

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.



Smith

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.



Frazier

He serves on the Board of Directors of Coordinated Charities, ASCD, TOSS, and TSBA and serves on the Board of Deacons at Eastanella 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.

Jeffery Eastman

Jeffery Eastman is running for the District 4, McMinn County seat. He was born in Amsterdam, New York. Moving to Tennessee he graduated from Oneida High School. He received a Bachelor of Arts in Marketing from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and a Master of Business Administration from Lincoln Memorial University.

Eastman is a McMinn County resident and the CEO of Remote Area Medical (RAM). RAM provides free healthcare to over 50,000 people each year, including many residing in the Volunteer Energy service area. In addition, he has been the Tybrisa Condominium Association Secretary since 2013.

Eastman is married to Debbie Cardin and has five children Michelle Soni, Nathan Eastman, Peyton Eastman, Angie Eastman, and Cheryl Eastman.



Eastman

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.



Handler

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.

We place the highest level of importance on the applicant's commitment to community service.



The VEC Customers Share program funded community service grants totaling \$26,000 in June. Since the inception of the program in October 2001, over \$7.3 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.



2020-2021 VEC Shares Board of Directors: Seated (L-R) Marie Whitted (Meigs), Sharon Parrott (Putnam, White and Overton), Holly Neal (Cumberland East), Norma Barham (McMinn). Standing (L-R) Lynn Crawford (Hamilton), Rodney Fowler (Roane & Loudon), Jerry Mayo (Cumberland West), Gary Gillmore (Rhea & Bledsoe), Dana Burgner (Bradley) and Gaylon Rector (Pickett). Bill Blackwell (Polk) and Kelli Crouch (Fentress, Morgan and Scott) were unavailable for photos.

Organizations receiving grants in June

Veterans Grave Marker Restoration	\$2,000	Homestead Elementary School	
Woodsong Forest School	\$1,500	Basketball Booster Club	\$750
Polk County High School Golf Club	\$1,500	Monterey Food Bank	\$700
Cumberland County Imagination Library	\$1,317.04	The Cumberland County Playhouse	\$500
Chattanooga Central High School		Midway Quarterback Club	\$500
Alumnii Association	\$1,250	Midway Youth Cheerleading Organization	\$500
Frank G. Clement Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #38	\$1,250	League Softball	\$500
Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6277	\$1,100	Meigs County Cheer Boosters	\$500
Healing Hooves of Cumberland Plateau	\$1,000	National Center for Youth Issues	\$500
Midway Middle School Football Club	\$1,000	Mended Hearts Chapter 127	\$500
Cumberland G.A.P. Mission	\$1,000	Table Graces Community Food Bank	\$400
UT-TSU Extension Meigs County	\$1,000	Grace & Mercy Ministries	\$350
Meigs County Fair Association	\$1,000	Cumberland County High School Mens Soccer	\$300
Rip City 2024 AAU Basketball	\$1,000	Calhoun United Methodist Church Food Pantry	\$250
Riceville Elementary School PTO	\$882.96	Meigs County High School Lady Tigers	
E.K. Baker PTO	\$800	Basketball Booster Club	\$250
Hamilton County S.T.A.R.S.	\$750	Unfinished Monterey Community Youth Group	\$200

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 to honor 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 his or her 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.



Jonathan Bailey

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 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



Bryce McKenzie

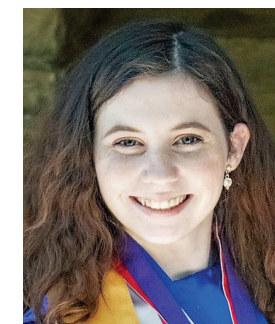
Washington Leadership Conference. Through the National Honors Society, he volunteered at the local boys and girls club as a tutor for at risk students and provided janitorial work. As a member of MuAlphaTheta, he helped host events such as STEAM day at local elementary schools. Bryce was described by the Meigs County CTE Director as "an excellent manager of time, courteous and professional, and wise beyond his years".

Katherine Stokes is the daughter of Avery and Vivian Stokes. She graduated from Clarkrange High School and now plans to attend Tennessee Technological University. Katherine was ranked first out of 67 students and held a 4.0-grade-point average. Katherine's community service included working with the Interact Club's Chicken Run and Festival. This is a local community race in which proceeds help fund public service projects, providing wheelchairs to children, polio research and other charitable efforts. Each Christmas, Katherine also participated in helping with the Christmas Shopping spree for children from low-income families. Her teacher described Katherine as "one of the best students with an amazing work ethic and excellent leadership skills".



Katherine Stokes

Megan Tillis graduated in the top five percent of her class at Monterey High School and has plans to attend Tennessee Technological University and major in Pre-Veterinary Science. She is the daughter of Jason and Lynn Tillis. Megan's community service includes shelving and labeling books at her school library, working in the school concession stand during games and creating a digital music archive at her school's library. She also interned at KP Pet Grooming. The general manager of her part-time job described Megan as "an outstanding employee and a well-rounded individual. She works hard to exceed expectation and shows a passion for learning new skills."



Megan Tillis



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

Volunteer Energy Cooperative is an Equal Opportunity provider and employer.

