

VECcustomers Share Board Welcomes New Member



H. Mark Justice
 Fentress, Morgan,
 & Scott counties

A new representative has been appointed to the all-volunteer VECcustomers Share Board that oversees VECcustomers Share donations. Board members are appointed to serve three-year terms and are eligible to serve two consecutive terms.

Recently the term expired for VECcustomers Share Board member Jim Taylor, who represented Fentress, Morgan and Scott counties. Taylor served on the VECcustomers Share Board for the past two terms.

H. Mark Justice has been appointed to represent Fentress, Morgan and Scott counties. Justice is the Executive Vice President of Progressive Savings Bank and a graduate of Tennessee Tech University. He is a member of the Jamestown Rotary, Alive in the Spirit Church and coaches youth sports. Married to Stacy, they have three children Emily, Lucas and Elijah.

The VECcustomers Share board members serve on a volunteer basis and receive no compensation for their service. Each month they review grant applications and allocate funds that have been made available by members who choose to have their electric bills rounded up to the next whole dollar. The money is then allocated each month by the board to be donated to community-service organizations. Since the program began in 2001, over \$5.8 million has been awarded to local community organizations in VEC's 17-county service area.

Statement of Nondiscrimination

Volunteer Energy Cooperative is the recipient of federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, national origin, age or disability shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is Rody Blevins, President/CEO. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels this organization has subjected them to discrimination may obtain further information about the statutes and regulations listed above from and/or file a written complaint with this organization; or the Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250; or the Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, Washington, D.C. 20250. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.

A Little Change Goes A Long Way

In October 2001, Volunteer Energy Cooperative board members voted to start the VECcustomers Shares program. This program allows members to round their bill up to the next dollar and contribute the change to a program that awards grants to organizations in our 17 county service area. The most any one member rounds up in a year is \$11.88. This change, has multiplied in an amazing way. In the last 15 years the VECcustomers Share program has awarded more than \$5.8 million.

Each month we post the organizations receiving grants in Powerlines which is added to each member's bill envelope. We include a picture of one of the recipients with a Share Board Member to help place a face on the awards but sometimes due to the familiarity, we miss the impact.

Your change helps a child who might go hungry in Bradley County receive food through the Sack Pack program. It provides free and reduced counseling for families in Cumberland County via the Christian Counseling Center. Your change supports the arts through the Art Guild of Fairfield Glade. Your rounded up change supports family and grief counseling through Hospice of Cumberland County as well as paying for Automated External Defibrillators for Mended Hearts – Cumberland. Your change helped provide eyeglasses for the needy through the Byrdstown Lion's Club and helped the band boosters buy musical instruments donated in multiple counties. Your change bought uniforms, practice mats and equipment for sport's boosters throughout all 17 counties. The list of people who have been affected by VECcustomers Shares goes on and on.

Your change, along with all the other members who participate, reaches our communities to encourage and give a hand up to those who struggle. To let our Veterans know we haven't forgotten them, to show the senior citizens we care about them, and let children know that working together we can make a BIG difference.



Thank you VECcustomers Share members for the last 15 years. Thank you for making a huge difference.

Striving to Be the Best

The start of a new year is a good time to reflect on all we have accomplished as a cooperative, and to look toward the future as we strive to be one of the top Cooperatives in the nation. In keeping with those thoughts I compiled a partial list of projects we have already accomplished and areas we are moving toward in 2017.

Substations:

Over the last 15 years we have completed 25 substation projects that include new substations or major upgrades to existing stations. According to the Tennessee Valley Authority, VEC has completed more new stations and upgrades than any other local power company in the Tennessee Valley during that time period. Last month we energized the new Mayland substation in Cumberland County. We are replacing the power transformers at a Jamestown substation which will almost double the capacity at that location. Our Jamestown crews have done a great job in preparing for this upgrade including building several new voltage regulator banks for the new power transformers. At Fairfield Glade we are in the process of building a new 161 kV transmission line in conjunction with the TDOT road widening project. The Engineering Department is working on the design of the new West Fairfield Glade substation planned to be in service next summer.

Mapping:

The VEC GIS/Mapping system is near completion with our goal of close to 99% accuracy of system assets and connectivity. Having an accurate database/mapping is critical to making our Operation/OMS system work well for our members. It is also critical in our Engineering studies and long range planning. Employees in all the offices have been very involved in this large and critical task. With the size of the VEC system (10,000 miles of line) it has taken several years to reach this point.



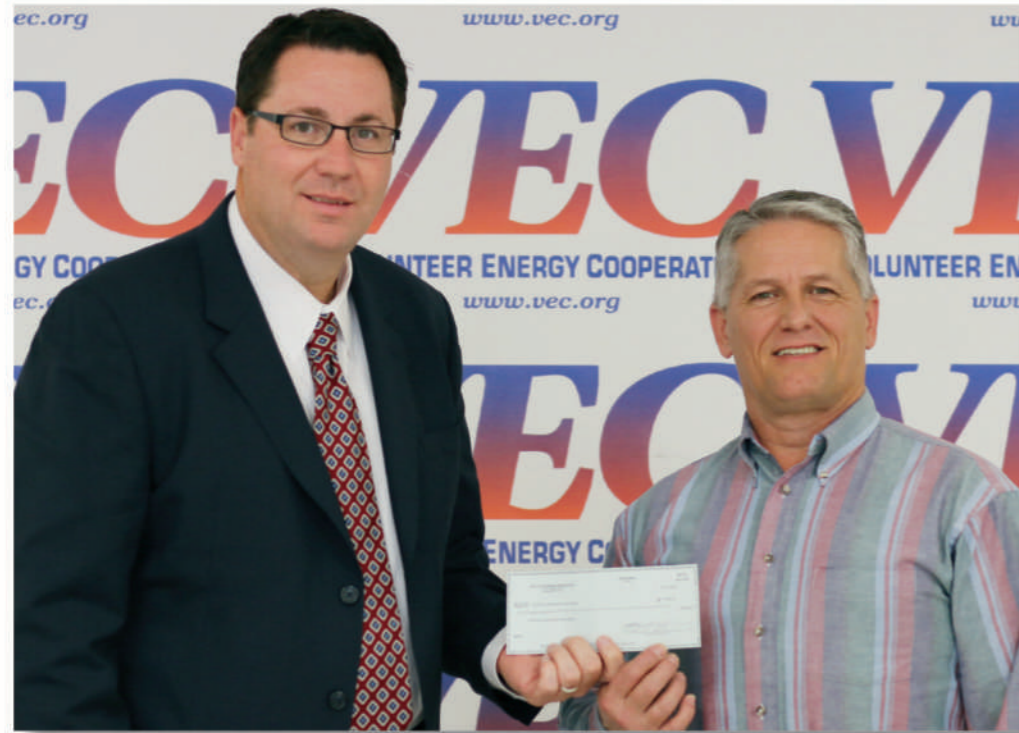
Rody Blevins
 President/CEO
 Volunteer Energy
 Cooperative



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The VECustomers Share program funded \$31,400 in community service grants in October. Since the inception of the program in October 2001, more than \$5.8 million in grants has been awarded. The deadline for grant applications is the last working 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 Mark Justice presents a grant check to Rev. John Dietz of the Wolf River Methodist Food Pantry.

Organizations receiving grants in November

Ooltewah High School Band Boosters	\$2,000	McMinn County Foster Care Association	\$850
MARA Medical Ministry	\$1,900	Greater Cleveland Concert Band	\$800
Fentress County Food Bank	\$1,500	Dream Achievers-McMinn County NAACP	\$750
Home Away From Home Head Start & Child Care Center	\$1,500	Kids for Christ	\$750
YAI Baseball Boosters Club, Inc	\$1,500	Midway Middle School PTO	\$750
Polk County Baptist Association Food Bank	\$1,450	Decatur Civitan Club	\$600
Pickett County K-8 Boys Basketball Booster Club	\$1,375	West Polk Empty Stocking	\$550
Pickett County High School Boys Basketball Boosters	\$1,375	Monterey Community Chorale	\$500
Martin Elementary Varsity Cheerleaders	\$1,100	Midway Hall of Fame Committee	\$500
Friends of Monterey Branch Library	\$1,010	Benton Elementary Beta Club	\$450
Midway Youth Development	\$1,000	Meigs County Historical Society	\$300
Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6277	\$1,000	Benton Fall Festival Booster Club	\$300
Stone Memorial High School DECA Club	\$1,000	The Downtown Business Association	\$250
Community Resource Agency of McMinn	\$1,000	Polk County High School Cheer Boosters	\$250
American Veterans (AMVETS) Post 90	\$950	Midway Middle School Football Booster Club	\$250
Union Grove Baptist Church Youth Group	\$900	Midway High School Band Boosters	\$250
		Historical Society Benefit - Monterey Dinner Theater	\$240
		Mount Carmel Baptist Church Youth Group	\$200

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Document Storage:

A few years ago we identified the need to digitally store all our historical and current records. With the utilization of Document Vault we have completed records from Decatur, Spring City, Crossville and Monterey. We are currently working on Jamestown. Once again this has been accomplished with the help of employees across several departments and offices.

PayMyWay:

The pre-pay program, PayMyWay, has been very successful. Our members really like the ability to monitor their power consumption so closely. There are currently over 3,700 members on the program.

Vision 2020 Plan

Looking at the communications and technologies across the entire Cooperative, we came up with a five-year plan to make major improvements including: upgrading control panels in substations, new fiber communications to equipment (Reclosers and Regulators) on our power lines, upgrading our network, going to digital radios in the trucks, new SCADA software and an improved VEC website. We have completed a lot of this plan. Recently we upgraded the control panels at the Lantana substation with plans to upgrade the control panels in Sugar Grove (Bradley County) and Fredonia (Cumberland County) Substations next.

VEC Fiber System

We just completed connecting the schools in Polk County giving them access to high speed broadband. This is the third county school system we have connected with VEC fiber. We are currently planning to extend our fiber to the substations in the Fairfield Glade area.

Demand Reduction Program

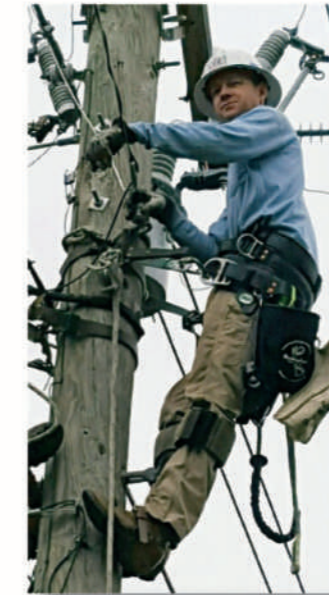
We are working with our commercial customers to reduce our system demand at peak times and it is going well. We currently have over 6,000 kW signed up to participate. This program will help in the long run controlling high power costs from TVA.

Working together, Volunteer Energy Cooperative has accomplished a great deal and the future is bright. We will continue to plan, to work hard, and to expect success in our ongoing effort to provide our members with the very best possible service.



You Can't Spell Safety Without Ty

Last summer Tyson Ratcliff (aka Ty) was promoted to Superintendent of Safety Construction after working as a lineman for Volunteer Energy Cooperative for 18 years. Ty has a personal legacy in the power industry. He can trace his lineman lineage to his great-great-grandad William



Tyson Ratcliff, Lineman VEC

Logan, who ran lines from Tennessee to Florida for the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA). In addition to his great-great-grandad, his great uncle Cecil Logan worked for Florida Power and Light for many years, and his dad, Jerry Ratcliff, worked for Cleveland Utilities. In addition to being a lineman, Tyson is also a volunteer fireman in Bradley County. Tyson is married to April and they have three children Toby, Tyler and Chloe.



Jerry Ratcliff, Cleveland Utilities lineman.



Second from the right is William Logan on an early TVA linemen crew.

Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)

Residential & Outdoor Lighting Fuel Cost Adjustment
Effective January 1, 2017

2.446¢

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

Volunteer Energy Cooperative is an Equal Opportunity provider and employer.

