

Candidates Vying for VEC Board Positions

District 2 Scott Humberd



Scott Humberd is the incumbent Volunteer Energy Cooperative Board of Directors member representing District 2, which covers Bradley County. The Cleveland resident is a graduate of Bradley Central High School and earned his Bachelors of Science in Secondary Education and his Masters of Science Degree in School Administration from the University of Tennessee. He and his wife, Debbie, have three children, Jason, Sarah, and Geoffrey.

Humberd is the technology director for Bradley County Schools and also serves as a member of the board of directors for the Cleveland/Bradley Teachers Federal Credit Union and also served in the U.S. Navy Sea Cadet Corps in Chattanooga. He is a member of Broad Street United Methodist Church.

District 6 Jerry Henley



Jerry Henley is the incumbent Volunteer Energy Cooperative Board of Directors member representing District 6, which includes Rhea and Bledsoe counties. The Spring City resident is a graduate of Spring City High School and attended Tennessee Technological University. He and his wife, Rayna, have two children, Penne Baugh and Jeri Allen.

Henley works in the banking industry and served as mayor of Spring City from 1973 to 1977. He has also served as president of the Spring City Chamber of Commerce and as president of the Spring City Kiwanis. He is a member of Spring City United Methodist Church.

District 6 Lynn Edwards



Donald Lynn Edwards is a candidate for the Volunteer Energy Cooperative Board of Directors position representing District 6 which covers Rhea and Bledsoe counties. The Spring City resident is a graduate of Spring City High School and earned his degree from National Business School. He and his wife, Cheryl, have two children, Kari and Brittany.

Edwards is a building contractor and has also served on the Depot Restoration Board, Chamber of Commerce, Rhea County Planning Commission, as president of the Spring City Recreation Club, and has donated time and equipment to assist with Audrey Pack Library and Spring City Park.

District 8 Laney Colvard



Laney Colvard is the incumbent Volunteer Energy Cooperative Board of Directors member representing District 8 which covers West Cumberland County. The Crossville resident graduated from Bledsoe County High School and earned his Bachelors of Science and law degrees from the University of Tennessee. He and his wife, Charlotte, have one child, Lana.

Colvard works as an attorney and farmer and also serves as a member of the board of directors of the Cumberland Good Samaritans. He is a member of Cumberland Homesteads Baptist Church.

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VEC
VOLUNTEER ENERGY COOPERATIVE

Powerlines is produced by the Volunteer Energy Cooperative's Marketing & Economic Development Department as a service to customers. Comments and suggestions can be e-mailed to vec@vec.org or mailed to VEC Marketing & Economic Development Department, P.O. Box 277, Decatur, TN 37322.

Our Commitment to Youth

by Bill Buchanan, President/CEO



Inside this issue of *Powerlines* you will see highlights of some of the programs that Volunteer Energy Cooperative offers the youth of our communities. From the beginning, VEC has realized that our children are our future and the strength of any area lies in the education and training of its young people.

Because of this, VEC supports youth programs such as the Washington Youth Tour and the Lillard-Shadow Scholarship (photos and stories in this issue). But we do much more to ensure the success of future generations of VEC customers.

Youth Leadership Summit – Each year two high school juniors are selected to attend this two-day activity in Nashville, sponsored by the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association (TECA). Participants meet state officials, civic leaders, and celebrities and learn about their government and their electric cooperatives.

4-H Electric Camp – VEC funds scholarships that send two students in each county to this exciting camp. Students participate in exercises that teach the value of electricity in their lives. TECA also sponsors this activity, held on the campus of the University of Tennessee, which has proven to be a valuable learning experience for students. VEC also sent an employee volunteer this year to assist with the camp.

Safety Demonstrations – Several times each month, students and adults of all ages participate in a VEC safety demonstration. This demonstration teaches participants to have a healthy respect for electricity and shows how to avoid dangerous situations.

VECustomers Share Grants – Grants are awarded monthly (see story in this and every *Powerlines* issue), many of which benefit community education efforts, child abuse prevention, sports activities, clubs, and scout troops that allow our children to grow and develop in a safe, healthy atmosphere.

Dollars invested in youth programs reap huge benefits in better educated member-owners, customers who are committed to a strong electric cooperative, and a generation of customers who continue to thrive and grow in our Tennessee Valley.

For more information on VEC youth programs, contact our Member Services Department (423-334-7051).

POWERLINES

August 2004

Young Graduates Get a Boost from VEC

Volunteer Energy Cooperative (VEC) is pleased to announce the winners of the 2004 Lillard-Shadow Scholarships. Recipients, selected from each of VEC's four major service areas, will each receive a \$2,000 college scholarship.

This year's winner from VEC's Jamestown Service Area is Jennifer G. Winebarger of Byrdstown, a graduating senior from Pickett County High School. She is the daughter of Onnie and Laverne Winebarger and ranked fourth in her graduating class.

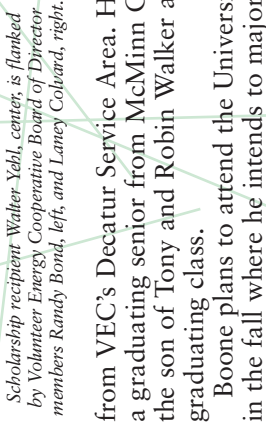


Volunteer Energy Cooperative Board of Directors Member Larry Storie, left, congratulates scholarship winner Jennifer Winebarger as her parents, LaVerne and Onnie Winebarger, look on.



The winner from VEC's Crossville Service Area is Walter Yehl of Crossville, a graduating senior from Cumberland County High School. He is the son of Dorothy Barlow and ranked 11th in his graduating class.

Walter plans to attend Vanderbilt in the fall and is considering a major in electrical engineering.



Axel Boone Walker was this year's winner from VEC's Decatur Service Area. He is from Riceville and a graduating senior from McMinn County High School. He is the son of Tony and Robin Walker and ranked fourth in his graduating class.

Boone plans to attend the University of Tennessee at Knoxville in the fall where he intends to major in pre-veterinary.



This year's recipient from VEC's Cleveland Service Area is Joseph "Josh" Benjamin Thomson of Benton, a graduating senior from Polk County High School. He is the son of Neil and Susie Thomson and ranked fourth in his graduating class. Josh will be attending Middle Tennessee State University in the fall where he plans a double major in computer science and mass media.

At a luncheon honoring the scholarship winners and their parents VEC President and CEO Bill Buchanan said the academic and community service achievements of these young graduates are a credit to the parents as well as the students. "We are proud of the accomplishments of these students in the classroom and in serving their communities," Buchanan said. "And this success would not have been possible without the encouragement and support these young people received from their parents."

Buchanan also noted the support the Lillard-Shadow Scholarship program has received from the family of Dr. John Ewing. Dr. Ewing, an ardent supporter of the

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VEC Customers Share A Little Can Go a Long Way

Volunteer Energy Cooperative (VEC) customers who pooled their pennies through the VEC Customers Share program in May helped prevent child abuse, buy school supplies for needy children, and gave a boost to numerous other worthwhile community projects. The VEC Customers Share board of directors funded grants totaling \$30,599.95 in May. Since the inception of the program in October 2001, a total of \$1,041,279.20 in grants has been awarded.

The deadline for grant applications is the last day of each month. For additional information, contact Patty Hurley, vice president of Marketing & Economic Development, at 423-334-7050. Applications are also available online, at www.vec.org.

Partial list of organizations receiving grants in May include:

Grassy Cove Community Center – Crossville	\$1,800
New Beginnings Garden Club – Decatur	1,700
Child Advocacy Center – Loudon, Roane, and Meigs counties	1,600
Streetfest – Byrdstown	1,600
Cumberland County School Supply Depot – Crossville	1,500
Children's Advocacy Center – Hamilton County	1,500
Bradley County 4-H Livestock Program – Cleveland	1,400
Clarkrange High School Golf Boosters – Clarkrange	1,200
South Ferriss Golf Booster Club – Grimsley	1,100
McMinn Retired Teachers – Athens	1,000
Women United in Community Service – Rockwood	1,000
West, Daysville, Ozone Fire Department – Rockwood	925
Wilson Elementary School Parent/Teacher Group – Crawford	700
Spring City Middle School PTO – Spring City	600
BonDeCroft Volunteer Fire Department – Sparta	600
Hilltoppers, Inc. – Crossville	600
Hands Extended, Inc. – Cleveland	500
Little Village Productions – Spring City	500
Cleveland Emergency Shelter, Inc. – Cleveland	500
Wolf Creek Cemetery Fund – Spring City	500
Byrdstown Senior Center – Byrdstown	500
Rhea County Rescue Squad – Spring City	495
McMinn County 4-H Clubs – Athens	450
Polk County Katy – Benton	450
Roane County Imagination Library – Kingston	450
Polk County High School Science & Exploration Club – Benton	450
Linsdale Community Service – Delano	450
Boy Scout Troop 304 – Ten Mile	450



VEC Customers Share Board Member Don Padgett, right, presents grant checks to Cheryl Ramsey, Dylan Richards, Travis Ramsey, and Cabinn Clark of the Clarkrange High School Golf Booster Club.

Young Graduates Get a Boost from VEC

(Continued from page 1)

Lillard-Shadow Scholarship program, passed away in the fall of 2003. His family asked that in lieu of flowers memorials be sent to the Lillard-Shadow Scholarship Fund.

Jack and Joanne Ewing and Ward and Jenny Ewing attended the luncheon. Art and Betty Ewing were out of town and were unable to attend.

"Dr. Ewing had a real commitment to providing educational opportunities for young people," Buchanan said. "His children share that commitment and we appreciate their support for this scholarship program."

The Lillard-Shadow Scholarships were established in honor of J.W. Lillard and Willis A. Shadow who were instrumental in creating Meigs County Electric Membership Cooperative, the forerunner to Volunteer Energy Cooperative. Because of their commitment to the community, the scholarships that bear their names places heavy emphasis on applicants' community service activities.

A panel of independent education professionals reviewed a host of impressive applications and selected the winners.

Summer Heat Can Mean Higher Electric Bills

As temperatures rise, so can your electric bill.

During hot summer months the average family's cooling system accounts for about 55 percent of your home's electrical usage. Other electrical equipment often gets extra use during hot summer months as well. Here are some factors that contribute to higher electric bills in summer:

- Extra hours of sunshine keep your entire home hotter, longer.
- With school out, your home may be full of children who use more electricity when they play inside.
- Children might be going in and out, releasing cool air and leading to more energy usage by your cooling system.
- Increased outdoor activities might also mean more loads of laundry, extra showers, and more energy used by your washer, dryer, and water heater.
- If you have a pool, your electric bill may also go up as the pump works harder.

But there are some steps you can take to fight back against high summer electric bills. Following are a few tips to help stretch your energy dollar during hot summer months:

- Set your cooling unit thermostat at the highest comfortable temperature and try to leave it at that setting all the time.
- Replace or clean your cooling unit's filters once a month. Dirty filters hinder airflow and increase energy use.
- Have your cooling system serviced annually by a qualified contractor.
- Use fans. Ceiling fans and small portable fans can cool you down, keeping you from having to turn down the air conditioner's thermostat.
- Install white window shades, drapes, or blinds to reflect heat away from the house.
- Close curtains on south- and west-facing windows during the day.
- Dry clothes one load after another so the dryer retains heat. Be sure the dryer is vented properly. Use the shortest, straightest duct available. Clean the lint filter after every load.
- Wash clothes in cold water as often as possible.
- Use low-flow showerheads and faucets.
- Sign up for Levelized Billing at VEC.

VEC Sponsors Students on 2004 Washington Youth Tour

Meeting with senators and congressmen, touring national landmarks, and enjoying the sights and sounds of Washington, D.C., is how three students in Volunteer Energy Cooperative's (VEC) service area spent at least one week of their summer vacation.

Matt Sneed from Meigs County High School, Elizabeth Wood from Cumberland County High School, and Amanda Upchurch from York Agricultural Institute went on an all-expense-paid trip to our nation's capital June 11-17 as part of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) 2004 Washington Youth Tour. The three VEC invitees were joined by 115 students from across Tennessee and more than 1,100 high school students from around the country.

Sneed, Wood, and Upchurch won the trip by placing first at their respective schools in an essay contest.

Tennessee students and their electric cooperative employee chaperons traveled by bus to Washington and returned to Tennessee by plane.

While in Washington the students had breakfast with their respective congressmen, met with senators Bill Frist and Lamar Alexander, and were treated to a private tour of the U.S. Capitol by U.S. representatives Lincoln Davis and Jim Cooper.

Students also toured landmarks such as Monticello, the home of Thomas Jefferson, Mount Vernon, the home of George Washington, and Arlington House, the home of Robert E. Lee. They also toured Arlington National Cemetery, the National Cathedral, the Library of Congress, Ford's Theater, the

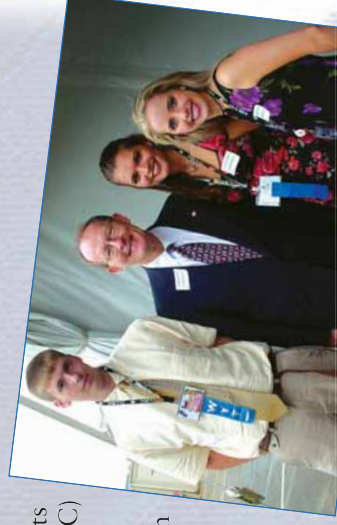
International Spy Museum, The Holocaust Museum, several Smithsonian museums, as well as the Lincoln and FDR memorials, The WW II, Korean War, and Vietnam memorials.

Activities also included a performance of the Broadway musical "Cats," an all-states dinner dance, NRECA Youth Day, lunch at the Hard Rock Café, and the United States Marine Corps "Sunset Parade."

While on the trip students also had the opportunity to compete for scholarships and more all expense-paid trips.

VEC offers the opportunity for students to compete for spots on the trip each year. The contest is open to high school juniors and VEC rotates among the high schools in VEC's 17-county service area.

Next year high school juniors from Pickett County High School, Midway High School, Monterey High School, and Polk County High School will be eligible to participate.



Matt Sneed, left, Amanda Upchurch, third from left, and Elizabeth Wood, far right, met with Tennessee Senator Lamar Alexander during the 2004 Washington Youth Tour.



Matt Sneed, right, poses with Republican Congressman Zath Wamp.



Amanda Upchurch, left, and Elizabeth Wood, right, had breakfast with democratic congressman Lincoln Davis during the Washington Youth Tour.