Former hoops great
Frank Brian
ready for March Madness
Manager’s Report
By John Vranic
DEMCO CEO and General Manager

The importance of service and member engagement

In 2012, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), the premier trade association representing approximately 900 electric cooperatives in 47 states, released a report entitled, “The Electric Cooperative Purpose - A Compass for the 21st Century.”

The findings of the blue ribbon task force comprised of a dozen co-op leaders from across the country were that an electric cooperative’s purpose is to, “Power communities and empower members to improve the quality of their lives.”

Like our fellow cooperatives across the country, DEMCO is a member of NRECA and we firmly believe that you, our members, need to be at the very heart of everything we do.

We are extremely proud of the fact that we are different from competing investor-owned utilities in our region of the state, where the primary purpose of their existence is to generate profit for their stockholders no matter where those stockholders reside.

In fact, many of those investors who hold shares in profit-driven power companies do not live in the communities served by the utility.

While DEMCO must of course generate enough income and revenue to cover all of the expenses necessary to keep safe, reliable and affordable power flowing to your home or business 24 hours a day, profit is not our motivation. Serving you and your neighbors and improving your quality of life are our top priorities.

As the Electric Cooperative Purpose report produced by NRECA so succinctly noted, “Our story is about ordinary people that banded together to improve the quality of life by providing electricity to our community when no one else would do it.”

But that was DEMCO years ago. As we look forward into the future, we once again need your active participation in determining the course of our cooperative.

Cooperatives like DEMCO enjoy the unwavering support of people from all walks of life. We keep the engine of commerce churning by delivering power to every type of business imaginable, from agriculture to housing, finance, health care, technology, small business, food and many more.

Electric cooperatives can be found in the most rural areas to the most urban areas of our country.

One thing you can absolutely count on from your locally owned electric cooperative: we have been here fulfilling our mission for over 78 years and are not moving. We will always be local – right here and ready to serve our members.

We are proud of the fact that we are different from investor-owned utilities, where the primary purpose is to generate profit for their stockholders.

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ON THE COVER - Former LSU and professional basketball star Frank Brian is nearing the age of 93 but still gets excited when March Madness rolls around. For more on this story, see page 4.
For most DEMCO members, there’s not much thought put into flipping a switch and having light immediately fill the room. The refrigerator hums and keeps food fresh and no one even notices. Clocks keep time, the air conditioner cycles on and off and the TV turns on with the press of a button.

The fact that no one pays attention to electricity until it goes out doesn’t really bother the DEMCO employees whose job is to make sure that the flow of power continues around the clock while members go about their lives.

“While we love hearing from our members, we know we’re doing our job well when things are quiet and our members are satisfied with their service,” said DEMCO CEO and General Manager John Vranic. “It’s our responsibility to make sure the lights stay on, and it’s a responsibility we take very seriously.”

The act of flipping that light switch is a simple one, but in order to make it happen, DEMCO employees work day and night dealing with substation maintenance, tending to new overhead and underground construction, performing routine equipment repair and upgrades, responding to the occasional power outage, processing clerical duties and much, much more. (Acct. No. 80262318-001)

“It really takes a lot more effort than most people realize,” Vranic said. “But that’s why we’re here, to work diligently on behalf of our members so that they can enjoy all the modern conveniences available today.”

According to Vranic, reliable power delivery systems don’t happen by accident. That’s why those DEMCO employees charged with making sure the cooperative’s infrastructure maintains its integrity participate in a rigorous training program.

The Louisiana Lineman Training Program (LLTP) was created in the 1980s as a result of a coordinated collaboration of fellow Louisiana cooperatives. The LLTP was initiated as a way for the state’s electric cooperatives to combine their efforts and resources to develop stringent safety and operational standards while pursuing quality training in the most cost-effective manner possible.

Today, the program utilizes a curriculum created by Northwest Lineman College, based in Idaho. The nationally accredited lineman certification program is administered locally through the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives (ALEC) in Baton Rouge and typically takes four years to complete. Meetings and sessions are hosted by different cooperatives across the state with a fully-equipped training field located at DEMCO headquarters in Central.

Technical material covers a wide range of subjects and skill-sets that both apprentice and journeyman linemen use on the job daily, including OSHA requirements, working in elevated positions, rigging equipment and application, power production and electrical grid systems, overhead and underground distribution equipment, electrical testing, transformer banking, protective grounding, rescues, hot line work and other subject areas.

Rickey Cummings and Jacob Overhultz oversee the cooperative’s safety and training efforts. Cummings said lineman training and safety are top priorities at the cooperative.

“It’s not always fun to have to do the course work, and it’s a four-year commitment, but our training program is one of the most thorough, comprehensive and challenging in the industry.” Cummings said. “The result is that our employees are highly competent, highly qualified and well-prepared to perform at the highest level. Our ongoing goal is to not only meet, but exceed the expectations of our members.”

Overhultz said one factor that makes the LLTP so effective is the teamwork displayed by veteran superintendents and safety professionals within the state cooperative network.

“I think one of the things that makes it so successful for our employees is that the men who lead the classroom and field training know what they’re doing,” he said. “They’ve been on the job for years and have experienced just about anything and everything that can happen during the course of their jobs. They also know how things work that are particular to Louisiana, such as our power grid, our terrain, our wildlife and our climate.”

One of those veterans is Mike Bergeraux, former director of Safety and Loss Control at ALEC. Bergeraux, a former lineman at Jeff Davis Electric Cooperative in Jennings, La., commended DEMCO for its active involvement in the LLTP.

“DEMC0 is one of our cooperatives that demonstrates a culture of safety day in and day out, and is a real leader in our industry,” he said. “Without the cooperation of the board and management and the dedication of every employee, success is hard to achieve.”

Vranic said participation in the training program requires a significant financial commitment, but it’s one that pays dividends in the end.

“We certainly do our very best to contain costs and keep rates as low as possible for our members, but this is one area where it definitely pays to participate in the LLTP,” he said. “For every dollar we spend on training and safety, it’s money that is returned in the form of fewer accidents, more efficient operation, lower insurance premiums and other ways that we don’t often think about.”

He noted that DEMCO is actively recruiting the next generation of linemen as many veteran employees are set to retire over the next few years. The training program is essential in teaching these new workers the skills they need to do their jobs well.

Digital communication has become an integral part of daily life. Smartphones and tablets are pocket-sized personal assistants with appointment reminders, news and a means of keeping in touch with family and friends. Living multi-screen lives may aide productivity, news and a means of keeping in touch with family and friends. Living multi-screen lives may aide productivity,

Protect your peepers from the dangers of digital devices

Digital communication has become an integral part of daily life. Smartphones and tablets are pocket-sized personal assistants with appointment reminders, news and a means of keeping in touch with family and friends. Living multi-screen lives may aide productivity, but eye health professionals are increasingly worried about the consequences of “digital vision.”

Over the past two years, time spent with digital devices has increased 49 percent, and handheld devices are leading the way as time using smartphones jumped 90 percent and tablets surged 64 percent.

However, studies suggest all that time squinting at the phone may cause users to squint at everything else. Research by the Vision Impact Institute has shown that myopia (nearsightedness) is rapidly rising in the United States, especially among younger people.

Research is pointing to factors other than genetics, such as behavior and environment, as the cause of this epidemic of shortsightedness. The common denominator among these populations seems to be time spent using digital devices.

While not seeing distances clearly can be frustrating, seeing the eye doctor once a year,” said Maureen Cavanaugh, president of the Vision Impact Institute. “As we turn more of our daily routines over to digital devices, we need to place greater emphasis on scheduling regular eye exams to correct problems such as myopia and monitor for development of other eye disorders.”

In addition, Cavanaugh points to several small steps all digital users can take to make their devices healthier for their eyes:

• Make sure the settings are adequate – increase screen font size and improve the contrast. Always use good lighting but avoid glare on small screens.

• Exercise your eyes just as you exercise your body. Every few minutes, look up from the screen and focus on something in the distance. This exercise helps prevent eye strain and use more of yourocular muscles. And don’t forget to take breaks occasionally.

• Get outside. Sunshine can be the antidote to digital vision. While the sun’s role isn’t completely understood, an Australian study showed that children who spent more time outside playing in natural light had a lower rate of myopia.
Local basketball legend Frank Brian is ready for March Madness

Even as he bears down on the age of 93, Frank Brian admits to getting an acute case of basketball fever each year when March Madness rolls around.

Still passionately engaged and mentally sharp as a Buck knife blade, Brian keeps up with his former LSU Tigers and also follows the latest developments in the professional ranks that he was a part of back in the 1950s.

He’s also quick to share his observations and opinions on just about any aspect of the game that he loves so dearly, including coaching strategy, officiating and teamwork.

When it comes to coaching, for instance, he contends that Harry Rabenhorst remains the gold standard. Rabenhorst was Brian’s coach during his days at LSU.

“He was a great and honest man and a great coach because he had all of his boys playing together,” Brian said. “If you’ve got your boys all thinking alike and playing together, you’re going to win a lot of ball games. You can just about see that they want to play and they’re ready to play. If you have the mentality that you’re going to win, and you’re willing to give that extra effort, most of the time you’re going to win. It’s that little extra that makes the difference.”

Brian recalls growing up in the pecan grove in Zachary that sits just a stone’s throw from where he resides today and catching a lift to school with the mailman. He’d arrive at school early and catch a ride from where he resides today and playing with the mailman — a pick-up truck.

“Any kind of athlete, if he’s not in good condition, he never measured his vertical leap, Brian is confident he could jump more than three feet as he once jumped over the hood of a car.”

Standing 6-foot-1 during his playing days, Brian turned many a taller defender into toast. (Acct. No. 50001078-002)

“Because I played, if they had a man 6-foot-7 or 6-foot-4 guarding me, they were like toys. I could get around them easily. That’s why they called me Flash,” Brian said with a slight grin and a gleam in his eye. “Any kind of athlete, if he’s got speed, he can play a sport. That’s the first thing you’ve got to have.”

Jumping was also an asset when Brian was making a name for himself in the professional leagues. While he never measured his vertical leap, Brian is confident he could jump more than three feet as he once jumped over the hood of a pick-up truck.

The game, he assured, was a lot different back in his playing days. There was no three-point line, no game clock, a lot less physical contact and no professional draft. When it came to advancing beyond the college level, there was no high-priced agent negotiating multi-million dollar deals, just a team owner or manager simply placing a call to a player they preferred to hire.

For Brian, that call came from the Anderson (Ind.) Packers, who offered to pay him the same salary as the highest paid player in the league. At the time, that player was George Mikan, who was pulling down $7,500 per season.

“That was big money back in those days and I couldn’t believe they would pay somebody that much,” Brian said, his voice still belying disbelief. “A lot of the time, the boys that played with me, their folks would have to send them money just to get back home because they would spend everything they made. But I saved $5,000 of that $7,500 and later on I was able to buy a ranch. I paid $25 an acre.”

Brian went on to play for the Tri-Cities Blackhawks (now Atlanta Hawks) and the Ft. Wayne Pistons (now Detroit Pistons). Overall, Brian scored 6,663 points in the NBA, collected 903 rebounds and dished out 1,138 assists from his point guard position.

Though his playing days have long since passed, Brian still has occasional dreams that take him back to the hardwood. He also has dreams of botching a sale at the cattle auction from time to time or taking a mulligan on the tee box.

“Sometimes I dream about things I shouldn’t have done when I was playing or that I’d like to have another chance at,” he said. “I dream about the auction and doing some things I should have done better. And I’ll have a dream about driving the golf ball. I’ll put a little more wrist snap into it and the ball always travels 10 or 15 yards more than it usually does.”
Here today. Here tomorrow.
BUILD A HOME YOU TRUST WITH A COMPANY YOU TRUST.

Make yourself at home in a beautiful steel building from Mueller. From size to colors to a style that’s made for you, we’re here to help. As Mueller celebrates 85 years of building strong products and solid relationships, enjoy the peace of mind that we will be around for you, now and in the future. Call or visit our website today.

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(877-268-3553)
Top 5 energy users in your home: a starting point for savings

While most homeowners would like to be more energy efficient and save more money on their electric bills, often it feels overwhelming because many people don’t know where to start.

How can the average family use less energy, lower their utility bill and still meet their daily energy needs?

To help jumpstart your effort, it is useful to know what the top energy users are in your home. With this knowledge, you can choose a path that works best for your family.

According to the U.S. Energy Information Agency, the top five energy users are: space cooling, space heating, water heating, lighting and refrigeration.

Home heating and cooling use the most energy and take the biggest bite out of your budget. You can achieve at least 10 percent savings by taking a few simple low-cost or no-cost steps.

• During cold weather, set your thermostat to 68 degrees Fahrenheit.
• During warm weather, the recommended indoor temperature is 78 degrees Fahrenheit.
• Cleaning the filters of your home’s HVAC system can cut costs from five to 15 percent.
• Clean the coils around your electric baseboard heater to maintain maximum efficiency.
• Caulk and weather-strip around windows and doors to prevent heat from escaping to the outdoors.

No matter what the climate or time of year, proper use of a programmable thermostat can save 10 percent on your monthly utility bill.

Take a fresh look at your lighting. If you still use incandescent lighting, your bulbs are operating at only 25 percent energy efficiency. Replacing your home’s five most frequently used bulbs with Energy Star-certified LEDs can save $75 per year. Another easy way to save is to always turn lights off in rooms that are not being used.

Just as it is energy-wise to insulate your roof, wall or floor, it also pays to wrap your hot water heater with an insulating blanket. This is all the more critical if you have an older unit. Make sure to follow the manufacturer’s instructions.

For additional savings, insulate exposed hot water lines and drain one to two gallons of water from the bottom of your tank annually to prevent sediment build-up.

If your refrigerator was purchased before 2001, chances are it uses 40 percent more energy than a new Energy Star model. If you are considering an appliance update, a new Energy Star refrigerator uses at least 15 percent less energy than non-qualified models and 20 percent less energy than required by current federal standards.

Other uses include TV, set-top boxes, home entertainment and gaming systems, monitors and networking equipment, clothes dryer, small electric devices, heating elements and motors.

*Source: EIA

Other uses include TV, set-top boxes, home entertainment and gaming systems, monitors and networking equipment, clothes dryer, small electric devices, heating elements and motors.

Space Cooling 13%
Lighting 11%
Water Heating 9%
Space Heating 9%
Refrigeration 7%

Visit us at the Building and Remodeling Show

The Capital Region Builders Association will present the 38th Building and Remodeling Show at the Baton Rouge River Center on March 12, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. and March 13, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. This annual show is the area’s original Home & Garden Show and is the largest promotion of products and services for all homeowners and builders in the Greater Baton Rouge area. See you there!

Clip this coupon and present it at DEMCO’s booth (#905) and you will receive a free gift!
DEMCO employees retire; co-op receives commendation

Vice President of Marketing and Member Services Turk Tynes presents a plaque to Debra Bennett in celebration of her 20 years of service to DEMCO members. Bennett served most recently in DEMCO’s Zachary district office.

DEMCO Marketing Assistant Penny Fruge received a certificate of appreciation from Phil Collins representing the Wreaths Across America campaign as a token of thanks for the cooperative’s support over the years.

Thirty-six years of service came to an end as Turk Tynes retired as DEMCO’s Vice President of Marketing and Member Services. His family of co-workers presented him with an outdoor grill to enjoy one of his favorite hobbies in retirement.

Electric water heaters and heat pumps are better options than natural gas for both the environment and for reducing home energy costs.

If it’s not insulated, neither are you.

Replace, never repair damaged extension cords.

Helping members use electricity safely, that’s the power of your co-op membership. Learn more from the experts themselves at TogetherWeSave.com.
Sad to leave Scouting for the madness of tournament baseball

Sometimes it seems half my day is consumed by slogging through virtual stacks of email and managing the relentless torrent of spam that beams in from cyberspace.

Delete, delete, delete, save, delete, delete, read, respond, delete, junk, junk, read, respond, delete, junk, delete, junk, delete...

In the morning, when I finally finish sifting through the waves of emails that came crashing in overnight—most people I know sleep at night, but apparently not Egyptian princes who have a great investment deal for me or the con artists trying to convince me I can make a million dollars working at home with my pajamas on—it’s time to tap the receive button again and the whole process repeats itself.

Recently, I was plodding through the “you win” screen and came across one that stopped me right in my tracks.

This was a message from Pack 42, which is the Scout pack our family has belonged to for the past five years, announcing the annual Pinewood Derby competition and a Polar Bear Campout in Mississippi.

This was the kind of notice I was accustomed to clicking on and placing on my calendar with great anticipation of having big fun with my family.

The Pinewood Derby, for instance, is an event my son and I always entered, though without much success. One year, in building his race car, we decided we’d rather sacrifice performance for style and put together a sleek, yet lightning quick car and even sought submitting the winning entry. I flicked one of the wheels with my finger to see how it would spin. I thought my eyebrows were going to turn gray before the thing stopped turning. (Acct. No. 80052131-002)

Also, the annual Polar Bear Campout was always a highly anticipated event. Every year we went I was reminded of how youngsters seem to be impervious to the cold. My son would be running around the woods with the other boys while I was bundled up and shivering like a wet dog while cursing the thermodynamic limitations of my insulated underwear.

So, there was this message from Pack 42 that captured my attention. After I clicked on it, I was suddenly struck by the sad fact that this notice would require a different response from all the ones before. I realized that the time had come in the life of my family to unsubscribe from the Pack 42 listserve.

In Scouting, a boy goes through three years at the Cub level, two years as a Webelo and then has a big decision to make: cross over into the Boy Scout program or go take a hike, so to speak.

After a lot of discussion and weighing the pros and cons, my son decided he didn’t want to continue Scouting, which made me a bit forlorn. I considered putting some parental pressure on him to stay the course and ascend the ranks of Scouting, but decided to back off.

I thought about campaigning for him to remain in the program because Scouting has been a very positive experience for our family. Austin’s mom stepped up to serve as Den Leader and did a fantastic job shepherding the group through all the organized activities, badge requirements and paperwork. My daughter also participated in many activities as a volunteer and learned leadership skills in the process.

Austin learned archery, bowling, arts and crafts, recycling, fishing, fitness, knot-tying, ice skating, marksmanship, biking, hiking, first aid and a whole slew of other skills. There were field trips to NASA mission control in Houston, a local fire station and the printing company that produces this publication to see how a press operates.

As Austin moves on to other adventures, I’ll always remember his first official Pack Meeting where we went through the initiation ceremony and I got to rub paint on his face. At the time, we both thought that was really cool.

He also thought the idea of wearing that trademark neckerchief and uniform ensemble was cool, too, especially once he began completing the requirements and festooning it with all kinds of badges, pins, patches and belt loops.

In a bit of irony, it was the uniform that drew him into Scouting and I think it was the uniform that eventually pushed him away. The khaki duds and epaulets were hip when he was a little shaver, but by the age of 11 they seemed too nerdy next to the popular stylings of Nike and Under Armor.

But that’s another story.

The next meeting of the DEMCO Board of Directors is scheduled for Thursday, March 17, 2016, at 6 p.m. Board meetings are held at DEMCO’s headquarters facility located at 16262 Wax Road, Greenwell Springs, La.

Vacation on a Shoestring

But not everyone can afford a month of wine tasting in Europe for summer vacation. Luckily, opportunities exist for singles, couples or family travel on less luxurious budgets.

• Local tourism - Many people do not know every nook and cranny of their neighboring towns and cities. There are likely museums, restaurants, breweries, shops, nature areas or sporting events you have never managed to explore. Do it! You will spend minimally on travel and food while staying for free in your own home and supporting your local economy.

• National Parks and camping - Every state has a National Park. Explore nature and history on a day trip or multiple-day stay by either camping or staying on-site lodgings. Some National Parks are free, while others require a fee; if you’re planning to visit multiple parks in a year, an annual pass might be the most economical choice. Seniors, active military and the disabled are eligible for free or reduced prices for annual passes.

• Make the most of free, inexpensive and discounted things - Airfare fluctuates on a daily basis. Stalk the fare you want or commit to going whenever the price is right. Grab the last-minute, discounted cruise cabin. Search fare sales, bidding sites and package deals to save on airfare and lodgings. Stay in a hostel, bed and breakfast or dormitory-style lodging.

• Once on the ground, take advantage of public transit and rail, free museums and sites, museum passes, free tours, the local paper’s events guide and Groupon deals for local restaurants and activities with good reviews.

• Research and save, then spend cash - Do your due diligence. Research attractions, estimate the cost to do everything you’d like and do your best to save. Set a budget for necessities like food and a separate budget for extras like souvenirs and side trips. Once on your trip, try to spend only cash, which will help you control how much you spend—without causing you to spend the next year paying off that getaway you put on your credit card.

Consider Water Heater Options

If you want to save money on your energy bills and reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other emissions—to help protect the environment, a good step would be to have a replacement plan for your water heater when it fails.

That helpful tip comes from an expert who’s just published research showing that the increased use of electric appliances would improve energy efficiency at home and for the nation.

Keith Dennis is the senior principal of end-use solutions and standards at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). His article, published in the November issue of The Electricity Journal, shows that for decades we’ve been using assumptions and measurements for energy efficiency that are no longer accurate.

It explains that electric water heaters are a better choice than natural gas—both for environmental impact, as well as home energy savings. And that’s important.

Water heating accounts for approximately 15 percent of your home’s energy use. The problem is, replacing a water heater is often a panic decision—they seem to break at the worst time, and you’re more likely to be thinking about the guests coming to visit the next day than the best energy efficient decision.

Develop a replacement plan now to avoid a crisis in the future.

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.
Notice of holiday office closing

The DEMCO headquarters
office located on Wax Road
and all DEMCO branch offices
will be closed in observance
of Good Friday on March 25,
2016.

DEMCO Board Election

DIXIE ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2016 Annual Membership Meeting
Saturday May 14, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.

LOCATION OF MEETING

DEMCO Headquarters Facility
16262 Wax Road, Greenwell Springs, LA 70739

February 21, 2016-March 6, 2016 - 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 17, 2016 - DEMCO Board Meeting at 6:00 p.m., at DEMCO Headquarters. The Committee on Nominations will be appointed at this meeting.

March 17, 2016 - 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 18, 2016.

March 22, 2016—March 24, 2016 - 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 29, 2016 - 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 30, 2016 - 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 13, 2016 - 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 14, 2016 - 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 15, 2016 - This is the Record Date for the 2016 Annual Membership Meeting. A final list of those members eligible to vote in DEMCO’s 2016 Annual Membership Meeting will be prepared.

April 21, 2016-May 3, 2016 - The Official Notice of the 2016 Annual Meeting will be mailed to all members of the cooperative during this time.

April 21, 2016 - Ballots for the 2016 Annual Meeting will be mailed to members of the cooperative on this date. Members should receive their ballots by Saturday, April 23 -- VOTE and mail your ballot immediately.

May 6, 2016 - The deadline for receiving ballots for the 2016 Annual Membership Meeting is 4:30 p.m. on this date -- DO NOT DELAY -- VOTE!

May 9, 2016-May 11, 2016 - 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 14, 2016 - 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 14, 2016.

According to David Latona, Manager of Member and Public Relations, several scholarships will be awarded. “We will determine the number of scholarships awarded after the random drawing. How many students receive assistance will depend on whether the winners receive assistance through Louisiana’s TOPS program,” he said.

The scholarships awarded by DEMCO provide full academic tuition to a Louisiana public college or university for both the fall and spring semesters of the academic year provided the student is not enrolled in the Tuition Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) program. Students eligible for the TOPS award or other scholarship assistance receive a $1,000 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.

2016 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 6, 2016. 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.

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 full tuition to students who DO NOT participate in Louisiana’s TOPS program or receive other scholarship assistance. Students who participate in Louisiana’s TOPS program, or receive other scholarship assistance, receive a limited scholarship award of $1,000 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.

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Application for Scholarship Program

Student Name: ____________________________
Parents Name: ____________________________
Address: ____________________________ City: ____________________________
E-mail Address: ____________________________
Telephone: ____________________________ Cell: ____________________________
DEMCO Account #: ____________________________
Do you qualify for TOPS Assistance? Yes___ No ___
College you will attend: ____________________________

(Complete this form and return to DEMCO by May 6, 2016- 4:30 p.m.)
Meeting of December 3, 2015
The DEMCO Board of Directors held its regular meeting on Thursday, December 3, 2015. Board President Richard Sitman called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m. Directors Freddy Metz and Faye Morris were unable to attend the meeting.

The board approved a resolution not to disburse capital credits payments for 2014 based on current RUS guidelines. The board then approved resolutions to re-appoint current members of the DBC and DEMCO Foundation Board of Directors. (Acct. No. 2090902-001)

Meeting of January 21, 2016
The board of directors of DEMCO held its regular meeting on Thursday, January 21, 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.

The board next approved a resolution to ratify the action taken by management to approve the 2013-2016 Construction Work Plan Amendments. The board then adopted a resolution to authorize management to approve Amendment #11 to relocate a 12 MVA transformer from Pride to Pine Grove.

From the Purchasing Committee Randy Lorio, committee chairman, presented the report. Next the board resolved to approve the following from bids received: V-Tech, Inc. for the GP Well #3 Wet Yard Underground; Ellis Electric Company for the Redwood Lakes 3rd and 5th Filings Underground and for the Coppermill 8th Filing, Part 1 Underground and Plainview Ridge Underground; B & B Electrical for the Coly Substation Breaker Replacement.

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 August 2015 as uncollectible.

Next the board adopted a resolution to renew the cyber liability insurance coverage for a short term policy with Ascent/Lloyd’s of London. They then adopted a resolution to authorize management to submit the 2016 Operations and Capital Budget at the February 11, 2016 Finance Committee meeting for recommendation. Next the board resolved to execute and to deliver to Red River Bank a line of credit.

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.

The board then ratified the action to appoint Dennis R. Lott as the 2016 NRECA Annual and Regional Meeting Voting Delegate, DEMCO’s NISC Voting Delegate, and DEMCO’s NRTC Voting Delegate and Randy D. Lorio as DEMCO’s CFC Voting Delegate; and, to appoint John D. Vranic as the alternate voting delegate in all of the above-mentioned capacities.

If you’re moving dirt, 811 is the number to know.
Use it at least two full work days before you begin work.
That’s all it takes to notify LA One Call members so that they can mark their nearby cables and pipelines.
It’s free. And it’s the law.
A Cheesy Nursery Rhyme

Little Miss Muffet
Sat on a tuft
Eating her curds and whey...

You’ve heard this nursery rhyme many times, but what exactly are curds and whey?

Replace the missing words in the article below.

How can a glass of milk become a piece of cheese?
Milk in a glass looks like a liquid. But it is actually a liquid that contains lots of solid protein.

When milk gets old, or when a little acid is added, the bits of protein bond together and form clumps called curds. If you have ever eaten cottage cheese, then you have eaten curds.

The leftover liquid is called whey.

From curds to cheese
Before refrigerators, people would spoil bags of milk. Back then, people stored milk in bags made from a cow’s stomach. The inside of a cow’s stomach was called rennet which makes the milk form curds. People discovered that when curds are pressed together to remove the whey, they made a solid cheese.

Can you find the matching grilled cheese sandwiches?

The dentist discovered that different foods have different nutritional values. According to the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, many kinds of cheese can help protect your teeth from acids that cause cavities. So for a healthy smile, always say “CHEESE!”

Course Sequence. Recognized identical words. Use context clues in comprehension.

Standards Link: Success in reading, reading comprehension, adapted through art.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

How many slices of Swiss cheese do you see here?

According to the American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry, many kinds of cheese can help protect your teeth from acids that cause cavities. So for a healthy smile, always say “CHEESE!”

Cheesy Math

How much cheese does the United States produce each year?

(26 - 17) billion pounds.

How much milk will a Jersey cow produce in one day?

(35 - 29) gallons.

Wisconsin and California make what percentage of the world’s cheese?

(36 - 11) percent.

About how many pounds of cheese does the average American eat every year?

(16 + 17) pounds.

The British Cheese Board claims there are over 350 local cheeses in Britain.

How much milk will a Holstein cow produce in one day?

(53 - 45) gallons.

Cheese Moon

What would happen if the moon were made of cheese?
Write a silly story about astronauts exploring a cheesy moon!

Kid Scoop Vocabulary Builders

The week’s word: CAVITIES

The plural noun cavities means a hollow place.

Try to use the word cavities in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family members.

Kid Scoop Lesson Library

Holes in the News

Select a news article. Read it and then cross out at least 10 words, leaving “holes” in the text. Ask a friend or family member to read it and try to figure out the missing words.

Standards Link: Reading comprehension: Read with accuracy to support comprehension.

From the Kid Scoop Poster Library

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Standards Link: Reading comprehension: Read with accuracy to support comprehension.
Get on the scholarship!

DEMCO awards academic scholarships annually to its member-students who attend a public Louisiana college or university. These scholarships can be worth as much as full academic tuition for fall and spring semesters. 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.

/f/DEMCOLouisiana
demco.org