Along These Lines

DEMCO backs the badge
Manager’s Report

By John Vranic
DEMCO CEO and General Manager

Our community will emerge stronger in the wake of recent tragedies

There are times when you just feel helpless…and maybe even a little hopeless.

Many of us who live, work and raise our families in the Greater Baton Rouge area have shared those feelings over the past few weeks.

As reports of violence, death and social unrest have dominated the local and national headlines; we’ve mourned the losses and felt the uneasy fear and anxiety that typically follows in the wake of such traumatic experiences.

There has been a sense of disbelief as the kinds of horrific scenes and bloodshed that have taken place in areas across the country have now unfolded right here in our own backyard.

But over a four-day span, as the bodies of law enforcement officers Matthew Gerald, Brad Garafola and Montrell Jackson were laid to rest, it became quite apparent that attempts by outsiders to breed dissension and divide our people were bound for failure.

Instead of allowing ourselves to descend further into the depths of despair and chaos, the tragic turn of events actually spawned real conversations and productive dialogue between law enforcement officials, citizens and city leaders.

We saw numerous fund-raising efforts from private individuals, agencies, churches and businesses to provide for the families of all affected individual.

There were outpourings of support for all of those men and women who have sworn to serve and protect and who put their lives on the line every day and every night.

On the political front, two congressmen, from diverse backgrounds representing all came together to push federal legislation to assist the families.

Here at DEMCO, we thought it was important to salute our fallen law enforcement officers as they were being taken to their respective sites of eternal rest. Along with thousands of others, many DEMCO employees stopped what they were doing and paid their respects by positioning themselves along the motor routes.

Our line crews also positioned their boom’s and buckets over the roadways to fashion a massive arch and flew the stars-and-stripes high in the air.

My wife and I witnessed the unity of this community first-hand when we joined DEMCO employees and so many others on Hwy. 61 as the processional for Brad Garafola passed by.

Our employees interacted with others standing along the roadside and gestured to officers who came to East Baton Rouge Parish from across the country to honor their comrades in blue.

There were people of all races and backgrounds peaceably assembling out in the summer heat for a common cause.

While everyone should have respect for law and order - the very glue that holds our society together - our support here at DEMCO has a practical element to it.

We often work closely with law enforcement officers in the course of our daily work, especially during times of emergency when we need help controlling traffic, keeping our work zones safe, and more.

Our line crews, in particular, find similarities with law enforcement work. Both face potential hazards during nearly every hour they are on the job. They both are tasked with serving the public and face daunting challenges in the field.

Like police work, line work is hard, hazardous, stressful and often thankless. The work takes place out in the streets and the elements where where all manner of potential danger exists. One error and there could be fatal consequences.

We humbly tip our hard hats to officers throughout our service area and beyond.

Speaking for all of us at DEMCO, we are profoundly grateful for the sacrifices they made. We honor their bravery and courage and willingness to put their lives on the line for our safety and protection.

As our community continues to heal and we strive to emerge with better relations and a solid sense of common purpose among people of all circumstances and backgrounds, the DEMCO family stands with our peace officers.

We offer our condolences to the families in their time of grief, and we remain hopeful that we can forge a unified front so we can all move ahead to make a better future for our children and generations to come.

Back the Badge

DEMCO employees display a large American flag in a show of support for local law enforcement officers and their families. The display was part of a funeral procession for an officer who was recently killed in the line of service.

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August 2016

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Along These Lines (USPS 004-089) is published monthly except bi-monthly Jan/Feb, Sept/Oct, Nov/Dec, by the Assn. of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives Inc. (ALEC), 10725 Airline Highway, B.R., LA 70816-4299

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Annual subscription

$1.70 Members; $5 Non-Members

Postmaster: Send Form 3579 to: 10725 Airline Highway, Baton Rouge, LA 70816-4299. Periodicals Postage paid at Baton Rouge, LA.
Manage your energy use with these handy apps

Tracking your steps, tracking your children or locating your parked car—these days, it seems like there is an app for everything.

If you are efficiency-savvy and want to manage your home energy use to save money, there may be an app that works for you.

Purchasing a smart thermostat for your home is a great way to begin managing your energy use.

But, if you are looking for a more granular way to obtain information about your energy use, an app can provide useful insight into how specific actions impact your utility bill.

The following is a snapshot of a few energy efficiency mobile apps. All of the apps mentioned here are available for Apple and Android systems.

• Nest - Owned by Google, created by Nest Labs and linked only to the Nest thermostat, this free app has several useful features. You can adjust your home thermostat by simply using your smartphone, iPad or iTouch.

Users can view and edit a customized thermostat schedule and keep an eye on how much energy is being used in the home. You can also opt to receive extreme temperature alerts before your pet overheats or your pipes freeze. In addition, there is an option for smoke and carbon monoxide alerts, among other options.

• Together We Save - Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives offers the Together We Save app, which enables residential users to calculate the energy use of many household appliances based on national averages. This free app includes roughly 100 calculators that determine the projected energy use and cost of particular appliances and activities.

The app also offers 100 practical energy-saving tips.

For Touchstone Energy® Cooperative members, including DEMCO, the Together We Save app calculates energy costs based on your actual monthly utility rates for even greater accuracy.

• Lennox iComfort - Like the Nest app, the Lennox iComfort app is only compatible with Lennox products—in this case, the Wi-Fi thermostat.

This app has similar features to the Nest, in that users are able to remotely control their home thermostat and other settings. (Acct. No. 80268195-001)

In addition, the app allows residential users to program the system to an energy savings “away mode” when no one is home.

For example, you can select the settings you wish to run, then cancel the “away mode” as you return home to ensure a comfortable temperature awaits you.
DEMCO employees rallied to “Back the Blue” in the wake of the deaths of three area law enforcement officers in July.

Employees displayed blue ribbons in lobby areas and posted other signs of support at the headquarters facility on Wax Road in Central and at seven district branches.

Co-op crews also arrived on the scene during the funeral processions of Baton Rouge Policemen Matthew Gerald and Montrell Jackson and East Baton Rouge Sheriff’s Deputy Brad Garafola.

The crews positioned their bucket trucks to form a broad arch over the roadways and flew the American flag in support of the fallen officers and their families.

The coordinated action was also intended to affirm the organization’s support for law and order in the community, according to Carl Watts, a supervisor at DEMCO’s St. Francisville district facility.

“We back the men and women in blue,” Watts said. “We depend on them not only for doing our jobs to keep the lights on, but also when we go home to be with our families at night. People don’t often think about these professionals who put their lives on the line for our protection until a tragedy like this occurs.”

The funeral procession for Gerald rolled on Hwy. 61 just south of the St. Francisville office where Watts is stationed.

“This has been a real tragic turn of events for everyone in our community. We just wanted to do what we can to let the people who work hard every day to maintain law and order know that we’re behind them. Without them and the sacrifices made by them and their families, it would be very hard for our society to function and prosper,” Watts said.

But the effort didn’t stop there. Other DEMCO employees from managers to meter readers stepped up to raise funds for funeral expenses, create signs and stickers with the “Power of Blue” message and display the Stars and Stripes.

Marketing Assistant Penny Fruge played a key role in helping organize the event. She captured photographs of the scene and posted them on the cooperative’s Facebook page. She said the response was overwhelming as nearly 70,000 Facebook users viewed the posts.

“It was incredible to see the number of people who are supportive of our police departments, sheriff’s deputies and Louisiana State Police,” Fruge said. “This is by far the biggest response we’ve ever received from any of our social media messages. But we felt strongly that this was something important for us to do and was really just a small gesture compared to the ongoing efforts they make to serve and protect us 24 hours a day.”

Fruge said the emotional response of DEMCO employees as the bodies of the slain officers rolled past was strong. (Acct. No. 2338801-001)

“This has really touched a lot of people in a very profound way. It was hard for many of us who were there to contain our emotions. You just feel so deeply for the families and what they’re going through. You think of the wives and the sisters and brothers, moms and dads, and the children they’re leaving behind, when it didn’t really have to be like this,” she said.

Vice President of Marketing and Member Services Brent Bradley said not only was DEMCO’s involvement—with the public response—very encouraging in the wake of the recent tragedy, but it also was indicative of the personal impact law enforcement authorities have on people throughout the community.

“I don’t think there’s a person in the Greater Baton Rouge area who doesn’t know a police officer personally, or who doesn’t have a family member involved in law enforcement,” Bradley said. “It’s a tragic situation anytime something like this happens, but our people have pulled together and have demonstrated that they back the badge and they stand for law and order.”

Bradley said the DEMCO personnel who routinely come in close contact with high voltage power lines were the first to volunteer to get involved.

“Our line crews know exactly what it’s like to work under the constant pressure of being in close proximity to something that has the potential to cause great physical harm in an instant,” he said. “They know the difficulty of having to make sure you follow the proper procedures and having to maintain your focus when you know one false move can have fatal consequences. It takes a lot of mental focus that has to be sustained for long periods of time and in sometimes adverse conditions to do the job successfully and safely.”

Fruge added that the cooperative has been active and involved in the growth of its seven-parish service area for nearly 80 years and is proud to come forward during a difficult time.

“I believe we’re still in a healing process,” she said. “It’s going to take everyone to come together and let those forces who attempt to divide us know that they’re not going to succeed. I’ve lived here all my life and raised a family here and I know people in this area have much more in common than any differences that may come between us. I have no doubt we’ll come out stronger and a more close-knit community from all of this.”

Those who wish to donate to the families of the fallen police officers can make contributions to the Baton Rouge Union of Police Fallen Hero’s Fund and the Baton Rouge Area Foundation First Responders Fund. Donations to the Fallen Hero’s Fund can be made at any Capital One Bank location. Donations to the First Responders fund can be made on the Foundation’s website. Both funds will benefit the families of officers Matthew Gerald and Montrell Jackson.

Separate funds have been established for the family of Garafola, and also for injured deputies Nicholas Tullier and Bruce Simmons.

Donations can be made to the East Baton Rouge Sheriff’s Office and should be mailed to P.O. Box 3277, Attn: Finance Office, Baton Rouge, 70821. Donations can also be made at any JP Morgan Chase Bank location.
Summer days at Crawfish Aquatics off Bluebonnet Road are busy with children of all ages swimming and splashing and having fun in the water.

Along with local swim teams and individuals who use the pool for exercise, the facility is also home to a program called Tank Proof.

Twin brothers Torrence and Thurman Thomas began the non-profit organization five years ago in an effort to provide minority children with an opportunity to learn how to swim.

The idea began when the two discovered that nearly 70 percent of minority children don’t know how to swim. And they also noticed the local headlines that often told of accidents where cars were running off the road and into lakes, ponds, canals, rivers and other bodies of water in south Louisiana.

“Statistically, 10 people drown every day in this country,” Torrence said. “Of course, it’s fun for any kid to know how to swim and enjoy the water, but learning how to swim could save your life.”

The two Geismer natives graduated from Dutchtown High School and went on to graduate from Southern University.

They fashion themselves as traveling musicians and entrepreneurs who work with local companies on marketing projects.

In creating Tank Proof, the brothers say they were simply looking for a way to contribute to their community in a positive manner.

They contacted Nan Fontenot with Crawfish Aquatics and arranged to use the popular pool facility. They also reached out to summer youth community groups and local churches to identify children who could benefit from the program.

“We were at our mom’s house and we were looking for some kind of program to start for kids, but we didn’t know what it would be,” Torrence said. “We thought about music lessons, but we prayed about it and then we decided that this was really something kids need to know.”

They worked to achieve their swimming instructor certifications and were on their way.

Each summer, Tank Proof serves more than 250 children in several week-long sessions.

“For many of these kids, these lessons are the highlight of their summer. We’re just grateful we can make it happen for them,” Torrence said.

Thurman said working with the youngsters is always an enriching experience. The key to turning a reluctant and even fearful child is building a bond of trust.

“For some of these kids, this is their first time to be in any body of water besides the bathtub. But once we get that trust and comfort level, then we can work from there. They get more open to it the more you work with them,” he said.

The children receive one-on-one instruction provided by volunteers and paid assistants affiliated with Crawfish Aquatics.

Ben Schexnayder is a kinesiology major who has worked with Tank Proof for the last couple of years.

“It’s just great to see them develop their confidence and grow and feel more comfortable and then seeing the light bulb go off,” he said.

After this summer, the Thomas brothers are planning to expand the program to Alexandria and New Orleans.

“We see this being a national thing,” Thurman said. “It’s something that every child can use and from here the sky is the limit.”
Don’t let yourself be fooled by clever summertime scammers

If it seems you’re constantly being warned about new scams, you have criminal imaginations to thank.

This year, electric utilities across the South are reporting many new twists on old scams.

**Perpetrators in Person**

Recently, three men in Texas approached a residence, claiming to be from the local electric cooperative.

One of the men gained entry by asking for a glass of water, while the others went to the backyard. Fortunately, a family member arrived and threatened to notify the police.

Another electric cooperative in Louisiana received calls from residents about people claiming to be contractors trimming trees near power lines. In one of those cases, a thief distracted a resident while another entered the home to grab cash, jewelry and other valuables.

In still another case in Alabama, two men posed as contractors for the local electric cooperative. They visited a member’s home, ostensibly to do some work on two meter loops—and then stole them!

As similar incidents happen around the region, authorities recommend using caution.

If someone suspicious comes to your door claiming to be a DEMCO employee, follow these tips:

- Do not respond aggressively (because the visitor might be legitimate), but do not let anyone unfamiliar into your home.
- Look for identifying markers. DEMCO crew members wear uniforms and drive vehicles displaying the co-op’s name and logo.
- Call the co-op. We can verify whether the visitor’s vehicle was dispatched from the co-op.
- Look for red flags. Scammers might demand immediate payment, insist that you pay with a prepaid card or try to get personal information.
- Do not give out personal information, such as your date of birth, Social Security number or banking information.
- Do not give money. Co-op employees will never demand payment from you at your home.
- If you determine the person is not a co-op employee, tell them to leave, and lock the doors immediately.
- Call the police. Give them information including a description of the individuals and their vehicle, including the license plate number.

**Phonies on the Phone**

Scammers also work via telephone. They call a member with claims of an overdue account and threaten disconnection unless immediate payment is made. Recognize this tactic as a red flag.

You might legitimately receive a courtesy call from the co-op to notify you if your account is overdue, but a co-op employee will never demand immediate payment over the phone.

If you get such a call, do not be afraid of threats—and do not give out personal information. Instead, ask for a number where you can call them back. Then hang up and notify the co-op. You can also call the police and give them any information you collected from the scammer.

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**Labor Day office closing**

All DEMCO offices will be closed Monday, Sept. 5, in observance of Labor Day. All outages or service emergencies will be handled by the 24-hour dispatch service and crews on call (225-261-1160 or 800-262-1160). Your friends and neighbors at DEMCO hope you have a safe and happy Labor Day.

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**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.
The drive to make coal more environmentally friendly

Since coal generated more than half the nation’s electricity as recently as 10 years ago, that share has fallen to one-third as of last year.

The decline of coal generation will continue as new environmental rules are set in place and prices for natural gas remain relatively low.

So it’s curtains for coal, right? Not so fast.

The Environmental Protection Agency’s Clean Power Plan still calls for more than one-fifth of our electricity to come from coal by its 2030 target date. Even President Obama’s Energy Secretary sees a future for coal.

“We are talking about a progressively lower-carbon future, but we have not abandoned coal as part of that future,” Secretary Ernest Moniz told the Lexington (Kentucky) Herald-Leader in April. “Coal can play a major role in a low-carbon economy.”

A role for coal is important, says Daniel Walsh, senior program manager for generation, environment and carbon at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). Citing the huge coal supply in the U.S., Walsh sees coal as a key to energy security.

Achieving that brighter future for coal could depend on huge improvements to a technology called carbon capture. (Acct. No. 80239581-002)

Carbon capture seeks to solve a top environmental complaint that burning coal releases carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas that has been linked to climate change.

Grabbing the carbon dioxide before it leaves the power plant would keep it out of the atmosphere.

Carbon capture is still a developing technology, with 15 test plants in the world and seven more coming online by 2017, according to an international industry group.

One of the main holdups is that the technology is expensive to build and operate. Really expensive.

Running carbon capture equipment at a power plant uses about one-third of the electricity produced by that power plant.

As daunting as that sounds, Moniz cites $6 billion spent on carbon capture research by the Department of Energy as proof of his optimism. NRECA’s Walsh believes in the power of researchers to make carbon capture costs competitive.

Walsh points to a 35-year trend of finding cleaner and more efficient ways to burn coal. Since 1970, electric utilities in the U.S. have reduced pollution regulated by the federal Clean Air Act by more than 60 percent.

Techniques have ranged from washing coal with water, to burning it at lower temperatures to release less harmful chemicals, to large and expensive flue gas desulfurization equipment, also called scrubbers.

Over the decades, those technologies improved, says Kirk Johnson, NRECA senior vice president for government relations. He says those improvements can be a model for carbon capture.

“We didn’t start out with scrubbers that achieved a better-than 90 percent reduction in sulfur dioxide removal, but we ultimately got there,” says Johnson. “The future has got to be in continued research.”

Electric co-ops launched a drive to that success with the April groundbreaking for the Integrated Test Center in Wyoming. The state of Wyoming is funding $15 million of the center, which will be built at the site of the existing Dry Fork Station, a coal plant owned by Basin Electric Cooperative of North Dakota. Another $5 million of support will come from another regional co-op, Denver-based Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, and $1 million from NRECA.

The test center aims to advance research by focusing on a looming question about the technology — once you capture the carbon dioxide, what do you do with it?

The test center focus will be on a new area of carbon capture work that is even changing the name of the technology to CCU for Carbon Capture and Utilization, or CCR for Carbon Capture and Recycling.

The idea is to find commercial or other uses for the carbon dioxide that produces a better return on investment than burying it underground. Researchers at the test center will be able to use carbon dioxide from the Dry Fork Station to run tests.

There’s reason to believe that challenge will be met, says NRECA Communications Manager John Pulley. He describes the plans as bringing researchers in to develop ideas in the “real-world” setting of a power plant.

“If you have a facility like this in place that will allow people to test their great ideas, the sky’s the limit,” he says. “People might look at coal in an entirely new light.”

Strategies to cope with summer storm outages

South Louisiana weather is full of surprises - sunny, 75-degree days in February, 40-degree chills in April or rain at any given moment.

DEMCO makes every effort to be prepared for every situation, but outages are sometimes unavoidable.

Power disruptions are often caused by lightning, and sometimes downed limbs and trees.

We hate to think of our members having to go through a power outage, but we know that in a severe storm, it’s possible. In that case, your co-op wants to remind you of a few things:

First, give us a call. Don’t rely on your neighbor to let us know the power is out. The more people who report outages, the better idea we’ll have of the outage location.

The sooner we can pinpoint the exact area of the outage, the more quickly we can restore service.

We send repair crews as soon as possible, and they work until the lights are back on. Depending on the outage’s severity, restoration could take several hours, so make sure you keep supplies on hand like flashlights or lanterns, as well as water, nonperishable food and blankets.

Also, turn off everything in your house but a porch light. That way, when power is restored, a power surge won’t damage sensitive equipment.

The porch light also helps our employees see when your power has come back on. Once the lights are back on, you can turn on needed appliances, one by one.

Please, above all, be safe. If you see downed power lines, stay away from them. Call the co-op and 911 to let public safety authorities know so they can help keep the area clear.

If the outage is a long one, and you decide to use a portable generator, know how to operate it safely.

Don’t plug it directly into your home’s wiring. This can cause a dangerous condition known as “backfeeding” that can send electricity onto power lines, injuring or killing the linemen working to restore your service.

Instead, plug individual appliances into the generator. Also, make sure to operate it in a well-ventilated area outside to avoid a buildup of deadly carbon monoxide gas.

At DEMCO, we take great pride in delivering the best possible service at an affordable price. That includes prompt service whenever an outage strikes.

Rest assured that we are prepared to do whatever it takes and whatever is in our power to restore your service.
Face your financial fears - take action to save for retirement

Retirement is supposed to be a reward for decades of hard work, but if you haven’t planned well, the milestone may be a dark cloud on your horizon.

In fact, new data shows that nearly 50 percent of Americans are most afraid of outliving their income or the inability to maintain their current lifestyle, and nearly 20 percent are worried about having enough money to cover health care expenses.

The research, released by the Indexed Annuity Leadership Council (IALC), also found that despite these very real fears, Americans are failing to take action to address them.

For example, a quarter of Baby Boomers, the age group closest to retirement, have less than $5,000 saved for retirement and nearly one in five Americans have no idea how much they’ve saved.

The findings indicate that Americans are afraid of the unknown when it comes to managing their money and retirement. While you can budget for leisure and travel, health care expenses and life expectancy are unpredictable.

“Americans are living longer than ever, so it’s no surprise that the No. 1 retirement fear is that they’ll run out of money in their final years,” said Jim Poolman, executive director of the IALC. “Thankfully, there are strategies and products out there that can help you create sufficient retirement income to last throughout your lifetime, which can help with this crippling fear.”

To take control of the uncertainty and create peace of mind when it comes to retirement, here are some simple steps you can follow:

- Make a budget - Those who plan for retirement are estimated to save three times more than those who don’t. Take into account that your expenses may increase during retirement, specifically for items such as health care and travel.
- Balance is key - Investing in a 401(k) is a great way to start a retirement portfolio, but putting all your eggs in one basket is a common mistake.
- One method to provide balance to your retirement portfolio is to add some more conservative, low-risk products, such as Fixed Indexed Annuities (FIAs), which protect your principal regardless of market ups and downs.
- According to the survey, FIAs are an attractive choice for consumers, with 45 percent of Americans surveyed interested in this type of retirement product.
- Plan to adjust - A savings strategy that makes sense today might not fit your needs in five, 10 or 20 years.

Factors like market volatility, changes in your career or personal life, can impact the amount you’re able to save and how much you anticipate needing when you reach retirement age.

Still Using Old Lightbulbs?

If your home’s lamps and light fixtures still house old-fashioned incandescent lightbulbs, it’s time to switch to something that’s far more energy efficient.

Twisty, compact fluorescent lightbulbs are better. But light-emitting diode bulbs are even more energy efficient and last way longer.

Yes, LEDs cost more than other kinds of lightbulbs—sometimes more than twice as much. But they use about 80 percent less energy than other products. And—pffftttt!—those of three types when it comes to energy use and cost savings.

The average life span of an LED light bulb is 25,000 hours, compared with 1,200 hours for a traditional bulb and 8,000 for a CFL.

At about 12.5 cents per kilowatt-hour—the national average, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration—you’ll pay $38 to operate an LED bulb for 23 years. If an incandescent or CFL bulb lasted 23 years (which it won’t), you would pay $201 or $48.

So make the switch today for a couple of decades of energy savings.

Look Before You Lop

Hedges and shrubs grow amazingly fast this time of year.

Across America, thousands of electric shears are at work. Trimming. Pruning. Shaping. And—pffftttt!—cutting thousands of extension cords.

Use heavy-duty, bright orange extension cords rated for outdoor use to help you avoid cutting your own cord. Stay vigilant about the amount of space between the blades of your trimmers and where your power cord and extension cord are lying or hanging.

If it does happen, though, remember that one end of the severed cord is a live wire that can cause serious injury! Immediately unplug the cord from the wall outlet.

Also, check the integrity of the outlet where you plug in the cord. Often, cutting through a cord can zap the outlet—and possibly others on the same circuit.

In your breaker box, find the correct breaker for the affected circuit and switch it off and back on. Then test the outlet to see if it’s receiving power. If not, call an electrician to have it replaced.

Buy a new cord instead of trying to repair the old one. And next time: Look before you lop.

Reducing Greenhouse Gasses

Here are a few small changes you can make at home to reduce the amount of greenhouse gasses you create:

1. Change five lightbulbs to energy efficient models.
2. Buy appliances, lighting and office equipment that have earned the Energy Star label. That means they operate on less energy than other products.
3. Maintain your heating and air-conditioning systems. Have a tech inspect them every year. Change filters regularly.
4. Caulk and weatherstrip windows, doors and holes near electrical outlets and cable cords on the indoor side of exterior walls. Add insulation to your attic.
5. Recycle and reuse anything you can. That conserves energy and reduces emissions down the line because less stuff needs to be manufactured.
6. Use less water. Three percent of the energy used in the U.S. goes to pump and treat water.
7. Compost food and yard waste. The less trash you send to landfills, the more you help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Lucky Account Number Contest

The Lucky Account Number Contest continues this month with four winners 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.

News Notes

The next meeting of the DEMCO Board of Directors is scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 18, 2016, at 6 p.m. Board meetings are held at DEMCO’s headquarters facility located at 16262 Wax Road, Greenwell Springs, La.

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Reducing Greenhouse Gasses

Here are a few small changes you can make at home to reduce the amount of greenhouse gasses you create:

1. Change five lightbulbs to energy efficient models.
2. Buy appliances, lighting and office equipment that have earned the Energy Star label. That means they operate on less energy than other products.
3. Maintain your heating and air-conditioning systems. Have a tech inspect them every year. Change filters regularly.
4. Caulk and weatherstrip windows, doors and holes near electrical outlets and cable cords on the indoor side of exterior walls. Add insulation to your attic.
5. Recycle and reuse anything you can. That conserves energy and reduces emissions down the line because less stuff needs to be manufactured.
6. Use less water. Three percent of the energy used in the U.S. goes to pump and treat water.
7. Compost food and yard waste. The less trash you send to landfills, the more you help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Lucky Account Number Contest

The Lucky Account Number Contest continues this month with four winners 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.
OVERHEAD & UNDERGROUND
POWER LINES
THE PROS AND CONS

OVERHEAD

PROS
- Lower Cost
- Quicker Construction
- Easier to spot damage and faults
- Less expensive to repair and upgrade
- Can be built in any terrain
- Any voltage can be placed overhead

CONS
- Susceptible to wind, ice and snow
- More vulnerable to damage from trees and vegetation, which requires right of way trimming
- Vulnerable to blinks when animals and branches contact lines
- Susceptible to damage from vehicle collisions
- Less attractive

UNDERGROUND

PROS
- Not vulnerable to damage from tree branches
- Does not interfere with views
- No right of way (tree trimming) required
- Less susceptible to damage from vehicle collisions
- Not impacted by wind, ice and snow
- Less vulnerable to blinks when animals and branches contact lines

CONS
- More expensive to build
- Susceptible to flooding
- Difficult to locate faults
- Expensive to repair
- Fed by overhead lines at some point, making the lines vulnerable to outages and interruptions
- Limitations on voltages that can be buried underground
- Can be vulnerable to dig-ins

Football season is almost here: Get your schedules at DEMCO today

Football season is just around the corner. Fans can stop by any DEMCO branch office to pick up a poster containing the full season schedules of both the LSU Tigers and the Southern Jaguars. Drop by your nearest DEMCO office and pick up your poster today.

Ascension District Office
Phone: (225) 261-1177
15095 La. Hwy. 931
Gonzales, LA 70737
Hours: 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.; 1:30-4:30 p.m.

Central District Office
Phone: (225) 261-1177
16262 Wax Road
Greenwell Springs, LA 70739
Hours: 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Denham Springs District Office
Phone: (225) 261-1177
1810 South Range Avenue
Denham Springs, LA 70726
Hours: 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Greensburg District Office
Phone: (225) 261-1177
6823 La. Hwy. 10
Greensburg, LA 70441
Hours: 8 a.m.-12 p.m.; 12:30-4:30 p.m.

Livingston District Office
Phone: (225) 261-1177
2944 Frost Road
Livingston, LA 70754
Hours: 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Zachary District Office
Phone: (225) 261-1177
20110 Plank Road, Zachary, LA 70791
Hours: 8 a.m.-1 p.m.; 2-4:30 p.m.

Central District Office
Phone: (225) 261-1177
16262 Wax Road
Greenwell Springs, LA 70739
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Statement of Non-discrimination
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Energy Efficiency
Tip of the Month
Is your room air conditioner working overtime? Reduce air leaks by installing rigid foam panels (instead of the commonly used accordion panels) in between the window frame and unit, and secure with duct tape.

Source: energy.gov
Meeting of June 16, 2016
The board of directors of DEMCO held its regular meeting Thursday, June 16, 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. (Acct. No. 9081771-001)

Randy Lorio, committee chairman, presented the Purchasing Committee report. The board next approved a resolution to execute the following contracts from bids received: V-Tech, Inc. for the Zachary Parkside Apartment Complex Phase 2 Underground and Chain Electric Company for the Oak Landing Subdivision 1st Filing Underground. The committee also approved management to purchase three (3) compact track loaders (including a heavy duty grapple for each) from Crawler Supply.

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 February 2016, as uncollectable.

The board then resolved to approve the 2016 DEMCO Goals as presented by management.

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 presented the Manager’s report with no action taken.

Jim Ellis presented the Attorney’s report with no action taken.
A flower grows at the end of a stem of a plant. That’s one kind of stem.

Today, businesses are interested in kids knowing about another kind of STEM. This STEM is spelled from the first letter in the words:

Science Technology Engineering Math

A flower grows at the end of a stem of a plant. That’s one kind of stem.

Today, businesses are interested in kids knowing about another kind of STEM. This STEM is spelled from the first letter in the words:

Science Technology Engineering Math

STEM is a way of solving problems.

STEM subjects help people to better understand the world around us. And they help us to solve problems we see in the world. STEM workers solve problems such as how to clean up rivers, how to make clean energy, how to fight deadly diseases, how to make computers and how to explore space.

Describe a normal day in the year 2050. Do kids still go to school? Do people drive cars? What new inventions have been created? Do people vacation on the moon?
Get your 2016 football schedule poster today!

FREE 2016 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE POSTERS FOR LSU & SOUTHERN

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