April 8th is Lineworker Appreciation Day
In the electric utility industry we use some advanced technologies. One in particular is drones that can be used for inspecting infrastructure, right-of-way or just those hard to reach places on a system’s many miles of distribution line. The drone operator’s hands need to be accurate and precise as they are working with a device that can find itself in dangerous areas that may cause the drone to crash or become damaged. So, these drones have to be in the right hands. At DEMCO we feel the same is necessary for leading your cooperative. The best hands to guide the cooperative are those who are served by it. This is in concert with the second cooperative principle: Democratic member control.

You may recall in last month’s issue of Along These Lines we visited the first of the seven cooperative principles that guide DEMCO and all cooperatives that share this same business model. Under the direction of the seven these seven principles, our co-op is led by members who are democratically elected to serve on the board of directors. We are not governed by a group of investors, but by a group of members who are like minded in the mission to provide safe, reliable service to all members of the cooperative.

Democratic member control is something that distinguishes your cooperative from other types of electric utility providers, such as municipal or investor-owned power suppliers. DEMCO is structured much like our democratic form of government is structured. Every cooperative member has the right, and even an obligation, to cast their vote for a fellow cooperative member to represent the interests of all consumers. Our members also vote on important issues such as the by-laws which guide policies on how our cooperative operates every day. The DEMCO election process is scheduled each May at which time members, just like you, will seek a seat on the board. Those elected will represent the membership in all matters pertaining to the co-op. (Account number 80049711-001)

Democratic member control is something that distinguishes your cooperative from other types of electric utility providers, such as municipal or investor-owned power suppliers.

Other types of businesses don’t allow that measure of control, and it is one of the many aspects that make DEMCO unique. Our board elections are conducted and overseen by an independent party. We encourage everyone to get involved in the board election process to make our co-op the best it can be.

This business model has kept us strong for the last 81 years and we trust that it will keep us strong for many years to come.

As I conclude this message to you, I would also like to extend my gratitude to the staff that carries out our mission day to day. This month we celebrate National Lineman Appreciation Day. I am thankful for the work they do every day and for the many other men and women who work to keep DEMCO operating at its finest and most efficient in order to bring you—our members—safe, reliable and affordable power.
Employees in the community

DEMCO is represented well by Justin Andrews and Veronica Claiborne in Gonzales at Central Middle for Career Day...we love being in the communities we serve.

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.

Our safety department along with our field staff were able to give a “Fire in the Wire” demonstration to Boy Scout Pack #58 at Live Oak Methodist Church.

Keep up to date with us — Like DEMCO on FACEBOOK today!

Like DEMCOLouisiana
National studies consistently rank power line installers and repairers among the most dangerous jobs in the country, and for good reason. Laboring high in the air wearing heavy equipment and working directly with high voltage creates the perfect storm of a dangerous and unforgiving profession. But electric lineworkers are up to the task. These brave men and women are committed to safety, as well as the challenges of the job.

DEMCO's lineworkers are responsible for keeping power flowing day and night, regardless of national holidays, vacations, birthdays, weddings or other important family milestones. Beyond the years of specialized training and apprenticeships, it takes internal fortitude and a mission-oriented outlook to be a good lineworker. In fact, this service-oriented mentality is a hallmark characteristic of lineworkers. The job requires lineworkers to set aside their personal priorities to better serve their local community. To perform their jobs successfully, lineworkers depend on their years of training, experience and each other to get the job done safely.

Equally important is their reliance on a strong support system at home. A lineworker's family understands and supports their loved one's commitment to the greater community during severe storms and power outages. (Account number 50001530-001)

This means in times of prolonged outages, the family and their lineworker may have minimal communication and not see each other for several days. Without strong family support and understanding, this challenging job would be all the more difficult.

At DEMCO many of the lineworkers remember the difficult days and tough nights from storms such as Hurricane Gustav and more recently the flood of 2016. It was restorations like these that tested the strength of the workers and their families.

In DEMCO's service territory and across the country, electric co-op lineworkers' mission-focused mentality of helping others often extends beyond their commitment to their work at the co-op. Lineworkers are often familiar figures in the community. They can be found coaching youth sports teams, volunteering for local charities and serving a hot meal to those in need.

For example, our lineworkers along with other DEMCO employees give of their time and resources each year to the Dream Day Foundation's Fishing Galore event hosting patients and their families on a day to forget about the painful doctors' visits and bad prognoses. These men and women spend this day serving others. Monday, April 8 is Lineworker Appreciation Day. Given the dedication of DEMCO's lineworkers, both on and off the job, we encourage you to take a moment and acknowledge the many contributions they make to our local community. And if you see their family members in the grocery store or out and about in the town, please offer them a thank you as well.

**Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month**

Streaming content with electronic equipment that has earned the ENERGY STAR® rating will use 25 to 30 percent less energy than standard equipment.

Source: energy.gov
GEARED FOR SAFETY

Electric co-op lineworkers wear special gear to help them stay safe on the job. Can you match the descriptions below to the correct safety equipment? Use the answer key to check your work!

1. These provide extra protection while lineworkers work with heavy materials that could fall near their feet.

2. This material keeps lineworkers safe from electrical hazards.

3. This protects lineworkers from head injuries and falling debris.

4. These insulated protectors keep lineworkers safe from electrical shock while working on power lines.

5. These keep debris away from lineworkers’ eyes while on the job.

6. This is a handy piece of safety gear that holds tools and other equipment.


Get more BUDGET POWER

Levelize your bill, sign up today at DEMCO.ORG

Lineworker Appreciation Day is April 8.
Tips for better time management

Are you busy? Would you like ideas on better time management to do more with what little time you have? Let’s stop wasting time and get to it.

Eliminate time-wasters and distractions.
Modern life has many distractions. If you know you’ll be tempted to check Twitter or anticipate too many knocks at your office door, take steps to limit interruptions before you start. Close all programs and tabs except those you need. Let coworkers know you need to focus, close your door or put on noise canceling headphones. Put your phone in a drawer.

Plan ahead.
Before a big day or before beginning a complicated or multi-part task, sit down and make a plan. Picking out what you’ll wear, pre-packing your lunch, checking to make sure your bags are packed with everything you need and reviewing your itinerary (including transit schedules, directions, meetings, after school activities, places to fuel your car and body and making sure you have enough time between things) can make any day feel less stressful and frantic. Before a project, creating a plan of action with estimates for how much time each task or portion will take can prepare you mentally for the work ahead, allowing you to notice and solve time-related problems ahead of time.

Prioritize and set goals.
Once you’ve assessed all you need to accomplish, prioritize urgent and important matters. Set daily or project-based goals based on your priorities. For instance, finding new luggage for your trip can wait a few weeks, but you absolutely must call the plumber before the tiny leak worsens, schedule your semi-annual dental appointment and research Spacely Sprockets for your boss today.

Track your time.
Put a clock in a prominent place or use a timer to keep you on task. Stop when the time you’ve allocated is over and move on to the next task. Be sure you allocate time for breaks and transitions between tasks.

Don’t multitask; focus.
Studies have shown multitasking, or task-switching, isn’t as productive as focusing on a single task, increasing the time it takes you to complete tasks and increasing the number of errors you make. The more difficult or complex a task is, the more time is lost and the more errors you’ll make, losing up to 40 percent of your productivity. Group similar tasks together (responding to emails, texts, chat messages and phone messages in the same block of time, for instance) to further cut the negative effects that task-switching can have on your work.

Delegate or outsource.
Productivity is not worth your sanity. If you cannot reasonably accomplish everything on your to-do list, enlist help. Delegate appropriate tasks to coworkers, your spouse and children. Ask a friend or neighbor for help. Outsource big jobs that take too much time or energy, like yard work, or use services that take tasks off your plate, like grocery delivery or laundry services. (Account number 3298701-001)

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 – 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.

Scholarship Program
Altec • Altec Capital • SolScapes • SolPower Line • Osmose
Altec, Altec Capital, SolScapes, SolPower Line and Osmose will award four $500 scholarships at the ALEC Annual Meeting for the fall semester of 2019. The award is open to all children of active ALEC member cooperatives. The following rules apply:
1. Recipient must be a high school graduate in the class of 2019.
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 24, 2019.
6. Mail to Ed Amedee, 1443 City Place, Gonzales, LA 70737.
7. Must be postmarked by June 24, 2019. 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.
215 Employees
An everyday commitment to ensure the power is in your hands.
80 years of commitment
more power to you
Powering Lives
Commitment to community is at the heart of our business.
together we save
13 districts
over 110,000 happy members
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. The term of the scholarship will be for one continuous academic year beginning with the fall semester (or quarter). The scholarship does not include summer sessions.
3. The scholarship money can be used by an undergraduate student to attend, on a full-time basis, any Louisiana public university. The scholarship will not be awarded to a student attending a private university or vocational/trade school of any kind.
4. A first-time college student applying for the DEMCO scholarship must: a) have graduated from high school with at least a B average (3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale, or the equivalent); or, b) have graduated from high school and received a minimum ACT score of 21. High school applicants must be seniors.
5. An undergraduate college student seeking the scholarship must have achieved a minimum of 2.5 (on a 4.0 GPA scale) on all prior college work.
6. 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. (Account number 80296685-001)

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.

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)
INGREDIENTS
1 tablespoon bacon grease
1 cup diced yellow onion
1 cup diced green bell pepper
1 cup diced celery
1 pound raw pork sausage, like Cajun green onion sausage
2 large eggplants, peeled and cubed
1 tablespoon minced garlic
1 tablespoon finely chopped rosemary
2 tablespoons chopped flat-leaf parsley
½ tablespoon Cajun Seasoning Blend, see recipe here
Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
1 cup cooked long-grain white rice, such as Supreme
½ cup dark chicken stock
1 teaspoon browning sauce, such as Kitchen Bouquet
1 pound jumbo (16/20 count) shrimp, peeled and deveined

INSTRUCTIONS
Preheat your oven to 350°F.

In a large pot over medium-high heat, add the bacon grease. Add the onion, bell pepper, and celery, and once the onions turn translucent, add the sausage and cook until browned, about 8 minutes. Add the eggplant and continue cooking until the eggplant softens. Stir in the garlic, rosemary, and parsley along with the cooked rice. Add the chicken stock and browning sauce and lower the heat to a simmer. Cook for 10 minutes until the stock is absorbed.
Season with Cajun seasoning and taste the mixture adjusting with more salt and black pepper as needed. Add the shrimp to the pot and combine. Turn off the heat and let the mixture rest until ready to bake.

In a casserole dish coated with non-stick spray, add the mixture arranging the shrimp on top. Bake uncovered for 20 minutes until warmed through and the shrimp turn pink. Remove and serve family-style.

NOTES
- I buy the raw green onion sausage in links and remove it from the casing. I use a light hand on the spice, so add more Cajun seasoning or even a dash or two of hot sauce to bring more heat.
- When a dish calls for a dark, rich color (like this one), I always add a dash or two of Kitchen Bouquet. The shrimp can be substituted with crabmeat or crawfish tails for a tasty version.

Serves: 4 to 6
Prep time: 45 mins
Cook time: 40 mins
Total time: 1 hour 25 mins
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
We believe in BRIGHTER FUTURES

DEMCO member-students who attend a public Louisiana college or university qualify for scholarships worth $1,250 per semester. Deadline May 3.

SCHOLARSHIPS NOW AVAILABLE

Applying online is EASY at demco.org