

*Celebrating* **75** *Years of Service*



*A Powerful Past,  
a Glowing Future*

# GDE Data for Fiscal Year 2014

<i>Total Customers:</i>	<i>16,989</i>
<i>Residential Customers:</i>	<i>14,325</i>
<i>General Power Customers:</i>	<i>2,664</i>

<i>Average Residential Usage:</i>	<i>1,218 kWh</i>
-----------------------------------	------------------

<i>Average Residential Bill:</i>	<i>\$110.62</i>
----------------------------------	-----------------

<i>Miles of Line:</i>	<i>405</i>
-----------------------	------------





**Mark Kimbell**  
*GDE General Manager*

Many of the electric systems in the Tennessee Valley were formed in the 1930's as part of the efforts by President Franklin Roosevelt to get the United States out of the Great Depression. Gallatin purchased the electric system back from the Kentucky-Tennessee Light and Power Company in 1939. The 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Gallatin Department of Electricity (GDE) was February 22<sup>nd</sup> of this year. What a great time to sit back and think of all the effort that has gone into making the Electric Department the well-run company that it is today.

Keeping the lights on can be a challenge at times, but with dedicated employees, past and present, GDE has done a great job over the years of doing just that. Ice storms, tornadoes, heat, cold, thunderstorms, flooding, squirrels, snakes, tree growth and the like are all examples of challenges that employees have battled. Electric Linemen are a special breed of individuals that brave all elements to keep the power on. Long hours, bad weather, rough terrain, disgruntled customers and a dangerous work environment are some of the things that linemen deal with day to day. We all owe a special thanks to the linemen of GDE for doing their best to keep the power flowing.

Just as important and often overlooked are the Office Staff that work with customers and their problems or issues to be sure that the bills are paid and their lights stay on. It is truly amazing to watch what the Staff deals with on a daily basis and how they keep their composure while talking with customers about all kinds of issues. Engineers, Meter techs, Stores Clerks and others all deal with customers and are an integral part of the service that the Department provides. GDE has many employees with longtime tenure and know their job well and the challenges that go with it.

GDE employees are dedicated to providing the best possible service at the least possible price. Past managers and the Power Board have played a large role in this with great fiscal management. GDE has had only four managers to date. Mr. L.D. Hix, Mr. William Parker, and Mr. William Draper are the past managers that gave us their all by providing great service to the people of Gallatin. Fiscal responsibility, while holding the rates as low as possible, has been a theme from the beginning and we have a lot to be thankful for due to all of the efforts of past management. Gallatin still has some of the lowest electric rates in the Tennessee Valley.

I feel very blessed to be the fourth manager that the Gallatin Department of Electricity has ever had and blessed with the great examples of leaders that have come before me. I feel blessed that we have such a great group of dedicated employees that will give their all to keep the electricity flowing to the citizens of Gallatin. I feel blessed to have a great Power Board that is concerned about the welfare and overall operation of the Department. I feel blessed to look back in time and realize that 75 years ago our City Fathers saw fit to purchase the electric system so that we would have the benefit of it today. We owe a lot of our quality of life to electricity and I feel blessed to be a part of that service to the people of Gallatin. I think you should feel blessed too!

## Past Superintendents

In the 75 year history of the Gallatin Department of Electricity (GDE), there have only been four Superintendents/General Managers. Below are the three Past Superintendents who were GDE's visionaries for 73 plus years. GDE has been fortunate to have dedicated, dependable and trustworthy leadership at the helm through the ages. Thank you for your service to the citizens of Gallatin!

*73 Years of Service  
to the Citizens of Gallatin*



**L. D. Hix**

First Superintendent of GDE  
1939- 1959



**W. N. Parker**

Superintendent  
1960 - 1986

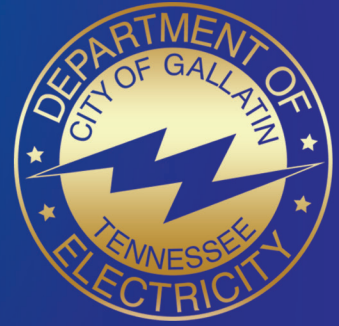


**William Draper**

Manager  
1986 - 2013

# The Gallatin Department of Electricity (GDE)

## *Power Board Members*



**ED MAYBERRY**  
Power Board Member

**T**he Power Board is made up of citizens just like you. GDE does not have stockholders who are looking for a big return on their shares of stock. GDE is governed by local people with your best interest and the electric system's best interest at heart.

One of the basic qualifications for serving on the board is they must live in the service area of Gallatin. The Power Board consists of two members with a fixed

term and a third member from the City Council. Power Board members are appointed by the Mayor and approved by the City Council. A member whose term expires may be re-appointed for subsequent terms.



**STANLEY CARVER**  
Power Board Member

Power Board members are charged with the decision making and oversight of the department. They are responsible for working with GDE's management to set policies and procedures and monitor business performance, risk assessment and legal obligations for the electric department.



**ALBERT BENNETT**  
Power Board Member

GDE has been fortunate over the years to have strong, fiscally responsible, business minded and dedicated professionals as Power Board Members. The three members listed here take seriously the duties and obligations of their position. They, like the Power Board Members before them, are rooted in the belief that demonstrating fairness, sincerity and integrity along with sound business practices will allow GDE to grow and prosper for many years to come.

GDE retains Attorney Mark Smith from Kelly & Smith Law Offices as the Power Board Attorney. Mr. Smith attends monthly Power Board meetings and advises the Board concerning legal matters. Mr. Smith also counsels management regarding customer legal issues, bankruptcies, annexations and estate collections. He has been GDE's attorney since November 1990.



**MARK SMITH**  
Power Board Attorney

# Past and Current *Power Board Members*

## **Council Members**

Frank Seay	1949 – 1952
Ottis Kemp	1952 – 1962
Townes B. Johnson	1962 – 1966
I.C. Brown	1966 – 1970
Richard Fenker	1970 – 1982
Anne Kemp	1982 – 1986
Tommy Garrott	1986 – 1990
Dr. Deotha Malone	1990 – 2005
Edward Mayberry	2005 - Present

## **Board Members**

Robert Mayberry	1949 – 1962
W. P. Puryear	1949 – 1952
A. B. Perkins	1952 – 1964
Dr. John Wallace	1962 – 1967
T. B. Perkins	1966 – 1976
Fount Lyles	1967 – 1971
Dr. John Wallace	1971 – 1983
Tony Alexander	1976 – 1977
Leslie C. Bates	1977 – 1979
John R. Phillips	1979 - 1985
Haynes Sloan	1983 – 1987
Dr. John Wallace	1985 – 1998
John R. Phillips	1987 – 1995
Anne Kemp	1995 – 2000
John R. Phillips	1998 – 2005
Edward Mayberry	2000 – 2005
L.A. Green	2005 – 2014
Albert Bennett	2005 – Present
Stanley Carver	2014 – Present



**In 1999, TVA presented GDE's Power Board and Management a plaque for 60 years of association.**

### ***Pictured left to right:***

*Roland Streeter, TVA; Anne Kemp, GDE Board Member; Dr. Deotha Malone, GDE Board Member; John R. Phillips, GDE Board Chairman; Dick Tallent, TVA; William Draper, GDE Manager and Cindy Stoker, TVA.*



**Regular scheduled Power Board Meeting July 23, 2014.**

### ***Picture left to right:***

*Albert Bennett, Board Member; Rita Simpson, Board Secretary; Edward Mayberry, Board Chairman; Mark Smith, Board Attorney; Mark Kimbell, GDE General Manager and Stanley Carver, Board Member.*

# The Past, Present and Future of the *Gallatin Department of Electricity (GDE)*

In 1898, there were many historical events taking place in America. The sinking of the USS Maine off the Coast of Havana killing 266 men which indirectly resulted in the beginning of the Spanish-American War, the annexation of the Hawaiian Islands, the Portland Gale storm that struck the coast of New England killing more than 400 people and changing the course of the North River and the Treaty of Paris which was signed, ending the Spanish-American War. Those were note-worthy events for the history books but for the citizens of Gallatin another epic historical event was taking place. City officials were working to secure an electrical system! After months of research and consideration, an ordinance was passed on October 5, 1899, for the issuance of bonds to build an electric plant to light the City of Gallatin.



**GDE Power House off South Water Avenue**

The next 12 years were a period of growth and a steady increase in demand which made it necessary in 1911 to expand the generation capacity by building a new power plant. The city purchased property adjoining the L & N Railroad off South Water Avenue for \$400. The new power plant went into operation in 1912. Today, that building is referred to as the "Old Power House" and is still used by the Gallatin Department of Electricity (GDE) for storage.

Mr. L.D. Hix was appointed Superintendent in 1919. During the early days of his tenure, city officials began to discuss the possibility of selling the municipal electric system to a private power company.

In 1927, the Board of Aldermen accepted an offer from Kentucky-Tennessee Light and Power Company to purchase the system for \$110,000. After 27 years of operation, the city electric department became a private power company. Mr. Hix was retained as the Superintendent; a position he held until December 1959.

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) was created by an act of Congress on May 19, 1933. TVA began supplying power to the Tennessee Valley and neighboring utilities. After TVA was established, city officials again became interested in the City of Gallatin owning their own electrical distribution system. City officials submitted a proposition to the citizens of Gallatin to purchase the electrical system back from Kentucky-Tennessee Light and Power Company. The proposition passed with a vote of 569 for and 34 against. In 1938, the mayor and

October 1898,  
city officials  
pass an  
ordinance to  
build an electric  
plant

1911 the city  
purchased  
property off S.  
Water Ave. to  
build a new  
power plant

Mr. L.D. Hix  
was appointed  
Superintendent in  
1919

1927 Kentucky-  
Tennessee Light  
and Power Co.  
purchased the  
electric dept. from  
the city

May 1933, TVA  
was established  
by an act of  
Congress

# The Past, Present and Future of the *Gallatin Department of Electricity (GDE)*

recorder signed a contract with TVA to purchase power for the city. Kentucky-Tennessee Power and Light Company accepted an offer from the city in 1939 to purchase back the electric department for \$150,000.

The Gallatin Department of Electricity (GDE) was once again owned by the city and a new era was taking shape. In January 1941, the city purchased the Dismukes property (in the area of where the current Chamber of Commerce is located) on West Main Street to house the offices of the electric department. A few years later, a warehouse was added to the back of the building.

In 1948, city officials felt it important to create a Power Board. The Power Board was to be the supervisory body of the electric system. The Power Board consists of two members with a fixed term and a third member from the city council. Power Board members are appointed by the Mayor and approved by the City Council. The first board was composed of W. P. Puryear, Jr., R.G. Mayberry and Frank Seay.



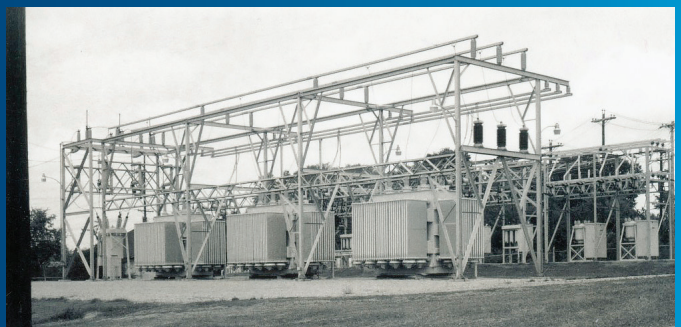
**GDE Breaks Ground on Property for New Office Building**

As Gallatin grew, it became necessary for GDE to hire a full-time engineer. William N. Parker was hired to fill the position of engineer in 1957. Soon after his hiring, Superintendent Hix announced he would retire in October 1959. Mr. Parker was appointed Superintendent in January 1960.

GDE quickly outgrew the offices and warehouse on West Main Street and in 1965 the city purchased property on Jones Street to locate a new office and warehouse. The new building was completed in 1967. GDE's offices and warehouse are still located on the Jones Street property today.

Growth, growth, growth! Gallatin was growing at a fast pace and becoming a hub for new industry. Because of this growth and expansion of the city limits through annexation, GDE felt a new substation was needed to add capacity to the existing system. In 1970, the City Substation was completed on the Jones Street property near the operations building.

Over the next several years, computers were incorporated into the business world. GDE began advancing in technology with on-line computer systems, electronic meter reading and a customer billing service.



**GDE Builds the City Substation on Jones Street**

1938 the city signed a contract to purchase power from TVA

1939, Kentucky-Tennessee Light and Power Co. sold the electric system back to the city

1948 the city created a Power Board

1959 Superintendent Hix retires and W.N. Parker is appointed Superintendent in 1960

1965 the city purchased property on Jones St. to house the electric dept. That building was completed in 1967

# The Past, Present and Future of the *Gallatin Department of Electricity (GDE)*



The Parker-Hix East Substation was dedicated in August 1997. Pictured L – R.: Dorothy Cresap, daughter of Mr. L.D. Hix, Dr. John Wallace, Power Board Chairman and W.N. Parker, Past Superintendent

In 1980, the Power Board approved GDE entering into a lease-purchase agreement with TVA to acquire the 13 kV portion of the Woodsferry Road Substation. Purchasing that additional capacity delayed GDE's need to build a new substation. In October 1985, Superintendent Parker presented the Power Board a Lease and Amendatory Agreement from TVA covering arrangements for GDE and Cumberland Electric Membership Corporation (CEMC) to acquire TVA's 161 kV section of the Woodsferry Road Substation.

In 1986, after 29 years of service with GDE, Superintendent Parker announced his retirement. That same year, the Power Board appointed William Draper, as Superintendent. Prior to his appointment as Superintendent, Mr. Draper served 14 years as GDE's Engineer.

With the acquisition of the Woodsferry Road Substation complete, GDE was able to phase out three out-of-date and small substations in

1994. The Gray Street, Smith Street and Red River Road substation's equipment was removed and the properties were turned over to the city for their disposal.

In April 1994, as a service to the citizens of Gallatin, GDE began participation in the Tennessee Electrical Inspection Program as an Electrical Permit Issue Agent. GDE began issuing permits to qualified homeowners and electrical contractors. GDE still issues state electrical permits today.

In July 1997, the Parker-Hix 161/13 kV East Substation was energized. A dedication ceremony and ribbon cutting was held in August 1997. The new substation was located on an easement provided by R.R. Donnelley on Steam Plant Road. Today, the Parker-Hix East Substation is a viable and intricate component of GDE's operating system.

Due to increasing load in West Gallatin, like the construction of the Walmart Super Center, the upcoming GAP Distribution Center expansion, construction of the O'Charley's Restaurant, Volunteer State Community College expansions, the construction of new apartment complexes and proposed new apartment complexes and annexations, GDE began searching for property suitable to build a new substation. The L.A. Green property behind the Toyota dealership was an ideal match for GDE's requirements and in January 2000, the 161/13 kV West Substation was energized.

1986 W.N. Parker retired and William Draper was appointed Superintendent

July 1997, the Parker/Hix East Substation was energized

January 2000, the West Substation was energized

# The Past, Present and Future of the *Gallatin Department of Electricity (GDE)*



**2006 Category 3 Tornado hits Gallatin**

Friday, April 7, 2006, 2:20 P.M. a deadly Category 3 tornado ripped through Gallatin, leaving a path of destruction, turmoil and loss of electricity to the entire city. GDE's line crew, along with crews from Murfreesboro Electric Department, Clarksville Department of Electricity and Groves Contractors, worked around the clock to restore power. Of the 13,500 customers who lost power, 10,000 had their power restored by midnight. With the exception of 30 to 50 customers, all customers whose homes and businesses were not damaged beyond repair were back on by Sunday night. The total cost to GDE was approximately \$700,000.

Due to the city annexing some large areas in West Gallatin and the spurring growth in the Station Camp Road area, it was essential for GDE to build a new substation between Nashville Pike and the 386 By-pass. The 161/13 kV Station Camp Substation

was energized in November 2007. The newest of GDE's substations has reinforced GDE's reliability in that area.

Superintendent Draper informed the Power Board in May 2012 that he would be retiring in April 2013. Mark Kimbell, a former engineer at GDE from 1988 until 1999 and the current Chief Engineer at Murfreesboro Electric Department, was hired back in August 2013 as Assistant Manager. At the March 2013 Power Board meeting, Mark Kimbell was unanimously approved as the General Manager of GDE.

GM Kimbell entered into GDE's first big project since being name General Manager with the initiation of fiber optic communication project. Installation of fiber will allow GDE to install a SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) system which will enable GDE employees to communicate with all of the department's remote substations and substation equipment from the office. The first phase was completed in 2014 which was pulling the fiber from GDE's office to the West Substation near Volunteer State Community College. The second phase, scheduled to begin in late 2014, will include fiber from the West Substation to the Station Camp Substation. The other stages consist of a fiber loop around Gallatin to all substations and back to the office. The project is expected to take about five years to complete.

There are many changes expected at GDE over the next few years, especially with the growth and development of Gallatin. Gallatin's Industrial Park has attracted many new industries which at some point will facilitate the need for a new 161/12.47 kV substation on the east side of Gallatin. Other future capital projects include: a new 161/69 kV transformer and breaker at the East Substation, updating and upgrading the Gallatin Primary Substation on Woodsferry Road, expansion of GDE's truck bays to accommodate larger trucks, expansion of GDE's current warehouse and a prepaid metering service.

April 7, 2006, a deadly tornado ripped through Gallatin causing GDE to lose power to the City

April 2013, Superintendent William Draper retires, Mark Kimbell becomes the 4th General Manager of GDE

2014 GDE completed the first phase of the fiber optic communication project

As the Gallatin Department of Electricity celebrates our 75th Anniversary, we look back at the past and relish in all of the accomplishments and wisdom of our former leaders. We take pride in the fact that GDE has historically retained some of the lowest residential rates in the Tennessee Valley region. We are comforted in knowing that GDE employees strive to provide the citizens of Gallatin with a valuable service. It is an honor to be given the opportunity to serve you!

# Gallatin Department of Electricity (GDE) *Employees*

**F**our-hundred and eighty-eight years of service. That is the amount of time our 30 full-time employees have served the citizens of Gallatin. Whether it is a routine day at work or handling an emergency after hours, good customer service is important to the employees at GDE. Our employees are loyal, caring and dedicated to providing the most reliable service at the least possible cost.

Work at GDE is never done! As Gallatin grows, new services and new facilities will always be needed. Continuous improvement is the key to dependable electricity and quality customer service. In order to provide more enhanced services, GDE employees are continually taking on new tasks and learning new skills. Our goal is to make it easy for customers to do business with us.

As we pay tribute to the Gallatin Department of Electricity for 75 years of service to the community, we would like to introduce you to the backbone of this company, our employees!



**Brian Kovach**  
Office Manager

**B**rian came to work at GDE in September 2006. He oversees the day to day operations of the office including managing and assisting the office staff, inputting and verifying rates in the billing system, and miscellaneous IT duties.

**R**ita has been employed at GDE since November 1987. She works directly with the General Manager and Office Manager preparing reports, and assisting the General Manager in human resources. She also takes and transcribes the Power Board minutes each month.



**Rita Simpson**  
Administrative Assistant &  
Power Board Secretary



**Casey Byrd**  
Accountant

**C**asey came to work at GDE in September 2006. He is in charge of preparing payroll and tax records, processing work orders, preparing GDE's financial statements and annual report and working with the auditors.

**S**tan has been employed at GDE since June 1987. He is responsible for maintaining the warehouse, purchasing and receiving materials and distributing materials to the crew.



**Stan Weese**  
Purchasing Agent

# GDE's *Cashiers And Customer Service Employees*

**G**DE's Cashiers are the first people you will see when you come into the office. They collect bill payments, process new service applications, handle service transfers, issue electrical permits and field customers' inquiries.



**Donna Jenkins, Head Cashier**  
*Employed by GDE November 1993*



**Sandra Carey, Cashier**  
*Employed by GDE June 2001*



**Karen Tenpenny, Cashier**  
*Employed by GDE March 2006*



**Shannon Billingsley, Cashier**  
*Employed by GDE March 2005*

The Customer Service Staff are mostly likely the first people you will speak with when you call the office. They handle customer billing, selecting meter routes for billing, entering monthly commercial and industrial meter readings, setting up accounts on bank draft, tracking and collecting bad debts, and assisting cashiers at the front counter when needed.



**M**elody Lauderdale, *Customer Service Supervisor*  
Employed by GDE October 1986

**D**ebbie Bradley, *Customer Service Representative*  
Employed by GDE August 2007



**S**uzanne Taylor, *Customer Service Representative*  
Employed by GDE June 1994



**S**usan Gregory, *Customer Service Representative*  
Employed by GDE March 1987





**M**ary Lou Gillihan, *Part-time Cashier*  
*Customer Service Representative*

Mary Lou was originally employed by GDE in September 1974 and worked for about 17 years. After a long absence, she came back to work part-time in 2003. Mary Lou is a Floater who fills in where needed in the customer service area.



**G**ayla Templeton, *Part-time Cashier*  
*Customer Service Representative*

Gayla was employed by GDE full-time for eight years before going to a part-time position in 2001. Gayla is a Floater and can manage most duties in the cashier area and customer service area.



**GDE's  
Cashier Staff**

**GDE's  
Customer  
Service and  
Part-Time  
Staff**





**Mike Taylor**  
*Engineer*

Mike has been employed with GDE since July 1999. Brandon was employed in May 2007. They are responsible for the design and engineering of GDE's electrical facilities. Other duties include working with residential and commercial customers to determine their electrical needs, reviewing and appraising the electric system and load growth to assure adequate service to customers. They also work with the crew scheduling outages and street and security light repairs as well as working on GDE's fiber optic project.



**Brandon Hesson**  
*Engineer*



**Troy Dawes,**  
*Meter Serviceman*

Troy came to work for GDE in December 1998 as a Meter Reader but later moved into the role of Meter Serviceman. Troy is responsible for installing and removing meters as requested by customers. He also helps out with reading the industrial and commercial meters.



**Richard Pryor,**  
*Meter Technician*



**Richard Key,**  
*Groundman, Assistant Meter Serviceman  
and Maintenance*

Richard's official title is Groundman but he also assists the meter serviceman as needed. In addition, he helps to maintain GDE's office building. Richard has been employed since October 1977.

Richard came to work for GDE in April 1977. He installs and maintains meters and substation equipment, installs industrial and commercial meters and handles miscellaneous IT duties in GDE's office.



**R**on Johnson, *Line Crew Foreman*

Ron supervises GDE's outside crews including our contracted tree trimmers. He schedules and supervises the construction and maintenance crews, is responsible for building and maintaining the electric distribution system and oversees the prompt restoration of service during an outage. Ron has been employed with GDE since July 1980.



**S**tan Duffer  
*Working Line Foreman*

Stan and Brandon supervise designated line crews and assists the Line Foreman as needed. They perform all duties assigned to Journeyman Lineman, ensure proper compliance with work specifications and aid in training Apprentice Lineman and Groundman. Stan has been with GDE since April 1979 and Brandon has been with GDE since May 2003.



**B**randon Barlow  
*Working Line Foreman*



The Gallatin Department of Electricity's *Line Crew and Supervisors*

**GDE's line crew consists of Journeyman Lineman, Apprentice Lineman and Groundman.**

## **Journeyman Lineman**

The duties of the Journeyman Lineman are to construct, operate and maintain GDE's electric distribution system. They work on energized lines, assemble daily materials, build units, set poles, install conductors and mount and connect transformers. A Journeyman Lineman must also know and observe all applicable safety rules, practices and regulations, have a working knowledge of the electrical system and substation operations and procedures and assist in training the Apprentice Lineman and Groundman.



**Mickey Gould**  
*Journeyman Lineman*  
*Employed by GDE July 2006*



**Kevin Hauskins**  
*Journeyman Lineman*  
*Employed by GDE Sept. 2005*



**Gary Guinan**  
*Journeyman Lineman*  
*Employed by GDE April 2007*



**Matt Huffines**  
*Journeyman Lineman*  
*Employed by GDE Sept. 2012*

## **A**pprentice Lineman

The duties of an Apprentice Lineman are to learn the construction, operation and maintenance of GDE's electric distribution system. The Apprentice Lineman will work in four classifications to prepare and train them for a Journeyman Lineman position. The duties of the Apprentice Lineman depend on the experience level, qualification by examination and capabilities of the individual apprentice. An Apprentice Lineman performs many of the same duties as a Journeyman Lineman with the proper supervision.

## **G**roundman

The Groundman's position is to assist the lineman in distribution line construction and maintenance by the performance of duties that are carried out from the ground and do not require the skills of a trained lineman. The Groundman assembles daily materials, builds units, assists in setting poles, buries anchors, installs conductors and transformers, clears right-of-ways and performs truck maintenance.



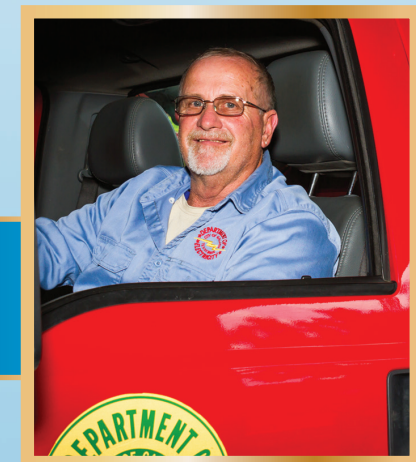
**Ben Thornton**  
*4th Year Apprentice Lineman  
Employed by GDE Sept. 2012*



**Andy Farough**  
*2nd Year Apprentice Lineman  
Employed by GDE Sept. 2013*



**Jacob Carver**  
*3rd Year Apprentice Lineman  
Employed by GDE Sept. 2013*



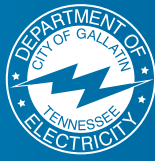
**David Barnes**  
*Groundman  
Employed by GDE Feb. 1978*



**Back:** C. Profitt, T. Hiett, G. Reed  
**Front:** F. Meader, J. Bailey, B. Adams, B. Howell,  
 S. Perry, M. Armstrong



**Left to Right:**  
 James Smith, Randall Farley, Joe Bailey, David Barnes,  
 Richard Key, John Thomas, David Baker, Stan Duffer and  
 Troy Smalling



**Gallatin Department of Electricity**

PO Box 1555

Gallatin, TN 37066-1555