

Concern for Community – A Legacy of Bobby Randolph

Early Sunday morning July 5, Volunteer Energy Cooperative's Bobby Randolph died at his home in Crossville. Proceeded in death by his son Rodney Randolph, he is survived by his wife Sue, son Jerry (Rachael) Randolph, stepson Sai Cope, and five grandchildren: Taylor, Hunter, Macey, John and Ashley.

The name Bobby Randolph and VEC are synonymous in the Crossville/Cumberland County area. Bobby began his career with VEC in 1968 as an apprentice lineman in Monterey. He left VEC from 1972-1977 to work as a safety adviser for Tennessee's Job Training & Safety Program and the American Public Power Association. He returned in 1977 as the Monterey District Manager. In 1980, he was promoted to Crossville Area Manager where he served for almost 40 years.

Community responsibility was an essential part of Bobby's life. He served on multiple boards, including Volunteer Behavioral Health Care System, Cumberland County Housing Authority, One Bank of Tennessee, Cumberland County Industrial Board, and Cumberland County Chamber of Commerce. Bobby also held three elected positions. He served as the Mayor of Monterey (two terms), as a Putnam County Commissioner (one term), and as a Cumberland County Commissioner (two terms).

Volunteer Energy Cooperative's CEO and President Rody Blevins stated, "Bobby possessed a passion for providing excellent service to his members and assisting in the communities he served. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him."



VEC is Holding Unclaimed Property

Volunteer Energy Cooperative (VEC) is holding unclaimed property of at least \$50 due to the persons listed below. The owner may claim this property by contacting Volunteer Energy Cooperative, 18359 Highway 58 N. P.O. Box 277, Decatur, TN 37322, 423-334-7014 or 423-334-7017. **If an owner has not contacted us by October 23, 2020**, the law requires us to submit this property to the Tennessee Treasury Department Unclaimed Property Division.

Unless noted all cities are in Tennessee:

ATHENS - Peggy Damen, James Hill, Amy Howell, Lena Matthews, Jason Scholer, Charles Shell **BENTON** - Brandy Billet, Kriston Craig, Mary Dillon, Randall Duncan, Frank Lowe, Ronald Renfro, Earl Waldrop **BLOOMINGTON SPRINGS** - Robert Minshall **BYRDSTOWN** - Adan Avilez, Kimberly Monzo, Jonnie Smith, James Thompson **CALHOUN** - Crystal Vaneman **CHARLESTON** - James Stansberry, Jeffrey Young **CHATTANOOGA** - Markus Harries **CLEVELAND** - Tina Brown, Judith Carrol, Michael Conner, Sharon Harris, Susan Headrick, Barbara Mullins, Brittany Pickett, Cassandra Pugh, Cheyenne Roden, Jeremy Travis, June Watson **COOKEVILLE** - Juan Ornelas **CRAB ORCHARD** - Nicole Lehman **CROSSVILLE** - Jacob Barringer, Joshua Berry, Braiden Bradshaw, Crystal Brock, Zackary Elmore, Samantha Futrell, Karen Gaddey, John Hadynski, Timothy Henson, Vicki Hollingsworth, Mark Kelly, Robyn Kip, Harold Knick, Thomas McManus, Nicholas Nedrow, Jeremy Nolette, Micheala Posey, Nancy Pyles, Sarah Rankin, Clent Simmons, Sean Waters, Alexandria Welch, Andrew Whaley, Anita Ziegman **DECATUR** - Edgar Blackwell, Stephen Gast, Chelsea Green, Mercedes Jenkins, Melvin McCoy, Elsie Morris, Charles Roberts, Joseph Souza **ENGLEWOOD** - Bobbie Mills **ETOWAH** - Norman Barker **EVENSVILLE** - Kenneth McCloud, Charles Montgomery **FAIRFIELD GLADE** - Roger Quackenbush **GEORGETOWN** - Thomas Guinn **HARRISON** - Rhonda House, Kyle Marlin, Richard Prueitt **JAMESTOWN** - Kevin Burdorf, Sally Cooper, Carrie Wittingham **KNOXVILLE** - Clarence Wells **LOUDON** - Ross Jette **MONTEREY** - Hank Williams **OLD FORT** - Regina Laughlin **OOLTEWAH** - Taylor Callihan, Joel Cram **PALL MALL** - Sherry Farmer **PHILADELPHIA** - Amanda Moore **RELIANCE** - Harold Huff **RICEVILLE** - Amanda Lalli-Cafini **SPARTA** - Gerald Griewahn, Jasmine Wightman **SPRING CITY** - Christian Doyle, Kathy Natali, Doris Warren **TEN MILE** - Tim Trapuzzano **MADISON, AL** - Neal Digennaro **TUCSON, AZ** - Angel Brumble **GLENDAL, AZ** - Mary Lawson **VALRICO, FL** - Angelina Whittington **DALTON, GA** - Sierra Davis **PEACHTREE CITY, GA** - David Wilson **TRAFALGAR, IN** - Jamie Hicks **FLINT, MI** - Roger Wright **REYNOLDSBURG, OH** - Robert Morley **PHILADELPHIA, PA** - David Shockley **CHAPIN, SC** - Daniel Margotta **BREMERTON, WA** - Amber Brown

VEC Annual Meeting is Tentatively Set for October 3

The first six months of 2020 have been unprecedented. We faced murder hornets, a Saharan dust storm reaching the United States, swarms of locust, a global pandemic, and there are six months left. VEC, designated an essential service, maintained our reliability throughout the pandemic. We worked creatively to be flexible with our consumer-members as they faced income loss, schools closing, unexpected child care needs, and local small businesses struggling to make payroll and some being forced to close.

We changed the way we operated. We closed our service center lobbies for several weeks. Our call center representatives worked staggered shifts so available hours could be safely extended. Employees were allowed to work from home as possible, and we put our customer service representatives behind a glass shield. We have reopened our lobbies but have instituted new sanitizing and distance rules.

As we go to press, the number of cases of COVID have started to climb. Governor Bill Lee has extended the state of emergency until August 29. Normally we would hold the Annual Meeting at Meigs Middle School, along with our business meeting, we would enjoy energy savings exhibits, a pancake or continental breakfast, power safety demonstrations, and live entertainment.

The state of emergency order changes all this. Group limits, safe distancing requirements, and safety for our members would be challenging in the typical setting.

We will continue to monitor conditions, and I will be meeting with the VEC Board. Using Social media, news outlets, and our webpage, we will announce where and how we will hold our annual meeting in August.



Rody Blevins
President/CEO
Volunteer Energy
Cooperative





VEC Customers Shares 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 usually average \$5.50 each yearly.

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 every service area. In July, VEC Customers Share Grants totaled \$35,476.00.

United Way of Rhea County hosts the Give a Kid a Chance yearly event. This program provides school supplies for Rhea County Students. They accomplish this by raising funds and inviting vendors to participate. Students are given school supplies, free haircuts, and information from multiple resources. Hundreds of students and their families participate. Families line up approximately an hour before the doors open and look forward every year to the event.



Director Christine Ralph and Committee Member Angie Drake received a check from VEC Customers Share.

Organizations receiving grants in July

Handfuls of the Harvest	\$3,000	Monterey Civitan Club	\$1,000
Hamilton County STARS	\$2,756	Meigs South Elementary PTO	\$1,000
Pickett County Imagination Library	\$2,000	Meigs County Retired Teachers	\$1,000
McMinn County Education Foundation	\$2,000	Good Faith Clinic	\$1,000
Dayton Church of God - Rhea County		Friends of Monterey Branch Library	\$1,000
Sack Pack Program	\$1,800	Cumberland County Jr. Jets Football League	\$1,000
Rhea Alliance	\$1,500	Creative Story Project	
Meigs County Military Veterans Honor Guard	\$1,500	dba of The Santa Project	\$870
Cumberland County Imagination Library	\$1,500	Agriculture Club-Chilhowee Middle School	\$600
Frank G. Clement Fraternal Order of Police		Willsontropic, Inc. - FBO Sound of Summer	\$500
Lodge #38	\$1,250	The Cumberland County Playhouse	\$500
Cumberland County High School		STARTS (Support The ARTS)	\$500
Coordinated School Health	\$1,250	Polk County Youth Football	\$500
Midway Youth Cheerleading Organization	\$1,200	National Center for Youth Issues	\$500
Midway Quarterback Club	\$1,200	CASA of Bradley and Polk Counties	\$500
Midway High School Baseball Boosters	\$1,100	Green Pond Lodge #703 F & AM	\$400
Toys for Children	\$1,000	New Hope Pregnancy Care Center	\$350
Pleasant Hill Coordinated School Health	\$1,000	The Care Center	\$200

Reliability: Moving Forward with Technology

VEC Mission Statement: *To provide our customers reliable, safe, and efficient services in a courteous and timely manner at a competitive cost.*

Reliability is important. This simple statement is at the forefront of our mission and is pivotal in decisions made by the board and management of VEC. In 2015 VEC created a strategic plan for system and technology upgrades with three goals in mind: improved reliability, improved communications with members, and better tools and training for employees.

Over the next several years, breakers, recloser controls, and control panels switched from electromechanical to solid-state. We used high-speed fiber to connect substations, networking the newly installed Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) devices. This installation improved voltage control and increased realtime data availability. Regulator control upgrades to solid-state helped monitor and reduce usage during peak demand times. Recloser controls upgrades to solid-state controls enhanced communications. Safety and maintenance improved by upgrading all substation breakers from oil to vacuum. Each change increased the speed of outage restoration and opened opportunities for preventative maintenance.

VEC implemented the Meter Data Management System (MDMS) and launched the SmartHub app. A new website enabled customers to use their smartphones to pay bills and check their accounts. VEC's Social Media presence increased from one channel to four. Facebook followers tripled. New Instagram and Twitter accounts were focused on a younger demographic. VEC's professional account on LinkedIn and the VEC website received makeovers. All upgrades focused on building relationships with members and providing ease of access to information.

VEC completed the telecommunication system upgrade in 2019. Installing a Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) phone system increased the capabilities of incoming/outgoing lines. Once the system was installed, professional messaging was added. Upgrading desktop computers, as well as the dispatch video wall, provided better tools for employees.

The majority of paper archives were converted into digital files. New documentation is digitally scanned and stored in an electronic vault. Service area office and substation security cameras were replaced or converted to digital signal feed with recording possibilities.

Bringing the Future Home

At this point VEC could stop upgrading but technology continues to change. In 2017 VEC began close monitoring of wholesale power cost versus the price of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS). As wholesale costs continued to rise, BESS continued to decrease in



VEC steps into the future of peak and voltage management with four Tesla Megapack BESS.

price. The potential savings and increased reliability opened an opportunity to purchase a BESS.

We purchased four 1,000 kW/ 2,000 kWh Tesla Megapacks. Each megapack can be charged during off-peak hours and then discharged over two-hours in the peak demand period. Utilizing our BESS, we can potentially shave 4,000 kW resulting in an average savings of \$40,000 a month.

The Tesla Megapacks will also help stabilize voltage. During peak demand, the service area where we connected the BESS, experiences significant voltage level swings from the connected TVA transmission line. Our Megapacks will help maintain a steady voltage level.

Becoming a Technological Leading Cooperative

The updates in our metering system, changing our power system to solid-state, connecting substation controls with high-speed fiber, and investing in TESLA Megapacks have paid off. VEC is now a technological leading energy distribution cooperative. We accumulate and store realtime data regarding usage, outages, faults and voltage problems. Our control center can isolate specific feeders from miles away to help linemen in the field. Dispatchers know which breaker is opening and can relay that information to line workers.

Becoming proactive is not something we talk about, it is something we do. Proactivity creates reliability and reliability is our mission.



Tennessee Valley Authority

Residential & Outdoor Lighting Fuel Cost Adjustment

Effective **August 1, 2020**

1.532¢

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

Volunteer Energy Cooperative is an Equal Opportunity provider and employer.

