country, both on the job and at home. Increasing electrical safety awareness can help ensure those activities do not result in injuries and deaths.

Thousands of workers are injured or killed each year due to electrical hazards. Electricity ranks sixth among all causes of occupational fatalities, according to studies developed by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. The construction industry alone accounted for approximately 44 percent of electrical fatalities.

Even though the death rate due to electrocution is on the decline, more can be done to increase electrical safety awareness. The total number of electrocutions that were related to consumer products dropped 35 percent from 1991 to 2001.

Whether working construction or working around your home, taking steps to avoid some of the primary causes of electrocutions and injuries can help keep you safe on the job.

Awareness of the more frequent causes of electrical injuries and following basic electrical safety guidelines can help reduce electrical safety hazards for you and your family, friends and co-workers.

In the workplace, contact with overhead power lines caused approximately 40 percent of job-related fatalities.

Contact with electric current from machines, tools, appliances, light fixtures or electrical wiring was a major cause of injuries and time away from the job. Large appliances caused 34 percent of consumer-related electrocutions.



Ladders coming into contact with power lines caused 9 percent of consumer-related electrocutions.

Gardening, lawn and farming equipment resulted in approximately 7 percent of the consumer-product electrocutions.

The following safety rules can reduce electrical deaths and injuries:

- Water does not mix with electricity. Avoid damp conditions, including wet grass, when using electricity.
- Ladders — even those made of wood — carried in an upright

position can contact a power line with potentially fatal results.

- Unplug outdoor tools and appliances when not in use.
- Inspect power tools and appliances for frayed cords, broken plugs and cracked or broken housing and repair or replace damaged items.
- Use ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) on outdoor outlets. Portable GFCIs are available from most hardware and home improvement stores.

For more electrical safety information, visit www.electrical-safety.org.

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