

Candidates Vying for VEC Board Positions

The following candidates have qualified to run for positions on the Volunteer Energy Cooperative Board of Directors in districts in which the current directors' terms of office are expiring.

There will be no contested election in Districts 1 and 5. Ballots for the District 9 election will be mailed August 29th and must be received by the election auditor by September 17th.

DISTRICT 1 - Polk County

David J. Milen

David J. Milen, of Benton, is the incumbent member of the Volunteer Energy Cooperative Board of Directors representing Polk County. He has served on the VEC Board since 2010.

Milen was born in Old Fort and graduated from Polk County High School. He served four years in the U.S. Navy and is retired from Norfolk Southern Railroad Company.

He has served on the Polk County Commission for 16 years and is also a member of Ocoee Lodge #212 Chattanooga Scottish Rite. He and his wife, Daphne, have two children, Deanna Sloan and Dusty Milen, and attend First Baptist Church in Benton where he serves as a deacon. He also coached Little League Baseball for 12 years.



Milen

DISTRICT 5 - Meigs County

Sammy Norton

Sammy Norton, of Decatur, is the incumbent member of the Volunteer Energy Cooperative Board of Directors representing Meigs County. He has served on the VEC Board since 2000. He holds his Credentialed Cooperative Director certification from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Norton is a dairy farmer and a graduate of Meigs County High School. He has served on the board of directors for the Valley Farmers Cooperative and served on the Farm Services Agency board from 1983 to 1997. He is also a member of Meigs County Masonic Lodge.

He has four children, Shelly, Chris, Andrea, and Tonya. He is a member of Pisgah Baptist Church and has served as a Gideon for several years.



Norton

DISTRICT 9 - Cumberland County - East

Randy Bond

Randy Bond, of Crossville, is the incumbent member of the Volunteer Energy Cooperative Board of Directors and is running for re-election. He has served on the VEC Board since 1997. He is retired from his position as executive vice president at Cumberland County Bank.

Bond graduated from Fort Knox High School in Fort Knox, KY. He earned his Bachelor's of Business Administration degree from the University of Kentucky and his Master's Degree in Business and Education from Tennessee Technological University. Bond served as an Infantry Squad Leader with the U.S. Army's 7th Cavalry Division in Vietnam from 1968 to 1970.

He has served on the Board of Directors Hilltoppers, Inc. since 1983 where he is chairman and on the finance committee. He is commissioner for the Crossville Housing Authority and serves on the Board of Directors for BPC Corporation, Bank of Putnam County, and Cumberland County Bank.

He and his wife, Glenda have two children, Michael and Scott, and are members of Dorton United Methodist Church where he serves as chairman of the Board of Trustees.



Bond

Jeff Waldo

Jeff Waldo, born and raised in Crossville, is running to represent Cumberland County East on the Volunteer Energy Cooperative Board of Directors. He is co-owner of Promotions Plus and manager of Stephens and Associates marketing agency. He is also chief operating officer at ExacCare Walk-In Clinic.

He is also marketing director for Eye Centers of Tennessee. He formerly served as marketing director for Dave Kirk Automotive. He is also a retired affiliate real estate broker.

Waldo graduated from Cumberland County High School and earned his Bachelor's Degree in Finance from the University of Tennessee. He is a member of the Crossville Noon Rotary Club and a past Board Member for the Crossville Chamber of Commerce.

He attends Alloway Baptist Church and Central Baptist Church.



Waldo

How Much Does It Cost To Use An Electric Appliance?

Three things determine the cost of using an electric appliance:

- 1) Wattage
- 2) Number of hours it operates
- 3) Cost of electricity

Kilowatts	X	Hours of Operation	X	Cost of Electricity	=	Cost of Operating the Electric Appliance
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Wattage - A watt is a measurement of electricity. A 100-watt light bulb uses 100 watts of electricity when lighted. Appliances and light bulbs are labeled with the watts or wattage they use. A kilowatt is 1000 watts. A kilowatt-hour (KWH) is 1000 watts (one kilowatt) of electricity used for one hour. Residential electric meters measure kilowatt-hours.

Number of hours it operates - Some home appliances, such as a clock, fan, and washing machine, use electricity the entire time they are "on." Other appliances, such as the water heater, refrigerator, and range, cycle "on" and "off."

Cost of electricity - If the cost of electricity for residential use is \$0.10 per kilowatt-hour, you can calculate the total cost of operation of an electric appliance or, in the following example, a light bulb.

Example: 100-watt light bulb "on" for 20 hours

100 watts = 0.1 kilowatt 1000 watts = 1 kilowatt

Kilowatts		Hours of Operation		Cost of Electricity		Cost of Operating the Electric Appliance
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0.1 kilowatt x 20 hours x \$.1004 = \$0.20 or 20¢

Note: Sometimes the wattage is not indicated on the appliance, but the voltage and amperage are usually listed on the nameplate of the appliance. In this case, the wattage is determined by multiplying the voltage times the amperage. V Volts x Amps = Watts. Also, one horsepower is equal to 746 watts.

Example for calculating a monthly residential bill for the energy use of 1846 kWh on VEC's summer rates:

Customer Charge:	\$ 11.71
Energy Charge:	\$132.54 (1846 x \$0.07180 = \$132.54)
Fuel Cost Adjustment:	\$ 52.78 (1846 x \$0.02859 = \$ 52.78) - rate varies monthly
Net Amount:	\$197.03

Right-of-Way Maintenance is a Big Ticket Item

Second in a Series

Last month I kicked off a series of columns on the expenses involved in operating your electric cooperative. You may remember from last month's column, the overwhelmingly biggest expense to Volunteer Energy Cooperative is purchasing power from the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA).

On average about 80 cents out of every dollar we collect from our members goes to TVA to purchase power. That figure can vary from month to month and in February - when so many VEC members were experiencing high electric bills due to the extremely cold weather - VEC had a big electric bill from TVA as well. That month we paid 87 cents of every dollar we collected to TVA to purchase electricity.

Aside from purchasing power, our second highest expense is right-of-way (R.O.W.) maintenance. That might surprise some people, but when you consider that VEC maintains a 40-foot right-of-way for about 9,000 miles of line, the big price tag should come as no surprise.

Our trimming and spraying programs are coordinated by Right-of-Way Superintendent Steve Scott who is a certified arborist.

During the past fiscal year VEC spent about \$6 million to maintain R.O.W. across our 17-county service areas. Most of that money, about \$5.5 million was spent on tree-trimming and tree clearing. The remaining \$500,000 was spent on our herbicide spraying program.

About 85% of outages are caused by trees or tree limbs coming into contact with power lines. To combat this threat to system reliability, VEC began an aggressive R.O.W. maintenance program in 2005. Our annual commitment to the R.O.W. maintenance has increased steadily since that time.

VEC's 80 full-time certified line clearance tree trimmers typically trim between 1,500 and 1,800 miles of R.O.W. annually. In the 2013-2014 fiscal year, we trimmed more than 2,000 miles of R.O.W. Crews trim 20 feet on each side of the poles for a 40-foot clearance. It takes about six years to complete the cycle across our system and then - since Mother Nature never rests - we begin the cycle again.

VEC crews use lateral cut techniques that are more beneficial for the health of the trees and they also minimize re-growth.

VEC's R.O.W. spraying program typically runs from mid-June through mid-September when growth is most active. During the average year we spray about 4,000 acres. The spraying helps prevent extended power outages caused by falling trees and assists with quicker power restorations by improving access for our service crews.

VEC only uses EPA-approved herbicides that are rated the safest and we use low-volume, selective backpack spraying to target woody stem growth.

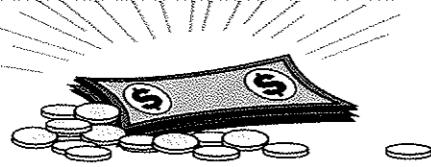
Our aggressive R.O.W. maintenance program does represent a big commitment of manpower and resources. The program is paying off however, with fewer and shorter outages.

At VEC our mission is to provide the best possible service, safely, and at the lowest possible price. Our R.O.W. maintenance program is a big part of fulfilling that mission.



Rody Blevins
President/CEO
Volunteer Energy
Cooperative

VEC Customers Share Your Change Changes Things



The VEC Customers Share program funded \$30,900 in community service grants in May. Since the inception of the program in October 2001, more than \$4.9 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.



VEC Customers Share Board Member Bobby Scott (center) presents a grant check to Joy Stokes (left) and Anita Tinker of the Lakeway Happy Group.

Organizations receiving grants in May

South Roane County Volunteer Fire Department, Station 3	\$1,500	Helping Hands Ministry on Peavine Road, Crossville	\$500
Rhea County 4-H	\$1,500	Meigs County Senior Center	\$500
Cumberland County High School Health Occupation Students of America	\$1,500	Pickett County Junior High School Football Boosters	\$500
Friends of the Monterey Library	\$1,400	Pickett County High School Lady Bobcat Support Group	\$500
Maple Grove Senior Citizens, Harrison	\$1,250	Mrs. Emily Bilbrey's 5th Grade Math Club, Byrdstown	\$500
Pleasant Dale Kids' Club, Decatur	\$1,250	Meigs County 4-H	\$500
Lakeway Happy Group, Harrison	\$1,250	Vine Ridge MBC 5 Loaves Food Pantry, Crawford	\$500
Cumberland County High School Family, Career and Community Leaders of America	\$1,000	White Oak Longbeards, Riceville	\$500
Fair Park Senior Center, Crossville	\$1,000	Fentress County Retired Teachers Association	\$500
Camp Agape, Benton	\$1,000	7th Grade Math Club, Byrdstown	\$500
Standing Stone Historical Society, Monterey	\$850	Meigs County High School Tennis Team Booster Club	\$500
Hales Chapel Community Center, Crossville	\$750	Pickett County High School Football Support Group	\$500
Friends of the E.G. Fisher Public Library, Athens	\$750	Meigs County Ministries	\$500
Southeast Tennessee RC&D Council, Athens	\$750	Fentress County Imagination Library	\$500
Cumberland GAP Mission, Jamestown	\$750	Fentress County Agricultural Fair	\$500
Happy Hearts Seniors, Benton	\$750	Athens Civitan Club	\$500
Chilhowee Middle School Lady Bobcats	\$500	Bradley Central High School Family and Community Leaders of America	\$300
Basketball Booster Club, Benton	\$500	UA Fire 6th Grade Basketball Team, Athens	\$250
Cleveland Crush	\$500	Sierra Hull Bluegrass Festival, Byrdstown	\$250
Polk County High School Basketball Cheer Booster Club	\$500	Crossville Housing Authority Resident Services	\$250
Roane County Youth Leadership	\$500	Kids' Christmas, Inc., Crossville	\$250
Calhoun Elementary School Booster Club	\$500	Hiwassee Camp, Crossville	\$250
History Club/National History Day, Decatur	\$500	Southeast Tennessee Veterans Home Council, Cleveland	\$100
Jamestown Youth Soccer	\$500		
Roane Imagination Library/Mid-East Community Action Agency	\$500		

Lillard-Shadow Scholarships Honor Students' Commitment to Community Service

Volunteer Energy Cooperative recognized four exceptional graduating seniors for their commitment to community service and their academic achievements by awarding them with VEC's 2013 Lillard-Shadow Scholarships.

Each of the four students was awarded a \$2,000 scholarship to attend the college of his or her choice.

The Lillard-Shadow Scholarship program was endowed to honor the lives and community service of J.W. Lillard and Willis A. Shadow. Lillard and Shadow were dedicated to improving the lives and livelihoods of community residents through electric power. And the two were instrumental in the organization of the Meigs County Electric Membership Corporation in 1933 - the organization that eventually evolved into Volunteer Energy Cooperative.

To honor this history, an independent panel of education professionals judged applications for Lillard-Shadow Scholarships based largely on students' demonstrated commitment to community service.

Keli R. Stephens, a 2014 graduate of Clarkrange High School; Zachariah Andrew Cole, a 2014 graduate of Cumberland County High School; Caleb Stephen Zimmerman, a 2014 graduate of Rhea County High School; and Jennings Caroline Kelley, a 2014 graduate of Walker Valley High School were winners of this year's VEC Lillard-Shadow Scholarships.

VEC awards four Lillard-Shadow Scholarships annually. One is awarded in each of VEC's four service districts. Stephens was the Jamestown Service District winner, Cole was selected from VEC's Crossville Service District, Zimmerman was the winner in VEC's Decatur Service District, and Kelley was the winner in VEC's Cleveland Service District.

Stephens, the daughter of Jamie and Teckla Stephens, has engaged in community services projects that span the globe. Keli helped raise funds to eradicate polio in India and to build a piggery in Uganda. Closer to home, she organized a blood drive at Clarkrange High school, a food drive for a local food bank, and helped raise money for the Ronald McDonald House.

Keli plans to attend Tennessee Technological University in the fall where she intends to pursue a degree in chemistry/pre-med.

Cole, the son of Michelle Cole, also has an extensive record of community service which includes volunteer work at the Second Harvest Food Bank, helping to develop a trail section of the Cumberland Trail, serving as an altar server at St. Alphonsus Catholic Church, and as a member of the Children of Crossville Chamber Orchestra. He is also an Eagle Scout. As his Eagle Scout project he landscaped the front entrance at a local elementary school.

Zach is planning to attend the University of Tennessee at Knoxville in the fall where he intends to pursue a degree in business administration.

Caleb Stephen Zimmerman, the son of Stephen and Margaret Zimmerman, stays very active in the community. He volunteers to cook one day a week at Cedine Bible Camp, participates in hymn singing and one-on-one visits at



Caleb Stephen Zimmerman



Jennings Caroline Kelley

Spring City Rehabilitation Center, and has been a leader with the Rhea County High School's chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes for four years. At Christian Fellowship Church he serves as a sound technician, an usher, captain of the high school Bible quiz team, and has volunteered to help with numerous construction projects to benefit church members. He also serves as a teacher's assistant by helping to grade papers and tutoring other students.

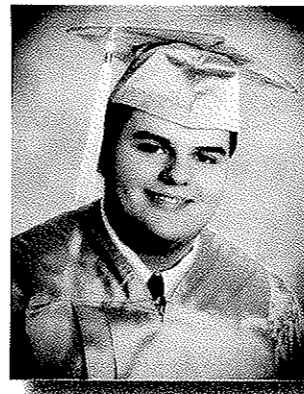
Caleb plans to attend Bryan College in the fall where he intends to pursue a degree in mathematics.

Jennings Caroline Kelley, is a dedicated community servant. She volunteers at New Hope Pregnancy Care Center where she helps raise money for baby supplies and also helps distribute supplies for clients. Jennings also works with Foundation House Ministries and as a volunteer at Prospect Elementary School's library. She is also very active in 4-H and has served as a volunteer, event leader, camp counselor, event judge, and with numerous other community service projects.

She plans to attend Maryville College this fall and plans to major in education and French.



Keli R. Stephens



Zachariah Andrew Cole

Ballots Coming Soon to VEC's Cumberland County - East District

VEC Board of Directors election ballots will soon be mailed out to VEC members in District 9 (Cumberland County East of Highway 127). District 5 (Meigs County) and District 1 (Polk County) are uncontested races this year.

District 9 ballots will be mailed on August 29th; completed ballots must be received at the offices of the election auditor Henderson, Hutcherson, and McCollough by 5 p.m. Eastern time on September 17th. VEC customers who hold primary membership in this district are eligible to vote and will receive a ballot in the mail. These are mailed separately from the electric bills and are clearly marked on the envelope.

The voting for board of directors is based on VEC memberships, not the number of meters that are assigned to a member. Each VEC membership receives one vote in the election.

Information on the candidates appears elsewhere in this issue of *Powerlines*.

Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)

Residential & Outdoor Lighting Fuel Cost Adjustment
Effective July 1, 2014

2.859¢

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

