'Mud Duck' McClure returns home after NFL career
President’s Report

By Richard Sitman
DEMCO Board President

DEMCO thrives through good times and bad over 75 years

It takes good capital and a great business model to position a company in today’s economy to propel itself into the top tier of America’s business rankings.

However, to build a company to make lasting change and maintain a dynamic culture, one would need to have a clear vision coupled with solid leadership. With these great assets, a company can only sustain itself with financial success, but can also last through any number of obstacles in its path. (Acct. No. 3909101001)

This defines the success story written on DEMCO. In 2013, we enter the locally-owned electric cooperative’s 75th year. Although not easy, DEMCO has survived and thrived through good times and bad.

As we celebrate 75 years of success, we look at the people who were instrumental in starting the journey of the cooperative, and we will look at the strong leadership through the years that have kept DEMCO on solid ground.

That success is no accident. The leadership of your cooperative has worked hard throughout the years to bring you safe, reliable and affordable power. It is this mission that helped drive the individuals in DEMCO’s past and it also motivates the employees and leadership today.

Hard work and dedication are at the center of these men and women as we move into the future. 2012 saw the hard work necessary to secure the next long-term power contract and to restore power after another devastating storm in Hurricane Isaac.

All efforts made daily to provide every member with necessary power was done with the member in mind. Your democratically-elected board worked diligently to ensure that these core values of safe, reliable and affordable power were secured through both contract negotiations as well as how we respond to adversity caused by a storm.

As we take a look at the year, it is evident that we are continuing to grow. Our infrastructure growth has been planned for the future. As communities continue to grow, we are growing right along with them to provide them with the power necessary to meet their needs. And as an electric cooperative, a successful growth pattern will keep us on the right track to keep costs down for the members we serve.

A review of DEMCO’s 2012 system statistics reflects another solid year. DEMCO's kilowatt-hour (kWh) sales were 2,048,644,455. The number of members billed increased from 100,487 in 2011 to 101,601 in 2012. Total miles of line in operation showed an average of 8,140 miles by the end of 2012.

It is a serious commitment we the board of directors has undertaken to represent you, the valued members of this electric cooperative, and report to you that we continue strong into the future as we reflect on the strength of our past.

It is our hope to continue to bring you the quality service you have come to know.

In closing, I would like to thank the members of the DEMCO Board of Directors for allowing me to serve as President of the Board. I consider it both an honor and a privilege to serve in this position.

I also want to thank you the members of DEMCO for your continued commitment to this organization and the support you have shown for this board of directors.

In service,
Richard Sitman

Although not easy, DEMCO has survived and thrived in good times and bad.

DEMCO employees take part in lineman training program

The DEMCO employees shown here recently completed training as part of the Louisiana Lineman Training Program at the offices of the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives in Baton Rouge. Shown at right, left to right, are Asa Scott, Tony McNeese and Jake Lane. Shown below are, left to right, Raymond Stewart, Buddy Thompson, Dentory Lee, Daniel Brooks, Calvin Goza, Hijah Armstrong, Darren St. Pierre, Daniel Cross, Donnie Prest, Doug Dalgo, Daniel Poirier, Justin Milton, Patrick Donohue and Corey Sharpe.

Along these LINES
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On The Cover
Former LSU and Atlanta Falcons offensive lineman Todd McClure settles back in Central after stellar NFL career. For more on this story, see page 4.
Demco joins Senate in celebrating National Lineman Appreciation Day

Demco joined the U.S. Senate in recognizing April 18, 2013, as National Lineman Appreciation Day. The Senate passed a resolution honoring lineworkers for their efforts at keeping power flowing.

Across the nation, more than 19,000 men and women maintain 2.5 million miles of line for electric co-ops, public power districts and public utility districts.

“The caliber of our line employees is top notch,” said John Vranic, Demco CEO and General Manager. “Each and every member of our line crews should be commended for their hard work in delivering safe and reliable power to our members.”

A bill introduced by U.S. Sens. Johnny Isakson (R-Ga.) and Michael Bennet (D-Colo.) “recognizing linemen, the profession of linemen, the contributions of these brave men and women who protect public safety” was passed by unanimous consent.

The resolution resolves that these workers…

• are steeped in personal, family and professional tradition;
• are often first responders during storms and other catastrophic events, working to make the scene safe for other public safety heroes;
• work with thousands of volts of electricity high atop power lines 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, to keep electricity flowing;
• must often work under dangerous conditions far from their families to construct and maintain the energy infrastructure of the United States;
• and put their lives on the line every day with little recognition from the community regarding the danger of their work.

“It’s time lineworkers were recognized like this,” Vranic said. “It’s a great acknowledgment.”

Official Notice: Annual Meeting

In accordance with the provisions of Article III, Section 3.03 of the Bylaws of Dixie Electric Membership Corporation (Demco), notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the members of the corporation will be held at Demco’s Headquarters Facility, 16262 Wax Road, Greenwell Springs, Louisiana, Saturday, May 11, 2013. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 10:00 a.m.

In accordance with Article IV, Section 4.05 of the corporation Bylaws, notice is hereby given that the following persons have been nominated by the official nominating committee to fill the five positions on the Board of Directors in which vacancies occur this year.

BY NOMINATION:
Mr. Danny Berthelot, Livingston Parish, District 9
Mr. Glenn DeLee, East Feliciana Parish, District 6
Mr. Randy Lorio, East Baton Rouge Parish, District 3
Mr. Freddy Metz, West Feliciana Parish, District 13
Mr. Eugene Traylor, Tangipahoa Parish, District 12

If you would like to register for the 2013 annual membership meeting, please sign this notice and return it to Hawthorn, Waymouth, and Carroll, Certified Public Accountant, P.O. Box 82559, Baton Rouge, LA 70884, so that it is received by 4:30 p.m., Friday, May 3, 2013.

[Signature]

Livingston Parish director Danny Berthelot, East Feliciana Parish director Glenn DeLee, East Baton Rouge Parish director Randy Lorio, West Feliciana Parish director Freddy Metz and Tangipahoa Parish director Eugene Traylor will all return to the Demco board of directors each for a new three-year term.

All of these board representatives were unopposed in their re-election efforts.

In Livingston Parish, Berthelot was first elected to the board in 1989. He is an independent businessman and alligator farmer. Berthelot also represents Demco on the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives (ALEC) board of directors.

Glenn DeLee joined the board in 2010 when he was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Mandy “Amanda” Stroughter. He is a resident of the Strategic Planning Committee.

West Feliciana Parish resident Freddy Metz was re-elected to the board of directors representing district 13. Metz is a member of the board’s operations committee.

Eugene Traylor, a native of Tangipahoa Parish, was re-elected to the board for the ninth time having first been elected in 1983. He is a former president of the board and a former ALEC board member.

DEMCO CEO and General Manager John Vranic stated that due to an unopposed election this year, the members whose interests are represented by these directors have expressed their agreement with a job well done.

Continuing, Vranic said, “Demco offers power rates that are among the lowest of any electric utility provider in the state of Louisiana along with service for our valued members that is second to none.”

Each of the directors expressed their gratitude to the members for re-electing them to the board of directors for a three-year term.
McClure returns home after long NFL career

There’s a lot about former LSU and Atlanta Falcon football player Todd McClure that simply doesn’t add up.

McClure, who recently retired after a heralded 14-year NFL career as a starting center, is a big man at 290 pounds but was always undersized compared to most who played his position.

He was a seventh-round NFL draft pick in 1999 but went on to have a more successful career than many early-round selections.

He tore his anterior cruciate ligament during training camp of his rookie season yet missed just one game for the rest of his career and set a franchise record for consecutive starts.

He spent all 14 years of his time in the NFL with the same organization, almost unheard of in this day and time.

He’s busted heads against some of the most aggressive, ferocious men on the planet yet gets choked up when speaking of his wife and family.

When younger players were invited into the Falcons organization to challenge him for his starting spot, he saw the situation not as a threat but as an opportunity to mentor a less experienced teammate.

He’s gained fame and fortune in his profession yet comes across as anything but arrogant, toiling around the streets of East Baton Rouge Parish in a diesel-fueled work truck instead of a Lamborghini.

In his retirement, he could be off in the tropics right now lounging on the beach sipping a cocktail but instead drops his kids off at school each day and goes to work with his partners in the construction business.

He has returned to his home in East Baton Rouge Parish to raise his family – smack dab in the middle of Saints Country – but when he hears the black-and-gold chanting “Who Dat!” it makes him a little nauseous.

“Sometimes the parents can be a little overbearing when their expectations are set too high and they try to live their lives through their kids,” he said. “But with my personality, I’m kind of laid back. I try not to hover at the kids because I learned that when I played I responded better without the screaming and yelling. It’s the best way to get to the players.”

Now, instead of facing off against a hard-charging 350-pound nose tackle, McClure will have to contend with baseball moms who believe their sons should be getting more playing time.

“McClure chuckles at the thought. “The players are getting bigger, faster and stronger, and the collisions are more violent,” he said. “I’m blessed that I’ll be able to enjoy a decent, active life after football with my health intact. Many players get so many concussions and have dementia and after they retire everyday life is hard.”

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While he’ll be busy on the baseball diamond for the rest of the spring and summer, McClure is also planning the annual summer football camp he runs each June with Central High School Coach Sid Edwards and which typically attracts more than 250 young athletes.

And when the weather starts turning cool again, he’s also looking forward to taking his family to experience a Saturday night in Tiger Stadium. Because the family was always in Georgia during football season, the kids have never seen the Tigers play on their home turf.

“McClure returns home after long NFL career

Former LSU and Atlanta Falcons offensive lineman Todd McClure enjoyed a stellar football career and now has returned to his home in East Baton Rouge Parish where he plans to be involved in family activities.
Twenty-seven high school students from throughout the state gathered in Baton Rouge on March 26-28 to attend a Cooperative Youth Leadership Summit, meet with state elected officials and learn more about Louisiana’s electric cooperative system.

All students participating in the event were winners of the annual statewide Youth Tour Essay Contest. In addition to this conference, the students will embark on an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., on June 14-21.

Each year the national “Government in Action” Youth Tour event attracts over 1,500 high school students to Washington from 36 states across the country.

Representing DEMCO at both the state and national conferences this year are: Caroline Ball, Josie Jolibois, Patrick Riley and Omer Wolff.

“We’re proud to sponsor these outstanding students and to support both the educational and cultural development of our local youth,” said DEMCO CEO and General Manager John Vranic. “Part of our mission as a locally-owned electric cooperative is to do whatever we can to improve the quality of life and expand opportunities for our members, the community and our leaders of tomorrow.”

The meeting in Baton Rouge was hosted by the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives together with eight other Louisiana electric distribution cooperatives from around the state, including DEMCO.

In Baton Rouge, the local Youth Tour delegates spent two days meeting with their fellow Youth Tour Essay Contest winners, touring the State Capitol building, touring the NRG power generation plants in New Roads, visiting with their elected officials and learning more about the cooperative business model.

While in Washington this summer, the local Youth Tour delegates will visit the offices of Louisiana’s representatives and senators, the U.S. Capitol, the Smithsonian Institution, Arlington National Cemetery and other historical and government sites of interest. (Acct. No. 80227734001)

Chaperones for this year’s tour are Beama Pierce, Joni Kitchen and Sandy Stockwell of the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives, Inc. (ALEC), Baton Rouge, and Kay and Nick Fox of Beauregard Electric Cooperative in DeRidder.

“We really appreciate the support our cooperatives provide for this worthwhile program,” Stockwell said. “This is a trip of a lifetime for these students and it’s something they’ll never forget.”

DEMCO honored this year’s Young Heroes award winners by preparing a special lunch for the students at the Governor’s Mansion on April 17. Shown above, left to right, are DEMCO employees Brent Bradley, Manager of Business Services; Turk Tynes, Vice President of Marketing and Member Services; Ron May, Vice President of Engineering and Operations; Toni Johnson, Member Services Representative; Veronica Cliborne, Supervisor of Customer Service; David Latona, Manager of Member and Public Relations; Penny Fruge, Marketing Assistant; Wendy Armstrong, Records Manager/Finance Assistant; Cheryl Malbrough, Manager of Economic Development; Chuck Heine, Marketing Representative Specialist; and Chanon Johnson, Member Relations Representative. Young Heroes for 2013 are Hollie Fields, Carissa Fruge, Henry Futch, Aamina Green, Madison Perri Martin, Hunner Monceaux, Rachel Patteson and Maggie Elizabeth Tortorich. The 18th annual event recognized students from across the state who have excelled in the classroom, served their community, inspired others through their deeds or strength of character or shown great courage in overcoming adversity.

DEMCO honors Young Heroes

If you have seen the hit reality show Duck Dynasty, then you have met the family behind the business of everything duck hunting. Well, now the patriarch of the family business has released his book outlining (in detail) his life leading up to the success shown today.

Phil Robertson, also known as the Duck Commander, has recently released his book entitled, “Happy, Happy, Happy: My Life and Legacy as the Duck Commander.” As the title implies, this new release is written by Phil Robertson (co-authored by Mark Schlabach) and walks us through the trials and successes on his journey to becoming known as one of the greatest duck call makers of our time.

Don’t let the hunting theme misguide you. Between the pages of this book lies a story like no other. It chronicles the journey of a man who in many instances pulled himself and his family through tough times and through good times as he moved toward a life he describes as “happy, happy, happy.”

Much like the critically acclaimed “Duck Dynasty” series, “Happy, Happy, Happy” is a small window into the life of a business that has taken family sweat, tears and ingenuity to make into a true dynasty. Moreover, the book gives the reader a sense of what it was like from “Papaw Phil’s” perspective from conception to success of a business built around one man’s passion.

One fair warning though, this book is hard to put down once you start to read it. It spans many interest areas, from the obvious hunting angle to that of the reader drawn to business strategies.

The unique relationship of hunting and business might lead the casual shopper to pick up a copy of the book, but the theme might be different than you expect. As a matter of fact, it is quite different. Phil Robertson will not be mistaken for his passions. He is clear in communicating to his readers that his priorities are in a definite order. As the reader pushes from chapter to chapter it is evident the author hopes to impress upon you his theme of faith, family and ducks; in that order.

‘Happy’ is hard to put down
Applicant must possess a high school diploma or equivalent.
Applicant must be a legal citizen of the United States of America.
Applicant must be a DEMCO member, as defined by DEMCO Foundation Bylaws (see definition below).
Applicant must have no felony convictions.
Applicant must plan to attend a trade school, vocational or technical school, community college or other such Louisiana institution.
Applicant must submit a completed DEMCO Foundation Scholarship Application and all supporting documentation to the address listed below. The application package should include the following:
1. an official transcript including the most recently completed coursework
2. a 2.5 cumulative GPA on an over-all 4.0 scale
3. a summary of work and/or extra-curricular activities
4. a minimum of three (3) letters of recommendation of which none can be from a family member
5. an acceptance letter from the school of choice for first time or transferring students
6. a cover letter by the applicant detailing financial need and reasons for consideration

Please note: All must be submitted by 4:00 p.m. central daylight time of deadline date of June 20th for Fall semester and December 21st for Spring semester.

SCHOLARSHIP LIMITATION

Prior scholarship recipients are eligible to apply for a maximum lifetime scholarship award of four (4) semesters per individual.

Please note: Applicants must submit a completed application package for each semester in which they intend to apply.

Excerpt from ARTICLE II, DEMCO Foundation Bylaws Definition of DEMCO Member: For the purposes of these Articles of Incorporation, 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.

Contact:
DEMCO Foundation
 attn. Chanon Johnson
1810 S. Range Avenue, Suite 2
Denham Springs, Louisiana 70726
Phone (225) 665-0317
If you want to dramatically improve your home’s exterior, consider a Mueller metal roof. With a single move, you can make your home more beautiful and distinctive. We offer a wide variety of designer colors, and we guarantee that your roof will look fresh and vibrant for years. Ready to lift your home out of the ordinary? Contact us today.
Bryant gets the water works cranked up in Mother’s Day spot

You may or may not be a fan of the late University of Alabama football coach Paul “Bear” Bryant, but chances are you got a lump in your throat if you ever saw that classic South Central Bell commercial he shot back in the 1980s. This was a time when using an operator to place a call to someone in another part of the country required a commitment of money and effort. Long-distance fees paid the bills for South Central Bell and the company recruited the popular coach to get those long-distance telephone lines humming.

In the low-def commercial, Bryant was showing sitting in a chair behind his desk and clad appropriately in a crimson sweater, though he was bare-headed without his famous hounds tooth hat because his mamma always told him it was impolite to wear a hat indoors. This was also the reason he never wore his trademark fedora when his team played and the company recruited the popular coach to get those long-distance telephone lines humming.

In any event, Bryant brought tears to the eyes of many when he uttered these words in his inimitable growling tone: “One of the first things we tell our trademark fedora when his team played was impolite to wear a hat indoors. This was because his momma always told him it was impolite to wear a hat indoors. This was also the reason he never wore his trademark fedora when his team played in a domed stadium.”

I cued up that video on Youtube recently when I began thinking about Mother’s Day and was trying to figure out what to buy the beloved moms in my life. I thought about the usual books, gift cards, flowers, picture frames and other things, but nothing seemed to resonate. To be frank, I’m in a bit of a dilemma because I decided to raise the bar a couple of years ago when I led a writing program at my church designed to inspire my fellow Methodist men to express themselves through the written word. As part of the program, and to set an example for the brave men who had the courage to pursue this project, I wrote personal letters to my mother and my wife describing the many ways they have touched my life.

I will admit both letters were written and printed using an elegant typeface instead of my own indecipherable script because I actually wanted them to be able to make out the words. Even so, those letters are framed and perched on their respective night stands and serve as a constant reminder of my love and devotion to those special women.

I was happy to convey my feelings to those I love so dearly, but of course it presented a huge problem - what to do for an encore. Since then, it’s been difficult to find an adequate Hallmark card. As far as my wife is concerned, I made a futile attempt to count my spring cleaning labor as an early Mother’s Day gift. I figured several sweaty hours scratching around in the flower beds, digging up old tree roots, making mulch runs to the local nursery, performing maintenance jobs - plus chiropractor bills and ENT treatment - was worth several hundreds of dollars and would serve as a suitable gift.

But then she threatened to start tallying up her hours cooking dinner, doing laundry and getting the kids off to school, so I had to stand down and regroup.

Desperate, I turned to the internet to seek out some gift ideas when I stumbled across a article about a 57-year-old mother of two who just came out and admitted having children was “the biggest regret” of her life.

Here, in part, is what she wrote: “I cannot understand mothers who insist they want children…then race back to work at the earliest opportunity after giving birth, leaving the vital job of caring for them to strangers…Why have they decide not to want to bring them up, or can’t afford to? And why pretend you wanted them if you have no intention of raising them? This hypocrisy is, in my view, far more pernicious and difficult to fathom than my own admission that my life would have been better without children.”

Perhaps even more interesting was the commentary section where scores of female readers applauded the woman for telling the truth and suggested many mothers feel this way but don’t have the guts to be honest about it to themselves or others.

I’ve written previously in this space that no person should have children until they’re done getting their groove on, unless you’re planning to discover a new groove in parenting, because it’s an all-consuming, transformational, dyeing- unto-life experience. I guess the woman still has some dragons out there in the world that she feels a need to slay.

I’m hoping my own mother never had any regrets that I came into her life 50 years ago this month. Though she may have had some reservations that time when I was 17 and she got that call from the police at 2 a.m. and was told to meet the ambulance at the hospital because her son had dang-near killed himself after making a series of bone-headed decisions. There may have been other instances of regret, too, but I don’t want to further incriminate myself.

As it is, I count my blessings daily that my mom is still around, has a very happy, fulfilling and contented life, and lives close by so that we can visit frequently. As far as gift-giving goes, Mother’s Day is a breeze because she’s easy to please. I’d like to think she sees that letter on her night stand and falls asleep at the end of every day resting comfortably in the sentiment that the love her son has for her is deep, enduring and expressed clearly and indelibly right there on that page.

But I’m sure a phone call wouldn’t hurt.

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The next meeting of the DEMCO Board of Directors is scheduled for Thursday, May 16, 2013, at 6 p.m. Board meetings are held at DEMCO’s headquarters facility located at 16262 Wax Road, Greenwell Springs, La.

Leave electrical work to the pros

May is National Electrical Safety Month. As its sponsor, the Electrical Safety Foundation International wants you to be safe if your home needs electrical repairs.

Your best bet: Hire a licensed, qualified electrician when your home’s electricity or appliances are on the friz.

Even if you turn your electricity back on at the circuit breaker box, it’s not always safe to work on your home’s plugs and wiring. ESFI also recommends that you:

• Study your panel’s circuit breakers or fuses so you will know which one controls each switch, light or outlet.
• Wear safety goggles and gloves before touching electrical components.
• Triple-check that you have turned off the right circuits before you start any work. It’s easy to flip the wrong switch by accident.
• Make 100 percent sure that the circuit cannot be accidentally turned back on while you are working. Let everyone in the house know the breaker box is off limits until you say otherwise.
• Use a circuit tester to verify the switch you are working on is operating properly before you turn everything back on.
• Even then, consider leaving dangerous work—even small jobs—to a pro who knows the ins and outs of how to stay safe—and keep your home safe—when electrical work is needed.

Why is my electric bill more than my neighbor’s?

You have a TV, DVD player, microwave oven, electric range and cooktop, refrigerator/freezer, stereo, heat pump and personal computer. So does your next-door neighbor. So why is your electric bill almost twice as high every month?

Consider: How well are your walls insulated compared to your neighbor’s? Do you take longer, hotter showers? Are you cooking gourmet meals or baking from scratch while your neighbor opts to microwave? Does the TV keep you company even when you’re not watching it?

Just as no two families live alike, no two electric bills are the same. Comparing your monthly statement to anyone else’s would be like comparing your weekly grocery tabs. Two families of four could never spend exactly the same amount on food because their tastes and habits are different.

Think about the conveniences for which you might be willing to pay, even though your neighbor isn’t. Are you more comfortable sleeping in an extra-cool house on hot summer nights? Maybe your neighbor’s thermostat is a few degrees warmer at bedtime.

Do members of your family entertain themselves in separate rooms after dinner—turning a light on in each—while the folks next door gather all together in a family room to watch baseball games on TV or play a board game?

The way to lower your electric costs is to use energy more efficiently before the bill comes. If your neighbor’s bill is lower than yours, ask for some tips about how to save money by conserving energy around the house or contact DEMCO for energy-saving ideas.

The 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.

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Viewpoint

by Billy Gibson

Director of Communications

Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives

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Popular demand and short supply drives the cost of everyday necessities higher. Some price tag changes—like the cost to fill your car’s gas tank—are obvious to anyone driving down the road. Other increases at the grocery store are more subtle but still impact your family’s bottom line. Compare the average price increase of a few household expenses to see how the rising cost of electricity stacks up.

The cost for a gallon of unleaded gasoline shot up 11.1 percent on average every year between 2002 and 2012, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Eggs don’t go over easy—the cost for a dozen eggs increased 7.8 percent. Bakers watched the price of flour rise 5.7 percent, and apples felt the crunch with a jump of 4.8 percent every year.

The cost of electricity grew at a slower pace—5.2 percent a year, on average. The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) reports homeowners across the nation pay an average of 11.7 cents per kWh. In Louisiana, electric cooperatives keep costs even more affordable—the average price for power is 8.5 cents per kWh.

Unlike eggs or apples, electricity is a 24-hour-a-day commodity. Despite energy efficiency advancements, the average household uses more electronic gadgets—and needs more power to operate them—every year.

In the past 30 years, the amount of residential electricity used by appliances and electronics has increased from 17 percent to 31 percent according to the Residential Energy Consumption Survey by EIA. More homes than ever have major appliances and central air conditioning. Digital video recorders (DVRs), computers, and multiple televisions are common.

DEMCO works hard to keep your electricity safe, reliable, and affordable. But you play a role in the price of your power. Just as you might cut back on eggs if your budget is tight, we can work with you to cut your monthly electric bill. See how little changes add up at www.TogetherWeSave.com.
Meeting of February 28, 2013

The board of directors of DEMCO held its regular meeting Thursday, February 28, 2013. 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.

From the Purchasing Committee report Randy Lorio, committee chairman, presented the information with no items recommended for purchase.

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 October 2012 as uncollectible. The board then resolved to authorize management to make arrangements to borrow funds to begin the process of prepayment of existing loans. This process is understood to require future approval of the Louisiana Public Service Commission.

From the Policy Committee report Randy Lorio, temporarily directed the meeting in the absence of Ms. Faye Morris. The board adopted a resolution to approve board policy manual revisions 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.

Meeting of March 14, 2013

The board of directors of DEMCO held a special meeting Thursday, March 14, 2013. Board President Richard Sitman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. (Acct. No. 80128918001) Mr. Sitman reported that the purpose of the meeting was to appoint the Nominating Committee to serve in the 2013 DEMCO Annual Membership Meeting and Election process.

Ms. Morris made a motion that the board appoints Mr. Ricky Blackwell from East Baton Rouge Parish Board District 3, Mr. Dennis Devall from East Feliciana Parish Board District 6, Mr. Rocky Brown from Livingston Parish Board District 9, Mr. Earl Cook from Tangipahoa Parish Board District 12, and Mr. Glasper Cobb of West Feliciana Parish Board District 13 to serve as the Nominating Committee in the 2013 DEMCO Annual Membership Meeting and Election Process. The motion was seconded by Mr. Irving and passed unanimously.

There being no further business to come before the board, Mr. Lott moved that the board adjourn. Mr. Brock seconded the motion and the board adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Meeting of March 21, 2013

The board of directors of DEMCO held its regular meeting Thursday, March 21, 2013. Board President Richard Sitman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

The board then approved the minutes of the previous meetings, new member list, Treasurer’s Report and Operations Committee report as written. The board then resolved to reaffirm DEMCO Board Policy 308.004 Safety.

From the Purchasing Committee report Randy Lorio, committee chairman, presented information regarding the following items: a technology backup system and used bucket trucks.

The board then resolved to authorize management to obtain a technology backup system that is best suited for DEMCO at the lowest available price. Next the board passed a resolution authorizing management to sell used bucket trucks known as units 133 and 128-1 for the highest possible prices that are near or above the appraised values determined by the auction company.

From the Finance Committee report Steve Irving, committee chairman, reviewed the Interest, Fuel Cost Adjustment and Financial Summary reports. The board approved a resolution reclassifying those accounts disconnected in November 2012 as uncollectible. They then adopted a resolution authorizing management to consolidate FFB loans after gaining RUS approval. Moreover the board resolved to authorize management to implement a rate rider to cover unreimbursed Hurricane Isaac expenses. Next the board approved a resolution to authorize management to make a prepayment of loans held in order to reduce future expenses.

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.
What is a hero?
Standards Link:

This weekend, help your family stay busy with chores. Would you like to try something you’ve never done before?

Farmers are part of your family, and they are heroes. Farming can be hard work, and it can be very dangerous. By working hard, farmers keep our world healthy and provide food for people all over the world.

Farming Freedom
This farm is unlike most other farms. Anyone can visit Polyface farm. Polyface is located in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. Polyface was first bought as an aged, worn-down piece of land by Joel Salatin and his family. They now own and run the farm.

Joel Salatin is a famous farmer. He and his family own and run the farm in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. Polyface was first bought as a young, worn-down piece of land by Joel’s parents and has now become a world-famous producing farm.

This rooster took a couple of things Joel and I noticed when we visited Polyface. Polyface farm raises many different types of animals, unlike most of today’s mass-production farms. Some animals on Polyface are chickens, cows, turkeys and meat rabbits. The cows are herded from pasture to pasture eating grass and weeds.

Joel’s son, Daniel, cares for the rabbits. Daniel began raising rabbits in the 1980s and came across a type of rabbit that can eat grass and vegetables, without getting sick. The rabbits are moved daily with the chickens to a place called the Raven house where they live with the chickens for a short while.

Polyface has many rules or guidelines that are made from. The leather of shoes comes from people who make shoes. The leather of shoes comes from people who make shoes. But the leather of shoes comes from people who make shoes.

To find out what the word Polyface means, unscramble each word.

A Farm With Principles
Not a principal like at your school – but principles, which means rules or guidelines.

Polyface has many principles of farming, such as all livestock is grass fed and all animals are treated with respect. They always respect the “piggyness” of a pig. In the production of a pig, most farmers’ or businesses’ pigs stand all day, packed together, eating from a trough, changing their life and instincts. Polyface’s pigs have their own pastures and enjoy eating what they are given.

Samantha Anderson loves to write and she cares about Mother Earth. She combined these two interests when she interviewed a farmer in Virginia who uses healthy farming practices. Samantha’s entry won the Kid Scoop Foundation’s Hometown Heroes essay contest.

For more info, visit www.kidscooopfoundation.org

Kid Scoop Puzzler
Luis wants to buy his mother some flowers. He has $1.00. Use the puzzle to figure out how many of each of the flowers costs. Then select some flowers that Luis can buy to make his mother a bouquet.

FLower PRICES:
+ + + + = 35¢
+ + + + = 5¢
+ + + + + + = 15¢

Solution at: www.kidscooop.com/kids/
75 years ago we raised the bar.

While some things have changed, others never will. **DEMCO** continues its everyday commitment to ensure the power is in your hands.