

*Merry Christmas*

*And best wishes for a happy and prosperous*

*New Year*

*From the Board of Directors, management,*  
*and employees of your electric cooperative*

*Volunteer Energy Cooperative*

**VEC**  
VOLUNTEER ENERGY COOPERATIVE  
www.vec.org

**VEC Offers College Scholarships**

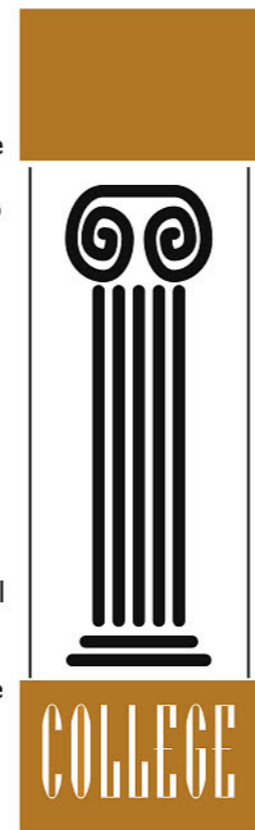
Volunteer Energy Cooperative (VEC) wants to reward students who have used their time and talents to benefit their local communities. VEC's Lillard-Shadow scholarship program rewards academic and community service achievements by awarding four \$2,000 scholarships to students who will graduate from high schools in VEC's service area in the spring of 2013.

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 2013 high school graduates whose parents or guardians are VEC electric customers. Applications will be judged by an independent panel based on each 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 8, 2013.**



**Get To Know Your Electric Cooperative with Two New Publications**

Sometimes the very best questions are the ones we never ask – but should.

Take your electric service for example – most VEC customers don't take too much time to think about what it takes to get electricity out of a dam or a lump of coal and then get it to their home. Most people take the process for granted and just know that electricity is there when they plug in an appliance or flip a switch.

But it is especially important for VEC member-owners to understand more about the process. Everyone who gets their electricity from VEC is a part owner of VEC, so it makes sense for the owners of a company to understand as much as they can about their company.

The equipment and the tools we use to get electricity to your home, your school, your business, or your church typically have long, strange-sounding names. Even those of us in the industry have to work hard to stay up to date with the latest electricity distribution technologies.

In order to help our member owners understand more about their electric cooperative, the tools and equipment we use, and the different roles played in generation, transmission, and distribution of electricity, we've put together a 32-page magazine – *Tools of the Trade*. The magazine includes a wealth of photos, graphics, maps, and easy-to-read explanations about the equipment, tools, and personnel VEC employs to bring electricity to our member-owners. It also details the role of TVA in electricity generation and transmissions and explains the relationship between TVA and VEC and where each organization's responsibilities begin and end.

We provided a copy of the magazine to all those in attendance at our Annual Meeting, but we also want to make it available to all our member-owners. I'd like to encourage you to stop by your local VEC Customers Service Center and pick up a copy. We are also making a pdf copy available on our website at www.vec.org.

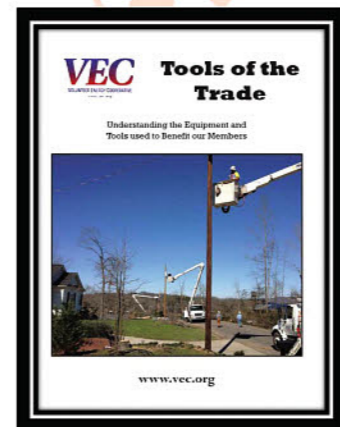


Rody Blevins  
President/CEO  
Volunteer Energy  
Cooperative

**VEC's 2011-2012 Annual Report Available**

In addition to our *Tools of the Trade* publication, we also distributed copies of our *2011-2012 Annual Report* to those in attendance at our Annual Meeting. This four-page booklet includes our financial statements for the fiscal year and highlights of some of the major events and system improvements we accomplished during the fiscal year.

We are also making copies of this publication available to those who couldn't attend our Annual Meeting. Just stop by your local VEC Customer Service Center to pick up your copy. We are also making a copy of our *2011-2012 Annual Report* available online on our website at www.vec.org.



You will find the copies of both of these publications under the "About Us" tab on the VEC website.

Volunteer Energy Cooperative belongs to you. It is your electric cooperative and I encourage you to take advantage of the opportunity to learn more about it with the information available in these two publications.

**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.

**VEC**  
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**Statement of Non-Discrimination**

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 Customers Share Neighbors Helping Neighbors



The VEC Customers Share program funded \$28,200 in community service grants in September. Since the inception of the program in October 2001, more than \$4.3 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 Galen Rector, right, presents a grant check to Bill Harmon, chairman of the Pickett County Health Council.

### Organizations receiving grants in September

Chattanooga Central HS Band Boosters	\$2,000	Riceville Youth Cheerleading	\$500
Meigs County Middle School PTO	\$1,500	Cumberland Trinity Tabernacle, Crossville	\$500
Operation R.E.A.C.H., Roane County	\$1,500	National Center for Youth Issues, Hamilton County	\$500
Cedine Ministries, Spring City	\$1,500	Monterey Branch Library	\$500
Polk County Food Ministries	\$1,250	Tennessee Hemophilia & Bleeding Disorders Foundation, Cumberland County	\$500
Monterey Downtown, Inc.	\$1,200	Bradley County Scottish Rite Shoe Fund	\$500
Toys for Children, Spring City	\$1,000	Mineral Springs Hunger Relief	\$500
Athens Lions Club	\$1,000	South Cumberland County Elementary School Cheer Boosters	\$500
Benton Lions Club	\$1,000	Best Friends Sanctuary, Jamestown	\$500
Ocoee Outreach, Cleveland	\$1,000	Mt. Carmel Ladies of Action, Decatur	\$300
Pickett County Health Council	\$1,000	Pickett County High School Basketball Boosters	\$300
Fairfield Glade Fire Department	\$1,000	Chilhowee Middle School Softball Boosters, Benton	\$250
Sierra Hull Bluegrass Festival, Byrdstown	\$950	Monterey Quarterback Club	\$250
Rogers Creek Youth Football/Cheerleading, Athens	\$750	North Lee Elementary School PTO, Cleveland	\$250
Fentress County Children's Center, Inc.	\$750	Monterey Youth Football	\$250
Manna House Ministries, Jamestown	\$750	Bradley County 4-H	\$250
Knights of Columbus, Crossville	\$500	Elks National Foundation, Cleveland	\$250
Stone Memorial High School Band Boosters, Crossville	\$500	Cleveland State Community College Foundation	\$250
Midway Middle School Waves Service Club	\$500	Meigs County Historical Society	\$200
South Fentress Elementary School PTO	\$500		
God Spot Block Party, Decatur	\$500		
Youth Achievement Foundation, Inc., Crossville	\$500		

## Rain Fails to Dampen Spirits at VEC Annual Meeting

Outside, the air was chilly and damp in Decatur on October 6th. But inside Meigs County Middle School the joint was jumping when Matt Cordell cranked up his Elvis Presley tribute show at VEC's 76th Annual Meeting.

The audience was clapping, singing along, and even dancing in the aisles as Cordell swivel-hipped his way through Elvis and early rock-n-roll classics.

In addition to Cordell's high-energy show, VEC members and guests enjoyed a free breakfast, free flu shots, informative displays, door prizes and give-aways, and were brought up to date on VEC's activities during the year and plans for the future.

About 1,000 were in attendance for the event in spite of the uncooperative weather.

President/CEO Rody Blevins, Board of Directors Chairman Laney Colvard, and Board of Directors Secretary/Treasurer Sammy Norton each gave reports; and former Board of Directors Member Charlie Fitch, VEC's longest serving board member, was honored.

VEC's Marketing and Economic Development was responsible for putting the event together.

"Our Annual Meeting is a very big part of our year," VEC Vice President of Marketing and Economic Development Patty 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, attendance gifts, 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 immeasurable.



Photos Courtesy of Mary Ann Brannan Photography



**Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)**

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

**2.849¢**

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