

VEC offers College Scholarships

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 2012.



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 2012 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%.

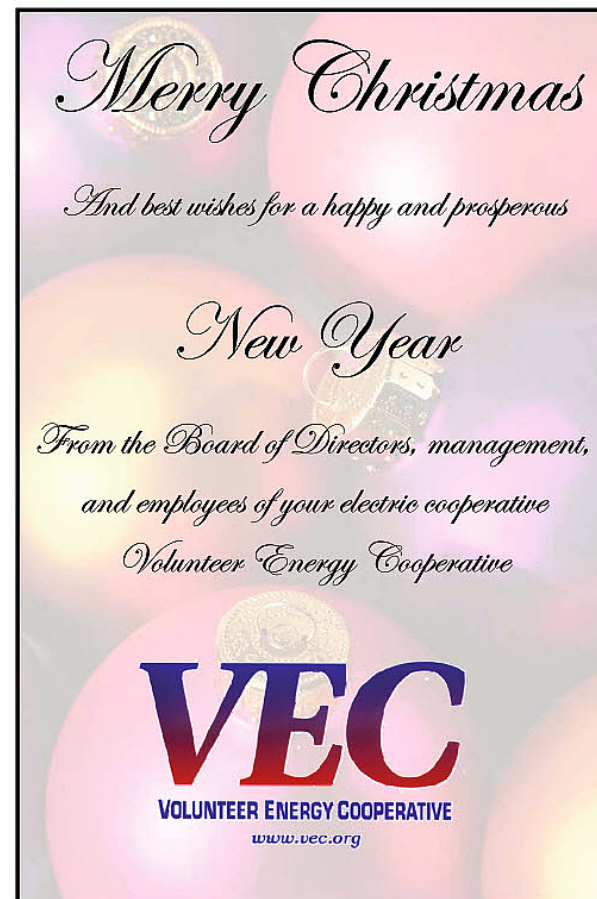
Scholarship applications are available at any VEC Customer Service Center or from high school counselors in the VEC service area. Applications are also available online at www.vec.org.

All application materials must be completed and delivered to VEC's Corporate Office in Decatur no later than 5 p.m. Eastern Time on March 2, 2012.

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.



VEC Offers Safety Sessions for Fire Departments

Fighting fires and responding to other emergencies can be a dangerous job, especially when you add electrical equipment into the equation.

That's why Volunteer Energy Cooperative offers electrical safety seminars for fire departments, rescue squads, and other emergency responders throughout VEC's 17-County service area.

Greg Hutsell, VEC's superintendent of safety and construction, said "the sessions are designed to help emergency responders know what to look for in terms of electrical equipment and potential hazards."

"We want to give them the opportunity to see what we see when they go out on an emergency call," Hutsell said. "Some situations can be extremely dangerous if you aren't very familiar with certain types of electrical equipment."

Hutsell said "VEC employees have also benefited tremendously from having a close working relationship with local fire departments."

"The tornados last spring come to mind immediately," Hutsell said. "Our VEC employees depended heavily on local firefighters and their knowledge and expertise to do our jobs safely. We want to build on that relationship and we want to continue to work together closely for the safety and benefit of everyone."

Emergency response groups who would like to schedule an electrical safety session can contact Greg Hutsell at 423-334-7032, Robert McCarty at 423-334-7052, or use the contact form at www.vec.org.

VEC's Volunteer Firefighters Enjoy Serving Their Communities

Volunteer Energy Cooperative (VEC) employees Tyson Ratcliff and Chuck Dake are the type of guys you like having around in a crisis situation.

Whether it's a power outage, a house fire, or an automobile accident, Ratcliff and Dake have the training, the experience, and the character to manage the situation safely and to assist in any way possible. Ratcliff is a lineman who works out of VEC's Cleveland Office and Dake is an electrical engineer who works in VEC's Corporate Office in Decatur. When their work day is done at VEC, they also lend support to their local fire departments.



VEC's Tyson Ratcliff was also one of several VEC linemen who volunteered to help in relief efforts on the Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina.

Ratcliff, who began working at VEC in 1998, has been volunteering with Bradley County Fire and Rescue since he was 14 years old. He's worked through the ranks of firefighter, lieutenant, captain, and commander and is currently a battalion commander in charge of four stations in north Bradley County.

Dake, who began working at VEC in 2001, has been volunteering with the Clearwater Volunteer Fire Department since 1990 and has attained the rank of captain. Dake also volunteers with the McMinn County Rescue Squad and the Athens City Fire Department.

Ratcliff said he just sort of drifted into firefighting. For Dake it is a family tradition.

"My father and my brother helped start the Clearwater fire department," Dake said. "Once I got started, it just got into my blood."

It was a very different story for Ratcliff.

"When I was young, I was terrified of car wrecks and fires and things like that," Ratcliff said. "I'm not sure why

I started volunteering with the fire department."

Ratcliff and Dake's stories get more similar when they talk about why they enjoy their firefighting work.

"I just enjoy helping the community," Ratcliff said.

Dake agreed. "It's certainly not money or glory," he smiled. "I just enjoy helping out - doing whatever we can to help."

Both firefighters said their experience at VEC has helped them many times when responding to emergencies.

"It helps me know what to look for," Dake said. "In an emergency situation we're taught to look at the big picture. My work at VEC helps me spot the potential hazards of the electrical equipment and I'm able to help the other firefighters spot these things a little quicker."

"We (firefighters and linemen) are both at the scene in many emergency situations," Ratcliff said. "We share what we know and try to help each other out. We can be hurt and even killed if we're not paying close attention."

For Tyson Ratcliff and Chuck Dake a willingness to serve the community and careful attention to their own safety and to the safety and well-being of others is just a 24/7 thing.



VEC's Chuck Dake, right, participates in a community outreach program along with other firefighters from the Clearwater Volunteer Fire Department.

VEC Customers *Share*

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Volunteer Energy Cooperative's VECustomers Share program surpassed \$4 million in total grants funded in November. In October members who participate in the program funded \$30,900 in community service grants. By rounding their electric bills up to the next whole dollar and donating the change to the program, members have now funded more than \$4 million since its inception in October of 2001.

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.



VECustomers Share board member Bill Womac, center, presents a grant check to Eloise Ledford and Mary Frances Healan of the West Polk Empty Stocking Fund.

Organizations receiving grants in October

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| Women's Missionary Union, Grandview - \$2,500 | North Cumberland PTO - \$500 |
| Fentress County Senior Citizens Center - \$1,500 | Friends of Walker Valley High School Speech and Debate Team, Cleveland - \$500 |
| Full Circle Women's Services, Athens - \$1,500 | Cumberland County Christian Women's Job Corps - \$500 |
| West Polk County Empty Stocking Fund - \$1,250 | Support Group for Benton & West Polk County Fire and Rescue - \$500 |
| Elks National Foundation, Cleveland - \$1,250 | Lake Tansi Exchange Club, Crossville - \$500 |
| Cleveland-Bradley Concert Association - \$1,000 | Meigs County Middle School PTO - \$500 |
| Meigs County South Elementary School PTO - \$1,000 | Luminary Men's Group Bleacher Project, Ten Mile - \$500 |
| Peavine Care Centers, Crossville - \$1,000 | Martin Elementary School Girls Basketball Boosters, Crossville - \$500 |
| Meigs County High School Cheer Boosters - \$1,000 | Wilson Elementary School Math & Science Club, Crawford - \$500 |
| Midway Youth League - \$1,000 | Burks Middle School Math Club, Monterey - \$500 |
| Monterey Depot Historic Society - \$1,000 | Monterey High School Quarterback Club - \$500 |
| McMinn County High School National Honor Society - \$1,000 | Meigs County-Decatur Chamber of Commerce - \$500 |
| Manna From Heaven Food Pantry Crossville - \$1,000 | Pickett County Jr. High Math Club - \$450 |
| York Elementary School PTO, Jamestown - \$1,000 | Star Point Fire Station, Byrdstown - \$300 |
| Pickett County Jr. High Lady Bobcats Booster Club - \$1,000 | Stone Memorial High School Baseball Boosters, Crossville - \$300 |
| Benton Lions Club - \$750 | Midway Golf Boosters - \$250 |
| Midway High School PTO - \$750 | Benton Christmas Fund Booster Club - \$250 |
| Phoenix School Student Council, Crossville - \$750 | Brown Elementary School Beta Club, Crossville - \$250. |
| Pickett County Jr. High Reading Club - \$750 | |
| Central High School PTO, Harrison - \$700 | |
| Southeast Street Toys Car Club, Birchwood - \$700 | |
| Ooltewah High School Girls Soccer Boosters - \$700 | |



VEC Introduces PayMyWay Payment Option

Rody Blevins is President/CEO of Volunteer Energy Cooperative

No one really enjoys paying their electric bill, but VEC is always looking for ways to provide payment options that are as convenient as possible. In keeping with that goal, I am very pleased to announce that we have developed a payment plan that helps our customers avoid security deposits, credit checks, late fees, and reconnection fees.

VEC's PayMyWay program is a new pre-paid electric service option that allows customers to schedule payments at times and in amounts that meet the needs of their individual household budgets.

To get started, customers establish a PayMyWay account with a payment of as little as \$100. The customer's energy use is charged daily at the same rates other residential customers pay. The balance of the customer's PayMyWay account is reduced by that amount until the balance is exhausted or additional payments are made to the account.

Customers can make payments as low as \$40 when it is convenient for them by cash, credit cards, or check and payments are accepted over the phone, in person, or through the VEC website at www.vec.org. PayMyWay customers do not receive a monthly statement. However, they can view their account balance 24 hours a day at www.vec.org or by visiting or calling their local VEC office.

When a customer's PayMyWay balance gets low, they will receive a courtesy notification via automated phone call and email.

Switching to the PayMyWay payment method is fast and easy. Complete an enrollment form for the service and submit it to your local VEC office. If you have an existing deposit on your account, we'll even transfer that deposit into your PayMyWay account balance.

The program also includes a feature that helps customers catch up on past due balances.

PayMyWay customers pay the same electric rates and customer charges as other residential customers. Participants also pay an additional \$8 per month to pay for the cost of the service. PayMyWay is not available to commercial or industrial accounts or to residential accounts with metering restrictions.

PayMyWay is a great option for customers who want to avoid late fees and deposits and who want to take control of their energy costs. With PayMyWay you say "when" and "how much" when it comes to your electric bill.

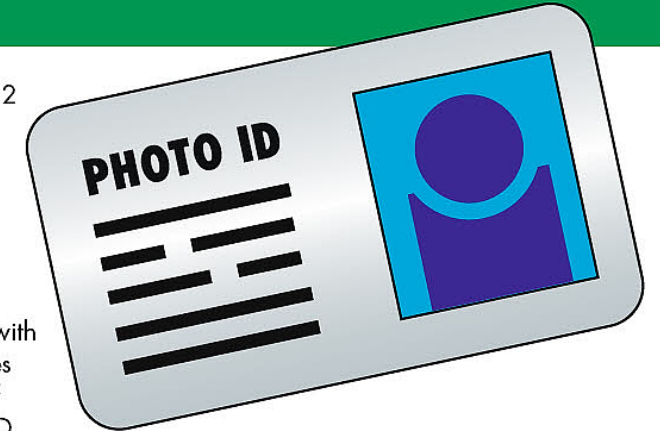
VEC is committed to meeting the needs of our customers and I am very pleased to be able to offer this option for our customers' convenience. For full details about the program, phone or stop by your local VEC office.



Don't Forget

You can pay your VEC electric bill by phone 24 hours a day / seven days a week with a MasterCard or Visa credit or debit card or by personal check.

Tennessee Now Requires Photo ID to Vote



Beginning January 1, 2012 Tennessee voters will be required to present a photo ID to cast ballots in local and state elections.

Acceptable forms of identification include a Tennessee drivers license with your photo, a United States passport, a Department of Safety photo ID, a photo ID issued by federal or state government, U.S. military photo ID, or a state-issued handgun carry permit card with photo.

Forms of photo ID that are NOT acceptable include a college student photo ID, or a photo ID not issued by federal or state government.

Tennessee residents who do not have an acceptable form of identification may obtain a free photo ID at a Department of Safety driver service center. You will need to bring your voter registration card, proof of citizenship (such as a birth certificate), and two proofs of Tennessee residency (such as utility bill, vehicle title/registration, or bank statement).

If your driver's license does not include a photo, the Department of Safety will re-issue your license with a photo for free.

For more information, contact your local election commission.

Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) Residential & Outdoor Lighting Fuel Cost Adjustment Effective December 1, 2011

2.686¢

For the most current FCA information, visit www.vec.org

TVA is now reflecting the full cost of fuel used to generate electricity in the Fuel Cost Adjustment. Previously the FCA only included a fraction of this cost and the energy charge included the remainder. As a result of TVA's most recent change, the Fuel Cost Adjustment for electric consumers throughout the Tennessee Valley shows a substantial increase beginning in April 2011. The energy charge drops as the fuel cost is removed from this segment of the charge.