

Along these **LINES**

MARCH/APRIL 2020



DEMCO Annual Meeting & Expo

Saturday, May 9 • Expo begins at 8 a.m. • Annual Meeting begins at 10 a.m.

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MEMBERS: Register at DEMCO.org
See page 20 for details.



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Local Lawmakers Play Key Role to Help Our Rural Communities

Washington politics have become so polarized it can be tough for Democrats and Republicans to come together to tackle big challenges. But that's exactly what happened recently on Capitol Hill thanks to dedicated lawmakers like our senators and representatives from Louisiana.

I want to personally thank Rep. Cedric Richmond (D-LA-2), Rep. Mike Johnson (R-LA-4), Rep. Ralph Lee Abraham (R-LA-5) and Rep. Clay Higgins (R-LA-3) for cosponsoring the Revitalizing Underdeveloped Rural Areas and Lands (RURAL) Act. In addition to these representatives, I also want to thank Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA), Sen. John Kennedy (R-LA), Rep. Garret Graves (R-LA-6) and Rep. Steve Scalise (R-LA-1) for supporting this bill and helping pass it into law.

These senators and representatives listened to thousands of electric cooperative stakeholders as they fought tirelessly to add important legislation to the 2020 spending bill. The bill was signed into law in December, and included a provision known as the RURAL Act, which solved a central issue for electric co-ops and America's rural communities.

Electric co-ops work to secure government grants to help pay for numerous activities that benefit the communities they serve. These include grants for storm recovery, broadband deployment, renewable energy and economic development.

To maintain their tax-exempt status, co-ops can receive no more than 15% of their income from nonmember sources. Historically, government grants to co-ops were counted as contributions to capital. Due to a glitch in the 2017 tax law, government grants were reclassified as income, pushing some co-ops beyond the 15% threshold and jeopardizing their tax-exempt status.

The tax problem left co-ops with an unfair choice: Do they take the money they need to turn the lights back on for their members as quickly as possible after a disaster? Do they accept the broadband grants to help close the digital divide between rural and urban America? Or do they turn down those grants so they don't have to spend their members' money paying taxes rather than improving service?

Thanks to Congress, electric co-ops



Jeff Arnold

across Louisiana don't have to make those tradeoffs.

This is good news for both co-ops

and their members because some co-ops would have had to raise electric rates to pay new taxes.

We at the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives are extremely grateful to our Louisiana senators and representatives for their support of the RURAL Act. In standing up for Louisiana's local communities, they proved Congress still works for the people.

Notably, the legislation drew the bipartisan support of more than 300 lawmakers in the House and more than half of the Senate. That's a rarity in Washington these days.

In today's fast-paced society, pausing to give thanks is done with increasing rarity. That's unfortunate. Thank you for looking out for rural communities across Louisiana, and thank you for working with us to solve this problem.

— ALEC CEO Jeff Arnold

Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives Inc.

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You Belong Here, and We Need You

Cooperatives count on their members' participation, page 6

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Mission

DEMCO is focused on enhancing the quality of life for members by providing safe, reliable and competitively priced energy services.

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Did you know the co-op business model is the same for DEMCO as it is for all types of co-ops? Chick-fil-A, Land O'Lakes and ACE Hardware are just a few of the better-known co-ops. Just like us, they are community-focused and exist solely to serve their co-op members.

As a DEMCO electric co-op member, you have access to safe, reliable and affordable electricity. These are the primary benefits of membership. Of note, Louisiana electricity rates have only seen a 3–4% increase in the past 50 years compared to the 1,000% increase in housing and 800% increase in gasoline. In addition to steady rates, DEMCO co-op members enjoy several other benefits.

First and foremost, DEMCO is community-focused. We work to enrich the lives of our members and their communities. Because we are a not-for-profit corporation, we do not have to pay dividends to shareholders. Instead, DEMCO continually invests in the communities we serve. Educating our youth about electrical safety is a great example of our commitment to community. See page 8 for details. (Account No. 03345702002)

DEMCO is guided by a locally elected board of directors. A 13-member board is elected to three-year terms to represent the membership of our seven-parish service area. Each is well-suited to meet the needs of the community because each resides in the parish they serve. They are your neighbors—in your parish—and are members just like you.

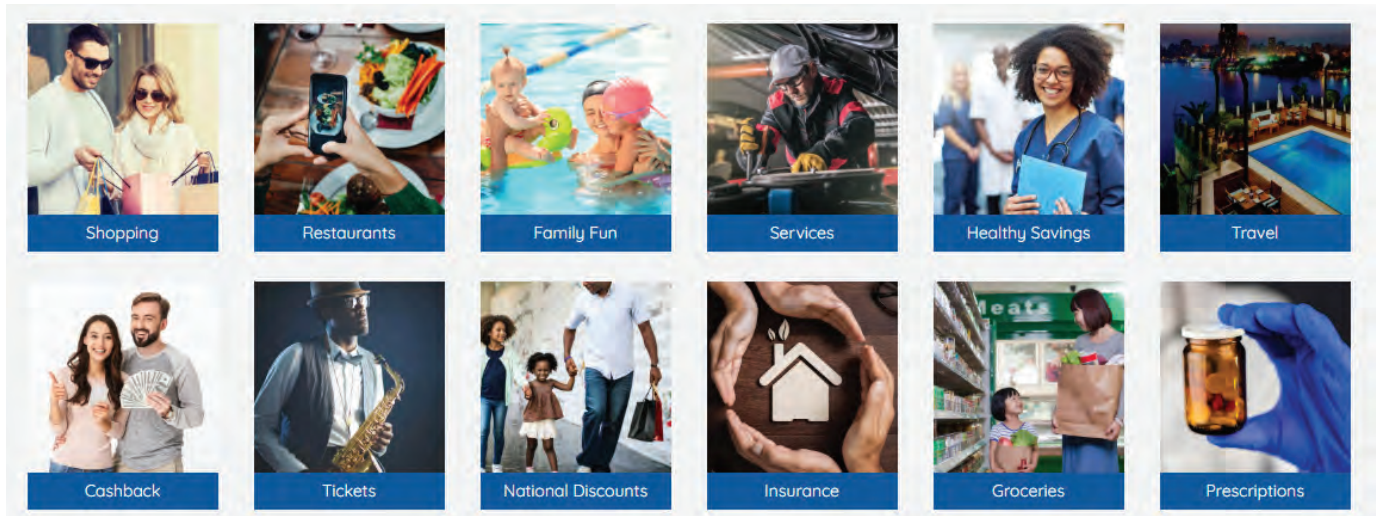
We rely on our board of directors to guide us, and we also want and need your input. DEMCO powers 112,000 meters, which serve an estimated half-million people. We want to hear from you—our members—because you each have valuable perspective. This year, I'm excited to announce that we will host an expo in conjunction with our annual membership meeting Saturday, May 9. See page 20 for details.

A new and substantial benefit I am thrilled to share is the DEMCO Touchstone Energy Cooperatives Co-op Connections program. Accessible by website and mobile app, Co-op Connections is an exclusive, free membership program for DEMCO co-op members that will connect you with incredible discounts on everyday expenses. I hope you will take advantage of this free program to enjoy local business deals on dining, retail and more; earn up to 20% cash back when you shop thousands of online retailers; and receive discounts on pharmaceutical, health and insurance. See details on page 5.

Please remember to save the date and join us at the DEMCO annual membership meeting and expo Saturday, May 9. Bring the family and enjoy the morning with us. It's going to be a lot of fun.

*Closed for Good Friday, April 10.
Wishing you all a Happy Easter!*

Co-op Connections



A free program for DEMCO members to access thousands of discounts

As a valued member of DEMCO, welcome to Co-op Connections! We're excited to provide you with this exclusive, free membership program that offers incredible discounts to DEMCO members on everyday expenses.

Accessible by website and smartphone, Co-op Connections offers local business deals on dining, retail and more.

Healthy savings discounts help members save more and live healthier, with discounts offered for pharmacy, dental, vision, diabetic supplies, hearing aids, lab work, MRI and CT imaging, and chiropractor visits.

Local and national discounts are offered for family fun, business services, travel, tickets, insurance, and groceries. Cashback mall

earns members up to 20% cash back when shopping at more than 2,000 online retailers. (Account No. 801119669002)

Start saving today. First, visit www.connections.coop to create a free account to have access to thousands of deals right at your fingertips. Next, simply download the free co-op connections app from the Google Play or Apple App store to your smart phone and log in to your account to start saving today!

It's so easy! View participating businesses through the mobile app and use coupons straight from your phone. One more way you benefit from being a DEMCO co-op member. This is not insurance.

For more information, visit DEMCO.org. ■



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DEMCO members who pay their bill by bank draft are eligible to win a \$50 gift card! Winning account numbers will be published in each issue of Along these LINES. Call 225-262-2160 to claim your prize.

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You Belong Here, and We Need You

A transformation is sweeping the nation as people rediscover the allure of small rural towns

A new energy is emerging in rural communities, alongside the affordability and down-to-earth values that have made small towns places people choose to build a better life for their families for generations.

These are the communities served by Louisiana's electric cooperatives—locally focused organizations that deliver affordable, reliable and sustainable energy to their members.

If you think of your co-op as the local electric company, you are partially right. But **you** are what makes your co-op unique.

Unlike energy companies that answer to outside investors driven to make a profit, electric co-ops are led by your friends and neighbors who understand and listen to you.

Built by local leaders who live here and have a long-term interest in seeing the community thrive, cooperatives have been shaped from day one to respond to the specific needs of you and your neighbors.

Co-ops work with economic development groups and city and parish leaders to improve

Seven Guiding Principles of Cooperatives

- ▶ **Voluntary and Open Membership.** Anyone willing to accept the responsibilities of membership can join.
- ▶ **Democratic Member Control.** Each member has one vote, and selects those who represent him.
- ▶ **Member Economic Participation.** Revenues in excess of operating costs are returned to members in proportion to their financial contribution.
- ▶ **Autonomy and Independence.** At all times, co-ops ensure members continue to control operations.
- ▶ **Education, Training and Information.** Members, employees and the community are taught about co-ops.
- ▶ **Cooperation Among Cooperatives.** Co-ops work together locally, regionally, nationally and internationally.
- ▶ **Concern for Community.** Co-ops work for the sustainable development of their communities.

the places we live and work.

“Electric cooperative employees work tirelessly not only to keep the lights on in their communities, they are also leaders in the places they serve,” says Addie Armato, director of member services and public relations for the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives. “Electric cooperatives have been a part of their communities for so long it is easy to forget how vital they are to the area.”

Every cooperative is as unique as the community that shaped it, adapting to respond to growth and change.

Local and independent, each co-op is part of a national network that works together to restore power after major outages, learns from one another, and pools their resources to develop new

technologies and infrastructure.

Collectively, electric co-ops bring electricity to one in eight Americans and more than 19 million homes, businesses, farms and schools in 48 states. Co-ops provide 71,000 great jobs, invest billions in local economies every year, and are a driving force in helping attract and grow business and industry in rural America.

But America's electric co-ops aren't just economic engines. They're innovators, developing new ways to take advantage of the technology that's changed the way we live, and looking for opportunities to help members save energy and money.

Louisiana's cooperatives donate to local charities such as the American Heart Association and American Cancer Society. They assist local churches



and schools, and donate lights for local ballparks. Each year, they send high school students to Washington, D.C., to learn about government and leadership while touring our nation's capital. Students sit down and discuss issues that concern their generation or hometown with Louisiana's senators and representatives.

If you live on co-op lines, you play an important role.



Your involvement includes voting for those who represent you on the co-op's board of directors and attending your co-op's annual meeting.

Rather than boring business meetings, annual meetings are designed to be fun, community events. Each is a little different.

When you attend, you exercise your right as a member to make choices about the future of your cooperative. You

are the decision maker, and your participation is crucial.

"Despite how different annual meetings are across the state, there is one thing they all have in common," Addie says. "Here in Louisiana, we love people, and our cooperatives give us an opportunity to come together, visit with our neighbors and catch up. Everyone has a good time."

That sense of community

is part of the cooperative spirit and what makes living in rural communities special: Neighbors looking out for neighbors, and people working for the common good.

Community fueled the co-op movement, and it is the source of the new energy.

The power of community is what being an electric cooperative is all about.

You belong here! ■

We Count on Your Participation

Louisiana electric cooperatives are planning their annual membership meetings now. Make plans to attend. Start taking part in community events provided by your cooperative. Ask about money-saving ideas to make your home or business more energy efficient. If you want to be more involved in your electric cooperative, reach out. The possibilities are endless.



DEMCO safety experts demonstrate “Fire in the Wire” to Live Oak Middle School students.

Knowledge Is Power

Teaching Youth Electrical Safety

While our top priority is to provide safe, reliable and affordable energy to our co-op members, equally important is our mission to enrich the lives of those in the communities we serve. This focus—to benefit the community—is central to the way we operate as a cooperative.

DEMCO knows electricity is a critical need for modern-day life, but it takes more than poles and power lines to energize a community.

One way DEMCO continually addresses the needs of our communities is through educational programs. Each year, DEMCO supports the education of our youth in many ways. Since 2009, DEMCO has toured elementary schools with an electrical safety magic show that promotes a three-pronged message about how to behave around electricity: Stop, Look, Think. Each year, thousands of elementary school students in the DEMCO service

area learn about electrical safety through this free program.

One of our newer electrical safety education initiatives, “Fire in the Wire,” features DEMCO safety specialists and linemen who teach students to look up, play away from overhead power lines and stay away from downed power lines.

DEMCO understands our job is to not only serve our members, but to educate people about the dangers of electricity and how to act safely around it.

Along with our desire to use and promote safe electricity, we also want to be real about the dangers that surround this everyday, easy-access tool we all use. We know firsthand what it means to experience electrical emergencies and dangers. (Account No. 80304917001)

It is our pleasure to offer all of these programs free to the communities we serve. We are grateful for the opportunity



DEMCO Electrical Safety Magician Scott Davis visited eight schools to present the “Making Accidents Disappear” magic show to more than 3,500 elementary students at Shenandoah Live Oak, Frost, St. Helena Arts & Tech Academy, French Settlement, Lakeside Primary, Blackwater Church and Rollins Place.

to partner with local schools to raise awareness about electrical safety, and thank them for their continued support of these programs. ■

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High Electric Bills?

Learn the common causes and how to avoid them

By Juan D. Alfonso

While the winter holidays may be over, frigid weather continues to impact much of the country. With the cold comes higher electric bills, and the increase typically brings some not so happy utility consumers.

“Frustration is probably more frequent than anger,” says Jeff Marshall, communications specialist with Clearwater Power in Lewiston, Idaho. “The most common calls we get are from people who went on vacation during the winter

and came back home to higher bills than they were expecting. They say they turned everything off, and that’s when I have to tell them, “The home doesn’t know whether or not it’s occupied.”

While lights and electronics can be turned off, many home devices operate completely independently. Refrigerators, water heaters and central heating systems continuously draw power from the electrical grid.

“We are very conscious of TV, lights and the devices we constantly use, but they

just aren’t a significant part of the power bill,” Jeff says. “An unoccupied home loses its TV, light and washer load, but it is still keeping the home warm.”

According to Jeff, the lion’s share of an electric bill comes from the water heater and central heating unit, which continuously draw energy even when the thermostat is turned down.

“People will think their heat is off,” Jeff says, “but it’s pretty rare for it to actually be off. 55 degrees tend to be as low as the thermostat goes. You can turn both

of these appliances off at the breaker box, but a lot of people think that not using something electrical is the same thing as being turned off.”

Another common misconception is when consumers keep their thermostats at the same temperature year-round and expect the bill to remain consistent.

“We get a lot of snowbirds who leave their home around 60 and expect their bill to be drastically cheaper,” says Kelly Jackson, senior member services specialist with Mt. Wheeler Power Inc. in Nevada. “But it gets so cold that their heater works hard to maintain what they think is pretty cold to begin with.”

However, there are some cases where excess energy consumption does occur.

“I was getting ready to bill a member when I noticed her bill went from \$210 in September to \$500 in October,” Kelly says. “I spoke to her, we investigated it and turns out the heater in their home needed to be replaced.”

What Kelly did was not unusual, according to Christina Sawyer, internal communications specialist at Mt. Wheeler Power.

“We do take the time to look at the higher bills before they go out to the member so we can discuss what might be happening,” Christina says. “It’s part of our customer service procedures, so they are prepared for these larger bills and we can have a discussion about how to make things easier for them.”

A common complaint utilities face is when consumers claim their bill is much higher than it was in previous years or previous months when temperatures were similar. Comparing past bills with the consumer is a common industry practice.

“A lot of people come to us very confused as to why their bill is so high,” Kelly says. “But when we compare their most recent bill to the previous year’s usage, it turns out to be pretty comparable.”

She says she thinks most people just forget about their bill fluctuations.

“Another part that leads to confusion is that we bill them for the previous month’s usage,” she says. “They get their September usage bill in October and assume that because October and November had similar

weather, their bill will be about the same.”

Many consumers are surprised when their new, energy-efficient homes cost far more to power than they were expecting.

“It’s called Jevons Paradox,” Jeff says. “When you have a more efficient device, you tend to use it more freely. For example, heat pumps use less power than a furnace, so people with heat pumps will make their home warmer than they would with a less efficient system. This eats into their savings and ends up costing them more in the long run. Newer houses have better insulation and windows. All of those things have savings, but the alarm in the back of your head is just quieter. You use it more and you’ll light places that aren’t normally lit.”

Vampire or phantom loads from smart TVs, gaming consoles and other electronics may also drive up the electric bill.

“Manufacturers are invested in creating devices that load more quickly and efficiently,” Jeff says. “On the flip side, these devices are always turned on and absorbing power from the grid. When you turn a dishwasher off, it’s off, but a lot of electronics are never turned off.”

An easy solution to vampire loads is buying a smart power strip. Jeff recommends the Trickle Star advanced power strips. These smart strips detect when electronic devices are in an off or standby state, and cuts their connection to the outlet.

Another way to reduce the electric bill is by inviting friends and family over. The ambient body heat produced by each person will heat the home, allowing for a much lower thermostat setting.

“I was at a conference once where the staff lowered the heat below 60 36 hours before the event in anticipation of what happens when you have 500 people in a room,” Jeff says. “If the thermostat had been 68 degrees, the room would have easily heated past 80. Don’t underestimate the cost savings of people in your home.”

Lastly, Jeff wants everyone to know that lighting isn’t that big of a deal.

“Don’t be afraid of lights,” he says. “They really don’t use up a lot of energy. Switching CFLs to LEDs, the savings are only about a quarter. It would take years to recoup that investment.” ■

Tips for Reducing Your Electric Bill

- ▶ **Lower the temperature when you are not at home and before going to bed.** The U.S. Department of Energy estimates 1% savings for every eight hours you lower the thermostat.
- ▶ **Dust your refrigerator.** Your refrigerator is working much harder if the coils are covered in dust.
- ▶ **Replace your filters.** Dirty filters force your air conditioner or heater to work harder to push air through the vent and uses more energy.
- ▶ **Nuke it.** Cooking with a microwave or an electric skillet consumes far less energy than your oven.
- ▶ **Plant trees.** Plants around your home generate shade during the warm months of the year, reducing your air conditioning needs. Planting trees with leaves that fall during the winter will increase sunlight and reduce your warming needs when it is cold.
- ▶ **Buy energy-efficient appliances.** Replacing decades-old inefficient appliances with smart ones can save hundreds of dollars a year.
- ▶ **Install a ceiling fan.** Fans move air around the room without actually cooling it. This provides a significant reduction in energy use while keeping your home comfortable when it is warm.
- ▶ **Cover air leaks.** Caulk cracks and openings in your home to keep the warm air in during the winter and out during the summer.
- ▶ **Seal air ducts.** Air loss from unsealed ducts can be responsible for up to 30% of your electric bill.
- ▶ **Don’t open the oven.** Opening your oven door while baking or cooking can reduce the internal temperature by 25 degrees. Turn your oven off 5 minutes before your meal is done to allow the ambient heat to finish the cooking.

EXPLORE MEDITERRANEAN *Fare*

Savory Zucchini Muffins

2 cups all-purpose flour	¼ cup granulated sugar
1 tablespoon baking powder	1 egg
½ teaspoon salt	1 cup shredded zucchini
¼ teaspoon freshly ground pepper	2 green onions, finely chopped
½ cup sun-dried tomato pesto	12 ½-inch cubes fontina cheese
⅓ cup extra-virgin olive oil	
¾ cup milk	

Heat oven to 400 F. Line a 12-cup muffin pan with paper liners.

In a large bowl, whisk together flour, baking powder, salt and pepper. In a separate bowl, whisk ¼ cup pesto, olive oil, milk, sugar and egg. Stir into flour mixture until moistened. Fold in zucchini and green onions.

Divide half the batter evenly among muffin cups. Place a cube of fontina on top of batter. Top each with 1 teaspoon remaining pesto, then top with remaining batter.

Bake for 15 to 20 minutes, or until golden brown and top of muffin springs back when pressed lightly. Let cool slightly. Serve warm.

To make extra savory, add ½ cup cooked and crumbled bacon.

Recipe courtesy of Filippo Berio

Pasta With Spinach Pesto

13.5-ounce can spinach, well drained	1 teaspoon dried basil
1 cup fresh parsley leaves	¼ teaspoon salt
½ cup grated Parmesan cheese	⅛ teaspoon ground black pepper
½ cup walnuts or almonds	½ cup extra-virgin olive oil
1 large garlic clove	16 ounces fettuccine noodles

In a food processor, combine spinach, parsley, cheese, nuts, garlic, basil, salt and pepper. Blend well. In a slow, steady stream, add olive oil until mixture is blended and smooth.

Cook fettuccine per package directions. Drain. Toss pesto with fettuccine.

Recipe courtesy of CMI

Potato Leek Soup With Pesto

3 medium-large leeks
2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
1 large garlic clove, coarsely chopped
½ teaspoon kosher salt, plus additional to taste
2 pounds Yukon gold potatoes, peeled and diced into 2-inch cubes
6 cups chicken or vegetable broth

Pesto

1 packed cup fresh basil
1 packed cup flat-leaf parsley
1 medium-large garlic clove, roughly chopped
3 tablespoons pine nuts or ¼ cup walnuts
½ teaspoon kosher salt
¼ cup extra-virgin olive oil

Trim bulb ends and tough, dark green stems off leeks. Slice tender white and light green stems in half lengthwise, then soak in cold water for 10 to 15 minutes to remove dirt. Drain leeks, rinse well and slice into thick half-moons.

In a large stockpot over medium-low heat, heat olive oil. Add leeks, garlic and salt. Cook, stirring occasionally, until leeks are soft, about 10 minutes.

Add potatoes and broth. Cover and increase heat to medium. Bring soup to simmer. Uncover and continue cooking for 30 minutes.

Using an immersion blender, puree soup until smooth. Taste and add more salt if desired.

To make pesto, pulse basil, parsley, garlic, pine nuts, salt and olive oil in a food processor.

Ladle soup into bowls and spoon pesto on top of each serving.

Recipe courtesy of Carapelli



Spaghetti Sauce

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 2 pounds 85% ground beef | 1 tablespoon basil |
| 1 small onion, finely chopped | ¼ cup brown sugar |
| 3 tablespoons chili powder | 15-ounce can tomato sauce |
| 1 tablespoon garlic powder | 2 large cans crushed tomatoes |
| 1 tablespoon Italian seasoning | 15-ounce can tomato paste |
| 1 tablespoon oregano | |

Brown ground beef and onion together. Drain. Mix in all of the spices. Cook for 2 to 3 minutes on medium heat. Stir often to avoid sticking to pan.

Add tomato sauce, crushed tomatoes and brown sugar. Simmer on low heat for 5 minutes.

Add tomato paste and stir until mixture thickens. Serve over pasta.

Recipe by Gertrude Treadaway

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– Janet F.

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Thank You, Lineworkers!

Lineworker Appreciation Day
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DEMCO Board of Director Elections To Be Done via Mail-in Ballot

Election results to be announced at the annual meeting May 9, 2020

The annual meeting of DEMCO—when members of the cooperative meet and hear election results announced for their board of directors and receive reports concerning the financial health and operation of their utility—is scheduled for Saturday, May 9, 2020, at 10 a.m.

This year, DEMCO will host a free expo for members beginning at 8 a.m. to learn more about their co-op, including services and benefits of membership. The expo and annual meeting will be at North Park Gym, 30372 Eden Church Road, Denham Springs.

As in past years, director elections will be conducted with a mail-in ballot.

“The mail ballot process has been utilized for many years by DEMCO,” says David Latona, vice president of marketing and member services. “It allows all members to have a voice in a convenient format.”

Director elections are scheduled for East Baton Rouge Parish, District 4; Livingston Parish, District 8; and St. Helena Parish, District 10. Respectively, Stephen Irving, Dennis Lott and Richard Sitman currently represent the board of directors in those areas. The East Feliciana Parish, District 5 seat is currently vacant.

DEMCO members seeking positions on the board of directors must meet eligibility



Stephen Irving



Dennis Lott



Richard Sitman

requirements as prescribed by the corporation’s bylaws (see notice to director candidates below). Latona says candidates must also pre-qualify in person to be considered and to receive an election petition.

Candidates are advised to contact DEMCO regarding pre-qualification of director candidates and pre-qualification

dates at their earliest convenience. Louisiana law and DEMCO bylaws require a petition with 50 valid signatures from within individual board districts prior to placing the candidate’s name on the ballot.

More information concerning the 2020 annual membership meeting may be found in your local newspaper. ■

Notice to DEMCO Director Candidates

DEMCO’s Annual Membership Meeting will take place on Saturday, May 9, 2020, beginning at 10 a.m. The meeting will be held at North Park Gym, 30372 Eden Church Road, Denham Springs, LA 70726. DEMCO Bylaws Article IV, Section 4.04 of the bylaws of Dixie Electric Membership Corporation (DEMCO) provide that “no person shall be eligible to become or remain a director, who; 1. is not a member and bona fide resident in the district from which he is elected and whose principal place of residence is served by DEMCO; or 2. is in any way employed by or has a significant financial interest in a competing enterprise; or provides services or supplies to DEMCO; or 3. is an elected public official, or is the spouse of an elected public official, in connection with which a salary or compensation in excess of \$100.00 per annum is paid, it being the intent of the members of DEMCO that the board of directors of DEMCO be free from the influence of political officials; or 4. is a close relative, as defined in Article IV, Section 4.09, of any board member, or any employee of DEMCO; 5. is a convicted felon; or 6. is a current employee of DEMCO, or has been terminated from employment by DEMCO, or has been a DEMCO employee within the past three years; or 7. has intentionally violated the confidentiality of board executive sessions, confidential documents or the terms of a confidentiality agreement previously approved by the board; or 8. has been delinquent on an account with DEMCO more than 30 days during the previous year, and no member who has a delinquent account may be nominated for the position of director.

For more information, go to DEMCO.org

Lucky Account Number Contest

Four lucky co-op members will win \$25! Before you continue looking through this edition for your winning number, find your account number printed above your mailing address. If you locate this number anywhere in this issue, call 225-262-2160 to claim your prize.



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Richie Culotta



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They snore. They play. They hate baths, but love the hose.

They like car rides and drooling on the window.

They are three-legged race champions and curtain ninjas.

They are tail-waggers and sloppy kissers.

They are close talkers and belly rub collectors.

They are blanket hogs and entire bed hogs.

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POWERBUILT MODEL: 647593
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56623/56624 shown



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BLUE HAWK MODEL: 77280
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64005/60566/69567
63601/67227 shown

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WARRIOR SUPER COUPON

29 PIECE TITANIUM DRILL BIT SET

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

NOW \$10.99
\$18.99

COMPARE TO **\$68.14**
DEWALT MODEL: DW1369
SAVE 83%

ITEM 5889/62281
61637 shown



US GENERAL SUPER COUPON

44" x 22" DOUBLE BANK EXTRA DEEP CABINETS

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

NOW \$499.99
\$449.99

COMPARE TO **\$2,735**
SNAP-ON MODEL: KRA4813PFB0
Item 64446, 64443, 64133, 64954, 64955, 64956
SAVE \$2,285

ITEM 64446, 64443, 64133, 64954, 64955, 64956



HaulMaster SUPER COUPON

18" WORKING PLATFORM STEP STOOL

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

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COMPARE TO **\$39.99**
NEOCRAFT MODEL: 60635
SAVE 50%

ITEM 62515/66911 shown



HARDY SUPER COUPON

MECHANICS GLOVES

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

NOW \$4.99
\$5.99

COMPARE TO **\$14.99**
VALEO MODEL: 25521
SAVE 66%

ITEM 62434, 62426, 62433, 62432, 62429, 64179, 62428, 64178 shown



PORTLAND SUPER COUPON

1750 PSI ELECTRIC PRESSURE WASHER

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

NOW \$79.99
\$99.99

COMPARE TO **\$174.44**
BRIGGS & STRATTON MODEL: 20600
SAVE \$94

ITEM 63255
63254 shown



PORTLAND SUPER COUPON

10" PNEUMATIC TIRE

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

NOW \$3.99
\$5.99

COMPARE TO **\$8.09**
FARM & RANCH MODEL: FR1055
SAVE 50%

ITEM 69385/62388/62409/62698/30900 shown



drillmaster SUPER COUPON

4-1/2" ANGLE GRINDER

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

NOW \$9.99
\$14.99

COMPARE TO **\$17.99**
PERFORMAX MODEL: 2411-1
SAVE 44%

ITEM 69645/60625 shown



VIKING SUPER COUPON

JUMP STARTER AND POWER PACK

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

NOW \$69.99
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COMPARE TO **\$139.99**
SCHUMACHER ELECTRIC MODEL: SL1
SAVE \$70

ITEM 56797/56798
64412/62749 shown



PITTSBURGH SUPER COUPON

4" RATCHETING BAR CLAMP/SPREADER

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

NOW 99¢
\$1.99

COMPARE TO **\$6.49**
IRWIN MODEL: 1984747
SAVE 84%

ITEM 46805/62242
68974 shown



PORTLAND SUPER COUPON

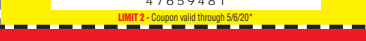
7 AMP ELECTRIC POLE SAW 9.5" BAR

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

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COMPARE TO **\$99.98**
WORX MODEL: WG309
SAVE \$39

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Customer Rating **★★★★★**

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COMPARE TO **\$39.98**
PORTFOLIO MODEL: SLC12BK
SAVE 44%

ITEM 64486 ITEM 64739
63483 shown



PITTSBURGH SUPER COUPON

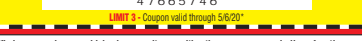
130 PIECE TOOL KIT WITH CASE

Customer Rating **★★★★★**

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COMPARE TO **\$66.39**
ANVIL MODEL: A137HMS
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Celebrating Co-Op Culture

DEMCO Annual Meeting & Expo is scheduled for Saturday, May 9

By Colette Boehm

DEMCO members are invited to celebrate the co-op culture at our Annual Meeting & Expo in May. The event, scheduled for Saturday, May 9, 2020, at North Park Gym in Denham Springs, is an opportunity for DEMCO members to hear the state of the co-op, and learn more about DEMCO programs and services.

“We hope it will be a time for our members to connect with us and get answers to any questions they may have about their electric cooperative,” said CEO and General Manager Randy Pierce. “As a not-for-profit electric co-op, our mission is to provide safe, reliable and affordable electricity to our members. Our end goal is to serve our members.”

The public annual meeting is the first of its kind for DEMCO in recent years. While it will feature business items, including the announcement of 2020 board director elections, the gathering will also be a time for members to come together and enjoy food, music and fun. (Account No. 80249522001)

Save the Date Annual Meeting and Expo

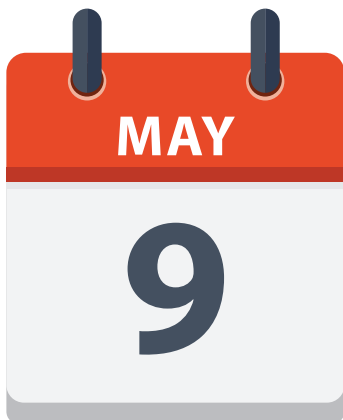
8 a.m., Expo begins

10 a.m., Annual Meeting begins

North Park Gym

30372 Eden Church Road, Denham Springs

MEMBERS: Register at DEMCO.org



“It’s about communicating with our members,” explained Vice President of Marketing and Member Services David Latona. “We want to bring our co-op family together so that they have a chance to meet the directors and the staff who keep them in safe power. It’s not just about us telling them what’s going on. It’s about celebrating our co-op culture.”

“Our co-op is member-based and dedicated to representing the spirit of the community,” Latona continued. “It’s just another thing that sets us apart from an investor-owned utility.”

Pierce agreed.

“We want to start a tradition and we want it to be a fun one,” he said. “That’s the flavor we want to bring.”

Events such as this are a demonstration of the principles of a cooperative, which emphasize membership involvement, education and a community focus, noted Pierce.

The membership expo will begin at 8 a.m. It features an array of booths for members to explore.

Meet and take photos with our DEMCO linemen, watch a bucket truck demonstration, observe a “Fire in the Wire” presentation, play cornhole and, weather permitting, check out the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives hot air balloon tethered at the event.

Talk with DEMCO member services representatives to learn all about your co-op and the benefits of membership. Get hands-on help and download the free DEMCO mobile app, learn three convenient ways to view and pay your bill any time day or night, learn how to view and report outages and set up alerts on your account or smartphone, explore home energy-efficiency tips to save you money, and see how we are managing vegetation across our co-op rights-of-way for more reliable power delivery.

The annual meeting begins at 10 a.m. with a local high school Jr. ROTC honor guard presenting the colors, followed by reports from the board president, treasurer and co-op general manager.

At the conclusion of the meeting, DEMCO scholarship winners will be announced. There will be several drawings for door prizes, including one grand prize winner. Members who sign up for bank draft bill payment at the meeting or come to the meeting already enrolled will qualify for a drawing to win a \$500 gift card.

Watch for the official meeting notice to arrive via mailed invitation-postcard between April 14 to 24.

“Keep the postcard and bring it to the meeting with you,” Latona said. “The postcard serves as a ready-to-go door-prize entry form, so remember to bring it with you so you can be eligible for a special \$250 door prize, as well as other prizes!” ■

Must be present to win prizes at the annual meeting.

DEMCO Annual Meeting Calendar of Events

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday, May 9, 2020—Registration and Expo at 8 a.m., Meeting at 10 a.m.

February 17, 2020—March 9, 2020

Publish the calendar of events in the official journal of each parish, including the date, time and place of the Nominating Committee meeting.

March 16, 2020—March 18, 2020

Prequalification period. Pursuant to DEMCO bylaws, members interested in seeking a board position must appear in person between these dates to determine eligibility as prescribed by the corporation's bylaws. Candidates not prequalified are not eligible to seek a position on the board of directors.

March 19, 2020

DEMCO board meeting at 6 p.m. Nominating Committee is appointed.

March 19, 2020

Nominating Committee meeting at 6:05 p.m. at DEMCO headquarters, 16262 Wax Road, Greenwell Springs, Louisiana 70739. Meeting results posted March 20, 2020.

March 24, 2020

DEMCO Annual Meeting and Bylaws Committee meets at 4:30 p.m., if needed, to determine eligibility of candidates who have prequalified. Only prequalified candidates are considered.

March 27, 2020

Starting today, prequalified candidates may obtain a petition to run for a seat on the board of directors. DEMCO bylaws require 50 signatures for the petition to be valid.

March 27, 2020

This is the record date for the 2020 Annual Membership meeting. A final list of members eligible to vote at the annual meeting will be prepared.

April 8, 2020

Petitions must be returned to DEMCO headquarters by 4:30 p.m. and received by the CEO and general manager's office.

April 9, 2020

The Annual Meeting and Bylaws Committee, if needed, will validate each petition and post the results as required by the corporation's bylaws on this date.

April 14, 2020—April 24, 2020

The official notice of the 2020 Annual Meeting is mailed to all members of the cooperative.

April 15, 2020

Ballots for the 2020 Annual Meeting are mailed to members. Members should receive their ballots by Saturday, April 18, 2020. Vote and mail your ballot immediately.

May 1, 2020

The deadline for receiving ballots for the 2020 Annual Membership Meeting is 4:30 p.m. Do not delay. Vote!

May 4, 2020—May 6, 2020

Ballots are counted during this period by the certified public accountants selected by DEMCO to conduct the annual meeting. Candidates will be advised as to the time and place ballots will be counted.

May 9, 2020

Annual meeting and election results announced at 10 a.m. at North Park Gym. The address is 30372 Eden Church Road, Denham Springs, LA 70726.

The deadline for
DEMCO Scholarships
is May 1.

Applying online is EASY at DEMCO.org





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