

Midway High School Junior Attends Leadership Summit

Erica McMurray of Ten Mile was among 40 high school juniors from across the state who attended the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association's annual Youth Leadership Summit March 17-19 in downtown Nashville.

"Every year students across the state undergo the highly competitive selection process to earn a spot at the Youth Leadership Summit," said Joe Jackson, TECA director of youth and member relations. "Local electric cooperatives, along with school officials and guidance counselors, chose these outstanding students based on their interest in government and their leadership abilities."

"The annual summit gives students an opportunity to learn about electric cooperatives and how they affect their lives," Jackson said of the students representing 21 of Tennessee's electric cooperatives. "It also gives them an opportunity to see, in person, the legislative process in the Tennessee Capitol."

The summit was hosted by TECA and funded in part by the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation, a not-for-profit cooperative financing institute that provides an independent source of financing to member cooperatives nationwide. Volunteer Energy Cooperative (VEC) provided the funding for Erica to attend.

"It is encouraging to see this high caliber of students in our service area," said VEC President/CEO Rody Blevins. "These young people will one day be the leaders of our communities, and we are privileged to provide them with this opportunity to join their peers from across Tennessee to learn about state government and rural electric co-ops."

The summit kicked off Monday evening, March 17, with dinner at the group's hotel, the Millennium Maxwell House. "Get-acquainted" and leadership development activities followed, led by cooperative employees and special guests, including 2007 Miss Tennessee Grace Gore, and Tennessee Titans cheerleaders Kindle Martin and Lindsey Roznovsky.

Tuesday morning began early with breakfast and preparations for a visit to Legislative Plaza. TECA Director of Government and Public Affairs David Callis introduced State Rep. Doug Overby, who welcomed the students to Tennessee's capital and discussed the legislative process with them. Callis then explained current bills affecting cooperatives and described what everyone should expect from the legislative committees they were to visit.

The 11th-graders made their way to Legislative Plaza, where they got to see state government in action. Erica also met with State Senator Charlotte Burks.

Following the visit to Capitol Hill, the group enjoyed lunch and leadership activities at a Nashville-area YMCA camp. Later they made a quick stop for a pizza dinner before heading to watch a Nashville Predators hockey game followed by a tour of Nashville. The busy day was capped off with an ice cream social back at the hotel.

Wednesday morning, the students learned more about Tennessee's electric cooperatives and the commitment these co-ops show toward the communities they serve. Then they fought it out in the "Energy Battle" competition, where teams answered trivia questions about electric cooperatives and the state.

"We offer these educational and leadership development experiences for our students — our future members — because we want them to understand what makes a cooperative special," said Robert McCarty, VEC communications coordinator who served as one of the chaperons and as a program presenter at the Youth Leadership Summit. "We also want to help prepare them to assume leadership roles in their communities."

Erica said she enjoyed the activities and programs.

"I especially enjoyed meeting and getting to know other students from across the state," she said. Erica is the granddaughter of Cherie McMurray of Ten Mile.



Erica McMurray, left, met with State Sen. Charlotte Burks during the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association's Youth Leadership Summit in Nashville.



Erica McMurray poses in the Governor's Office during her tour of the Tennessee State Capitol.

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.

PROJECT DESERVE NEEDS YOU



Project Deserve allows Volunteer Energy Cooperative member/customers to do just that. With a reoccurring monthly donation or with a one-time gift, VEC customers can assist neighbors who are having a tough time with their electric bills in emergency situations. You can pledge any amount you choose to be added to your monthly electric bill or make a one-time donation.

If you could help an elderly, handicapped or unemployed neighbor for as little as one dollar month, you wouldn't you?

Every penny collected through Project Deserve goes straight to those among our neighbors who need it most. No donated funds are used to administer the program.

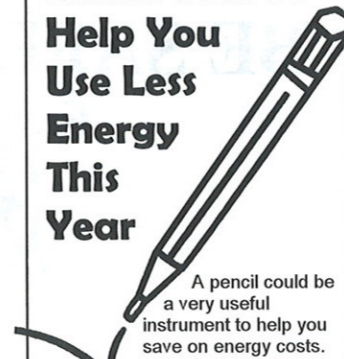
Eligibility will be determined and verified solely by Human Resource

Agencies and/or community relief groups in all or portions of VEC's 17-county service area which includes:

Bledsoe, Bradley, Cumberland, Fentress, Hamilton, Loudon, McMinn, Meigs, Morgan, Overton, Pickett, Polk, Putnam, Rhea, Roane, Scott, and White counties.

Call or drop by your local Volunteer Energy Cooperative customer service center to sign up or to get more details.

Introducing the Latest Tool To Help You Use Less Energy This Year



A pencil could be a very useful instrument to help you save on energy costs.

The energy right Home e-valuation survey is an easy way to find out how you're using energy around your home and how you could use that energy more wisely. Using less energy adds up to spending less money.

Call your local VEC office today for a copy of the Home e-valuation. Use your pencil, take a few minutes to fill out the questionnaire, and send it in. You'll receive a customized report in the mail based on the information you provide that will give you ideas on how to save on your home's energy costs.

Or, you can also complete the survey online and get an electronic report immediately. Just follow the link on the VEC home page (www.vec.org).

For a limited time, we will mail you a FREE conservation kit when you submit a completed Home e-valuation survey either online or by mail.



POWERLINES

Newsletter of Volunteer Energy Cooperative

TVA ANNOUNCES April 1 Rate Hike

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) has announced a rate increase and an increase in the Fuel Cost Adjustment that became effective on April 1. Volunteer Energy Cooperative (VEC) will be forced to pass these increases along to customers but **VEC will not add an increase of our own to the new rate structure.** There will also be no increase in VEC's customer charge. These TVA increases will affect all rates and all classes of customers.



Rody Blevins President/CEO

The percentage of the increases will vary depending on the amount of electricity consumed. For residential customers the increases amount to approximately 10%.

About 80 cents of every dollar VEC collects from customers goes directly to TVA and VEC has no choice but to pass the TVA increase through to customers. VEC will not add an increase of its own.

TVA's Fuel Charge Adjustment will be \$0.00596 beginning on April 1. Following are some samples of how the rate increase could affect residential customers' bills.

If a customer uses 1,000 kWh per month:

Old Rate (@ \$.07238 per kWh):	\$72.38	New Rate (@ \$.07777 per kWh):	\$77.77
Old TVA Fuel Cost Adjustment:	\$2.90	New TVA Fuel Cost Adjustment:	\$5.96
Old Total Energy Charge:	\$75.28	New Total Energy Charge:	\$83.73

If a customer uses 1,500 kWh per month:

Old Rate (@ \$.07238 per kWh):	\$108.57	New Rate (@ \$.07777 per kWh):	\$116.66
Old TVA Fuel cost Adjustment:	\$4.35	New TVA Fuel Cost Adjustment:	\$8.94
Old Total Energy Charge:	\$112.92	New Total Energy Charge:	\$125.60

The TVA Fuel Cost Adjustment is itemized on VEC electric bills and is set each quarter by TVA. This is the difference between the amount TVA budgeted for fuel and the actual cost of the fuel. New rate sheets are available in all VEC offices and rate information can also be accessed on the VEC website: www.vec.org.

If you pay your VEC bill with the automated phone system, please note...

NACHA, the Electronic Payment Association, now requires that a PIN number be used for check payments made over the phone. Beginning soon you will be prompted to enter a PIN number when paying by check. For your VEC payments, this PIN number is the last four digits of your social security number. This change has been instituted to ensure that your checking account and its information are secure.

VEC Customers Share

VEC Customers Share NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

By allowing their electric bills to be rounded up to the next dollar Volunteer Energy Cooperative (VEC) customers funded \$35,300 in community service grants in February. Since the inception of the program in October 2001, more than \$2.5 million 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 February include: Cumberland County Imagination Library - \$3,000; Midway Sound Waves Booster Club, Kingston - \$2,500; General Advisory Council for TN Technology Center, Crossville - \$2,000; Idlewild Rural Fire Department - \$2,000; Pickett County High School Football Boosters - \$2,000; PTO of Brown Middle School, Harrison - \$2,000; The Spring City Historical Museum and Depot Foundation - \$1,982; Meigs County Historical Society - \$1,500; Friends of the Pickett County Library - \$1,500; Meigs County High School Baseball Boosters - \$1,250; McMinn County Education Foundation - \$1,000; Cumberland County Cardiac/Pulmonary Rehab Alumni Association, Inc., - \$1,000; Fourth Grade Reading Club - Jamestown - \$1,000; Clingan Ridge Library - \$1,000; Monterey Depot Historical Society - \$1,000; Coyote Path NSDAR, Jamestown - \$1,000; Southeast Powerstrokes, Decatur - \$1,000; Museum Center at Five Points, Cleveland - \$500; Bradley Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center - \$500; Lady Wildcats Softball Booster Club, Reliance - \$500; Bradley/Polk Foster Adoptive Care Association - \$500; Behavioral Research Institute, Inc., Cleveland - \$500; Taylors Ruritan, Cleveland - \$500; Monterey Cub Scout Wolf Pack - \$500; Cumberland County EMS - \$500; Linsdale Community Services - \$500; South Roane County Volunteer Fire Department - \$500; Boys and Girls Club of Benton - \$500; Blue Heat Softball, Benton - \$500; MES Cheer Booster Club, Crossville - \$500; BMS Baseball Boosters, Monterey - \$500; Girl Scout Troop #70, Spring City - \$468; Spring City Middle School Volleyball Boosters - \$350; Athens Civitan Club, Athens - \$250; Rogers Creek Youth Football and Cheerleading Booster Club, Riceville - \$250; and Delano Lions Club - \$250.



VEC Customers Share Board Member Gloria Schouggins, left, presents a grant check to Connie McKinney of the Meigs County High School Baseball Boosters.

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. 2 – Bradley County
- District No. 6 – Bledsoe and Rhea counties
- District No. 12 – Cumberland County, west of Highway 127

As set forth 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, 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 May 30, 2008 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, June 6, 2007.

Sammy Norton
Secretary-Treasurer

This Spring BE SAFE - BE AWARE

For a Limited Time, Get

\$15 Off
Midland WR 300
Weather Radio

Special Price: \$59.95 Plus Tax



Offer good for weather radios purchased in any Volunteer Energy Cooperative office. Limit one per customer while supplies last. Offer ends May 30, 2008.

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 2007.

Counties	Total Due	Cities	Total Due
Bledsoe	\$ 13,970.00	Athens	\$ 196.00
Bradley	284,225.84	Benton	7,968.00
Cumberland	283,678.00	Byrdstown	2,596.00
Fentress	119,917.00	Calhoun	944.00
Hamilton	167,293.00	Charleston	893.28
McMinn	98,129.00	Cleveland	2,812.00
Meigs	182,053.00	Crossville	26,831.35
Overton	13,594.03	Decatur	17,666.00
Pickett	43,456.50	Jamestown	3,912.93
Polk	69.00	Monterey	10,433.00
Putnam	72,034.00	Spring City	9,269.00
Rhea	109,894.00		
Roane	58,924.00	Cities Total	\$ 83,521.21
Scott	528.02		
White	23,668.00		
Counties Total	\$ 1,471,433.39	Grand Total	\$ 1,554,954.60

VEC Families Share Their Best Recipes With Your Family

Volunteer Energy Cooperative employees are putting together a sumptuous sampling of some of their favorite family recipes to share with your family. The recipes are available, absolutely free, at www.vec.org. Just look for the recipe link on the home page.

Here's a little sneak peek:

- Sugar Coated Pecans**
1 egg white
1 pound pecan halves
1 tablespoon water
1 cup white sugar
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1 teaspoon salt



Preheat oven to 250 degrees. Grease one baking sheet. In a mixing bowl whip together the egg white and water until frothy. In a separate bowl mix the sugar, salt and cinnamon. Add pecans to egg whites. Stir to coat the nuts evenly. Remove the nuts and toss them in the sugar mixture until coated. Spread the nuts out on baking sheet. Bake at 250 degrees for 1 hour stirring every 15 minutes.
- Sharon, Crossville Office