

Member Newsletter



www.svalleyec.com



Now follow us on Facebook

SEQUACHEE VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

October 2011

Celebrating “The Cooperative Difference”

Each year in October, National Cooperative Month, cooperative businesses across the country celebrate the attributes that make the cooperative business model “different” from other types of businesses.

However, this year we are not just celebrating for one month, we are kicking off the International Year of Cooperatives that will begin in 2012.

What is it that makes Cooperatives different? It is the Seven Cooperative Principles that serve as guidelines governing all cooperatives.

These aren't just rules we look at once a year during Cooperative Month and forget about the rest of the year.

These principles are practiced and demonstrated all year long. They are the foundation of how we do business.

Each person that receives power from Sequachee Valley Electric Cooperative is a member-owner of the co-op. SVEC's Board of Directors, management and staff are member-owners as well, and are ever mindful that what is good for one member must be good for all members.

So as you take a look at some of the photos below that illustrate the co-op's commitment to these principles, keep in mind that this is YOUR cooperative. YOU are an owner with all the rights and responsibilities that go along with ownership.



Democratic Member Control

All members are encouraged to participate in the Annual Meeting and board of director elections each year.



Education, Training & Information

Each year over 700 high school juniors learn about cooperatives through SVEC's Washington Youth Tour program.



Cooperation Among Cooperatives

When storms hit, cooperative personnel come to the aid of other cooperatives to “get the lights back on.”



Concern for Community

Co-ops give back to their communities — their hometowns — to improve the quality of life for their members.

Seven Cooperative Principles

Owned and operated by those they serve, cooperatives are organized under a set of guidelines called the Cooperative or Rochdale Principles. Although much has changed since rural Americans first pooled their resources to bring power to their homes, the Seven Cooperative Principles still serve as the basis on which Tennessee's electric cooperatives are governed, closely tying cooperatives to the communities they serve.

Voluntary and Open Membership

Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all people able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership.

Democratic Member Control

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions.

Members Economic Participation

Members contribute equitably to and democratically control the capital of their cooperative.

Autonomy and Independence

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members.

Education, Training and Information

Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperatives.

Cooperation Among Cooperatives

Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together.

Concern for Community

While focusing on member needs, co-ops work for the sustainable development of their communities.

SVEC Engineering Dept. Changes



Chris Cooper

Chris Cooper, SVEC field engineer, was recently promoted to the position of AMI coordinator in the SVEC engineering department.

Cooper began his career with SVEC as the system drafter in January of 1996, learning SVEC's system on paper and computer before being named field engineer in 1997.

Cooper studied engineering at Chattanooga State and the University of Tennessee, Chattanooga after graduating from Marion County High School.

"Chris's background in engineering and his knowledge of the SVEC system are valuable to the co-op and will enable him to quickly assume

the full responsibilities of the job," stated Danny Kirkendoll, SVEC vice-president of engineering.

Cooper stated, "The new automated meter technology available today is a great tool to help our cooperative become more efficient. It can also be a great tool for our customers as well. I am pleased to have the opportunity to be a part of bringing this new technology to our members."

Cooper and his wife Joanne live in Tracy City with their daughters Isabella and Sophia. Daughter, Kendall lives in Chattanooga and Joanne's son, Chris Santos is currently living and working in Hawaii.



Neal Ashburn

The SVEC engineering department recently welcomed Neal Ashburn to the position of field engineer.

Ashburn, however, is no stranger to Sequachee Valley Electric Cooperative. The University of Tennessee graduate, has been working since January of 2008 as a utility arborist in the vegetation management department of ECI, the contract company managing SVEC's right-of-way program.

Ashburn stated, "I am looking forward to the challenge of this new position. I feel that the knowledge of the SVEC system I gained while working for ECI, will be a great asset in this new position and will help me get up to full speed very quickly. I appreciate the opportunity to work here in my home community with the great staff here at SVEC."

Previous to his employment with ECI, Ashburn worked as a farm manager and in farm equipment sales.

The Whitwell native, his wife, Hope, and 9-year old daughter Maddie reside in Whitwell.

Hope teaches the Jobs for Tennessee Graduates classes as a rotating teacher at Whitwell, Marion County and South Pittsburg High Schools. Maddie is a 4th grader at Whitwell Elementary School.

In his spare time Ashburn is a part-time farmer, raising beef cattle and hay. He is also very involved in several agriculture related organizations, serving as the president of the Marion County Livestock Association, the chairman of the Marion County UT Extension Agriculture Committee and on the Farm Bureau Board and a 4-H volunteer leader.

Hey! What's with the extra zero?

If you are one of our very sharp members who actually knows your account number, you may be noticing a change in the very near future due to an expanding number of accounts and changes in computer software.

Where currently your account number ends in -01, -02, -03 etc., it will now end in -001, -002, -003...

While SVEC does not anticipate any major problems with this change, we want our members to be aware that their number will be changing.

For a few customers, the entire number will be changing to reduce the slight possibility of a billing error.

The change-over is tentatively scheduled for mid-November.

If you currently pay your bill with a payment service that you set up with your bank or another third party, you will need to update your account number with that service to ensure that your payment is posted correctly.

If you pay your bill with SVEC's Bank Draft program, no action is needed on your part.

If you have any questions or concerns about the scheduled change, please feel free to contact your local SVEC office.

Service Centers

97 Resource Rd, Dunlap
949-2198

3396 Main Street, Pikeville
447-2131

512 South Cedar Avenue
South Pittsburg
837-8605 or 1-800-923-2203

14002 Highway 41, Tracy City
592-2511

14087 Highway 28
Whitwell - Mon, Wed, Friday
658-7832

After Hours: 1-888-421-SVEC

www.svalleyec.com

SV Propane
1-877-521-3055 (toll free)
931-592-5126

Coming Soon!

A new look for www.svalleyec.com