



Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative News

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2018 Nominating Committee Selected

The Board of Directors of Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative (SVEC) has selected its Nominating Committee for the 2018

Annual Membership Meeting. It is the duty of this Committee to select candidates for the election of directors to be held during the business portion of the Annual Meeting.

Potential candidates for the Board must be members of SVEC and bona fide residents of its service area. The Cooperative's bylaws say that candidates must be at least 21 years of age and may not, in any way, be employed by a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the Cooperative.

During the 2018 meeting, SVEC member-owners will elect one director from Page County; one director from Rockingham County; and one director from Frederick/Clarke counties.

The only other method for putting an individual up for election, other than through the Nominating Committee, is by petition. Section 4 of Article IV of the Shenandoah Valley Electric Bylaws states that "Any two hundred fifty (250) or more Members acting together may make other nominations by petition" Nominations made by petition, if any, must be received by the Secretary at least twenty (20) days before the Annual Meeting for a name to be placed on the official ballot.

The incumbent from Page County running for re-election is Gary Gibbs, who resides in Luray. The incumbent from Rockingham County is Board Chair Gerald Heatwole, who resides in McGaheysville. The incumbent from Frederick/Clarke counties is Richard Shickle, who resides in Winchester.

If you, as a member-owner of the Cooperative, know someone you feel should be a candidate for the SVEC Board of Directors, contact one of the Nominating Committee members. Listed below are the members of this Committee and their addresses.

Remember, this is YOUR electric cooperative, so take an active role, and be sure to attend the 2018 Annual Membership Meeting, June 14 at the James Madison University Convocation Center.

SVEC offices will be closed all day Friday, March 30, for Good Friday. Offices will reopen Monday, April 2.



SHENANDOAH VALLEY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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800-234-SVEC (7832)
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Michael W. Hastings

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Gerald A. Heatwole

Local Pages Editor
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For all questions concerning advertising, contact Cooperative Living at 804-346-3344.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer. SVEC supports our armed services and veterans in employment opportunities.

Nominating Committee

Frederick/Clarke counties

Tammara (Tammy) Canfield
161 Forgotten Lane
Clear Brook, VA 22624

Tim Price
263 White Hall Road
Winchester, VA 22603

Page County

Larry Dofflemyer
403 Long Avenue
Shenandoah, VA 22849

William Fisher
9 S. Hawksbill Street
Luray, VA 22835

Rockingham County

Larry E. Garber
P.O. Box 38
Pleasant Valley, VA 22848

Dwight Newman
5240 Pleasant Valley Road
Harrisonburg, VA 22801

SVEC Awards First Set of Grants

Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative's (SVEC) Operation Round Up Committee awarded its first set of grants in late January, contributing more than \$7,000 toward community projects in the Co-op's service territory.

Operation Round Up (ORU) is a voluntary program that launched in November. SVEC member-owners sign up to have their monthly bills "rounded up" to the nearest even dollar, and that additional money is set aside for charitable giving. On average, a member-owner will contribute only \$6 per year toward the program. Larger, one-time contributions are also accepted.

A committee of nine member-owners and one Cooperative employee review grant applications from area nonprofit organizations, civic clubs and others. As the pool of rounded-up funds grows, SVEC is hopeful that a combination of member-owner contributions and corporate allocations will lead to a major opportunity to address crucial needs in the communities it serves.

For the first round of grants, the ORU Committee selected the following recipients:

- **United Way of the Northern Shenandoah Valley (Winchester)** to

increase the capacity to bring on more volunteers and possibly an additional part-time staff member for the Valley Assistance Network, a community collaborative to connect individuals and families with the services they need to move from crisis to financial security.

- **Blue Ridge Area Food Bank (Augusta County)** to acquire fresh produce for distribution to thousands of individuals through partner food pantries, soup kitchens and shelters throughout SVEC's service territory.
- **Big Brothers Big Sisters of Northwest Virginia (Frederick County)** for program management, to include training and coaching calls, for the Campaign for Men, which matches 12 new Big Brothers with assigned Little Brothers.
- **Shenandoah Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America (Frederick County)** for new equipment, including climbing ropes and harnesses, for Camp Rock Enon, which is used weekly over the summer months and every weekend during the off season to offer not only physical activity for youth, but a



chance to instill confidence in their ability to overcome fear.

- **Boys and Girls Clubs of Harrisonburg and Rockingham County** toward Family Engagement and Empowerment Dinners (FEED), designed to empower club members and their families with the skills, knowledge and confidence to prepare healthy and affordable meals.
- **Shenandoah County 4-H** to hire a summer intern to lead youth educational program and shadow 4-H agent to help with other initiatives.

"The Committee was thorough in its review of this first round of grant applications, and we set out to make contributions that would have a meaningful impact on our members' communities. I believe we achieved that goal," said Chris Runion, the Operation Round Up Committee chair from Rockingham County. "Going forward, it's important that all member-owners sign up for the program and see the value that a few cents can make every month. We want to fund as many requests as possible, even though funds are limited this first year. We're off to a great start, but with everyone's help we can all make a difference for our friends and neighbors."

Please sign up today for Operation Round Up by visiting any SVEC office, calling SVEC at 1-800-234-7832, or clicking on the Operation Round Up page under "Account" through the e-Business portal at www.svec-online.coop. For more information on the program and to download an application for funding, visit www.svec.coop/ORU.

The next round of grant applications are due on April 11.

SVEC Eazy Pay: *Convenient & Free*

The SVEC Eazy Pay plan allows the amount of your electric bill to be automatically deducted from your financial institution account. This service is optional, secure, safe and FREE. HOW EAZY PAY WORKS — IT'S AS EAZY AS 1, 2, 3 ...

- 1. Read Material:** Learn about Eazy Pay through our website, www.svec.coop; contact your local office for more information; or ask for a brochure to be mailed to you.
- 2. Sign Up:** Enroll online at our e-Business website, www.svec-online.coop; print out an authorization form online; or pick up a brochure at your district office. Fill out information and return to SVEC with a voided check (checking account) or deposit slip (savings account).
- 3. Enjoy Worry-Free, Timely Payments!** Upon receipt of this authorization form, SVEC will implement the direct debit of your financial institution account. You will continue to receive a monthly bill from SVEC as usual. On this bill you will see a new statement to the effect that, "Your bank account will be debited for \$ (total amount due) on (date)."

You will be charged ABSOLUTELY NOTHING for this service, and you may cancel at any time, just remember to allow at least five (5) business days prior to the debit date to cancel the payment deduction or make changes to your financial institution information. Also, please remember that the payment will have to be made by another payment method.



SVEC Staff and Board Members Meet with State Legislators

Staff and board members of Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative met with legislators on Tuesday, Jan. 30, as part of the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives' (VMDAEC) quarterly board meeting and Legislative Day.

Attending were Board Secretary/Treasurer David Ferguson and Directors Steve Burkholder, Larry Howdyshell, Robbie Marchant, Suzanne Obenshain and Bill Orndoff, along with President & CEO Michael Hastings, Vice President of Member Services Mike Aulgur, and Public Relations Representative Preston Knight. They joined more than 125 people attending VMDAEC's annual event at the Omni Hotel, which included representatives of Virginia's 13 member-owned electric cooperatives as well as government officials, legislative staff and guests.

Following a breakfast reception at which Sen. Frank Ruff, R-Clarksville, received the Distinguished Friend of Electric Cooperatives Award, attendees spent the morning visiting with legislators and their aides in their General Assembly offices, outlining the position of Virginia's electric cooperatives on legislation proposed in 2018.

The ultimate goal is to build and maintain relationships with legislators to ensure that the best interests of electric cooperative member-owners are in mind whenever legislation is under consideration.



From top, left: SVEC President and CEO Michael Hastings (left) and Board member Bill Orndoff talk with Sen. Jill Vogel, R-Warrenton. Board members Larry Howdyshell (left) and David Ferguson (right) met with House Majority Leader Todd Gilbert, R-Woodstock. Board member Suzanne Obenshain talks to Del. Dickie Bell, R-Staunton. SVEC President and CEO Michael Hastings discusses electric cooperatives with Del. Wendy Gooditis, R-Boyce. Above: Board members, from left to right, David Ferguson, Steve Burkholder, Suzanne Obenshain and Larry Howdyshell met with Del. Tony Wilt, R-Harrisonburg. Below: Board members Larry Howdyshell (right) and David Ferguson (center) discuss issues related to electric cooperatives with Del. Ben Cline, R-Amherst.



Visit Planned for Sentara Van

Sentara RMH will bring its Mobile Mammography Van to Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative's Mount Crawford Headquarters on Thursday, March 29. Registration is required.

For more information or to schedule your appointment, call Sentara RMH Funkhouser Women's Center at (540) 689-6800 or 800-277-1021.

SVEC's Headquarters is at 147 Dinkel Avenue in Mount Crawford.

SVEC's Major Infrastructure Improvements

Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative (SVEC) continuously studies the reliability and safety of its distribution system to ensure we are meeting the needs of member-owners throughout our service territory.

In the first part of 2018, we'd like to highlight major infrastructure projects at two of our substations.

Strasburg Substation

Located just west of downtown Strasburg, the Strasburg Substation is receiving major improvements that include the removal of aging equipment and installation of new facilities to increase reliability and capacity. The substation expansion project includes the addition of three new transformers, relocation of four circuits off the existing transformers and placing the load on the new transformers, which in turn helps with the reliability of the station. A new control building is also on site.

Along with the increase of capacity in the substation, additional distribution feeders will be put in place to decrease the load on several circuits.

The expected completion for the project is late May to mid-June 2018.

Page Substation

Located near the Page Valley Fairgrounds, the Page Substation is under a major overhaul that includes removing aging equipment and installing new facilities to increase reliability and capacity. The substation expansion project includes the addition of three transformers, relocation of one existing transformer and splitting the load from the existing unit onto two of the new transformers, which in turn helps with the reliability of the station and includes the installation of a new control building.

Along with the increase of capacity in the substation, upgrading of the distribution feeders are on line to decrease

the load on several circuits.

The site grading was completed in early January 2018. We are hopeful the labor contractor will be prepared to begin work by June 2018, and have a project completion of late 2019.

Also of note out of the Page Substation, SVEC soon will be rebuilding the Whitehouse Feeder, which will include installing new wires and about 40 new utility poles. Member-owners who may have service interruptions as a result of this work will be notified before any planned outages will occur.

Similarly, a rebuild of the Ridge Hollow Feeder out of the Columbia Furnace Substation in Shenandoah County is scheduled to begin on April 2. This project will run about four miles and include new wires and about 90 new poles.

If you have questions about any work SVEC has ongoing in your area, please contact the Cooperative at 1-800-234-7832.



SVEC's Music Man

by Preston Knight, SVEC Writer

Even in his life outside of being a utility man for Shenandoah Valley Electric Cooperative's Winchester District, Jeff Fuss seeks to light up a room.

Fuss is the author of more than 100 songs over his roughly two decades as a musician and has recurring weekend gigs at El Centro restaurant in Winchester,

the Holiday Inn in Martinsburg, West Virginia, and Woods Resort in Hedgesville, West Virginia. He also often performs with his guitar for nursing home residents in Martinsburg.

"Especially there, I'll play a song that brings back a thousand memories for them," Fuss says. "That's my heart gig. That gig is good for my heart."

His writing and playing style is that of older country musicians such as Hank Williams Sr. and Merle Haggard, with lyrics frequently addressing country living, love, God and America. His performances include a mix of country and southern rock cover songs as well as originals, while Fuss also plays a select number of private events and handles deejay duties on occasion.

"You can know a million songs and they're going to request a million and one," he jokes.

For the last three years, Fuss has attended the Smokey Mountain Songwriters Festival in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. The festival is held during the third week of August every year to celebrate "Appalachian

Musical Roots," according to its website.

"Jeff and his wife and kids spent two years living in Smithville, Tennessee, where Jeff was able to learn some great songwriting skills and spend some time at some writers' nights in Nashville," the site's bio of Fuss says. "Jeff wrote a song called 'Soldiers Christmas' that was the most requested song one year in his hometown and also got on Nashville radio."

Indeed, he speaks fondly of "Soldiers Christmas," which he both wrote and recorded over Thanksgiving 11 years ago. It began playing on the radio in Berkeley Springs, West Virginia, the following Monday, he said, and more than 300 copies of the single sold within 10 days. Nashville radio eventually picked it up, and Fuss says it was even making the airwaves again last year in North Carolina.

His inspiration for the song, which he wrote while passing time in his tree stand, was the fact his stepson would not be home for Christmas that year.

"It kind of helps [people] let go of their kid or spouse going back overseas," he says of the song.

Fuss says he enjoys writing songs that connect personally with people, be it military families or those struggling with addiction.

"I try to write something that's going to help them a little bit," he says. "It feels good giving back."

While he picked up a guitar "later in life," Fuss is making up for plenty of lost stage time.

"I guess it's kind of a labor of love," he says. "I know every morning I thank the good Lord that I've got a job to go to, a roof over my head and a wife who loves me, and everything else kind of falls in line."

To hear Fuss' music, search his name on www.reverbnation.com.