DEMCO team sets its sights on success for 2019
DEMCO performs a needed reboot to refresh our operating system

Everything I know about computer technology can probably fit on a postcard.

As the old saying goes, I know just enough about computer programming to be dangerous.

Fortunately, here at DEMCO we have a crack team of experts to make sure our computer processing systems run smoothly around the clock.

But there is one thing I’ve learned about computers over the years: every once in a while they need to be rebooted.

From time to time, it helps for your computer hard drive to be turned off and then turned back on again to clear out old files and create a fresh operating environment for the system to run more smoothly.

In a sense, that’s the very reason we held our all-employee meeting that you can read more about in this issue of Along These Lines.

After some careful thought and consideration, we decided it was an opportune time to close down our offices for a day and gather our more than 220 employees for a special time of reorientation, to reflect on what a privilege it is to serve our customers and to recommit ourselves to the purpose of our mission.

An organizational reboot, so to speak. Part of that reset included a fresh look at the Seven Cooperative Principles.

For electric cooperatives and other types of cooperatives around the world, these principles are tantamount to our country’s Bill of Rights.

It’s our responsibility to conduct the affairs of your cooperative according to these core principles and values, the roots of which can be traced all the way back to the first modern co-op founded in Rochdale, England in 1844.

It’s our responsibility to conduct the affairs of your cooperative according to these core principles and values, the roots of which can be traced all the way back to the first modern co-op founded in Rochdale, England in 1844.

1. Open and Voluntary Membership - Membership in a cooperative is open to all persons who can reasonably use its services and stand willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, regardless of race, religion, gender, or economic circumstances.

2. Democratic Member Control - Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. Directors are elected from among the membership and are accountable to the membership. All members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote).

3. Members’ Economic Participation - Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. At least part of that capital remains the common property of the cooperative.

4. Autonomy and Independence - Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, including governments, or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control as well as their unique identity.

5. Education, Training, and Information - Education and training for members, directors, CEOs, and employees helps them effectively contribute to the development of the cooperative. Communication about the nature and benefits of cooperatives, particularly with the general public and opinion leaders, helps boost cooperative understanding.

6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives - By working together through local, national, regional, and international structures, cooperatives improve services, bolster local economies, and deal more effectively with social and community needs.

7. Concern for Community - Cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies supported by the membership.

Again, we will be exploring each of these principles in greater detail in this publication over the coming months. In the meantime, be assured that your management, directors and employees are all redoubling our efforts to reset and reboot at every level of the organization so that DEMCO can provide the best possible service for every member.
Severe weather and automobile accidents are the main causes of downed power lines. DEMCO warns members to use extreme caution should you encounter a downed power line, which can carry an electric current strong enough to cause serious injury or death.

Assume that any downed line you see is energized and report it immediately to the police, fire department and DEMCO. Here are some useful tips to help you stay safe around downed power lines:

- If you see a downed power line, move away from it and anything touching it.
- The proper way to move away from the line is to shuffle away with small steps, keeping your feet together and on the ground at all times. This will minimize the chance for a human path of electric current and minimize the hazards of electric shock. Electricity moves from zones of high voltage to zones of low voltage—and it could do that through your body.
- Do not drive over downed power lines.
- If you see someone who is in direct or indirect contact with a downed power line, do not touch the person. You could become the next victim. Call 911 instead.
- Do not attempt to move a downed power line or anything in contact with the line by using another object, such as a broom or stick. Even typically non-conductive materials such as wood can conduct electricity and electrocute you.
- Be careful not to put your feet near water where a downed power line is located.

**Downed and Dangerous**

Always assume a downed power line is energized and dangerous! If you see one:

- Notify local authorities.
- Stay at least 35 ft. away.
- Never drive over a downed line, or through water touching one.
- Never try to move a downed line.

- If you are in your car and it is in contact with a downed line, stay in your car. Honk your horn and call 911 for help. Tell others to stay away from your vehicle. (Acct. No. 80220502-001)
- If you must leave your car because it’s on fire, jump out of the vehicle with both feet together to avoid simultaneous contact with the live car and the ground, then use small shuffling steps to get away from the car. This way, you reduce the risk of becoming part of the path of electricity.

**Winterizing Tip**

**INSULATE YOUR ELECTRIC WATER HEATER TANK**

**MATERIALS**

- Water heater blanket
- Scissors
- Duct tape

**STEPS**

1. Turn off the electric water heater at the breaker panel.
2. Measure the height of the water heater and cut the blanket to fit if necessary.
3. Leave the top of the water heater open.
4. Wrap the blanket around the water heater and temporarily tape it in place. Position the blanket so that the ends do not come together over the access panels on the side of the tank.
5. Mark the areas, then cut holes where controls are located. For electric water heaters, there will be two panels on the side of the tank. Mark the area where the pressure relief valve and pipe are located. This will be a pipe that protrudes from the side of the water heater.
6. Adhere the blanket. Be careful to line up the cut out areas and then tape it permanently in place.
7. Turn on the water heater at the breaker panel.

**INSULATION**

Cover the whole tank except temperature and pressure (T&P) valve and drain.
DEMCO employees gather for a day of team-building

Co-op districts come together to refocus on common goals

DEMCO employees from every branch office gathered together recently for an all-employee day at Camp Istrouma on Greenwell Springs Road.

The purpose of the system-wide retreat was to regroup, redirect and refocus the cooperative’s workforce on providing the best possible service to DEMCO members through 2019 and beyond.

DEMCO CEO and General Manager Randy Pierce said Camp Istrouma was the perfect setting to have all 220-plus employees from the cooperative’s seven districts to gather together in one venue and form a unified front.

“A lot of our members may not realize it, but DEMCO is one of the largest cooperatives in the country with over 109,000 members and 8,500 miles of power line,” Pierce said. “Our territory is spread out over seven parishes and, naturally, sometimes we can find ourselves focusing just on our immediate area and not seeing the big picture. This was an excellent opportunity to get all of our employees on the same page and recommit ourselves to the purpose of providing our members the high quality of service they expect and deserve.”

Pierce added that with an organization this size, employees stationed in various district offices may communicate frequently by telephone or computer but may rarely have the chance to interact face-to-face. (Acct. No. 7329601-001)

Pierce noted that all DEMCO offices were closed for the employee retreat, although crews were on stand-by to address any emergency situations.

“We certainly apologize if this event inconvenienced our members in any way, but we felt this was important enough to close our offices for one day,” Pierce said, noting it was the first time in recent memory that such a system-wide event was held. “It turned out to be a most productive expenditure of our time and I’m confident our time spent together as a team will yield positive results for our members over the long term.”

During the meeting, Pierce laid out the cooperative’s overarching plan for meeting the needs of the members in both the near and long terms. He also pledged unqualified board and management support for providing every employee the training and resources they need to perform their day-to-day tasks to the best of their ability.

Pierce also took the opportunity to update all employees and supervisors on the progress of an audit conducted by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association to identify operational improvements for the organization.

“Our employees work from the heart,” he said. “They love their cooperative and they’re highly motivated to apply their skills and expertise each and every day for the benefit of our members, who often are their own friends, neighbors and family members. The independent auditing process has been a great opportunity to help guide us and keep us all on the right track.”

Adding to the day’s productivity was a food drive to benefit the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank. DEMCO employees donated and delivered more than 2,600 pounds of food to be distributed throughout the community.

“Adding to the day’s productivity was a food drive to benefit the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank. The cooperative recently held an in-service program for all employees at Camp Istrouma to plan for the future and refocus the organization’s commitment on providing the best quality service to its members. DEMCO’s employees have been recognized by various charitable organizations in the past for their support of many community programs.
Electricity theft is a problem for all DEMCO members

Theft of electricity and related construction and building materials is a problem all electric utilities face—and it’s a problem for electricity customers, too.

Because DEMCO is a member-owned organization, electricity theft can drive up prices for everyone.

Theft of electricity also puts your personal safety at risk. Tampering with an electric meter can make it unsafe and unstable. When people steal electricity, they put themselves, their families, their neighbors and even their pets at risk for electric shocks, power surges, sparks and fire from exposed voltage.

Stealing electricity-related materials can also pose a significant threat to the culprit, resulting in serious injury or even death from exposure to live electricity.

Electricity theft isn’t isolated to rural areas or big cities. It’s a problem utilities encounter from agricultural operations to housing complexes to business offices and from coast to coast.

Although electricity can be easily acquired through a utility, some people still are willing to risk physical injury or death just for the sake of a few free kilowatt-hours.

Others may not realize the potentially serious legal implications. Stealing electricity is illegal under Louisiana law and violates electrical codes.

Keeping power safe and affordable is a priority for DEMCO. That’s why we routinely inspect cooperative meters and equipment—to ensure we’re doing our best to protect you from the risks of electricity theft.

We take a proactive approach to this serious problem, reducing theft and its related costs.

You also can play a role in this process by immediately notifying us if you suspect someone is accessing power without paying their fair share or tampering with equipment.

If you have information related to electricity or materials theft, please call us immediately. Rest assured, we’ll preserve your anonymity.

Because you share in the ownership of your electric cooperative, we rely on your vigilance and willingness to alert us when people steal from the cooperative.

Tune Up Your Home Office

THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO WORK from home offices is quickly growing. Whether it's your job, for school or just a place to pay bills, make sure your office is efficient.

➤ It’s tempting to leave your computer on all the time for quick access, but shut it down overnight, like burning a light in an empty room, an idle bus on computer wastes energy.

➤ Enable your computer’s power-management features. These are the features that automatically put your computer into a more efficient standby mode when it’s not in use for brief periods.

➤ Shut off printers, copiers, scanners and other devices when you leave your home office. If you plug them into one power strip, you can turn them off with the flick of a single switch. Some power strips now come with timers that you can set to automatically turn equipment off each evening.


➤ Light your office with LED bulbs, which use less energy and last for years.

better by design

Design your own virtual building with Mueller’s 3D Design Tool. Choose the building size, door and window placements, colors and more. Once you have saved your design, just click to get a free quote. Then, our engineering and manufacturing team will take over, making your dream building a reality.

Get started at: www.muellerinc.com/3d-tool
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 2019 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. 18, 2019. 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. (Acct. No. 80050297-002)

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, 2019.
Follow the manufacturer's instructions to insulate it to save 7 to 16 percent annually.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Is your hot water tank warm to the touch? Consider insulating it to save 7 to 16 percent annually on water heating costs. Follow the manufacturer’s recommendations.

Source: energy.gov

DEMCO Board Election
DIXIE ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2019 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
Saturday, May 11, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.

LOCATION OF MEETING
DEMCO Headquarters Facility
16262 Wax Road, Greenwell Springs, LA 70739

February 18, 2019 – March 4, 2019
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 14, 2019
DEMCO Special Board Meeting at 5:00 p.m. at DEMCO Headquarters. The Committee on Nominations will be appointed at this meeting.

March 14, 2019
The Nominating Committee meeting begins at 5:05 p.m. at DEMCO Headquarters, 16262 Wax Road, Greenwell Springs, LA, with results of the meeting to be posted March 15, 2019.

March 19, 2019 – March 21, 2019
Pre-qualification period. Members interested in seeking a position on the board of directors are required pursuant to DEMCO bylaws to appear in person between these dates to determine eligibility as prescribed in the corporation’s bylaws. Candidates not pre-qualified will not be eligible to seek a position on the board of directors.

March 25, 2019
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 26, 2019
Beginning on this date, pre-qualified director candidates may obtain a petition to run for a seat on the board of directors. DEMCO’s bylaws require 50 valid signatures for the petition to be validated.

April 10, 2019
Petitions must be returned to DEMCO’s headquarters office by 4:30 p.m. and received by the CEO and General Manager’s office.

April 11, 2019
The Annual Meeting and Bylaws Committee, if needed, will validate each petition and post the results as required by the corporation’s bylaws on this date.

April 12, 2019
This is the Record Date for the 2019 Annual Membership Meeting. A final list of those members eligible to vote in DEMCO’s 2019 Annual Membership Meeting will be prepared.

April 18, 2019 – April 30, 2019
The Official Notice of the 2019 Annual Meeting will be mailed to all members of the cooperative during this time.

April 22, 2019
Ballots for the 2019 Annual Meeting will be mailed to members of the cooperative on this date. Members should receive their ballots by Saturday, April 27, 2019. DO NOT DELAY – VOTE and mail your ballot immediately.

May 03, 2019
The deadline for receiving ballots for the 2019 Annual Membership Meeting is 4:30 p.m. on this date – DO NOT DELAY – VOTE.

May 6, 2019 – May 8, 2019
Ballots will be counted during this period by the certified public accountants selected by DEMCO to conduct the annual meeting. Candidates will be advised as to the time and place that the ballots will be counted.

May 11, 2019
Annual meeting and election results announced at 10:00 a.m., at DEMCO Headquarters.

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 11, 2019.

According to David Latona, Vice President of Marketing and Member Services, 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.

2019 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 3, 2019. 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.

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. A 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 provide 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.

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 3, 2019)
Farewell Tour: Raising Cain raising a cane at Raising Cane’s River Center.

I never thought I’d see someone raising Cain by literally raising a cane at the Raising Cane’s River Center. But that’s exactly what happened when the classic rock band Lynyrd Skynyrd visited the former Baton Rouge Centreport arena last month.

An intriguing blend of young tattooed rock fans and haggard old has-beens like myself showed up to see Skynyrd perform its biggest hits as part of the last of the Street Survivors Farewell Tour. I was able to score two choice seats about 30 feet from the stage and was ready to see the greatest band of all time rip through the familiar tunes that have served as a musical backdrop in my life’s journey since I was a teenager. Just as lead guitarist Gary Rossington started the show by slamming the opening power chord to “Workin’ for MCA,” some delirious silver-haired geezer clad in an oversized orange Hawaiian shirt and clutching a cane in his left hand tried to rush the stage right next to me… actually, he was doing more gimping around it, then tilted his head back and hollered out with all the power left in his ancient weed-withered lungs. He started off that platform and turning away griping off that platform and turning away. That’s not the way to begin a Farewell Tour, is it? It’s not the way to begin anything, is it? But that first concert experience was just a precursor for the next hot act to come to town. Skynyrd had just released its fifth album called Street Survivors featuring new guitarist Steve Gaines.

Dewey and I were excited about returning to the Assembly Center when we heard the band’s plane had crashed in a forest near the Mississippi border west of McComb. Killed on site were the band’s founder, Ronnie Van Zant, along with Gaines and his sister, Cassie, one of the three Honkettes backup singers.

At the time, few would have guessed a reconstituted Skynyrd would be around this long or that the group would sell 30 million records worldwide. So, strapped for cash, I turned in my ticket for a refund, not realizing what a valuable keepsake it would become. But I do still have the $10 ticket stub from July of 1991 when the remaining members kicked off a reunion tour in Baton Rouge, just an hour away from the spot where their bandmates met their demise.

I also have the original Street Survivors album cover that presciently depicted the group standing amid a thicket of flames. After the crash, the album cover was re-issued without the fire. This farewell concert was bittersweet, seeing Skynyrd play in my home town for the last time. Even though only one original member is still around, it’s the one I was most drawn toward.

In my youthful imagination, Rossington was a guitar hero who had a mystical aura - it helped that he played a Gibson Les Paul. He always projected a shy, pensive, contemplative expression, his hands often clasped together. I was intrigued by the fact he looked so chill and usually wore a cross around his neck. These were rowdy rockers known for fighting, drinking and destroying hotel rooms and here’s this guy appearing to project a zen-like sense of peace and calm. Quite a compelling contrast to a teen coming of age.

After the band closed its signature Southern rock anthem, “Free Bird,” I watched Rossington as he exited the stage and disappeared into the darkness.

As someone who is gaining a firmer grasp of the concept of a Farewell Tour, I wondered how Rossington felt stepping off that platform and turning away from the spotlight. Was it more sorrow or relief, sadness or exultation? Was he mulling over the existential ramifications of life as expressed in the lyrical opening lines of Free Bird: “If I leave here tomorrow, would you still remember me?”

Then I figured that after touring the world for five decades, surviving a horrible plane crash, getting his eardrums besieged night after night, battling addictions and dealing in the cutthroat record business for his entire career, he’s probably just ready to go home and take a nap.

News Notes

The next meeting of the DEMCO Board of Directors is scheduled for Thursday, Jan. 24, 2019, at 6 p.m.

Board meetings are held at DEMCO’s headquarters facility located at 16262 Wax Road, Greenwell Springs, La.

Electricity: Stay out of its Path

Understanding how electricity behaves can reinforce the many reasons that you always should exercise caution around it.

Even a small night light with a 6-watt bulb draws enough current to be fatal under certain circumstances.

Take note of the following facts to stay harm-free:

• Electrical current will not flow unless it has a complete and uninterrupted path.

• Current can flow through you and other conductors, such as metal, dirt and concrete.

• Current can harm you when it flows through your body (known as electric shock).

- Just as there is pressure in a water pipe even when there is no water flowing through it, there is voltage at an electrical receptacle even if current is not flowing at the time. The electric current is essentially waiting for an opportunity to begin flowing - to power an appliance or the TV. But given the chance, it will just as quickly pass through you.

- If current passes through your body, you likely will be subjected to three types of injuries:
  1. Burns.
  2. Other bodily injuries: Muscles can be damaged and bones can break. When electric shock occurs, muscles often clamp on to whatever the person is holding.
  3. Nervous system effects: Breathing can stop and cardiac arrest can occur.

The heart muscle often is damaged because it is in the path of the most common routes electricity takes through the body: Hand to hand and hand to foot.

DEMCO encourages you to be cautious and always stay safe around electricity.

Give Your Washer and Dryer a Longer Life

You can extend the life of your washer and dryer - and your clothes - by treating your appliance with care on laundry day. Here’s how:

Clean your dryer’s lint filter after every use. Occasionally vacuum the chute that houses the filter.

Unfasten the duct from the dryer at least twice a year and vacuum it.

Cut down on drying times if your clothes consistently come out wrinkled. That means you’re overdrying.

On nice weather days, skip the clothes dryer completely by installing an electrical current will not flow unless it has a complete and uninterrupted path.

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On nice weather days, skip the clothes dryer completely by installing and using a clothesline.

Avoid overloading your washing machine with comforters, rugs and large blankets. Check your owner’s manual to learn how much weight your washer’s tub can safely handle.

Balance your load of laundry. Washers can fail when heavy loads bang around in an unbalanced machine.

Replace your water intake hoses every five years, even if they look OK. Older hoses are prone to bursting.

Lucky Account Number Contest

The Lucky Account Number Contest continues this month with four winners included in this edition of Along These Lines. Before you continue looking through this edition for your winning number, look for your account number printed above your mailing address. Locate this number anywhere in this issue and win the $25 prize. To claim your prize, please call 225-262-2160.
The annual membership meeting of DEMCO, when members of the cooperative vote for their board of directors and receive reports concerning the financial health and operation of their utility, is scheduled for Saturday, May 11, 2019, beginning at 10 a.m. The meeting will be held at DEMCO’s headquarters facility, 16262 Wax Road.

According to Randy Pierce, DEMCO CEO and General Manager, director elections will be conducted with a mail-in ballot.

“The mail ballot process has been utilized for many years by DEMCO and allows all members to have a voice in a convenient format,” he said.

Director elections are scheduled for East Baton Rouge Parish, District 3; East Feliciana Parish, District 6; Livingston Parish, District 13; and Tangipahoa Parish, District 9.

“According to the bylaws of Dixie Electric Membership Corporation (DEMCO) provide that “no person shall be eligible to become or remain a director, who:

1. is not a member and bona fide resident in the district from which he is elected and whose principal place of residence is served by DEMCO; or
2. is in any way employed by or has a significant financial interest in a competing enterprise; or provides services or supplies to DEMCO; or
3. is an elected public official, or is the spouse of an elected public official, in connection with which a salary or compensation in excess of $100.00 per annum is paid, it being the intent of the members of DEMCO that the board of directors of DEMCO be free from the influence of political officials; or
4. is a close relative, as defined in Article IV, Section 4.09, of any board member, or any employee of DEMCO; or
5. is a convicted felon; or
6. is a current employee of DEMCO, or has been terminated from employment by DEMCO, or has been a DEMCO employee within the past three years; or
7. has intentionally violated the confidentiality of board executive sessions, confidential documents or the terms of a confidentiality agreement previously approved by the board; or
8. has been delinquent on an account with DEMCO more than 30 days during the previous year, and no member who has a delinquent account may be nominated for the position of director.”

To define the term “principal place of residence,” as used in the corporation bylaws, Article IV, Section 4.04, Board Policy 111.003 shall be the following:

The principal place of residence of a DEMCO member shall be his or her habitual residence in accordance with the laws of the State of Louisiana. A determination of principal place of residence of a DEMCO member shall be a finding of fact to be made by the Board of Directors of Dixie Electric Membership Corporation. In evaluating where a member’s principal place of residence exists, the Board of Directors shall consider the following:

1. Where the member usually sleeps;
2. Where most clothing, toiletries, household appliances, and similar personal property regularly used by the member are located;
3. Where the member is registered to vote;
4. Where the member, or a spouse with whom he or she lives, has a telephone in his or her name which is not usually on call forward to another residence;
5. Where the member directly receives most mail addressed to him or her;
6. Whether the member is free to enter the premises without notice to, or permission from others.

Close relative defined

Article IV, Section 4.09, of the bylaws of Dixie Electric Membership Corporation (DEMCO) provides the following:

Close relative shall mean the husband or wife, child, mother or father, stepmother or stepfather, mother-in-law, father-in-law, sister or brother, brother-in-law, sister-in-law, daughter-in-law, son-in-law, aunt or uncle, niece or nephew, grandparent or grandchild.

Pre-qualification period

To establish an annual membership meeting pre-qualification period during which DEMCO shall have adequate time to investigate potential director candidates and determine eligibility, as prescribed in the corporation’s bylaws, prior to the issuance of a nominating petition, the following bylaws shall be followed:

A. A pre-qualification period shall be held at DEMCO’s headquarters facility, 16262 Wax Road, beginning at 10 a.m. The meeting will be scheduled for Saturday, May 11, 2019, beginning at 10 a.m. The meeting will be held at DEMCO’s headquarters facility, 16262 Wax Road.

B. The pre-qualification period shall be a three (3) day period during regular business hours, no more than 60 days, nor less than 45 days, prior to the date of the annual membership meeting as established by the Board of Directors.

C. Written notice of this policy shall be given to the membership annually in the corporation’s official newsletter, Along These Lines, and by inclusion in the “Calendar of Events,” published in the Official Journal of each parish where the corporation maintains service.

D. To prequalify, director candidates must appear in person, at the office of the Chief Executive Officer & General Manager, 16262 Wax Road, Greenwell Springs, Louisiana, during the established pre-qualification period.

E. Director candidates shall complete and sign a Director Eligibility Information form and Qualification Certification in order to pre-qualify. The following information must be provided and certified as true by the director candidate and spouse, if applicable.

1. Date of Birth
2. Louisiana Driver’s License Number
3. Social Security Number
4. Employer
5. Job Title
6. Telephone Number
7. DEMCO Account Number
8. Certificate of Qualifying Certification

F. Director candidates who fail to pre-qualify shall be declared ineligible to seek a position on the Board of Directors and will not be issued a nominating petition.

More information concerning the 2019 annual membership meeting may be found in your local newspaper and in future editions of Along These Lines.
There will be a FREE income tax preparation site at the Greenwell Springs Rd. Library sponsored by the VITA Program. The site will open February 2, 2019 and close April 13, 2019. Call 211 for an appointment as it is on an appointment basis only. The site will be open Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings. All clients must bring a picture ID, their social security card for themselves, spouse (if married) and all dependents. Bring all income documents and receipts for any credit or deduction to be claimed. If married, both spouses must come. Married Filing Separately returns are not prepared at this site.
Fortune Shines on Freckled Faces

SPOTTVILLE, USA - The Spottville school board passed a new rule last night giving Spottville children with freckles more privileges than children without freckles.

Freckled children will always sit at the front of the classroom and be first in line. They will get to use new pencils and the finest white paper. Children without freckles will have to sit at the back of the room or on the floor. Grocery bags will be used as paper for their assignments.

Many non-freckled children find the Freckle Rule unfair. "This rule stinks!" cried Alisen Smythe, age 11. "I can't help it that I don't have freckles. Why can't I eat in the same cafeteria as my friends with freckles?"

Many children with freckles also disagree with the new Freckle Rule. "I plan to fight against that dumb idea," said Dottie Darling, a student at Spottville Elementary School. "Dr. Martin Luther King's message is that discrimination is always wrong, and this new rule is discrimination."

"Disgratuitous nonsense," said school board president Spotts McDottter. "The rule is fair to the people that really matter most - mostly with freckles."

This story may seem a bit silly. Sadly, there is some truth to it. For many years, groups of people in the United States were treated differently just because of the way they looked.

Dr. King's Dream of Equality

Dr. Martin Luther King knew what it was like to be discriminated against. He had been called names and told he could not do all of the things other people could do. It wasn't because of freckles that Dr. King had these problems. It was because his skin was black.

In the 1950s and 60s, many Americans, black and white, spoke out and even fought against unfair laws that discriminated against black people. Dr. King was one of the leaders of this struggle called the Civil Rights movement.

Leadership

What are the qualities of a good leader? Who do you know that is a good leader? Why do you think of that person?
A MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW CEO.

I’m happy to have this opportunity to serve our members. In this year of our 80th anniversary, I’d like to assure you that our commitment to your needs is of the utmost importance. On behalf of our 224 employees, we’d also like to say thank you for letting us serve you and putting the power in your hands.

Randy Pierce
CEO & General Manager

From our first members in 1938 to today when we proudly serve over 109,000, DEMCO’s most important connection is to our community.

demco.org /DEMCOLouisiana