A COMMON BOND for Blue Star Mothers

Installation of 2019 officers, story on page 6
The directors and employees of DEMCO are keenly focused on the communities we serve. We promote the activities in our service area and are committed to local people working for local good. Why? The answer’s simple: Because that’s what co-ops do. We live in the communities where we work and we want to focus our energy in those areas. That’s the essence of Cooperative Principle No. 7, Concern for Community.

First and foremost, we can and do strengthen our community by doing what we do best: provide electricity, reliably and at a reasonable cost. We are a dynamic part of our community. As the area grows, so does our distribution system.

Strengthening our local economy makes sound business sense. At DEMCO, we pursue policies and projects that are good for the community because what’s good for our community is likewise good for the cooperative.

We have strong roots in this community. DEMCO has been in business since 1938. Part of the benefit of this stability is the assurance that we are not going anywhere. Our business began here, and we would not pull up stakes to pursue greener pastures elsewhere. We regularly participate in community events and continually think about what we can do today and how can we make a difference in the communities we serve.

We pay our employees fair wages because that in turn helps strengthen the economy when they spend that money here. And by providing good-paying jobs, we keep our towns healthy, because employees and their families don’t have to move away to make a decent living. The more people we have by supporting local charities. We help our members and neighbors in need by sponsoring such things as blood and food drives, Operation Round Up program, Race for the Cure, Dream Day, United Way, Boy & Girl Scouts, etc. I’m proud to say that DEMCO employees participated in a blood drive in July and September, with a total of 93 blood donations. The co-op is made up of people

We are a dynamic part of our community. As the area grows, so does our distribution system.

here contributing to the community, the more vibrant it will be. The benefits to the community aren’t only financial in nature. We open doors for our young people with scholarship programs and the annual Youth Tour trip to Washington, D.C. We teach children safety through programs in schools and online (Electrical Safety Magician, Fire in the Wire, Bucket Truck Demonstrations, and Adventures in Saferyland Camp).

We also strengthen the community who care. Our employees go out of their way to better the communities in which they live. They coach youth sports teams, serve on school committees and participate in church activities. Many are co-op members like you – in fact 67% of DEMCO employees are co-op members – and like you, they want to make their hometowns stronger.

Remember that when it comes to DEMCO, our local community comes first because home is where our heart is.

Energy Efficiency
Tip of the Month

Trim your holiday energy costs by choosing energy efficient LED lights! LED holiday lights use less energy and can last up to 40 seasons. They’re also easier to install - you can connect up to 25 LED strings without overloading a wall socket!

Source: energy.gov
Lucky Account Number Contest

The Lucky Account Number Contest continues this month with four winners included 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 225-262-2160.

DEMCO sponsors 2020 Washington Youth tour contest

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

Now is your chance to be a part of history! You could be one of four students to win an all-expenses-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 2020 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour Essay Contest, sponsored by DEMCO. (Account Number 80135966001)

Contest Rules

• 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.

• This year’s essay topic should be in the form of 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 topic that inspires the student/author’s passion.

• Essays should not exceed 750 words. Each essay must be accompanied by a cover sheet 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
  By email to davidd@demco.org.

• Deadline for entries is Friday, January 24, 2020.

• 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.
  Twelve 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.

• Four winners will travel to Washington, D.C., in June 2020.

“Along these Lines” to receive a makeover in 2020

“Along these Lines” will have a new look the next time it gets delivered to DEMCO members.

Beginning in January, the newsletter will look less like a newspaper and more like a magazine. The glossy makeover will give the publication a modern look while helping the co-op control costs.

“Most of the electric cooperatives across the country have moved from newsprint to a magazine newsletter, and this transition will actually help us provide our members with a better product while lowering our printing costs,” said Randy Pierce, DEMCO CEO and General Manager.

The new format will allow for twice the content and increased local news per issue, since each issue of “Along these Lines” will now cover two months of news and information. The magazine will also be available in digital format, which makes it easy to share the link with family and friends.

Members will still enjoy local stories that they have come to look forward to in each publication. Electrical safety and energy efficiency tips and the highly sought after monthly recipe will also continue as featured content.

Along these Lines · PAGE 3

NOV/DEC 2019 · ALONG THESE LINES · PAGE 3
Decorate Safely This Holiday Season

The holiday season offers great moments for building memories, but when it comes to decorating, it’s also the perfect time to think about safety.

“There are about 200 decorating-related injuries each day during the busy holiday season,” said Ann Marie Buerkle, acting chairman of the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). “Make safety a part of your family’s holiday decorating this year.”

Between November 2016 and January 2017, holiday decorating injuries resulted in 18,400 emergency room visits nationwide. Local fire departments look to the holiday season as a time of increased vigilance, often tied to many of the activities that have become family traditions.

“It’s important to use common sense when you’re dealing with holiday decorating, particularly with lighting, candles and electrical wiring,” said Bruce Bouch, a U.S. Fire Administration fire program specialist. “Holiday decorations are designed for temporary use, and that means they are essentially disposable.”

According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), the top three days of the year for candle fires in the U.S. are Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Year’s Day. NFPA statistics also indicate that one of four Christmas tree fires are caused by electrical problems.

The global safety certification company United Laboratories classifies holiday lighting as a seasonal product designed for no more than 90 days of use. While the actual holiday season runs about six weeks, weather and busy schedules mean outdoor holiday lighting displays are put up early and taken down late, exposed to the actual holiday season. Lighting as a seasonal product designed for no more than 90 days of use.

Fall also brings a higher risk of home fires with the change of the weather, the weather is cooler and the holidays are just around the corner. But holidays are just around the corner. But Fall is finally here! The leaves are changing, the weather is cooler and the holidays are just around the corner. But Fall also brings a higher risk of home fires and electrical safety hazards.

Read the safety tips below and fill in the blank with the correct term from the word bank.

Fall Safety Tips for Kids!

1. Candles and _________ should only be used by adults.
2. An adult should always stay in the kitchen when something is _________.
3. Smoke alarms should be tested every ________ to ensure they are working. Batteries should be replaced at least once every ________ or right away if they start to “beep.”
4. Make sure all candles are blown out before leaving a room.
5. Keep any items that can burn away from the stove, toaster and other cooking appliances.

Word Bank: Appliances, Year, Candles, Cooking, Matches, Month

What’s on That Pole?

This illustration shows the basic equipment found on electric utility poles. The equipment varies according to the location and the service they provide.

Primary Wires: Primary wires carry 7,200 volts of electricity from a substation. That voltage is 100 times higher than the voltage that runs through your home’s electrical outlets.

Surge Arrestors: Those protect the transformer from lightning strikes.

Neutral Wire: The neutral wire acts as a line back to the substation and is tied to the ground, balancing the electricity on the system.

Secondary Service Drop: Carries 120/240 volts of electricity to consumers’ homes. It has two “hot” wires from the transformer and a bare “neutral” wire that’s connected to the ground wire on the pole.

Ground Wire: The ground wire connects to the neutral wire to complete the circuit inside the transformer. It also directs electricity from lightning safely into the earth.

Telephone, Cable TV, and Fiber Wires: These are typically the lowest wires on the pole.

Never nail posters or other items to utility poles. These create a safety hazard for lineworkers.

Original illustration by Erin Binkley
Dear Santa: With the holidays approaching, I’m starting to think about unique gifts for my family and friends that won’t use too much energy. Can you share any ideas? ~Thank you, DEMCO Electric Cooperative Member

Dear DEMCO Electric Cooperative Member: It’s always a great idea to give energy efficient gifts! Here are a few ideas based on a range of prices. You might even want to keep one or two of these for yourself if you’ve been good this year!

1. **Smart power strip (Prices: $15 to $100):** Smart power strips are the perfect gift for your tech-savvy family members and friends because they’ll likely need the extra outlets for their many devices. Smart power strips give more control than traditional ones. By plugging the main hardware item, such as a computer or monitor, into the master outlet, you can easily control the rest of the devices. When that main device is turned off, everything else plugged into the strip also powers off. Some smart power strips can also be operated through a remote control or smartphone app, and some include programmable timers.

2. **Smart thermostat (Price: $30 to $600):** A smart thermostat can adjust the temperature by learning your energy use habits over time, which saves you money and keeps you more comfortable. It can also be controlled through a smartphone app. Just make sure you’re going to use all of its functionality before taking the leap.

3. **Solar backpack (Price: $30 to $325):** Walking or biking to the office, the field or a mountain lake? It may sound crazy, but you can actually make the most of the sun’s energy with a solar backpack. These handy devices collect and store enough electricity to power a phone, tablet or even a laptop. The solar panels stitched onto the back of the packs are flexible and waterproof. Best of all, they have all the features and functionality of their traditional non-solar cousins.

4. **E-bike (Price: $250 to $9,000):** Electric bikes, or e-bikes, are regular bicycles with an electric motor that can be engaged as needed. E-bikes are becoming increasingly popular with people who face challenging terrain, bike to work and don’t want to work up a sweat, or perhaps find regular cycling too physically challenging. Studies also show that e-biking can bring many of the same physical benefits as non-assisted pedaling. They even come in foldable versions. One downside is they are heavier than regular bicycles.

5. **Electric scooter (Price: $80 to $3,000):** The $49 foldable, foot-powered scooter that exploded onto the scene a decade ago has grown up in a big way. In some larger cities, electric scooters are now available to rent at various locations, found and paid for via app. Or you can buy one to use for your daily commute or as a fun way to simply scoot around the neighborhood. Higher-quality versions will have longer range, larger tires and better suspension – along with a higher cost, of course. The catch is that they’re still largely confined to paved surfaces.

6. **Energy-efficient tablets (Price: $40 to $4,000):** You may already have at least one tablet in your home, but have you considered how energy-efficient it is? Try this: Instead of using your TV to binge that new show, consider an ENERGY STAR-rated tablet, and you can use seven times less power! Simply look for the ENERGY STAR label when you’re shopping for new tablets.

Looking for an efficient gift that costs practically nothing? Enjoy a good book and a cozy evening at home, which requires no energy use at all. Don’t forget to put on your favorite sweater and pair of fuzzy slippers so you can lower the thermostat a couple of degrees. Now that’s an energy-efficient evening worth repeating!
Blue Star Mothers of America is a proud organization of women who are mothers, stepmothers, grandmothers, foster mothers, and female legal guardians who have children that are actively serving or are veterans of the military, guard or reserves. Originally formed during World War II, the organization is now 6,000 members strong. With 200 chapters across America, there is a common thread that ties each Blue Star Mother to another. Each Blue Star Mom at some time in their motherhood has faced the sacrifice, fear and bravery along with a deep sense of pride that goes with their child who steps away to serve his or her country.

Just as the American military, the Blue Star Mothers of America (BSMA) are a non-partisan, non-political and non-sectarian organization. Blue Star Mothers support each other while promoting patriotism. “We focus on our mission every single day and will never, ever forsake our troops, our veterans or the families of our Fallen Heroes,” says Ann Berkins, President of Louisiana’s Geaux Seven BSMA chapter and mother of Matthew Berkins, veteran of the 1/75 Ranger Regiment, and Christopher Berkins, serving in the 18th Wing of the Air Force.

Berkins explained that when her son expressed his interest in military service, she was proud and concerned at the same time. “I immediately began researching military moms and found the Blue Star Moms.” She joined the group in the fall of 2011 and has served as President of the Geaux Seven chapter for the past three years. “The support that you get is tremendous and everyone understands what you’re going through,” said Berkins. (Account Number 80047689001)

Louisiana has five chapters and the Geaux Seven chapter serves the city of Central, Louisiana, and surrounding areas. Its 42 members participate in many programs in support of their mission. “Our primary concern is to support our active duty military service personnel through the collecting and delivery of care packages that include a touch of home to our deployed troops,” says Trudy Dupuy, a long-time member of the Geaux Seven chapter and mother of Chad C. Dupuy, veteran Military Police of the Army National Guard.

Each year since 1936, on the last Sunday of September, our United States President calls on all Americans to display our nation’s flag and hold appropriate meetings to publicly express their love, sorrow and reverence toward Gold Star Mothers and their families – to honor their courage and perseverance in memory of their children who gave the ultimate sacrifice of life for their country. “Each September we host the Gold Star Mothers’ Day tea to honor those mothers and families who have given so much for our country and to let them know their children are not forgotten,” says Berkins.

Wreaths Across America is another annual project of the Geaux Seven Chapter that acquires sponsorships of wreaths to provide to military families with relatives who have served for gravesite placement at Port Hudson Cemetery or Louisiana National Cemetery. The cost of each wreath is $15. If you would like to sponsor a wreath, call (225) 751-6318 or email buckles1032La@aol.com by November 25.

The group also participates in a grand-scale Care Package Packing three times a year, sending Girl Scout cookies, snacks from home, notepads, games, cards, puzzles, and personal hygiene items overseas.

In 2018, the national Blue Star Moms organization reported $2,002,581 in donations and $435,704 in-kind donations, awarded $515,956.50 in grant funding and participated in 539 ceremonies, 269 parades, 226 homecomings, and 1,044 veteran events. They also prepared 181 banners and 45,707 care packages and sent 123,225 letters and cards to support the American military. Dues for the Geaux Seven Chapter of Blue Star Mothers is $30.00 per year. Associate membership is also available for family and friends who wish to join in supporting the military as well as Blue Star Dads. The group meets on the second Monday each month at 6:00 p.m. at Caliente’s Mexican Restaurant, 14455 Wax Road. For more information, you can explore their website at geauxsevenbsm.com or email bsmomla@hotmail.com.

The Blue Star Moms Geaux Seven Chapter also co-hosts a Veteran's Day Ceremony with the Republican Women of Central at the Central Intermediate School. Scheduled on November 7, 2019, the public is invited to attend this free event. A jazz ensemble will play patriotic songs and there will be a brief program to honor United States Veterans.
Offices closed for in-service training

DEMCO’s offices will be closed on November 8 for in-service training.

All DEMCO employees will participate in a system-wide meeting to discuss and develop better approaches to provide our members with the best possible service.

Meetings such as this are designed to foster clear communications and unity to our staff with the ultimate goal of improving lines of communications and sharing experiences across each of our seven districts and all departments.

Advice from a Louisiana Sportsman

1. Firearm education and safety is paramount.
2. Don’t attach tree stands to electric utility poles.
3. Check your wind direction and pick the right spot.
4. Wear hunter’s orange and safety gear when and where required.
5. Be a good listener and enjoy the quiet.
6. Stay alert and take in nature’s marvels.
7. Don’t shoot at utility equipment or powerlines.
8. Never tell your hunting buddies where you saw a good buck!

We hope you have a safe and productive hunting season.
DEMCO participated in the Livingston Economic Development Council quarterly meeting in August where representatives heard an update from Congressman Garret Graves on legislation in Washington, D.C., impacting local businesses and the parish, such as flood prevention infrastructure and economic development trends. The meeting was held at Forrest Grove.

DEMCO Economic Development Specialist Mary Broussard, Congressman Garret Graves, and LEDC President David Bennett

DEMCO staff had the pleasure of meeting with member-owner LIGO Livingston officials. One of four LIGO facilities across the U.S., the Livingston site is one of two that contain a gravitational wave detector (interferometer).

“We take great pride in powering this tremendous facility for the many scientists charged to the research underway,” says Ryan Vandersypen, DEMCO Vice President of Engineering and Operations.
On September 23, the very interested preschool students at the Baton Rouge, Jefferson Highway location of The Runnels School were visited by DEMCO linemen Andrew Arnold and Johnathan Vann for a bucket-truck demonstration.

DEMCO Chief Executive Officer and General Manager Randy Pierce has been making his way across DEMCO’s seven-parish service area to speak to the membership at the invitation of various clubs. Pictured below, Pierce was guest speaker at the St. Francisville Rotary Club on September 10, East Feliciana Chamber of Commerce on September 17, and Capital City Rotary Club on July 16. His June 25th presentation to the Chamber of Commerce East Baton Rouge Parish was livestreamed on Facebook and can be viewed anytime at Facebook.com/DEMCOLouisiana. (Account Number 80126702004)

DEMCO headquarters in Central, Louisiana, is the proud winner of Yard of the Month August 2019, awarded by the Central Bloomers Landscape Club. Pictured L to R: David Latona, Diane Hardin, Mary Legendre, Jean Barnard, Karen Graham and Randy Pierce

DEMCO Engineering Manager Matt Gibson attended Madison Preparatory Robotics club meeting on Wednesday, September 18 to talk with 9th-12th grade students. Club members will be competing in the 2019 Jubilee BEST (Boosting Engineering, Science and Technology) “Off the Grid” Robotics Competition in Mobile, Alabama. The high-tech robot will be designed to remove debris after a storm to aid in the power restoration process. Industry experts serve as mentors to the students to encourage and guide them as they design and build the robots.

DEMCO salutes our own!

US Army Veteran Frank Johnson, Board Member
US Navy Veteran Louis Lee, District Line Supervisor
Louisiana National Guard Veteran Matthew Reed, Warehouse Manager
US Navy Veteran Andrew Castello, Electronic Technician
US Marine Corps Veteran Troy Bergeron, Meter Reader
US Navy Veteran Christopher Morissette, Electronic Technician
US Marine Corps Veteran Phillip Zito, Jr., Manager Contract and Project Management
US Navy Veteran Chad Norred, Field Staking Technician

VETERANS DAY IS NOVEMBER 11
Recipe by: George Graham
AcadianaTable.com

INGREDIENTS

- 4 tablespoons vegetable oil
- 12 chicken legs, bone-in and skin-on
- 2 cups diced yellow onions
- 2 cups diced green bell pepper
- 2 cups diced celery
- 2 tablespoons minced garlic
- ½ cup chopped flat-leaf parsley
- 2 cups chopped smoked pork sausage, sliced into bite-size pieces
- 12 cups chicken stock, plus water if needed
- 4 (2 to 3-inch long) smoked turkey necks (optional)
- 1 tablespoon cayenne pepper
- 1½ cups dark roux
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
- Cajun Seasoning Blend, Dash of hot sauce
- 8 cups cooked Louisiana long-grain white rice, such as Supreme, for serving
- 1 cup diced green onion tops
- Filé powder, for serving

INSTRUCTIONS

1. In a large cast-iron pot over medium-high heat, add the oil. Once sizzling hot, add the chicken pieces skin-side down. Brown the chicken on one side and turn to brown the other side. Remove the chicken to a platter and keep warm.

2. To the pot, add the onions, bell peppers, and celery. Sauté until the onions turn translucent, about 5 minutes. Add the garlic and parsley, and sauté until combined. Add the sausage and sauté just until it begins to brown. Add 1 cup of stock to the mixture and scrape the bottom of the skillet to loosen the brown bits of flavor. Add the chicken back to the pot.

3. Add enough additional chicken stock to the gumbo pot to cover all the chicken and vegetable mixture. Add the smoked turkey necks, if using. Season with cayenne pepper and stir to combine. Add 1½ cups of roux and stir to combine. Bring the pot to a boil and then reduce the heat to a simmer. Cover the pot and let cook for 1 hour.

4. Uncover and skim the surface of any excess oil. Add salt and pepper to taste. Cover the pot and simmer for 30 minutes longer.

5. Sample the finished gumbo and season with Cajun seasoning and hot sauce to taste.

6. Ladle the gumbo into large bowls over a mound of rice and garnish with diced green onion tops.

NOTES

I like to toss a few smoked turkey necks into my gumbo pot for added smoke and flavor; this is an optional ingredient. Most Cajun folks serve cold and creamy mustard potato salad with their gumbo. Ice-cold beer and hot French bread are a given.
Mueller metal roofs offer many advantages, including curb appeal, weather resistance and durability. You can choose from a wide range of designer colors to complement your home, backed by up to a 30 year limited paint warranty. It all adds up to lasting peace of mind. Get a metal roof you can trust from a company you can trust — a Mueller metal roof.

Learn more at: www.muellerinc.com/roofing
DEMCO is committed to our community.

High school juniors can enter the 2020 Rural Electric Youth Tour Essay Contest. Winners will receive an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C.!

Entries due by January 24.
For rules and information visit demco.org

DEMCO
Dixie Electric Membership Corporation
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

facebook.com/DEMCOLouisiana