

Ad Valorem Taxes

These are taxes assessed based upon an appraisal of the assets owned by Volunteer Energy Cooperative in each of the counties served by the cooperative. The table below lists the ad valorem taxes paid to counties for the taxable year 2004.

Counties	Tax Rate	Assessment	Total Due
Bledsoe	\$2.08	\$ 828,773	\$ 17,238.00
Bradley	2.39	10,377,769	248,162.94
Cumberland	1.64	18,812,739	308,529.00
Fentress	1.88	7,190,380	135,179.00
Hamilton	3.061	4,365,804	133,637.26
McMinn	1.90	5,466,873	103,871.00
Meigs	2.29	8,251,636	188,963.00
Overton	1.94	656,462	12,735.36
Pickett	2.12	2,410,863	51,110.29
Polk	2.07	4,816,547	99,702.52
Putnam	2.603	2,503,747	65,160.00
Rhea	1.77	4,854,876	85,931.00
Roane	2.905	1,974,447	57,358.00
Scott	2.40	20,446	490.70
White	2.21	1,057,342	23,367.00
Counties Total			\$ 1,531,435.07

Cities	Tax Rate	Assessment	Total Due
Athens	\$ 1.29	\$ 16,422	\$ 212.00
Benton	0.81	1,110,000	8,991.00
Byrdstown	0.66	477,286	3,150.00
Calhoun	0.60	168,570	1,011.00
Charleston	0.57	174,667	995.60
Cleveland	1.65	160,255	2,644.00
Crossville	0.70	3,985,764	27,900.35
Decatur	0.46	3,834,701	17,640.00
Jamestown	0.65	578,419	3,759.72
Monterey	1.02	955,212	9,743.00
Spring City	1.15	752,551	8,654.00
Cities Total			\$ 84,700.67
Grand Total			\$ 1,616,135.74



www.vec.org **vec@vec.org**

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.

June 2005

POWERLINES

VEC Sponsors Young Leaders at Seminar



Volunteer Energy Cooperative recently sponsored two Polk County High School juniors at the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association's Young Leaders Summit in Nashville. Katie Powers, the daughter of Ken and Karen Powers of Benton, and Nick Lewis, the son of Buster and Angela Lewis of Ocoee, enjoyed three days of leadership development, educational, team building, and creative problem solving activities. (Above) Powers and Lewis met with State Rep. Chris Newton while in Nashville. (Left) Junior Miss Tennessee Elizabeth Wood of Crossville met with Powers and Lewis and presented a program on cooperatives to all the attendees at the Youth Leadership Summit.

VEC Board Members Honored for Service



Four members of the Volunteer Energy Cooperative Board of Directors were recently honored for years of service milestones they recently achieved. Those honored were: (From left) Sammy Norton (District 5 - Meigs County) five years; Larry Storie (District 12 - Pickett County) 10 years; Randy Bond (District 9 - Cumberland County East) 10 years; and Marvin Stinnett (District 1 - Polk County) 20 years.

VEC Board Names New President/CEO

The Volunteer Energy Cooperative (VEC) Board of Directors has named VEC's Executive Vice President Rody Blevins to replace Bill Buchanan as the cooperative's new president/CEO, effective July 1, 2005. Blevins will replace outgoing President/CEO Bill Buchanan who announced his plans to retire in June at VEC's Annual Meeting last October. Blevins has served as vice president of Volunteer Energy Cooperative's System Planning and Engineering Department and executive vice president since joining the company in December of 1999.



Rody Blevins

"I appreciate the confidence and support the VEC Board of Directors has expressed in me through this appointment," Blevins said. "I also appreciate the guidance and support I have received from Bill Buchanan and from the outstanding employees at VEC." Blevins earned his bachelor's degree in engineering from Vanderbilt University and has also earned his Professional Engineer's License. He worked with Maryville Utilities, the Nashville engineering firm of McWhorter and Franklin, and the Harriman Utilities Board before joining VEC.

He grew up in Clinton, Tennessee. He and his wife of 20 years, Mary Beth, have three children, Rachael who is 17, Roderick who is 15, and Abby who is 6. Blevins said teamwork would continue to be the key for VEC's continued success. "In looking forward, VEC faces many challenges in dealing with power supply, growth, and service reliability," Blevins said. "With the help of VEC employees, I am confident we will be able to continue to meet the needs of our member owners in a timely, efficient, and fiscally responsible manner." Gene Carmichael, chairman of VEC's Board of Directors said he and his fellow board members are confident that Blevins is the right person for the position. "Over the past 65 years VEC has risen to a respected position of leadership in the energy industry," Carmichael said. "Rody will help us maintain that tradition of quality service we have established."

Outgoing President/CEO Bill Buchanan said he also feels the board has made a wise decision. "Rody is an extremely capable manager and a real leader," Buchanan said. "His talents, experience, education, and personality will serve him well in this position. I think our members/owners, employees, and board of directors will be very pleased to have him serve in this capacity." Buchanan began his career with VEC in 1963 in the accounting department. He was promoted to office manager in 1972 and manager of finance and administration in 1980. He has been chief executive officer of the cooperative since 1982, the longest tenure of any of the organization's CEOs. He has held numerous leadership roles in state and national organizations, including the Tennessee Valley Public Power Association, the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association, and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. He currently serves on the Board of Directors for Southeast Bank and Trust.

VEC Customers Share

VEC Customers Reach Out to Friends and Neighbors

Volunteer Energy Cooperative (VEC) customers who pooled their pennies through the VECustomers Share program in March helped fund grants totaling \$34,700. Since the inception of the program in October 2001, a total of \$1,373,505.20 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.

Following is a partial list of organizations receiving grants in March:

Cumberland County Youth Center	\$4,000
Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6277	3,000
Cumberland GAP	2,500
Roane County Heritage Commission	2,500
Coordinated Charities of Athens	1,605
Polk County Historical Society	1,500
Cumberland County Drug Alliance – TAD Center	1,500
Fidelity Lodge #558 F&AM	1,320
Disabled American Veterans Chapter 25	1,000
Bradley HFA Alumni	1,000
Byrdstown Masonic Lodge #496	1,000
Friends of the Pickett County Library	1,000
Advocates for Aging, Inc.	1,000
J.L. Cook School Alumni Association	1,000
Decatur Fire Department	1,000
Rhea County 4-H Club	1,000
Art Circle Library	1,000
Valley View Storehouse	925
Rhea County Girls Softball Booster Club	800
Polk County Education Foundation	750
Pickett County Baseball Boosters	500
Lady Tiger Booster Club	500



VEC Customers Share Board Member Joyce Callahan, center, presents a grant check to Curtis Tays, left, and Al Williams of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6277.



Tree Trimming Notifications Not Always Possible

One of the great things about this part of Tennessee is the abundance and variety of trees that beautify the area. But when tree limbs grow to the point of threatening power lines, Volunteer Energy Cooperative (VEC) has no choice – the tree must be trimmed.

VEC's certified arborist Jim Runyan says before VEC crews or contract crews trim a tree every effort is made to notify the property owner. But in some cases when the property owner cannot be notified, crews will still be forced to trim.

"We won't do a tree removal without notifying the property owner but sometimes, when the tree is a considerable threat to the power lines and when we've tried and failed to talk to the property owner, we will be forced to trim without the notification," Runyan said. "We would prefer to be able to speak with the property owners first, but that is just not always possible."

Runyan said trees located near power lines must be pruned periodically to prevent power outages and damage to equipment. He added that VEC uses the natural/lateral cut method that is recommended by the National Arbor Day Foundation, the International Society of Arboriculture, the National Arborist Association, and other professional trade organizations.

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. 3 – Hamilton County
- District No. 4 – McMinn County
- District No. 7 – Roane and Loudon Counties

As set for 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 his/her duly appointed candidate, a qualifying petition 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 June 6, 2005 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 by 5 p.m. EDT, July 1, 2005.

Kenneth Vaden
Secretary-Treasurer

Right-of-Way Spraying Schedule

Volunteer Energy Cooperative's right-of-way (ROW) spraying program is scheduled to get under way shortly, according to Jim Runyan, VEC's vegetation control specialist.

Runyan, a certified arborist, said the spraying is necessary to help prevent extended power outages caused by falling trees and to assist with quick power restorations by improving access for service crews.

"We spray in the late spring and early summer because that's when growth is most active," Runyan said. "We only use EPA-approved herbicides that are rated the safest and we use them in low concentrations."

Runyan said the herbicides work on woody growth without affecting flowers and grass. The herbicides VEC will be using have been tested and deemed harmless to humans and animals. Copies of the Material Safety Data Sheets for each herbicide are available at VEC customer service centers.

Organic growers with questions in the Cleveland and Decatur service districts should contact Runyan at 423-334-7034. Organic growers in the Crossville service district should contact Tommy Walker at 931-839-2217 ext. 7434 and organic growers in the Jamestown service districts should contact Butch Smith at 931-864-3685 ext. 7651.

2005 ROW Spraying Schedule

Decatur Service District

Riceville
Decatur – Highway 30 east to No Ponc Road
No Ponc Road – North and South of Highway 30
North of Riceville
Paint Rock area

Cleveland Service District

Tasso Community
Chattata Valley Road
Rabbit Valley Road
No Ponc Road
Hanks Chapel Road
Piney Grove community
Claxton Road
Mountain View Road from Highway 30 to the Greasy Creek community (Benton area)

Crossville Service District

Genesis Road from Morgan County line to I-40
Chestnut Hill community
Fox Creek Road
Stone Loop Road
Old Peavine Road
Jim Garrett Road
Big Springs Gap Road

Jamestown Service District

Highway 154 from the Big South Fork boundary to Jamestown (Fentress County)
Robbinstown area (Pickett County)
Squirrel Flats area (Pickett County)

Conversion Complete!



Volunteer Energy Cooperative successfully completed a conversion of its computer software on April 11th. The new software will allow customer information to be more readily available and its ease of use will translate into more efficient service to customers. Due to the size of the files, some parts of the conversion

process began on April 5th and continued through April 10th. Duell Grubb, VEC's Vice President of Information Technology, complemented VEC employees on their enthusiasm about learning the new system. The conversion also resulted in new, more easily understood billing statements for customers.