DEMCO salutes
Lance Cpl. Taylor Conrad
President’s Report

By Richard Sitman
DEMC0 Board President

DEMC0 has its sights set on future growth and affordable rates

The President’s Report is presented to the membership each year as a review of DEMCO’s operations and highlights the efforts taken by your cooperative to maintain reliable service while staying financially secure.

Following the flood of 2016 that damaged and destroyed so many homes throughout our service area, DEMCO faced the challenge of re-establishing a firm financial footing during 2017 in response to declining revenues.

Your cooperative did just that. While continuing to assist members in need and also expand infrastructure, DEMCO kept itself in a position to meet the cooperative’s debt obligations.

This time of post-disaster stress and strife has presented many difficulties for us all, however we continue to be strong.

Your locally owned electric cooperative is carrying on its mission to bring safe, reliable and affordable power to over 108,000 meters on a system spanning seven parishes.

Although approaching 80 years since the cooperative was formed, DEMCO has kept its focus on providing the excellent quality of service our members expect and deserve.

A review of DEMCO’s 2017 system statistics shows a year that dips in sales growth, but not in the amount of members served or infrastructure.

This can be attributed to strategic growth which allows us to serve where the need is the greatest.

As reported at our Annual Meeting in May, DEMCO’s kilowatt-hour (kWh) sales went from 2,130,429,844 in 2016 to 2,030,798,923 in 2017.

The number of members billed, however, increased from 108,278 in 2016 to 108,682 in 2017.

Total miles of line in operation showed an average of 8,467 miles by the end of 2016, and by the end of 2017 that figure was 8,557 miles.

On behalf of your entire board of directors, we are honored to have the privilege of representing the membership of DEMCO through 2017.

We hope to deliver to you the quality service you expect through the delivery of safe, reliable and affordable power that has made this electric cooperative the industry leader it is today.

In closing, I would like to thank Ms. Ann Samuel and Mr. Joe Self for their many years of service on the DEMCO board, as they have both made the decision to retire this year.

Also, I would like to congratulate Ms. Jill McGraw, Mr. Clarence Brock and Mr. Leslie Falks for their re-election to another three year term to serve the DEMCO members of their respective districts.

And finally, I want to welcome our newest board member, Mr. Frank Johnson, to the DEMCO family.

Johnson was recently elected to the DEMCO board by his fellow members in District 11 and I’m confident he will represent his constituents with integrity, competence and enthusiasm.

It is my sincere pleasure to continue serving all DEMCO members as the president of the board. In all that matters, we appreciate the incredible support shown to us by the members of this cooperative.

Along These lines participates in training program

DEMC0 linemen participate in training program

Jeremy Jett and Andrew Arnold, shown above, recently completed Module 3, Group 2 of the Louisiana Lineman Training Program administered by the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives in Baton Rouge. Completing Module 3, Group 1 (shown at right) were Bodhi Wright, Michael Knight, John Ervin, Andrea Johnson and Larry Stewart.

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DEMC0

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ON THE COVER - DEMCO linemen and employees displayed the U.S. and Louisiana flags over the funeral procession of Lance Cpl. Taylor Conrad of Central, who was killed in a military training exercise. For more on this story, see page 4.
DEMCO board elects slate of officers at annual meeting

DEMCO’s Board of Directors elected its officers at an organizational meeting immediately following the conclusion of the 2018 annual membership meeting.

Richard Sitman, St. Helena Parish, will continue to serve as president; Steve Irving, East Baton Rouge Parish, vice president; and Dennis Lott, Livingston Parish, secretary-treasurer.

Sitman joined the DEMCO Board of Directors in 1987 and has served as the Board’s president since 1998. Prior to his appointment as president, Sitman served on numerous standing committees.

Besides his interest in DEMCO, Sitman is also a member of the CoBANK Board of Directors. CoBANK, a financial institution based in Denver, is one of the nation’s largest financing agencies for agriculture-related cooperatives.

Sitman is a native of St. Helena Parish and a graduate of Southeastern Louisiana University. He is the owner and operator of a small business in the Town of Greensburg.

As president of the DEMCO Board, Sitman is the principal executive officer of the corporation and presides over all meetings of the membership and the Board of Directors.

Elected to the position of vice president is Irving. Steve Irving was elected to the DEMCO Board of Directors in 1987. A native of Alexandria, he attended LSU-A and the University of Alabama. Irving currently serves as chairman of the Finance Committee and is a member of the Strategic Planning Committee and Rate Committee.

In 1971, Irving moved to Baton Rouge and enrolled at LSU Law School. In 1981, he entered his private law practice in Baton Rouge on a full-time basis. He has been widely recognized for his efforts on environmental cases.

Lott was elected secretary-treasurer of the Board. Lott was appointed to the DEMCO Board of Directors in March of 2009 and later received his Director Certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

He is currently a member of the Board’s Finance Committee and the Manager’s Evaluation Committee.

Lott is a lifelong resident of Livingston Parish and retired as an employee at DEMCO in March of 2007 after 35 years of service to the membership.

He and his wife, Darlene, have two children and six grandchildren.

Know your flood awareness hazards and what you can do about it

Everyone should be aware of flood hazards and what you can do about it.

You may live in a special flood hazard area - 42 percent of East Baton Rouge Parish (including 57 percent of Central), 70 percent of Ascension Parish, and 75 percent of Livingston Parish have a potential of being flooded.


Here are some things you can do to protect your family and property:

Buy flood insurance. Even if you’re not in the mapped floodplain, you may be subject to local drainage flooding. In either case, flood insurance can be a good investment because homeowner insurance policies do not cover damage from flooding. To find out more about flood insurance contact your property insurance agent to see what policy is right for you. Don’t wait for the next flood because it may be too late.

Do not walk or drive through flood waters. Currents are deceptive; six inches of moving water can knock you off your feet. Do not drive around barriers, as the road or bridges may be washed out. Preparing for an emergency can reduce the possibility of personal injury, loss of life and damage to property. Know your flood warning signals, create an emergency plan, and prepare a disaster supply kit. To find out more information on flood warnings and emergency preparedness; contact your local Emergency Preparedness office.

You can protect your home or business from drainage and flooding problems by modifying your building to minimize flood damage. Where flooding is shallow, measures such as small floodwalls, re-grading the yard, and flood-proofing the wall or utilities can be relatively inexpensive. Where flooding is deep you may need to elevate your building. For more information on flood proofing your building there are publications in the Public Libraries or you can call the city’s floodplain management office.

Check with the Building Department before you build, alter, regrade or fill your property. A permit is required for any type of development including new construction, substantial improvements, placement of fill, or excavation to ensure that a project is compliant with all regulations. These regulations are designed to protect your property from flood damage and to make sure you don’t cause a drainage problem for neighbors. To find out how to get a permit, contact your permit office. Also Elevation Certificates for newly built structures are available at your permit office.

Don’t pour oil grease, pesticides or other pollutants down storm drains or into ditches and streams. Our streams and wetlands help moderate flooding and are habitat for fish and other wild life that provides recreation or food.

The city and parish have ordinances that make it illegal to dump debris in streams and drainage systems. You must utilize storm water protection/Erosion Control when building, keeping building debris and pollutants out of the storm drains. The city also has a maintenance program which can remove blockages from a drainage ditch or stream such as downed trees. To report problems call the Department of Public Works.

Before you commit to buying property, do the following:

Ask the real estate agent or your city floodplain manager if it is in the flood zone and requires insurance; ask the seller or neighbors if it has ever flooded or if it is subject to hazards, such as sewer backups. Talk to the building department about the building and zoning regulations. Every transfer of land or building is required to provide a flood hazard disclosure statement to prospective buyers.

Know your flood awareness hazards and what you can do about it

Know your flood awareness hazards and what you can do about it

Contacts for flood information


East Baton Rouge Parish (225) 393-3198
www.bbgov.com
City of Baker (225) 778-0850
www.cityofbakerla.com
City of Zachary (225) 654-1935
www.cityofzachary.org
City of Central (225) 262-5000
www.centralgov.com
Ascension Parish (225) 450-1369
www.ascensionparish.org
City of Gonzales (225) 647-9570
www.гонзалиса.com
Town of Sorrento (225) 675-5337
www.ascensionparish.net
Livingston Parish (225) 686-3024
www.livingstonparishla.gov
City of Denham Springs (225) 665-8121
www.cityofdenhamspings.com
Town of Walker (225) 665-8893
www.walker.la.us
Village of French Settlement (225) 689-6100
www.franchisettlement.la.gov
Village of Port Vincent (225) 698-9891
www.livingstonparishla.gov
West Feliciana Parish (225) 635-6161
www.westfel.com
East Feliciana Parish (225) 683-8577, Ext. 109
www.westfeliciana.org
St. Helena Parish (225) 222-3266
www.sthelena parish.la.gov
St. Tammany Parish (985) 898-2552
www.stpaul.org
Tangipahoa Parish (985) 542-2117
www.tangipahoa.org

Frank Johnson was elected to the DEMCO Board of Directors in 2018. He is currently a member of the Board’s Operations Committee, Policy Committee and the Strategic Planning Committee.

Johnson is a U.S. Army Veteran who served in Vietnam and is also a retiree from Exxon.

Know your flood awareness hazards and what you can do about it

Johnson is a resident of St. Helena Parish, where he served over 20 years as a member of the police jury.

“I’ve always enjoyed being a public servant and helping people however I can,” Johnson said. “DEMCO is a great organization with a legacy of providing safe, affordable power. It’s a real honor to become part of such an outstanding organization that is considered to be one of the most successful electric cooperatives in the country.”

District 11 is located south of Louisiana Hwy. 10, east of East Feliciana Parish, west of Tangipahoa Parish and north of Livingston Parish.

(Act. No. 80296685-001)

June 2018 • ALONG THESE LINES • Page 3
DEMCO employees took time from their busy work schedules to honor Lance Cpl. Taylor Conrad during the U.S. Marine’s funeral procession in April.

The line crews used their bucket trucks to hoist both the American Flag and the State Flag over the path of the procession on Wax Road.

Conrad was a 2012 graduate of Central High School, which is located near DEMCO’s headquarters office on Wax Road.

Along with the DEMCO employees, the processional route was lined with families and students from Central High holding flags as Conrad was escorted to the Louisiana National Cemetery.

Conrad was killed in a helicopter crash during a training exercise.

DEMCO CEO and General Manager John Vranic, a military veteran, said the cooperative was proud to salute Conrad and his military service.

“We have lost a fine young man who had a big heart and would do anything for anybody in need,” Vranic said. “This was a great tragedy, but Taylor’s legacy of service that he leaves behind will be an inspiration for others to follow.”
Just as regular wellness checkups are critical for maintaining your health, routine safety checkups are critical for the safety of your home.

Use this checklist below to ensure that you can identify and correct potential electrical hazards around your home. (Acct. No. 3298701-001)

**Switches and Outlets**

Are any switches or outlets warm to the touch or discolored? Unusually warm or discolored switches or outlets may indicate an unsafe wiring condition.

Do any switches or outlets make cracking, buzzing or sizzling sounds? Unusual noises from a switch or outlet may indicate an unsafe wiring setup such as a loose electrical connection.

Do plugs fit snugly into all outlets? Loose fitting plugs can cause fires.

**Cords**

Is any cord cracked, frayed or otherwise damaged? Damaged cords may have exposed wires that can be a fire and shock hazard.

Do you use extension cords on a permanent basis? Extension cords are designed to be used only temporarily. Extended use may damage the cord, creating a fire and shock hazard.

Are cords kept wrapped up while being used? Wrapped cords trap heat, which can lead to melting or weakening of the insulation.

Are all appliance cords placed so they will not come in contact with hot surfaces? Cords can melt or burn from excessive heat. This can expose wires and lead to a fire or electric shock.

**Electric Panel**

Do you have recurring tripped breakers or blown fuses? Fuses and circuit breakers are safety devices that help prevent fires caused by overloading of your home’s electrical system.

They stop the electrical current if it exceeds the safe level for some portion of your home’s system.

Do you have arc-fault circuit interrupters, and do you test them?

AFCIs are advanced circuit breakers that provide greater protection from electrical fires. You should have them and test them monthly as they can stop working without showing signs of failure.

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**Avoid the Big Green Box**

Please stay away from pad-mounted transformers (the big green box). While safe, they are not meant for touching, climbing or playing. Pad-mounted transformers carry high voltages of electricity that serve many homes in our communities.

*Never touch, climb or play on pad-mounted transformers. Never put fingers, sticks or other objects through cracks in the transformer.*

*Keep areas surrounding the pad-mounted transformer clear so that workers can safely maintain transformers as needed. Keep shrubs and structures at least 10 feet away from the transformer doors and 4 feet away from the sides.*

*Never dig near a pad-mounted transformer. They are surrounded by underground cables. Hitting the cable could result in electrical shock or disruption of service. Always dial 8-1-1 before you dig.*

*Report problems. If you notice anything amiss, like an unlocked transformer or one that has been damaged, please contact us immediately.*

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**Power Tip**

Keep from breaking a sweat this summer without breaking the bank! Replace your air-conditioning system’s filter every month—doing so can lower your air conditioner’s energy consumption 5–15 percent.

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June 2018 • ALONG THESE LINES • Page 5
Take the sizzle out of summer with a slow cooker

As the summer heat ramps up, cooking dinner in an oven or on a stovetop becomes less and less appealing.

Sure, most of us enjoy a home-cooked meal, but introducing heat from a range into your home while trying to keep from lowering the thermostat excessively can be counterproductive.

Plus, there’s the general unpleasantness of standing over a hot stove when it’s 100—or more—degrees outside.

Salads are a favorite alternative during summer’s swelter, but it’s nice to have the option of a more substantial meal without sacrificing comfort or pushing utility bills sky-high.

A slow cooker presents an elegantly simple solution to this dilemma. It takes a bit of planning, but once you’ve mastered that small step, the rewards are plentiful.

What slow-cooked meals lack in quickness, they make up for in affordability and convenience. After a modest bit of prep and before heading out to work in the morning, you can throw a few basic ingredients into a slow cooker, turn it on, and voila, dinner will be waiting when you get home.

Or choose a recipe with a shorter cook time for a lazy weekend supper.

Speaking of relaxed weekend meals, in honor of Father’s Day, here are a couple of savory, hearty recipes to celebrate the dad in your life.

1. Easy Cheesy Barbecue Chicken
   From Crock-Pot: The Original Slow Cooker Recipe Collection
   • 6 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
   • 1 bottle (26 ounces) barbecue sauce
   • 6 slices bacon
   • 6 slices Swiss cheese
   1. Place chicken in 4-1/2-quart slow cooker. Cover with BBQ sauce. Cover and cook on low 8-9 hours. (If sauce becomes too thick, add a little water.)

2. Cheesy Buffalo Chicken Soup
   Nina Martin, Central Texas EC
   • 1 rotisserie chicken or whole roasted chicken
   • 8 ounces cheddar cheese, shredded
   • 1 cup Parmesan cheese, grated
   • 1 red onion, diced
   • 1 bunch green onions, chopped
   • 1 bunch cilantro, chopped
   • 32 ounces chicken broth
   • 1/2 cup hot wing sauce
   • Garlic powder to taste Optional garnish: Avocado Cilantro Cheddar cheese
   1. Remove meat from chicken and shred.
   2. Before serving, cut bacon slices in half. Cook bacon in microwave or on stovetop, keeping bacon flat. Place 2 pieces cooked bacon on each chicken breast in slow cooker. Top with cheese. Cover and cook on high until cheese melts. Serves 6.
   COOK’S TIP: To make cleanup easier, coat the inside of cooker with nonstick spray before adding ingredients. To remove sticky BBQ sauce residue, soak the stoneware in hot, sudsy water, then scrub with a plastic scrubber.

DEMCO Foundation accepting applications for school uniforms

The DEMCO Foundation, a charitable organization established to help DEMCO members in times of need, is now accepting applications to help families who have school-aged children purchase school uniforms for 2018-19.

“Many families find it difficult to make ends meet each month,” says Chanon Johnson, Case Manager for the DEMCO Foundation. “The expense of school uniforms and supplies can place a burden on families with low income.”

The funds available through the DEMCO Foundation can be used in a variety of ways, such as helping members to pay medical or pharmacy bills, providing the resources to make a home handicap accessible or helping to purchase necessities like food and clothing.

Assistance is also available in times of emergency such as in the aftermath of a hurricane, fire, flood or other natural disaster.

“Helping to purchase school uniforms is just another one of the many ways that the DEMCO Foundation provides assistance to DEMCO members and helps make our community a better place to live,” says Johnson. Established in 1997, the DEMCO Foundation is funded through a program called Operation Round Up® where DEMCO members opt to “round up” their monthly electric bills to the nearest dollar.

The overage amount, which averages $.50 cents per bill and only $6.00 per year, is then used by the DEMCO Foundation to assist other DEMCO members in their times of need.

To receive an application for assistance through the DEMCO Foundation, please call (225) 262-2141, or log on to www.demco.org, click “Community,” “DEMCO Foundation,” then “Application for Assistance.” Applications must be received by July 13, 2018.
If you want a really powerful car, maybe one that can accelerate from 0 to 60 mph in less than 3 seconds, consider an electric vehicle like the NIO EP9.

You’re right, that’s too powerful. The NIO EP9 would also cost you more than a million dollars. But even more modest versions offer a respectable kick.

The Chevy Bolt and Ford Focus, with price tags in the $35,000 range, make the jump to 60 mph in 6 to 11 seconds, about average for all U.S. cars.

There’s a built-in reason electric cars hold their own in performance, says Brian Sloboda, a program and product manager at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

“In an electric car, all of the power is going into the wheels. With a gas-powered car, a lot of power is lost inside the mechanical engine,” says Sloboda. “If you sit in an electric car and the driver smashes the accelerator, you are going to be thrown into the back of your seat, much more so than many gasoline cars.”

In March, Goodyear announced a new tire that would hold up better under the “instant torque from electric motors.”

But wait, there’s more.

“The battery is at the bottom of the car, so you have a lower center of gravity, which means you can take the corners crisper,” says Sloboda. “If you do a lot of driving in the hills or mountains, they are fun.”

Electric vehicles hold a lot of other surprises compared to the traditional view of them as a glorified golf cart. Even electric co-op in rural parts of the country are hearing interest from their members.

About 700,000 electric vehicles drive on U.S. roads today, according to an analysis by CoBank, a financier for electric co-ops. That number could jump to 3 million in the next five years, CoBank estimates.

DEMCOb Board President Richard “Dickie” Sitman also serves on the CoBank board of directors. He said the lending organization is bullish on electric vehicles, for good reason.

“The U.S. Department of Energy is projecting that electric vehicle sales will increase from about 1 percent of the market today, to 12 percent by 2055,” he said. “There’s a real solid trend that we’re seeing and a lot of momentum.”

Car makers are pushing those trends. In October, General Motors said it would launch 20 new electric vehicles by 2023. In January, Ford announced plans to invest $11 billion in a lineup of 40 hybrid and electric vehicles by 2022. In March, Volkswagon said it had secured $25 billion in electric car batteries and technology and plans to scale that up to $60 billion.

Other unexpected benefits of electric vehicles that could speed their acceptance, says Sloboda, include range, maintenance and more competitive costs.

The electric vehicle industry has a term for the biggest roadblock to its growth—range anxiety. But Sloboda says the fear of getting stranded far from home with no way to refuel may be overblown, and getting less concerning.

“The range on the electric cars you can buy today is perfectly sufficient to cover almost everyone’s daily commute,” he says. Sloboda says that while electric cars won’t work for someone regularly commuting 100 miles a day, “For most people, even in rural areas, that number is under 40 miles a day. Most electric cars on the market today have between a 120 mile range and some of them are getting close to a 200 miles.”

The Federal Highway Administration reports the average American drives 37 miles a day.

Electric car acceptance doesn’t need to wait for a network or charging stations to appear around the country, says Sloboda. He sees refueling more like this: you plug your car into an outlet in your garage at the end of each day, and by morning it’s fully charged.

“No more having to stop and fill your tank up once or twice a week,” he says. “You can charge it at home while you’re sleeping and wake up to a full tank every single day.”

Electric cars can also save on maintenance, says Sloboda.

“With an electric vehicle, you don’t have oil changes, and you don’t really have transmission fluid changes,” he says.

And regenerative braking in electric cars uses the electric motor to slow the car rather than relying only on brake pad friction. Sloboda says, “A lot of electric vehicle owners are saying they’ve never replaced their brakes because you just don’t have the physical wear and tear on the brake pad.”

Sloboda says electric car costs today make them a luxury car, but that’s changing. As electric car research, development and production increases, costs will be coming down. Tax breaks for electric cars at the federal level and in some states can reduce costs by several thousand dollars. And Sloboda notes that electricity costs less per mile than gasoline.

But one of the main reasons drivers buy electric cars is for environmental reasons.

Sloboda says an electric car “is cleaner than a gas-powered car, no doubt about it.”

2017 Year in Review: DEMCO supports community projects

January 2017

DEMCob’s Economic Development Team participated in the Livingston Economic Development Council’s annual meeting. Business leaders from Livings-ton Parish and surrounding areas joined to discuss and collaborate on the latest happenings taking place in economic development.

February 2017

The DEMCO Cooking Team had the distinct honor to cook for the visiting Air Force Academy Falcons baseball team as they faced Paul Mainieri’s LSU team at Alex Box Stadium. The group served the players as well as their families on the LSU campus immediately following the game.

March 2017

Central Private School celebrated its reopening of the school campus following the devastating flood of 2016. DEMCO played an instrumental role in providing the power necessary for the project that enabled these students to return to their home campus.

April 2017

DEMCob linemen were on hand to speak to Live Oak High School’s electrician trade class. The staff provided a lecture to students studying to become licensed electricians on the safety precautions taken by DEMCO crews throughout the cooperative’s service territory.

May 2017

East Baton Rouge Parish director Steve Irving-, Livingston Parish director Dennis Lott, East Feliciana Parish director Faye Morris and St. Helena Parish director Richard Sitman all returned to the DEMCO Board of Directors as each was re-elected for a three-year term.

June 2017

Local students Joseph Howard, Megan Dedon, Lisa Taylor and Rain Scoggins-Catoire each won an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C., as the 2017 winners of DEMCO’s Rural Electric Co-op Youth Tour Essay Contest.

July 2017

DEMCob presented its safety demon-
Swinging for the fences with a new Confirmation Bat

by Billy Gibson
Director of Communications
Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives

Like the president, my son has a problem with germs. He’s so germophobic that on Communion Sundays he sits in the front pew so he can be the first to partake of the bread and the wine and thus be exposed to the least amount of congregational cooties.

So, I knew when he was invited to participate in serving Communion at Faith Crossing UMC, he was going to struggle.

It was Communion Sunday and members of the newest class of teenage confirmands were tasked with delivering the Host to their fellow Christians.

I wriggled my way into the line where Austin was presenting the cup so that I could have a close-up experience of my son’s rite of passage into the United Methodist Church.

Emotions began to stir as I slowly and reverently stepped up to my 13-year-old boy and began to dip the bread into the chalice he was holding close to his chest.

I looked into his eyes and noticed he didn’t seem to be as laser focused on the moment as he usually is. His face was scrunch up and his nose was wrinkled as if he’d taken a whiff of rotten chicken gizzards. I figured maybe he was just unnerved and uptight about standing in front of the church.

But then I looked down.

Some fumble-fingered youngster had dropped a fistful of bread into the juice, and the glop was rapidly expanding cartoon-style till it looked like a frightened purple puff fish stuffed into a tiny aquarium.

After sharing a brief glance of astonishment with Austin, I made a mental note to prompt a discussion with the worship committee about having a Communion back-up plan. Or possibly scrap the Intinction process altogether.

This was just the first thing that didn’t go as planned on Communion Sunday.

I had looked ahead to this day for nearly all of the 10 weeks Austin was attending his Confirmation classes. My thoughts were consumed with memories going back to the day he was born.

Now 13 and growing taller by the second, Austin is in that transitional phase where the child is becoming a memory and a young adult is taking his place.

Today, I’m clinging to every syllable he speaks in that same voice he’s had since he was able to string a sentence together. I’ll be forced to take a mental health vacation when I hear that first crack in his throat signaling that my little buddy is on a fast track to adulthood.

Every time he gets congested, I wonder if this is the moment that sweet angelic voice is going to be gone forever and he turns into Johnny Cash.

Fully anticipating that Confirmation Sunday would be rife with symbolism and emotion, I went to work crafting a plan that would imprint the event into both of our brains for all of posterity. So I bought him a golden cross pen and a plan that would imprint the event into his hands with a mini-speech and a strong embrace.

The plan was to wait until my band mates and I finished the last song and the sanctuary cleared out. Then I’d call him back to where I sit behind the drum kit and we’d be together alone in the stillness of the empty chapel. I would tell him how proud I was of him for making a public declaration of faith and offer a father’s blessing as he traveled along to the next stage of his journey.

Then I’d press the pendant into his soft-sift hands and gather him up into a big bear hug with no intentions of ever letting go. (Acct. No. 9064478-003)

But that’s not exactly what happened.

First, the entire scene was soured by the wine-soaked-gob-of-bread incident.

Then, after the service, Austin’s attention quickly turned to his baseball game that was scheduled to begin at noon.

Friends and relatives approached to offer congratulations, but all he wanted to do was hustle out of the building and get on the field.

And instead of rapidly clearing the sanctuary, folks just stood around and lingered to the point where I figured I might have to order pizza.

So, in the chaos and the hoopla, I simply placed the box in his hand, told him I loved him and sent him on his way with his mom to go suit up for the game.

To make it worse, he later used the same sharp eyes he uses to track curve balls to notice there was a minor flaw in the pendant that I hadn’t spotted. When I looked it over at the jewelry counter, I was using the same eyes I have to squint to read a text on my iPhone.

Later that evening, I revealed my plan and pointed out that none of it went the way I expected. I offered to have the pendant returned for a new one but I could see in his expression he really didn’t like it in the first place.

And having been a 13-year-old boy once myself, I knew the sentimental value of the gift was completely lost on him. I told him it would be okay to just take the money and buy something he actually wanted.

After convincing him my feelings wouldn’t be hurt if he bought something else, he promptly gathered up his cash and bought a brand new Easton Beast.

Oddly enough, the Beast has a large X on the barrel, the Greek symbol used to abbreviate the name of Christ, going all the way back to the 1400s.

We dubbed the Beast his Confirmation Bat and I joked with him that I fully expect him to hit 100 dingers this season, with a little help from above, of course.

I ended up doing what I recommend all dads do for their sons—I wrote him a letter expressing my high regard for him and my prayers that he would never stray from his faith, always place his Savior and others above himself and always remember that his primary purpose is to spread the love of God.

Oh, and swing for the fences when you get the opportunity, but remember to keep your head down, make a strong turn and get a full extension.

Having an anointed Confirmation Bat in your grasp is great, but having a good solid stroke goes a long way too.
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:

1. Be a DEMCO member, as defined by the DEMCO Foundation Bylaws.
2. Possess a high school diploma or equivalent.
4. Plan to attend a trade school, community college, university or other such Louisiana institution.
5. Complete online 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.
6. An acceptance letter from the school of choice for first time or transferring students.
7. All must be submitted to the DEMCO Foundation office by 4 p.m. central daylight time on June 21. Online applications only.

**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, please call (225) 262-2141 or visit us on the web at www.demco.org (or the direct link: www.demco.org/community/foundation-scholarship-program).

Excerpt from ARTICLE II, DEMCO Foundation Bylaws

“For the purposes of these Articles of Incorporation, the DEMCO members are defined as those individuals who are current members of the immediate family of a current member of the Association.”

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**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

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**Going the Extra Mile**

Did you know electric cooperatives maintain more miles of power lines per consumer and acquire less revenue than other types of electric utilities?

Even though they serve fewer consumers and acquire less revenue (per mile of line), electric co-ops always go the extra mile, maintaining a tried-and-true record of delivering safe, reliable electric service to the members they serve.

**Electric Cooperatives**

Number of consumers served: 8

Revenue: $19,000

**Other Electric Utilities**

Number of consumers served: 32

Revenue: $79,000

Sources: EIA, 2016 data. Includes revenue and consumer averages per mile of line.
From the Board Room

DEMCO Board members receive committee reports

Meeting of April 19, 2018

The board of directors of DEMCO held its regular meeting Thursday, April 19, 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.

The board then approved the DEMCO 2018 Emergency Response Plan as submitted by management.

From the Purchasing Committee report Randy Lorio, committee chairman, presented bids received: LineTec Services, LLC for the Dual 795 AAC Line Circuit 2, the complete line construction of the Coly to Lockhart 69kV transmission line rebuild project, the Pumpkin Center Road LA-1249 Lighting Overhead Construction project, Preferred Electric for the Hidden Lakes Estates Subdivision 1st Filing Underground Electrical Installation Construction projects and for the Whispering Springs Subdivision 1st Filing Underground Electrical Installation Construction project, Chain Electric Company as primary distribution contractor and LineTec Services, LLC as secondary distribution contractor for the 2018 Overhead Distribution Unit Bids, and Willbros T & D Services for the 2018 Overhead Transmission Unit Bids. Next the board approved the resolution to authorize management to allow Mr. Frank E. Johnson, Mr. Michael Martin, Sr., and Mr. Mark Harrell of DEMCO Board District 11, St. Helena Parish to pick up a petition form for the purpose of obtaining signatures as required in the 2018 board election process. They also approved a resolution authorizing management to determine the most efficient process for having the election ballots printed and mailed in order to meet the timeline outlined in the Calendar of Events for the 2018 Annual Membership Meeting. The board then ratified actions taken by the Annual Meeting and Bylaws Committee to add Mr. Frank E. Johnson and Mr. Michael Martin, Sr. to the 2018 Director Election Ballots.

Danny Berthelot gave the ALEC report with no action taken.

The board then approved the resolution accepting the Dixie Electric Membership Corporation 2018 Annual Membership Meeting report with no action taken.

Leslie Falks presented the Annual Meeting report with no action taken.

The board then approved the resolution to authorize management to present the summary of the 2018 RESAP accreditation at the next board meeting. Next the board resolved to authorize management to approve Amendment #27 to the 2013 – 2016 Construction Work Plan for the Bains to Tunica 69kV Transmission Line Reroute and Distribution Underbuild. Later the board approved the Load Forecast Study dated May 2018 for 2018 - 2040 projections as prepared by DEMCO staff and consultant Power Stat, LLC.

From the Purchasing Committee report Randy Lorio, committee chairman, presented the report. The board then made a resolution to accept the following purchases: DIS-TRAN Steel, LLC for the purchase of steel poles (one 75 foot and one 70 foot) for the LA 1026 Roundabout @ Dunn Road Transmission Line Relocation project, S&C Electric Company as a sole source provider for the purchase of one S&C Remote Supervisory Vista® Underground Distribution Switchgear for the Whispering Springs Subdivision, 1st filing project, Sensus as a sole source provider for the purchase of 6,000 residential meters and four (4) residential meters with remote disconnects, Landis+Gyr Technology, Inc. as a sole source provider for the purchase of 1,400 residential meters and ten (10) meter communication router kits, Chain Electric Company as primary distribution contractor and LineTec Services, LLC as secondary distribution contractor for the 2018 Overhead Distribution Unit Bids contingent upon contractors agreeing to unit prices, Ca-Par Electric, Inc. as an additional secondary distribution contractor for the 2018 Overhead Distribution Unit Bids, V-Tech, Inc. and Ellis Electric Company for the 2018 Underground Maintenance Contract, contingent upon contractors agreeing to unit prices.

The board then approved a resolution to accept the Dixie Electric Membership Corporation 2017 Independent Audit Report from Hawthorn, Waymouth & Carroll, LLP. Next the board authorized management to refinance the CFC fixed rate loans with one new RUS FFB fixed rate loan.

The board then approved a resolution reclassifying those accounts disconnected in January 2018, as uncollectable.

From the Finance Committee report Steve Irving, committee chairman, presented the financial statements for the Calendar of Events for the 2018 Annual Membership Meeting. The board then approved the Finance Committee report with no action taken.

From the Purchasing Committee report Randy Lorio, committee chairman, presented the report. The board then approved the minutes of the previous meetings, new member list, Treasurer’s report and Operations Committee report as written.

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From the Annual Meeting and Bylaws Committee the board approved a resolution to authorize management to allow Mr. Frank E. Johnson, Mr. Michael Martin, Sr., and Mr. Mark Harrell of DEMCO Board District 11, St. Helena Parish to pick up a petition form for the purpose of obtaining signatures as required in the 2018 board election process. They also approved a resolution authorizing management to determine the most efficient process for having the election ballots printed and mailed in order to meet the timeline outlined in the Calendar of Events for the 2018 Annual Membership Meeting. The board then ratified actions taken by the Annual Meeting and Bylaws Committee to add Mr. Frank E. Johnson and Mr. Michael Martin, Sr. to the 2018 Director Election Ballots.

Danny Berthelot gave the ALEC report with no action taken.

Leslie Falks presented the Dixie Electric Membership Corporation 2017 Independent Audit Report from Hawthorn, Waymouth & Carroll, LLP. Next the board authorized management to refinance the CFC fixed rate loans with one new RUS FFB fixed rate loan.

The board then approved a resolution reclassifying those accounts disconnected in January 2018, as uncollectable.

Danny Berthelot gave the ALEC report with no action taken.

Leslie Falks presented the Annual Meeting report with no action taken.

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

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

Leslie Falks presented the Attorney’s report with no action taken.

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

John Parker presented the Attorney’s report with no action taken.

John Parker presented the Attorney’s report with no action taken.

John Parker presented the Attorney’s report with no action taken.
Celebrate Independence Around the World!

The Fourth of July in the United States commemorates America’s independence from Britain. On July 4, 1776, a group of Americans signed the Declaration of Independence. Today, Americans celebrate with parades, barbeques, fireworks shows, and wearing red, white, and blue.

Viva Mexico!

Mexicans celebrate “Grito de Dolores” (means “Cry of Dolores”) on September 15. On that day in 1810, Father Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla, a priest in the town of Dolores, made a speech demanding the freedom of Mexico from Spain. Now on this day, the president rings the original bell from Father Hidalgo’s church and recites Hidalgo’s original speech. The president ends with the cry, “Viva Mexico!” which can be heard the rest of the night during celebrations, fireworks and other fun activities.

People in Poland celebrate their independence on November 11 when citizens place flowers at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, to commemorate soldiers who have died for their country.

Citizens attend parades and ceremonies, wearing Poland’s colors: red and white. In Warsaw, the capital city, thousands of runners participate in the Independence Day Run.

Flying Kites for Freedom in India

The night before Indian Independence Day, the president of the country gives a speech about how the country is doing. On the day itself, August 15, citizens gather and watch their country’s flag being hoisted to the top of the flagpole. This happens at offices, homes and schools. Afterwards, families and friends get together and enjoy delicious food.

Lots of people also fly kites on Independence Day to symbolize India’s freedom from the British on August 15, 1947.

Karan’s Kite

Karan’s kite has stripes. His kite has a tail, but not a short one. Karan doesn’t like polka dots on kites. It is not a box kite.

Kid Scoop Together:
Missing Words

Fireworks have blasted some of the words out of this article. Can you find where each missing word belongs?

Chinese Cook Has A Blast

Most Independence Day celebrations include setting off fireworks. The exploding excitement of fireworks had its origins in a ________ in China.

About 1,000 years ago, a Chinese cook ________ three ingredients ________ found in kitchens at that time. A ________ from the cooking fire his concoction into a blast of sparks! Some say this was the ________

The three ingredients were saltpeter (used for pickling ________), sulfur (used to make ________ fires hotter) and charcoal (the ________ wood from the cooking fire).

Along These Lines

• Page 11
Never operate a portable generator inside your home, garage or other enclosed areas. Only use your generator outdoors, away from open windows, vents or doors. And, always follow manufacturer’s guidelines for proper use.

3-day supply of water & non-perishable food
- Spare clothing, blankets and pillows
- Toiletries, first-aid kit and prescription medicines
- Special items/food for babies and the elderly
- Special items for your pet including vaccination records, toys, food and a cage/crate
- Flashlights, portable radio and extra batteries
- Extra set of car keys, credit cards and cash
- Important documents kept in a waterproof container or watertight plastic bag
  • Identification, copy of birth certificate, marriage certificate and Social Security card
  • Insurance documents and medical records
  • Bank account numbers, online passwords and log-in information
  • Emergency contact list
- Emergency tools