DEMCO supports LPB's new project honoring Vietnam War veterans
DEMCO supports LPB’s program to gather stories of Vietnam veterans

Dozens of former military men were crouching down and kneeling low, much like they had done in a faraway country a generation ago.

Only this time they were not battling the enemy in the dense jungles of southeast Asia. They were safe in the confines of the Louisiana Public Broadcasting facility in Baton Rouge, and they were armed with Sharpies instead of assault rifles.

These Vietnam veterans were visiting the LPB studios in September to watch a special preview of a new documentary on the conflict recently released by award-winning filmmakers Ken Burns and Lynn Novick.

Before the screening took place, the men were invited to kneel over a large map of Vietnam spread across the studio floor and sign their name at the place or places where they served.

The event was organized by LPB as a means of honoring the sacrifices made by the soldiers and also to launch a new program intended to capture the history of service personnel in Louisiana. LPB will broadcast installments of the 18-hour series, The Vietnam War: Louisiana Remembers, every Wednesday through the first week of November.

In 2017, LPB was invited to participate in this worthwhile project as a corporate underwriter, and we jumped at the chance. The documentary preview event, our DEMCO cook team was there to provide a hot meal and express our appreciation to our veterans.

As a Vietnam veteran myself, I welcomed the opportunity to participate in the program and take some time to visit with some of my fellow servicemen. As far as the new documentary, many of us had mixed feelings about watching the brutal nature of the war and all of the political implications of the conflict being brought forth on the big screen once again.

Ever since the conflict came to a close with the fall of Saigon, many veterans have preferred to turn the page and move on with their lives while carrying whatever mental or physical scars they bear.

But Burns, who has earned rave reviews for his riveting explorations of a wide variety of topics such as the Civil War, jazz, and the history of baseball, certainly has a unique style of crafting a narrative and managed to turn the public’s attention back to Vietnam with this project.

Like most of Burns’ work, this documentary has received mostly positive reviews for its in-depth storytelling since it was released. My initial concern with the documentary was that it would only bring up old wounds in our nation and further divide a country that doesn’t need any more division.

But I applaud LPB for bringing attention to the documentary and mostly for allowing Louisiana veterans to share their experiences, voice their views on the war and add to the body of knowledge regarding this significant moment in our nation’s history.

Thanks to LPB and their staff along with the support of the local Boy Scouts for the work they are doing and thanks for allowing us an opportunity to support our veterans.

Seven DEMCO linemen recently advanced in the Louisiana Lineman Training Program. Pictured above are Aaron Guitreau, Orlando Hill, Luke Butler, Tylar Keefer, Maderis Trout, Dante Holmes and Craton Templeton. Thelinemen completed Module 1, Levels 6-10 of the program.

Along These Lines is an official publication of Dixie Electric Membership Corp. It is written for and distributed to members of the cooperative nine times each year. Dixie Electric Membership Corp. is a non-profit rural electric cooperative providing service to 100,000 consumer-owners in seven Louisiana parishes. The cooperative headquarters is located at 16632 Wax Road, Greenswood Springs, LA. All comments, suggestions and requests for information concerning this publication should be addressed to ALONG THESE LINES, Dixie Electric Membership Corp., P.O. Box 15659, Baton Rouge, LA 70895, (225) 261-1221.
DEMCO employees and members contributed emergency clean-up supplies for victims of Hurricane Harvey after the storm left thousands of families in Texas struggling to recover.

Along with a trailer full of brooms, mops, cleaning agents, paper products and many other items, the DEMCO employees also provided $1,000 in gift cards for victims of the storm.

DEMCO representatives loaded the supplies in a pick-up truck and trailer and delivered them to Sam Houston Electric based in Livingston, TX.

There they were received by the co-op’s Chief Communications Officer Keith Stapleton and other staff members. Stapleton directed the DEMCO employees to a local church where the supplies were distributed to members of the community served by Sam Houston Electric. (Acct. No. 80282454-001)

“This is just a tremendous blessing to our citizens that the members and employees at DEMCO would make such a generous donation in our time of need,” Stapleton said.

“This disaster was unlike anything we’ve seen in this part of our state, and it’s been very humbling to see the support we’ve been given. Thanks to everyone who made this donation possible,” he said.

According to DEMCO’s Vice President of Marketing and Member Services Brent Bradley, “We’ve been through these kinds of events before and we know what it feels like to receive this kind of help. It was a real privilege for us to contribute in a small way.”

DEMCO sponsors 2018 Washington Youth Tour contest

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

Now is your chance to be a part of history! You could be one of four students to win an all-expense paid trip to WASHINGTON, D.C.!

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

All you have to do to qualify is enter an essay in the 2018 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour Essay Contest, sponsored by DEMCO.

**Contest Rules**

High school juniors *who are DEMCO members in Ascension, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Livingston, St. Helena, Tangipahoa and West Feliciana are eligible to enter (*home schooled students of DEMCO members are also eligible). *

*Please note that although only DEMCO members are eligible for the trip to Washington D.C., ALL entering students are eligible for prizes to be awarded for the best written essays.*

Children, grandchildren, brothers or sisters of DEMCO employees or directors are ineligible.

This year’s essay topic should be in the form of a letter to a political leader (President of the United States, Governor of Louisiana, Mayor, Secretary of the Department of Environmental Quality, etc.; just to name a few). The letter should address any topic that inspires the student/author’s passion.

Essays should not exceed 750 words.

Each essay must be accompanied by a cover sheet including:

- Student’s name, address, telephone number, email address, and age
- Name(s) of parent(s) or guardian(s)
- Name of school
- Name of English teacher
- Student’s school and community activities, achievements and extracurricular activities
- Date submitted

Essays may be submitted in one of three ways: in person to any DEMCO office; by mail to DEMCO Marketing Department/YT, P.O Box 15659, Baton Rouge, LA 70895; OR entries can be emailed to davidl@demco.org.

Deadline for entries is Friday, Jan. 19, 2018.

All essays submitted in this contest will become the property of DEMCO and will not be returned.

**Judging**

Essays will be judged on originality, composition, how well they address the subject and neatness.

Twelve semi-finalists will be selected for final judging. Final competition will consist of an oral presentation of the written essay and a brief test on rural electrification knowledge. Four winners will travel to Washington, D.C. in June, 2018.
DEMCO supports LPB’s Louisiana Remembers project

Vietnam vets invited to share their memories of military service

A generation after they fought in a highly politicized military conflict in the jungles of Southeast Asia, many Vietnam War veterans still find it difficult to process their memories.

Veteran John Englesman of Baton Rouge, after detailing his experiences serving in the Mekong Delta, echoes the sentiments of many as he says while fighting back tears, “I just wish, as a species, humans could find some other way to resolve disputes other than war...because it’s so horrible.”

Englesman is directing his comments to an off-screen interviewer as part of a special television project by Louisiana Public Broadcasting (LPB). The station recently premiered “The Vietnam War: Louisiana Remembers” to coincide with the debut of the latest documentary by filmmakers Ken Burns and Lynn Novick entitled, “The Vietnam War – A Film.” (Acct.No. 5255101-001)

The two award-winning producers created an in-depth exploration of the conflict that runs over 10 separate episodes totaling 18 hours of gripping footage. LPB aired the highly acclaimed series twice in the fall and also held a special preview at their studios off Perkins Road.

DEMCO was there at the preview to prepare and serve a hot meal as a gesture of appreciation to the veterans and in support of LPB’s initiative.

DEMCO CEO and General Manager John Vranic, himself a Vietnam vet, commented, “When we heard about this project, we were eager to jump in and help out any way we could. It’s a privilege for us to be involved in honoring the sacrifices made by so many courageous men and women.”

While LPB has already broadcast “Louisiana Remembers” and posted it to the State Archives (www.ladigitalmedia.org), the project isn’t done.

LPB President and CEO Beth Courtney is inviting all Vietnam veterans from Louisiana to visit the LPB studios and record their stories of their combat experiences. Plans are to produce a second one-hour “Louisiana Remembers” program.

Each Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. through the end of the year, the studios will be open to those veterans who want to share their memories. Appointments can be made by visiting www.lpb.org/vietnam or by calling the station at 225-767-4204. Interviews will also be conducted at facilities in Monroe and Alexandria.

So far, the station has received many stories from POWs, helicopter pilots, infantrymen, military advisors, translators, mechanics and others. The two “Louisiana Remembers” programs will add to a series of segments LPB has done in the past related to the Vietnam War and its aftermath.

Courtney has her own stateside memories of the Vietnam era. Her father was a NATO commander in the Air Force and she remembers discussing the war at the dinner table as millions of families did at the time. She recalls her father lamenting the fighter pilots that were being lost.

“They were good pilots and good family men,” she said. “It really got to him and it got to us because these were people we knew personally and we really had a lot of admiration for them.”

As the war raged on, Courtney became a graduate student and teaching assistant in the history department at LSU. She recalls that the tension triggered by the conflict wasn’t as intense at LSU as other parts of the country, such as Kent State and many East Coast colleges.

“My brother was a student at Yale and he told me about how the students were throwing rocks at the ROTC cadets as they were marching. It was a real tug-of-war across the country back then. People had very strong feelings,” she said.

Courtney said she took a trip to Vietnam six years ago and visited both Saigon and Hanoi, including a tour of the infamous “Hanoi Hilton” where U.S. prisoners of war were abused.

“It was stunning to see, after so many years,” she said. “There seemed to be a lot of anti-French sentiment as well as those who still bear some resentment toward America. But there were also many friendly people who welcomed us with open arms and were very kind. Like it or not, the history of our countries will forever be intertwined.”

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What do yard sale signs, basketball hoops, deer stands, satellite dishes, and birdhouses have in common? They’re often found illegally attached to utility poles.

But this isn’t only a crime of inconvenience. Safety issues caused by unapproved pole attachments - or structures that are located too close to utility poles - place the lives of lineworkers and the public in peril.

It may seem innocent, but a small nail can have deadly results around high-voltage electricity.

DEMCO crews climb utility poles at all hours of the day and night, very often in the worst of conditions. Anything attached to utility poles can create serious hazards for our line personnel.

Sharp objects like nails, tacks, staples or barbed wire can puncture rubber gloves and other safety equipment, making linemen vulnerable to electrocution.

Lineworkers have reported poles used as community bulletin boards, satellite mounts, and even support legs for deer stands, lights, and carports.

Not only do these attachments put linemen at risk, anyone illegally placing these items on poles comes dangerously close to energized lines with thousands of volts of energy pulsing overhead. It’s mandatory to keep any structure at least 20 feet away from utility poles.

Unauthorized pole attachments violate the National Electrical Safety Code, the accepted manual containing guidelines for safe electrical engineering standards. DEMCO and other utilities strictly follow this code that includes a section that reads, “Signs, posters, notices, and other attachments shall not be placed on supporting structures without concurrence of the owner (the utility is the owner of the pole). Supporting structures should be kept free from other climbing hazards such as tacks, nails, vines, and through bolts not properly trimmed.”

Please help us keep our linemen—and our community—SAFE. Don’t attach any of these unauthorized and dangerous items to utility poles. Fixtures not belonging to the cooperative or another utility will be removed by co-op line personnel; and bear in mind the co-op is not responsible for any losses if an item is damaged or destroyed during removal.

At this time of year, tree stands are a particular problem. Each year, DEMCO removes more than a few of these illegally placed stands. Many hunters are severely injured or killed in this practice every season. Please use common sense when placing deer stands.

Another problem faced by utilities is the use of utility equipment for target practice. This is not only dangerous but is also very costly for DEMCO and its members. Damage to electrical equipment by these individuals usually results in extended outage times. DEMCO investigates all system damages and will prosecute anyone found to be responsible to the fullest extent of the law.
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 spring scholarship awards until December 21, 2017. 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 (December 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 members of their immediate family. Members of the immediate family shall mean those natural persons regularly residing in the member’s home which is served by DEMCO.”

WHAT TO DO: IF YOUR CAR CRASHES INTO A UTILITY POLE

Always consider power lines and other electrical equipment to be live and dangerous!

IF A POWER LINE FALLS ON YOUR VEHICLE AND THERE IS NO FIRE:

Your safest option is to stay inside your vehicle until help arrives. The vehicle acts as a path for the electrical current to travel to reach the ground. You are safe inside the vehicle, but if you get out, you could be electrocuted.

Call 911 or your local electric utility for help.

IF A POWER LINE FALLS ON YOUR VEHICLE AND THERE IS A FIRE:

Only attempt to leave your vehicle if it is on fire.

To exit safely:

• Jump out of the vehicle, making sure NO part of your body or clothing touches the ground and wait at the same time.
• Land with both feet together and in small, shuffling steps, move at least 40 feet away from the vehicle.
• The ground could be energized. Shuffling away with both feet together decreases the risk of electrical shocks.
• Call 911 or your local electric utility for help.

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.
All in a day’s work
DEMC0 linemen respond to help citizens in need

DEMC0’s Greensburg District Line Supervisor Josh Conleay takes great pride in the training and preparation his linemen go through to make sure they do their jobs safely and effectively each and every day. But there are times when their extensive training involves something other than lines and poles.

According to Conleay, the Greensburg area has seen an inordinate number of emergency situations in the recent past and his crews have been on the scene to lend a helping hand.

Just a few months ago, DEMC0 linemen Bodhi Wright and Kaleb Lee assisted first responders in rescuing two young ladies and a child from a vehicle that had hydroplaned off the roadway and had become mired in a creek.

Wright and Lee used their emergency training to assess the situation, establish a plan and help pull the accident victims to safety.

Conleay also noted that during the flood of August 2016 DEMC0 Linemen Vince Estes and Austin Hudspeth used a rope to rescue a woman from her vehicle that had been swept away in the rising floodwaters.

And it was only a few years ago that Hudspeth and Rickey Cummings came to the aid of a woman and two children whose vehicle careened off the highway and turned over in a ditch.

The three were retrieved from the overturned car and treated for their wounds before a medical unit arrived.

For their quick response, Hudspeth and Cummings received special recognition from the St. Helena Sheriff’s Department.

“We’re extremely proud of all of our linemen, who take their safety and emergency response training very seriously,” Conleay said. “These kinds of situations speak to the fact that our commitment to our community is far greater than just delivering electricity. Anytime we see a need or there’s an opportunity to help—both in emergencies or just everyday situations—we’re going to act decisively and affirmatively.”

DEMC0 linemen respond to help citizens in need.
The elusive gift of gab and living down a bad Santa acting job

Someone once said our fear of public speaking is so pervasive that most of us would rather be inside the casket than delivering the eulogy at a funeral.

Ok, that seems a little harsh, but I understand the sentiment.

Personally, when it comes to having to deliver a speech, I’m not so apprehensive about standing up in front of a crowd. Somewhere along the way I got past the point of being so petrified that someone would have to physically shove me onto the dias. For me, it’s not the fear of drawing attention… it’s just that I’m so horrible at delivering a tight, well-crafted, convincing, inspiring, smoothly-delivered bit of oratory. I’m all will, no skill.

And frankly, I usually have too much regard for any audience I’d have to address than to subject them to my discombobulated blathering.

The problem is that to decline a gratuitous invitation to speak would be an even more blatant insult – but just by a little bit – than going ahead and delivering some rambling, rabbit-chasing harangue. So, I usually respond affirmatively when asked.

The good thing about being a bad public speaker is that it usually takes just one time and you don’t get asked again. The only people who invite you to address a crowd are the ones who haven’t heard you before. And, well, they just have to learn the hard way.

The Baton Rouge Symphony learned this lesson years ago when I somehow got hornswoggled into playing Santa Claus – yes, I even screwed up Santa portraying St. Nick ever since.

During the course of a single week last month, three separate audiences were doomed to discover my lack of speaking ability. In terms of eloquence and pizzazz, each presentation was a colossal failure.

Well, actually, one of them went okay because I was there to present some scholarship money to a couple of deserving LSU students. Handing out money usually helps.

Over the years, I’ve tried every trick in the book – including actually reading books – to try to improve.

I even tried the old trick of removing my contacts so that I was literally unable to focus on the audience and, in theory, could more easily direct all my attention to the message I was trying to deliver.

The problem was I could barely feed my way to the podium and then had to squint Mr. Magoo-style to see my notes.

I tried simply reading the speech, though I’m not really good at that, either. When I look up to make eye contact with the audience, by the time I look back down I’ve lost my place.

I can’t afford a teleprompter, but I have thought about bringing a tape recording and lip-syncing my speech. Heck, if singers can get away with that, why not speakers?

Back in college I had the notion that if you can really shell down the corn, you could succeed at anything. You didn’t even have to know what you were talking about, so long as you sounded confident and convincing.

So, I enrolled in a public speaking course and I was as bad at the end as I was at the beginning. That was 30 years ago and I haven’t gotten any better.

One of my favorite speakers these days is Joel Osteen. He’s the “prosperity gospel” preacher that came under criticism recently when he didn’t immediately open his mega-church in Houston to victims of Hurricane Harvey.

When it comes to theocracy, Osteen is a controversial figure. He lives in a $10 million home while holding himself up as a messenger of Christ, who walked along narrow dusty streets in a robe and sandals and purposefully refrained from owning anything.

I’ll leave that conundrum for others to argue about, but I will say that it’s hard to deny the man can speak. He stands on that stage in front of thousands of members of his flock every week and delivers his message without so much as a stutter or stammer. He’s got a nice expensive suit on, a bright big smile and perfectly coiffed locks. And the people keep coming back for more.

If I started off with 12,000 people and preached every week for a month, at the end of four weeks I’d have it down to just a few members of my family and a friend of mine who owes me money.

In high school, I was friends with our school’s top track star. I often wondered would it be like to inhabit the body of a star track athlete. What would it feel like to run that fast? Would your feet feel like they’re about to fly off? Would it be effortless or would it hurt more than it hurts me when I run just a few hundred yards?

Similarly, I wonder what it would be like to be Joel Osteen, standing up there with every bit of confidence a man can muster, looking all slick and polished, the words just oozing forth like honey out of a pot. What would it be like to command an audience like that?

I recently met a high school student whose public speaking ability was so extraordinarily strong I decided to give him some unsolicited advice after he divulged he wanted to get into politics. I told him that his gift of gab will bring him great influence and power, and I encouraged him to use that power for good, not ill.

And, I added… don’t ever date my daughter.

News Notes

The next meeting of the DEMCO Board of Directors is scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 16, 2017, at 6 p.m. Board meetings are held at DEMCO’s headquarters facility located at 16262 Wax Road, Greenwell Springs, La.

Prepare for Little Visitors

With the holidays come house guests, and often they’re little ones. Kids and grandkids can be a joy, but their presence requires preparation around the house. Use these tips to ensure that your home is ready to welcome your loved ones for all the festivities.

• Put away small items that could pose choking hazards, such as batteries, buttons, coins and jewelry.
• Install tamper-resistant electrical receptacles in your home to prevent shocks and burns, or use safety covers on all unused outlets that are accessible to children.
• Never allow children to play with electrical decorations or cords.
• Use safety gates at the tops and bottoms of stairways to keep babies and toddlers safe.
• Move all cleaning products and other dangerous items out of reach of children and store them in a locked area.
• Consider turning your water heater temperature down to 120 degrees to reduce the risk of scalding.
• Teach overnight guests your fire escape plan, including the location of your outside meeting place. Everyone should know at least two ways out of each room in your home.

Save Serious Energy at Home

Need a few quick ways to save on energy costs? Follow these tips to conserve electricity in your home.

Need a new refrigerator? You could save $100 a year on your energy bill by replacing an older model with a new, Energy Star-qualified appliance. You could save up to $200 a year if your old refrigerator dates all the way back to the 1970s, Energy Star says.

Add insulation. Insulating your attic, and the walls and floors adjacent to an unheated garage or basement can make a dent in your heating and cooling bills.

Unplug the TV or plug it into a smart power strip. Electronics such as TVs, speakers, gaming consoles, computers and even phone chargers continue to use energy, even when they’re turned off. Unplug them or switch off their power strips before you go to bed.

Regulate your lights. Dimmer switches let you control how much light you use.

A switch with a timer can turn lights on and off at set times. A light fixture with a motion sensor will turn itself off when a room is empty. All of that adds up to energy savings.

Switch to LED bulbs. They use 90 percent less energy than incandescent lightbulbs.

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.

by Billy Gibson

Director of Communications
Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives
www.lacountryblog.wordpress.com

Co-opLife
DEMCO crews assist fellow co-op after Hurricane Irma

A team of DEMCO linemen were dispatched to Florida to help with power restoration in the wake of Hurricane Irma.

The linemen traveled eastward to assist the members of Sumter Electric Cooperative (SECO).

The crew was sent as a part of DEMCO’s Mutual Aid Agreement with more than 900 fellow electric cooperatives across the country. The agreement assures that DEMCO will receive help after a disaster and also obligates the local co-op to send help to other co-ops when needed.

Demham payment center opens

DEMCO announces the opening of a temporary payment center at the location of the Denham Springs branch office on Range Avenue north of I-12.

The payment center is located at 1810 South Range Avenue, Denham Springs, LA 70726.

Hours of operation are 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. The office is closed daily from 12:15 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. (Acct. No. 80212636-002)

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Spending more time in the kitchen during the holiday season? Here’s one way to be more energy efficient: Unplug small kitchen appliances, like toaster ovens and microwaves, when not in use. You could save $10 to $20 per year.
Meeting of September 21, 2017

The board of directors of DEMCO held its regular meeting Thursday, September 21, 2017. Board President Richard Sitman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

The board then approved the minutes of the previous meeting, new member list, Treasurer’s Report and Operations Committee report as written. The board next resolved to authorize management to approve each DEMCO employee, retiree, and board member a Thanksgiving turkey and a Christmas ham. The board then authorized management to approve Amendments #24 through #26 to the 2013 – 2016 Construction Work Plan.

As committee chairman of the Purchasing Committee, Randy Lorio presented the committee’s report. The board then resolved to approve the following purchases: Ellis Electric Company for the Juban Marketplace East Underground project; ratifies management’s decision to purchase three 69kV breakers from Alstom/GE.

From the Finance Committee report Steve Irving moved that the board resolve to authorize management to renew insurance coverage with no change in coverage or premiums Starount, Business Travel Accident with NRECA, BCBSLA health insurance.

Mr. Irving continued with the Interest, Fuel Cost Adjustment and Financial reports. The board then approved a resolution reclassifying those accounts disconnected in May 2017 as uncollectable. The board then authorized management individuals and directors to serve as signatories on specific Red River Bank accounts.

The board then resolved, by recommendation of the Policy Committee to amend the following board policies which refer to the Extension or Relocation of Electrical Facilities: Board Policy 209.004 (Individual Residential Customers); Board Policy 212.000 (New or Expanded Residential Subdivision Developments); and Board Policy 213.000 (Commercial, Industrial, and Other Business Developments).

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.

Meeting of October 19, 2017

The board of directors of DEMCO held its regular meeting Thursday, October 19, 2017. Board President Richard Sitman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

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

From the Purchasing Committee report Randy Lorio, committee chairman, presented bids received. Next the board approved a resolution for the materials for Pole Line Hardware for 2018 including Lighting, Metering, Underground Material, Hardware and Transformers. The board then resolved to approve 2018 Mechanical Right of Way Retrimming. Then the board approved the following: Linetec Services for ACSR Line Circuit 1, the complete line construction of the Coly to Lockhart 69kV transmission line rebuild project; McWane Poles for the standard class poles for the Indian Mound to Live Oak transmission line replacement – steel poles project; Dis-Tran Steel for the engineered poles for the Indian Mound to Live Oak transmission line replacement – steel poles project; Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. (Esri®), a sole source provider, for a three year renewal of the Esri® Small Utility Enterprise License Agreement (ELA) which includes maintenance and unlimited access to all software offered through the ELA effective on the date executed.

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 June 2017 as uncollectable.

Danny Berthelot gave the ALEC report with no action taken.

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

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

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

From the Board Room

DEMCO Board members receive committee reports
VETERANS

HAPPY VETERANS DAY!

Veterans Day is a day to honor all veterans! It is a time to remember and thank veterans for all they have done for all of us and our country.

WRITING

Write about your personal hero. Be sure to tell why this is your hero.

My Hero

VETERANS

A veteran is a __________ who has served in the armed forces. The armed forces ________ the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps and Coast Guard. Both men and women can be veterans.

Some veterans have ________ in times of war and have fought for our ________. Others have served in times of ________ to protect our country in other ways. All veterans make sacrifices to help keep our country ________.

Colorful Thanks!

Color the poster above and display it where lots of people can see it to say thank you to the veterans in your community. Or give it to a veteran in your family or neighborhood.

Number of Veterans

Turn this chart at right into a bar graph. It shows the number of veterans living in the U.S. as of September 2015.

BONUS CHALLENGE: How many veterans are there in total?

6 MILLION

5 MILLION

4 MILLION

3 MILLION

2 MILLION

1 MILLION

0

20-29

30-39

40-49

50-59

60-69

70-79

80+

Veterans 20-29 1,015,000
Veterans 30-39 2,156,000
Veterans 40-49 2,814,000
Veterans 50-59 3,776,000
Veterans 60-69 5,107,000
Veterans 70-79 3,663,000
Veterans 80+ 2,930,000

Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.

The Purple Heart is the oldest medal awarded in the U.S. military. It is awarded to someone injured or killed in action against an enemy.

The Purple Heart

Use the code to discover the famous American general whose profile is on the Purple Heart.

13 = A 14 = E 15 = G 16 = I 17 = N 18 = T
19 = H 20 = S 21 = W 22 = Z 23 = Q


Standards Link: Writing Applications: Write a variety of forms and genres.

Interview a family member, neighbor or local veteran who served in the armed forces. Share the interview with your class.

Write On!

Write about your personal hero. Be sure to tell why this is your hero.
Get outage updates sent directly to your phone!

How?

It’s easy! Sign up online at DEMCO.org or download our app.

Either way it’s easy to enable our Enhanced Alert System which allows you to receive alerts through email or text messages.

DOWNLOAD THE APP TODAY.

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