

## A Letter to Our Members

Dear Cooperative Member:

The 77th 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 6, 2012.

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

### CORRECTION

An article on Volunteer Energy Cooperative's Interactive Voice Response (IVR) telephone system in last month's edition of *Powerlines* should have stated that there is **NO ADDITIONAL FEE** for customers who make full or partial payments by check, credit card, or debit card by telephone.

## 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 6th, and you can breeze right past the registration lines. Just hand this form in at the special express registration table 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

This will be your official registration form for the Annual Meeting door prizes.

Please write your **name** and **account number** in the spaces provided below. Your account number can be found on your VEC billing statement.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

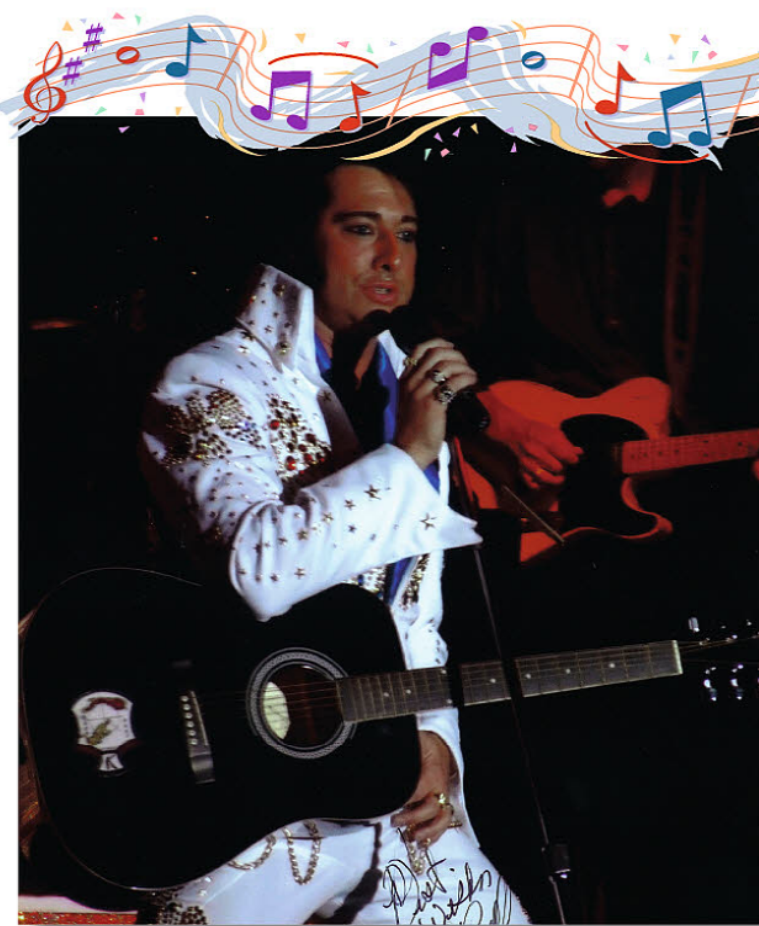
Bring this registration form with you on October 6. You must be present to win.

## VEC Members to Get "All Shook Up" at Annual Meeting

Matt Cordell doesn't try to be Elvis, he just loves helping keep his memory alive. But if the line between Matt and Elvis begins to get a little blurry at VEC's Annual Meeting, we understand.

Matt sounds like Elvis and he looks like Elvis – even without a wig. Yes, that's Matt's real hair. He's been winning awards as an Elvis tribute artist for 18 years and in May of 2012 he brought home the big one. He was named number one in Memphis, Tennessee.

Currently performing in Pigeon Forge at the Smith Family Theater, he grew up in Soddy Daisy and attended Bryan College in Dayton. He's performed with the Jordanairs, the Stamps, and with Elvis' right hand man Charlie Hodge.



Matt Cordell has been helping keep the memory of Elvis Presley alive for 18 years.

He began performing and winning talent shows in elementary school and in addition to his Elvis Tribute Show he enjoys performing gospel music.

Matt will be the headline entertainer at this year's VEC Annual Meeting and when you see him perform, we think you'll agree with us – there are plenty of Elvis tribute artists out there. Some are better than others and Matt is one of the very best.

## Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)

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

**2.478¢**

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



## VEC Annual Meeting Set for October 6

As those lazy days of summer turn to fall, many of us get caught up in the hectic, back-to-school rush and return to our more normal routines. But before your calendar gets too full, please make it a point to mark Saturday, October 6th on your calendar. That's the date for this year's Volunteer Energy Cooperative Annual Meeting.

Volunteer Energy Cooperative's Annual Meeting is an excellent opportunity to learn more about your cooperative and about the differences between being a member of an electric cooperative and being a customer of a different type of electric company.

Registration, free flu shots, and your choice of a pancake or a continental breakfast begin immediately after the doors open at 8 a.m. Morning entertainment will proceed the business meeting which convenes at 10 a.m. Featured entertainer "Matt Cordell as Elvis" will take the stage at 10:30 a.m.

In between the entertainment you can stroll through numerous displays about VEC's products and services, energy efficiency, and how to save money on your electric bill. There will also be plenty of great door prizes and every family will receive a free goody-bag.

There will also be balloons, face painting, and safety demonstrations designed for the young and the young-at-heart.

Don't miss out on the fun, the food, the entertainment, the prizes and giveaways, or the chance to learn about your electric cooperative on October 6th at Meigs County Middle School in Decatur. Directions and a pre-registration form are included in this issue of *Powerlines*.

See you there.



Rody Blevins  
President/CEO  
Volunteer Energy  
Cooperative

## VEC Annual Meeting is Easy to Find

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 (across 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.

If you want to plug the address into your GPS it is: Meigs Middle School, 564 N. Main Street, Decatur, TN 37322.

To get to Decatur from:

**Kingston:** Follow Highway 58 heading south into Decatur. Turn left on 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, turn left on Z Street, left on Main Street, and right into Meigs Middle School.

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

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

## VEC Customers Share Your Change Changes Things

The VEC Customers Share program funded \$26,500 in community service grants in June. Since the inception of the program in October 2001, more than \$4.2 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).



VEC Customers Share Board Member Bobby Scott (right) presents a grant check to Randy Young of the Tyner High School Soccer Boosters.

### Organizations receiving grants in June

Standing Stone Historical Society, Monterey	\$1,500	Ooltewah High School Volleyball Boosters	\$750
Pickett County High School Baseball Booster Club	\$1,300	Mrs. Jamie Evans' 2nd Grade Reading/ Language Arts Club, Byrdstown	\$700
McMinn Career Technical Center	\$1,250	Midway Middle School Beta Club	\$600
Girls Scout Troop 408, Crossville	\$1,250	Midway Youth Cheerleading Organization	\$600
Tyner High School Soccer Boosters	\$1,250	Boy Scout Venturing Crew 180, Cookeville	\$500
Blythe Ferry Cherokee Removal Park	\$1,250	Ocoee Ruritans	\$500
Pleasant Dale Kids' Club, Decatur	\$1,002	United Methodist Women's Organization, Benton	\$500
Mayland Senior Citizens' Club, Crossville	\$1,000	McMinn County Senior Citizens	\$500
Relay for Life, Decatur	\$1,000	McMinn County American Cancer Society	\$500
Bradley County American Cancer Society	\$1,000	Polk County Education Foundation	\$500
Cumberland Homesteads Tower Association, Crossville	\$1,000	Cumberland G.A.P. Mission, Jamestown	\$500
Charleston/Calhoun/Hiwassee Historical Society	\$1,000	Fentress County Senior Citizens Center	\$500
Stone Memorial High School Health Occupations Students of America, Crossville	\$1,000	Cub Scout Pack 3176, Pikeville	\$498
South Fentress County Community Park	\$950	York Agricultural Institute Dragon Renaissance, Jamestown	\$300
Midway High School PTO	\$850	Pickett County High School Basketball Booster Club	\$250
Polk County High School Technology Students Association	\$750	Rinnie FCE, Crossville	\$250
Spring City Community Outreach Club	\$750	Brown Middle School PTO, Harrison	\$250
		John Knox Center, Ten Mile	\$200

## VEC Sponsors Local Students on Trip of a Lifetime

More than 140 high school juniors from across Tennessee experienced an in-depth look at our nation's capital during the electric cooperative's 2012 Washington Youth Tour.

Destinee Dowdy of Crossville, Chelseyrae Hancock of Jamestown, Alison Dyke of Athens, and MeKayla Cronin of Old Fort participated in the weeklong tour of Washington, D.C., for writing winning short stories titled "Electric Cooperatives: iPower the Future," describing how locally owned, member-controlled electric cooperatives provide valuable

community-building support in addition to reliable and affordable electric service. Melissa England, junior English teacher at Clarkrange High School, was also awarded a spot on the trip to recognize her invaluable support of the co-op's youth programs.

The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour is a joint effort of Volunteer Energy Cooperative, the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association, and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. Each school year, VEC sponsors a short story contest for high school juniors. Winners are awarded an expense-paid trip to our nation's capital the following June as part of the Washington Youth Tour. This year's trip ran June 15-21.

"Youth Tour is one of the most rewarding things that I do all year," said VEC Communications Coordinator Robert McCarty who served as a chaperone along with VEC's Paige Finnell. "These students not only learn about our nation and their electric cooperative, but they also learn leadership skills that will benefit them in college and beyond."

Students on the tour visited the White House and memorials to past presidents Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln and Franklin Delano Roosevelt as well as monuments honoring the sacrifices of veterans of World War II and the Vietnam and Korean conflicts. Strolls through the varied museums of the Smithsonian



VEC's Washington Youth Tour participants enjoy a tour of the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial. From left: Chelseyrae Hancock, Alison Dyke, Melissa England, Destiny Dowdy, and MeKayla Cronin.



ABOVE: McMinn Central High School's Alison Dyke meets with U.S. Representative John Duncan.



LEFT: VEC's group visits the U.S. Capitol Building. From left: Melissa England, Alison Dyke, Chelseyrae Hancock, Destiny Dowdy, MeKayla Cronin, and Paige Finnell.



U.S. Senator Bob Corker meets with the VEC group. From left: Melissa England, MeKayla Cronin, Destiny Dowdy, Corker, Chelseyrae Hancock, Alison Dyke, and Paige Finnell.

No trip to Washington, D.C., would be complete without a lesson or two in government and civics. The group was welcomed to the U.S. Capitol by Representatives Diane Black and Stephen Fincher, and their staff members treated students to a special after-hours, VIP tour. Students also met Senators Lamar Alexander and Bob Corker as well as Representatives Diane Black, Marsha Blackburn, Scott DesJarlais, John Duncan, Stephen Fincher, Chuck Fleischmann, and Phil Rose.

Tennessee's Youth Tour delegation joined other trip winners from across the country for Youth Day on Monday, June 18. More than 1,500 students came together to swap stories of their Washington experiences. They listened to presentations by former Nebraska State Sen. David Landis, who told, in character, the story of the late U.S. Sen. George W. Norris of Neb., explaining the formation of the politics surrounding the creation of electric cooperatives and the Rural Electrification Act, and Mike Schlappi, a four-time Paralympic medalist and two-time wheelchair basketball champion, who urged the young attendees, "Just because you can't stand up doesn't mean you can't stand out."

"We are owned by our members, and it is so important that our members understand how that makes us different. Our communities and our co-ops need strong leadership, and youth tour is one way we can help prepare students for the roles they may one day fill," said VEC President/CEO Rody Blevins. "Youth tour and similar educational opportunities made possible by VEC are designed to help students understand what it takes to be a leader in their communities and why leadership is so important."

BELOW: VEC's Contingent visits Monticello, the home of Thomas Jefferson. From left: Robert McCarty, Chelseyrae Hancock, Destiny Dowdy, Alison Dyke, MeKayla Cronin, Melissa England, and Paige Finnell.



Memorial. The Youth Tour also included a solemn and sobering visit to Arlington National Cemetery, where the group laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns. And the Tennessee group marveled at the precision and skill of the United States Marine Drum and Bugle Corps and Marine Corps Silent Drill Platoon at the Sunset Parade, performed in front of the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial's iconic statue re-creating the flag-raising over Iwo Jima.

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ABOVE: VEC's participants meet with U.S. Senator Lamar Alexander. From left: Paige Finnell, Melissa England, MeKayla Cronin, Chelseyrae Hancock, Alexander, Alison Dyke, and Destiny Dowdy.