

Volunteer Energy Cooperative (VEC) wants to reward students who have used their time and talents to benefit their local communities. VEC's Lillard-Shadow scholarship program rewards academic and community service achievements by awarding four \$2,000 scholarships to students who will graduate from high schools in VEC's service area in the spring of 2011.

The scholarships honor J.W. Lillard and Willis A Shadow, two community leaders who spearheaded efforts to bring electric power to Decatur and Meigs County in the 1930s, forming the organization that would become Volunteer Energy Cooperative. Mr. Shadow and Mr. Lillard were instrumental in improving the lives and livelihoods of thousands of residents through electric power.

Four awards of \$500 per semester each (renewable for up to four semesters) will be presented to spring 2011 high school graduates whose parents or guardians are VEC electric customers. Applications will be judged by an independent panel based on student's community service activities and citizenship - 40%; written communication skills - 20 %; financial need - 25%; and academic achievement - 15%.

Scholarship applications are available at any VEC Customer Service Center or from high school counselors in the VEC service area. Applications are also available online at [www.vec.org](http://www.vec.org).

**All application materials must be completed and delivered to VEC's Cooperate Office in Decatur no later than 5 p.m. Eastern Time on March 1, 2011.**



### Statement of Nondiscrimination

Volunteer Energy Cooperative is the recipient of federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended, and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, national origin, age or disability shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is Rody Blevins, President/CEO. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels this organization has subjected them to discrimination may obtain further information about the statutes and regulations listed above from and/or file a written complaint with this organization; or the Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250; or the Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, Washington, D.C. 20250. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.

# Merry Christmas

The employees and Board of Directors of Volunteer Energy Cooperative would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas.

## We've Got Your Holiday Shopping Covered



**Toy Bucket Trucks & Pick-up Trucks**  
\$5.00 plus tax



**Midland WR-300 Weather Radio**  
\$59.95 plus tax

Stop by your local Volunteer Energy Cooperative Customer Service Center to pick up these great holiday gifts.

## Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) Residential & Outdoor Lighting Fuel Cost Adjustment Effective November 1, 2010

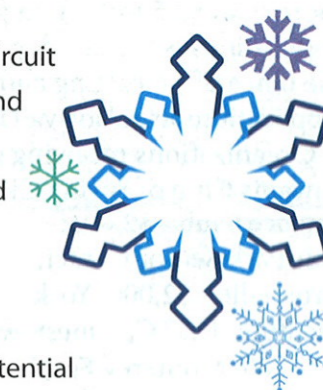
**\$0.00796**

For the most current FCA information, visit [www.vec.org](http://www.vec.org)

## Make Sure This Holiday Season is a Safe One

The hustle and bustle of the Christmas season is rapidly approaching. For some, the holiday season becomes a time of tragedy so Volunteer Energy Cooperative wants the holiday season to be a safe and happy one for you and your family. To keep you and your family safe you should:

- Don't overload your electric circuits. Check fuses or circuit breaker panels to see what your home can handle, and stay well within the limits.
- Avoid putting too many strings of lights together and plugging them into a single outlet.
- Watch for flickering lights, sparks from appliances or wall outlets, warm plates, plugs, or outlets, and dimming lights or television screens. These signal potential danger spots that could cause an electrical fire.
- Make sure there's a bulb in each socket. If a bulb is burned out, leave it in until you have a replacement. Immediately replace any broken bulbs that have exposed filaments.
- Use only UL-listed equipment. Check for frayed cords, cracked insulation and damaged plugs.
- Surge protector strips are a safe option if you need more outlets.
- Match plugs with outlets. Never force a three-pronged plug into a two-hole outlet or extension cord.
- Don't run extension cords under rugs, around furniture legs, or across doorways.
- If you have children in the house or are expecting young visitors, inspect your home for cracked or missing outlet covers. Use safety caps to cover outlets.



- Keep your natural tree well watered to prevent bulbs from igniting dry branches. Never use electrical decorations on metal trees. Instead, place colored spotlights beside or above the tree.
- Check to make sure an artificial tree is inflammable.
- Fasten outdoor lights securely to trees, house walls, or other firm supports using insulated staples, or run them through

hooks to protect lights from wind damage.

- Do not nail, tack, pinch, nick or stress wiring.
- Outdoor lighting should have insulated electrical cords and be plugged into a Ground Fault Interrupter-protected receptacle only. Keep all plugs and connectors off the ground, away from puddles and snow.

# VEC Customers Share

## VEC Members Make a Difference in their Communities

The VECustomers Share program funded \$30,700 in community service grants in September. Since the inception of the program in October 2001, more than \$3.5 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](http://www.vec.org).

Organizations receiving grants in September include:

Kiwanis Club of Spring City - \$2,750; Pickett County 5th and 6th Grade Science Club - \$2,091; Fair Park Senior Center, Crossville - \$2,000; York Institute JROTC, Jamestown - \$1,700; Monterey Food Bank - \$1,500; McMinn Historical Society - \$1,500; Operation R.E.A.C.H., Kingston - \$1,500; Spirit Horse Therapeutic Riding at Black Fox, Cleveland - \$1,200; Luminary Men's Group Bleacher Project, Ten Mile - \$1,000; Col. Benjamin Cleveland Chapter of the TN Society Sons of the American Revolution, Cleveland - \$1,000; Bread of Life Rescue Mission, Fairfield Glade - \$1,000; Cumberland County Cardiac/Pulmonary Rehab Alumni, Inc. - \$1,000; Polk County Education Foundation - \$1,000; Benton Fall Festival Booster Club - \$1,000; Christian Counseling Center of Cumberland County - \$1,000; Nocatala Civitan Club, Riceville - \$800; Pine Haven Young Readers, Jamestown - \$800; Monterey Boy Scout Troop 18 - \$759; Brown Middle School PTO, Harrison - \$500; Festival for Life, Decatur - \$500; Meigs County Fair Association - \$500; Support Group for Benton Christmas Light Fund - \$500; Cub Scout Pack 3077, Ooltewah - \$500; South Polk PTO - \$500; Remote Area Medical, Cleveland - \$500; Tri-County Ruritan, Birchwood - \$500; Monterey High School Boys Basketball Booster Club - \$500; Lighthouse Counseling and Life Skills Center, Hamilton County - \$500; Meigs Historical Society - \$400; Calhoun School PTO - \$400; Meigs County High School Archery Booster Club - \$200; Meigs County Middle School Archery Booster Club - \$200; God Spot Block Party, Decatur - \$200; Midway High School Golf Boosters, \$200; American Legion Auxiliary Unit #79, Decatur - \$200; Meigs County Health Council - \$100; Decatur Volunteer Fire Department - \$100; and Meigs County Quest for Success - \$100.



VECustomer Share Board Member Alton Lingerfelt, center, presents a grant check to Erna Tipps of the Luminary Men's Group Bleacher Project.



Rody Blevins is President/CEO of Volunteer Energy Cooperative

## VEC Annual Meeting Draws 1,500

It was wonderful to see about 1,500 Volunteer Energy Cooperative (VEC) members at Meigs County Middle School on October 2 enjoying all the activities at our 74th Annual Meeting.



It was encouraging to see so many of you there – participating in your electric company. VEC is a member-owned electric cooperative. Your participation helps make VEC a stronger company and I'd like to personally thank each and every attendee.

I would also like to say how grateful I am to the 85 VEC employees who volunteered to spend their day helping host the event.



This being our 75th anniversary made the event even more special for us.

Our 2009-2010 Annual Report which was distributed to our members at the meeting was a special edition that commemorates some of VEC's history and progress made over our 75 years. If you were not at the meeting but would like to have a copy of this Annual Report, just stop by your local VEC Customer Service Center and pick up your free copy.



In another section of this edition of Powerlines, we have some photos and more information about our Annual Meeting that I hope you will enjoy.

For those of you who were unable to make it, I'd like to encourage you to mark the first Saturday of October in your calendar and make plans to join us next year.

## Annual Meeting Showcases the Cooperative Difference

What does it mean to be a part owner of the company that supplies your electricity?

VEC's 74th Annual Meeting that was held Saturday, October 2nd in Decatur gave a snapshot of what it means to be a member of an electric cooperative. The 1,500 in attendance heard reports from President/CEO Rody Blevins, VEC Board of Directors Chairman Gene Carmichael, and Board of Directors Secretary/Treasurer Sammy Norton. They also heard the results of the elections many participated in to select members of the Board of Directors and got a chance to see displays highlighting the products and services offered by the electric cooperative they own.

VEC's Vice President of Marketing and Economic Development Patty Hurley was the person responsible for putting the event together.

"Our Annual Meeting is a very big part of our year," Hurley said. "It's a great opportunity for us to connect with our member-owners, communicate with them about their cooperative, and do our best to provide answers to any general questions they may have about their cooperative."

But the meeting also offered plenty of entertainment, food, door prizes, goody bags, and free flu shots for those in attendance. Putting the event together is a huge undertaking and Hurley was quick to point out that she couldn't do it without an abundance of help.

"We get so much volunteer support from our employees," Hurley said. "Most of our guests probably don't realize that our employees at the Annual Meeting are not being paid to help with the event. They volunteer to give up their Saturday in order to be available to our members and to help with the event."

She added that the support of the entire Decatur and Meigs County community is indispensable.



Folks from the Meigs County School System and Meigs Middle School were particularly important, but the event also got support from many others in the community.

"This being our 75th Anniversary, it was more important than ever to us to have the event in the community where we were founded," she said, "and without the help of many people in the community, that just would not have been possible."

Having the volunteer support of so many in the community is crucial to the event, but that's only fitting since it took a voluntary, community-wide effort to form the cooperative way back in 1935.

Of course that first meeting held to form the cooperative in May of 1935 had 55 people present in Decatur. This year's Annual Meeting hosted 1,500. So the size and the number of people served by the cooperative has changed a great deal, but the cooperative spirit – a community coming together to get the job done themselves – hasn't changed at all.

