



Wolftever Substation Goes Online

VEC President/CEO Rody Blevins, right, throws the ceremonial first switch to energize the Wolftever Substation in Hamilton County as (from left) VEC Board member representing Hamilton County Aubie Smith, State Rep. Gerald McCormick, and retired President/CEO Bill Buchanan look on. The substation went online in early July.



VEC Team Shines at Lineman’s Rodeo

Marvin Woods, of VEC’s Decatur Service District, (pictured above) finished third overall and Roger Martin, also of VEC’s Decatur Service District, won the skill climb event in the Individual Journeyman division at the 2005 Tennessee Valley Lineman Rodeo in Sevierville, Tennessee. Jason Wade, of the Crossville Service District competed in the Apprentice division. VEC’s John Selvidge, Larry Reed, Andy Edgemon, and Lake Mantooth served as judges at the event.

Board of Director Ballots are Coming to Roane County

Volunteer Energy Cooperative (VEC) customers in Roane County should be watching their mailboxes. Ballots for the VEC Board of Directors contested District 7 position will be mailed in late August.

Only members/customers in District 7, which covers Roane County, will be receiving ballots because the District 7 position is the only contested race this year. One ballot per household/membership will be mailed and the ballots should be completed and returned no later than September 21.



Annual Meeting is a Great Time to Learn About Your Cooperative and Have Some Fun

By Rody Blevins President/CEO

As a member of an electric cooperative, you enjoy many rights and privileges that customers of other types of power companies do not.

Volunteer Energy Cooperative’s Annual Meeting is an excellent opportunity to learn more about your cooperative and about the benefits of membership. This year’s Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, October 1 at Meigs County Middle School in Decatur. We’ve lined up a lot of entertainment, prizes, food, and attractions to make it an enjoyable event. It’s also a great time to learn about all the different products and services VEC offers and to learn about the policies and procedures we’ve adopted to meet the needs of our members.

Every member who attends will receive a goody bag and there will be drawings for some terrific prizes. We’ll serve a free breakfast and free flu shots will be available. There will also be informational displays about VEC products, services, and operations and electricity safety demonstrations.

Those who attend will also get an opportunity to hear updates on VEC’s progress during the past year.

It promises to be a great day.

As VEC’s new president/CEO, I want to offer my personal invitation to you to attend this event. I look forward to seeing you there.

TVA Announces Plans to Increase Rates

On July 22 Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) announced an increase of 7.5% in firm wholesale electric rates.

Your VEC Board of Directors have already been busy, examining the different proposals and working to assess the impact the increase will have on VEC customers.

TVA last raised rates in October of 2003 when they increased most residential rates by about 8%. Many other distributors chose to add their own increases to rates at that time. VEC did not.

The last VEC rate increase occurred in November of 2001 when we increased rates by 3.6%. Your VEC Board of Directors, and the management and staff at VEC are also VEC customers. We pay the same rates every other VEC customer pays. So it’s easy to see that we have a real interest in keeping rates as low as possible. Over the past 70 years VEC has established a reputation for holding costs down, for making sure our customers get the most from their dollar, and for raising rates only when necessary.

We are proud of that track record and will continue to work hard to protect that reputation.

“The Mayberry Deputy” Bringing a Blast from the Past to VEC Annual Meeting

If you think Volunteer Energy Cooperative’s (VEC) Annual Meeting is not going to be a lot of fun this year, we’re going to take that idea and nip it ... nip it in the bud.

This year’s event, slated for Saturday, October 1 at Meigs County Middle School in Decatur, promises to bring laughs, nostalgia, and good family fun. David L. Browning, an accomplished actor, director, host, and speaker will be portraying “The Mayberry Deputy.”



David Browning will portray “The Mayberry Deputy” at VEC’s Annual Meeting

“We live in the world where people are searching for their own Mayberry,” Browning says. “I value this character for what it gives to people today ... a laugh, a lift, and memories.”

Browning has portrayed Sheriff’s Andy Griffith’s right-hand man at Mayberry Reunion Shows with original cast members of the “Andy Griffith Show,” including Grand Ole Opry appearances. He routinely opens for Don Knotts who played the original “Barney Fife” on “The Andy Griffith Show” and George Lindsey who played “Goober” on the show.

“The Mayberry Deputy, David Browning, is a bridge between ‘The Andy Griffith Show’ and today,” says Don Knotts.

Other former cast members of the show are equally enthusiastic.

“David Browning improvises the character in each situation,” says Betty Lynn, the actress who portrayed “Thelma Lou” on the show. “We love having him at the Mayberry Star Shows.”

“David is a very special performer,” says Maggie Peterson, who played “Charlene Darling.” “He truly captures the spirit of Mayberry, first with humor, then with a tug on your heart-strings. He brings his own essential honesty and understanding to the beloved Barney Fife character in a manner than compliments without compromising the original.”

Browning has been featured in about 5,000 performances and has appeared with Faith Hill, the Charlie Daniels Band, Aaron Tippin, Neil McCoy, and the Marshall Tucker Band. He was also featured in a music video by Confederate Railroad and has also appeared in numerous radio, print, and television advertising campaigns.

“We are very excited about having David Browning perform at our annual meeting,” said VEC president/CEO Rody Blevins. “I think we are all going to have a great time.”

Browning is known for using costume, gesture, facial expression, and audience participation to provide an atmosphere of good will and clean fun. He provides a slice of America’s cultural past which is worth preserving and celebrating.

VEC Customers *Share*

VEC Customers Reach Out
to Friends and Neighbors

Volunteer Energy Cooperative (VEC) customers funded grants totaling \$28,900 in June. Since the inception of the program in October 2001, a total of \$1,471,265.20 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.

Organizations receiving grants in June include:

Handfuls of the Harvest (Jamestown) - \$2,000
Fair Park Senior Center - \$1,525
Upper Cumberland Child Advocacy Center - \$1,500
Avalon Center: Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault - \$1,475
Friends of the Library of Spring City - \$1,300
Candlelighters Fun Day - \$1,150
Wolf Creek Fire Association (Spring City) - \$1,000
Women United in Community Service (McMinn County) - \$1,000
Senior Citizens of Cumberland County - \$1,000
Linsdale Community Services - \$1,000
NE/SE Tennessee Chapter Alzheimer's Association - \$1,000
Snow Hill After & Before School Daycare - \$1,000
Cleveland/Bradley County Keep America Beautiful - \$1,000
McMinn/Meigs Foster Care Association - \$1,000
Mineral Springs Hunger Relief Ministry - \$1,000
Earls Cemetery - \$1,000
Monterey High School Baseball Boosters - \$1,000
E.G. Fisher Public Library - \$800
Chilhowee Middle School Baseball Boosters - \$800
Meigs County Future Business Leaders of America - \$750
Meigs County High School Mu Alpha Theta Booster Club - \$750
Rogers Creek Elementary School PTO - \$500
S. Roane County Volunteer Fire Department - \$500
PCHS Softball Boosters - \$500
Luminary: Community Playground Committee - \$500
Birchwood Senior Neighbors - \$500
Midway Quarterback Club - \$500
Hull-York DAV Chapter 5 - \$500
Midway Athletic Club - \$500
Walker Valley High School JV Cheerleader Boosters - \$400
National Fire Safety Council: Meigs County - \$300
Kiwanis Club of Spring City - \$250
Pilot Club of Athens, Inc., - \$200
Polk County High School Girls Volleyball Boosters - \$200
AMVETS Post 90 - \$200
District Three ASA (McMinn County) - \$200
Mountain View Science Club - \$100.



VECcustomers Share Board Member Don Padgett (left) presents a grant check in the amount of \$2,000 to Clarise M. Shepherd, executive director of Handfuls of the Harvest.

You are cordially Invited...

VEC Annual Meeting Saturday, October 1, 2005 Meigs County Middle School

- **Free breakfast provided by the Meigs County Lions Club.**
- **Free flu vaccinations by Dr. Shane Roberts and staff.**
- **Entertainment by David Browning, "The Mayberry Deputy."**
- **VEC program and service displays.**
- **Door Prizes and Goody Bags!**
- **Annual cooperative update by President/CEO Rody Blevins.**
- **Plenty of fun for children of all ages!**



Any members/customers who require special accommodations for the event should phone the Marketing/Economic Development Department at VEC's Corporate Offices in Decatur at 423-334-7051. Every effort will be made to accommodate any and all special needs.

Registration and breakfast begin at 8 a.m. EDT

Meeting begins at 10 a.m. EDT

Entertainment begins at 11 a.m. EDT.

A Letter to Our Members

Dear Cooperative Member:

The 69th 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 1, 2005.

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

Directions to VEC Annual Meeting

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 (at Papa's Pizza – across the street 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. The turn onto Z Street will be a left-hand turn.

Crossville:

Take Highway 127 South out of Crossville. Follow Highway 27/68 over Watts Bar Dam. Make a right-hand turn onto Highway 58 and then turn left

onto Z Street.

If you want to bypass Watts Bar Dam, Take 127 south out of Crossville, stay on Highway 27/68. Just past Spring City Highway 68 veers off to the left towards Watts Bar. Stay on 27 south until you get to the intersection with Highway 30 in Dayton. Turn left onto Highway 30 and take that all the way into Decatur. When you reach Highway 58 in Decatur, turn left and the turn onto Z Street will be a right-hand turn.

Cleveland:

Take Highway 60 to the intersection with Highway 58. Turn right onto Highway 58 and follow that into Decatur. The turn onto Z Street will be a right-hand turn.

Athens area:

Take Highway 30 into Decatur. At the intersection with Highway 58, turn right. The turn onto Z Street will be a right-hand turn.

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: _____

Bring this registration form with you on October 1. You must be present to win.