Candidates Vying for VEC Board Positions

The following candidates have qualified to run for positions on the Volunteer Energy Cooperative board of directors in districts where the current directors’ terms of office is expiring. Voting ballots for the District 4 elections will be mailed on August 20. The election in District 3 and 7 is not contested.

**District 3 – Hamilton County**

**Aubie Smith**

Aubie Smith, a native of Ooltewah, is the incumbent District 3 board member. He operates a 400-acre farm specializing in beef cattle. In addition to farming, Smith is a school bus contractor for Hamilton County Schools.

He is a graduate of Ooltewah High School, where he was a member of the National Honor Society. He received an associate degree in business from Chattanooga State Technical Community College and a Bachelor of Science degree in industrial management from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

**District 4 – McMinn County**

**Mike Frazier**

Mike Frazier, a native of Riceville, has served on the Volunteer Energy Cooperative Board of Directors representing McMinn County since 2013. In addition, he is the Director of Schools for the City of Etowah. A graduate of Cleveland High School, Frazier earned his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, his Master of Arts degree from Tennessee Tech, his Ed.S. from Lincoln Memorial University, and his Ed.D. from East Tennessee State University.

He serves on the Board of Directors of Coordinated Charities, ASCD, TOSS, and TSBA and serves on the Board of Deacons at Eastanelle Baptist Church. He was named Principal of the Year in 2007, has earned the John M. Davis award, and has been inducted into the TSSAA Basketball Officials Hall of Fame. He also serves on the Board of Directors for SACS/CASI, and he will be serving as Headmaster/Consultant for Valley Christian Academy.

He and his wife, Kathy Landers Frazier, have four children: Heath and his wife, Stacie; Ryne and his wife, Beth; Justin and his wife, Katie; and Leah and her husband, Justin Hicks, and 13 grandchildren under 10 years old.

**District 7 – Roane & Loudon County**

**Tim Handler**

Tim Handler is a Kingston resident. He has represented Roane and Loudon counties on the VEC Board of Directors since 2012. He is a graduate of Warren Hills High School in Washington, New Jersey and earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in chemistry from Maryville College. Tim retired in 2017 from Ashland Chemical.

Tim is a member of the Mideast Community Action Agency since 2017 and a Tennessee Promise Scholarship mentor. Tim received his Credential Cooperative Director (CCD) designation in 2019 from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

He and his wife, Cindy, are Kingston residents and attend Luminary United Methodist Church. They have two children, Whitney Brown and Devin Handler.

Scholarship Winners Reflect Same Devotion to Community Service that Created VEC

When Volunteer Energy Cooperative (VEC) was formed back in 1935, the goal was not only to provide electricity to our area but also to give back. Our founders set rules for the company that we still honor today. In addition to establishing VEC as a not-for-profit, consumer-owned cooperative, VEC was designed to be committed to promoting and contributing to the communities in which we serve.

One way that we honor that commitment to our community is through our Lillard-Shadow Scholarship program. Our scholarship program is different from many other scholarship programs. While academic achievements and the financial needs of our applicants are considered, we place the highest level of importance on the applicant’s commitment to community service.

The purpose of the scholarship is to identify those gifted students who have demonstrated their commitment to the community and then help them pursue their educational goals. The long-term goal is to encourage them to return home after their studies and join in the task of building a stronger community. The Lillard-Shadow Scholarship program is one of our youth outreach programs that share this same goal.

In this issue of Powerlines, we are announcing and highlighting our 2021 scholarship winners. The four winners are outstanding examples of what is right with students these days. But the winners are far from the only impressive applications assessed during our evaluation process. Our independent panel of judges reviewed over 70 applications from students who are not only excelling in the classroom but are making a difference by volunteering hours of their time to help build their communities.

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We place the highest level of importance on the applicant’s commitment to community service.
Lillard Shadow Scholarship Awarded to Four Exceptional Graduating Seniors

Volunteer Energy Cooperative recognized four exceptional graduating seniors for their commitment to community service and their academic achievements by awarding them with VEC’s 2021 Lillard-Shadow Scholarships.

The Lillard-Shadow Scholarship program was endowed in honor 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. Committed to public service and community involvement, they both were instrumental in the organization of the Meigs County Electric Membership Corporation in 1933. This organization eventually evolved into Volunteer Energy Cooperative.

Each year an independent panel of education professionals judge applications for Lillard-Shadow Scholarships mainly based on students’ demonstrated commitment to community service. The $2,000 scholarship to attend the college of their choice was awarded to Jonathan Bailey, Bryce McKenzie, Katherine Stokes and Megan Tillis. Jonathan Bailey is the son of Boyd and Paula Bailey. He is a graduate of Cumberland County High School (CCHS) and plans to attend the University Of Tennessee Tickle College Of Engineering. Jonathan is graduating sixth in a class of more than 200. Through the CCHS Beta Club, he has participated in multiple community service activities, including helping at local homeless shelters, tutoring students, and raising funds for local support agencies. In addition to his Beta Club service, after the tornadoes in March 2020, he prepared and packaged emergency supplies for the Nashville tornado victims and first responders. Jonathan also teaches Chess after school at a local elementary school chess club. Jonathan competed at the state and regional chess tournaments. “An excellent student and a great young man,” is how his teacher described him.

Bryce McKenzie is the son of Ruben and Michele McKenzie. Bryce graduated from Meigs County High School (MCHS) with a 4.0 and was the class valedictorian. He plans to attend the college of his or her choice was awarded to Jonathan Bailey, Bryce McKenzie, Katherine Stokes and Megan Tillis. Bryce McKenzie graduated from Meigs County High School (MCHS) with a 4.0 and was the class valedictorian. He plans to attend the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, majoring in chemistry/pre-med. Bryce participated in multiple community service activities. He served on the Meigs County Decatur Chamber of Commerce as an intern, packed over 150,000 pasta meals with the National FFA Organization for the

Tennessee Valley Authority
Residential & Outdoor Lighting Fuel Cost Adjustment Effective
July 1, 2021
2.06¢
For the most current FCA information, visit www.vec.org
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