DEMCO’s 2018 Youth Tour winners were selected recently at a banquet held at White Oak Plantation. Shown above from left to right are Katie Mestayer (Zachary High School), Cooper Roddy (home school), Clyde Cain (keynote speaker representing the Louisiana Cajun Navy), Anna Couhig (St. Joseph’s Academy), and Rachael Coates (St. Joseph’s Academy).
Manager’s Report

By John Vranic
DEMCO CEO and General Manager

Washington Youth Tour program is a key investment in the future of our community

The cooperative principles that guide our pathway at DEMCO oblige us to do everything in our power to improve the quality of life in the communities we serve.

This obligation is met through a variety of ongoing programs and initiatives designed to create the right opportunities for our members to succeed in achieving all of their goals and ambitions.

For instance, our scholarship and school uniform programs provide both financial and practical support for local students. Our Operation Round Up program has distributed more than $5 million throughout our service area over the past 20 years, and our Dixie Business Development Center offers a springboard for entrepreneurs to establish themselves in the business world.

But one program stands out for its profound impact on the lives of those young people who participate.

The annual Government-in-Action Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., is something DEMCO has supported for the past 41 years by sending scores of high school students on an all-expense-paid trip to the nation’s capital every summer.

We know exactly what kind of impact this experience has had on our Youth Tour delegates because they tell us.

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We know exactly what kind of impact this experience has had on our Youth Tour delegates because they tell us. Upon their return, many share with us how walking the halls of Capitol Hill and meeting their senators and congressmen in Washington gave them a new perspective about how government works.

They speak of the new friendships they made and how they learned so many things they did not know about the history of the electric cooperative movement and how cooperative businesses continue to meet the needs of their members by providing goods and services at cost.

They also discover what differentiates DEMCO from its competitors and why we do so much more than just deliver affordable, reliable electricity.

Not only do we receive a great deal of satisfaction when one of our Youth Tour delegates touches base with us after they return from their “trip of a lifetime,” but it’s especially meaningful when they make a personal visit to our office.

Recently, one of our students from last year’s trip did just that to express his appreciation to the co-op but also to share ideas about how DEMCO can more effectively reach our younger members.

I had a very productive and pleasant conversation with the this young man, and it was apparent he had given considerable thought in formulating his proposals and suggestions.

In fact, we have found over the years that there is no limit to the outstanding ideas our Youth Tour students have to offer.

Each spring, we honor our 12 Youth Tour finalists at a banquet. The finalists are given a knowledge quiz that includes the history of rural electrification and general facts about DEMCO and later each finalist presents an oral presentation of their written essays. This year’s finalists addressed a wide variety of issues including coastal erosion, gun control, dating violence, net neutrality, oil imports, mandatory volunteer service hours for high school students, patriotism, drug abuse and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Listening to the students share their thoughts on these relevant issues of the day sends a strong signal to me that our future is in capable, caring hands.

It is a privilege to do whatever we can to support and encourage these leaders of tomorrow.

We know exactly what kind of impact this experience has had on our Youth Tour delegates because they tell us.

Linemen attend underground school

DEMCO linemen recently participated in the Louisiana Lineman Training Program 2018 Underground School at hosted at the co-op’s outdoor training facility on Wax Road in Central.

Shown at right are (kneeling) Luke Butler, (standing, left to right) Mike Chiasson, Garrett Moltchek, Kelvin Haymon, Andrea Johnson, Ben Kyzar, Tylar Keefer, Maderis Trout, Dante Holmes, Orlando Hill, Justin Milton, Bodhi Wright, Mike Knight and Michael Taylor.

Along these lines
For the past 20 years, the DEMCO Foundation has been faithfully serving the needs of our community.

The Foundation, a charitable non-profit subsidiary of DEMCO, recently surpassed a major milestone with more than $5 million distributed throughout the electric cooperative’s seven-parish service area.

While the Foundation largely performs its charitable work outside the spotlight, the Greater Baton Rouge Association of Fundraising Professionals took notice by presenting the Foundation with its 2017 National Philanthropy Day Award.

“We’re extremely proud of every-thing the Foundation has been able to accomplish,” said DEMCO CEO and General Manager John Vranic. “The Foundation has a tremendous track record of success and has helped so many local families in their time of need.”

Since its inception, the Foundation has awarded more than 500 scholarships and purchased more than 800 uniforms for students, provided emergency assistance to more than 200 families impacted by house fires and storm damage, purchased medication and medical supplies for veterans, the disabled and the elderly, contributed nearly $500,000 on handicap accessible ramps and home repairs, and distributed emergency funds to over 250 families in the wake of disastrous flooding.

The Foundation began in 1997 when DEMCO officials decided to establish a mechanism whereby members could “round up” their electric bill to the next whole dollar. The resulting nickels and dimes would be used to endow a charitable fund designed to provide financial assistance and other aid to those in need.

Presently, more than 65,000 DEMCO members participate in the program.

“It’s a fantastic success story,” said Vranic. “It really warms your heart to be part of an organization that contributes so much to the community and to see how it impacts the lives of those around you who may be struggling or experienc-ing hard times.”

Current Board President Karen Overstreet was also the Foundation’s first board president and has been involved in the program from the beginning.

Overstreet, who is associate director of the School of Nutrition and Food Sciences at LSU, said the Foundation typically holds a sum of money in reserve for such disasters as the 2016 Flood. She said $100,000 was distributed to flood victims in the aftermath of the historic catastrophe.

“Disaster can strike any of us at any time,” Overstreet said. “You never know when you’re going to need a helping hand. People have medical problems, they might break a leg or have a car wreck or a house fire or need help following the loss of a job, but it makes us all stronger when we can help one another when we could use a boost to get by. It’s very gratifying for me to be part of such an amazing organization.”

Chanon Johnson has served as the Foundation’s case manager for the past 12 years and has earned rave reviews from members of the board, including Leslie Falks.

“Chanon is tremendous and has been absolutely wonderful in building on the success of those who came before her,” Falks said. “She’s very competent and is very talented at what she does in not only identifying those in need but also recommending other sources of support. She really has a heart for helping people.”

The Foundation is administered through a board of directors, whose members volunteer their efforts. Johnson thoroughly reviews each application for assistance and also follows up with a site visit to gather additional information. Awards are based on recommendations by staff and ultimately approved by the board. (Acct. No. 1662401-003)

Johnson typically fields roughly 30 requests for assistance each month. Utilizing her skills and experience in social work, Johnson makes site visits to the homes of applicants to conduct interviews and gather important information for each request. After processing, each request is presented to the Foundation Board made up of a cross-section of civic-minded community leaders for final determination. There is a limit of $2,500 that can be awarded to any given applicant, and applicants are allowed to re-apply for assistance after one year.

This funding often goes to individuals and families toward the purchase of items such as food and groceries, mortgage and rent payments, school uniforms, medications, minor home repairs and alterations such as wheelchair ramps.

Dozens of DEMCO employees and their families represented the co-op at the 22nd Annual Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure held at A.Z. Young Park in downtown Baton Rouge in March. Thousands of individuals and teams participated in the event held each year to raise awareness of breast cancer screening and treatment. The runners were treated to live music performances and the popular Jambalaya Village and cook-off competition. DEMCO is proud to be an enthusiastic supporter of a number of similar community events throughout the year.
Local students Katie Mestayer, Cooper Roddy, Anna Couhig and Rachael Coates each won an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C., this June as the 2018 winners of DEMCO’s Rural Electric Co-op Youth Tour Essay Contest.

The Youth Tour Essay Contest is an annual event that this year included entries from 11th grade students from both private and public schools - as well as one home-schooled student - throughout DEMCO’s seven-parish service area.

The winners were selected on March 6 during an evening banquet honoring the 12 finalists, their families, teachers, mentors and school administrators.

The banquet was held at White Oak Plantation in Baton Rouge.

The other finalists were: Emily Simpson, Zenora Hambrick, Hanna Chaisson, Ian Lansing, Madison Sutton, Ryan McCoy, Joshua Miles and Cole Aydell. A delegate from these remaining finalists will go on the trip to Washington in the event one of the four winners is unable to participate.

David Latona, Manager of Member and Public Relations at DEMCO, served as master of ceremonies at the banquet. He introduced DEMCO CEO John Vranic, Director Leslie Falls, Director Jill McGraw and former Director Ann Samuel, as well as other cooperative employees who attended and helped organize the event.

Latona noted that this year’s 12 finalists represented a number of area high schools, including Zachary High School, The Silliman Institute, Dutchtown High School, The Runnels School, Live Oak High School, Central High School, French Settlement High School and St. Joseph’s Academy. Winning delegate Cooper Roddy is home-schooled.

The student essays covered a wide range of topical issues such as coastal erosion, gun control, the impact of social media and appropriate language in the public space.

Latona thanked the education professionals attending the banquet for their part in making the program a success for more than 40 years.

“We appreciate all the teachers, principals, parents and students who have made this event such a grand success over the years,” Latona said. “We feel this is an outstanding program, and with the blessings of our board and management we intend to continue supporting this educational endeavor.”

Latona noted that BRECO Federal Credit Union is also a sponsor for the program. He thanked BRECO CEO Josh Poole for the organization’s contribution.

Keynote speaker for the evening was Clyde Cain, founder of the Louisiana Cajun Navy, which was formed in the wake of Hurricane Katrina that struck South Louisiana in 2005.

Cain complimented the students on their essay presentations and encouraged them to pursue a life of service to their fellow citizens.

Cain explained that the Louisiana Cajun Navy began as an effort to rescue those who found themselves caught in the floodwaters of Katrina.

“We don’t wait for help. We are the help,” Cain said. “We don’t stand by and wait for help after disasters in the state and the country. We rise up and unite to rescue our neighbors. Our mission is to help the people who can’t get help, not only after a disaster, but in everyday life.” (Acct. No. 40002152-002)

Cain described rescue missions in Louisiana as well as in Texas after Hurricane Harvey last year.

He said the group’s mission has expanded over the past 10 years to include projects undertaken in fair weather. The organization is also involved in serving and supporting the underprivileged, the homeless and military veterans.

“I believe the words ‘homeless’ and ‘veteran’ should never be used in the same sentence together. We’re here to make a real change. Our many volunteers and supporters are here to make a difference, to make a change, and to bring people, families and communities back to life and out of devastation,” he said.

Louisiana Cajun Navy is a staunch supporter of Quad Area Community Action Agency, a group that strives to assist veterans with housing, meals, employment, transportation, benefits, life skill training, financial counseling and more.

“We proudly support our veterans,” Cain said. “They fought for us, now we’re fighting for them.”

Each Youth Tour finalist was judged on the oral presentation of his or her essay. The finalists also completed a short written test on their knowledge of DEMCO and the history of rural electrification.

Youth Tour Director Joni Kitchen and chaperone Billy Gibson, both representing the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives in Baton Rouge, were also on hand to meet the Youth Tour contestants.

DEMCO’s four Youth Tour delegates will join 24 other Louisiana students this June to embark on their weeklong trip to Washington, D.C.

During their stay in Washington, the Louisiana Youth Tour participants will visit the U.S. Senate, U.S. House of Representatives, Supreme Court, National Archives, Arlington Cemetery, and many other historically significant buildings and landmarks in the nation’s capital.

They will also join about 1,500 other Youth Tour participants from 43 different states to learn more about the history and importance of electric cooperatives.

DEMCO pioneered Louisiana’s participation in the Rural Electric Youth Tour in 1977.

The purpose of the Youth Tour program, which was inspired by Sen. Lyndon B. Johnson in the 1960s, is to provide outstanding youth with an insight into how their national government operates.

Youth Tour finalist Ryan McCoy delivers an oral presentation of his essay as banquet guests and DEMCO board members look on.
Retirees applauded for service to DEMCO members

DEMCO congratulates the employees pictured here on their recent retirement. Thanks for your many faithful years of service to our DEMCO members.

Mike Parker (left) along with Phill Zito retired on Feb. 3, 2018, with 40 years of service.

Norman Engler, Overhead Contractor Supervisor, retired on Jan. 22, 2018, with 36 years of service.

Jackie Purvis, Warehouseman, retired on Jan. 16, 2018, with 28 years of service.

Dale Johnson, District Line Supervisor, retired on March 1, 2018, with 41 years of service.

BE PREPARED BEFORE A STORM STRIKES

In the event of a power outage, be prepared by keeping the following items in an easy-to-find emergency supply kit.

**WATER**
Three-day supply, one gallon per person per day.

**TOOLS**
Flashlight, extra batteries, manual can opener, battery-powered or hand-crank radio, NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert.

**FIRST AID KIT AND PRESCRIPTIONS**
First aid supplies, hand sanitizer and at least one week’s supply of prescriptions and medications for the family.

Learn more at www.ready.gov

Source: American Red Cross, Federal Emergency Management Agency.

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Learn more at www.ready.gov

Source: American Red Cross, Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Living in Mueller Style

OUR MUELLER CUSTOM BUILDING IS THE PLACE WE CALL HOME

Mueller custom buildings make beautiful living spaces. Our strong, engineered exteriors provide flexibility for you to design a completely customized interior, while supporting large spans and open floor plans. Create your own unique space to call home. Give us a call or drop by today, and find out more about custom metal buildings from Mueller.*

*Some exterior structures, such as carports & porches, were added post-engineering and not designed by Mueller. Please check local building codes before ordering.

www.muellerinc.com
877-2-MUELLER (877-268-3553)

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Source: American Red Cross, Federal Emergency Management Agency.
Energy Efficiency
Tip of the Month

Make sure your refrigerator door seals are airtight for maximum energy efficiency. Test the seal by closing the door over a piece of paper (so that it’s half in and half out). If you can easily pull the piece of paper out, your seal may need to be replaced or the latch may need to be adjusted.

Application for Scholarship Program

Students Name:
Parents Name: _________________________
Address: _______________________________
E-mail Address: _________________________
Telephone No.: _________________________

DEMCO Account #: ______________________

Do you qualify for TOPS Assistance? Yes____No____
School you will attend: ______________________

(Complete this form and return it to DEMCO by May 4, 2018)

DEMCO offers scholarships to area students

One-year scholarships to students attending a Louisiana public college or university will be awarded in a random drawing highlighting DEMCO’s annual membership meeting on May 12, 2018.

According to David Latona, Manager of Member and Public Relations, several scholarships will be awarded. “The number of scholarships awarded will be determined by the budget. This budget fluctuates from year to year as funds permit,” he said.

The scholarships awarded by DEMCO provide assistance to help students with academic tuition to a Louisiana public college or university for both the fall and spring semesters of the academic year. Students will be awarded $1,250 cash award to be used by the student as needed.

DEMCO is allowed to use unclaimed deposits, refunds and other monies owed to former members to provide funding for the scholarship program. Complete eligibility requirements are listed below.

2018 Scholarship eligibility requirements

1. Applicant must be a DEMCO member, child or the legal ward of a DEMCO member who has been a member in good standing for at least 12 consecutive months as of the application deadline, May 4, 2018. Only one scholarship will be awarded per family per academic year.

2. A student can receive the DEMCO scholarship one time. It is not renewable. The term of the scholarship will be for one continuous academic year beginning with the fall semester (or quarter). The scholarship does not include summer sessions.

3. The scholarship money can be used by an undergraduate student to attend, on a full-time basis, any Louisiana public university. The scholarship will not be awarded to a student attending a private university or vocational/trade school of any kind.

4. A first-time college student applying for the DEMCO scholarship must: a) have graduated from high school with at least a B average (3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale, or the equivalent); or, b) have graduated from high school and received a minimum ACT score of 21. High school applicants must be seniors.

5. An undergraduate college student seeking the scholarship must have achieved a minimum of 2.5 (on a 4.0 GPA scale) on all prior college work.

6. The scholarship application must be completed and returned to DEMCO.

7. Scholarship recipients will be chosen in a random drawing at the annual meeting of the DEMCO membership.

8. The scholarship recipients will be required to provide DEMCO with an official transcript verifying his/her eligibility within 10 days after the drawing.

9. The scholarship funds will be paid to the recipients at the beginning of each semester (or quarter) upon presentation of an official receipt for the payment of full-time undergraduate tuition (see No. 10 below). To receive the second semester (or quarter) payment, the student must prove evidence that he/she successfully completed at least 12 semester hours (or 9 quarter hours) and that he/she maintained a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.5 (on a 4.0 scale).

10. The scholarship provides a limited scholarship award of $1,250 per semester.

11. Members of the DEMCO Board, employees of DEMCO (including part time employees, students, and temporary employees) and children of the Board of Directors and employees are not eligible for this scholarship.

February 18, 2018 – March 4, 2018
Publish the Calendar of Events in the official journal of each Parish, including the date, time, and place of the meeting of the Nominating Committee.

March 15, 2018
DEMCO Special Board Meeting at 6:00 p.m., at DEMCO Headquarters. The Committee on Nominations will be appointed at this meeting.

March 15, 2018
The Nominating Committee meeting begins at 6:05 p.m. at DEMCO Headquarters, 16262 Wax Road, Greenwell Springs, LA, with results of the meeting to be posted March 16, 2018.

March 20, 2018 – March 22, 2018
Pre-qualification period. Members interested in seeking a position on the board of directors are required pursuant to DEMCO Board Policy to appear in person between these dates to determine eligibility requirements as prescribed in the corporation’s bylaws. Candidates must be qualified prior to the issuing of a nominating petition. Candidates not pre-qualified will not be eligible to seek a position on the board of directors.

March 27, 2018
DEMCO’s Annual Meeting and Bylaws Committee will meet at 5:00 p.m. on this date, if needed, to determine eligibility of director candidates who have pre-qualified. Only candidates who have pre-qualified will be considered.

March 28, 2018
Beginning on this date, pre-qualified director candidates may obtain a petition to run for a seat on the board of directors. Louisiana law requires 50 valid signatures for the petition to be validated.
Here are seven ways to avoid mishaps, maximize efficiency and beautify your home as you embark on spring cleaning and other projects this month.

1. When using a ladder or step stool ensure it is placed on a stable surface and that you are wearing nonslip shoes. Be mindful of health conditions or medications that may cause dizziness or vertigo. And be certain there are no power lines nearby.

2. Mirrors are a lovely way to increase light and open up a smaller space. Placed strategically, these affordable accent pieces can add a breath of fresh air to your home. For the most impact, situate mirrors across from visually appealing or interesting items—a fireplace or window is ideal.

3. When applying insecticide in or around your home, be sure it is human- and pet-friendly if you have small children or four-legged family members. The same goes for plants—many beautiful succulents can be toxic to pets. Doing a little research before adding to a garden can help protect your loved ones.

4. Make sure to wake up on the right side of the bed each morning after a good night’s sleep by investing in blackout draperies or shades for bedrooms, increasing efficiency and comfort by reducing heat gains.

5. Dust ceiling fan blades and attached light fixtures and bulbs. While doing this, you also can change the direction the blades move by flipping the small switch just above the blades. In preparing for summer heat, you want the fan to push air down into the room to help cool it off, which is achieved with a counterclockwise spin. In winter, the reverse applies.

6. Salt is an excellent multipurpose home cleaning product. Use a handful dissolved in 1 gallon of warm water to clean a refrigerator’s interior nonabrasively and without releasing any chemical fumes. You also can apply salt to a cut lemon half to lightly scour and polish brass. Just rinse the area with warm water when finished, and it should shine like new. A similar method works to clean wooden cutting boards in the kitchen. Sprinkle coarse salt onto the surface, squeeze juice from a lemon onto it, then scrub with a small brush to work the mixture into the cutting board. Finish by rinsing in hot water, and after allowing it to dry, enjoy your newly disinfected meal prep tool.

7. Save more than a few pennies by investing in a programmable thermostat. While some “smart” models cost more, a basic programmable thermostat can cost as little as $30 and, used properly, can net a 10 percent savings on the heating and cooling portion of your electric bill. Set it to around 68 degrees during waking winter hours (and lower while asleep or away), and set it to 78 degrees in summer (and higher while asleep or away).

Try these seven steps for a safer, spotless spring.

The Louisiana Council of Farmer Cooperatives (LCFC) recently named Michael G. Melancon as its Cooperative Leader of the Year for 2017.

Melancon, a native of Breaux Bridge, has been active in the state’s sugarcane industry during his entire career and has served in various capacities with many cooperative and agriculture-related organizations.

LCFC Secretary Lenny Waguespack is shown above presenting Melancon with the award at the group’s annual meeting held at the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives facility in Baton Rouge.

“I’ve always been very proud to serve Louisiana’s sugar industry,” Melancon said. “Our goal has always been to constantly look for ways to improve our production and be good farming neighbors to the public.”

DEMCO Board President Dickie Sitman, who also serves on the LCFC Board of Directors, commended Melancon on his recognition.

“It’s a great pleasure to honor Mike for all he has done to help Louisiana agriculture,” Sitman said. “He has always had a real heart for rural Louisiana, ag business development and the cooperative way of doing business.”

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
Neither the NBA nor Bocephus have anything to worry about

The last thing I thought I’d be doing during a recent visit to Nashville was sitting in Memorial Gymnasium watching the Vanderbilt Commodores lose another basketball game.

I had legitimate business in the Country Music Capital of the World, but what I was really hoping for was to be discovered for my amazing musical talent.

Strolling down the famed Music Row, I was counting on some big-time music producer noticing the natural charisma popping out of my pores and begging me to sign a lucrative contract.

The odds of me becoming the next Garth Brooks would have been more favorable if I’d actually brought my Martin guitar along on the trip, but probably not by much.

So, instead of impressing the music moguls of Nashville with my performing prowess, I settled instead for meeting up with an old friend and joining him in indulging his passion for Commodore basketball.

The things you do for the sake of friendship.

While Nashville may be famous for its high caliber of country music, the town isn’t exactly a hotbed for college sports. The men’s basketball team has fallen on hard times and the football team has never won an SEC league. I was a lot taller than the others.

This wasn’t the case when I was a kid. For the boys in the Cedarcrest neighborhood, it was the Big Three: football, basketball and baseball. It was a cycle that kept us busy – and hopefully out of trouble – all year long.

My experience with basketball actually started out pretty well. At age 12, when I played in our local league, I was a lot taller than the others. I was the starting center and got tons of playing time. I could handle the ball pretty well, pivot well, shoot well from the inside and grab most of the rebounds from the tiny-mites scuffling around me.

But by the time I reached 15, the growth hormone tap had shut down and I was one of the shortest, slowest kids on the team. Adding to my hard-court free-fall was the fact that my focus turned to all the other things that might interest a teenager besides dribbling a basketball.

I did, at least, make it through my freshman year as a 30/30 player...our team had to be ahead by 30 points with 30 seconds left for me to make it onto the court.

Oddly enough, sitting the bench was never a problem for me. My ego wasn’t bruised and I always felt Coach Mike Moock – who we used to call Moocky Mouse – would have to be nuts to put me in the game.

I was realistic enough to understand the best chance we had of winning was with me riding the pine.

That’s why I was surprised when something interesting transpired aboard the bus while traveling to play our cross-town rivals, the Baker Buffaloes. (Acct. No. 5597102-002)

Coach Moock discovered half way to the gym that our star forward Bruce Johnson had left his jersey back at his locker. It was too late to turn back and make it to the game on time. So, I told the coach that Bruce was welcome to wear mine.

He did, and we won, which was the goal of our team making the trip in the first place. Everyone was happy.

I didn’t think too much of it, but Coach Moock responded as if I had made some huge sacrifice. He kept thanking me and noting what a selfless gesture it was. But I didn’t see it that way. That No. 8 jersey was a lot more effective with Bruce’s torso in it than my sunken chest.

The only other vivid memory I have of my time on the hardwood before I finally hung up my Chuck Taylor’s was seared into my brain by the pain of an unfortunate ankle injury.

I was playing a recreational game in college and going up for a rebound. I came down on someone’s foot and bent my ankle sideways. I dragged myself off the court squealing in agony.

Spending an evening sitting through a Vandy game wasn’t quite that painful. But I have to say that except for the fact my friend was having a great time, it was two hours I’d like to have back.

That’s two more hours I could have spent working on my dream of becoming a country music star.

I’m pretty sure Bocephus is not exactly quaking in his rhinestone-studded cowboy boots.

The next meeting of the DEMCO Board of Directors is scheduled for Thursday, April 19, 2018, at 6 p.m. Board meetings are held at DEMCO’s headquarters facility located at 16262 Wax Road, Greenwell Springs, La.

Boost Efficiency Outdoors

Could your garage, shed or barn or other outdoor building use an energy efficiency boost?

Try these tips to save energy and money:

- The same rules apply for outdoor buildings as houses: Add insulation, install energy-efficient windows and seal ductwork.
- Unplug power tools and battery chargers when not in use.
- Install an insulated door and seal the sides and bottom around it to reduce air leaks.
- Install motion sensors on outdoor lights.
- Look into LED retrofits for outdoor security lights. The bulbs cost more upfront, but payback takes only a few years, and LEDs can last up to 20 years.

Managing ROW the Right Way

At DEMCO, our goal is to provide safe, reliable and economical electric service to our members.

Managing trees and other vegetation around our facilities and in rights-of-way is key to achieving that goal.

Trees may seem harmless on a calm, sunny day. But add a bit of wind on a stormy night and those towering pillars might threaten your home’s electric supply.

We perform routine maintenance of trees and other vegetation throughout the system that spans seven parishes to help prevent outages.

Maintenance tasks include pruning trees, removing hazardous trees, mowing and cutting brush, and applying herbicides to keep vegetation at bay.

These activities all are designed to minimize adverse environmental impacts while fully complying with applicable laws and regulations.

They are essential to maintaining reliable electric service for our members and to provide for the safety of both your family and the general public.

A clear right-of-way is so important that tree-trimming and rights-of-way maintenance programs are required for a cooperative to receive its safety accreditation from our national association.

DEMC is committed to providing safe and reliable power, and our vegetation management program is an important key to fulfilling that promise.

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 225-262-3072.
DEMCO Foundation accepts applications for 2018 scholarships

In 1997, DEMCO established the DEMCO Foundation, a charitable organization dedicated to assisting DEMCO members in need. Since its inception the Foundation has provided assistance in many ways and has impacted the lives of families and individuals throughout DEMCO’s seven-parish service area.

As part of its continuing mission, the Foundation initiated a scholarship program. The purpose of the DEMCO Foundation Scholarship Program is to provide assistance to DEMCO members who are seeking to better themselves through trade school, vo-tech, community college, a university and/or other forms of educational programs in the state of Louisiana.

The DEMCO Foundation will accept applications for the 2018 fall scholarship awards until June 21, 2018. Scholarships in amounts up to $1,250.00 may be awarded each semester. The number of scholarships awarded will be determined after all scholarship applications are received. Funds are to be used for payment of educational expenses such as tuition, books, and fees. Payments of scholarships will be made directly to the applicant’s school of attendance.

The following eligibility guidelines have been established for the DEMCO Foundation scholarship:

**ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

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.
- 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. New letters of recommendation and cover letters should be submitted each semester for which a student applies.
- 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 (June 21). 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 current members of Dixie Electric Membership Corporation and the

DEMCO Foundation accepts applications for 2018 scholarships

Dixie Electric Membership Corporation and the

Altec Scholarship Program

Altec Industries will award a $500 Scholarship at the ALEC annual meeting for the fall semester of 2018. The award is open to all children of active ALEC member cooperatives. The following rules will apply:

1. Recipient must be a high school graduate in the class of 2018.
2. Recipient must provide verification of a minimum 2.5 GPA before scholarship monies are awarded.
3. This is a one-time award.
4. The award can be used for any college or university.
5. Deadline for applications is June 25, 2018.
6. Mail applications to: Ed Amedee, 1443 City Place, Gonzales, LA 70737.
7. Must be postmarked by June 25, 2018. Altec will not be responsible for mail delivery.
8. Applicant must be the child of an ALEC member cooperative.

Application for Scholarship Program

Applicant’s Name: ________________________________

Parents or Guardian: __________________________________________________________

Member Co-op: ________________________________

Home Address: ______________________________________________________________

City: __________________________ Zip: __________________________

Telephone No.: __________________________

High School Attended: ________________________________________________________

Please supply a copy of your high school transcript to verify the 2.5 GPA

DEMCO Safety Coordinator Jacob Overhultz, left, looks on as a lineman creates a spark on an energized conductor to demonstrate how just a small hole in a safety glove can allow contact with a lineman’s hand and create a potentially deadly situation.

Overhultz said DEMCO is vigilant about equipping its linemen with the proper safety apparel and equipment to reduce the risk of harm or injury while performing their tasks.

He said this also means regularly monitoring and testing the equipment to make sure it maintains its quality and continues to meet or exceed industry standards.

“We take a great deal of pride in our safety program and it’s always a priority of everyone in our organization - both inside and outside employees,” Overhultz said. “Our goal is to make sure each and every one of our employees returns home safely to their families at the end of every work day.”
Meeting of February 15, 2018
The board of directors of DEMCO held its regular meeting Thursday, February 15, 2018. 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 Randy Lorio, committee chairman, presented the report. Next the board resolved to approve a bid from Preferred Electric for the Richards Honda (Greens at Millerville) Underground Electrical Installation Project.

From the Finance Committee report Steve Irving, committee chairman, reviewed the Interest, Fuel Cost Adjustment and Financial Summary reports.

Meeting of March 15, 2018
The board of directors of DEMCO held its regular meeting Thursday, March 15, 2018. Board President Richard Sitman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. (Acct. No. 80243634-001)
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 bids received. Next the board approved a bid from Sabre-FWT for the DOTD LA 1026 (Juban Road) @ U.S. Highway 190 – Transmission Relocation – Steel Poles. The board then approved a resolution outlining prices for overhead and underground transformers from Gresco, Reulet and Wesco.

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 2017 as uncollectible.

Danny Berthelot gave the ALEC report with no action taken.

Leslie Falks presented the Dixie Business Center and DEMCO Foundation reports with no action taken.

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

Jim Ellis presented the Attorney’s report with no action taken.

The board then resolved to appoint Mr. Bernard Gautreau, (Board District 1, Ascension Parish); Ms. Rhonda Gerald (Board District 2, East Baton Rouge Parish); Mr. Brad Delaughter (Board District 7, Livingston Parish); and Mr. Gary Doyle (Board District 11, St. Helena Parish) to serve as the Nominating Committee in the 2018 DEMCO Annual Membership Meeting and Election Process as well accepting their nominations of Mr. Clarence Brock (Board District 1, Ascension Parish), Ms. Jill McGraw (Board District 2, East Baton Rouge Parish), and Mr. Leslie Falks (Board District 7, Livingston Parish).
Meet the Mighty Oak Tree

Oak trees make good shade trees because they grow tall and wide enough to create a big canopy that you can sit under on a hot, sunny day.

A canopy is a covering, either natural or man-made.

A canopies is a covering, either natural or man-made.

Don’t Eat That Acorn!

Don’t pick an acorn and try to eat it right off the tree. It is full of chemicals called tannins that taste terrible and could make you sick. Before acorns can be used to make food, the meal must be carefully prepared.

How many acorns can you find on this page?

Acorn Gathering Game

With a friend, take turns drawing a horizontal or vertical line between two dots. Completing a square is worth 1 point. If there’s an acorn in the box, that’s worth 5 points.

Matching each acorn to the kind of oak tree it comes from. Do the math to check your answers.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

Standards Link: Number Sense; Calculating sums and differences.

Double-Double Word Search

Find the words in the puzzle, then in this week’s Kid Scoop stories and activities.

Standards Link: Language; Sequencing, Recognizing similar words, Skills and scan reading, Pounce spelling patterns.

The Old Oak Tree

One day I was climbing an old oak tree and … Finish this story.

Standards Link: History; Students understand the daily life and values of Native American culture.

Oak Trees and Native Americans

Oak trees provided more than shade for the first Americans. Their fruit, known as acorns, were an essential source of food for Native Americans from coast to coast.

The acorns were ground into a meal that was used to make mush or pounded with meat, fat and berries to make pemmican, a paste that dries into chewy, nutritious strips.

Shell the acorns by splitting the outer shell and removing the light-colored inner nut.

Grind the shelled acorns into a fine meal.

Scoop the pounded meal into a basket.

Rinse the acorn meal with hot water to wash away the tannins. The meal must be rinsed at least ten times, or more if cold water is used.

Add water to the leached meal and stir with a hot rock lodged into a looped stick.

Add berries, seeds or dried meat for flavor.

In a Nutshell

Nutshell is a compound word. Draw a line from each acorn cap to a nut to form compound words.

In winter, many kinds of oak trees, being deciduous, lose their leaves. During that time when sunlight is especially precious for warmth, the oak tree’s leafless branches let the sun shine through.

Oak Tree Exercises

Pretend you are a mighty oak tree and give these exercises a try.

Standards Link: Physical Education; Use a variety of basic and advanced movement forms.

Standards Link: Vocabulary; Developmental; Identify and read compound words.

Match each acorn to the kind of oak tree it comes from. Do the math to check your answers.

Golden Oak

Tanbark Oak

Black Oak

17 - 11 = ___

21 - 12 = ___

15 - 8 = ___

Standards Link: Science; Students know that living things in an ecosystem are independent yet interdependent.

Standards Link: Vocabulary; Development: Identify and read compound words.

Standards Link: Language; Sequencing, Recognizing similar words, Skills and scan reading, Pounce spelling patterns.

The Old Oak Tree

One day I was climbing an old oak tree and … Finish this story.

Standards Link: Language; Sequencing, Recognizing similar words, Skills and scan reading, Pounce spelling patterns.

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GET ON THE SCHOLARSHIP!

MEMBER STUDENTS ELIGIBLE!

For PUBLIC LOUISIANA COLLEGES or UNIVERSITIES

AWARDED ANNUALLY!

Fall & Spring

Worth $1,250 PER SEMESTER

DEADLINE MAY 4

APPLY TODAY!

VISIT DEMCO.ORG FOR RULES AND ELIGIBILITY

KEEPING CURRENT: TIP #102

Wait to wash your student’s laundry until you have a full load, instead of washing smaller loads more frequently. If a small load is necessary, adjust water levels accordingly.

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