Along These Lines

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Looking forward to a successful and prosperous new year ahead

In the sport of track and field, runners are taught to maintain their effort all the way through the finish line and

As we approach the end of 2016, events of the previous year have taken a heavy toll on our collective community spirit and we’re limping toward the end.

Though we all have good reason to feel a sense of defeat, here at DEMCO we’re optimistic that 2017 will be a great year with many positive developments in our future.

In fact, your electric cooperative was forged by a can-do belief that our quality of life and economic prosperity could undoubtedly improve with a little determination and hard work.

What was once a dream of community leaders to bring power and light to outlying areas became a reality when the hard work of building an expansive utility infrastructure was undertaken.

And there is no doubt that it will take a lot of hard work ahead to rectify the damage that has been done in our community by this natural disaster.

The arduous task of recovering from the August flood is ongoing; we see it every day as workers continue to pick up debris along the roadside while homeowners and businesses seek a return to normalcy.

Sheetrock hangers and finishers, carpenters and painters are in short supply.

It’s a healing and restoration that will have to come from the heart. And the upcoming holiday season is the perfect time for everyone in our community to put away the smart phones and other distractions and purposefully reflect on where we’ve been in the recent past and how we can have a more peaceful and prosperous 2017.

We can all benefit from making a conscious effort during this holy season to warm our hearts and open our spirits to one another.

Sometimes it takes a catastrophic event like a 1,000-year flood to remind us that we really are one community of people striving together to attain the same goals.

Tragic as it was, the calamity caused by those flood waters really did have the effect, I believe, of causing us to understand that when crisis strikes, a helping hand will most definitely and inevitably appear.

We saw so many instances of people helping people - regardless of background, social status or means testing - escape the rising waters and deliver flood victims to safety with nothing asked in return.

We saw people who were grateful for the assistance and humbled that civilian rescuers could be so quick to risk their own safety to help.

As we close the curtain on 2016, my hope is that we could all carry forward the good will that was displayed in August and continued in September.

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Best wishes to you and your family. We consider it an honor to serve in the greatest nation on earth.

Brent Bradley
Vice President of Marketing & Member Services

Ryan Vandersypen
Vice President of System Operations

Steve Irving, Vice President of Finance

Jimmie Varnado
Vice President of Human Resources

Esther Tapia

Brett A. Self
Vice President of Marketing & Member Services

David Latona
Associate Editor

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ON THE COVER - Bow hunter Warren Womack of Clinton is well known among hunters across the state for his traditional style and his voluminous notetaking. For more on this story, see page 4.

Demco linemen receive training

In the sport of track and field, runners are taught to maintain their effort all the way through the finish line and never let up.

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Demco linemen receive training

DEMON COlinemen recently completed two stages of the Louisiana Lineman Training Program administered through the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives in Baton Rouge. Pictured at right/top are Larry Stewart, Bodhi Wright, Michael Knight, Freddie Moreno, Blake Sullivan and Andrea Johnson. Pictured at right/bottom are Nick Carruth, Kaleb Lee, Cade Felps, Chase Broussard, Derrick Willis and Jacob Parker.
Now is your chance to be a part of history! You could be one of four students to win an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C.!

You’ll get to tour the capital, meet with your congressman, visit historical sites, see your government working and make lots of new friends from all around the country!

All you have to do to qualify is enter an essay in the 2017 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour Essay Contest, sponsored by DEMCO.

**Contest Rules**

- Only high school juniors *who are DEMCO members in Ascension, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Livingston, St. Helena, Tangipahoa and West Feliciana are eligible to enter (*home schooled students of DEMCO members are also eligible).
- Please note that although only DEMCO members are eligible for the trip to Washington D.C., ALL entering students are eligible for prizes to be awarded for the best written essays.
- Children, grandchildren, brothers or sisters of DEMCO employees or directors are ineligible.
- Candidates will compose a letter to a political leader (President of the United States, Governor of Louisiana, Mayor, Secretary of the Department of Environmental Quality, etc.; just to name a few). The letter should address any current topic that inspires the writer’s passion.
- All essays should be legibly written in ink or typed double-spaced, not to exceed 750 words.
- Each essay must be accompanied by a cover letter including:
  - Student’s name, address, telephone number, email address, and age
  - Name(s) of parent(s) or guardian(s)
  - Name of school
  - Name of English teacher
- Student’s school and community activities, achievements and extracurricular activities
- Date submitted
- Essays may be submitted in one of three ways:
  - In person to any DEMCO office,
  - By mail to:
    - DEMCO Marketing Department/YT
      P.O. Box 15659
      Baton Rouge, LA 70895
  - OR entries can be emailed to davidl@demco.org
- Deadline for entries is Friday, Jan. 20, 2017. All essays submitted in this contest will become the property of DEMCO and will not be returned.

**Judging**

- Essays will be judged on originality, composition, how well they address the subject and neatness. (Acct. No. 80168046-002)
- 12 semi-finalists will be selected for final judging. Final competition will consist of an oral presentation of the written essay and a brief test on rural electrification knowledge.
- 4 winners will travel on an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. in June, 2017.

Check out the official National Rural Electric Youth Tour website: youthtour.coop.

 DEMCO sponsors 2017 Washington Youth Tour contest

Four students will win a free trip to our nation’s capital!

DEMCO salutes our military veterans and their families.

Thank you for the sacrifices you have made for our freedom!
Warren Womack takes bow hunting to the extreme

Traditional style, meticulous notetaking set Womack apart

It’s been said that success is what happens when preparation meets opportunity. When it comes to the sport of bow hunting, you’ll never find Warren Womack unprepared.

Among the Louisiana bow hunting community, Womack is a living legend. He’s lauded for his skill, knowledge, experience and extreme passion for promoting and preserving the traditional approach.

He’s also well-known for keeping reams and reams of detailed information on every single hunt he’s made since 1968 – every single hunt.

Just for the record, from that first foray into the woods back in Waterproof in 1968, there have been 2,056 hunts, 8,378 hours spent in a tree stand, 378 deer taken (278 by bow, 100 by gun), etc.

Womack shows a visitor a sample of the extensive catalogue of descriptions, notes, videos, photos and first-person accounts of his experiences over the decades. It’s all there in his home office in notebooks, folders and computer files, meticulous details on every hunt – every single shot, in fact - locations, weather conditions, time frames, outcomes and extensive accounts of exactly what transpired.

The database of information is carefully indexed, color-coded and cross-tabulated so that Womack can determine, for instance, how many successful cold-weather Wednesday evening bow hunts he’s had in proximity of a red oak feed tree when the moon was half-full. Bow hunts appear in red ink, gun hunts are in black, and blue ink indicates muzzle-loader.

He challenges a visitor to his home near Clinton to pick a random date.

“Nov. 5, 1985? Okay,” Womack says as he begins sorting through the mounds of information at his fingertips. This date was before he began to digitize his outdoor chronicles in 2001, so he breaks out a faded, dog-eared notebook and begins thumbing through it.

“Let’s see. Ummmm. Oh, here it is,” he says as the visitor looks over Womack’s shoulder for verification. “It was a Tuesday.

“Ah, that’s the day I got my 100th deer with a bow! I was at Tommy Bayou Hunting Club near Erwinville. It was the second day of a three-day hunt.”

Reading from the tablet, “It was a beautiful morning, clear, very cool (in the 40s) with a slight wind variable out of the north. Moon stage was last quarter plus 0 days…” (Acct. No. 80022000-002)

The journal entry goes on to describe how he missed one buck in the morning with an errant shot but bagged another one that afternoon.

In achieving his vaunted status as bow hunter emeritus in south Louisiana, the 72-year-old has been featured on radio programs, print publications, internet shows and has also written columns for outdoors magazines. He is known most for his instructional videos on bow hunting techniques, tracking, navigating, field quartering and packing.

Womack, who is a dyed-in-the-wool traditionalist when it comes to hunting – no high-caliber rifles, feed plots, “shoot-houses” or trophy chasing for him – was nevertheless quick to adopt video back in the 1990s. He produced a video entitled, “Ultimate Challenge Bow Hunting” back in the mid-1990s that has sold about 2,000 copies, first on VHS and later on DVD.

Before retiring, Womack served four years in the U.S. Navy during the Cuban Missile Crisis and spent his career working as an electrician. He and his wife, Jenny, both graduated from Central High School and have been married for 54 years.

Womack said he “found his passion” when he went on that first bow hunt in Waterproof many years ago.

“I was totally ignorant and didn’t know what I was doing. I had a light-duty bow, mismatched arrows, a dull broadhead,” he said. “But that experience of hunting with a bow – just you and the deer - started a burning desire in me and excited me more than anything I’d ever done. But I wanted to do it right.”

The act of shooting came secondary behind the aspects of the sport that excite Womack most – preparing, tracking, matching wits with a deer in the animal’s native environment. Without the benefits of the internet and quick access to information, he turned to books and magazines. He learned about scouting sites, reading and interpreting signs of deer activity, finding suitable “feed trees” that serve as a source of food for the animals.

To Womack, shooting a deer from 500 yards with a high-powered rifle and a long-range scope simply isn’t the same as putting in the hard work and preparation to draw a deer to within 15-20 yards and using a simple device to take it down.

He describes his style as “old school.” He mostly hunts alone, walks into the woods with his gear and walks out with or without a deer that’s been skinned, quartered and packed. Though he has experimented with compound bows in the past, Womack’s weapon of choice is a recurve bow.

“They didn’t have compound bows when I started. I used them for a few years but it seemed too easy with the sights and power. It wasn’t much fun to practice, and I like there to be a little more challenge. To position yourself in the elements where a deer will come within close range, there’s a lot of hard work that goes into it. But that’s the reward. That’s what makes it so thrilling.”

Typically, Womack spends one day scouting and the second day hunting. He often walks for hours to find the right spot where, after studying the elements, the flora, the topography, the food sources, the habitat, he is certain a deer will soon come into close range.

Though he admits to not having “the wheels” to go as deeply into the forest – and back out while potentially packing a deer and his gear - as he used to, Womack said the hunt excites him as much as when he was 24.

To stay in shape during the off-season, he lifts weights, practices climbing and shooting, and walks at a quick pace around his undulating 14-acre property.

Womack laments the notion that bow hunting will never supplant rifle hunting in popularity. He contends hunters are missing out on the real rewards of the sport.

“Bow hunting is a dying art because parents bring their kids out too soon and don’t teach them what they need to know,” he said. “They don’t start them off with small game, teach them how to navigate in the woods, how to use a compass and read the land and the habitat. When the kid’s 6, they put them on a four-wheeler, drive them to a shooting house where the corn and wheat are and the kid sits there and plays video games while they wait. They shoot the deer, load it up on the four-wheeler and bring it back to the skinning rack at the camp. The kids don’t learn anything about real hunting and they’re missing out on the most natural and rewarding part that comes with hard work and preparation.

Today, it’s all about instant gratification.”

As for the extreme note-taking, Womack attributes that to preparing for the next hunt, to amassing a database of knowledge – and just plain fun. At the end of each winter, he makes a video summarizing the season.

“Sometimes, I have as much fun coming back and writing about it than I do actually hunting,” he says.
With a Mueller metal roof, you do much more than improve your home. You completely transform it – with a colorful and distinctive look that lasts for generations. Mueller roofs also deliver more durability, less maintenance and extra protection for those you love. Start improving today – call or visit us online.

www.muellerinc.com
877-2-MUELLER
(877-268-3553)
Extreme weather events cause stress and anxiety for everyone.

No one escapes difficulty when a major hurricane hits or rain waters surpass record levels as in the recent 1,000-year flood disaster that struck our area in August. (Acct. No. 5259504-003)

Those whose homes or businesses did not take in water were providing shelter for others, feeding evacuees, performing the hard work of helping neighbors gut their dwellings or simply lending a helping hand in the best they could.

While the flood certainly impacted thousands of DEMCO members, it also caused great financial loss for the cooperative and its employees.

More than 50 employees sustained substantial property loss to their homes and/or vehicles. The flood also caused nearly 30,000 outages, damaged DEMCO’s power lines and poles, and destroyed sensitive high-tech equipment in several substations.

Despite the setback, DEMCO staff and management worked hard to restore power as quickly as possible so that members and businesses could have the power they needed to run air-conditioners, dehumidifiers, box fans, power saws and other implements needed to hasten the rebuilding process.

Many members, particularly victims of the flood, have found their utility bills reflecting power use during the month of August have been exceedingly high.

In most cases, this is due to the nearly non-stop running of machines and devices used to reduce the moisture level in homes often stripped of their insulation. The same insulation that needed to be quickly removed because of moisture retention is the same material that helps keep bills low under normal circumstances. It stands to reason that when insulation is stripped and air-conditioners and other machines are running much longer than usual, power use – and power bills – will skyrocket.

According to DEMCO CEO and General Manager John Vranic, “Someone suggested that the cooperative should waive the cost of the many megawatts of power that were used by our members after the flood. It would be nice, but unfortunately, we still have to pay our wholesale supplier for that power.”

Vranic continued, “We do everything we can – and always have – to keep our member’s bills as low as possible. We’re well aware that these are tough times for our members. Many of our own employees are dealing with this disaster. We’re working now to figure out a way to get through this with as little financial pain for the co-op and our members as possible. We’re all in the same boat and struggling with this together.”

Vranic said the co-op has been working with homeowners and businesses to sort through the permitting process during reconstruction and to help members resolve whatever issues arise.

He noted that the co-op is a non-profit organization and doesn’t make money on electricity sales. The member pays only for the power that is used.

“There’s no profit margin built into our operation,” he said. “We only charge our members what it costs us to deliver the service. Not a dime more. Our meters are checked to make sure they’re recording power use accurately. But if anyone has any questions, they can always feel free to give us a call.”

High post-flood bills due to increased power use

Statement of Non-discrimination

Dixie Electric Membership Corporation is an equal opportunity provider & employer.

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

Holiday closing schedule

DEMCO’s headquarters and branch offices will be closed on the following dates for the upcoming holidays:

- Thanksgiving – Thursday, Nov. 24 and Friday, Nov. 25
- Christmas – Friday, Dec. 23 and Monday, Dec. 26
- New Year’s Day – Monday, Jan. 2

Dispatchers will be on duty to handle emergency calls. We wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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 candidates must:
• Be a DEMCO member, as defined by the DEMCO Foundation Bylaws.
• Possess a high school diploma or equivalent.
• Be a legal citizen of the United States of America.
• Have no felony convictions.
• Plan to attend a trade school, community college, university or other such Louisiana institution.
• Submit completed DEMCO Foundation scholarship Application, all supporting documentation, a copy of most recent transcripts including cumulative GPA (minimum of 2.5 on 4.0 scale or equivalent required), a summary of work and/or extra-curricular activities, a minimum of three (3) letters of recommendation, and a cover letter by the applicant detailing reasons for consideration.
• An acceptance letter from the school of choice for first time or transferring students.
• All must be submitted to DEMCO Foundation by 4 p.m. central daylight time of deadline date (December 15). Applications cannot be faxed.

SCHOLARSHIP LIMITATION
Scholarship recipients are eligible to apply for a maximum lifetime scholarship award of four (4) semesters/quarters per individual.

For more information regarding the DEMCO Foundation scholarship Program or to receive an application, please call (225) 262-2141 or visit us on the web at www.demco.org.

Excerpt from ARTICLE II,
DEMCO Foundation Bylaws
Definition of DEMCO Member: “For the purposes of these Articles of Incorporation, the DEMCO members are defined as those individuals who are members of Dixie Electric Membership Corporation and the members of their immediate family. Members of the immediate family shall mean those natural persons regularly residing in the member’s home which is served by DEMCO.”
High-pressure jigsaw puzzling even stresses out the pooch

As a parent, sometimes you just have to get mean and lay down the law. Ordinarily, I wouldn’t have to discipline my 14-year-old daughter, Casey, in a very harsh manner.

She’s a conscientious, kind-hearted, attractive, dutiful teenager who likes to stay out of trouble and avoid conflict. But she is currently grounded for life…plus two weeks.

The sweet daughter who I thought admired her daddy stoked my ire recently after she came home from a trip to Barnes & Noble. She returned from her shopping spree with a couple of books, but she also brought back something that vexed my soul for days: a 1,000-piece monochromatic jigsaw puzzle featuring the “Queen of Owls” in a wintry forest setting.

And I’m not sure I can ever forgive her for that. (Acct. No. 80277616-001)

This was a sad situation because she and I have had a lot of fun over the years working on jigsaw puzzles together. We’ve built rural landscapes, fantasy scenes, European cottages, mountain ranges, the U.S. Capitol Building and some other funky avant garde designs to test our skill — though when I say “our skill” I mean her skill.

Casey has that sixth jigsaw puzzle sense, where she casually waves her hands — like the Peanuts gang decorating Charlie Brown’s Christmas tree — and the puzzle just appears to solve itself.

Perhaps looking for a greater challenge, however, she stepped over the line this time by bringing home a slate-gray picture of an elaborately clad owl-woman striking a majestic pose in the middle of the woods.

Now, I don’t doubt Nene Thomas is a talented, artistic woman who was happy to get paid to have her lithograph sliced and diced, dumped into a small cardboard box and placed on retail shelves. I am curious to know why the Queen of Owls actually has Monarch butterfly wings and no real owl-like features, but maybe I don’t want to know the answer.

No, the one that deserves a naggin thump is the sadistic so-and-so who designed the cutting pattern. No doubt this sinister sleuth-bull beats seal puppies in his spare time and probably moonlights as a creepy birthday party clown.

I’m not sure what device this person used to carve out the design, but I didn’t know a jigsaw blade could move in such strange directions. The patterns were complex and unorthodox, there was hardly any color contrast and the entire experience defied logic and common puzzle practice by becoming even more difficult the closer we got to completion.

It took a week to vanquish this beast, not including the few years it took off my life from the stress. The family nearly fractured. Everyone who worked on it ended up in a foul mood from the frustration. People got testy, arguments ensued, sleep was lost and appointments were missed as no one could pull away from the puzzle’s vortex created by the power of its own nefarious force field.

Our high-maintenance Schroedel started getting depressed from neglect as we soldiered on every day and far into too many nights. The dog became dazed and confused because she kept waiting for scraps of food to come raining down from the tabletop but all she got was bits of puzzle dust.

I’m not sure how we did it, but we finally plugged in the final piece and one day soon I’ll be released from therapy.

It’ll be a while before I jump back on the puzzle bandwagon, but over the holidays you may be inclined to gather the family around and crack open a jigsaw puzzle yourself — assuming your family is still on speaking terms after that dreadful presidential election.

So as a public service, I’m offering the following survival guide to make your next puzzle project a success:

• Don’t be a Hero – The status of the free world is not at stake. Resist the temptation to choose a four-dimensional, double-sided, borderless mind-bending juggernaut. Five-hundred pieces are enough. A serene bucolic setting by Bob Ross will do. We’re shooting for family fun here, not the Olympic Games.

• No Bragging - When you score a piece that everybody’s been looking for, don’t gloat. Don’t cackle or sniffle or clear your throat or otherwise subtly attempt to draw attention to your accomplishment. Remember that you’re going to go through an extended slump at some point and don the cloak of humiliation, so just keep your pie hole shut and move on to the next piece.

• Adult Privilege - If little kids wander up to the table, don’t scoff because you assume the puzzle is too hard for them to make a contribution. Shake off all of that “adult privilege” you enjoy and stop shaming the children. You’ll be eating crow when some 6-year-old steps up and slams down the piece that’s eluded you for the past two days.

• Stay Cool - Do not rush to get the puzzle done so that you can hurry and use the dining room table for, well, dining. Make plans to have the table occupied for as long as it takes to get the job done. If friends come over for Thanksgiving dinner — assuming you still have friends after that dreadful presidential election — break out the tv trays. Proper puzzling takes commitment.

• Quiet on the Set - Keep unnecessary discussion to a minimum. Small talk is permitted on occasion. No one wants to hear you vocalize your rambling internal dialogue. Besides, we’ve got a puzzle to finish, people!

• Tapped Out - No toe tapping, finger tapping, knuckle popping or heavy breathing. You’re breaking our concentration. Please trim your nose hair before entering the scrub. Also, try to eat before puzzling so that your stomach doesn’t start growling.

• When to Say When – The final and most important part of puzzle construction: know when to walk away. Happy Thanksgiving to you and your family. And happy puzzling!
The average American child spends 5 to 7 hours per day on a computer, mobile phone or other mobile device.1

Kids who have more screen time and less time outside have narrower blood vessels in their eyes, which has been linked to cardiovascular disease in adulthood.2

For every hour playing video games, children are 50% more likely to experience pain in their fingers and wrists.

84% of 18-24 year-olds report having back pain resulting from looking down at screens.3

Over 60% of obese children report watching more than 2 hours of television each day.

Here are 3 ways to trade screen time for healthful family time:

1. Cook together
   Children who eat 3 or more family meals a week are 12% less likely to be overweight and 24% more likely to eat healthy foods than those who don’t.2

2. Unwind at the end of the day
   Unplugging at least 15 to 30 minutes before bed has been shown to help everyone in the family sleep better.4,5

3. Read a book
   Reduce your stress by up to 68% when you pick up a book.6 Choose a book the whole family might enjoy and discuss it over dinner or on the way to school.

Only Crackpots Take Potshots

It doesn’t take a crack shot to hit an electric insulator or transformer, just a crackpot.

During hunting season, careless shooters taking potshots at electric equipment can cause major problems for your electric company. Here’s why:

- You are increasing your fellow member-owners whose electricity has been disrupted. It could even be a matter of life and death to someone on a life support system or to someone who is hit by a stray shot.
- Damage to electrical equipment is expensive to repair. Lines could be cut or weakened from a shot, and they might sag or break, becoming a severe hazard for anyone who comes in contact with the line.
- Broken insulators can cause power outages that are hard—and expensive—to fix. An Insulator cracked by a bullet can remain in line for a long time before it finally fails.

Enjoy your sport, but be a responsible hunter. Teach children to respect power lines, electrical equipment and guns so that they, too, will be responsible hunters.

UNPLUG THE ELECTRONICS, PLUG IN WITH YOUR FAMILY

DEMCO strongly urges you to always practice safety.
From the Board Room

DEMCO Board members receive committee reports

Meeting of September 15, 2016

The board of directors of DEMCO held its regular meeting Thursday, September 15, 2016. Board President Richard Sitman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

The board then approved the minutes of the previous meeting, new member list, Treasurer’s report and Operations Committee report as written.

The board then passed a resolution that designates as Authorized Agents John Vranic, Ryan Vandersypen, Phil Zito, and Brent Bradley to sign large retail power contracts, commercial power contracts, contractor agreements, overhead and underground sub-division contracts, and right-of-way easement and servitude contracts; and, the board rescinds its board resolution of October 15, 2015 authorizing Randy Buchanan and Turk Tynes as authorized agents for the same.

Then the board resolved to authorize management to approve Amendment #13 to the 2013 – 2016 Construction Work Plan for the Juban Marketplace East transmission relocation; the Juban Marketplace East distribution under-build relocation; and the Juban Marketplace East distribution underground service facilities.

The board then approved a resolution that authorizes management to approve Amendment #15 to the 2013 – 2016 Construction Work Plan to replace the Darlington Amite River 69kV transmission crossing which was destroyed in the historical flood of August 2016.

Another resolution was passed to authorize management to approve Amendment #16 to the 2013 – 2016 Construction Work Plan to replace flood damaged equipment at French Settlement.

Later the board approved a resolution that authorizes management to approve Amendment #17 to the 2013 – 2016 Construction Work Plan to replace flood damaged equipment at Walls Crossing Tap.

As committee chairman of the Purchasing Committee, Randy Lorio presented the committee’s report. The board then resolved to approve the following purchases: Altec Industries, Inc. for the 2016 large vehicle purchases of five small bucket trucks and two large bucket trucks, ten 69kV breakers from GE/Alstom (five for Walls Crossing Tap and five for French Settlement) to replace breakers that were flooded during the August 2016 flood, Chancellor Construction, LLC for substation construction labor to install the 69kV breakers and cable trench at French Settlement and Walls Crossing Tap; Control Devices, Inc. and PCS 2000 for control wiring and relay testing labor at substations that were flooded during the August 2016 flood, control cable from Gresco and Techline to replace control cable damaged during the flood disaster, battery chargers and battery banks from HV Sales that were needed immediately for substations that were flooded during the natural disaster, electronic relays from SEL to replace units damaged during the flood, control cabinets and enclosures from S & C Electric to replace cabinets that were flooded, AMR meters (Landis and Gyr and SENSUS) to replace meters that were flooded; Southern Electric Corporation of Mississippi for the replacement of the Darlington 69kV transmission line Amite River crossing that was washed out by floodwaters.

From the Finance Committee report Steve Irving moved that the board resolve to authorize management to renew insurance coverage with no change in coverage or premiums Starmount, Business Travel Accident with NRECA, BCBSLA health insurance. Next the board resolved to authorize management to amend the DEMCO Health Reimbursement Arrangement Plan Document to comply with theHITECH/HIPPA rules. The board then resolved to authorize management to continue Basic and Supplemental Life, Basic and Supplemental Accidental Death and Dismemberment, and Short and Long-Term Disability insurance coverage with Cigna at an approximate 2.8% increase in premiums.

Mr. Irving continued with the Interest, Fuel Cost Adjustment and Financial reports. The board then approved a resolution reclassifying those accounts disconnected in May 2016 as uncollectable.

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.

Board President Richard Sitman presented the DES, LLC report. He stated the DES, LLC Board approved the 2017 DES, LLC Budget as presented, and approved the 2015 DES, LLC Audit report.

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

Jim Ellis presented the Attorney’s report with no action taken.
While it’s our duty to respond to forces of nature, we have been amazed at the response and resilience of the communities we serve. We have never been more proud to be your neighbor.