

## Notice of Election

In compliance with the bylaws of Volunteer Energy Cooperative, Article IV, Directors; Section 4.05, Notice of Directors to be Elected, I hereby give written notice that the following Directors' terms will expire this year:

- District No. 10 – White, Putnam, and Overton counties
- District No. 11 – Fentress, Morgan, and Scott counties
- District No. 12 – Pickett County

As set forth in Article IV, Section 4.06, in order for a member to become a qualified candidate for Director, he/she shall file with the Secretary of the Cooperative or with a duly appointed representative a written petition nominating such person as a candidate and signed by him/her and not less than fifty other members in good standing whose premises served by the Cooperative are located in the directorate district of the candidate.

Qualifying petitions and other information pertaining to the elections can be obtained on or after May 27, 2015 by contacting Patty Hurley, Vice President of Marketing and Economic Development, P.O. Box 277, Decatur, TN 37322, or by calling 423-334-7050.

Qualifying petitions must be filed with the Secretary of the Cooperative or his designee at the VEC Corporate Office in Decatur, Tennessee by 5 p.m. EDT, June 4, 2015.

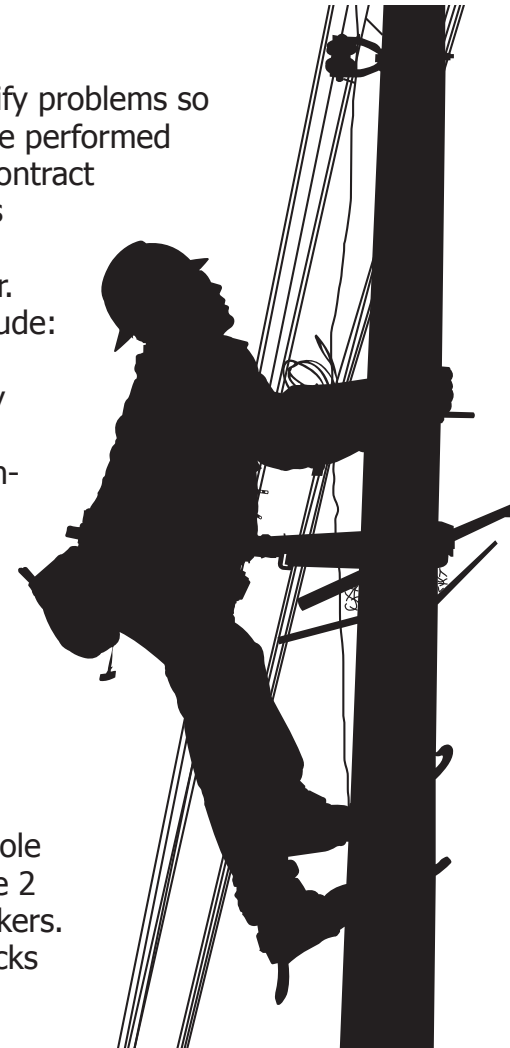
Sammy Norton  
Secretary-Treasurer

## Crews to Resume Pole Inspections

Pole inspections help VEC identify problems so that systematic maintenance can be performed on poles before problems occur. Contract crews are currently working on this project. VEC will be inspecting approximately 3,500 poles this year. Areas scheduled for inspection include:

- Hopewell Area – Rabbit Valley Road and Harrison Pike
- Harrison Bay Area – Ooltewah-Georgetown Road
- Wolftever Area – State Highway 58 South
- South Bradley County Area – South Tunnel Hill Road
- Meigs County Area Industrial Park

Southeast Woodland will be the contractor again this year for our pole inspection program. They will have 2 or 3 crews consisting of 5 to 6 workers. They will be traveling in pickup trucks with VEC Contractor signs and, at times, ATV four wheelers.



## Make Sure Your Automatic Payments are Really Automatic

Signing up for VEC's Automated Bank Draft payment program takes the stress and the hassle out of paying your electric bill. VEC can draft payments automatically from a checking account or a credit card account.

If you take advantage of this program, however, it is essential that you notify VEC of any changes that might affect your payment.

Failing to notify VEC if there are changes in your bank routing number, credit card number, or other account information could result in delays and late charges. Don't let little oversights offset the benefits of this simple, hassle-free program.

If you haven't yet signed up for the Bank Draft program, instructions and a sign-up form are on the VEC website – [www.vec.org](http://www.vec.org).

## VEC Board and Staff Talk to Lawmakers on Behalf of Electricity Consumers

In early February I was pleased to be joined by 10 other VEC staff members and directors who participated in the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association's 2015 Legislative Conference. More than 250 members and employees from Tennessee's electric cooperatives were in Nashville on Monday and Tuesday, Feb. 9 and 10, for the event.

We met with our state legislators on Capitol Hill to help them better understand electric cooperatives and the issues that impact rural and suburban Tennessee.

Tennessee's electric cooperatives maintain a visible presence in Nashville and Washington, D.C., to be certain that the interests of co-op members are protected. We do this in order to represent rural Tennesseans and make sure legislators are aware of the issues that impact rural electricity consumers.

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Rody Blevins  
President/CEO  
Volunteer Energy Cooperative

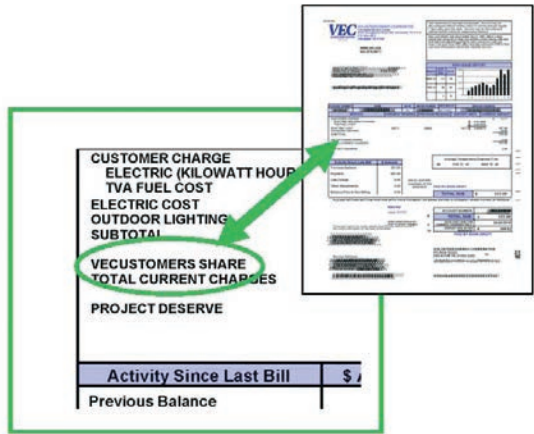


VEC Staff and Board Members meet with Rep. Kent Calfee during the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association's 2015 Legislative Conference



## Are You Supporting VECustomers Share?

To be sure that your residential bill is being rounded up to support this valuable program, look at your monthly statement. If you do not see a contribution to VECustomers Share, or if your balance due is not a whole dollar amount, a contribution has not been made. To participate in this program, call your local VEC customer service center.



## VECustomers Share Your Change Changes Things



The VECustomers Share program funded \$39,100 in community service grants in March. Since the inception of the program in October 2001, more than \$5.2 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](http://www.vec.org).

### Organizations receiving grants in March

Cumberland Good Samaritans	\$3,250	Midway High School Band Boosters	\$1,000
Fentress County Food Bank	\$2,750	Burks Elementary 6th Grade Science and Math Club	\$1,000
Rhea Alliance	\$2,250	Senior Citizens of Cumberland County	\$1,000
Byrdstown Masonic Lodge	\$2,000	The Dream Connection	\$1,000
Calhoun Alumni Association	\$2,000	Manna House Ministries	\$1,000
Chattanooga Area Foster and Adoptive Care Association	\$2,000	Kids on the Rise	\$750
Royal Family Kids' Camp	\$1,800	Cleveland Amateur Radio Club, Inc.	\$700
Meigs County Ministries	\$1,650	Decatur Downtown Business Association	\$550
Project Graduation - Monterey	\$1,551	11 and Under Stingers	\$500
Cumberland County High School Basketball Boosters	\$1,500	Distinguished Young Women Program of Rhea County	\$500
Midway Classworks Club	\$1,450	CACE - Cumberland Artisans for Creative Expression	\$500
Monterey Sr. Citizens Center	\$1,299	Rhea County Health Council - Teen Talk	\$500
Decatur Volunteer Fire Department	\$1,150	American Legion Auxiliary Unit 79	\$350
West Polk Empty Stocking Fund/ Backpack Fund	\$1,000	Meigs County Historical Society	\$300
Stone Memorial High School PTSO	\$1,000	Roane Choral Society	\$300
Polk County Alumni Association	\$1,000	Spring City Middle Golf Boosters	\$250
American Legion Post 68	\$1,000	Scott County Homeless Shelter	\$250

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Our legislators make decisions and pass laws that can have serious consequences for Tennessee's electric cooperatives and the members that rely on them. It is important that we tell the electric cooperative story and inform and educate legislators on the impacts of proposed legislation.

I was joined by VEC Board members Laney Colvard, Sammy Norton, Larry Storie, Tim Handler, Jerry Henley, Keith Phillips, Aubie Smith, and Mike Frazier, and VEC staff members Patty Hurley, Vice President of Marketing and Economic Development and Crossville Service Area Manager Bobby Randolph. We reminded legislators that co-ops are not-for-profit, member-owned organizations that impact our communities in many ways.

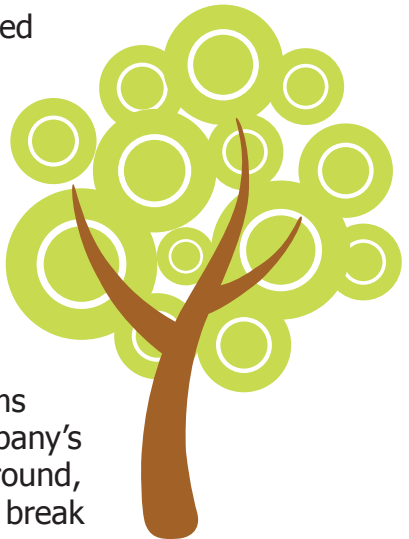
We have many friends and supporters in the state legislature. We discussed the effect of EPA regulations on ratepayers, inverse condemnations, and underground utility safety.

More than 100 visits were made with members of the House and Senate during the conference.

"We discussed important topics that will impact every members' wallet," says Mike Knotts, director of government affairs with TECA. "Educated and informed legislators are a key component of low-cost, reliable power, and our members make a powerful impression when they come to Nashville."

## Planting the Right Trees in the Right Place Helps Prevent Power Outages

In this part of Tennessee we are blessed with an abundance and variety of trees that many climates can only dream about. It is just one of the many things that make this a wonderful place to live. But it can also be quite a challenge for Volunteer Energy Cooperative in meeting our responsibility to deliver a reliable flow of power to 113,000 customers in all or part of 17 counties.



As the February 2015 ice storms demonstrated, trees can be a power company's worst enemy. Strong winds, saturated ground, and heavy icing can topple trees or break branches that pull down power lines and cause power outages. Sometimes even heavily damaged power lines can remain energized and can potentially cause a serious safety risk.

Arcing and flashovers between power lines and nearby branches – branches that may not even be coming into contact with power lines – can cause serious safety risks as well. For those reasons VEC has undertaken an aggressive right-of-way clearing program to reduce power outages and to minimize safety risks.



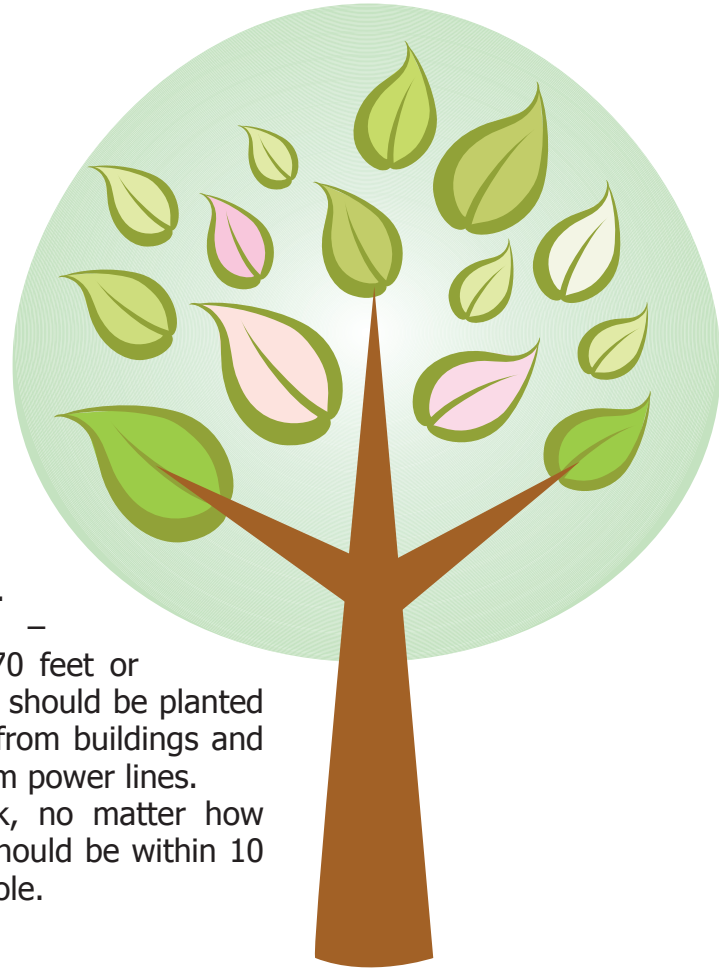
To prevent having a tree trimmed extensively or removed, the best solution is to plant the right tree in the right place. The University of Tennessee Agriculture Extension office prepared the following guidelines for power line-friendly tree planting:

- Small trees – 30 feet or less in height – should be planted at least 10 feet from buildings and 20 to 25 feet away from power lines.

- Medium trees – 30 to 70 feet in height – should be planted at least 15 feet from buildings and 30 to 35 feet from power lines.

- Large trees – those reaching 70 feet or more in height – should be planted at least 25 feet from buildings and 40 to 45 feet from power lines.

- No tree trunk, no matter how small the tree, should be within 10 feet of a utility pole.



## Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)

Residential & Outdoor Lighting Fuel Cost Adjustment  
Effective April 1, 2015

**2.583¢**

For the most current FCA information, visit [www.vec.org](http://www.vec.org)  
Volunteer Energy Cooperative is an Equal Opportunity provider and employer.

