



**VEC Customers Share Awards \$25,600 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.

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 June, VEC Customers Share Grants totaled \$25,600.

Grant recipients included the Tri-County Center in McMinn County. The grant money they received (\$1,024) will help them purchase training supplies for staff members to provide safe support to adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Since the inception of the program in October 2001, VEC Customers Share members have awarded over \$7.4 million in grants. 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 <https://vec.org/community-programs/veccustomers-share/>.



McMinn County VEC Customers Share Board Member Norma Barham (left) presents a check to Pam Perdue, Executive Director of the Tri-County Center – McMinn County.

(continued on page 6)

**VOLUNTEER ENERGY COOPERATIVE**

**AUCTION** **SAT AUG 27 10 AM ET VEC CORPORATE OFFICE**

There will be a preview at the Corporate Office on August 26 from 12-5 p.m. ET and August 27 from 8-10 a.m. ET. Approximately **23 vehicles including bucket trucks, service trucks, flatbed trucks, pickup trucks, and SUV's will be auctioned along with miscellaneous office supplies.**

**BID** **BID** **BID**

**Tennessee Valley Authority**

Residential & Outdoor Lighting Fuel Cost Adjustment Effective **July 1, 2022**

**4.149¢**

For the most current FCA information, visit [www.vec.org](http://www.vec.org)

Volunteer Energy Cooperative is an Equal Opportunity provider and employer.



(continued from page 5)

**Organizations receiving grants in May**

Pickett County Relay for Life	\$2,000	Homestead Elementary School Basketball Booster Club	\$500
Helping Hands Ministry	\$1,500	Plateau Women's Chorus (PWC)	\$500
Meigs Middle PTO	\$1,250	Crossville Hawks 12 U Baseball	\$500
Salem Baptist Church Youth Group	\$1,000	Midway Youth Cheerleading Organization	\$500
CASA of Bradley and Polk Counties	\$1,000	Boy Scout Troop #170	\$500
Friends of the Monterey Branch Library	\$1,000	First Baptist Church of Kingston Youth Program	\$500
Cumberland G.A.P. Mission	\$1,000	Visually Impaired Support Group (VIS) of Cumberland County	\$500
Fentress County Volunteer Fire Department	\$1,000	Love Thy Neighbor Project at Tennessee Wesleyan University	\$500
We Care Community Services/Safe Haven Light	\$950	Monterey High School Girl's Basketball	\$500
Maple Grove Community Children	\$900	Cumberland County Jr. Jet Football and Cheer League	\$500
Spring City Light House Senior Center	\$800	Welding Club	\$400
Bledsoe County Community Food Bank	\$750	Chilhowee Middle School Boys Basketball	\$400
C5 Christian Counseling Center of Cumberland County	\$750	Benton Food Fund Booster Club	\$400
Rogers Creek PTO	\$750	Polk County High School Football	\$400
Hamilton County STARS	\$700	Polk County High School Volleyball	\$400
Senior Citizens of Cumberland County	\$550	Harrison Bay Future Ready Skills USA Club	\$400
Friends of the Art Circle Library - Children's Programs	\$500	Art Guild Fairfield Glade	\$200
Karis Community Health	\$500	Toys for Children	\$100
Habitat for Humanity of Cleveland	\$500		
Burks Elementary P.E.	\$500		

**Our Heart is With Young People**

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow said, "Youth comes but once in a lifetime."

Volunteer Energy Cooperative believes that the future of the communities we serve lies with our young people. We not only believe this, we are constantly contributing time and resources to support youth programs, scholarships, and learning opportunities throughout the region.

All throughout the year, but especially during the late spring and early summer, we are in high gear with many of our youth programs. Several of these activities were suspended or scaled down during the COVID pandemic. Our staff is very excited to once again be able to offer these programs to our students.

- 4-H Electric Camp – VEC provides financial resources and employee volunteers to make this activity a success. This camp, held on the campus of the University of Tennessee – Knoxville, provides real-world and hands-on activities to enhance the understanding of electric power and its contribution to the world we live in.
- Washington D.C. Youth Tour – We send students from our area and a VEC chaperone to the Tennessee Electric Cooperative Association's Washington Youth Tour. This event is packed with tours, special events and activities, and visits with legislators that instill pride in the participants for our country and its leaders and history.
- Lillard-Shadow Scholarships – VEC awards four scholarships each year, named in honor of two of the Cooperative's founding fathers, to help area high school students with their college costs.
- Electricity Safety Demonstrations – these events are free and available to classrooms and youth groups throughout our service area. This is a hands-on, interactive, fun way to introduce electric safety concepts to elementary-age children.

When I speak with the youth of our area, they are excited, engaged, and enthusiastic about their futures. I continue to be encouraged that they – and we – have a bright future ahead of us. Volunteer Energy is proud to do our part to contribute to the success of the next generation.



Patty Hurley  
Interim President/CEO  
Volunteer Energy Cooperative

## VEC 2022 Board Candidate Bios



### District 9 - Cumberland County East

**J. C. Cook** is running for the District 9, Cumberland

County – East seat. He was born in Cumberland County and attended Cumberland County High School. He has been employed by the State of Tennessee, the Cumberland County Tax Assessor Office, and the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company. J.C. was also the owner operator of Cook Tire Service for thirteen years and a partner in the Cumberland General Store for eight years.

Mr. Cook has previously served on the VEC Board of Directors (1978-1981) and is currently a supporter and sponsor of Cumberland County High School (CCHS) and Stone Memorial High School (SMHS).

Mr. Cook is a member of Oak Hill Baptist Church in Crossville and has two children – Lourae (Deron) Henry of Columbia, TN and Charlie Cook of Crossville, TN. He also has two grandchildren – Stephen (Sunny) Henry of Lebanon, TN and Luke Henry of Columbia, TN.



### District 9 - Cumberland County East

**Michael Kapalin** is running for the District 9,

Cumberland County – East seat. He was born in Green Bay, Wisconsin where he attended high school at Green Bay Preble High. He has studied at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and the University of Wisconsin – Whitewater, where he obtained degrees

in Political Science, History, and Broad Field Social Sciences – Emotional Behavioral Disorders.

Mr. Kapalin is a Cumberland County resident and the Vice Chair of Fairfield Glade Neighborhood Watch. In the past, he has also served on the Como Oil & Propane Board of Directors, the East Central Energy Board of Directors, and the Fairfield Glade Fire Department Board of Directors.

Mr. Kaplin and his wife, Lynne, attend Saint Francis of Assisi Catholic Church in Crossville and have four children – Sabrina Davis, Daniel Kapalin, Andrew Kapalin, and Sara Nitzsche.



### District 9 - Cumberland County East

**Philip Smith** is running for the District 9,

Cumberland County – East seat. He was born in Monticello, Iowa and attended Marion High School in Marion, Iowa. Mr. Smith earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree and a Master of Arts Degree at the University of Northern Iowa.

Mr. Smith has been a Cumberland County resident since 2009. He is a former member of the Fairfield Glade Community Club Strategic Planning Committee. He is a current member of the Business Advisory Committee to Eden Ridge Missionary Retreat, the Fairfield Glade Rotary Club, the Fairfield Glade Community Club Government Relations Committee, and the Crossville/Cumberland County Chamber of

Commerce. He is also a founding board member and current President of the Veterans and First Responders Memorial at Fairfield Glade.

Mr. Smith currently works as a State Government Affairs Consultant. He and his wife, Mary, are members of Fairfield Glade First Baptist Church and have one son, Bradley Smith.



### District 5 - Meigs County

**Steve Miller** is running for the District 5, Meigs

County seat. He was born in Athens, TN and attended Meigs County High School in Decatur, TN.

Mr. Miller served in the United States Air Force and is a retired field engineer in the nuclear power industry. He has two children, Chanel Finnell and Kyla Miller.



### District 5 - Meigs County

**Steve Morrow** is running for the District 5,

Meigs County seat. He was born in Cleveland, TN and attended Bradley Central High School in Bradley County. He obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and a Doctorate of Jurisprudence from

Nashville School of Law.

Mr. Morrow has three children: Stephen Spencer Morrow, Taylor Andrew Morrow, and Christian Alexander Morrow. He is recently retired after selling 58 Shortstop in Meigs County and attends Candies Creek Baptist Church.



### District 5 - Meigs County

**Sammy Norton** of Decatur is the incumbent

member of the Volunteer Energy Cooperative (VEC) Board of Directors representing District 5, Meigs County. He has served on the VEC Board since 2000.

He earned his Credentialed Cooperative Director certification from the National Rural Electric Cooperative

Association.

Mr. Norton is a dairy farmer and a graduate of Meigs County High School. He has served on the board of directors for the Valley Farmers Cooperative and served on the Farm Services Agency board from 1983 to 1997. He is also a member of the Meigs County Masonic Lodge. Additionally, Mr. Norton has served as a Gideon for several years.

He has four children – Shelly McCarter, Chris Norton, Andrea Norton, and Tonya Irwin – and is a member of Pisgah Baptist Church in Decatur.



### District 5 - Meigs County

**George Thomas** is running for the District 5,

Meigs County seat. Mr. Thomas was born in Lexington, KY and attended Charleston High School in Charleston, TN. He earned a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga and a Master of Divinity Degree from Southwestern Baptist Theological

Seminary.

Mr. Thomas has been a member of the Decatur Chamber of Commerce Board and the Meigs Theatre Foundation Board of Directors since 2019. Additionally, he was a primary founder of the Meigs Boys and Girls Club and has been on the Board since 2017. He was named Board Member of the Year for the Southeastern US Region in 2019.

He currently works as an Engineering Consultant, a Commercial Real Estate Developer, and is a small business owner. Mr. Thomas has one son – James Cody Thomas – and is affiliated with the Southern Baptist Church. Mr. Thomas was a Meigs County Mayoral Candidate in 2022. He is heavily involved in development and restoration of historical buildings in Downtown Decatur, and is an ardent promoter of small businesses and advocate for tourism in Meigs County.



### District 1 - Polk County

**David J. Milen** of Benton is the incumbent

member of the Volunteer Energy Cooperative (VEC) Board of Directors representing District 1, Polk County. He has served on the VEC Board since 2010.

Mr. Milen was born in Old Fort, TN and graduated from Polk County High School. He served

four years in the U.S. Navy and is retired from Norfolk Southern Railroad Company. He served on the Polk County Commission for 16 years and is also a member of Ocoee Lodge #212 Chattanooga Scottish Rite. Mr. Milen currently volunteers at the food bank and works with the senior ministry Happy Hearts.

Additionally, he has coached Little League Baseball for 16 years. He and his wife, Daphne, have two children, Danna Sloan and Dusty Milen, four grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter. David and Daphne attend Shiloh Baptist Church.



### District 1 - Polk County

**James Woody** is running for the District 1,

Polk County seat. Mr. Woody was born in Etowah, TN and attended Polk County High School in Polk County, TN.

He is a member of AmVets Post 911, where he has served as Judge Advocate General since its

inception in 2016, and he is a member of the Ocoee Masonic Lodge #212 F&AM. He was a member of the Tri-County Football Officials Association from 2000-2021 and served on its board multiple times. Mr. Woody also worked as an AD firefighter for the United States Forest Service from 1985-1995. Additionally, he is an honorably discharged Navy veteran, and he has served the last four years as a Republican Election Commissioner for the Polk County Election Commission.

Mr. Woody currently owns his family's business of 45 years, Woody's Lock and Key in Bradley County. He is married to Tonya Woody and has two children, Nakia and Elora Woody.