

VECcustomers Share Reaches Out to Local Communities

Members who participate in the VECcustomers Share program funded \$31,200 in community service grants in February. 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 the program's 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.



VECcustomers Share
Art Christensen, Carole Baker, and Marilyn Christensen of For the Children Quilting Ministries in Cumberland County show one of the quilts they provide for program participants. The organization received a \$1,000 grant from the VECcustomers Share program in January.

Organizations receiving grants in February

Fentress County Public Library	\$2,000	Meigs North Elementary PTO	\$600
Rhea Cty. Veterans Coordinating Com.	\$1,500	Circle of Friends, Spring City	\$550
Art Circle Public Library Teen SRP, Crossville	\$1,500	Tennessee Chapel Food Pantry, Kingston	\$550
Girl Scout Troopo 40471, Cleveland	\$1,500	Burks Schools In the Woods, Monterey	\$500
Cumberland County Drug Alliance Teens		Hebbertsburg Community Ctr, Crab Orchard	\$500
Against Drugs Activity Center	\$1,500	Monterey High School Baseball Boosters	\$500
Royal Family Kids' Camp, Cleveland	\$1,250	Meigs County High School Baseball Boosters	\$500
New Horizons Camp, Ten Mile	\$1,200	Rogers Creek Elementary Junior Beta Club	\$500
Pickett County Soil Conservation Club	\$1,000	South Polk Elementary PTO	\$500
The Samaritan Center, Ooltewah	\$1,000	Polk County Alumni Association	\$500
Midway Quarterback Club	\$1,000	Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Crossville	\$500
Lady Wildcat Softball Booster Club, Benton	\$1,000	Adult & Family Education Foundation, Athens	\$500
Girl Scout Troop 40948, Athens	\$750	United Fund of Cumberland County	
Pickett County Imagination Library	\$750	(DGA Committee)	\$500
Calhoun Alumni Association	\$750	Mended Hearts Chapter 127, Cookeville	\$500
Polk County Retired Teachers	\$750	Meigs County Historical Society	\$400
Cumberland Trinity Tabernacle's:		Boy Scout Troop 18, Cookeville	\$350
Helping Hands, Crossville	\$750	Cookeville Housing Services Corporation	\$300
Manna House Ministries, Jamestown	\$750	Homestead Elementary PTO, Crossville	\$250
Spring City Cub Scouts Pack 3239	\$700	Athens Lions Club	\$250
Monterey Easter Celebration Committee	\$600	Half Moon Music Festival, Ten Mile	\$200

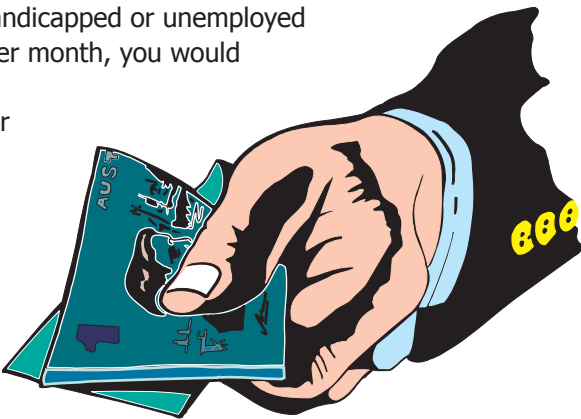
Project Deserve Needs You

If you could help an elederly, handicapped or unemployed neighbor for as little as one dollar per month, you would do it wouldn't you?

Project Deserve allows Volunteer Energy Cooperative (VEC) 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.

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.

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



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 – Rhea and Bledsoe Counties
- District No. 8 – 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 or she shall file with the Secretary of the Cooperative or with a duly appointed representative, a written petition nominating such person as a candidate and signed by the candidate and not less than fifty (50) 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 29, 2012 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 at the VEC Corporate Office in Decatur, Tennessee by 5 p.m. EDT, June 8, 2012.

Sammy Norton
Secretary-Treasurer



Volunteer Energy Cooperative Newsletter

MAY 2012

VEC Carries Your Concerns To Nashville

VEC is among 22 electric cooperatives that provide electricity to 1.1 million homes, farms, schools, churches, hospitals, and other important facilities across Tennessee. About one-third of the state's entire population receives electric service through an electric cooperative.

Numbers like those carry political weight – and protecting the interests of electric cooperative members requires that we use that weight from time to time. Electric cooperatives exist today because federal and state legislation made them possible.

If we do not stay involved in the political process our rights and benefits as electric cooperative members/owners are at risk.

Members of the Volunteer Energy Cooperative (VEC) Board of Directors, management and staff recently joined about 200 directors and employees from Tennessee's electric cooperatives who were in Nashville March 12 and 13, for the 2012 Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association's legislative conference.

This is an annual event when we take the message of cooperative members/ owners to our state lawmakers. On March 12, we met individually with legislators who serve the districts served by VEC and talked with them about issues of concern. These meetings are very helpful in fostering strong relationships between VEC and the people who govern our members.

They are also important in that it gives us the opportunity to provide lawmakers with the information they need to make sure legislation represents the best interests of electricity consumers across the state.

We were very encouraged by the response of our lawmakers. We had very frank and productive conversations with them about proposed changes in the rates electric cooperatives are allowed to charge cable TV companies to attach their lines to the poles we install and maintain.

These are the types of issues that we cannot afford to watch from the sidelines. When legislative action can affect electric cooperative members and the rates we pay, VEC must continue to join with other cooperatives to make sure all our voices are heard.

Rody Blevins is President/CEO of Volunteer Energy Cooperative.

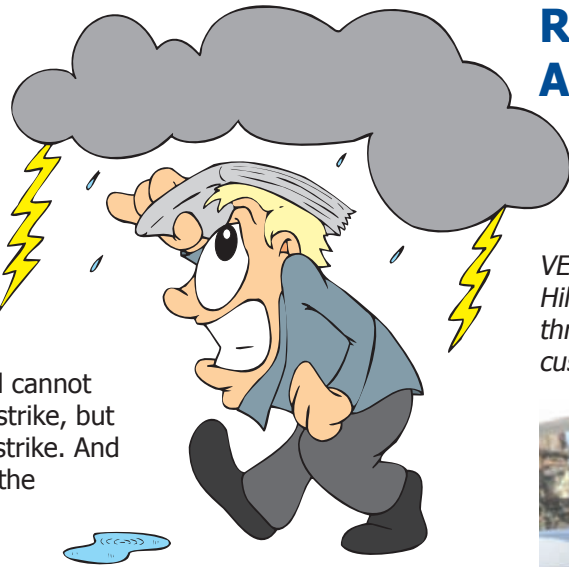


VEC President/CEO Rody Blevins meets with State Sen. Charlotte Burks.

Don't Let Thunderstorms Come As A Shock To You

As temperatures start rising, so do the chances of thunderstorms. And when thunderstorms hit, lightning can be a serious threat to personal safety. It can also cause power outages and create serious problems for your electronic equipment and electric appliances.

The best atmospheric scientists in the world cannot determine exactly when or where lightning will strike, but there is one thing we can be certain of – it will strike. And when it comes to thunderstorms and lightning, the best defense is to be prepared.



Prepare for bad weather now by making sure VEC has your correct phone number on file. This insures an outage at your home can be restored in the quickest and most efficient way.

Lightning has been known to strike more than 10 miles from the storm in an area of clear sky above. So just looking up at the sky may not provide a true indication of whether or not a threat exists.

It's important to prepare a thunderstorm/power outage kit that includes:

- Canned/package food
- A manual can opener
- Fresh water (bottled)
- Blankets
- Battery-operated radio
- Flashlight with fresh batteries
- Extra batteries

During A Thunderstorm:

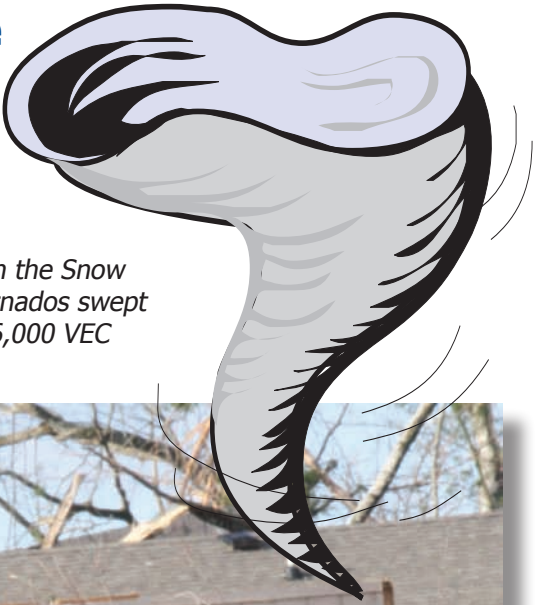
- Do not take a shower or bath. Water and copper tubing are excellent conductors of electricity.
- Stay away from windows. A central location in the house in an area away from doors and windows is the safest.
- If your power goes out, immediately report it to VEC and then avoid using the phone. (Phone lines may also conduct electricity.)
- Never touch downed power lines. Dial 911 or VEC immediately to ensure that the line is turned off so repairs can be made.

During A Power Outage:

- Report the outage immediately to VEC.
- Unplug major appliances and turn off your homes heating/cooling system(s) to prevent a system overload when power is restored. Gradually plug in and turn on appliances after power is restored.
- Avoid opening your refrigerator and/or freezer. The appliance will keep food fresher longer if the door is kept shut.
- Use battery powered flashlights rather than candles whenever possible to avoid the threat of fire.

Repairing The Damage After Devastating Tornadoes Hit Our Area On March 2nd

VEC's Stacey Hill works to repair damage in the Snow Hill Road area of Hamilton County after tornadoes swept through the area knocking out power to 26,000 VEC customers March 2nd.



TWISTER



(From left) Mizkan Maintenance Manager Harold K. Cannon, Mizkan Regional Director of Manufacturing Mike Nuss, VEC Crossville Service Area Manager Bobby Randolph, and Mizkan Director of Corporate Engineering John Prahl were on hand for the check presentation. Mizkan produces condiments for nationwide distribution.

Mizkan Americas, Inc. and Crossville Food City Stores Receive Energy Efficiency Incentives

Mizkan Americas, Inc. in Crossville and two Food City Stores in Crossville recently received energy efficiency incentives from the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) and Volunteer Energy Cooperative (VEC). The incentives are based on efficiency improvements implemented at the company facilities. The incentives are offered through TVA's *energy right*® Solutions for Business program.

Mizkan received incentives of nearly \$25,000 through the program and Crossville Food City Stores on West Avenue and in Towne Center received energy efficiency incentives of over \$2,500.

In order to take advantage of the incentives, Mizkan facilities and the Food City stores first underwent an evaluation to determine the most cost-effective means to conserve energy. The stores replaced older lighting with higher efficiency fixtures. Incentives were based on the estimated savings that will be realized during the peak times of load for TVA after the lighting improvements were installed.

Rody Blevins, president and CEO of VEC, said that this program is a win-win for both Mizkan and the electric cooperative.

"As TVA continually examines their rate structure, costs for consumers are likely to rise in relationship to usage at peak demand times," he said, "Customers who implement energy efficiency projects like these help to hold down costs for all VEC customers. Peak load growth will be a major factor in the future."

Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)

Residential & Outdoor Lighting Fuel Cost Adjustment
Effective February 1, 2012

2.344¢

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

