

## VEC Customers Share Board Welcomes Three New Members

Three new representatives have been appointed to the all-volunteer VEC Customers Share Board that oversees VECustomer Share donations. Board members are appointed to serve three-year terms and are eligible to serve two consecutive terms.

The VECustomer Share board members serve on a volunteer basis and receive no compensation for their service. Each month they review grant applications and allocate funds that have been made available by members who choose to have their electric bills rounded up to the next whole dollar. The money is distributed each month by the board and donated to community service organizations. Since the program began in 2001, over \$7.1 million has been awarded to local community organizations in VEC's 17-county service area.

The service term recently expired for VECustomer Share Board members Barbara Rector representing Pickett county, Joyce Woods representing Meigs county and Mark Justice representing Fentress, Morgan, and Scott counties.



Galen Rector

Galen Rector was appointed to represent Pickett county. Rector and his wife have served previously on the Shares board and are committed to helping their community.

Marie Whitted was appointed to represent Meigs county. Whitted's family

has resided for many generations in the Meigs County area. She was a stay at home mom for 19 years. She also helps run The Miller Family Farm, which raises Black Angus. Whitted was in the Banking industry before staying home with her children. She is the financial secretary and chairman of the Decatur UMC Pastor Parish Relations Committee.

"I am very honored to be a part of this wonderful program. Our community is full of many amazing organizations and groups that support so many in our county, and I hope through the VEC Customers Share's program, they can continue," said Whitted.



Marie Whitted

Kelli Crouch was appointed to represent Fentress, Morgan,



Kelli Crouch

and Scott counties. Crouch has lived in Jamestown for 36 years. She is a graduate of York Institute and Tennessee Tech. She is the Senior Vice President for Union Bank in Jamestown. She has also served as a board member of Creative Compassion, INC. in Crossville, TN.

"I am pleased to have been selected to be a member of the VEC Customers Share Board. I look forward to supporting local projects that will benefit Fentress County," stated Crouch.

## VEC College Scholarship Deadline is March 5

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 2021.



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 2021 high school graduates whose parents or guardians are VEC 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](http://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 5, 2021.**

## Volunteer Energy Cooperative 2020

As the year 2020 ends, your Cooperative has accomplished many goals. Among those goals were the expansion of broadband access to our members, major improvements to the power system, helping our members during the pandemic and researching options for power supply in an effort to lower electric rates.

We hope as we move forward into 2021 that our country can move past the pandemic and back to a more normal life for everyone. We continue to respond to our member's requests on broadband and plan to build several hundred miles of new fiber lines in multiple counties in the next year to provide access to thousands of our consumer members.

Concerning the power system, VEC will continue to build more high voltage transmission lines in different regions of our service area to improve reliability and reduce outages. Many of these improvements are designed to have our VEC substations served from a more advanced and reliable source than the aging Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) transmission system that we have today. Some of the TVA transmission lines that serve VEC substations are over 105 years



Rody Blevins  
 President/CEO  
 Volunteer Energy Cooperative

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The VECustomers Share program funded community service grants totaling \$24,000 in November. Since the inception of the program in October 2001, over \$7.2

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](http://www.vec.org).



VECustomers Share Board Member Marie Whitted presents a grant check to The Meigs County FFA Alumni. The funds will be used to help promote and sustain the agriculture youth program. Front L-R: Kendra Cornelius, Emily Cline, Marie Whitted, Nancy Penrod, Madison Prentice, and Bridget McKenzie. Back L-R: Bryce McKenzie, Dylan Neely, Brandon Cobble, Chris McKenzie.

### Organizations receiving grants in November

American Red Cross of Southeast Tennessee - Bradley County	\$1,700	Hwy 58 Volunteer Fire Dept. Inc.	\$950
American Red Cross of Southeast Tennessee - Meigs County	\$1,500	Fentress County Children's Center	\$750
Lake Tansi Security Police Department	\$1,500	Harrison Bay Future Ready Center H.S.	\$550
Midway High School FFA	\$1,500	American Red Cross of Southeast Tennessee - Hamilton County	\$500
Brydstown Masonic Lodge #496	\$1,000	Benton Food Fund Booster Club	\$500
Calhoun Cheer Squad	\$1,000	Crossville Lions Club	\$500
Clear View Baptist Church Snack Pack Program	\$1,000	Cumberland County High School Bowling Team	\$500
Cumberland Adult Reading Council	\$1,000	Girls Scouts of the Southern Appalachians	\$500
Fentress County Food Bank	\$1,000	Polk County High School Fishing Club	\$500
McMinn County Foster Care	\$1,000	STARTS (Support the ARTS)	\$500
Monterey Lions Club	\$1,000	Bradley Bears Baseball Team Boosters	\$300
Monterey Mission Center	\$1,000	Jonesville Community Youth Group	\$250
Pickett County Historical & Genealogy Society	\$1,000	Midway High School Baseball Boosters	\$200
Spring City Friends of the Library	\$1,000	Midway Quarterback Club	\$200
Spring City Light House Center	\$1,000	Midway Youth Cheerleading Organization	\$100

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old. Many of the TVA transmission facilities are over 60 years old.

We continue to study power supply options for our consumer-members to meet our low-cost, reliable power mission. Our current supplier, TVA, is one of the highest cost wholesale power suppliers in the Southeast U.S. We have made multiple attempts to discuss with TVA management a new power supply contract that works for VEC's members. Unfortunately, to date, TVA management refuses to negotiate anything concerning a new power supply contract. It is very disappointing that a federal agency formed to help the Tennessee Valley 80 years ago refuses to work with a local power company today. We plan to finish our work on this critical issue and have a recommendation to our board in early 2021.

Today Volunteer Energy Cooperative is one of the most advanced Electric Cooperative power systems in the United States. Since we completed our Vision 2020 plan, we are working on plans for the next-generation power system. With the help of all of our employees at VEC and the support of the VEC Board, we will continue to make improvements in our power system to provide the best service we can to our members. We look forward to 2021 and working with our members to improve the communities we serve.



## Volunteer to Make a Positive Impact

With the start of a new year, I can't help but reflect on the gratitude I feel for our community. I think most will agree 2020 was a year like no other—certainly in my lifetime. And while we've seen our share of challenges, I am heartened by the ways in which we have all pulled together to make our community stronger.

Because we are a co-op, volunteerism and giving back are a part of who we are. Our very name, Volunteer Energy Cooperative, reflects the spirit of volunteerism that established our co-op 85 years ago.

VEC recently participated in the Tennessee Co-op Day of Service. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, each office held an internal food drive to donate to an agency in its service area. VEC employees donated food to Meigs Ministry, Burke Elementary School Backpack Program, and the Polk County Food Bank.

Several of our employees are volunteer firefighters and first responders, who put their lives at risk for their communities. Others coach youth sports, assist in school productions, or serve on local boards. While it's difficult to quantify the impact that volunteers have, I know they make a tremendous difference in our community and make our corner of the world a better place.

Many organizations depend on volunteers to fulfill their mission.

Volunteers fill in gaps and spread joy and compassion through their efforts. Even assisting with the smallest tasks can make a big impact in the lives of people, animals or an organization in need. Often a big commitment or special skills are not needed, just someone who cares.

I hope you'll consider volunteering. Give an organization or cause that you care about the gift of your compassion, time, and talent. The gift of volunteerism is a gift that will continue giving all year long.



Corporate Office Food Drive



Cleveland Office Food Drive



Benton Office Food Drive



Monterey Office Food Drive



## Tennessee Valley Authority

Residential & Outdoor Lighting Fuel Cost Adjustment  
Effective **December 1, 2020**

**1.893¢**



For the most current FCA information, visit [www.vec.org](http://www.vec.org)  
Volunteer Energy Cooperative is an Equal Opportunity provider and employer.