

VEC Annual Meeting

October 4, 2003
Meigs Middle School

Breakfast begins 8 a.m. EDT – Meeting begins at 9 a.m. EDT – Entertainment begins at 10 a.m. EDT

- ♦ **FREE BREAKFAST PROVIDED BY THE MEIGS COUNTY LIONS CLUB**
- ♦ **FREE FLU VACCINATIONS BY DR. ROBERTS AND ATHENS REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER.**
- ♦ **ENTERTAINMENT BY JAMES ROGERS**



Dear Cooperative Member:

The 67th Annual Meeting of the members of Volunteer Energy Cooperative will be held at Meigs County Middle School beginning at 10 a.m. EDT, on Saturday, October 4, 2003.

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.

Kenneth Vaden
Secretary-Treasurer



- ♦ **VEC PROGRAM AND SERVICE DISPLAYS**
- ♦ **DOOR PRIZES & GOODY BAGS!**
- ♦ **ANNUAL COOPERATIVE UPDATE BY PRESIDENT/CEO BILL BUCHANAN**



Any members/customers who require special accommodations for the event, should phone the Member Services department at VEC's Corporate Offices in Decatur at 423-334-7050. Every effort will be made to accommodate any and all special needs.

Bring this form with you on Oct. 4th - must be present to win

Annual Meeting Registration 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 billing statement.

Name: _____

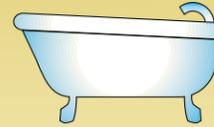
Account Number: _____

AROUND THE HOUSE: Electrical Safety Tips



In the Garage: Use only grounded electrical tools (three-wire cord type) or those that are double insulated. Have faulty cords and tools repaired immediately. **Install** or use portable ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCI) to protect you when using electrical tools outside, in the garage, kitchen, basement, or other potentially damp locations.

In the Bathroom: Never use an electrical appliance in an area which is damp or wet. Pool areas, bathrooms, and kitchens are especially dangerous.



Electric Sockets: Babies and young children don't understand the danger of tampering with electric sockets. Use snap-in plastic covers in outlets when they are not in use.

Around the House: Don't run extension cords under rugs and carpeting and never use extension cords which are frayed and worn. **Unplug** small kitchen and household appliances when they aren't in use.



October Annual Meeting is a great time to get to know your cooperative

by Bill Buchanan, President/CEO

Volunteer Energy Cooperative (VEC) is an organization owned by its customers. Each year, we invite our customers to come and be a part of our rich history at the annual membership meeting. This year the meeting will be held at Meigs Middle School in Decatur, Tennessee at 9 a.m. eastern daylight time on Saturday, October 4th. It is the 67th annual meeting for the cooperative.



As always, there will be plenty of activities and entertainment to fill the morning. Come early to enjoy the breakfast provided by the Meigs County Lions Club. Dr. Shane Roberts and the Athens Regional Medical Center will provide health screenings. In an encore appearance from 2000, James Rogers will perform (see accompanying article). There will be plenty of door prizes and each membership will receive a free gift just for attending.

Yes, we do provide entertainment and enjoyment at the VEC annual meeting. But the most important reason to attend is for you, our members, to be a part of the operation of VEC. It is a great time to learn more about your cooperative, its operations, and the plans for the future. We take this opportunity to inform our members about the various programs and services available to them.

At the annual meeting, I will present a report of the activities of the past year to our membership and the Board of Directors. VEC Board, staff and employees will be on hand to meet and talk with you.

I can't emphasize enough how proud I am of everyone at VEC. Our Board of Directors is involved and enthused; our staff and employees are hard-working and committed. I am anxious for you to join us and meet the people that make VEC successful. I promise that you will then understand my pride in this organization.

The VEC annual meeting is open to everyone who is a member-customer of Volunteer Energy Cooperative. I want to encourage you to spend three hours or so with us on October 4th and better get to know your power supplier.

'See you on October 4th!

Time Is Running Out

LIMITED TIME LIMITED QUANTITY

A limited supply of our collectible Volunteer Electric Cooperative toy trucks is still available. The trucks have moving parts, working headlights, tail lights and flashing caution beacons, and a locking bank compartment. Bucket trucks are just \$22.95 plus tax. Hurry to your local VEC Customer Service Center to take advantage of this limited-time offer.



VECcustomers *Share*

Grants totaling \$29,745 were awarded by the VECcustomers Share Board of Directors in June 2003. During the current fiscal year the board has awarded \$287,880.25 in grants. Since the inception of the program in October of 2001, a total of \$694,095.25 in grants has been awarded. VECcustomers Share is a non-profit, tax exempt charitable organization covering VEC's 17-county service area. The foundation's funds are derived from Volunteer Energy Cooperative members who allow their electric bills to be rounded up to the nearest \$1. The additional amount goes into the VECcustomers Share fund, which is administered by the foundation's board of directors whose 12 members serve as volunteers.

VECcustomers Share contributions average 50 cents per month or \$6 per year for each participating residential customer. Approximately 80 percent of VEC's customers are donating to the program. The deadline for grant applications is the last day of each month. For additional information, contact Patty Hurley, manager of member services, at 423-334-7050.

Organizations receiving grants in June include:

Meigs Senior Center	\$1,500.00
Athens Area Council for the Arts	453.00
Calhoun School Cheerleaders	453.00
Hillsview Community Children & Youth Organization	454.00
McMinn County Foster Care Association	750.00
Riceville Fire Department	750.00
Spring City Volunteer Fire Department	680.00
Wolf Creek Cemetery	680.00
Blue Springs Elementary School PTO	955.00
Museum Center at 5 Points	1,200.00
Roaring Fifties	955.00
Walker Valley High School Varsity Cheerleaders	955.00
Camp Lookout – Holston Conference	680.00
Helping Hands Ministry	1,500.00
McDonald Cemetery Association	680.00
Midway Athletic Club (MAC)	930.00
Midway Youth League	930.00
South Roane County Volunteer Fire Department	1,000.00
Crossville Housing Authority	1,500.00
Crossville Lions Club	680.00
Cumberland County Historical & Genealogical Society	1,500.00
Fairfield Glade Lions Club	680.00
HES Boys B-Team Basketball Boosters	680.00
Magic AAU 13 and Under Girls' Basketball Team	680.00
Monterey Troop 18 BSA	1,000.00
Byrdstown Lions Club	1,000.00
Byrdstown Senior Center	930.00
Junior High Girls Basketball Boosters – Byrdstown	930.00
Polk County High School Volleyball Club	980.00
East Jamestown Fire Department	1,090.00
Grimsley Cloggers	1,090.00

Janice Upton, right, sponsor of the Fellowship of Christian Students, accepts a VECcustomers Share grant from VECcustomers Share Board Vice-Chairman Roger Thackston.

James Rogers

TO HEADLINE VEC Annual Meeting



When you get your electricity from Volunteer Energy Cooperative, you're not just a customer; you're part owner in the company. And when you attend James Rogers' performance at this year's VEC annual meeting, you can expect the same type of involvement.

"I like to do my shows with the audience, not at the audience," The veteran singer-songwriter said.

An award winning singer, songwriter and instrumentalist, Rogers also weaves comedy into his one-man presentation in the form of warm and humorous down-home banter. His audiences voted him "Best Entertainer in the Smokies" over such names as Lee Greenwood, Louis Mandrell and T.G. Shepherd three years running.

He has dazzled audiences at Silver Dollar City, Dollywood, Music Mansion, The Grand Old Opry, Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas, and Chattanooga's Riverbend Festival. He's also gained an international following after performances in Bern, Switzerland; and Hamm, Germany. He also performed at VEC's annual meeting in 2000.

Rogers looks back fondly at his years at Music Mansion in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee and the huge production show he performed there in the 2,000-seat state-of-the-art theater. But he's glad to be performing in more intimate shows now.

"The days of Music Mansion were a wonderful time in my life and I will never forget them and the wonderful people I got to work with on a daily basis," Rogers said. "But I have always enjoyed new challenges and new projects. Now that I will not be involved with the huge production show anymore, I can concentrate more on my songwriting and performing one on one with my audience, which is for me the single greatest thrill of all."

Rogers is also quickly becoming one of the most influential writers of patriotic music working today. His song "Fly Eagle Fly" was selected as the Bicentennial song for the State of Tennessee and is now one of

Tennessee's official state songs. In 1999 the Air and Army National Guard officially adopted Rogers' "I Guard America" as the Guards' National Anthem.

The American Eagle Foundation asked Rogers to write a theme song for that organization and his resulting "Save the Eagle" set in motion the creation of the Dollywood National Eagle Sanctuary.

Originally from Chattanooga, Rogers attended East Lake Elementary School where he got his first taste of show business in a school talent show. The Rogers family then moved across the state line to Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia. James attended Fort Oglethorpe Elementary where he was a staple soloist for PTA meetings.

It was around this time that his show business career got a real boost. Armed with a guitar he had gotten for Christmas, Rogers started his journey to stardom.

"I started to travel around to all the best garages in Fort Oglethorpe," Rogers quips, "playing in as many groups with as many different people as there were garages to play."

He graduated from Lakeview High School in 1967 and in 1972, while working his way through college, Rogers landed a steady engagement at Light Fantastic in Chattanooga. He later earned the headlining slot at the Choo Choo complex and in 1974 he earned his Bachelors Degree from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

His real show business break came in 1983 when he won the Silver Dollar City Search for Talent Contest over 2,000 other contestants. The win helped establish a working relationship with folks at Silver Dollar City and then Dollywood and superstar Dolly Parton. Rogers would later partner with Dollywood on the Music Mansion Theater. And the rest, as they say, is history.

Volunteer Energy Cooperative President and CEO Bill Buchanan said he is pleased to be able to present an entertainer of Rogers' stature to the cooperative's annual meeting.

"James is a terrific entertainer and I know our members will really enjoy his show," Buchanan said. "This will be a special treat and we're hoping all our customers can come out and enjoy what promises to be a very good time."

The meeting will be held at Meigs Middle School in Decatur, Tennessee on Saturday, October 4th. Breakfast will begin at 8 a.m. EDT. The meeting and annual report will begin at 9 a.m. EDT and Rogers' show is slated to begin at 10 a.m. EDT.

It is the 67th annual meeting for the cooperative.

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Board of Director Ballots Are Coming to Pickett County

Watch your mailbox for your Volunteer Energy Cooperative (VEC) Board of Directors ballot.



Ballots for the contested District 12 position will be mailed in early September and should be marked and turned in by September 24. Only members/customers in District 12, which covers Pickett County, will receive ballots because that is the only contested race. One ballot per membership/household will be mailed.