

## BACKGROUND

The history of the production and distribution of electricity in our region makes for a long and twisting tale. It begins with our area's first electric plant built by James F. Crumley in 1888. By 1891, Crumley's plant had become the Watauga Lighting & Power Company and remained as such until its purchase by the Johnson City - Jonesborough Electric Light and Power Company in 1902. As the population and its demand for electricity continued to rise throughout Washington County, the need for further expansion and production became increasingly evident. Consequently, a hydroelectric plant was built on the Nolichucky River near Greenville in 1911. Transmission lines were then constructed connecting the new plant to the various power companies serving Greenville, Jonesborough and Johnson City, thus creating the Tennessee Eastern Electric Company. This company enjoyed many years of operation and expansion, during which, a new steam plant was constructed in Watauga and the height of the original dam on the Nolichucky River was raised to offset the area's ever growing demand for electricity.

The need to manage the distribution of greater loads of electricity throughout upper East Tennessee brought about the formation of a new corporation in 1929. This corporation, The East Tennessee Light and Power Company, eventually grew to serve an area of more than four thousand square miles within nine counties while connecting more than one hundred thousand customers to locally generated electricity. This company continued its operations until Tennessee Valley Authority purchased it in 1945, establishing them as the sole distributor of electricity in our region. By resolution of the City of Johnson City on June 18, 1945, at 7:00 pm, city officials executed and delivered to the TVA a contract captioned, "Sales Agreement," for the purchase of an electric distribution system serving portions of Washington, Sullivan, Greene and Carter Counties at a base price estimated at \$2,002,500.00. The company charged with maintaining this system was then named the Johnson City Power Board.

During its first year of operation the Johnson City Power Board served a total of 9,778 customers and purchased a total of \$219,139.99 worth of electricity from the TVA. Our most recent financial figures show that the JCPB purchased \$149,709,194.13 worth of electricity from the TVA in order to serve its 75,072 metered customers.

**Our mission as a power distributor is to be recognized by our customers, non-customers, and competitors as the leading energy and energy services provider in the region. We will: Seek out, understand, and act upon our customers' needs; Provide the highest quality energy and services at the lowest possible rates; Conduct all business with integrity and honesty; Promote and support economic development programs for the benefit of all.**

## **BIOGRAPHY**

### **Homer D. G'Fellers, President and Chief Executive Officer**

Homer G'Fellers began his career at the Johnson City Power Board as a Meter Reader in October of 1974. Since that time, he has devoted himself to the betterment of our company and community. Mr. G'Fellers has indulged several opportunities to serve in various capacities during his tenure with the JCPB. These include Meter Reader, Assistant Stock Keeper, General Accountant, Assistant Finance Manager, and Manager of Marketing and Customer Relations. His exceptionally well rounded work experience has empowered Mr. G'Fellers with an intricate understanding of every aspect of operations at the JCPB making him an invaluable resource to our Board of Directors and employees.

Above and beyond his devotion to the JCPB, Mr. G'Fellers has remained an advocate for our community's advancement and well-being. Through the years, he has facilitated the development of a wide variety of programs designed to address the needs of our regions' population and remains active in several civic, church, and other organizations. A native of Jonesborough, Tennessee, Mr. G'Fellers has shared his passion for local politics having served the Town of Jonesborough as both an Alderman and Mayor. Oversight of one of our local governments has allowed Mr. G'Fellers the opportunity to deepen his understanding of the interdependence of the complex operations supporting our community. Mr. G'Fellers also represents the Johnson City Power Board through participation in the following:

- East Tennessee State University Foundation
- Johnson City Senior Center Foundation
- Johnson City/ Jonesborough/ Washington County Economic Development Board
- Network Partnership Sullivan County
- Northeast Tennessee Valley Industrial Development Association
- Secretary/ Treasurer for Tennessee Municipal Electric Power Association

Mr. G'Fellers is an active member of First Baptist Church in Jonesborough where he teaches Sunday school and operates their house audio system. He and his wife Regina G'Fellers spend their spare time trying to keep up with their four grandchildren. The two enjoy spending their time outdoors and delight in golfing, walking, and camping together.

## **BIOGRAPHY**

### **Brent Kitzmiller, Chief Financial Officer**

As a longtime resident of northeast Tennessee, Brent Kitzmiller serves as Chief Financial Officer at the Johnson City Power Board. He graduated from King College with a Bachelor's of Business Administration with a concentration in accounting.

Hired by the JCPB in 2008, Mr. Kitzmiller boasts a wealth of experience derived from over twenty years within the electric utility industry. From 1988 through 2003, he worked for Bristol Tennessee Electric System (BTES), attaining the position of Director of Accounting and Finance. Following that time, he served as Manager of Finance and Accounting at Newport Utilities in Newport, Tennessee.

Mr. Kitzmiller is certified by the Tennessee Valley Public Power Association as a Certified Power Executive and demonstrates an exceptional work ethic and drive to succeed. Brent Kitzmiller's also serves on Supervisory Committee of BTES Credit Union, as President of Eastern District Power Accountants, and received the BTES Personal Service Award.

Mr. Kitzmiller is very active within our community. His community involvement includes serving in the following capacities:

- Vice-President, United Way of Bristol 2002
- Board of Directors, Bristol Host Lions Club 2001 – 2003
- United Way of Bristol, Executive Committee 1997 – 2003
- Treasurer, Bristol Public Library 1997 – 2001
- Board of Directors, Junior Achievement 1994 – 2000
- Board of Examiners, Tennessee Quality Award 1996 – 1997
- Chairman, Bristol United Way Audit Committee 1994
- Chairman, Bristol United Way Training Committee 1995
- Ambassador, Bristol Chamber of Commerce 1992
- Graduate, Bristol Leadership Tomorrow 1991

In his personal time, Mr. Kitzmiller enjoys traveling, sports, and coaching Little League.

## BIOGRAPHY

### Mark Eades, Chief Operations Officer

A Johnson City, Tennessee native, Mark Eades graduated from Tennessee Technological University in 1984 with a B.S. in Electrical Engineering. He began his career with the Johnson City Power Board shortly thereafter in 1986 as an Electrical Engineer. Mark's enthusiasm and ambition allowed him to grow within the Engineering arm of the JCPB's operations. He has since worked as a Planning Engineer, Manager of Engineering, and currently serves as our Chief Operations Officer. This position charges him with oversight of the Engineering, Construction, Service, Purchasing and Warehouse, and Marketing departments.

During his tenure with the JCPB, Mr. Eades has acquired certification from the Tennessee Valley Public Power Association (TVPPA) as a Certified Power Executive. In addition to his efforts to further his development within the electric industry, Mark has remained active within our community through participation in such organizations as:

- The United Way of Washington County, Tennessee, Inc. Campaign Chair 2007; Board of Directors
- Johnson City Federal Credit Union Board of Directors
- Johnson City, Jonesborough, and Washington County Chamber of Commerce Leadership 2015
- Northeast Tennessee Technology Council Board of Directors

Mr. Eades and his family are active members of Central Baptist Church in Johnson City. To relax, he enjoys traveling with his family, fly-fishing, and golfing.



## BIOGRAPHY

### Robert Lynn White, Chief Public Relations Officer

After graduating from Science Hill High School, earning a B.B.A. in Operations Management from East Tennessee State University, and an M.B.A. from Milligan College, Robert White is a man who is thankful for what northeast Tennessee has given him. It is only fitting that he has devoted his career, thus far, to giving back to our community. As a twenty-four year veteran of the Johnson City Power Board, Mr. White has served in various roles during his tenure. His roles include Meter Reader, Assistant Stock keeper, Supervisor of Stores/Purchasing/Transportation, and Manager of Maintenance/Purchasing/Transportation. Robert currently serves as Chief Public Relations Officer, where he manages and oversees the Public/Community Relations and Customer Support departments.

Over the years, Mr. White has worked to develop his professional experience through earning such accolades as TVPPA Advanced Certified Power Executive, TVPPA Utility Marketing Certificate, and being involved in Utility Purchasing Management Group. He has also been awarded such honors as *40 under forty* by The Business Journal of Tri-Cities Tennessee/Virginia, *Leadership 2015* by the Johnson City Chamber of Commerce, the East Tennessee State University *Horizon Award*, and the East Tennessee State University *Award of Honor*.

Mr. White also gives his time as a public servant within our community. He currently serves on the board of directors for the Johnson City/ Jonesborough/ Washington Co. Economic Development Board, the Johnson City/ Jonesborough/ Washington Co. Chamber of Commerce, the United Way of Washington County, Tennessee, Inc., the Johnson City Development Authority, Boys and Girls Club of Johnson City/Washington County, SunTrust Bank, and the E.T.S.U. Foundation. Mr. White served as Chairman of the Johnson City Regional Planning Commission. In 2005, he was appointed by Governor Phil Bredesen to serve on the Tennessee Commission on National and Community Service (Volunteer Tennessee). In 2007, Mr. White was appointed by Governor Phil Bredesen to serve on the Tennessee Higher Education Commission (THEC). THEC serves as the coordinating body for the 51 public colleges, universities, and technology centers, which collectively educate approximately 225,000 students.

During Mr. White's free time he enjoys working out, watching sports, playing tennis, and listening to music. He has the opportunity to be a devoted husband and is a father to his son.

## BIOGRAPHY

### Rodney Metcalf, Associate Chief Operations Officer

As Associate Chief Operations Officer, Mr. Metcalf has proven to be a tremendous asset to the Johnson City Power Board. In 2003, he graduated Summa Cum Laude with an Associate's Degree in Electrical Technology. From there, Mr. Metcalf went on to earn a Bachelor Degree in Business in 2005, graduating Magna Cum Laude. He brings a blend of experience and education that would be valued by any public utility.

Mr. Metcalf's abundance of experience within the power industry includes two years as a Southeastern Line Construction Apprenticeship Training Instructor and four years as President of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Union (IBEW). He is a certified Class A Journeyman Lineman as well as a licensed electrician. Mr. Metcalf spent four years in Apprenticeship Lineman Training and an additional one year in Advanced Lineman Training.

Mr. Metcalf's community participation includes:

- Board member of Lamar Baseball and Smoky Mountain Athletics
- Member of the Chamber of Commerce Governmental Relations Council

Mr. Metcalf is an active member of Lighthouse Missionary Baptist Church with past experience as a youth leader. He is a husband and father who is dedicated to his family. In his free time, Mr. Metcalf enjoys fishing, hunting, and other outdoor activities. He also coaches baseball, basketball, football, and girls softball.



## BIOGRAPHY

### **Eric J. Egan, Technology Resource Officer**

A long time resident of Northeast Tennessee, Eric Egan received a B.A. in History for Teacher Licensure from Maryville College in 1994. As the Technology Resource Officer at the JCPB, he is charged with providing leadership for technology related projects, serving as the technology liaison to the Board of Directors, and researching opportunities to use technology to better serve our customers. Prior to coming to the JCPB in 2010, Mr. Egan gained over thirteen years of diverse experience in technical training, technology applications, and customer service with more than ten years in the wireless telecommunications industry.

While with the State of Tennessee Department of Human Services, Mr. Egan participated in the development and implementation of the State's EBT customer and employee training program. During his nine years with Nextel/Sprint, he delivered training for business customers, served as the lead for the Customer Satisfaction Committee as well as the Mid-South liaison for the national Service and Repair Depot. His last six years with Nextel/Sprint were as a Cell Site Technician, and he was responsible for cell site installation, configuration, and maintenance in the Northeast Tennessee and Southwest Virginia areas. Additionally, he served as a first responder for network recovery efforts following hurricanes and ice storms.

Mr. Egan is a current participant in the Johnson City, Jonesborough, and Washington County Chamber of Commerce Leadership 2015 program and is looking forward to future opportunities to serve our community.

During his free time, Mr. Egan enjoys playing golf, traveling, and spending time with his wife and two children.



## FACTS & PHOTOS

**Facility:** Johnson City Power Board services an area of approximately 357 square miles, consisting of over 75,000 customers. This makes us the 10<sup>th</sup> largest public utility within the TVA system.

**Board of Directors:** Johnson City Power Board is under the supervision of an eight member Board of Directors. The Johnson City Board of Commissioners appoints five members; the Washington County Board of commissioners appoints two members; and the Jonesborough Board of Mayor and Alderman appoints one member to the board.



**Employees:** As of December 31, 2009, 178 employees worked for the Johnson City Power Board. JCPB houses various departments including administration, general accounting, billing, information technology, public/community relations, customer support, human resources, safety and environment, engineering, construction, service, metering, energy services and marketing, and purchasing and physical plant.

**Community:** Johnson City Power Board participates in activities that benefit local community programs. JCPB employees are regular contributors to The Special Olympics and The Nyswonger Children's Hospital. JCPB also partners with East Tennessee State University to recruit Co-Ops and Interns to work in various capacities throughout the company, thereby giving students an opportunity to gain real-world work experience.



In order to give back to the community, JCPB offers a billing option which enables JCPB customers to donate to the United Way's Heissee Johnson Hand Up Program to help less fortunate families pay their electric bills.

## CONTACT

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