The 2017 Youth Tour Essay finalists were recognized at a recent banquet held at White Oak Plantation. Shown left to right are Lisa Taylor, Joseph Howard, Guest Speaker and LSU Gymnast Ashleigh Gnat, Megan Dedon and Rain Scott-Catoire.
Manager’s Report

By John Vranic
DEMCO CEO and General Manager

Washington Youth Tour program is 40 and still going strong

It’s always a special time when we gather together each spring to recognize the 12 finalists of DEMCO’s Washington Youth Tour program.

But this year’s event was a particularly momentous occasion. This year’s banquet marked the 40th year that DEMCO has made this worthwhile program available to area students.

It was four decades ago that DEMCO’s leaders decided it would be a sound investment to participate in the national Youth Tour and send local students to our nation’s capital each summer.

For each of the past 40 years, our delegations from DEMCO have joined representatives from other cooperatives across the state to form a Louisiana contingent. That larger group would then make its way to Washington where they would join roughly 1,500 additional students from throughout the country.

The program has always served as a celebration of the rural electric cooperative movement, an opportunity for young people to learn more about the origins of that movement, the significance of that movement, and why rural electrification is still relevant today.

The Washington Youth Tour has also always been about leadership training. There are many opportunities during the course of their week-long trip for the students to learn social skills, speaking skills, organizational skills, interviewing techniques, governmental affairs and much more.

During their trip, the DEMCO students visit many monuments and museums and have a chance to meet their senators and representatives face-to-face right there on the grounds of Capitol Hill.

Over the years we have seen this investment in our young people pay substantial dividends. Our Youth Tour graduates have gone on to excel in life, becoming doctors, attorneys, successful business leaders and community advocates. One is even a local television weatherman in the Baton Rouge area.

Images of the many DEMCO students that have benefitted from the Youth Tour came flashing back in my mind while seeing the 12 finalists present their speeches during the banquet held at White Oak Plantation last month.

The students delivered oral presentations of their written essays and covered a variety of relevant topics including gun control, the state’s TOPS scholarship program, hunger and poverty, respect for law enforcement and more.

Hearing their words, I was confident this group would follow in the footsteps of those before them and go on to achieve great things and have a positive impact on our community.

To commemorate this special evening, the banquet hall was festooned with reminders of this Ruby Anniversary and DEMCO’s history of honoring our commitment to education and public service.

After the students completed their presentations, the evening’s keynote speaker took the podium and delivered a powerful personal message on the positive effects of energy, drive, determination and focus. Ashleigh Gnat is a senior member of LSU’s gymnastics team and has distinguished herself as an All-American performer who specializes in the vault competition.

Fresh off her second perfect 10 on the vault apparatus this season, Gnat discussed her athletic background, and affirmed that her achievements required an awful lot of hard work and determination. Becoming known across the country as a master of the Yurchenko vault, for instance, didn’t just happen overnight.

Gnat highlighted her speech by sharing those things she has learned along the way, such as persevering through difficult times and staying focused on accomplishing personal goals.

While her comments were aimed at the younger folks in the room, those of us in the more senior ranks also stood much to gain from Gnat’s words of wisdom.

Best of luck to Gnat in her future endeavors and congratulations to the 40th group of Youth Tour finalists. We know you will do great things in the years to come.

INSULATING YOUR HOME TO LOCK IN EFFICIENCY AND SAVINGS

Adding insulation in the areas shown here may be the best way to improve your home’s energy efficiency. Insulate either the attic floor or under the roof. Check with a licensed contractor about the crawl space beneath your home.

1. Attic
2. Walls
3. Floors
4. Crawl Space

Source: Dept. of Energy
DEMCO backs the Blue
Co-op employees honor the life and service of Lt. Shawn Anderson

On March 18, 2017, East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff’s Deputy Shawn Anderson was killed in the line of duty. DEMCO employees paid tribute to the fallen officer during Anderson’s funeral procession as it proceeded northbound on U.S. Hwy. 61 and merged onto I-12. To see a video presentation of the tribute, point your web browser to https://youtu.be/ZinZejWxnEQ.
Local students Joseph Howard, Megan Dedon, Lisa Taylor and Rain Scott-Catoire each won an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C., this June as the 2017 winners of DEMCO’s Rural Electric Co-op Youth Tour Essay Contest.

The Youth Tour Essay Contest is an annual event that this year included essay entries from 11th grade students from both private and public schools throughout DEMCO’s seven-parish service area.

The winners were selected on March 7 during an evening banquet honoring the 12 finalists, their families, teachers, mentors and school principals. The banquet was held at White Oak Plantation in Baton Rouge while the Woodlawn High School Jazz Band provided musical entertainment for the evening.

The other finalists were: Logan Downs, Danielle LeBlanc, Hayden Charlet, Brooklyn Wascom, Bruce Huynh, Kaylen Howe, Marigny Broussard and Alyssa D’Agostino.

David Latona, Manager of Member and Public Relations at DEMCO, served as master of ceremonies at the banquet. He introduced DEMCO CEO John Vranic, director Leslie Falks, as well as other cooperative employees who attended and helped organize the event.

Latona also emphasized that this was the Ruby Anniversary, or 40th year, for DEMCO’s Youth Tour program.

“We appreciate all the teachers, principals, parents and students who have made this event such a grand success over the years,” Latona said. “We feel this is an outstanding program, and with the blessings of our board and management we intend to continue supporting this educational endeavor.”

Latona noted that BRECO Federal Credit Union is a new sponsor for the program. He thanked BRECO CEO Joshua Poole for the contribution.

Keynote speaker for the evening was Ashleigh Gnat, a senior member of the LSU gymnastics team.

Gnat told the audience that she understood the apprehension of many of the students who will soon graduate from high school and are now trying to figure out the proper course of their lives.

She discussed her athletic background, noting that her mother was an Olympian gymnast in 1972 while her father was an All-American member of one of the last men’s gymnastics teams at LSU.

Gnat pointed out that her sister was also a national champion and All-American performer at the University of Alabama but that doesn’t mean success was assured.

The athlete known by her teammates as “Bugs” affirmed that her achievements required a lot of hard work and determination.

Gnat highlighted her speech by sharing the many things she has learned along the way, such as working hard and staying keenly focused on accomplishing personal goals.

She challenged the students to keep from being distracted on their life journey and to stop expending so much energy on frivolous pursuits.

“I thought about it one day as I was scrolling down my Facebook page and realized just how much time I’m wasting on checking for updates every few minutes,” she said.

Each Youth Tour finalist was judged on the oral presentation of his or her essay. The finalists also completed a short written test on their knowledge of DEMCO and the history of rural electrification.

Youth Tour Director Joni Kitchen and chaperone Billy Gibson, both representing the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives in Baton Rouge, were also on hand to meet the Youth Tour contestants.

DEMCO’s four Youth Tour delegates will join 24 other Louisiana students this June to embark on their weeklong trip to Washington, D.C. During their stay in Washington, the Louisiana Youth Tour participants will visit the U.S. Senate, U.S. House of Representatives, Supreme Court, National Archives, Arlington Cemetery, and many other historically significant buildings and landmarks in the nation’s capital.

They will also join about 1,500 other Youth Tour participants from 43 different states to learn more about the history and importance of electric cooperatives.

The winners also participated in an orientation session held in Baton Rouge on March 31 to meet the state’s other delegates, participate in leadership training, and engage in other team-building activities. (Act. No. 80245252-001)

DEMCO pioneered Louisiana’s participation in the Rural Electric Youth Tour in 1977.

The purpose of the Youth Tour program, which was inspired by Sen. Lyndon B. Johnson in the 1960s, is to provide outstanding youth with an insight into how their national government operates.

Shown left to right are the 12 finalists for the 2017 DEMCO Youth Tour program: Joseph Howard, Megan Dedon, Logan Downs, Danielle LeBlanc, Hayden Charlet, Rain Scott-Catoire, Brooklyn Wascom, Bruce Huynh, Kaylen Howe, Lisa Taylor, Marigny Broussard and Alyssa D’Agostino.
Mueller custom buildings make beautiful living spaces. Our strong, engineered exteriors provide flexibility for you to design a completely customized interior, while supporting large spans and open floor plans. Create your own unique space to call home. Give us a call or drop by today, and find out more about custom metal buildings from Mueller.*

*Some exterior structures, such as carport & porches, were added post-engineering and not designed by Mueller. Please check local building codes before ordering.
Questions and answers on the job of a DEMCO lineman

Have you ever seen a crew of DEMCO linemen working high on a pole or in a bucket truck and wished you could ask them questions about their work?

We are proud of our lineworkers and want our members to understand exactly why. To help explain, here are a few questions that are frequently asked of linemen:

Q: What is the hardest part of being a lineman?

A: There are lots of challenging aspects to working on electric lines, and every lineman is sure to have a different answer. Some say it was difficult initially to acquire the vast amount of knowledge it took to complete the training. Others acknowledge that it’s hard to leave their homes and families to work outside in rough weather—especially if the call comes on a weekend or holiday, as often seems to happen. The sometimes grueling hours and strenuous conditions are another difficulty of the job, as is the pressure of working around high-voltage lines.

Q: How do line personnel work on energized lines and avoid being injured?

A: Lineworkers receive years of extensive training before they can work on live lines. They are highly qualified to perform intricate tasks under high pressure—often at heights of 40 feet or more—that are typically required for line work. They also receive regular training throughout their careers to keep them mindful of safety requirements and apprised of updates in equipment and procedures. Linemen also use personal protective equipment that shields them from the high voltage of electric lines. This includes insulated rubber gloves, sleeves and boots, as well as specially designed tools and insulated vehicles. Each piece of equipment is inspected regularly to ensure that it’s intact and able to protect the lineman from harm.

Q: Aren’t power lines along the road insulated?

A: Many people think that overhead power lines along roadways have insulation material around them like the electric cords they see on appliances in their homes. Not exactly. Some low-voltage power lines are insulated; however, high-voltage distribution and transmission lines are not insulated. That’s part of the reason they are suspended so high in the air—and it’s the reason broken lines are so dangerous when they’re down on the ground. All power lines can be deadly and should be treated with caution.

Q: Why do linemen choose such a hazardous line of work? (Acct. No. 2443101-001)

A: Lineworkers understand that their career choice might seem strange to other people, especially when they’re outside working on lines in freezing conditions or driving rain. The reasons vary from one lineman to the next, but many say they enjoy the mastery of a complicated skill and the satisfaction of being challenged daily by work that is never repetitive. Some appreciate being part of a hardworking brotherhood. Others love the excitement and fulfillment of being called on to come through in an emergency. Nearly all linemen agree that the best aspect of their work is the opportunity to help their neighbors when things look darkest.

Every member of the cooperative benefits from the courage and dedication of our lineworkers. Please help us honor these “high-wire heroes.”

POWER TIP

Close apps on your phone or tablet when they aren’t in use. It will save battery life, which means you’ll charge less frequently, saving electricity.

3-Phase Motor Notice

Protection of three-phase motors against single-phasing shall be the responsibility of the Co-op consumer-member. Also, the member shall be responsible for providing over- and under-current protection of all motors.

The Cooperative has installed equipment on its system to prevent major catastrophes, but isolated problems caused by lightning will occasionally occur.

It is the responsibility of the consumer to protect his motors and equipment from these isolated over- and under-current situations with electrical protection devices available on the market.

Payment Arrangements Anytime

Through DEMCO’s upgraded automated phone system, members can conveniently make payment arrangements 24/7*. That’s just one more way DEMCO is making its members’ lives a little easier.

225-261-1177
1-800-262-1170

*Certain restrictions apply.
DEMCO employees, family and friends participated in the annual Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure on the LSU Campus in March. The group joined thousands of other participants for the event that raises funds for breast cancer research.

Everybody climb aboard the electric bus

Electric vehicles are revving up! With over half a million electric cars on the road, several companies are turning their attention to a new market niche, electric buses.

Several companies, including Proterra, GreenPower Bus, eBus and Lion Bus are actively selling and manufacturing electric buses while others such as Tesla have announced plans to break into this market.

Buses may seem like an odd choice for innovation, but they make ideal candidates for electrification.

First, buses have predictable, set routes. This means it’s easy to plan around their battery range limitations.

Buses also have long idle periods, typically at night, that are perfect for recharging.

Next, even though electric vehicles are more expensive to buy than comparable fossil-fuel counterparts, they are less expensive to operate because kWhs are almost always cheaper than gallons of fuel on a levelized basis.

Buses are frequently in use, allowing them to leverage their cheaper fuel source. Buses are also able to take advantage of regenerative braking, an electric vehicle feature that converts kinetic energy (usually lost while braking) back into usable energy.

Lastly, buses provide enough size for a truly immense battery pack. Proterra’s Catalyst E2 bus debuted last year and can carry a 660 kWh battery the size of a twin mattress, giving it a range of 350 miles.

For comparison, the latest Tesla model S only gets 315 miles per charge of its 100 kWh battery pack.

On the consumer side, there are two primary benefits, health and noise. Electric buses run much cleaner than their diesel counterparts, though your mileage will vary depending on how your region generates electricity.

Massachusetts estimates that switching from diesel to electric power will reduce vehicle CO2 emissions by more than 70 percent. Even if emissions aren’t completely erased, it does change where they are produced.

Bus passengers, nearby pedestrians and motorists will have cleaner air as they travel. This is an especially important benefit for children riding electric school buses. The other positive of electric buses is that they’ll run quietly, contributing less noise pollution to the streets they travel.

However, electric buses still have a challenging road in front of them. They currently cost about two to three times as much as a similarly sized diesel bus. The Proterra Catalyst E2 bus unsubsidized retails for $799,000, while the electric school buses from Lion bus cost between $200,000 and $300,000 (customized depending on their intended route and use).

Proterra is planning to triple their production in 2017 from 30 buses to 90. While that might not sound like much, battery costs are falling rapidly, which will make electric buses a viable transit choice for more cities, towns and school districts.

The downside, of course, is now you’ll have no excuse not to talk to your seatmate.

The other positive of electric buses is that they’ll run quietly, contributing less noise pollution to the streets they travel.
Fake news comes in handy when it’s time for jury selection

News Notes

The next meeting of the DEMCO Board of Directors is scheduled for Thursday, April 20, 2017, at 6 p.m. Board meetings are held at DEMCO’s headquarters facility located at 16262 Wax Road, Greenwell Springs, La.

Thunderstorm Safety Tips

When thunderstorms are rolling your way, stay safe with these helpful tips from the American Red Cross:

• Listen to local news or NOAA Weather Radio for emergency updates.

Watch for signs of a storm, like darkening skies, lightning or high wind.

• Postpone outdoor activities if thunderstorms are likely to occur.

Many people struck by lightning are not in the area where rain is occurring.

• If a severe thunderstorm warning is issued, take shelter in a substantial building or a vehicle with the windows closed. Get out of mobile homes that can blow over in high winds.

• If you can hear thunder, you are close enough to be in danger from lightning. If thunder roars, go indoors!

The National Weather Service recommends staying inside for at least 30 minutes after the last thunder clap.

• Avoid electrical equipment and telephones. Use battery-powered TVs and radios instead.

• Shutter windows and close outside doors. Keep away from windows.

• Do not use plumbing.

If you are driving, try to safely exit the road and park. Stay in the vehicle and turn on the emergency flashers until the heavy rain ends. Avoid touching metal or other surfaces that conduct electricity in and outside the vehicle.

• If you are outside and cannot reach a safe building, avoid high ground; water; tall, isolated trees; and metal objects such as fences or bleachers. Picnic shelters, dugouts and sheds are NOT safe.

SLEEP MORE, FEEL BETTER

Unfortunately, the majority of Americans aren’t getting their necessary hours of sleep. This can contribute to health problems, including heart disease, high blood pressure, stroke and diabetes. It can also contribute to moodiness, slow thinking and slow reaction times, which can cause relationships problems, errors at work and sometimes, deadly accidents.

How can you know if you’re getting the right amount of sleep for your brain and body? Here are a few symptoms to watch for:

• Your productivity, performance and judgement are deteriorating. Sleep plays a key role in transferring information from short-term memory to long-term memory and restoring brain synapses. Sleep also affects reasoning, focus, word selection, creativity and judgement—even your morals and ethics due to reduced self-control.

You’re gaining weight. People who sleep less than six hours a night show increased levels of an appetite-stimulating peptide and decreased levels of an appetite-suppressing peptide. The resulting cravings tend to be for high-calorie, high-fat foods. Chronic lack of sleep also can cause your body to store excess belly fat.

• You’re moody. When people are sleep deprived, the pre-frontal cortex (responsible for processing emotions) essentially shuts down.

• You look tired. A few nights of missed sleep might leave you with puffy eyes, but chronic lack of sleep increases belly fat and breaks down skin collagen, which keeps skin smooth and supple. The body may also release less human growth hormone, which is important for maintaining muscle mass.

Lucky Account Number Contest

The Lucky Account Number Contest continues this month with four winners included in this edition of Along These Lines. Before you continue looking through this edition for your winning number, look for your account number printed above your mailing address. Locate this number anywhere in this issue and win the $25 prize. To claim your prize, please call 225-262-3072.
Five Easy Ways to CELEBRATE EARTH DAY Every Day

1. Conserve water by taking showers instead of baths.
2. Turn off all lights when you leave a room.
3. Bring your reusable bags to the market and other stores when shopping.
4. Go paperless. Pay as many bills as possible online.
5. Ditch the car and walk when possible.

DEMCO BOARD ELECTION
DIXIE ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2017 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Saturday, May 13, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.
LOCATION OF MEETING
DEMCO Headquarters Facility
16262 Wax Road, Greenwell Springs, LA 70739

February 19, 2017 - March 5, 2017
Publish the Calendar of Events in the official journal of each Parish, including the date, time, and place of the meeting of the Nominating Committee.

March 16, 2017
DEMCO Board Meeting at 6:00 p.m., at DEMCO 1 Headquarters. The Committee on Nominations will be appointed at this meeting.

March 16, 2017
The Nominating Committee meeting begins at 6:05 p.m. at DEMCO Headquarters, 16262 Wax Road, Greenwell Springs, LA, with results of the meeting to be posted March 17, 2017.

March 21, 2017 - March 23, 2017
Pre-qualification period. Members interested in seeking a position on the board of directors are required pursuant to DEMCO Board Policy to appear in person between these dates to determine eligibility requirements as prescribed in the corporation’s bylaws. Candidates must be qualified prior to the issuing of a nominating petition. Candidates not pre-qualified will not be eligible to seek a position on the board of directors.

March 28, 2017
DEMCO’s Annual Meeting and Bylaws Committee will meet at 5:00 p.m. on this date, if needed, to determine eligibility of director candidates who have pre-qualified. Only candidates who have pre-qualified will be considered.

March 29, 2017
Beginning on this date, pre-qualified director candidates may obtain a petition to run for a seat on the board of directors. Louisiana law requires 50 valid signatures for the petition to be validated.

April 12, 2017
Petitions must be returned to DEMCO’s headquarters office by 4:30 p.m. and received by the CEO and General Manager’s office.

April 13, 2017
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 17, 2017
This is the Record Date for the 2017 Annual Membership Meeting. A final list of those members eligible to vote in DEMCO’s 2017 Annual Membership Meeting will be prepared.

April 20, 2017 – May 2, 2017
The Official Notice of the 2017 Annual Meeting will be mailed to all members of the cooperative during this time.

April 20, 2017
Ballots for the 2017 Annual Meeting will be mailed to members of the cooperative on this date. Members should receive their ballots by Saturday, April 22, 2017 - VOTE and mail your ballot immediately.

May 5, 2017
The deadline for receiving ballots for the 2017 Annual Membership Meeting is 4:30 p.m. on this date - DO NOT DELAY - VOTE!

May 8, 2017 - May 10, 2017
Ballots will be 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 that the ballots will be counted.

May 13, 2017
Annual meeting and election results announced at 10:00 a.m., at DEMCO Headquarters.

DEMCO offers scholarships to area students

One-year scholarships to students attending a Louisiana public college or university will be awarded in a random drawing highlighting DEMCO’s annual membership meeting on May 13, 2017.

According to David Latona, Manager of Member and Public Relations, several scholarships will be awarded. “The number of scholarships awarded will be determined by the budget. This budget fluctuates from year to year as funds permit,” he said.

The scholarships awarded by DEMCO provide assistance to help students with academic tuition to a Louisiana public college or university for both the fall and spring semesters of the academic year. Students will be awarded $1,250 cash award to be used by the student as needed.

DEMCO is allowed to use unclaimed deposits, refunds and other monies owed to former members to provide funding for the scholarship program. Complete eligibility requirements are listed below.

2017 Scholarship eligibility requirements

1. Applicant must be a DEMCO member, child or the legal ward of a DEMCO member who has been a member in good standing for at least 12 consecutive months as of the application deadline, May 5, 2017. Only one scholarship will be awarded per family per academic year.

2. A student can receive the DEMCO scholarship one time. It is not renewable. The term of the scholarship will be for one continuous academic year beginning with the fall semester (or quarter). The scholarship does not include summer sessions.

3. The scholarship money can be used by an undergraduate student to attend, on a full-time basis, any Louisiana Public university. The scholarship will not be awarded to a student attending a private university or vocational/technical school of any kind.

4. A first-time college student applying for the DEMCO scholarship must: a) have graduated from high school with at least a B average (3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale, or the equivalent); or, b) have graduated from high school and received a minimum ACT score of 21. High school applicants must be seniors.

5. An undergraduate college student seeking the scholarship must have achieved a minimum of 2.5 (on a 4.0 GPA scale) on all prior college work.

6. A scholarship application must be completed and returned to DEMCO.

7. Scholarship recipients will be chosen in a random drawing at the annual meeting of the DEMCO membership.

8. The scholarship recipients will be required to provide DEMCO with an official transcript verifying his/her eligibility within 10 days after the drawing.

9. The scholarship funds will be paid to the recipients at the beginning of each semester (or quarter) upon presentation of an official receipt for the payment of full-time undergraduate tuition (see No. 10 below). To receive the second semester (or quarter) payment, the student must provide evidence that he/she successfully completed at least 12 semester hours (or 9 quarter hours) and that he/she maintained a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.5 (on a 4.0 scale).

10. The scholarship provides a limited scholarship award of $1,250 per semester.

11. Members of the DEMCO Board, employees of DEMCO (including part time employees, students, and temporary employees) and children of the Board of Directors and employees are not eligible for this scholarship. (Act. No. 70003933-003)

Application for Scholarship Program

Students Name: _____________________________
Parents Name: ____________________________
Address: __________________________________
E-mail Address: ____________________________
Telephone No.: ____________________________
DEMCO Account #: _________________________

Do you qualify for TOPS Assistance? Yes____ No____
School you will attend: ______________________

(Complete this form and return it to DEMCO by May 5, 2017)
Meeting of February 16, 2017

The board of directors of DEMCO held its regular meeting Thursday, February 16, 2017.

Board President Richard Sitman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

The board then approved the minutes of the previous meetings, new member list, Treasurer’s Report and Operations Committee report as written. The board then resolved to authorize management to revise Practice No. 3308.003 (Drugs and Alcohol) to allow a breath alcohol level of up to 0.02 for both CDL Alcohol) to allow a breath alcohol levels of up to 0.02 for both CDL and non-CDL co-op personnel, except no consumption of any alcoholic beverages shall be allowed while any employee is on call or on duty. (Acct. No. 80271952-001)

From the Purchasing Committee report Randy Lorio, committee chairman, presented the report. Next the board resolved to approve the following: Blount Contractors, LLC for the renovations/rebuild project of the Dixie Business Development Center (DBDC) at 1814 Range Avenue (Suite A) and to complete renovations to an additional 2,650 square feet of conditioned office space at 1814 Range Avenue (Suites C and E); and Advanced Control Systems, Inc. (a sole source provider) for the SCADA System upgrade project.

From the Finance Committee report Randy Lorio, committee chairman, reviewed the Interest, Fuel Cost Adjustment and Financial Summary reports. The board approved a resolution reclassifying those accounts disconnected in October 2016 as uncollectible.

Danny Berthelot gave the ALEC report with no action taken.

Leslie Falls presented the Dixie Business Center and DEMCO Foundation reports with no action taken.

John Vranic presented the Manager’s report with no action taken.

Jim Ellis presented the Attorney’s report with no action taken.

Meeting of March 16, 2017

The board of directors of DEMCO held its regular meeting Thursday, March 16, 2017. Board President Richard Sitman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

The board then approved the minutes of the previous meetings, new member list, Treasurer’s Report and Operations Committee report as written. The board then approved a resolution reclassifying those accounts disconnected in November 2016 as uncollectible.

Next the board resolved to approve Amendment #23 to the 2013 – 2016 Construction Work Plan to replace damaged 69kV switches at Pine Grove substation.

From the Purchasing Committee report Randy Lorio, committee chairman, presented bids received. Next the board approved the following purchases: EK Construction Co., Inc. for the 2017 Mechanical Right of Way (ROW) Re-Bid for the Frost West circuit (42 miles); CAPAR Electric, Inc. for the LA 431 @ LA 934 Intersection Improvements (Distribution Line Re-Route).

From the Finance Committee report Steve Irving, committee chairman, reviewed the Interest, Fuel Cost Adjustment and Financial Summary reports. The board approved a resolution reclassifying those accounts disconnected in November 2016 as uncollectible.

Next the board resolved to approve Hawthorne, Waymouth & Carroll, L.L.P. to conduct financial audits for the year ending December 31, 2016 for Dixie Electric Membership Corporation Single Audit required by GOHSEP, DEMCO Energy Services, LLC and Subsidiary, the DEMCO Foundation and the Dixie Business Development Center.

The board then resolved to appoint Mr. Chris Thayer (Board District 4, East Baton Rouge Parish); Ms. Virginia Womack (Board District 5, East Feliciana Parish); Mr. Kelly Tate, Sr. (Board District 8, Livingston Parish); and Mr. Charles Kreutz (Board District 10, West Feliciana Parish) to serve as the Nominating Committee in the 2017 DEMCO Annual Membership Meeting and Election Process.

Danny Berthelot gave the ALEC report with no action taken.

Leslie Falls presented the Dixie Business Center and DEMCO Foundation reports with no action taken.

John Vranic presented the Manager’s report with no action taken.

Jim Ellis presented the Attorney’s report with no action taken.

Altec Scholarship Program

Altec Industries will award a $500 Scholarship at the ALEC annual meeting for the fall semester of 2017.

The award is open to all children of active ALEC member cooperatives.

The following rules will apply:

1. Recipient must be a high school graduate in the class of 2017.
2. Recipient must provide verification of a minimum 2.5 GPA before scholarship monies are awarded.
3. This is a one-time award.
4. The award can be used for any college or university.
6. Mail applications to: Ed Amedee, 1443 City Place, Gonzales, LA 70737.
7. Must be postmarked by June 26, 2017. Altec will not be responsible for mail delivery.
8. Applicant must be the child of an ALEC member cooperative.

Application for Scholarship Program

Applicant’s Name: ________________________________
Parents or Guardian: ________________________________
Member Co-op: ________________________________
Home Address: ____________________________________
City: ________________________________ ZIP: ___________
Telephone No.: ____________________________________
High School Attended: ________________________________
Please supply a copy of your high school transcript to verify the 2.5 GPA

J.K.’s TAXIDERMY

Big Game Heads Birds Fish Small Game
Custom Mounts and Habitats Available

J.K. Johnson
Denham Springs, LA
225-665-7010

FINANCIAL FREEDOM

Featuring up to 10% Interest Bonus on all Deposits!
- MORE GAIN - NO LOSS - SAFETY - FREE IN-HOME CONSULTATION (IRA, ROTH, CD, NO, 401K and Pension Rollovers)

1-844-AGENT4U
Culotta Insurance & Investments
#1 SAFE MONEY MAN in MS - LOU since 1992! Richie Culotta

Denham
Springs
LA
225-665-7010

Along These Lines

Denham Springs, LA
Thursday, February 16, 2017.
DEMCO held its regular meeting
Chairman, presented the presentation.
Next the board resolved to approve
The following: Blount Contractors, LLC
Avenue and to complete renovations
by $500 scholarship at the ALEC annual
112-665-7010
Living room car wash?

Would you let someone wash their car in your living room? Imagine what a mess that would make!

Would you drive your car into a creek and wash it in the middle of the creek? Hopefully not! That would make the creek dirty for the fish and animals and could cause them to get sick and die.

Clean Cars = Dirty Creeks?

If your family washes your car on the street or in a driveway and the water runs into the gutter and the storm drain, then all of the dirt, oil and pollutants hitch a ride in the rinse water and go into your local creek.

It’s like washing your car in the fish’s living room!

(Almost) Waterless Car Wash

Here’s a way to wash your car with very little water.

You will need:
- ½ cup vinegar
- ½ teaspoon natural liquid soap
- 2 cups of water
- spray bottle
- clean rag
- soft cloth for buffing

Put the liquid ingredients in the spray bottle and shake to mix. Spray a small area of your car with the liquid and wipe, removing the dirt and grime. For stubborn dirt, allow the liquid to sit for a few minutes before wiping off or use a non-abrasive kitchen scrub cloth. Use a soft cloth to buff the area to a shine.

Do the math to discover which is the best way to wash your car:

- Commercial drive-through car wash: _______ to _______ gallons
- Self-Service car wash: _______ gallons
- Washing your car at home: _______ to _______ gallons

25 + 25
41 - 25
36
25

5 + 5 + 5
10 + 10
25
25

This tree is 552 inches tall. There are 12 inches in a foot. How many feet tall is the tree?

_____ feet

This fish lives 4 fathoms below the surface of the ocean. There are 6 feet in a fathom. In feet, how deep in the sea would you have to go to find this fish?

_____ feet

Find the words in the puzzle. Then look for each word in this week’s Kid Scoop stories and activities.


Standards Link: Reading: Use the newspaper to locate information.

Color this reminder and display it in a kitchen or bathroom as a reminder for your family.

A Colorful Reminder

You can make every day Earth Day by being careful not to waste our natural resources.

Color this reminder and display it in a kitchen or bathroom as a reminder for your family.

Earth Day Bingo

Take a walk with friends or family members and see if you can find all of the things on these Earth Day Bingo Cards. The first person to find all their items wins!

Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.

Find the words in the puzzle. Then look for each word in this week’s Kid Scoop stories and activities.


Write On!

What are three things kids can do to protect the environment?
DEMCO awards academic scholarships annually to its member-students who attend a public Louisiana college or university. These scholarships are worth $1,250 per semester for both fall and spring semesters of the academic year. Apply today!

Visit demco.org for rules and eligibility.

**KEEPING CURRENT: TIP #102**

Wait to wash your student’s laundry until you have a full load, instead of washing smaller loads more frequently. If a small load is necessary, adjust water levels accordingly.

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