

VEC Annual Meeting Set for October 1st

As summer turns to fall, many of us get caught up in the hectic, back-to-school rush and return to our more normal routines. But before your schedule gets too full, please make it a point to mark Saturday, October 1st on your calendar. That's the date for this year's Volunteer Energy Cooperative Annual Meeting.

VEC's Annual Meeting is an excellent opportunity to learn more about your cooperative and about the differences between being a member of an electric cooperative and being a customer of a different type of electric company.

Registration, free flu shots, and your choice of a pancake or a continental breakfast begin immediately after the doors open at 8 a.m. EDT. Morning entertainment will precede the business meeting which convenes at 10 a.m. The featured entertainer The Avalons will take the stage about 10:45 a.m.

Throughout the morning you can stroll through numerous displays about VEC's products and services, energy efficiency, and how to save money on your electric bill. There will also be plenty of great door prizes and every family will receive a free gift.

There will also be balloons, face painting, and safety demonstrations designed for the young and the young-at-heart.

Don't miss out on the fun, the food, the entertainment, the prizes and giveaways, along with the chance to learn about your electric cooperative on October 1st at Meigs County Middle School in Decatur. Directions and a pre-registration form are included in this issue of *Powerlines*.

See you there.



Rody Blevins
President/CEO
Volunteer Energy Cooperative

VEC Annual Meeting is Easy to Find

GPS Address: Meigs Middle School, 564 N. Main St., Decatur, TN 37322

Meigs County Middle School is centrally located in the Volunteer Energy Cooperative service region in Decatur, Tennessee. Once you get to Highway 58 in Decatur turn east on Z Street (across from Piggly Wiggly), left on Main Street, and right into the Meigs Middle School parking lot. Or you can just follow the signs – there will be plenty of signs pointing you in the right direction once you arrive in the Decatur area.

To Decatur from:

Kingston: Follow Highway 58 heading south into Decatur. Turn left on Z Street, left on Main Street, and right into Meigs Middle School.

Crossville: Take Highway 127 South out of Crossville. Follow Highway 27/68 over Watts Bar Dam. Make a right turn onto Highway 58, go nine miles, turn left on Z Street, left on Main Street, and right into Meigs Middle School.

Cleveland: Take Highway 60 to the intersection with Highway 58. Turn right onto Highway 58 and follow to Decatur. Turn right on Z Street, left on Main Street, and right into Meigs Middle School.

Athens: Take Highway 30 to Decatur. At the intersection with Highway 58, turn right. Turn right on Z Street, left on Main Street, and right into Meigs Middle School.

A Letter to Our Members

Dear Cooperative Member:

The 80th Annual Meeting of the members of Volunteer Energy Cooperative will be held at Meigs County Middle School. The business meeting will begin at 10 a.m. EDT, on Saturday, October 1, 2016.

The following action is to be taken: To consider reports of officers and to transact all business which may come before a regular Annual Meeting.

Sammy Norton
Secretary-Treasurer

Why Stand In Line If You Don't Have To?

Fill out the registration form below and you can avoid standing in the registration line at VEC's Annual Meeting. Complete the form below, bring it with you on October 1st, and you can breeze right past the registration lines. Just hand this form in at the special express registration table and head for the displays, breakfast, flu shots, or entertainment.

VEC Annual Meeting Registration/Door Prize Form

This will be your official registration form for the Annual Meeting door prizes.

Please write your **name** and **account number** in the spaces provided below. Your **account number** can be found on your VEC billing statement.

Name: _____

Account Number: _____

Bring this registration form with you on October 1st. You must be present to win prizes.

2016 Lineman Rodeo

The 19th Annual Lineman Rodeo was held in Paris, Tennessee this year. The rodeo, which includes competitive events for apprentices, journeyman teams of three, individual linemen and senior individuals (age 45 and up) recognizes and rewards excellence in safety, skill and knowledge in their field. VEC had three participants, Michael Cook, Kenny Poore, and Andy Winningham. Michael Cook took Second Place overall in the Senior Event as well as 2nd in Hurtman Rescue and 3rd in Fused Cutout Relocation. In the Individual Journeyman Events Kenny Poore came in 2nd overall and Andy Winningham took 5th place.



Andy Winningham



Kenny Poore



Mike Cook

The Avalons to Headline the VEC Annual Meeting

The Avalons (formerly Sh-Boom) had its birth in 1987 when two fellow broadcasters at an oldies station decided they could produce a great show with 50's and 60's Rock 'n' Roll music, one of their passions. They decided that they wanted to be a show with all the entertainment elements...costumes, choreography, audience participation and wacky humor, instead of just another band that played oldies. A wacky comedy style evolved along with the music... and their great 4 part harmonies were complemented with one zany bit after another.

The group was soon opening for scores of legendary artists like The Temptations, The Four Tops, Paul Revere and the Raiders, The Beach Boys, The Smothers Brothers, America, Frankie Valli & the Four Seasons and even country acts like Mary Chapin Carpenter, Colin Raye, Marty Stewart and dozens of others.

A series of personnel and name changes has produced the current group, which performs in hundreds of venues throughout the United States each year. Members Tom Caldwell, Greg Couch, Gary Royse, Phil Snell, and Gary Thompson are ready to entertain Volunteer Energy members on October 1st.

VEC Annual Meeting Schedule of Events

All times eastern

8:00-9:30 am	Registration, Pancake and Continental Breakfasts, Displays, Morning Entertainment
8:00-9:00 am	Flu Shots
9:45 am	Door Prizes
10:00 am	Membership Meeting
10:45 am	Main Entertainment - The Avalons
11:30 am	Door Prizes





The VECustomers Share program funded \$32,700 in community service grants in July. Since the inception of the program in October 2001, more than \$5.7 million in grants has been awarded. The deadline for grant applications is the last working day of each month. For additional information, contact the office of Marketing and Economic Development, at 423-334-7051. Applications are also available online, at www.vec.org.



Board member Bill Womac (2nd on right) presents a check to Coach Jason Adam, Hayden Darnell, and Matt Passmore (left to right) for the Polk County Golf Boosters Association. Grant funding will help offset the cost of tournaments, uniforms and equipment.

Organizations receiving grants in July

Ooltewah High School Band Booster	\$2,000	South Roane County Volunteer Fire Dept	\$500
Pickett County Health Council	\$2,000	Roane County Robotics Team	\$500
Youth Achievement Foundation Inc	\$1,750	A Place at the Table	\$500
Fentress County Food Bank	\$1,750	Pirate Springs	\$500
Senior Citizens of Cumberland County	\$1,600	Stone Memorial High Baseball Booster Club	\$500
Bradley Co Veterans Funeral Honor Guard	\$1,500	American Red Cross of Southeast TN	\$500
Monterey Ministerial Association	\$1,500	American Red Cross of Southeast TN	\$500
Fentress Co. Volunteer Fire Dept		American Red Cross of Southeast TN	\$500
West Fentress Station #9	\$1,250	American Red Cross of Southeast TN	\$500
Kiwanis Club of Spring City	\$1,250	American Red Cross of Southeast TN	\$500
Avalon Center for Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault program	\$1,200	Meigs Senior Center	\$400
Meigs County-Decatur Chamber of Commerce	\$1,050	Lady Waves Soccer Club	\$400
McMinn Co Emergency Communication Group	\$1,000	Midway Bass Club	\$300
Now Faith	\$1,000	Midway Middle School Beta Club	\$300
Decatur Civitan Club	\$1,000	American Red Cross of Southeast TN	\$250
The Women at the Well Ministries	\$750	Mended Little Hearts of the Upper Cumberland	\$250
Midway Youth Development	\$750	MHS Boys Basketball Club	\$250
Cumberland County Schools Foundation	\$750	Midway High School Band Booster	\$250
YMCA of Metropolitan Chattanooga	\$700	Monterey Civitan Club	\$250
Tennessee Cancer Consortium of Meigs Co	\$550	Monterey HS Cheerleading Booster Club	\$250
Mineral Springs Hunger Relief	\$500	Spring City Softball	\$250
Rhea County Health Council-Give a Kid a Chance	\$500	Tennessee Hemophilia and Bleeding Disorders Foundation	\$200

2016 Washington Youth Tour

Nearly 140 high school seniors from across Tennessee have returned from a weeklong "experience of a lifetime" courtesy of their local electric cooperatives. Joshua Laster of Alvin C. York Institute, Hunter Blake Chastain of Polk County High School, Taylor Nixon of Meigs County High School, and Katherine Torrance of Cumberland County High School were sponsored by Volunteer Energy Cooperative to participate in the 2016 Washington Youth Tour June 10-16.

The popular event included sightseeing, visits with elected officials and lots of fun meeting peers from across Tennessee and the nation. Delegates earned their spots on the Youth Tour by writing winning short stories titled "Electric Cooperatives: Powering Everyday Life." In their winning entries, the talented young writers described how member-owned, nonprofit electric co-ops strengthen their local communities and improve lives across their service areas while providing safe, reliable, affordable energy.

"We take great pride in rewarding the best and brightest from our service area," said Julie Jones, Volunteer Energy Communication and Public Relations Coordinator, a chaperone on this year's trip. "By recognizing their accomplishments through programs like the Washington Youth Tour, we show these leaders of tomorrow that their hometown electric co-op is more than a utility provider; Volunteer Energy Cooperative is an active member of the community and fully invested in its prosperity."

For more than 50 years, the Washington Youth Tour has taken students from electric co-op service areas to our nation's capital to learn more about our country and the cooperative business model. The annual event is coordinated by Volunteer Energy, the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association and National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). This year's Youth Tour involved 1,700 students from 43 states.

"Young Americans given the opportunity to come to Washington, D.C., by their electric cooperatives experience a life-changing event," said NRECA Interim CEO Jeffrey Connor. "They talk to their elected officials in person, connect to our nation's rich history and have a hands-on experience with democracy. Youth Tour enriches their understanding of the political process and the vital importance of direct engagement. As a result, they return to their communities with a deeper commitment to the communities they represent."

On their 2016 visit, Tennessee's Youth Tour delegates saw the White House and memorials to past presidents Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Franklin Delano Roosevelt as well as monuments honoring the sacrifices of veterans of World War II and the Vietnam and Korean Wars. During visits to the museums of the Smithsonian Institution, the touring Tennesseans saw and experienced natural, historical and artistic treasures. Other fun stops included historic homes of former presidents — George Washington's Mount Vernon and Jefferson's Monticello — as well as Madame Tussauds Wax Museum, the Hard Rock Cafe and a boat cruise down the Potomac River. Among other Youth Tour highlights were a solemn and sobering visit to Arlington National Cemetery where the group laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns and a stirring Sunset Parade performance by the U.S. Marine Drum and Bugle Corps and Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon.

The group was welcomed to the U.S. Capitol by Sens. Lamar Alexander and Bob Corker, and Rep. Diane Black, Rep. Chuck Fleischmann, and Rep. Scott Dejarlais spent time with their young constituents from Volunteer Energy Cooperative, posing for photos and answering questions.



Taylor Nixon



Blake Chastain



Katherine Torrance



Joshua Laster

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Katherine Torrance from Volunteer Energy Cooperative was awarded a \$2,000 Robert McCarty Memorial Scholarship for having the second place essay out of the more than 10,000 papers submitted across the state. McCarty was an employee of Volunteer Energy Cooperative and long-time chaperone on the annual youth tour. Robert lost his battle with cancer in 2015, and sponsoring cooperatives renamed the scholarship in honor of his love for young people. This was the first time a Volunteer Energy Cooperative Student placed in the annual essay contest in recent memory, and was a fitting tribute to Robert McCarty's commitment to our cooperative members and their students.

"Our commitment to community is what sets cooperatives apart from other businesses," said Roddy Blevins, Volunteer Energy President and CEO. "The Washington Youth Tour is one way we show the youth of our service area that Volunteer Energy is more than their electricity provider. We genuinely care about the prosperity of our communities, and that includes providing special opportunities for these exceptional students and preparing them for future success."



Katherine Torrance wins a Robert McCarty \$2,000 Scholarship for her essay.

Tennessee Electric Cooperatives Visit D.C. Lawmakers

Members from Volunteer Energy Cooperative visited with Rep. Diane Black, Rep. Scott Dejarlis, and Rep. Chuck Fleischmann on Thursday, June 23, in Washington, D.C. They joined more than 40 co-op leaders from across the state meeting with Tennessee's Congressional delegation.

"An important part of our mission to provide affordable and reliable energy is educating our elected officials about co-ops," says Mike Frazier, a director with Volunteer Energy Cooperative. "These visits help them better understand the issues that concern co-ops and co-op members."

"Elected representatives make decisions and pass laws that have serious consequences for Tennessee's electric cooperatives and their members," says David Callis, executive vice president of the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association. "It is important that we tell the electric cooperative story and inform Members of Congress of the impact of proposed legislation."

Co-op members discussed environmental and power supply issues with members of Congress during their visits. "It is important that we communicate with how legislation affects rates and reliability for everyday Tennesseans," says Callis.



VEC Board Member Mike Frazier, Congresswoman Diane Black, Duck River President and CEO Michael Watson, VEC President and CEO Roddy Blevins, and VEC Board Member Aubie Smith.

Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)

Residential & Outdoor Lighting Fuel Cost Adjustment
Effective August 1, 2016

¢2.363

For the most current FCA information, visit www.vec.org

Volunteer Energy Cooperative is an Equal Opportunity provider and employer.