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. 1 – Polk County District No. 5 – Meigs County District No. 9 – Cumberland East

As set forth in Article IV, Section 4.06, he 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 24, 2018, by contacting David Murphy, 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 1, 2018.

Sammy Norton Secretary-Treasurer



Co-ops Tell Story of Rural Tennessee During Day on the Hill

Directors and staff from Volunteer Energy Cooperative (VEC) were among more than 200 electric co-op leaders in Nashville on Monday and Tuesday, Jan. 29 and 30, for the 2018 Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association's Legislative Conference. VEC directors joined President and CEO Rody Blevins and Melvin Holmes Vice President of Operations in meetings with legislators on Capitol Hill to help them better understand electric cooperatives and the issues that impact rural and suburban Tennessee.

Tennessee's electric cooperatives maintain a visible presence in Nashville and Washington, D.C., to protect the interests of co-op and their consumer owners. "We are here to give a voice to rural Tennesseans," says David Callis, CEO of the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association. "We must tell the electric cooperative story and educate lawmakers about the impact of proposed legislation."

"Advocating for our members doesn't stop at the edge of our service territory. It is critically important that our elected leaders keep





VEC Board Members and Staff met with Representative Ron Travis during the annual legislative visits. From left to right Melvin Holmes, VEC Vice President of Operations, Board Member Tim Handler, Representative Ron Travis, Rody Blevins - President and CEO, Board Members Jerry Henley, Laney Colvard, Aubie Smith, Larry Storie, and Sammy Norton.

cooperatives in mind when crafting laws and regulations that impact us," savs Rody Blevins, "We have a responsibility to our communities to tell their story." Attendees reminded legislators that co-ops are not-for-profit, consumerowned private businesses that impact rural and suburban Tennessee in many ways.

"Educated and informed legislators are necessary for us to provide low-cost, reliable power, and our legislators listen when we come to visit," savs Callis. More than 100 legislative visits were made during the conference, and dozens of legislators from across the state attended a reception honoring members of the Tennessee General Assembly.

VOLUNTEER ENERGY COOPERATIVE

VEC VOLUNTEER Decatur Service 18359 State

www.vec.o

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Service Address: 12345 Main Stree DECATUR TN37322 Phone Number: 423-334-1234

POWERLINE olunteer Energy Cooperative Newsl

Changing the Look of Your Bill

Last month I spoke about the continued concern Volunteer Energy Cooperative (VEC) board members and I have regarding the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) Financial Plan. This plan has already increased electric rates each year for the last five years and plans to continue to increase rates for the next two to three years.

Currently between 80 and 82 cents of every dollar VEC collects from our members goes to TVA. We are modifying our bill format to detail the cost of TVA's charges beginning with the summer billing cycle. In this issue of *Powerlines*, there is a sample of the new bill format. As you can



Rody Blevins President/CEO Volunteer Energy Cooperative

see on the bill sample, instead of listing energy used on a single line, there are now two lines -**VEC Energy** and **TVA Energy.** This break down will show exactly how much we pay directly to TVA of your energy usage. The goal of this billing format is to help you, our cooperative member, understand the effect TVA's financial plan has on your power bill.

In addition to the cost of energy usage, TVA's wholesale bill to VEC consists of Delivery Point Charges, Facility Rental Charges and Demand Charges. While TVA is considering a plan to lower the energy charge portion, they also plan to add a new fixed charge component. This new fixed charge component could result in higher charges for our residential members and commercial customers regardless of actual energy usage.

As I have stated in previous editions of *Powerlines*, the staff and board members of VEC are

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very concerned about these rate increases and the financial direction that TVA is headed. We also continue to challenge TVA about their financial plan. TVA may have the ultimate authority regarding the rates, but together, we will continue to push back on the unneeded rate increases.

If you, our members, have questions or concerns about these issues please let us know through our website and Facebook page. We pledge to continue to advocate what is best for the membership of Volunteer Energy Cooperative. Our goal is truly to keep the rates as low as possible for our members and our communities.





The VECustomers Share program funded \$29,400 in community service grants in February. Since the inception of the program in October 2001, more than \$6.2 million in grants has been awarded. The deadline for grant applications is the last working 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 Erbin Baumgardner presents a grant check to Mary Ketchersid, Program Administrator of the Unity Center, and to David Ketchersid, Director of the Unity Center.

Organizations receiving grants in March

Fentress County Bull Dogs	\$2,000	Chattanooga's Kids on the Block (CKOB)	\$500
Byrdstown Senior Center	\$1,250	Friends of the Art Circle Library	\$500
Lady Owls Softball Boosters	\$1,100	Fantastic Quilt Guild Quilts of Valor	\$500
Friends of the Library of Spring City TN	\$1,000	Youth Dept. of Salem Baptist Church	\$500
Polk County High School Softball	\$1,000	Allardt Volunteer Fire Dept.	\$500
CC TAD Center	\$1,000	Cherokee Tribe Baseball Booster	\$500
New Life Community Kitchen	\$1,000	Roane County Youth Leadership	\$450
Calhoun Alumni Association	\$1,000	Midway Hall of Fame	\$325
Chilhowee Middle School Archery Club	\$1,000	CCCB- Cumberland County	
5 Loaves Food Pantry	\$1,000	Community Band	\$300
Cumberland Shrine Club	\$900	Plateau Women's Chorus	\$300
Hamilton County Stars	\$900	Wesley Memorial United Methodist	
BonDeCroft Elementary PTO	\$800	Church-Sack Pack Program	\$250
Meigs County Archery Club	\$800	Polk County Friends of the Library (FOL)	\$250
Meigs Middle School Golf Team	\$800	Distinguished Young Women Program	
Pickett County Soil Conservation Club	\$750	of Rhea County	\$250
Midway Quarterback Club	\$750	30 Plus Club	\$250
Meigs Tigers 5 & 6 year old Baseball	\$700	Muscular Dystrophy Association	\$250
Rhea County Rescue Squad	\$600	ATS- The Bridge	\$250
CCHS Mens Soccer Booster Club	\$500	Jr. Achievement of the Ocoee Region	\$250
Flint Springs Ruritan Club	\$500	Feed my Sheep Sack Pack Food Program	\$250
Spring City Dixie Youth Baseball	\$500	Midway Youth Development Organization	\$225
Keep McMinn Beautiful	\$500	Cookeville Housing Services Corporation	\$200
7th & 8th Grade Science Club	\$500	Rhea/Dayton Tennis Association	\$150

VEC was Founded with the Goal of Creating Positive Effects in Communities

In the early 1930s only four out of every 100 farms in Tennessee were served with any form of electricity. Except for a few privately owned Delco battery power systems, the citizens of Meigs County lived and worked under primitive conditions compared to their counterparts in the larger towns and cities.

In 1933, Willis A. Shadow, University of Tennessee Agriculture Extension Agent for Meigs County, saw new hope for the residents along the Tennessee River with the enactment by Congress of the Tennessee

Valley Authority Act. Mr. Shadow began talking "electricity" throughout the county. County Attorney J. W. Lillard joined the ranks, agreeing to furnish Mr. Shadow with legal advice without fee. Enthusiasm gained momentum until a mass meeting of 500 citizens at the Meigs County Courthouse resulted in the May 29, 1935 formation of the Meigs County Power Association,

"When you do the" common things in life in an uncommon way, vou will command the attention of the world." -George Washington Carver

Incorporated, which later became the Meigs County Electric Membership Corporation and today is known as Volunteer Energy Cooperative. The first lines erected in Meigs County were energized August 6, 1936.

In 1939, just seven years after the Tennessee Electric Power Company refused to provide electric service to Meigs County, the rural cooperative entered into a contract with TVA to purchase the power company's distribution properties in McMinn, Bradley, Meigs, Polk, Roane, Rhea, Cumberland, Putnam and Fentress Counties for \$276,700. Recognizing it would soon be serving an area far larger than Meigs County, the corporation changed its name to Volunteer Electric Cooperative.

Today, Volunteer Energy Cooperative is one of the largest rural electric cooperatives in the nation in terms of the area we serve. VEC delivers electricity to more than 115,900 members in all or part of 17 Tennessee counties with more than 10,000 miles of power lines from the Georgia to Kentucky borders.



First Line Crew - An early group of employees poses in front of their trucks and the VEC office in Decatur.

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Do you want to save money and electricity but have limited time, money and patience? According to the Department of Energy, a "typical American family" spends nearly \$2,000 per year on their home energy bills. Much of that money, however, is wasted through leaky windows or ducts, old appliances or inefficient heating and cooling systems.

There are several easy ways to save energy without a substantial commitment of time and money. These efforts will help you save whether you own or rent an older or newly constructed home. **☑** Improving the Envelope:

According to Money Magazine, "improving the envelope" of your home is a good place to start. Sunlight, seasonal temperature changes and wind vibrations can loosen up even a tight home, increasing air leakage. Doors and windows may not close tightly, and duct work can spring leaks, wasting cooled and heated air. By placing weather stripping and caulk around windows and doors, you can keep cool air inside during warm months and prevent chilly air from coming indoors during colder months. Sealing gaps around piping, dryer yents, fans and outlets also helps and creates greater efficiency. Apply weather stripping around overlooked spaces like your attic hatch or pull-down stairs.

Replacing incandescent bulbs with LED bulbs can make a big difference in home efficiency and is one of the fastest ways to cut your energy bill. Known for their longevity and efficiency, LED bulbs have an estimated operational life span of typically 10,000 to 20,000 hours compared to 1,000 hours of a typical incandescent. **Water Heater:**

Installing a blanket around your water heater could reduce standby heat losses by 25 to 45 percent and save you about 7 to 16 percent in water heating costs, according to the Dept. of Energy. For a small investment of about \$30, you can purchase pre-cut jackets or blankets and install them in about one hour.



Easy Steps to a Greater Efficiency

✓ Light Bulbs:

Heating and Air (HVAC):

Checking, changing or cleaning your air filter extends the life of your HVAC system and saves you money. Air filters prevent dust and allergens from clogging your HVAC system. Otherwise, dust and dirt trapped in a system's air filter leads to several problems, including: reduced air flow in the home and up to 15 percent higher operating costs; lowered system efficiency; and costly duct cleaning or replacement. Many HVAC professionals recommend cleaning the system filters monthly. Remember, there are easy steps you can take now to improve the energy

efficiency of your home. To learn about additional ways to save, contact VEC's Energy Specialist Paige Finnell at 423-334-7053.

Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA)

esidential & Outdoor Lighting Fuel Cost Adjustment Effective April 1, 2018

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For the most current FCA information, visit www.vec.org Volunteer Energy Cooperative is an Equal Opportunity provider and employer.