

Volunteer Energy Cooperative Hosts "Electricity College"

Volunteer Energy Cooperative hosted about 140 sixth graders from Meigs County Middle School on March 28 for "Electricity College." The students attended several "classes" on the cooperative business model, electricity generation and distribution, the math of electric company billing, communications and outage response, electrical equipment, and safety.

Students were also escorted to their classes by VEC volunteers who shared their own educational and career paths.

"We wanted to develop something that complimented their classroom instruction on electric circuits and math, and also give them a good overview of the business of electricity distribution," said VEC Vice President of Operations Clyde Jolley. "But we also wanted to make sure it was something that was going to be fun for the students."

Jolley said the feedback from students, teachers, and VEC volunteers seemed to indicate that the event was successful on all counts.

Students were split into morning and afternoon sessions. After an introduction, an overview of electricity generation and distribution, and a brief history of VEC, students were separated into three groups. Each group rotated to three different stations where VEC volunteers taught about safety and right-of-way maintenance; a lineman's tools of the trade; and outage management systems and call center operations. At each station students received answers for their "final exam" that they turned in to earn their diplomas.

"The students were really excited about visiting VEC," said Meigs County Middle School sixth grade science teacher Misty Meadows. "And when we got back to school they couldn't stop talking about it."



VEC Lineman Travis Kowanetz taught students about safety equipment that linemen use during the course of a typical day.



Volunteer Energy Cooperative's Steve Scott instructs students about safety and tree trimming in the utility right-of-way.

This Spring Be Safe – Be Aware
For a limited Time, Get



\$15 Off
Midland Weather Radio

Now **\$44.95** plus tax

Offer good for weather radios purchased in any Volunteer Energy Cooperative office. Limit one per customer while supplies last.

Offer good April 16 - June 30, 2014 or while supplies last



Young and old alike got an up-close look at a bucket truck courtesy of VEC Lineman Tyson Ratcliff at the Bradey Initiative for Church and Community event in Cleveland on March 15.

Don't Let Thunderstorms Catch You Off Guard

Protect your home, your appliances, and your sensitive electronics with VEC's new and improved Surge Guard protection system.



Call your local VEC Customer Service Center or get the details at www.vec.org



VEC Wants Your Opinion

At VEC we have a single purpose. That is to provide our customers reliable, safe, and efficient services in a courteous and timely manner at a competitive cost.

We know that to do this, we have to reach out to our member-owners and ask for their opinion on how well we meet their needs and expectations. To accomplish this, VEC partners with Oppenheim Research in Florida to perform a telephone survey of a random sample of VEC member-owners. This survey has been conducted for several years.

Recently VEC member-owners have been targeted by scammers who make fraudulent telephone calls claiming to be representatives from VEC. I want to take this opportunity to help our customers feel confident that they are not talking to scammers when they participate in our telephone survey.

Our partners at Oppenheim Research identify themselves and their firm, and they are only seeking input from our residential customers at this time. They will ask if you, or anyone in your immediate family, work for a market research firm, a public relations firm, or a utility company. If you answer yes, they will not be able to use your responses.

In contrast, the scam phone callers that have been reported to VEC and to local law enforcement often target business customers. They claim that they must collect an unpaid bill immediately or they will discontinue service in a very short timeframe - often just an hour or two.

The firm conducting our telephone survey and other VEC employees and contractors, will never initiate a call asking for money. Sometimes we make automated calls to remind members of an unpaid balance, but we never ask a customer to provide credit card information.

If you have doubts about a call, please notify VEC and your local law enforcement agency immediately. But if the caller is asking only for your opinion and recent experiences with VEC, please take a few minutes to answer their questions.

We want to provide superior customer service. In order to do that, it is important that we receive input from a wide variety of our member-owners so we can make any adjustments necessary to better meet the needs of as many customers as possible.

In addition to finding out about your level of satisfaction with the service you receive from VEC, the telephone survey is also designed to gather information about what types of energy efficiency projects you may be considering. This information is helpful to use as we look to offer programs to assist our member-owners with the energy-efficiency improvements in which they are most interested.

I know our member-owners are busy people with other things to do. But spending a few minutes and furnishing your responses will help us provide the products, services, and information that you want from Volunteer Energy Cooperative. Please take a few minutes to help us serve you better.

If you do not receive a call from the telephone survey and would like to give us your input, we provide a contact form on our website at www.vec.org.



Rody Blevins
President/CEO
Volunteer Energy Cooperative

VECcustomers Share Your Change Changes Things



The VECcustomers Share program funded \$31,100 in community service grants in March. Since the inception of the program in October 2001, more than \$4.8 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.



VECcustomers Share Board Member Bobby Scott (left) presents a FLIR (Forward Looking Infra-Red) viewer to Clay Ingle of the Hamilton County Special Tactics and Rescue Service. The unit, purchased with funds awarded through the VECcustomers Share program, helps locate missing people by picking up their body heat from as far away as 250 feet.

Organizations receiving grants in March

Rhea County Veterans Coordinating Committee	\$1,500	Polk County Retired Teachers Association	\$500
Monterey First Baptist Church Youth Group	\$1,372	Fentress County Agricultural Fair	\$500
Ooltewah High School Band Boosters	\$1,000	Pickett County Junior High Book Club	\$500
Fentress County Senior Babe Ruth Baseball	\$1,000	Stone Memorial HS Trac Booster Club, Crossville	\$500
Xtreme '04 Softball Team, Birchwood	\$1,000	South Roane County Volunteer Fire Depart.	\$500
CommonBond Christian Women's Job Corps, Cleveland	\$1,000	Central HS Baseball Booster Club, Hamilton County	\$500
Meigs County Middle School Cheerleader Boosters	\$750	Pickett County HS Lady Bobcat Support Group	\$500
American Cancer Society of Meigs County	\$750	Polk County High School Baseball Boosters	\$500
Spring City Lions Club	\$750	Burks Baseball Booster Club, Monterey	\$500
CLA Archery Team, Athens	\$750	Mrs. Emily Bilbrey's 5th Grade Math Club, Byrdstown	\$500
Benton Lions Club	\$750	Crossville Lions Club Charities	\$400
Girl Scout Troop 40163, Athens	\$750	South Cumberland County Elementary School 6th & 7th Grade Science Club	\$400
Midway High School Band Boosters	\$750	Cumberland Homesteads Tower Association	\$400
Midway High School PTO	\$750	Lake Tansi Security Enforcement, Crossville	\$400
Meigs County High School Football Boosters	\$750	Veterans of Foreign Wars, Crossville	\$400
Manna House Ministries, Jamestown	\$750	Town of Pleasant Hill Spring Festival	\$400
Health Occupations Students of America, Crossville	\$650	Children's Advocacy Center of Hamilton County	\$400
Kids on the Rise, Crossville	\$650	Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Crossville	\$300
Jefferson Davis Chapter #900 United Daughters of the Confederacy, Benton	\$550	Muscular Dystrophy Association, Cumberland County	\$278
American Cancer Society of McMinn County	\$500	McMinn County HS Men's Soccer Booster Club	\$250
American Cancer Society of Rhea County	\$500	AWS Student Chapter at Crossville	\$250
Tribe 11 and Under Travel Baseball Club, Athens	\$500	Polk County Education Foundation	\$250
Meigs County Ministries	\$500	Midway Middle School Parent Involvement Program	\$250
BASIC of Tennessee, Birchwood	\$500	Roane County United Way	\$250
Lady Wildcat Softball Booster Club, Benton	\$500	Martin Elem. School Cross Country Team, Crossville	\$250
Sierra Hull Bluegrass Festival, Byrdstown	\$500	Muscular Dystrophy Association, White, Putnam, Overton counties	\$200
7th Grade Math Club, Byrdstown	\$500	Muscular Dystrophy Association, Hamilton County	\$200
Banner Roslyn Community Center, Clarkrange	\$500	Muscular Dystrophy Association, Bradley County	\$200
Polk County Retired Teachers Association	\$500		

Two Cumberland County High School Juniors Attend Youth Leadership Summit

Meagan Burgess and Robert Clafin of Cumberland County High School were sponsored by VEC to attend the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association's 2014 Youth Leadership Summit March 24-26 in downtown Nashville.

Burgess, daughter of Chuck and Tina Burgess of Crossville, and Clafin, son of Tim and Diane Clafin, were among 46 high school juniors representing the state's 23 electric cooperatives who attended the annual event.

"The Youth Leadership Summit teaches these exceptional students how important electric cooperatives are to Tennessee's communities and provides them an opportunity to see the legislative process in the Capitol," said Todd Blocker, TECA director of member relations. "Local electric co-ops, school officials, and guidance counselors chose these deserving students to attend the summit based on their interests in government and strong leadership abilities."

VEC President/CEO Roddy Blevins said VEC was proud to help these students further develop their leadership skills.

"Meagan and Robert are fine examples of the future leaders we're raising in our local communities," said Blevins. "VEC is pleased to provide motivated students with this opportunity to join their peers from across Tennessee to learn about state government and rural electric co-ops."

The summit began Monday evening, March 24, with dinner at the group's hotel, the Millennium Maxwell House. Get-acquainted activities and an introduction to cooperatives followed, led by electric co-op leaders, and the night ended with a leadership development presentation by Amy Gallimore of TRI Leadership Resources LLC.

Students rose early on Tuesday, March 25, for breakfast and preparations for a visit to Legislative Plaza. TECA Director of Government Affairs Mike Knotts introduced Sen. Mike Bell of Riceville and Rep. Cameron Sexton of Crossville, who welcomed the students to Nashville and answered their questions about legislative issues. The 11th graders then toured the Capitol and saw state government in action at Senate and House committee meetings before posing for photos in front of the historic building.

Following the visit to Capitol Hill, the group enjoyed lunch and leadership activities at a Nashville-area YMCA camp, where the students were also treated to a hot-line trailer demonstration by Sequachee Valley Electric Cooperative (SVEC) and Sunbelt Rentals. SVEC employees showed that electric power does a tremendous amount of work for us, but because it is such a powerful force, we must be careful around it and always exercise safety around power lines. The fun continued with dinner and games at Dave & Buster's, and the busy day was capped off by special guest speakers Miss Tennessee Shelby Thompson and Tennessee Titans cheerleader Anne Peterson.

Wednesday morning, the students were divided into teams and formed their own co-ops and worked together to "buy" and "sell" power distribution supplies and resolve day-to-day issues local electric co-ops face like power outages and rights-of-way conflicts. Then they got an overview of the history of electric cooperatives and answered trivia questions about electric co-ops and the state in the "Energy Battle" competition.



State Representative Cameron Sexton met with (from left) Meagan Burgess, Robert Clafin and VEC chaperone Robert McCarty during the Youth Leadership Summit.



Volunteer Energy Cooperative will offer these and other surplus vehicles and equipment for absolute auction on Saturday, June 21.

Volunteer Energy Cooperative to Auction Surplus Vehicles, Equipment



Volunteer Energy Cooperative (VEC) will sell surplus vehicles and equipment at absolute auction at 9:30 a.m. Eastern Time on Saturday, June 21 at VEC's Decatur Customer Service Center at 18359 Highway 58 North in Decatur.

Vehicles to be auctioned will be available for inspection from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Eastern Time on Friday, June 20 and from 8 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Eastern Time the day of the auction.

All items purchased must be paid for on the day of the sale by cash or check.

Vehicles scheduled for auction include: one 2005 Ford Explorer 4WD; two 2008 Chevy Colorado pickups 4WD regular cab; one 2002 Chevy 1500 Silverado 4 WD regular cab; one 2003 Chevy 1500 Silverado 4WD regular cab; one 2004 Chevy 1500 Silverado 4WD regular cab; one 2005 Chevy 1500 Silverado 4WD regular cab; two 2008 Ford F250 4WD pickups; one 1988 Ford F350 4WD flatbed; one 1995 International 4700 with 22,200 GVWR; and one 1969 Yale fork lift.

In addition to these vehicles, the auction will also include building materials and office equipment. All items scheduled for auction are subject to change without notice.

The auction will be conducted by Big I Auctions, TAL 992; TFL 397.

Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)

Residential & Outdoor Lighting Fuel Cost Adjustment

Effective May 1, 2014

2.817¢

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

