

A Letter to Our Members



Dear Cooperative Member:

The 77th 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 5, 2013

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



VEC Annual Meeting is Easy to Find

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 get into the Decatur area.

If you want to plug the address into your GPS it is: Meigs Middle School, 564 N. Main Street, Decatur, TN 37322.

To get 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 that into Decatur. Turn right on Z Street, left on Main Street, and right into Meigs Middle School.

Athens:

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

VEC Annual Meeting Set for October 5

As those lazy days of summer turn 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 calendar gets too full, please make it a point to mark Saturday, October 5th on your calendar. That’s the date for this year’s Volunteer Energy Cooperative Annual Meeting.

Volunteer Energy Cooperative’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. Morning entertainment will be provided by Ally and Ashley Clark with percussionist Adam Klinker and will precede the business meeting which convenes at 10 a.m. Featured entertainer James Rogers will take the stage at 10:30 a.m.

In between the entertainment 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 goody-bag. 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, or the chance to learn about your electric cooperative on October 5th 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

Why Stand in Line?

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 5th, and you can breeze right past the registration lines. Just hand this form in at the special express registration table and head right for the displays, breakfast, flu shots, or entertainment.

Why stand in line if you don’t have to?

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: _____

James Rogers is Back by Popular Demand to Headline VEC Annual Meeting

It’s true – You never can get enough of a good thing. By popular demand singer/songwriter/entertainer extraordinaire James Rogers will be highlighting Volunteer Energy Cooperative’s 77th Annual Meeting on Saturday, October 5th at Meigs County Middle School.

“Our members enjoyed James so much at Annual Meetings in years past, we are very pleased that we were able to get him to come back for this year’s event,” said VEC Vice President of Marketing and Economic Development Patty Hurley. “He is a terrific entertainer and I hope all our customers will come out and enjoy this special treat with us.”

Rogers, who grew up in the Chattanooga area, has carved a reputation as one of America’s most influential writers of patriotic songs. His song “Fly Eagle Fly” was selected as the Bicentennial song for the State of Tennessee and is now one of Tennessee’s official state songs. The Air and Army National Guard adopted Rogers’ “I Guard America” as their national anthem. His song “Save the Eagle” was selected as the theme song for the American Eagle Foundation and helped launch the effort to create the Dollywood National Eagle Sanctuary.

Rogers has performed at Silver Dollar City, Dollywood, Music Mansion, The Grand Old Opry, Caesar’s Palace in Las Vegas, and Chattanooga’s Riverbend Festival.

He is known for involving the audience in his intimate shows that combine singing, instrumental solos, and a generous helping of humorous down-home banter.



BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND
JAMES ROGERS

James Rogers will headline Volunteer Energy Cooperative’s 77th Annual Meeting in Decatur on October 5th.

VEC
Customers Share
Your Change Changes Things



The VECustomers Share program funded \$32,900 in community service grants in June. Since the inception of the program in October 2001, more than \$4.5 million in grants has been awarded. The deadline for grant applications is the last 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.



VECustomers Share Board Member Bill Womac, right, presents a grant check to, from left, T.R. Stone, assistant coach, and Travis Carroll, head coach of the Polk County High School Cross Country Team, along with Lane Carroll.

Organizations receiving grants in June

HonorAir	\$2,750	Monterey Depot Historical Society	\$875
Calhoun Elementary School PTO	\$2,500	Clarkrange High School Interact Club	\$800
Polk County High School Cross Country Club	\$1,500	New Shepherd Hill Youth Group, Ooltewah	\$750
Polk County High School Baseball Booster Club	\$1,500	Midway Youth Cheerleading Organization	\$750
Fentress County Children's Center	\$1,500	Team Kids, Harrison	\$650
Cherokee Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America	\$1,250	Good Neighbors Theater, Byrdstown	\$500
Fourth Grade Math Club, Byrdstown	\$1,250	Ooltewah High School Band Boosters	\$500
Friends of the Spring City Library	\$1,250	Ellita International, Cleveland	\$500
Peavine Care Center, Crossville	\$1,150	East Tennessee Bandits Baseball Club, Decatur	\$500
J.O.Y. School, Cleveland	\$1,000	Ms. Brittany's 1st Grade Reading Wizards, Byrdstown	\$500
Fairfield Glade Lions Club Charities	\$1,000	Meigs County High School Baseball Booster Club	\$500
Midway Middle School Beta Club	\$1,000	The Art Guild at Fairfield Glade	\$500
Oak Grove Mission Team, Benton	\$1,000	Meigs County Senior Center	\$500
Midway Quarterback Club	\$1,000	Helping Hands Ministry on Peavine Road, Crossville	\$500
Monterey Mission Center	\$1,000	Summer Lunch Program, Spring City	\$500
Meigs County Fair Association	\$1,000	Handfuls of the Harvest, Jamestown	\$450
Bread of Life Rescue Mission, Crossville	\$1,000	Birchwood Senior Neighbors, Dayton	\$350
Tennessee Hemophilia and Bleeding Disorders Foundation	\$1,000	Kanusita Garden Club of Athens	\$250
Monterey Civitan Club	\$875		

VEC Sponsors Students on Washington Youth Tour

Volunteer Energy Cooperative sponsored four students who were among the more than 140 high school juniors from across Tennessee who experienced an in-depth look at our nation's capital during the 2013 Rural Electric Youth Tour.

Ivy Adams of Ooltewah High School, Lexi Cantrell of Monterey High School, Greg Choate of York Agricultural Institute, and Ana Villa of McMinn County High School were rewarded with a weeklong tour of Washington, D.C., for writing winning short stories titled "Electric Cooperatives: Powering Your Communities" describing how locally owned, member-controlled electric cooperatives provide valuable community-building support in addition to reliable and affordable electric service.

The Washington Youth Tour is a joint effort of VEC, the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association, and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. Each school year, VEC sponsors a short story contest for high school juniors. Winners are awarded spots on the expense-paid trip to our nation's capital the following June as part of the Washington Youth Tour. This year's tour ran June 13-20 and included meeting with U.S. Representative Diane Black, visits to Washington's popular tourist stops, and time to visit with winners representing other co-ops across the state.

"The Youth Tour is one of the most rewarding things I do all year," said VEC Member Services Specialist Kristy Kelly who served as a chaperone. "These students not only learn about our nation and their electric cooperative, but they also learn leadership skills that will benefit them in college and beyond."

Students on the tour visited 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 conflicts. Strolls through the varied museums of the Smithsonian Institution afforded the students opportunities to learn more about science, history and art. Other fun stops included homes of former presidents — George Washington's Mount Vernon and Jefferson's Monticello — a performance of "Shear Madness" at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, a boat cruise down the Potomac River and tours of the National Museum of Crime and Punishment, Ford's Theatre and the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial.



VEC students and chaperone Kristy Kelly visit Mt. Vernon, the home of George Washington.



VEC students and chaperones Kristy Kelly and Robert McCarty visit the U.S. Capitol.

Silent Drill Platoon at the Sunset Parade, performed in front of the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial's iconic statue re-creating the flag-raising over Iwo Jima during World War II.

No trip to Washington, D.C., would be complete without a lesson or two in government and civics. The group was welcomed to the U.S. Capitol by Reps. Marsha Blackburn and Stephen Fincher, and their staff members treated students to a special after-hours, VIP tour. Students also met Sens. Lamar Alexander and Bob Corker as well as former Tennessee Gov. Phil Bredesen. U.S. Representative Diane Black also spent some time with her constituents outside the Capitol and posed for photos.

Tennessee's Youth Tour delegation joined other trip winners from across the country for Youth Day on Monday, June 17. More than 1,500 students came together to swap stories of their Washington experiences. They listened to presentations by former Nebraska State Sen. David Landis, who told, in character, the story of the late U.S. Sen. George W. Norris of Neb., explaining the formation of and the politics surrounding the creation of electric cooperatives and the Rural Electrification Act. And Mike Schlappi, a four-time Paralympic medalist and two-time wheelchair basketball champion, urged the young attendees, "Just because you can't stand up doesn't mean you can't stand out."



From left, Ana Villa, Lexi Cantrell, Ivy Adams, and Greg Choate board a plane for home after a busy week in Washington, D.C.

"We are owned by our members, and it is so important that our members understand how that makes us different," said VEC President/CEO Rody Blevins. "Our communities and our co-ops need strong leadership, and the Washington Youth Tour is one way we can help prepare students for the roles they may one day fill. The tour and similar educational opportunities made possible by VEC are designed to help students understand what it takes to be a leader in their communities and why leadership is so important."

Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)

Residential & Outdoor Lighting Fuel Cost Adjustment
Effective August 1, 2013

2.408¢

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

