

VEC Annual Meeting Set for October 3rd

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 calendar gets too full, please make it a point to mark Saturday, October 3rd 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. Eastern Daylight Time. Morning entertainment will precede the business meeting which convenes at 10 a.m. EDT The featured entertainer The Avalons will take the stage about 10:45 a.m. EDT.

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 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, or the chance to learn about your electric cooperative on October 3rd 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



A Letter to Our Members

Dear Cooperative Member:

The 78th 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 3, 2015.

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

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 get into the Decatur area.

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.



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 3rd, 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.

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: _____



Volunteer Energy Cooperative Newsletter

SEP 2015

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 3rd.

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 \$27,500 in community service grants in July. Since the inception of the program in October 2001, more than \$5.3 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 members Bobby Scott (left), Pete Williams (second from right), and Harold Reno (right) present a grant to Julia Wright, Executive Director of the American Red Cross.

Organizations receiving grants in July

Jamestown Rotary Club	\$2,000	Cumberland Hispanic Fellowship	\$500
Cumberland County Imagination Library	\$2,000	Harrison Recreation	\$500
First Christian Church Youth Group	\$1,500	Midway Youth Cheerleading Organization	\$500
Monterey Lions Club, Inc.	\$1,250	Midway Quarterback Club	\$500
Monterey Food Bank	\$1,250	Women's Auxiliary of Salvation Army	\$500
Meigs County Retired Teachers	\$1,000	Rhea County 4-H	\$500
Pickett County Relay for Life	\$1,000	Ooltewah High School Band Boosters	\$500
Avalon Center	\$1,000	Clearwater Volunteer Fire Department	\$500
Ooltewah Harrison Education Foundation '09	\$1,000	Midway Youth Development	\$500
SpiritHorse at Black Fox	\$1,000	McMinn County Rescue Squad	\$500
Meigs County Ministries	\$1,000	Claxton Community Volunteer	
Junior Achievement of the Ocoee Region	\$1,000	Emergency Services, Inc.	\$500
Polk County Health Council	\$900	Midway High School Band Boosters	\$500
American Cancer Society - Rhea County	\$750	Lake Tansi Security Enforcement	\$500
Spring City Lions Club	\$750	North Cumberland Elementary Cheer Boosters	\$500
Benton Fall Festival Booster Club	\$600	Nocutula Civitan Club	\$500
West Polk Empty Stocking Fund	\$600	We Care Safe Haven Light Shelter	\$500
Midway Middle Soccer Club	\$500	American Cancer Society - Polk County	\$400

Volunteer Energy Sends Students on 50th Anniversary Washington Youth Tour

Some 1,700 future leaders — including almost 140 from Tennessee electric cooperative service areas — traveled to Washington, D.C., June 12-18 for the annual Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. Delegates spent time with elected officials and took in the historic, interesting sites of our nation's capital during the whirlwind weeklong "trip of a lifetime."

Jonathan Purda from Midway High School, Thomas Bradley from Monterey High School, Hannah Holley from Bradley High School, and Brett Morgan from Clarkrange High School were rewarded with spots on the tour of D.C. for writing winning short stories titled "Electric Cooperatives: Powering Potential." The stories described how locally owned, member-controlled electric cooperatives continue improving lives in their service areas through special community-building programs as well as reliable and affordable electric service.

"The annual Youth Tour is a vital opportunity for youth living in co-op territory to visit our nation's capital and learn about the importance of electric cooperatives," said National Rural Electric Cooperative Association CEO Jo Ann Emerson. "Our youth are our future leaders, politicians and educators, and the Youth Tour is a strong reminder each year of how bright that future will be."

Previous Youth Tour participants have become University Presidents, CEOs of Fortune 500 companies and members of Congress. In fact, in his commencement speech to graduates of George Washington University this year, Apple CEO Tim Cook credited the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour with his first trip to Washington. Over the past 51 years, nearly 50,000 students have visited Washington through the Youth Tour.

The Washington Youth Tour is a joint effort of Volunteer Energy Cooperative, the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association and 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



Hannah, Brett, Thomas, and Jonathan at the Lincoln Memorial.



VEC Youth Tour participants pose at the Franklin Roosevelt Memorial.

Youth Tour. This year's trip marked the 50th anniversary of Tennessee's participation in the enriching, inspiring program for the young leaders from co-ops service areas.

"The Youth Tour is one of the most rewarding things I do all year," said VEC's Paige Finnell, who served as a chaperone for the trip. "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 wars. 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 — as well as a boat cruise down the Potomac River. The Youth Tour also included a solemn and sobering visit to Arlington National Cemetery, where the group laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns.

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 Sens. Lamar Alexander and Bob Corker, and U.S. representatives Diane Black and Scott DesJarlais also spent some time with these constituents outside the Capitol and posed for photos.

"We are owned by our members, and it is so important that our members understand how that makes us different," said VEC President/CEO Roddy 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 leaders in their communities and why leadership is so important."



VEC's WYT group visited Mount Vernon on the Potomac River as part of the trip.

Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)

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

2.304¢

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

Volunteer Energy Cooperative is an Equal Opportunity provider and employer

