

VEC Board Members Running Unopposed

The following incumbent candidates have qualified to run for positions on the Volunteer Energy Cooperative Board of Directors in districts in which the current directors' terms of office are expiring.

There will be no contested elections in districts 2, 6, and 8. Per Section 4.10 of the VEC Bylaws, in a voting district in which only one candidate has been qualified, no further action is necessary and these uncontested candidates have been elected as Directors.

District 2 - Bradley County



Scott Humberd

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Scott Humberd is the incumbent Volunteer Energy Cooperative Board of Directors member and currently serves as vice-chairman of the VEC Board. He is a graduate of Bradley Central High School and earned his Bachelor of Science in Secondary Education and his Masters of Science Degree in Educational Administration from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. He has earned the Credentialed Cooperative Director certificate from NRECA.

He and his wife, Deborah, have three children, Jason, Sarah, and Geoffrey.

Humberd is the Director of Technology for Bradley County Schools and also serves as vice-president of the Board of Directors for the Cleveland/Bradley County Teachers Federal Credit Union. He is a member of Broad Street United Methodist Church.

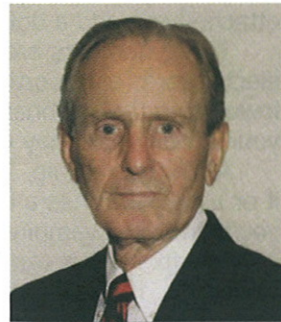
District 6 - Bledsoe and Rhea Counties

Jerry Henley

Jerry Henley is the incumbent Volunteer Energy Cooperative Board of Directors member representing District 6 which includes Bledsoe and Rhea counties. The Spring City resident is a graduate of Spring City High School and attended Tennessee Technological University.

He and his wife, Rayna, have two children, Penne Baugh and Jeri Allen.

Henley is retired from Southeast Bank and Trust and served as mayor of Spring City, president of the Spring City Kiwanis Club, and president of the Spring City Chamber of Commerce. He is a member and on the Board of Trustees at Spring City United Methodist Church.



Jerry Henley

District 8 - Cumberland County - West

Laney Colvard

Laney Colvard is the incumbent Volunteer Energy Cooperative Board of Directors member representing District 8 which covers west Cumberland County. He is Chairman of the VEC Board of Directors. The Crossville resident graduated from Bledsoe County High School and earned his Bachelor of Science and Law degrees from the University of Tennessee.

He and his wife, Charlotte, have one child, Lana.

Colvard is a practicing attorney and a member of Cumberland Homestead Baptist Church. He is treasurer of Crossville Stockyard, LLC. He is also a member of

the Crossville-Cumberland County Chamber of Commerce and chairman of its Legislative Affairs Committee.



Laney Colvard

Lillard-Shadow Scholarships Honor Students' Commitment to Community Service

Volunteer Energy Cooperative rewarded four exceptional graduating seniors for their commitment to community service and their academic achievements by awarding them with VEC's 2012 Lillard-Shadow Scholarships.

Each of the four students was awarded a \$2,000 scholarship to attend the college of his or her choice.

The Lillard-Shadow Scholarship program was endowed to honor the lives and community service of J.W. Lillard and Willis A. Shadow. Lillard and Shadow were dedicated to improving the lives and livelihoods of community residents through electric power. And the two were instrumental in the organization of the Meigs County Electric Membership Corporation in 1933 - the organization that eventually evolved into Volunteer Energy Cooperative.

To honor this history, an independent panel of education professionals judged applications for Lillard-Shadow Scholarships based largely on students' demonstrated commitment to community service.

Alyssa Ashburn, a 2012 graduate of Alvin C. York Agricultural Institute in Fentress County; Dimi Iles, a 2012 graduate of Cumberland County High School; Zachary Dye, a 2012 graduate of Rhea County High School; and Derek Roberts, a 2012 graduate of Polk County High School were winners of this year's VEC Lillard-Shadow Scholarships.

VEC awards four Lillard-Shadow Scholarships annually. One is awarded in each of VEC's four service districts. Ashburn was the Jamestown Service District winner, Iles was selected from VEC's Crossville Service District, Dye was the winner in VEC's Decatur Service District, and Roberts was the winner in VEC's Cleveland Service District.

Ashburn, the daughter of Dana and Gwen Ashburn, has an extensive record of community service that includes Operation Christmas Child, Children's Shopping Spree, and Relay for Life. She has also served on the Youth Fair Board Committee and as a volunteer cheerleading coach.

She is planning to attend Belmont University where she plans to major in nursing.

Iles is the daughter of Ken and Paula Iles and has demonstrated her commitment to the community through numerous projects with "Christmas on the Mountain," the Salvation Army, Special Olympics, and Plateau Pregnancy Banquet.

She plans to attend East Tennessee State University and study pre-dentistry.

Dye, the son of Time and Bethany Dye, has served the community with volunteer work that includes 4-H and Rhea County Rescue Squad. He is also active in church activities such as school supply drives, playing piano and singing, and is active in his church youth group.

He plans to attend the University of Tennessee-Knoxville and study secondary education.

Roberts, the son of Teresa Roberts, also has an impressive record of community service that includes working with West Polk Fire and Rescue, Toys for Tots, the Empty Stocking Fund, developing the local Chamber of Commerce website, Explorer fundraising, and emergency tornado response.

He plans to attend Vanderbilt University to study computer engineering.

VEC President/CEO Rody Blevins said VEC is proud to honor students like these who have shown a real commitment to serving others through community service.

"Our scholarship winners are the types of students who can look beyond their own individual wants and needs and focus on the needs of those around them," Blevins said. "We are very pleased to offer them our support and best wishes."



Alyssa Ashburn

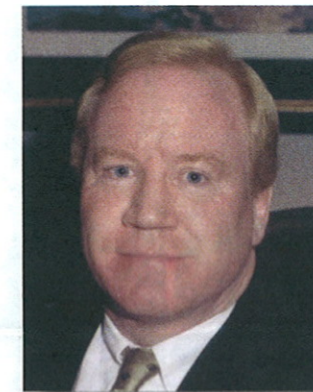


Dimi Iles



Derek Roberts

Scholarship Winners Reflect Same Devotion to Community Service that Created VEC



Rody Blevins
President/CEO
Volunteer Energy
Cooperative

When our parents, grandparents, and great-grandparents formed Volunteer Energy Cooperative back in 1935 they set some rules for the company that we still honor today and that we will continue to honor as long as we are in business. In addition to insisting that VEC remain a not-for-profit, consumer-owned cooperative, they demanded that VEC will always be committed to promoting and contributing to the communities we serve.

One way that we continue to honor that commitment to our community is through our Lillard-Shadow Scholarship program. Our scholarship program is a little different than many other scholarship programs. We consider the academic achievements and the financial needs of our applicants like many others, but we put the highest level of importance on the applicant's commitment to community service.

Our goal is to identify those gifted young people who have demonstrated their own commitment to their community and then help them pursue their educational goals and encourage them to return home after their studies and join in the task of building a stronger community.

The Lillard-Shadow Scholarship program is just one of our youth outreach programs that all share this same goal.

In this issue of *Powerlines* we are announcing and highlighting our 2012 scholarship winners. These four winners – one from each of our service districts – are outstanding examples of what is right with our young people these days. But the winners are far from the only impressive young people we assessed during our evaluation process. Our independent panel of judges reviewed applications from scores and scores of young people who are not only excelling in the classroom, they are making a difference by volunteering countless hours of their time to help build their communities.

It is a shame that we can only name four winners.

If all you know about the young people of today is what you see on television, you're not getting anything close to the full picture. It always seems that the troublemakers, the outrageous, and the irresponsible young people are the only ones we see on television. We seldom get to see the others who are working hard in the classroom and devoting themselves to bettering their communities.

I'm very pleased to highlight four such young people – our Lillard-Shadow Scholarship recipients – in this edition of *Powerlines*.

Join the Effort

If you'd like to join us in our efforts to recognize and reward young people who are making a difference in their communities, why not consider a memorial gift to the Lillard-Shadow Scholarship foundation. Memorial gifts are commemorated on a plaque at your local VEC Customer Service Center and it honors the memory of a loved one in a way that provides a lasting legacy of community service.

VEC Customers Share Reaches Out to Local Communities

VEC customer-owners who participate in the VEC Customers Share program funded \$30,300 in community service grants in May. By rounding their electric bills up to the next whole dollar and donating the change to the program, members have now funded more than \$4.1 million in grants 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.

Organizations receiving grants in May

Midway High School PTO	\$1,500
Kitchen of Hope, Allardt	\$1,500
Midway Quarterback Club	\$1,250
Clarkrange Masonic Lodge #605	\$1,250
People Helping People Ministry, Benton	\$1,250
Pickett Cty Relay for Life	\$1,200
Monterey Civitan Club	\$1,000
Meigs County Fair Association	\$1,000
Cumberland Cty School Supply	\$1,000
Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Bradley County	\$1,000
TWF/Hunter for the Hungry	\$1,000
Avalon Center/Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Program	\$1,000
Athens Civitan Club	\$1,000
Cleveland Lions Club	\$1,000
Kinseekers at Fairfield Glade	\$750
Elks Lodge #1944, Cleveland	\$750
Polk Cty Alumni Association	\$750
Monterey Family & Community Education Club	\$750
Meigs Cty Middle School Cheerleaders Boosters	\$750
Calhoun Elementary School Cheer Boosters	\$750
Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 9686, Crab Orchard	\$750
Byrdstown Headstart	\$700
Byrdstown Senior Center	\$600
Helping Hands Ministry of Peavine Road, Crossville	\$580
Rhea Cty Adult Literacy Council	\$550
Friends of the Spring City Library	\$500
Monterey Mission Center	\$500
Good Neighbors Theatre, Byrdstown	\$500
Muddy Pond Volunteer Fire Dept., Monterey	\$500
Distinguished Young Woman Program of Rhea Cty	\$500
Friends of the Art Circle Public Library, Crossville	\$500
The Women at the Well Ministry, Athens	\$500
Riceville Youth Football Organization	\$500
Decatur Civitan Club	\$500
Obed Watershed Community Association, Crossville	\$250
UT/TSU Extension: Cumberland Cty 4-H All-Stars	\$170

VEC Customers Share Board Member Harold Reno (left) presents a grant check in the amount of \$1,000 to Sarah Anderson of CASA.

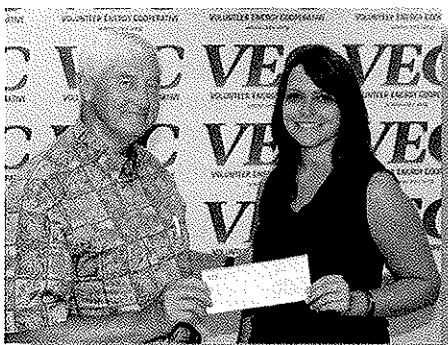
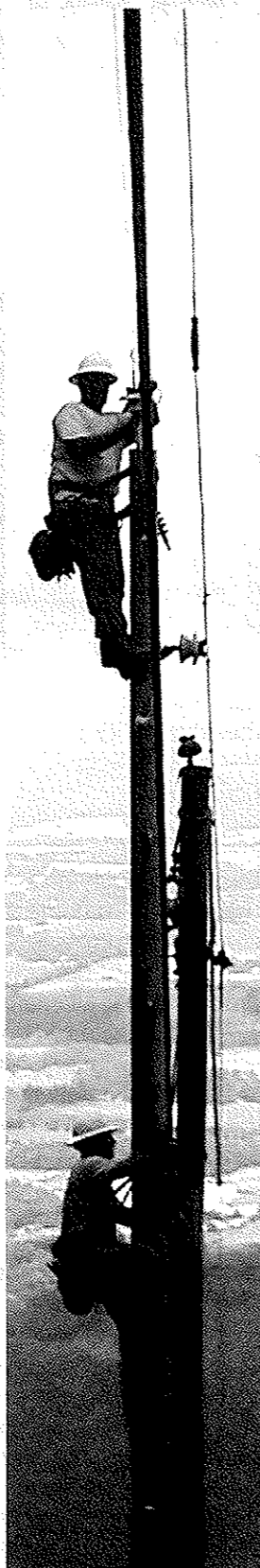


Photo by Eddie Geren



VEC's David Pomeroy (top) and Scottie Peels (lower) set up one of the new ductile iron poles on the upper section of the Oswald Dome line.

Above and Beyond VEC Scales the Heights to Provide Emergency Communications in Mountainous Terrain

Volunteer Energy Cooperative maintains about 9,000 miles of line. Some of the most difficult to construct and maintain are the three miles of line that ascend the 3,000-foot Oswald Dome in the Polk County section of Cherokee National Forest.

The line slices through such steep and rugged terrain that there are sections that no vehicle can reach. Crews working on the line have no choice but to hand-carry tools and supplies to access a large section of the line. Recently crews undertook the staggering task of replacing poles and restringing wire along the entire section.

The wooden poles that had been in place were 50 years old and, in addition to the wear and tear of the weather, many of the older wooden poles had been clawed nearly in half by black bears who like to use them as scratching posts. Because of the difficult access and because of the bears, the older wooden poles were replaced with more durable ductile iron poles. Many of these 1,200-pound poles had to be transported and set in place by hand.

Crews used winches and pulleys and plenty of elbow grease to get the poles in position. Then the holes to place the poles had to be dug – again, many of these by hand before the poles were lifted into place – also by hand.

In addition to the steep, rugged terrain crews were forced to overcome, they also had to keep a keen eye out for black bears, wild boar, and copperhead snakes that populate the area.

Cleveland Service Area Superintendent John Selvidge said no residential customers are served by the line. He said the reason VEC undertook this monumental task was to provide communications for fire, police, rescue, and E-911 emergency responders in the region. The radio towers atop Oswald Dome provide excellent coverage for the region. VEC also maintains a radio tower on the mountain and several commercial telephone towers are located there as well. The lines also serve campsites at Chilhowee Campground and new restrooms and a bathhouse that serve the campground.

Crews are also upgrading the service from 12Kv to 25Kv as they rebuild the line which provides more reliable service.

"The emergency communications these towers provide are critical to the community," Selvidge said. "That's the reason we take on a job like this."

In an addition to using the more durable poles and upgrading from 12Kv to 25Kv, VEC is also clearing the right-of-way to the maximum width allowable by the Forestry Service in order to make sure this rebuilt line remains in top condition for as long as possible.

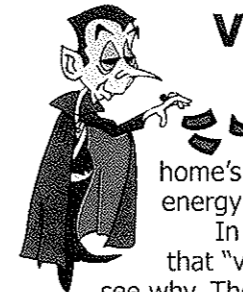
"Power restorations used to take a lot of manpower and a lot of time along this line section," Selvidge said. "Now we'll be able to service this line more efficiently."



The lower section of the Oswald Dome line begins at Mountain View Road in Benton and climbs to the 3,000-foot summit of the mountain.

Vampires are Stealing Your Money

by Paige Finnell, VEC Energy Services Specialist



Did you know that many of your home's appliances and electronics are using energy even when they are turned off?

In the electric industry we often call that "vampire energy loss," and it's easy to see why. These energy wasters in your home are sucking power even when they are "turned off."

Energy experts estimate that most consumers spend 5 to 10% of their total annual energy use for this vampire energy loss. For the average family that adds up to about \$130 per year. Across the country this vampire energy loss accounts for about \$4 billion a year. There's also an environmental cost. Experts estimate that about 1% of the world's carbon dioxide emissions are the result of vampire energy loss.

Anytime you have a remote control for an electronic device, that device is drawing some "standby" current so it can receive the remote control's signal to turn on. In the case of a big screen plasma television, that one device can use as much as \$165 per year – just for standby power.

Add in the amount for other remote control devices such as DVD players (\$3.60 per year), your cable box (\$10.33), or a normal CRT television (\$5.16) and you can easily see how the waste starts adding up into a significant expense.

But that's still just the beginning. Several "always-on" appliances are big energy wasters, too. Desktop (\$6.20 per year) and laptop (\$2.06) computers, computer speaker systems (\$5.16), powered subwoofers (\$15.50), inkjet printer (\$4.28) and microwave ovens (\$2.48) are eating up your money even while they are not in use. Even mobile phone chargers that are left plugged in with nothing attached can add a dollar to two to your annual energy costs.

These numbers are based on average household energy use and average electric rates as reported by the U.S. Department of Energy. VEC's rates are lower than the national average and your energy habits might be different, so your actual costs may vary.

As a general rule, look for any device that has a power cord with a box on it or a plug that has a box on it and any device that has a remote control – and you'll find your vampires.

The fix for this can be as simple as unplugging these devices when they are not in use. If you find that inconvenient, an easy way to remedy the problem is to plug groups of these items into power strips. When the devices aren't in use, you can cut the power to groups of them with a single switch. There are even "smart" power strips on the market that automatically detect when a device is in "vampire mode" and switches off the power. There are also power strips that have one or two "always on" plugs for things like your DVR and wireless router that lose their functionality if the power is off. After all, you can't record your favorite TV shows if the power to your DVR is off.

By hunting down and fixing these energy wasters in your home you can help decrease the need for electric generation, help the environment, and save up to \$100 to \$150 a year. And that's like driving a stake through the heart of your in-home Dracula.

Paige Finnell is an Energy Services Specialist in VEC's Marketing & Economic Development Department. For more energy-saving ideas go to www.vec.org.

Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)

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

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