

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

District No. 5 – Meigs

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 twenty-five (25) 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 about the elections can be obtained on or after May 20, 2022, 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 3, 2022.

Sammy Norton
Secretary-Treasurer



All That Tree-Trimming Has a Purpose

It's a question we hear a lot: "Why is VEC so focused on tree-trimming?"

Along with our members, we value trees for their beauty and the environmental benefits they offer, but as part of the National Electrical Safety Code, managing vegetation near power lines is something we are actually *required* to do.

Contact with tree limbs is the No. 1 cause of power outages on our system. Vegetation management is a critically important part of our obligation to provide safe and reliable electricity to those we serve. It's all about keeping the lights on for our members.

Some wonder why we can't just wait until the trees on their property actually cause an outage before we trim. Well, that's kind of like closing the barn door after the horse is out. What we try to

(continued on page 6)

(continued from page 5)

do is anticipate potential issues and address them proactively in order to prevent disruptions in service and avoid the much-higher costs associated with repairing damaged infrastructure.

During severe storms or when the soil is saturated from heavy rain, falling trees can bring down lines and break the poles holding them. But that kind of worst-case scenario is not necessary for power outages to occur; a broken branch can easily bring wires together, creating a disruption in service that can impact not just you but many of your neighbors as well.

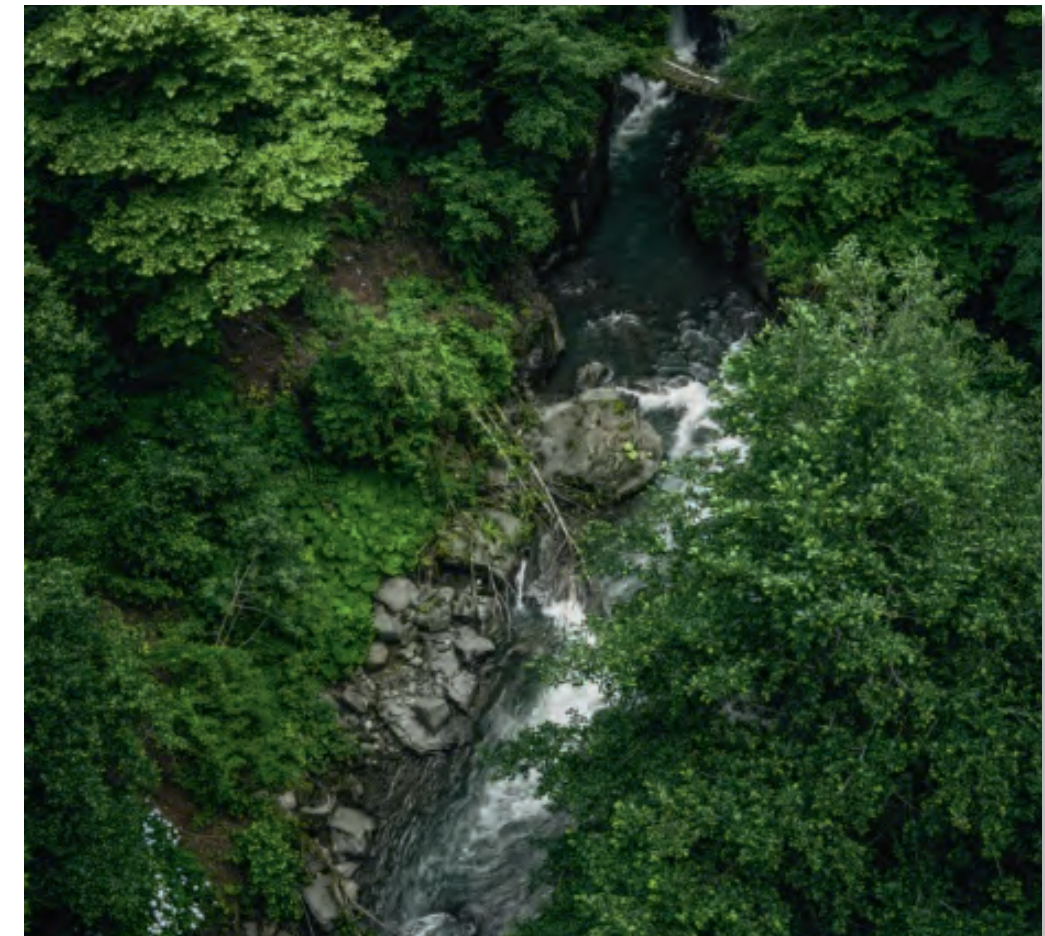
When our crews are working to restore power after storm damage, they need a safe, tree-free margin in which to pull wires and set poles. By maintaining an adequate distance between your trees and our infrastructure, we also reduce risk to you and your family from accidental contact with energized lines. Sometimes, we're able to maintain this space by trimming carefully and judiciously. In other instances, it may be necessary to remove a tree altogether. We never trim or remove trees unless there are clear and compelling reasons to do so. Our mission is to keep people safe and keep the lights *on*.



Earth Day

Friday, April 22, was Earth Day 2022. Consider making an Earth Day "resolution" to change at least one energy-related bad habit at home. Here are some ideas:

1. If you haven't already, switch your lamps and overhead light fixtures to LED versions. You can even use LED light bulbs in older fixtures.
2. Turn off the lights when you leave a room and teach your children to do the same. This is time-tested advice.
3. Unplug appliances like cellphone chargers, video game systems, and coffee makers when you're not using them. Appliances that are turned off but still plugged in draw small amounts of electricity.
4. Take shorter showers. You'll save both water and energy.
5. Have your large appliances inspected every year. A maintenance check can help a furnace, air conditioning system, or water heater last longer and run more efficiently.





VEC Customers Share Awards \$26,000 in Grants

VEC Customers Share is a grant program funded through the rounding up of member's bills to the nearest dollar. The most an individual member would pay within a year is \$11.88. Our members' yearly average is usually about \$5.50 each.

In return for the rounded up change from our members, we contribute to organizations across our 17 county service area. Each month, the VEC Customers Share Board meets and distributes the funds collected in the previous month. A board member represents each service area. In February, VEC Customers Share Grants totaled \$26,000.



Grant recipients included Trousdale School in Bradley County. Trousdale School is "a non-degree post-secondary program for high functioning adults with intellectual disabilities." The grant money they received (1,000) will help them purchase new equipment like communication technology.

"This [grant] will assist our school's replacement of our two-way radios, which we use in our safety protocols," said Shannon Clark, Executive Director at Trousdale School. "These radios will replace the existing set," Clark continued, "which is more than ten years old."



VEC Customers Share Board member Lisa Mantoath (right) presents a check to Trousdale School's Executive Director Shannon Clark.

(continued on page 3)

Electrical Safety Month is Here!



electricity and provide tips to follow in order to stay safe.

With this in mind (and a whole summer full of fun just around the corner), now's a great time to focus on safety lessons for young people. To get some tips for kids to remember, we turned to VEC's Safety Coordinator, Ty Ratcliff.

"By taking a few minutes to remind your children or grandchildren of these dangers, you can prevent accidental shock or other injuries," Ratcliff says. "Young people at play can be especially vulnerable, and we want to do everything possible to keep our smallest VEC members safe!"

- Flying a kite is great fun on a breezy day, but keep it far away from power lines. If your kite accidentally comes close to one, drop the kite string or reel immediately. Better to lose your kite than come in contact with electricity, which can travel straight down your kite string to YOU!

(continued on page 4)

(continued from page 2)

Organizations receiving grants in February

Highway 58 Volunteer Fire Department	\$2,000	Creative Story Project	\$650
Calhoun Alumni Association	\$1,750	Shenandoah Boys Ranch	\$500
PCHS Baseball Booster	\$1,500	East View Ministries	\$500
Midway H.S. Prom Committee	\$1,500	Monterey High School Cheerleaders	\$500
Cumberland County Emergency Rescue Squad	\$1,330	Pickett County Historical & Genealogical Society	\$500
FASA (Firsties Adventures in Science and Arts)	\$1,250	The Comfort Zone	\$500
Stone Memorial Football Booster	\$1,170	Pickett County High School Baseball	\$500
Rhea County Imagination Library	\$1,000	Midway Quarterback Club	\$500
Clarkrange High School JROTC Fitness Team	\$1,000	Midway Youth Cheerleading Organization	\$500
Cumberland County Imagination Library	\$1,000	Byrdstown Grief Support Group	\$500
York Track Program	\$1,000	Pickett County High School Mathematics Club	\$500
Spring City Elementary Drama Club	\$1,000	Prospect STEM Innovators	\$450
New Life Community Kitchen	\$900	Monterey Depot Historical Society (MDHS)	\$250
Meigs County High School Cheer Booster	\$750	Foster Adoptive Parent Association	\$250
Meigs Lady Tigers Booster Club	\$750	Martin Elementary FCCLA	\$250
Loco Chicks Senior Women's Volleyball Team	\$750	Blue Walnut Golf TN	\$250
		New Colossus Academy (NCA) Robotics Team	\$250

This month is set aside every year as a time to pay special attention to staying safe around electricity — something everyone at VEC wholeheartedly believes in.

By designating the month of May as Electrical Safety Month, the National Safety Council seeks to remind everyone of the hazards associated with

Tennessee Valley Authority

Residential & Outdoor Lighting Fuel Cost Adjustment Effective

April 1, 2022

2.518¢

For the most current FCA information, visit www.vec.org

Volunteer Energy Cooperative is an Equal Opportunity provider and employer.



(continued from page 3)

- This next one applies to adults as well: Never fly a drone near power lines. Even "toy" drones can cause an outage if they hit a power line. (They can also cause a downed power line, which is extremely hazardous.) Those shiny "metalized" balloons are not a good idea either. Balloons of all kinds are best kept well away from power lines.
- Never play around or climb on those green metal boxes that might be found at locations throughout subdivisions. These pad-mount transformers contain electrical equipment that helps bring underground electricity to your house and your neighbors' homes.
- Don't climb trees that are anywhere near power lines. Even if the branches are just close by, a windy day (plus your added weight) could bend them in such a way as to bring them into contact with a power line. If that happens, the whole tree (with you in it!) could become energized.
- If you should ever see a downed power line laying on the grass or in the road or a driveway, NEVER get close to it! Let an adult know right away so they can notify us.

"It's never too early to begin teaching children about electrical safety," says Ratcliff, "and that's true in May as well as in every other month of the year."

