Here’s how you can stay trim and lean in 2017
A friend once told me that worrying is an indication that you’re lacking faith. I understood his point: we should probably try to relax a little more and believe that things will work out for the best, especially those things that are beyond our control.

But I’m not sure I completely agree with his contention. There are plenty of things I worry about going into this new year, even though I would describe myself as a person of faith.

For example, as the CEO and General Manager of DEMCO, I can assure you that your cooperative does not magically run itself and that electrical power doesn’t just automatically materialize through the light sockets in your home.

My wife can certainly attest to the fact that I always worry about the day-by-day, second-by-second task of keeping the electricity moving through our power delivery system and keeping the lights on for our members.

But that doesn’t mean I don’t have faith in our employees to get the job done, to perform their work with competence and professionalism. Every day, and many nights, our employees are busy making sure you get the power you need to run your home or business.

Every day there are scores of men and women both inside and outside of our seven offices answering your calls, constructing and maintaining power lines and rights-of-way, tracking financial expenditures, processing payments, working with our wholesale power provider, conducting safety programs, interacting with our legislative and regulatory entities and making sure our lines of communication with our members stay open.

I confess to sometimes fretting over whether the job is going to get done — especially when a deadline looms - but I have faith that those who are responsible for running your co-op will continue to do it well, just as they’ve always done for nearly eight decades.

I believe in the cooperative system and the notion that most people have the character, personal integrity and pride to carry out their tasks to the best of their abilities.

Through it all, we know with both our heads and our hearts that the rain eventually stops and the drought is always broken.

Despite being buffeted by hardship and difficult challenges over recent months, I encourage you to begin the new year with a renewed spirit of hope, optimism and high expectations for a peaceful and bountiful 2017.

Manager’s Report

By John Vranic
DEMCO CEO and General Manager

Looking forward to a bountiful and prosperous new year

CoBank makes contribution to DEMCO Foundation

The DEMCO Foundation recently received a generous donation of $20,000 from CoBank Board Member and DEMCO Board President Richard Sitman. The funds will be used to assist DEMCO members in need following the historic flooding of August 2016. Pictured from left to right: DEMCO Member Relations Representative Chanon Johnson, Sitman, DEMCO Foundation Board President Dr. Karen Overstreet, Foundation Board Members Lee Thomas, Barbara Stevens and Donna Cody, along with DEMCO Board Members who also serve on the DEMCO Foundation Board, Dennis Lott and Leslie Falks.
The annual membership meeting of DEMCO, when members of the cooperative vote for their board of directors and receive reports concerning the financial health and operation of their utility, is scheduled for Saturday, May 13, 2017, beginning at 10 a.m.

The meeting will be held at DEMCO’s headquarters facility, 16262 Wax Road. (Acct. No. 80163252-001)

According to Brent Bradley, vice president of marketing and member services, director elections will be conducted with a mail-in ballot. “The mail ballot process has been utilized for many years by DEMCO and allows all members to have a voice in a convenient format,” he said.

Director elections are scheduled for East Baton Rouge Parish, District 4; East Feliciana Parish, District 5; Livingston Parish, District 8; St. Helena Parish, District 10. Stephen Irving, Faye Morris, Dennis Lott and Richard Sitman currently represent the board of directors in these areas of the DEMCO system.

DEMCO members seeking positions on the board of directors must meet eligibility requirements as prescribed by the corporation’s bylaws (see notice to director candidates).

According to Bradley, director candidates must also pre-qualify in person in order to be considered as a candidate and to receive an election petition. Candidates are advised to contact DEMCO regarding pre-qualification of director candidates and pre-qualification dates at their earliest convenience.

Louisiana law and DEMCO’s bylaws require a petition with 50 valid signatures, from within individual board districts, prior to placing the candidate’s name on the ballot. Louisiana law also requires 15 percent of the membership, within individual board districts, register for the annual meeting for a valid election to take place.

More information concerning the 2017 annual membership meeting may be found in your local newspaper and in future editions of Along These Lines.

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Article IV, Section 4.04 of the bylaws of Dixie Electric Membership Corporation (DEMCO) provide that “no person shall be eligible to become or remain a director, who;

1. is not a member and bona fide resident in the district from which he is elected and whose principal place of residence is served by DEMCO;

2. is in any way employed by or has a significant financial interest in a competing enterprise; or provides services or supplies to DEMCO;

3. is an elected public official, or is the spouse of an elected public official, in connection with which a salary or compensation in excess of $100.00 per annum is paid, it being the intent of the members of DEMCO that the board of directors of DEMCO be free from the influence of political officials; or

4. is a close relative, as defined in Article IV, Section 4.09, of any elected public official, or employee of DEMCO; or

5. is a convicted felon; or

6. is a current employee of DEMCO, or has been terminated from employment by DEMCO.

Principal place of residence defined

To define the term “principal place of residence,” as used in the corporation bylaws, Article IV, Section 4.04, Board Policy 111.003 shall be the following:

The principal place of residence of a DEMCO member shall be his or her habitual residence in accordance with the laws of the State of Louisiana. A determination of principal place of residence of a DEMCO member shall be a finding of fact to be made by the Board of Directors of Dixie Electric Membership Corporation. In evaluating where a member’s principal place of residence exists, the Board of Directors shall consider the following:

1. Where the member usually sleeps;

2. Where most clothing, toiletries, household appliances, and similar personal property regularly used by the member are located;

3. Where the member is registered to vote;

4. Where the member, or a spouse with whom he or she lives, has a telephone in his or her name which is not usually on call forward to another residence;

5. Where the member directly receives most mail addressed to him or her; and,

6. Whether the member is free to enter the premises without notice to, or permission from others.

Close relative defined

Article IV, Section 4.09 of the bylaws of Dixie Electric Membership Corporation (DEMCO) provides for the following:

Close relative shall mean the husband or wife, child, mother or father, step-mother or step-father, mother-in-law, father-in-law, sister or brother, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, daughter-in-law, son-in-law, aunt or uncle, niece or nephew, grandparent or grandchild.

Pre-qualification period

To establish an annual membership meeting pre-qualification period during which DEMCO shall have adequate time to investigate potential director candidates and determine eligibility, as prescribed in the corporation’s bylaws, prior to the issuance of a nominating petition, the following bylaws shall be followed:

A. Pre-qualification period for director candidates shall be established by the Board of Directors prior to the issuance of a nominating petition to ensure compliance with the corporation’s bylaws with reference to director eligibility.

B. The pre-qualification period shall be a three (3) day period during regular business hours, no more than 60 days, nor less than 45 days, prior to the date of the annual membership meeting as established by the Board of Directors.

C. Written notice of this policy shall be given to the membership annually in the corporation’s official newsletter, Along These Lines, and by inclusion in the “Calendar of Events,” published in the Official Journal of each parish where the corporation maintains service.

D. To prequalify, director candidates must appear in person, at the office of the Chief Executive Officer & General Manager, 16262 Wax Road, Greenwell Springs, Louisiana, during the established pre-qualification period.

E. Director candidates shall complete and sign a Director Eligibility Information form and Qualification Certification in order to pre-qualify. The following information must be provided and certified as true by the director candidate and spouse, if applicable.

1. Date of Birth

2. Louisiana Driver’s License Number

3. Social Security Number

4. Employer

5. Job Title

6. Telephone Number

7. DEMCO Account Number

8. Certificate of Qualifying Certification

F. Director candidates who fail to pre qualify will be declared ineligible to seek a position on the Board of Directors and will not be issued a nominating petition.

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Notice to DEMCO director candidates

Energy Hogs are not limited to home appliances.

Did you know the average home loses about half of its cooled air through unsealed openings?

Cracks and gaps left unsealed typically add up to a two-foot-square hole in the average home—that’s like having a window open all day, every day!

Here are a few tips on how to seal air leak openings:

• Weatherstrip doors and windows with gaps at the frame.

• Use caulk (and a caulking gun) to fill small gaps around outlets or between the baseboard and the floor.

• Use foam insulation, foil insulation, sheeting or a combination of materials to seal larger gaps and holes, like those around pipes in your home.

Source: Dept. of Energy

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Jan./Feb. 2017 • ALONG THESE LINES • Page 3
Roy Jones remembers feeling his belly flop around every time he turned over in the bed. He remembers posing for a photograph with his young son, and on one thigh was his handsome toddler and on the other thigh was his bloated gut.

When climbing stairs at the Exxon plant where he worked, he would get winded easily and have to take a break when he reached the next platform.

He had no energy, no stamina, and generally just didn’t feel all that well.

It took a few years of fits and starts, but Jones finally decided to take the advice of his doctor and do something about dropping that extra 40 pounds he was lugging around.

He joined the Southside YMCA and began making wiser lifestyle choices like exercising and eating right, and it didn’t take long to begin reaping the rewards. In due time, those 40 pounds were gone and they haven’t been back.

That was 30 years ago, and today the 67-year-old owns a movie-star physique, stands ramrod straight, boasts a pair of bulging biceps and feels like a million bucks.

“There’s no miracle. People want a quick fix, but there’s no magic bullet. You have to get off the sofa and move your body. Get out and move.”

- Physical fitness trainer Roy Jones

After retiring at the age of 56, Jones decided to make it his business to spread the good word about fitness and he became a certified trainer. For the past four years he has worked for the Capital Area YMCA, circulating among various branches to dispense advice and motivate members to move around more and apply more discipline at the dinner table.

“I was doing everything wrong, except for the fact that I never smoked cigarettes,” Jones said. “I was feeling lousy, but when I started exercising and eating right, I just fell in love with it. I love keeping fit and keeping busy. I love encouraging others not to make the same mistakes I made.”

Jones said some are quick to attribute his good health to gifted genetics. But he’s just as quick to point out his mistakes he made.

“I was doing everything wrong, except for the fact that I never smoked cigarettes,” Jones said. “I was feeling lousy, but when I started exercising and eating right, I just fell in love with it. I love keeping fit and keeping busy. I love encouraging others not to make the same mistakes I made.”

Another lady’s husband bought her 10 free training sessions. She came in here with a walker and now she’s dancing and she’s vigorous. A man came in with back pain and was stooped over. He lost some weight and hasn’t had a shot in his back in more than a year.”

The stories keep coming, stories of clients clearing their medicine cabinets and even climbing Mt. Kilimanjaro. (Act. No. 1531101-001)

His advice is to eat in moderation, eat sensible portions, develop a routine that works and find a good trainer or training partner to encourage mutual accountability. Make fitness a priority, stay committed to good health, and the rewards will come.

This sound advice is echoed by 77-year-old YMCA member Albert Ward. A resident of Ethel, Ward recently joined the Americana branch after relocating to the area from Baton Rouge.

Ward recalls playing sports at the Y with his brother while growing up in Georgia. He was a long-time member of Foxy’s Fitness Center and has remained committed to fitness all of his life.

But that doesn’t mean he doesn’t face the temptations like everybody else.

“I like to eat ice cream,” he confessed. “But I also enjoy working out. I like to be active. There’s no panacea. It’s a matter of choices. Everybody has to have their own motivation and make their own decisions.”

When it comes to fitness, Ward identifies a religious component to trying to stay in shape.

“Everybody struggles. But this is your body, this is your temple. We should all have respect for our bodies. It’s what God gave us and you have to realize this is your life and that it’s important to honor that gift.”

Fitness can also impact the bottom line for a business, according to DEMCO CEO and General Manager John Vranic.

The member-owned cooperative conducts a health fair for its nearly 200 employees every year make sure they stay in top shape for the sake of their families and their careers.

Dozens of employees also volunteer each year to participate in health-conscious promotional programs such as the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure and the Get Your Rear in Gear 5K race/walks.

“Being more mindful of your health and taking steps to maintain your weight and getting regular checkups is key to having a productive work force for any organization,” Vranic said. “It helps our employees to not only succeed in their jobs but it also helps them be at their best for their families and their loved ones at home.”
With a Mueller metal roof, you get beauty and long-lasting protection for your home – backed by a company that’s been around for over 85 years. With dozens of gorgeous colors and several panel styles to choose from, it’s easy to find the roof that fits your home perfectly. Discover why so many homeowners are choosing Mueller.

www.muellerinc.com  877-2-MUELLER  (877-268-3553)

“When we saw all the advantages of a Mueller roof, the decision was easy.”
How is wind energy harvested? Let us count the ways

The energy industry is changing. As technology advances, the use of electricity from renewable energy sources is growing. Today, wind accounts for 4.7 percent of our nation’s fuel mix.

So how is wind harvested? In simplest terms, the wind turns a propeller connected to a generator via a gear box; these parts are contained in a housing called a nacelle. This mechanical connection increases the revolutions of the blades from a leisurely 15-20 rpm to 1,800 rpm at the generator, where wind becomes electricity.

As the wind changes direction, the nacelle turns the blades accordingly. When wind farms are laid out, the placement of the turbines is strategically planned so that the turbulence from one turbine does not interfere with the operation of others behind it. The turbines also have protective mechanisms built in that will furl the blades once a certain wind speed is reached to prevent the turbine from spinning itself to pieces.

Like everything else, technology is driving the development of larger capacity wind turbines. Earlier models of turbines had the capacity to produce 660 kW (kilowatts) to 1 MW (megawatts) of power. Current models have the capacity to produce 1.2 to 2 MW. And turbines are able to produce 12 to 21 MW are currently being developed.

Next, why are there typically three blades on a turbine? Single blade turbines have been found to be unstable. Adding a second blade increases output by 10 percent. Adding a third blade increases output by 5 percent. Each additional blade increases the output, but the increase is considered small—and the increased cost of materials and construction make it uneconomical—so, three blades has become the norm.

Because of the enormous stresses the blades face—and the need for lighter weight—the blades are typically built from resin impregnated composite materials. The most common form of construction is molding epoxy soaked fiberglass into the desired shape with cores of balsa wood. Anyone who has ever built a balsa wood model airplane will question this, as those assemblies are extremely fragile. However, balsa’s light weight and composition make it an excellent contributor to the stability and durability of these monster blades.

The largest blade that is being produced today is 75 meters (m) in length, a bit less than the wingspan of an Airbus A380! (Acct. No. 80046805-001)

In wind generation, height is key. Near the surface of the earth, wind conditions become erratic as the sun warms the ground. The temperature difference between the ground and air creates effects like wind shear, which can make efficient operation difficult. At higher levels, ground effects diminish and wind speed becomes more consistent.

A key challenge facing wind and solar energy is variability, as output can vary significantly over short periods, depending on atmospheric changes. One potential option is energy storage, an advancing technology that will equip electric co-ops to beat peak energy prices and save members money.

For now, wind and solar are best deployed as components of a diverse energy portfolio that also includes traditional generating resources.

Public Service Commission makes new ruling on net metering policy

While the state Legislature recently decided to discontinue its generous subsidy program to prop up the solar industry, the Louisiana Public Service Commission voted in November to shift more of that burden to electric utility ratepayers.

Democrat Lambert Boisserie and Democrat Foster Campbell, who ran unsuccessfully for a U.S. Senate seat in the fall, aligned with gubernatorial appointee Charlie DeWitt to pass a rule requiring utilities to credit solar panel users at an “avoided cost” rate rather than a retail rate for excess power.

DeWitt was appointed by Gov. John Bel Edwards to fill the seat of Commissioner Clyde Holloway, who passed away in October. Republican Mike Francis won the seat in the recent statewide election and took office in January.

Since 2008, Louisiana taxpayers have given away more than $151 million to solar panel owners in one of the country’s most generous subsidy programs. While that program is being discontinued as the Legislature struggles to address a gaping budget deficit, solar customers also continue to receive tax incentives from the federal government.

For more than a decade, the Commission has been considering rules and regulations regarding “net metering,” the term used to describe the act of electric power flowing both in and out of an electric meter.

Much of the discussion surrounding net metering has been centered around how much a utility should have to pay a solar panel owner for the power that flows from those panels onto the utility’s infrastructure.

Utilities have contended that solar panel owners are essentially having their cake and eating it too by generating their own power when the sun is shining while continuing to rely on the utility’s grid to receive power when it’s not.

According to DEMCO General Manager John Vranic, utility customers benefit from economies of scale when the number of system users increases. But when the number of users decreases, the cost of maintaining and operating the system is shifted to all remaining customers.

“People ought to have the right to own solar panels, but we feel other DEMCO members should not have to pay for it, especially when our taxpayers have already paid so much to subsidize the solar industry and federal taxpayers also continue to foot the bill,” he said.

The Commission’s action was the first of a two-phase effort to put permanent rules in place. The Commission plans to continue studying the impact of this phase-one decision for at least another year before moving into the second phase.

“DEMCO will continue to be involved in the process and make our case that all members should be treated fairly,” Vranic said.
DEMCO employees recognized for reaching service milestones

Congratulations to those DEMCO employees who have reached significant milestones in the service to co-op members. Employees are pictured here with Ryan Vandersypen, Vice President of System Operations.

5 years: Galen Dunbar, Tiffany Moore, Stephanie Guidry, Toni Johnson, Vandersypen, Mel Martin and Chad Landry.

10 years: Dusty Guarino, Shinell Aultman, Vandersypen, Brent Bradley, Avesia Holland, Tricia Courtney, Brian Merritt and Daniel Poirrier.


20 years: Michael Knight, Vandersypen, Wayne Stevenson and David Fournet.


35 years: Vandersypen, Gina Pickering, Toma Holland, Booker Washington and Mason Thacker.

40 years: Chuck Heine, Vandersypen, Phill Zito.

DEMCO linemen participate in advanced training program

DEMCO linemen recently completed various stages of the Louisiana Lineman Training Program administered through the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives in Baton Rouge. DEMCO places a premium on the safe operation of its line crews and all employees of the organization. According to DEMCO CEO and General Manager John Vranic, a successful safety program not only protects the lives of linemen and members, but also impacts the bottom line by saving time and money.

“We’re proud of these men who are working to improve their skills,” Vranic said. “Our goal is that each and every one of our employees can go back home to their families safely at the end of the work day.”

DEMCO linemen Jeremy Jett and Andrew Arnold completed Module I, Group 2.

DEMCO linemen Larry Stewart, Bodhi Wright, Michael Knight, Freddie Mores, Blake Sullivan and Andrea Johnson completed Module I, Levels 6-10.

DEMCO linemen Nick Carruth, Kaleb Lee, Cade Phelps, Chase Broussard, Derrick Willis, Jacob Parker completed Module 3, Levels 6-10.

DEMCO linemen Frank Fowler and Josh Prestridge completed Module 4, Levels 6-10.
Russian hackers must be hampering my path to fame and fortune

The telephone is sitting right here on the desk in front of me, no more than two feet away. And it’s dead silent. Maybe the ringer thing is malfunctioning. Maybe the system is on the fritz. Maybe the Russians hacked it. Only sound I hear is the wind blowing in and out of my nostrils.

It’s completely mystifying that nobody’s burning up my phone line after my stellar performance in the Faith Crossing UMC Christmas play.

I don’t get it! What’s the problem? Surely all the big-time Hollywood producers have heard the showbiz buzz by now, about how my character (listed in the program as Cowboy No. 3) totally stole the show during the presentation of WGOD’s Christmas Radio Program – all except the manger scene, of course. I know my limits.

When fame and fortune do finally come my way, I’ll be quick to share the credit with Warner Brothers for drawing on a certain tempestuous red-haired Looney Tunes character.

You see, the original scene called for four crusty old cowboys to come riding in from the range and swap some witty repartee about the birth of Jesus and how grace is for everyone, from scraggly cowpokes to stinky sheep herders.

After a slew of practice sessions, I felt the script was just a tad too bland and we needed to enter the scene with a little more gusto. Then, just hours before show time, I was struck by the perfect solution. I decided that after we rode in from the center aisle on our stick horses I would add a little flair to the festivities. Instead of simply riding down to the chancel rail and tying up my horse, I plotted to reprise the role of Yosemite Sam as a Bedouin sheik in that famous animated comedy short, “Sahara Hare.” In this riveting scene, Sam confronts his defiant camel that obviously has a problem submitting to authority. In his typical cantankerous manner, Sam berates the beast and whacks it about the head and hind end with the butt of his rifle. Remember, this was the 1950s. Today, producer Friz Freleng, voice-over icon Mel Blanc, the imaginary cartoon character Yosemite Sam himself and all the suits at Warner Brothers would be sued to smithereens.

Anyway, when it came time for the cowboys to enter, my three riding partners hoofed down the aisle and then brought their horses to a stop, but mine kept galloping headlong right toward the rhythm guitarist.

“Whoa! Whoa, mule!” I shouted a few times, and after finally wrangling my horse to a halt I delivered with precise comedic timing that classic line, “When I say whoa, I mean WHOA!”

I really figured the video would have gone viral in no time, but right now the hit count is stuck at 38.

At this point, probably the only thing to grease the skids to fame is to create a compilation of my greatest stage hits. I’d have to dig through some old 8 mm film, but I can probably sift through my mom’s attic and drag up footage of my first stage appearance as one of Robin Hood’s merry men. It was a non-speaking role, but my acting chops were evident even in kindergarten. If I joked around long enough, I could probably still find that pointy green felt hat with the feather sticking out.

There are also yearbook photos of my appearance in the drag beauty queen (or is it king?) pageant in high school. My girlfriend dressed me up and had me looking like a disheveled cross between Elvira Mistress of the Dark and Phyllis Diller, but with wilder hair.

Though I clearly should have emerged the victor – I’m sure the whole thing was rigged – I finished second to my high school nemesis, whose name shall be withheld. For four years I always finished second to this one particular kid, every single time. I couldn’t believe it. No matter how hard I tried, I could never win. Not that I’m bitter.

There is also footage of my grand appearance at the River Center Theatre during the father-daughter dance revue. In this gripping performance, all the dads dressed as safari hunters while the little daughters dressed like monkeys.

The dads rehearsed every Saturday for three months to get the steps down. Well, not all of the dads. A few of these schmucks decided to weasel out of all that dreadful rehearsal time.

They showed up the day of the dance and just followed what all of us hard-working dedicated dads did, their heads swiveling side-to-side to see what the guy next to them was doing. I mean, how bush-league can you get? The nerve of these jerks, having the gall to enjoy the freedom of their Saturday mornings while the rest of us were getting slave-driven by some sadistic dance instructor? Not that I’m bitter.

Fortunately, I was there to pull the act out of the fire. The routine called for the dads, in turn, to step toward the audience and hold our little monkeys up high for everyone to see.

When it came my time, I dangled my monkey out there for probably four or five seconds too long and shook her around for added effect while she spun her tail in the air. My friend and fellow troupe member, Shane, dubbed that move “The Gibby.” In truth, Shane pulled off a similar attention-grabbing maneuver with his daughter. I just called that being Shane.

Fortunately, a decade later, my daughter has little recollection of this stunt. Every time I break out the DVD, she rolls her eyes. But she won’t forget the rolling her eyes when those Hollywood big-shots come calling and daddy foots the bill for college tuition and a luxury suite at the Southgate Towers apartment complex overlooking the LSU lakes!

So, the talent is there. The unbridled lust for fame and wealth is there. The pathological quest for attention is there. The empty soul and boundless ego are there. The body of work is well documented. Why isn’t anyone calling?? I think 2017 is going to be the year I get discovered. Meanwhile, I’ve got to go find someone to fix this phone.”
DEPMC 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
DEPMC Headquarters Facility
16262 Wax Road, Greenwell Springs, LA 70739

According to the Consumer Electronics Association, the average household owns 24 consumer electronics products, which are responsible for 12 percent of household electricity use. ENERGY STAR-certified audio/video equipment is up to 50 percent more efficient than conventional models.

Source: EnergyStar.gov

DEPMC 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. (Acct. No. 80265587-001)

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.

DEPMC 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/trade 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.

Application for Scholarship Program

Students Name: ________________________________
Parents Name: ________________________________
Address: _____________________________________
E-mail Address: ________________________________
Telephone No.: ________________________________
DEPMC 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 October 27, 2016

The board of directors of DEMCO held its regular meeting Thursday, October 27, 2016. 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.

Next the board approved a resolution to present each DEMCO employee, retiree, and board member a Thanksgiving turkey and a Christmas ham; and, to present each employee a Christmas bonus. The board then authorized amendments to the 2013-2016 construction work plan.

From the Purchasing Committee report Randy Lorio, committee chairman, presented bids received. The board then approved the purchase of 8 small vehicles, four from All Star Ford Lincoln and four from Hood Automotive. Next the board approved a resolution for the materials for Pole Line Hardware for 2017 including Lighting, Metering, Underground Material, Hardware and Transformers. The board then resolved to approve 2017 Mechanical Right of Way Retrimming. Next the board approved bids for the following: Deep South Communications as a sole source provider for the Clinton to Greensburg microwave link, Reulet Electric Supplies, LLC to extend the current prices for S & C three phase load break switches and disconnects for 2017, Willbros T & D Services for the Juban Marketplace 69KV Transmission Line Relocation project, Desoto Treated Materials, Inc. to extend the current contract pole pricing for 2017, Cummins Sales and Service for the Livingston Communication Tower Generator Project.

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 June 2016 as uncollectable. Next the board resolved to authorize management to reprice CFC loans.

Danny Berthelot gave the ALEC report with no action taken. Leslie Falks presented the Dixie Business Center and DEMCO Foundation reports with no action taken.

John Vranic as the alternate voting delegate was appointed as the 2017 NRECA Annual and Regional Meeting Voting Delegate, DEMCO’s, NISC and NRTC Voting Delegate, and DEMCO’s CFC Voting Delegate; and, to appoint John D. Vranic as the alternate voting delegate in all of the above-mentioned capacities.

Danny Berthelot gave the ALEC report with no action taken. Leslie Falks then 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 the child of an AleC member cooperative.
2. Must be postmarked by June 26, 2017. Altec will not be responsible for mail delivery.
3. The award can be used for any college or university.
4. Applicant must be the child of an ALEC member cooperative.
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: ______________________________
High School Attend: _________________________
City: ___________________________ ZIP: ____________
Telephone No.: ______________________________

Please supply a copy of your high school transcript to verify the 2.5 GPA
**Gravity Power**

What happens when you put a car on a ramp? It will roll down to the ground. An invisible force is pulling it down: gravity.

Susan and Taylor each made a gravity-powered car. Gravity has the same amount of pull on all of the cars in a race down a ramp. Each kid is using science to make his or her car go faster.

Susan is using weight. She has glued some pennies to her car to make it heavier. But its boxy shape has drag which slows it down.

Taylor has engineered his car to have less drag. When a car moves through the air, it causes friction. Friction causes drag, a force that slows a moving object. Streamlined and smooth objects have less drag than jagged or flat ones.

**Engineering Success**

Roll your gravity racer down a ramp. Measure how far it rolls. What happens if you add weight to your racer, such as taping pennies to it? What else can you do to make it roll farther?

**Make your own Gravity Racer!**

Creativity is part of STEM! Be an engineer and create your own Gravity Racer! Here are instructions to get you started.

**YOU’LL NEED:**
- cereal box
- 4 plastic bottle caps
- 2 bamboo skewers
- 2 straws
- Hot glue
- Paint or markers
- Ruler
- TAPE
- A straw
- A small box

Cut a 6” x 4” rectangle out of a cardboard cereal box.

Tape straw to the bottom of car body. Make sure the wheels spin freely.

Cut another rectangle, 6” x 4” and fold as shown.

Tape the angled hood onto the larger rectangle.

Insert skewer through straw to create an axle. Hot glue bottle cap to other end of skewer.

Tape straw axles to bottom of car body.

Decorate your Gravity Racer.

A plumb bob, which is a weight on the end of a string, is a tool builders use to see if a structure is vertical. They hang the plumb bob next to the structure. If the string and structure are parallel, the structure is vertical.

A plumb bob, which is a weight on the end of a string, is a tool builders use to see if a structure is vertical. They hang the plumb bob next to the structure. If the string and structure are parallel, the structure is vertical.

**Standards Link:** Earth Science: Know that gravity pulls objects toward the center of the Earth.

**Kid Scoop Together:**

**Proof It!**

Are you an eagle-eyed reader? Read the articles below and correct the eight spelling errors you find. The first one is done for you.

**Using Gravity to Build Structures**

Gravity always pulls objects towards the center of the Earth. Even if you are walking up a flight of stairs, gravity pulls you toward the centre of the Earth.

Builders of buildings use this fact to help them build walls that are vertical.

**Kid Scoop juku**

Complete the grid by using all the letters in the word PLUMB in each vertical and horizontal row. Each letter should only be used once in each row. Some spaces have been filled in for you.

Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to locate information, look through the newspaper to find:
- A numeral less than 10
- A numeral over 1,000
- A telephone number
- An age
- A zipcode
- The score of a game
- Tomorrow’s forecast

**Write On!**

The Ups and Downs of Gravity

Write a 2- to 3-sentence paragraph telling what you like and don’t like about gravity. Think about how life would be different without gravity.
Do you have the write stuff?

Enter the 2017 Rural Electric Youth Tour Essay Contest, sponsored by DEMCO, and you could be one of four high school juniors to win an all-expense paid trip to WASHINGTON, D.C.! Now is your chance to be a part of history. Essays are due on January 20!

Visit demco.org for rules and information.

KEEPING CURRENT: TIP #1

DEMCO awards college/university scholarships each year at our annual membership meeting. Learn more at our website today.