

A LETTER TO OUR MEMBERS

Dear Cooperative Member:

The 72nd Annual Meeting of the Members of Volunteer Energy Cooperative will be held at Meigs County Middle School. The business meeting will begin at 10 a.m. EDT, on Saturday, October 4, 2008.

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.

Sammy Norton
Secretary-Treasurer



VEC Board Chairman
Gene Carmichael

VEC Annual Meeting Saturday, October 4, 2008 Meigs County Middle School

Registration.....	8 a.m. to 10 a.m.
Pancake/Continental Breakfast.....	8 a.m. to 10 a.m.
* Flu Shots *.....	8 a.m. to 10 a.m.
The Dixie Pride Band.....	9 a.m. to 10 a.m.
Business Meeting.....	10 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.
The Voices of Lee.....	10:45 a.m. to noon

* If you have Medicare, please bring your Medicare number with you for faster flu shot service. A claim will not be filed – the number is needed for audit purposes only.



The Dixie Pride Band

WHY STAND IN LINE?

Fill out the registration form below and you can avoid standing in the registration line at VEC's Annual Meeting. Complete the form below, bring it with you on October 4th, and you can breeze right past the registration lines. Just hand this form in at the special express registration area and head right for the displays, breakfast, flu shots, or entertainment.

Why stand in line if you don't have to?

VEC ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION/DOOR PRIZE FORM

Name: _____

Account Number: _____

Bring this registration form with you on October 4. You must be present to win.

John Selvidge Earns Loss Control Certification



John Selvidge

Volunteer Energy Cooperative's (VEC) Cleveland Area Service Manager John Selvidge has completed an intensive program in electric utility safety and loss control. The Loss Control Internship is a series of workshops offered by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association in conjunction with the National Utility Training & Safety Education Association.

The program is designed to instruct participants in many areas related to electric utility industry safety.

According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), 6.2 million injuries occur annually in the workplace. One of the goals of a certified Loss Control Professional is to help ensure a safe work environment for utility workers and the public in general. Preventing workplace accidents avoids down time and can lead to lower utility rates.

Selvidge is one of only a few electric utility professionals who will receive this certification. The program requires participants to complete a rigorous series of seminars and tests, a detailed course project, and a 30-hour OSHA course.

"We are very proud of John's accomplishments and this represents another boost to our efforts to be leaders in the electric utility industry," said VEC President/CEO Rody Blevins.

Selvidge joined VEC in 1986 and became the cooperative's Cleveland Area Service Manager in 2006. He is a Tennessee Valley Public Power Association instructor and teaches advanced lineman training. He is also a Certified Safety Coordinator.

Lee University Ensemble to Headline VEC Annual Meeting Entertainment

The Voices of Lee, directed by Danny Murray, is a seventeen-member vocal ensemble characterized by their unique variety of lush vocal harmonies, high-energy patriotic numbers, a cappella jazz, as well as heart felt favorite hymns.

The group hails from Lee University in Cleveland, Tennessee.

The Voices of Lee have appeared on "Good Morning America", Bill Gaither's "Praise Gathering" and video series, and in some of America's most noted churches such as Christ Church in Nashville, Tennessee, Skyline Church in San Diego, California, and First Baptist Church of Atlanta, Georgia. Their convention appearances have taken them from Israel to Ontario and numerous U.S. cities. They have been featured at the international "Sing Conference" for a cappella at the Tennessee Performing Arts Center, toured Europe with concerts at the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris and England's Ely Cathedral.

Their eight recordings include a Brentwood-Benson project titled "Encore" and features a companion book of arrangements. Most recently, they have released a Live Concert DVD that includes guest appearances by soloist Babbi Mason, guitarist Doyle Dykes, and Lee University Alumnus Jay DeMarcus of Rascal Flatts.

Providing the morning entertainment will be the Dixie Pride Band featuring David Ivy, Frank Eddington, Don Goode, and Walter Burlington. The Dixie Pride Band performs classic country music.



The Voices of Lee vocal ensemble will provide entertainment at VEC's Annual Meeting.

Please Join Us For Our Annual Meeting

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 4 at Meigs County Middle School in Decatur. I'd like to take this opportunity to extend my personal invitation to you and your family.

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 prizes. We'll serve a free breakfast and free flu shots will be available. There will also be informational displays about VEC products, services, operations and electricity safety demonstrations.

It promises to be a great day. I look forward to seeing you there.



Rody Blevins President/CEO

Automated Meter Reading is Reducing VEC's Carbon Footprint

We know that reading our customers meters via our new automated system is reducing the number of mistakes we make. And we know we are saving our customers money. But now we also know that we are significantly cutting our gasoline consumption and our CO2 emissions.

When we were reading all of our meters in the traditional way, our meter readers had to drive about 9,000 miles each month to cover all of VEC's service area. Now, we are reading about one-third of these meters through our Automated Meter Reading system. We have already cut our gasoline consumption by about 150 gallons of gas per month. That's on pace for an annual reduction of 1,800 gallons of gasoline.

We also reduced our carbon emissions at a rate of about 15.8 metric tons of CO2 per year.

When we complete our Automated Meter Reading project we will be reducing our gasoline consumption by about 5,400 gallons per year and cutting or carbon emissions by about 47.41 metric tons of CO2 per year.


Automated Meter Reading is saving our customers money, drastically reducing the opportunity for errors, and helping the environment.

It's a win-win-win program.


These estimates were calculated with the assistance of The Climate Trust. See www.carboncounter.org.

You Are Invited


Volunteer Energy Cooperative Annual Meeting
Saturday, October 4
Meigs County Middle School, Decatur, TN
8:00 a.m.



- ➔ **Goody Bags & Door Prizes!**
- ➔ **VEC Product & Service Information**
- ➔ *** Free Flu Shots ***
- ➔ **Free Breakfast**
- ➔ **Face Painting**



- ➔ **Entertainment by The Voices of Lee & The Dixie Pride Band**
- ➔ **Update on VEC Operations by President/CEO Rody Blevins**
- ➔ **Safety Demonstrations**
- ➔ **Plenty of food, fun and entertainment for the entire family!**



If you have special needs or require specific accommodations, please contact Volunteer Energy Cooperative's Marketing & Economic Development Department at 423-334-7051 or call your local VEC Customer Service Center and enter extension 7051 when prompted. Every effort will be made to accommodate special needs.
*** If you have Medicare, please bring your Medicare number with you for faster flu shot service.**

DIRECTIONS
 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. Turn left onto Z Street, left on Main Street, and right into Meigs Middle School.

Crossville:
 Take Highway 127 South out of Crossville. Follow Highway 27/68 over Watts Bar Dam. Make a right turn onto Highway 58, go nine miles then turn left onto Z Street, left onto Main Street, and right into Meigs Middle School. 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 turn.

Cleveland:
 Take Highway 60 to the intersection with Highway 58. Turn right onto Highway 58 and follow that into Decatur. Turn right onto Z Street, left onto Main Street, and right into Meigs Middle School.

Athens:
 Take Highway 30 into Decatur. At the intersection with Highway 58, turn right. Turn right onto Z Street, left on Main Street, and right into Meigs Middle School.



VEC SPONSORS

4 STUDENTS, 1 TEACHER

ON WASHINGTON D.C.

YOUTH TOUR

Four high school juniors and one high school English teacher from Volunteer Energy Cooperative's service area were among 1500 students from across the country who attended the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's 2008 Washington Youth Tour.

Erin Chambers of Picket County High School, April Melton of Stone Memorial High School, Erica McMurray of Midway High School and Judy Choate, an English teacher at Picket County High School were VEC's participants in this year's trip.

The students were rewarded with the all-expense-paid trip to the nation's capital for writing award-winning essays showing the benefits of cooperative power for the 2008 Washington Youth Tour Writing Contest, sponsored by Tennessee's electric cooperatives.



Kirby Deal, Erin Chambers, April Melton, and Erica McMurray hit the road as VEC's Washington Youth Tour participants.

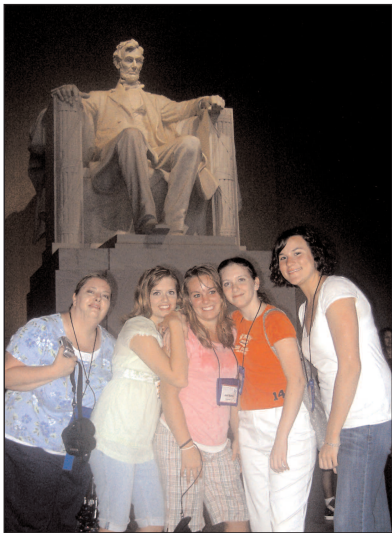


Erin Chambers, April Melton, Kirby Deal, and Erica McMurray pose outside of Mt. Vernon.

Choate was awarded the trip because her student, Erin Chambers was the overall winner in VEC's service area. Chamber's story was forwarded for state-wide judging where scholarships were awarded to the states top three finishers.

The topic for this year's contest was "Electric Cooperatives: Going Beyond the Wires." Students across Tennessee were invited to write short stories, no longer than 800 words, showing electric cooperatives' commitment to their communities – a commitment that goes beyond providing electric service.

In and around Washington, students were able to visit the historical places they had studied in school, including the homes of two of America's founding fathers: Thomas Jefferson's Monticello and George Washington's Mount Vernon. And they were able to see many of the famous Washington, D.C. landmarks including the Jefferson, Lincoln, World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam Veteran's memorials; White House; Smithsonian Museums complex; Library of Congress; and the Washington National Cathedral.



From left, Judy Choate, Erica McMurray, April Melton, Erin Chambers, and Kirby Deal visited the Lincoln Memorial.

A number of Tennessee lawmakers hosted a breakfast in the Rayburn House Office Building. Senators Bob Corker and Lamar Alexander



Erica McMurray, Erin Chambers, and April Melton met with Congressman Lincoln Davis.

spoke with students and posed for pictures with the Tennessee delegation on the Capitol steps before the breakfast.

Students also saw ceremonies showcasing the honor, skill, and valor of the United States military. First, students and adults

watched in silence as members of the 3rd U.S. Infantry performed the ceremonial changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery, where the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association placed a memorial wreath.

Erin Chambers is the daughter of Mike and Christie Chambers of Byrdstown. April Melton is the daughter of Tom and Diane Melton of Crossville. Erica McMurray is the granddaughter of Cherie McMurray of Ten Mile and Kirby Deal is the daughter of Cathy and Tim Paul of Cleveland.

The four students and one teacher were sponsored by VEC on the all-expense paid trip and the trip was coordinated by the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association.



Erin Chambers, Kirby Deal, and April Melton pose outside the National Cathedral.

VEC*Customers Share*
 NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

June Grant Information Delayed

This edition of Powerlines was due at the printers before the VECustomers Share Board made decisions about June grants. The grant listing will return to Powerlines next month. For additional information, contact the office of Marketing and Economic Development, at 423-334-7051. Applications are available online, at www.vec.org. A complete list of all grant recipients is available at VEC Customer Service Centers.