

# Along these LINES

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2022



## Dixie Business Development Center Celebrates 30 Years

Page 20

ALSO INSIDE >>


Manager's Message Page 4

Q&A With LPSC Chairman Boissiere Page 8



DBDC Business incubator clients benefit from the experience and expertise of its board members, such as Brown-Eagle CEO Lela Mae Wilkes who recently earned an honorary doctorate.



 /DEMCOLouisiana; DEMCO.org



# MUELLER STEEL BUILDINGS AND METAL ROOFING



## READY TO BUILD YOUR DREAM?

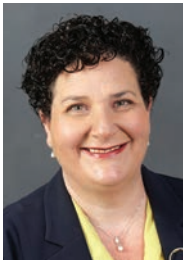
With Mueller, you have access to a wide range of high-quality steel buildings, residential metal roofing, and components. From complex buildings to self-storage units, from living spaces to backyard buildings, Mueller manufactures our products to ensure years of reliability. We invite you to see our many options at [muellerinc.com](http://muellerinc.com), then call or come by one of our 36 locations.



Learn more at: [www.muellerinc.com](http://www.muellerinc.com)  
877-2-MUELLER (877-268-3553)



# Resolve in 2023 to Give to the Community



**Addie Armato**

This time of year is associated with giving. The holidays focus on Thanksgiving, gift-giving at Christmas and giving up bad habits for New Year's. But have you ever considered giving your time and talents?

According to the 2021 survey of rural challenges conducted by SaveYour.Town, one of the top five issues for small towns and rural communities is not enough volunteers.

I can list six things without breaking a sweat that I would love to see people doing in local communities:

- Serving at a homeless shelter or soup kitchen.
- Visiting an assisted living community for the elderly.
- Picking up litter along the side of the road.
- Stocking a food pantry at a local church.
- Collecting Christmas gifts for less fortunate children.
- Helping out at a local animal shelter.

It is easy to come up with ideas or complain about what does not get done, but where are all the volunteers needed to accomplish projects? Maybe instead of making a list of projects, pick one and start volunteering.

Your Louisiana electric cooperatives and their employees have always given back to their communities through scholarship programs, volunteering at local charities and coaching Little League. They share a genuine concern for their communities.

It's one of the Seven Cooperative Principles upon which they were founded.

In this issue, you will read about some of our own who heard



ADOBE STOCK IMAGE BY AMAZEINDESIGN

the call, rolled up their sleeves and got busy making a difference in someone's life. They did not do it for fame or recognition. They did it because they saw a need and knew they could help.

Some volunteer because they have an interest and want to share it. Others volunteer because they feel passionate about a cause or the people they are helping. It doesn't matter how you find the passion; what matters are the lives you can touch by being open to giving some of your time.

During this season of giving, I challenge you to give something of yourself to your community. You can make it a better place with a small sacrifice of your time or sharing of your talent.

Unlike that shiny new gift waiting for you under the Christmas tree, giving of yourself by volunteering will not fade with time. Collectively, let's make a New Year's resolution for 2023 to give our time and volunteer for worthy causes in our communities. ■

## Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives Inc.

### Staff

- CEO** Addie Armato
- CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER** Beama Pierce
- DIRECTOR OF LOSS CONTROL** Aaron Graham
- SAFETY COORDINATOR** Ricky Melancon
- COMMUNICATIONS AND DIGITAL MARKETING SPECIALIST** Conley Bourgeois
- ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT** Rhianna Garon
- CREDIT UNION**
  - Robin Plunket, manager
  - Jody Overhultz, representative

### Board of Directors

- President** Dennis Glass
- Vice President** Michael Heinen
- Secretary/Treasurer** Roger Dale DeHart



### ALEC Members

- BEAUREGARD ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.**
  - J.R. Hickman
  - Trent Buxton
- CLAIBORNE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.**
  - Mark Brown
  - Lane Davidson
- DEMCO**
  - Daniel Berthelot
  - Richard "Dickie" Sitman
- JEFF DAVIS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.**
  - Michael Heinen
  - Byron Hardee
- SOUTH LOUISIANA ELECTRIC CO-OP ASSOCIATION**
  - Trevor Benoit
  - Roger Dale DeHart
- WASHINGTON-ST. TAMMANY ELECTRIC CO-OP INC.**
  - Joe Jarrell
  - Dennis Glass

### Associate Member

- PANOLA-HARRISON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.**



## A Heart for Giving Back

Four co-op employees recognized for making a difference

Page 12

Local Pages ..... 4, 5, 8, 17, 20, 21  
In the Kitchen ..... 10



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**ASCENSION**

Elinda Taillon

**EAST BATON ROUGE**

Steve Irving  
Randy Lorio, Vice President  
Jill McGraw

**EAST FELICIANA**

Mike Anderson  
Glenn DeLee

**LIVINGSTON**

Danny Berthelot, President  
Leslie Falks  
Dennis Lott, Secretary-Treasurer

**ST. HELENA**

Tresa Byrd  
Richard Sitman

**TANGIPAHOA**

Melissa Dufreche

**WEST FELICIANA**

Kevin Beauchamp

**CEO & GENERAL MANAGER**

Randy Pierce

**CHIEF MEMBER SERVICES OFFICER**

Galen Dunbar

**CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**

Peggy Maranan

**CHIEF ENGINEERING & OPERATIONS OFFICER**

Mark Phillips

**CHIEF CORPORATE SERVICES OFFICER**

Russchelle Overhultz, CEBS

**Mission**

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

**Volume 37, Issue 6**

**Along These Lines (USPS 4089)** is published bimonthly by the Association of Louisiana Electric Co-ops Inc., 10725 Airline Hwy., Baton Rouge, LA 70816, in partnership with Pioneer Utility Resources.

**Annual Subscriptions:** Members \$2.02. Nonmembers \$5.

**Postmaster:** Send form 3579 to 10725 Airline Hwy., Baton Rouge, LA 70816.

Periodicals postage paid at Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821 and additional mailing offices.

DEMCO is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



I am pleased to report that DEMCO received unanimous Louisiana Public Service Commission approval of our new 2024 wholesale power contracts with NextEra Energy Marketing and Amite Solar.

The new wholesale power contracts will go into effect in about 18 months, on April 1, 2024, after our current ten-year wholesale power supply agreement with CLECO Power expires on March 31, 2024.

The approval of these contracts will result in significant savings for DEMCO members.

As an electric distribution cooperative, DEMCO purchases power from other companies who sell wholesale power—we don't make the electricity, we deliver it. Power supply cost is about 65% of the electric bill, so having access to competitive market prices and locking in those good rates in advance will be great for our members and the communities we serve.

Under the new contracts, estimates show that electricity rates will decrease by approximately 10-15% on average, with even higher savings possible during high-priced periods like we have experienced recently.

Dr. James Richardson, Professor Emeritus of Louisiana State University, projects that DEMCO members will save \$160 million over the ten-year life of the contracts, or \$16 million each year. These savings will generate nearly \$500 million of economic growth in Louisiana, which will create almost 3,000 new jobs and over \$12 million in tax revenues.

DEMCO will have the flexibility to benefit from the most current wholesale market resources and can lock in annual rates when market conditions are favorable, something it cannot do under the current contract.

DEMCO will be able to lock in annual rates well before the beginning of each year to reduce month-to-month power supply price fluctuations. As technology evolves and power markets change, we will be able to adapt to find the best rates for our members.

DEMCO also entered into a fixed-price 25-year solar power-purchase agreement with Amite Solar to take all of the capacity and energy from a proposed 100 MW solar facility to be constructed in Tangipahoa Parish.

Now that the contracts are certified, Amite Solar will continue moving forward with the development of the new solar facility, and in 2024 DEMCO can utilize this green, modern, low-priced energy as part of our power supply portfolio.

DEMCO followed all Commission rules and conducted a competitive request for proposal (RFP) process whereby 13 companies submitted 95 qualifying bid proposals. DEMCO selected NextEra Energy Marketing, one of the largest power suppliers in North America that serves more than 70 public power entities and has a presence in all major markets.

I want to thank the Public Service Commission for its leadership on this issue. They have helped lead the way to lower rates for people in our seven-parish service area.

For more information, visit <https://demco.org/about-us/2024-wholesale-power-contracts>.

## Holiday Office Closures

THANKSGIVING	CHRISTMAS	NEW YEAR'S DAY
Wednesday, Nov. 23rd at noon	Thursday, Dec. 22nd at noon	Friday, Dec. 30th at noon
Thursday, Nov. 24th	Friday, Dec. 23rd	Monday, Jan. 2nd
Friday, Nov. 25th	Monday, Dec. 26th	

# Brown-Eagle CEO and DBDC Board Member Lela Mae Wilkes Earns Honorary Doctorate

Business incubator clients benefit from experience and expertise of board members

By Colette Boehm

“It’s just been a wonderful place to serve.”

That’s how Lela Mae Wilkes describes her time on the Dixie Business Development Center board of directors—a business incubator supported by DEMCO.

The dedication and expertise of board members such as Lela Mae are benefits to entrepreneurs and new businesses coming to the center for assistance.

Lela Mae was recently awarded an honorary doctorate from Northwestern State University.

She graduated with a business degree from NSU in 1968. Since then, she has established herself as a pioneer in the petrochemical service industry.

A founding member of the Louisiana Chemical Industry Alliance, Lela Mae served on its first board of directors. She began work at Brown Eagle in 1977 as a controller and is now full owner and CEO.

The company is considered the industry leader in providing innovative logistics solutions for chemical manufacturers in Louisiana and across America. It is a one-stop solution for industrial facilities’ packaging and logistics needs, including management and operation of packaging, material handling, logistics, warehousing and shipping functions.

Lela Mae views the Dixie Business Development Center’s board, and their diverse experiences in the business world, as resources for clients.

“We’re available for our expertise,” she says. “For example, if you wanted to know about warehousing, I would be there. I’d be someone you would call on, come see the warehouse and what we have done. There are people on there from banks who are available if you’ve got questions about financing. We’re there to serve the entrepreneur.”

The experience she has to share, Lela Mae says, began long before her success as an accountant and business owner.

“I grew up on a dairy farm in Pride, Louisiana, in East Baton Rouge Parish,” she says. “We were far out in the woods. I can’t tell you how wonderful that was. I know I didn’t appreciate it at the time, but what that gave me was something that you cannot teach.”

She says growing up on a farm taught her an appreciation of the value of hard work and the accomplishment it brings.

“You know, the cows have to be milked every day,” she says. “You can’t call in and say, ‘I’ve got a sinus infection today.’ You have to be there to do the milking. And it didn’t matter how great a job we had done getting the cows milked. We still had to shovel manure at the end of the day. That’s pretty much what life is. It was just such a great way to learn about life.

“There was always work that needed to be done. Whether you had to put out hay or fix fence or feed baby calves, it didn’t matter. You had to do whatever needed to be done. And when you got through doing it, you felt like you had accomplished something. Everybody worked as a team to get the work done. That was such a great learning experience.”



Lela Mae Wilkes pictured at Brown-Eagle in front of the awards case.

It was after she graduated and earned her credentials as a CPA that Lela Mae realized the most valuable lessons she was taught on the farm and in college. From her early days working on the dairy farm, then later in college, she said gender or social status were never a consideration.

On the farm, “there weren’t men jobs and women jobs,” she says. “My dad never said, ‘You’re a girl. You can’t do that.’ When I graduated from high school, I went to Northwestern up in Natchitoches, and I was from this little town down in East Baton Rouge Parish. I was up in North Louisiana, and they just put their arms around me and said, ‘Come on. You can do whatever it is you want to do.’ It didn’t matter that my daddy was a farmer instead of a doctor or lawyer or engineer. They didn’t care.”

After graduation, when a potential employer told her accounting was a “man’s job,” she realized what a gift she had been given throughout her formative years, from her father’s work ethic to her strong and accomplished grandmothers and mother to the instructors at NSU telling her she could do whatever she aimed to do.

*Continues on page 17*



# Helping Our Florida Brethren

Louisiana electric co-ops send crews to assist in the aftermath of Hurricane Ian



**ABOVE:** DEMCO's Brandon Simon, left, makes notes during a tailgate meeting; Scott DeLee is to his right. **BELOW:** The crew prepares to replace a toppled power pole.

After two consecutive years calling on neighboring electric cooperatives for help, Louisiana co-ops were on the other side this year. Six of the state's cooperatives sent mutual aid workers to help Florida recover from Hurricane Ian.

The Category 4 storm made landfall September 28 in southwest Florida near Fort Myers with winds of 155-plus mph.

It was one of the most powerful storms ever recorded in the United States, causing destruction through much of Florida.

Following the principle of Cooperation Among Cooperatives, electric distribution cooperatives in Louisiana worked under the nationwide mutual aid agreement, helping Florida co-ops with restoration efforts. Efforts were coordinated by the Florida Electric Cooperative Association.

The state's crews were assigned to sister cooperative Peace River Electric Cooperative Inc. in Wauchula.

The storm left more than 51,000 PRECO members—nearly 90%—without power in Brevard, DeSoto, Hardee, Highlands, Hillsborough, Indian River, Manatee,

## Our Mutual Aid Responders

- ▶ Beauregard Electric Cooperative Inc.
- ▶ Claiborne Electric Cooperative Inc.
- ▶ DEMCO
- ▶ Northeast Louisiana Power Cooperative
- ▶ South Louisiana Electric Cooperative Association
- ▶ Washington St. Tammany Electric Cooperative Inc.

Osceola, Polk and Sarasota counties.

Crews spent about a week at PRECO, then moved south to Lee County Electric Cooperative in Fort Myers.

"It's our turn to help our neighbors," said Addie Armato, CEO of the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives.

She knows all too well what it means to see mutual aid crews roll into a damaged service territory. Louisiana continues to recover from severe hurricane seasons that wreaked havoc on Louisiana electric systems in 2020 and 2021. ■







Lineworkers from Beauregard Electric Cooperative, left, and SLECA work together during power restoration following Hurricane Ian.



Claiborne Electric Cooperative crew members reattach lines on Peace River Electric Cooperative's power system in central Florida. From left are Andy Mills, Josh Dupree, Rocky Lachney and Ryan Beach.



DEMCO's Orlando Hill, left, and Braden Owens rebuild a transformer bank serving a Florida dairy farmer.



# Q&A

## Public Service Commissioner Lambert Boissiere

*As Chairman of the Public Service Commission, Lambert Boissiere's focus has been on what he refers to as "kitchen table issues"—the things the Commission is responsible for that affect folks' lives every day: affordable and reliable electricity, affordable and reliable water and sewer service, and affordable and reliable telecommunications.*

*Elected in 2004, Boissiere's "Commission education" was accelerated by hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005, when he witnessed firsthand the significance of the utility services most of us don't think about unless or until they are not available.*

*Emerging from those hurricanes, Boissiere was determined to bring new thinking and ideas to the Louisiana utility landscape. As he is fond of reminding people, "shame on us if we keep doing the same thing over and over and expect different results."*

*In an interview with the Chairman, we learned his thoughts on serving in this important role.*

**Q. What would you say are your most significant achievements?**

"This may sound a bit old-fashioned, but simply being there for Louisiana citizens and businesses who need help dealing with their utility providers is at the core of what we do in my office. I know there are many reasons people are justifiably cynical about government, but the goal we have in our office—and it is one we live every day—is to help our constituents solve problems.

When folks call us, it is because they have a problem. Our job, plain and simple, is to help them. My team and I get tremendous satisfaction when one of us gets stopped in the street and told thank you by someone we have helped. Every one of those thank yous I consider a significant achievement. I hope those thank yous help dampen some of the cynicism people have about how government functions.

I also take pride in the policy work we have accomplished at the LPSC. For example, we approved our utility companies joining the multistate energy marketplace Midcontinent Independent System Operator, or MISO. By

operating in a larger market, utility companies have greater access to more affordable power, and those savings are passed directly to customers.

Co-ops, such as DEMCO, are on the cusp of entering into new contracts that will provide them access to the greater MISO market and, thus, the savings associated with that market. Co-op members will reap the savings.

I take the public description of the Public Service Commission to heart and evaluate issues that come before the Public Service Commission with the potential effect on the public as my first criteria."

**Q. Broadband expansion has become a hot topic. How will you play a role in expanding access to high-speed internet?**

"The pandemic underscored for all of us that broadband is to the 21st century what electricity was to the 20th century: a necessity for competing in the modern economy. Our children's education, our job, our family's communication all turn on access to broadband. It has quickly moved from a luxury item to a necessity.

While the LPSC does not regulate broadband, our historical role as a regulator of traditional telecommunications providers offers insight into the broadband world. My office works closely with the newly created state Office of Broadband to help identify potential solutions for increasing access and affordability.

The toolbox of potential solutions includes the possibility of rural co-ops entering the broadband market. While not a one-size-fits-all solution, the important takeaway is we have a shared interest in ensuring all our state citizens and businesses have access to affordable broadband."

**Q. You have actively promoted renewable energy and energy-efficiency programs. Why?**

"This goes back to my post-hurricane Katrina and Rita experience when natural gas prices skyrocketed, and utility bills spiked. I realized then that we had to pursue fuel diversity—a fancy way of saying we didn't need to put all our eggs in one natural gas basket.



We needed to make sure we pursued energy policies that helped people use less energy—energy-efficiency programs are designed to do just that—and encourage companies to develop cost-effective renewable energy plants, which take the form of solar plants in Louisiana. Solar energy is not a panacea, but it will play a larger and larger role in our energy mix in the future, as will batteries as they become more cost-effective.

It is important to note that cost-effective is the key term. Our recent approval of a portfolio of solar plants—some to serve Entergy customers and others to serve co-op members—turned on our expert's analysis that the solar plants are cost-effective for customers. This does not mean we are turning our back on natural gas; rather, it means that having fuel diversity is good for customers."

**Q. What goals do you have for your next term?**

"I want to end where I began: helping my fellow Louisianians solve their utility problems, advocate for policies that will strengthen our state's ability to compete economically—which increasingly means access to clean and affordable power—and find ways to be part of the broadband access and affordability solutions."



# “I haven’t been this excited since I got my first bicycle!”

## Introducing **ZOOMER!**

The portable, folding, battery-powered chair that offers easy one-handed operation

Remember when you were a child and got your first bicycle? I do. It gave me a sense of independence . . . I felt like I could go anywhere, and it was so much easier and more enjoyable than walking. Well, at my age, that bike wouldn’t do me much good. Fortunately, there’s a new invention that gives me the freedom and independence to go wherever I want . . . safely and easily. It’s called the **Zoomer**, and it’s changed my life.

*My Zoomer is a delight to ride! It has increased my mobility in my apartment, my opportunities to enjoy the out-of-doors, and enabled me to visit the homes of my children for longer periods of time. The various speeds of it match my need for safety, it is easy to turn, and I am most pleased with the freedom of movement it gives me.*

*Sincerely, A. Macon, Williamsburg, VA*

After just one trip around your home in the **Zoomer**, you’ll marvel at how easy it is to navigate. It is designed to maneuver in tight spaces like doorways, between furniture, and around corners. It can go over thresholds and works great on any kind of floor or carpet. It’s not bulky or cumbersome, so it can roll right up to a table or desk- there’s no need to transfer to a chair. Its sturdy yet lightweight aluminum frame makes it durable and comfortable. Its dual motors power it at up to 3.7 miles per hour and its automatic electromagnetic brakes



stop on a dime. The rechargeable battery powers it for up to 8 miles on a single charge. Plus, its exclusive foldable design enables you to transport it easily and even store it in a closet or under a bed when it’s not in use.

Why spend another day letting mobility issues hamper your lifestyle? Call now and find out how you can have your very own **Zoomer**.

journey  
**zoomer**

Call now toll free and order one today!

**1-888-217-0930**

Please mention code 117530 when ordering.



Now available with sporty two-arm lever steering (Zinger Chair)

mobility | sleep | comfort | safety

enjoying life never gets old™

journey  
HEALTH & LIFESTYLE

The Zoomer and Zinger Chairs are personal electric vehicles and are not medical devices nor wheelchairs. They are not intended for medical purposes to provide mobility to persons restricted to a sitting position. They are not covered by Medicare nor Medicaid. © 2022 Journey Health and Lifestyle



85044





**ABOVE:** The trio behind Flying Heart Brewing & Pub are, from left, Ben Hart, Ben Pattillo and Jeffrey “Jeffro” Judge. PHOTO COURTESY OF JEFFRO JUDGE **TOP:** Patrons can enjoy popular beer flights at any of Flying Heart’s three locations. PHOTO BY CHERÉ COEN

## Flying Heart Grows Into More Than a Craft Beer Brewery

By Cheré Coen

Jeffrey “Jeffro” Judge, director of franchise operations for Flying Heart Brewing & Pub, knew he had arrived when he overheard a family at the Monroe Walmart discussing where to go for dinner.

“Flying Heart’s a good place to take the family and hang out,” Jeff says, adding the place is akin to “Cheers,” the fictional bar in the long-running TV series. “But imagine, this family wanted to go to a brewery!”

Jeffro joined two couples who own the brewery that began in a restored firehouse in Bossier City and added locations in West Monroe and Natchitoches. Another is planned in Georgetown, Texas, just north of Austin.

It all began at Barksdale Air Force Base. Leah Hart was

being deployed overseas and asked friend Ben Pattillo to keep an eye on her husband, also named Ben. The two couples had begun home brewing, experimenting with beers. They started with an oatmeal stout.

“They got the crazy idea to open a brewery,” Jeffro says.

In the beginning, the two Bens focused on distribution and Jeffro—who had just retired from 23 years in the Air Force—helped out occasionally.

“Everything was crazy, learning what to do,” Jeffro says.

“We developed a following.”

In 2015, the group opened the brewery and tasting room in historic Fire Station Number 6 on Barksdale Boulevard in Bossier City. At first, there was no air conditioning. Food came from visiting food trucks.

“Imagine August,” Jeffro says with a laugh.



### Jeffro's Pizza Dough

- 4.5 grams (1½ teaspoons) active dry yeast
- 70 grams (¼ cup plus 1 tablespoon) warm water (80 F to 85 F)
- 453 grams (3½ cups) flour with 13% to 14% protein, preferably All Trumps, Pendleton Flour Mills Power, Giusto's High Performer, King Arthur Sir Lancelot Unbleached Hi-Gluten or Tony's California Artisan Flour (you can order the flour from Amazon)
- 225 grams (¾ cup plus 2 tablespoons) ice water, plus more as needed
- 9 grams (2 teaspoons) fine sea salt
- 5 grams (1 teaspoon) extra virgin olive oil

Thoroughly mix ingredients and portion out to three 10-ounce dough balls. Limit working with the dough to no longer than 10 minutes. Ferment the dough in the refrigerator for 2-3 days. Right before use, let the dough sit out 30 minutes.

### Jeffro's Sauce

- 1 28-ounce can of San Marzano Cento/Roma tomatoes
- A pinch of salt
- 3 basil leaves
- 1 tablespoon of extra virgin olive oil

The day before making pizza, blend ingredients to your liking. Spread on top of the dough right before cooking the pizza.

### Jeffro's Toppings

- Fresh mozzarella (just enough to cover pizza)
- Extra virgin olive oil
- 3 basil leaves
- Sea salt

Place preferred toppings on top of sauced crust. Less is better, in my opinion.



A pizza is ready to remove from the grill. PHOTO BY JEFFRO JUDGE

**Cooking Hints:** Preheat the grill or oven to 475 F, then turn it to 500 F. Use a lightly floured pizza peel or a flat cookie sheet to slide the pizza on and off a pizza stone. Place the pizza in the grill/oven. Average cook time is around 8 minutes.

One day, Ben Hart asked Jeffro to create a line of pizzas for the brewery. Jeffro had experience working in Miami sandwich shops in his youth and, more recently, at his wife Tammy's bakery and deli, The Wooden Spoon.

"I said, 'I've never done pizza in my life,'" Jeffro recalls. "But I got smart on pizza. We would meet on Sunday, and I would make 15 to 16 versions. It was gluttony. That was a Sunday tradition for about six months."

They settled on a menu—which now includes pizza, chicken wings, salad and soft pretzels—built the brewery's

kitchen and hired employees.

"It was surreal," Jeffro says of the first night, when they sold 100 pizzas.

Flying Heart has expanded the Bossier City restaurant to 300 seats, with a beer garden in back. The West Monroe restaurant was built from the ground up to complement neighboring Antique Alley with its boutiques, restaurants and, of course, antique shops along the Ouachita River. It opened in June 2021 with 275 seats indoors and outdoors.

Both establishments have been successful.

"We have so many custom-

ers," Jeffro says, noting some have Flying Heart tattoos. "It's a crazy thing."

Last summer, Flying Heart Brewing took over Cane River Brewing Co. in Natchitoches, introducing their trademark pizzas and brews.

Jeffro says some customers love to do the "trifecta," visiting all three breweries in one day.

Visitors to any of the sites may encounter the owners, Jeffro says, noting that for them, it's all about the personal touch.

The 50-year-old current pizza guru and veteran says his second career is as rewarding as serving his country.



The menu includes pizza, chicken wings, salad and oversized soft pretzels with cheese and mustard sauces. PHOTO BY CHERÉ COEN

"I'm lucky because I get to do what I love to do," Jeffro says. "It's better than being covered in jet fuel." ■



# A Heart for Giving Back

Four cooperative employees are recognized for making a difference in their communities

By Pamela A. Keene



ADOBE STOCK IMAGE BY COZINE





Frank Williams, second from right, mentors youth in basketball and life. Here, he is with a team that won a tournament in Houston in 2021.

Community support and service take on new meaning for many of those involved with Louisiana's rural electric cooperatives. Never is this clearer than at the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives annual meeting, where co-op employees are recognized for their willingness to give back through community service awards.

Receiving awards at this year's meeting were Frank Williams from Beauregard Electric Cooperative, Penny Fruge from DEMCO, Penny Hebert from South Louisiana Electric Cooperative Association and William Howell from Washington-St. Tammany Electric Cooperative.

"This year's recipients make our member co-ops proud," says ALEC CEO Addie Armato. "Their contributions in the community beyond their day-to-day work speaks volumes about their heart and their commitment to our young people."

Each award winner has focused on children's welfare and youth-related organizations. Between them, they have given nearly 70 years of their lives supporting others.

### To the Basketball Court and Beyond

To give youngsters with time on their hands something to do, Frank Williams—a staking engineer for BECi—volunteered to coach youth basketball in DeRidder eight years ago.

Working with youth in the community and his own children, Frank and five friends—including co-worker Bobby Brown—started a Little Dribblers' team for 11- to 14-year-olds, giving them a positive way to spend their spare time.

Soon, Frank was volunteering with the high school team, too.

"When I was younger, the older boys shared their skills with me, and I wanted to do the same for the community's young people," says Frank.

Four years ago, he completed the coaching certificate professional program through the Amateur Athletic Union to qualify as an assistant coach at DeRidder High School.

"We've seen our players do good things," Frank says. A couple of them have gone on to play college ball."

Frank not only coaches youngsters in basketball. He mentors them on and off the court, always putting them first.

But when he was diagnosed with cancer three years ago, it was his turn to let the youngsters take care of him.

"The whole team came to the hospital on the bus to visit with me," says Frank, now cancer-free. "It did me so much good to see these kids all come to see me. They're just like family, every one of them."

Frank missed about two months of coaching, then he was right back out there.

"It means so much to be able to mentor these young people, some who don't have a father in their lives," Frank says. "If I can influence even one of them and save their lives, that's what I call a payday. But I can't take all the credit. I'm just so grateful and humbled to be able to help."

### A Day of Fishing and More

Youngsters with life-threatening illnesses don't often have a chance to forget their challenges, even for a day. But thanks to volunteers such as Penny Fruge—a public affairs specialist for DEMCO—many of the patients at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital participate in Fishin' Galore in Clinton each year.

The activity is part of the Dream Day Foundation in Baton Rouge.





**For 28 years, Penny Fruge has helped organize the annual Fishin' Galore event for patients of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and their families.**

Twenty-eight years ago, Penny's husband, Poonie, a tournament angler, volunteered to grant a wish by a St. Jude patient who wanted to catch a big fish. Poonie asked his then-boss, John Engquist, if he could fish on his property.

"Without hesitation, John responded, 'Yes,'" Penny says. "Then, when John and his wife, Marty, saw the excitement in that young boy, they offered to host an annual private full-day family event for patients of St. Jude and their families at their 100-acre property in Clinton. I volunteered to help organize the event, and I've been doing so ever since."

The day is filled with activities, food, a petting zoo, wagon rides, entertainment and finger painting on horses.

Families have the chance to share a day with others in similar circumstances.

"Fishin' Galore started as a way for the children and their families to have a day away from needles and hardship," Penny says. "Over the years, it has grown to more than 150 patients and their families from across the country."

Early on, Fishin' Galore was formalized under the auspices of the Dream Day Foundation. Penny is a founding board member. At about the same time, Penny asked DEMCO to expand options for the annual employee paycheck-giving campaign to include the Dream Day Foundation.

"Our employees are so giving and caring," she says, "and with the support of DEMCO's leadership, the employees' giving campaign has given nearly \$1.3 million to the Dream Day Foundation."

Many DEMCO employees volunteer at the event each year.

"We see the wonderful miracles of healing for these children and are grateful that the cures for cancer and life-threatening diseases are shared with all."

### **A Voice for Children**

As a Court Appointed Special Advocate, the heartstrings of Penny Hebert—SLECA's human resources administrator—are tugged at every day.

The past seven years, Penny has been the voice for children in situations of abuse, learning the details of their lives and representing them in family court.

"As CASA advocates, we must think of the best interests of the child because we're their voice and must be objective," Penny

says. "The children and the courts are depending on us."

Penny researched CASA for two years before agreeing to volunteer.

"I wanted to be certain I could continue the commitment for the long term because we're talking about the lives and futures of children," she says.

Penny also wanted to ensure she had the support of her employer.

"I never know when I'm needed in court on a case, and I could be gone just a few hours or a full day," she says. "My managers have never questioned my commitment and have been incredibly supportive."

In addition to her one-on-one work with children, Penny spearheaded SLECA's role as a collection location for the annual Toys for Tots campaign that provides Christmas gifts for children.

"Especially at Christmastime, it's important that we remember these youngsters," she says. "Our employees have been so involved with Toys for Tots."

Although Hurricane Ida destroyed SLECA's headquarters building, it hasn't slowed the Toys for Tots campaign for 2022.

"Our modular replacement buildings were completed in September, and we will be able to make sure the kids are taken



**Penny Hebert, left, advocates for children in family court. Here, she gathers with an adoptive family and court personnel.**



care of,” Penny says. “Every child deserves a gift that they want for Christmas.”

Penny says when people hear she is a CASA volunteer, they may not understand what that entails.

“The main thing is that they do know it involves kids and court, and they really want to help,” she says.

### Family Charity Helps Youth

William Howell—an apprentice lineworker for WSTE—grew up with giving back in his genes.

When his father, uncle and two of their friends started the Liars and Lunkers Kids Fishing Tournament 22 years ago, he was just a little guy, fishing side-by-side with other 3- to 13-year-olds who came from miles around for the chance to catch a fish on the Pearl River.

“By age 13, I was a director of the tournament, helping organize it,” says William, who started working at the co-op in 2019 as warehouse manager after five years as a St. Tammany corrections and patrol deputy. “I’d stayed in the sheriff’s reserve—a major supporter of Liars and Lunkers—and asked my new employer, WSTE, if they’d like to be a sponsor of the tournament. They said yes.”

Thanks to William’s commitment, WSTE has helped with the program ever since—from providing items for youngsters’ goodie bags to supporting employees volunteering at the event.

“We run our events just like regular fishing tournaments, starting at first light and allowing each competitor to enter their top three fish at the weigh-in,” he says. “This year, the directors of Liars and Lunkers voted to add a category for older youth, from 13-17, to help encourage them to pursue fishing as a competitive sport and be further mentored by other anglers.”

Everything is free: trophies, food, games, face painting and a petting zoo. At the end of the event, each youth participant selects a free toy.

“It’s so rewarding to see the parents get involved with their kids in a fun, quality event,” William says. “It helps the kids get hooked on spending time outdoors with their parents. And maybe they’ll spend time on their own fishing together the rest



of the year. We’re helping carry it to future generations.”

ALEC, which sponsors the community service awards program, is proud of the work being done.

“Co-op employees do much more than serve the community’s power needs,” Addie says. “They are shining examples of our philosophy of ‘One family, one voice ... powering Louisiana.’” ■

**William Howell has been involved with the Liars and Lunkers Kids Fishing Tournament since he was the age of the youngster standing next to him.**



# I 'Bearly' Made It Out Alive

A 12-inch stainless steel knife for only \$79



## What Stauer Clients Are Saying About Our Knives



"The feel of this knife is unbelievable... this is an incredibly fine instrument." — H., Arvada, CO



"This knife is beautiful!" — J., La Crescent, MN



It was a perfect late autumn day in the northern Rockies. Not a cloud in the sky, and just enough cool in the air to stir up nostalgic memories of my trip into the backwoods. This year, though, was different. I was going it solo. My two buddies, pleading work responsibilities, backed out at the last minute. So, armed with my trusty knife, I set out for adventure.

Well, what I found was a whole lot of trouble. As in 8 feet and 800-pounds of trouble in the form of a grizzly bear. Seems this grumpy fella was out looking for some adventure too. Mr. Grizzly saw me, stood up to his entire 8 feet of ferocity and let out a roar that made my blood turn to ice and my hair stand up. Unsnapping my leather sheath, I felt for my hefty, trusty knife and felt emboldened. I then showed the massive grizzly over 6 inches of 420 surgical grade stainless steel, raised my hands and yelled, "Whoa bear! Whoa bear!" I must have made my point, as he gave me an almost admiring grunt before turning tail and heading back into the woods.

JOIN MORE THAN 322,000 SHARP PEOPLE WHO COLLECT STAUER KNIVES

I was pretty shaken, but otherwise fine. Once the adrenaline high subsided, I decided I had some work to do back home too. That was more than enough adventure for one day.

Our Grizzly Hunting Knife pays tribute to the call of the wild. Featuring stick-tang construction, you can feel confident in the strength and durability of this knife. And the hand carved, natural bone handle ensures you won't lose your grip even in the most dire of circumstances. I also made certain to give it a great price. After all, you should be able to get your point across without getting stuck with a high price.

But we don't stop there. While supplies last, we'll include a pair of \$99 8x21 power compact binoculars **FREE** when you purchase the Grizzly Hunting Knife.

Make sure to act quickly. The Grizzly Hunting Knife has been such a hit that we're having trouble keeping it in stock. Our first release of more than 1,200 SOLD OUT in TWO DAYS! After months of waiting on our artisans, we've finally gotten some knives back in stock. Only 1,337 are available at this price, and half of them have already sold!

### Knife Specifications:

- Stick tang 420 surgical stainless steel blade; 7 ¼" blade; 12" overall
- Hand carved natural brown and yellow bone handle
- Brass hand guard, spacers and end cap
- FREE genuine tooled leather sheath included (a \$49 value!)

The Grizzly Hunting Knife ~~\$249~~ \$79\* + S&P

Save \$170

*California residents please call 1-800-333-2045 regarding Proposition 65 regulations before purchasing this product.*

*\*Special price only for customers using the offer code.*

**1-800-333-2045**

Your Insider Offer Code: GHK193-02

EXCLUSIVE  
**FREE**  
Stauer 8x21  
Compact Binoculars  
-a \$99 value-  
with your purchase of the  
Grizzly Hunting Knife

Stauer, 14101 Southcross Drive W., Ste 155, Dept. GHK193-02, Burnsville, MN 55337 [www.stauer.com](http://www.stauer.com)

**Stauer® | AFFORD THE EXTRAORDINARY®**



## Wilkes Earns Honorary Doctorate

Continued from page 5

She says she is grateful for the support they gave and the confidence they instilled.

“I never heard them say I can’t do it because I’m a woman,” Lela Mae says of her family and instructors. “They were just inspirational. I didn’t realize that at the time, but now as I look back, if I had not had those role models, I’m not sure I would be where I am today.”

Another lesson learned early from her father: Always keep your eyes straight ahead, looking toward your destination. That was an important tenet of farming to establish straight rows when planting a field.

“He taught me that you had to look at the end of the row,” Lela Mae says. “You could not look to the right or the left to see if your row was straight. If you did, the row became crooked, and you had to start over.”

That lesson translates perfectly to reaching personal and professional goals, she says.

“You can’t look to the left and say somebody got a promotion and I didn’t or turn to the right and say somebody’s going somewhere and I’m not. You can’t do that. You just have to focus on what you can do, what you can accomplish. You just have to keep at it.”

That continued determination earned Lela Mae her successful career and recognition from NSU. Her involvement on the Dixie Business Development Center’s board of directors is an added value for any client of DBDC. ■

## Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation

Required by 39 USC 3685  
Filed with the USPS on 9-20-22

**ALONG THESE LINES** (publication number 4089) is published bimonthly by the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives Inc., 10725 Airline Highway, Baton Rouge, LA 70816. Six issues are published annually, with a subscription price of \$2.02 paid by utility members in their electric bills.

The name and complete mailing address of the publisher is Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives Inc., 10725 Airline Highway, Baton Rouge, LA 70816.

The name and complete mailing address of the editor is Addie Armato, 10725 Airline Highway, Baton Rouge, LA 70816.

The owner is the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives. There are no known bondholders or other security holders.

ALEC is a nonprofit organization mailing under DMM Section 423.12. Its purpose, function and nonprofit status for federal income tax purposes has not changed in the preceding 12 months.

The average number of copies of each issue during the preceding 12 months are:

### Average No. Copies Each Issue During Preceding 12 Months

a. Total No. Copies (net press run) .....	92,957
b. Paid Circulation .....	
(1) Outside County .....	92,782
(2) In-County .....	-0-
(3) Sales Through Dealers .....	147
(4) Other Classes .....	-0-
c. Total Paid Circulation .....	
(Sum of 15b(1) through 15b(4)) .....	92,929
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution .....	
(1) Outside County .....	-0-
(2) In-County .....	-0-
(3) Other Classes .....	-0-
(4) Outside the Mail .....	-0-
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution .....	
(Sum of 15d(1) through 15d(4)) .....	-0-
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e) .....	92,929
g. Copies Not Distributed .....	28
h. Total (Sum of 15f and 15g) .....	92,957
i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100) .....	100%

### No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date

a. Total No. Copies (net press run) .....	91,558
b. Paid Circulation .....	
(1) Outside County .....	91,388
(2) In-County .....	-0-
(3) Sales Through Dealers .....	145
(4) Other Classes .....	-0-
c. Total Paid Circulation .....	
(Sum of 15b(1) through 15b(4)) .....	91,533
d. Free or Nominal Rate Distribution .....	
(1) Outside County .....	-0-
(2) In-County .....	-0-
(3) Other Classes .....	-0-
(4) Outside the Mail .....	-0-
e. Total Free or Nominal Rate Distribution .....	
(Sum of 15d(1) through 15d(4)) .....	-0-
f. Total Distribution (Sum of 15c and 15e) .....	91,533
g. Copies Not Distributed .....	25
h. Total (Sum of 15f and 15g) .....	91,558
i. Percent Paid (15c divided by 15f times 100) .....	100%

I certify the statements made by me are correct and complete.  
**Addie Armato, Editor**



*Youth*  
**PROGRAMS**

*Powering Lives, Brightening the Future*



### YOUTH COOPERATIVE AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

9th & 10th Grade  
DEMCO Member Students

**APPLY BY 11/18/2022**



### DEMCO ESSAY CONTEST

11th Grade Students

**APPLY BY 1/20/2023**

**LEARN MORE AT DEMCO.ORG/COMMUNITY**



# Answering a Personal Calling to Feed Souls

Co-op director heads to Florida to cook for line crews restoring power after Hurricane Ian

Trevor Benoit remembers the aftermath of Hurricane Ida as if it were yesterday.

In August 2021, Ida devastated his Louisiana community.

More than a year later, South Louisiana Electric Cooperative Association—the electric cooperative he serves as a director—is still working to recover.

As Trevor saw photos of the destruction left by Hurricane Ian, he recalled how people rallied to help him and his co-op.

He says he had to pack up and do what he could for the workers in Florida.

Trevor and good friend Tony Williams from Galliano, Louisiana, set out to Fort Myers on Friday, October 7, driving through the night to get there.

Their mission was to spend two days helping feed the hundreds of lineworkers rebuilding Lee County Electric Cooperative's electrical system—many of them Louisiana co-op employees.

"I felt compelled to go and do this," Trevor says. "If you feel something so deep inside, it feeds your soul. We've all been there in Louisiana, with no power and



minimal resources. Having a home-cooked meal makes all the difference. All the Louisiana guys, when I cooked for them, a sense of home was brought to them."

Lee County Electric Cooperative welcomed the two men with open arms.

"We were treated like royalty as soon as we arrived," Trevor says.

Lineworkers headed out by 4:30 a.m. Saturday. When crews returned to base camp, they were met with a Louisiana pork and sausage jambalaya served alongside homemade white beans.

As everyone settled in to eat, Trevor says he was reminded of home.

"The brotherhood, the camaraderie and unity between the crews was amazing to see," he says. "It really blew me away."

Sunday night, Trevor and Tony prepared chicken and sausage gumbo.

"The gumbo was gone before the Louisiana crews got to it," Trevor says with a chuckle.

The two Louisiana buddies served more than 600 lineworkers and staff in two days.

"It was exhausting but worth every second," Trevor says. "I would do it all over again." ■



A power restoration worker enjoys authentic Louisiana cuisine served up by Tony Williams, left, and Trevor. It was the best way the two men could think of to help after Hurricane Ian.



**Trevor Benoit, a SLECA director and board member for the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives, took his cooking skills to Florida in early October to help feed line crews restoring power after Hurricane Ian.**  
PHOTOS COURTESY OF TREVOR BENOIT



## SLECA and ALEC Mourn the Death of Longtime Director

Brian John Rivet, a native and resident of Gheens, died September 12 at age 67.

For almost 40 years, Brian dedicated himself to the Louisiana electric cooperatives and the members they serve. He began serving as a South Louisiana Electric Cooperative Association board member in 1983 and was SLECA's secretary at the time of his death.

Brian joined the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives board in 1988, was a director for the 1803 Wholesale Power Cooperative, president of Total Environmental Solutions Inc.—a water and wastewater subsidiary of SLECA—and served on the Cajun Electric Cooperative board for the generation power plant once owned by Louisiana's electric cooperatives.

SLECA General Manager Joe Ticheli said he will miss Brian's advice, counsel and friendship.

"Brian was fully committed to serving the members of SLECA District 1," Joe said. "SLECA has not only lost a dedicated director, but I have lost a very dear friend."

Brian owned several businesses and applied his business acumen in the boardroom.

"With a watchful eye, Brian would offer his opinion on a matter and then hold you accountable," said ALEC CEO Addie Armato. "He never met a stranger, and he knew his friends were only a phone call away."

He is survived by his wife of 46 years, Belinda Ann Delatte Rivet; children David Sylvester and wife Tammy, Isaac Joseph and companion Ashley, and Abbylynn Rivet LeBlanc and husband Jared; grandchildren Ella, Colt, Makaylah, Blair, Brynn and Colton; sister Trudy R. Plaisance; brothers Hewitt Jr. (Pie) and wife Diane, Drew Rivet, Ty S. and wife Sherry, and Dray Rivet and wife Amanda; brothers-in-law Douglas Delatte and wife Janice, and Joe Delatte and wife Lisa; and several nieces and nephews.

Brian was preceded in death by his parents, Hewitt Sr. and Eunice Rita Dufrene Rivet; sister-in-law Melissa Elder; and brother-in-law Levy Plaisance Jr.

Brian enjoyed connecting with old and new friends and reminiscing about the "good ol' days."

His electric cooperative family will greatly miss him.



**Brian Rivet**

**Culotta Insurance & Investments**  
Serving Miss-Lou STATEWIDE Since 1992

**1-844-AGENT4U**

**FIXED INDEXED ANNUITIES**  
**MORE GAINS • NO LOSSES • SAFETY**

Up to 10% IMMEDIATE INTEREST BONUS on Deposits  
ROLLOVER CD OR 401K TODAY!

**FINANCIAL FREEDOM**

Richie Culotta • Cameron Culotta • Zach Dustin    SAFE RETIREMENT STRATEGIES, MEDICARE SUPPS, LONG-TERM CARE, MEDICAL & LIFE





Dixie Business Development Center business incubator started in 1992 with 8,000 square feet and grew to a total 50,000 square feet. Clients can take advantage of office space and shared business services at below-market rates to get a jump start in business.

# Supporting Entrepreneurs and Growing Businesses

Dixie Business Development Center celebrates 30 years

By Colette Boehm

The Dixie Business Development Center's main purpose is to help fledgling businesses compete and succeed. The business incubator assists entrepreneurs and new businesses through counseling, shared administrative services, office space, consulting and more on its campus in Denham Springs.

The center is guided by a board of directors, along with a staff dedicated to creating an atmosphere of support for new businesses and entrepreneurs across the region.

"Supporting the DBDC and the communities we serve is a guiding principle of the co-op business model," DEMCO CEO and General Manager Randy Pierce

says. "As a not-for-profit cooperative, any profit we make is reinvested into the co-op and the communities we serve. We don't make money to pay dividends to shareholders."

The center was founded in 1992 by DEMCO as part of a regional alliance in response to the economic downturn in the 1980s oil industry.

"The concept came to the board of directors at DEMCO through Mr. Henry Locklear, our CEO at the time and a man of courage, I like to add," DBDC Executive Director John Ware says.

The courage, John says, came with Locklear's vision for the center, which went beyond serving existing customers' basic electric needs and fostered a new role in active economic development.

At a time when economic development in southeast Louisiana was at an all-time low, the USDA Office of Rural Development and DEMCO provided start-up funds for what has become one

of the state's first business incubators.

The Dixie Business Development Center was born as part of a new economic development strategy to slow the loss of employment in the state following a severe downturn in the oil industry.

The small business incubator began with 8,000 square feet of space. In June 1999, a new 23,000-square-foot warehouse/office building was opened. In December 2001, the DBDC completed Building 2—a 19,000-square-foot structure.

The expansions have given new small businesses an opportunity to begin operations on the campus. Since then, hundreds of new business ideas have come to fruition, and dozens of businesses have found their footing because of the services offered by the DBDC.

Many have become hugely successful in their fields. Other businesses, brought in by entrepreneurs, have offered goods and services needed in the region following disasters such as Hurricane Katrina.

Asked about the typical business that seeks support from the center, John replies, “Anything and everything!”

Businesses have included people who specialize in food items, retail, manufacturing, warehousing, distribution and even ATM repair.

“We’ve done retail furniture, and we’ve started attorneys offices and mortgage companies,” John says. “We’ve had people that don’t know exactly where they’re going or how they’re going to get there. They just come in for a consultation. We have some who come for help with a business plan or with government procurement. We’re an open resource for entrepreneurs. DEMCO is doing this basically for free, with no obligation from the businesses that become successful here.”

One of the successful businesses is SumIt Credits, which still operates in Denham Springs. Jesse Broderick, co-founder and managing partner, is quick to praise the work of the DBDC.

“We’re a consulting firm,” he says. “We went out on our own, and we needed to find a place that was very reasonable but also had an environment that allowed us to feel like we were in an office place. We work with large companies and different clients and needed a space for collaboration and a space that we could work in and do what we needed to do.

“Being able to have it at such a really reduced rate was huge for us because that first year is tough when you’re starting a business. You need to save every penny you can, and they helped us do that. But they even helped introduce us to different companies in the area, to make some connections. Once we got past that first year, and we started to get our name out there, it’s just continuously grown since then. It was exactly what we needed for our first year of business.”

That first year began in December 2007, with Jesse and his partner Robert Wege. SumIt Credits now has 11



SumIt Credits co-founder and managing partner Jesse Broderick, left, with Robert Wege, business partner.

employees and has worked with more than 200 clients in 30 industries, securing more than \$800 million in incentive savings for those clients.

Today, the DBDC has 15 tenants on its campus and responds to more than 150 inquiries requesting information and business assistance each year. Most inquiries come from the seven-parish DEMCO service area: Ascension, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Livingston, St. Helena, West Feliciana and Tangipahoa.

Through the years, the DBDC’s services have grown along with its footprint to meet the growing and changing needs of its clients and potential new businesses. These services—from free counseling and assistance in business plan development to small space rental at below-market rates—continue to offer entrepreneurs and new businesses a head start.

Today, clients can take advantage of office space and shared services, operations and warehouse spaces, business and marketing plan assistance, market research, business resources, access to financing and more.

John, who is joined on the DBDC staff by two office managers, points out the value of the incubator’s partnerships through the years. The DBDC has worked with universities on feasibility studies, local consultants from business mentorship organization SCORE, Louisiana Procurement Technical Assistance Center on helping companies secure government contracts and the Louisiana Business Incubation Association.

He credits the center’s board of directors for its commitment and expertise.

Louisiana’s Secretary of Economic Development noted during a Louisiana Business Incubation Association meeting that such organizations play a vital role in job creation and the state’s continuing economic development. It was noted business incubators in south Louisiana create thousands of new jobs annually.

In October, the center’s board of directors and staff welcomed visitors for a celebration of 30 years of service to the emerging business community. The result has been new business and job creation resulting in a positive economic impact for DBDC clients and the entire region. ■

## Auto Pay Winners

Congratulations to these DEMCO members, winners of the random drawing for a \$50 gift card. You will each receive a gift card in the mail! **Emmett R., Rudy M., Roderic B., Steve C.**





# THE LOCAL MARKETPLACE PALATE



Find the perfect present for everyone on your list at  
[localpalatemarketplace.com/collections/louisiana-holiday](http://localpalatemarketplace.com/collections/louisiana-holiday)



Red Wine Jellies 3 pack  
Herbert's Wine Jelly \$30



Fiery Ginger Syrup  
Liber & Co \$14



Sweet & Spicy Glazed Pecans  
Lambrecht Gourmet \$39



Old Fashioned Mix Single  
Serve 5 pack  
Pappy & Co. \$20



8" Echo Chef Knife – Walnut  
Middleton Made Knives \$280



Old Fashioned Fudge Pie  
Colts Chocolate \$30



Lotta Honey,  
Little Heat 3 pack  
AR's Hot Southern Honey  
\$35



Hand-Made Bourbon Balls  
Pappy & Co. \$32



Down South Cookbook  
By Donald Link \$35



Spicy Cajun Caviar  
Cajun Caviar \$55



Benne Wafers  
Food for The Southern Soul  
\$11



Shem Creek  
Shrimp & Grits Gift Box  
Food for The  
Southern Soul \$45



Bourbon Smoked Bacon  
Bourbon Barrel Foods  
\$16



Sriracha & Honey  
Roasted Peanuts  
Virginia Diner \$22



Hushpuppy Mix  
Altman Farm & Mill \$8



Martin's Greatest Hits  
Martin's Bar-B-Que Joint  
\$54



# First-Year 1878 Morgan Silver Dollar!

From a Just Discovered  
Collector's Hoard!

Your Choice of  
Three Quality Grades!



*Brilliant  
Uncirculated  
coin shown*



Actual size  
is 38.1 mm

**GUARANTEED!**  
**1878**  
**FIRST YEAR**  
**OF ISSUE**

## Get an 1878, First-Year Morgan Silver Dollar! The Silver Dollar that Helped Build the Old West!

Maybe you knew that the Morgan Silver Dollar is the most widely collected and traded Silver Dollar ever minted by the United States—in part because of its iconic design, and in part because it was the hard currency found in the saddlebags of cowboys and ranchers, and of course outlaws. It was the coin that helped build the Old West.

### Morgan Silver Dollars—All-American Coins

It's also popular because it's a 90% Silver Dollar with an American design that was first minted in 1878, from American silver that came from the Comstock Lode in Nevada. It was last minted in 1921 for circulation—which is why 2021 marked the coin's 100th anniversary.

### It's a Wonder Any Morgans Still Exist Today

Coin experts estimate that fewer than 15% of all the Morgan Silver Dollars ever minted still exist today. At one point, the Pittman Act authorized the melting of 259,121,554 Silver Dollars to send to Great Britain to help that country during World War I—nearly half of the entire mintage of Morgans up to that time!

### A First Year Morgan Silver Dollar—Guaranteed!

You're guaranteed to receive a first-year Morgan Silver Dollar from 1878. The coins here come from a recently discovered hoard of around 500 1878

Morgans, just now available to the public. Depending on what you want to spend, you have your choice of three quality grades—Fine to Very Fine, About Uncirculated and Brilliant Uncirculated (see coin condition grid to the right). But—immediately call the toll-free number below because these first-year, 1878 Morgan Silver Dollars won't last.

### 1878 Morgan Silver Dollars

Fine-Very Fine \$79.95 +s/h  
About Uncirculated \$129 +s/h  
Brilliant Uncirculated \$229 + **FREE SHIPPING**

**FREE SHIPPING:** Limited time only. Product total over \$149 before taxes (if any). Standard domestic shipping only. Not valid on previous purchases.

### COIN CONDITIONS

**Fine-Very Fine:** Clear elements showing some to good detail, with moderate, even wear. Sold elsewhere for \$134

**About Uncirculated:** Sharp elements and backgrounds with a trace of wear and some mint luster. Sold elsewhere for \$176

**Brilliant Uncirculated:** Has never been circulated and still retains its original mint luster. Sold elsewhere for \$323



**SPECIAL CALL-IN ONLY OFFER**

**1-800-517-6468**

Offer Code **FMD137-01**

Please mention this code when you call.

GovMint.com • 1300 Corporate Center Curve, Dept. FMD137-01, Eagan, MN 55121

GovMint.com® is a retail distributor of coin and currency issues and is not affiliated with the U.S. government. The collectible coin market is unregulated, highly speculative and involves risk. GovMint.com reserves the right to decline to consummate any sale, within its discretion, including due to pricing errors. Prices, facts, figures and populations deemed accurate as of the date of publication but may change significantly over time. All purchases are expressly conditioned upon your acceptance of GovMint.com's Terms and Conditions ([www.govmint.com/terms-conditions](http://www.govmint.com/terms-conditions)) or call 1-800-721-0320; to decline, return your purchase pursuant to GovMint.com's Return Policy. © 2022 GovMint.com. All rights reserved.







# Save A Bundle On TV And Internet!



## Same Bill. Same Price. **\$69<sup>99</sup>** month for TV Every Month. For 2 Years.



## It's ALL Included with DISH!

- ✓ Includes 2 Year Price Lock
- ✓ Includes 190 Channels with Locals
- ✓ Includes Hopper Smart HD DVR  
Requires internet connected Hopper.
- ✓ Includes Home Service + Streaming
- ✓ Includes Free Installation
- ✓ Includes FREE Premium Channels  
After 3 mos. you will be billed \$30/mo. unless you call to cancel.
- ✓ Includes HD Programming



## IT'S FINALLY HERE! Reliable 5G Home Internet

- 📶 No Data Limits
- 📶 No Contract
- 📶 No Credit Check
- 📶 No Upfront Cost
- 📶 No Equipment Fees
- 📶 No Installation
- 📶 Lifetime Price Lock

# \$50

 month for Internet 

TV service not required for Internet. Speeds and prices vary by provider. Call for details or visit godish.com/internet.

## These Exclusive Extras Are Included!

### FREE Streaming on 5 Devices with DISH Anywhere App



Watching live and recorded TV anywhere requires an internet-connected Hopper w/Sling or Hopper 3 and compatible mobile device. On Hopper Duo, there is no live TV streaming for DISH Anywhere.

### Smart Remote w/ Voice and Google Assistant



Requires internet-connected Hopper, Joey, or Wally device. Customer must press Voice Remote button to activate feature. Google is a trademark of Google LLC.



### Your Favorite Apps in One Place!



Netflix and Amazon Prime Video streaming memberships required. YouTube is a trademark of Google LLC. Amazon Prime only available on Hopper 3.

## ¡Se Habla Español!

[godish.com/pricelock](http://godish.com/pricelock) 🔍

# 1-866-290-7151

Mon-Fri: 7am-10pm • Sat: 7am-9pm • Sun: 10am-7pm Central Time

# dish

  
Authorized Retailer

Offer for new and qualifying former customers only. Important Terms and Conditions: Advertiser price requires credit qualification, 24-month commitment, and eAutoPay. Upfront activation and/or receiver upgrade fees may apply based on credit qualification. Offer ends 11/16/22. 2-Year Commitment: Early termination fee of \$20/mo. remaining applies if you cancel early. Included in 2-year price guarantee at \$69.99 advertised price: America's Top 120 programming package, local channels, HD service fees, and Hopper Duo Smart DVR for 1 TV. Included in 2-year price guarantee for additional cost: Programming package upgrades (\$79.99 for AT120+, \$89.99 for AT200, \$99.99 for AT250), monthly fees for upgraded or additional receivers (\$5-\$7 per additional TV, receivers with additional functionality may be \$10-\$15). Regional Sports: RSN Surcharge up to \$3/mo. applies to AT120+ and higher packages and varies based on location. NOT included in 2-year price guarantee or advertised price (and subject to change): Taxes & surcharges, add-on programming (including premium channels), DISH Protect, and transactional fees. Premium Channels: 3 Mos. Free: After 3 mos., you will be billed \$30/mo. for Showtime, Starz, and DISH Movie Pack unless you call or go online to cancel. Remote: The DISH Voice Remote with the Google Assistant requires internet-connected Hopper, Joey, or Wally device. Customer must press Voice Remote button to activate feature. The Google Assistant Smart Home features require Google account and compatible devices. Google is a trademark of Google LLC. Other: Netflix streaming membership required. All packages, programming, features, and functionality and all prices and fees not included in price lock are subject to change without notice. After 6 mos., if selected, you will be billed \$10.99/mo. for DISH Protect Silver unless you call to cancel. After 2 years, then-current everyday prices for all services apply. For business customers, additional monthly fees may apply. Free standard professional installation only. Indiana C.P.D Reg. No. - 19-08615. ©2022 GoDISH.com. All rights reserved. Internet speeds, prices, and providers vary by customer address. \$50 price refers to widely available plan from multiple providers. Restrictions apply. Nationwide availability is subject to change without notice. The application of "No Data Limits" varies by provider, but commonly means that your access to the Internet will not be stopped by going over a data limit, but that speeds may be lowered. Call for details. Internet not provided by DISH and will be billed separately.