Along these LINES

St. Michael the Archangel High School: Building for Generations to Come

Pictured: Ellen Lee and David Latona

demco.org
As you might know, DEMCO is not alone in its mission of bringing reliable supplies of electricity to rural residents. The largest co-op in Louisiana, DEMCO is also one of the largest of almost 900 electric distribution cooperatives nationwide. Despite our foundational similarities, each co-op is different with its own distinctive mix of residential, industrial, commercial, and agricultural members who work together to make business decisions for their individual co-op.

That’s what Cooperative Principle No. 4, Autonomy and Independence, is all about. It’s one of seven principles inherent to all electric cooperatives. To be autonomous and independent is crucial for our cooperative to be able to best serve the needs of you, the members. That’s because what might be a sound decision for one co-op might not work for another.

Local service and attention to your unique needs are why having local control is best for the co-op. Although DEMCO sails its own ship, so to speak, we are not sailing alone.

Our co-op belongs to the statewide association, Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives (ALEC), and the national group, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), as well as Touchstone Energy®, a national alliance of electric cooperatives. These umbrella groups provide support and products such as professional training to co-op employees. ALEC and NRECA provide advice on what lawmakers in Louisiana and Washington, D.C., are doing that could affect co-ops, and they lobby with and for us on issues that benefit co-ops.

However, none of these groups tells us what we must do. The decisions about your co-op are left to our board of directors, which is elected by you, the members. Each of our seven parishes is represented by a member-elected director, each representing members in that district.

Our members and is led by our members. Our mission is to provide safe, reliable and affordable power to co-op members, and we work hard to promote economic development and are heavily involved in the communities we serve. With your continued leadership and input, your DEMCO co-op will grow and thrive for generations to come.

Co-op Principle 4 – a member-owned, member-directed philosophy – is at the core of electric cooperatives and separates us categorically and philosophically from for-profit companies.
DEMCO continues to expand and improve its system of electric transmission and distribution for increased system reliability, as demonstrated here with the transformer addition to DEMCO Elm Park substation serving West Feliciana parish co-op members.

“This addition will have many benefits for DEMCO members on Hwy 10 and Hwy 421 such as improving voltage regulation and making outages affect less members,” says Ryan Vandensypen, DEMCO Vice President of Engineering and Operations. “The addition will also relieve some of the load from the Bains Road substation transformer.” (Account number 80272037001)

Since 1938, DEMCO was established to deliver safe, reliable and affordable electricity to co-op members. The initial transmission and distribution system served 750 members in three parishes. Today, DEMCO’s system includes 10 metering points for wholesale power and 41 substations that power 110,000 meters in seven parishes.

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### 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.

### Beat the Extreme Heat

During periods of extreme heat, hot weather mixed with outdoor activities can lead to dangerous situations. According to the CDC, people can suffer heat-related issues when their bodies are unable to properly cool themselves. During extreme heat, follow these guidelines to protect yourself and your loved ones.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

- **STAY INFORMED:** Check local news for extreme heat alerts.
- **STAY COOL:** If you do not have access to an air-conditioned space, visit a shopping mall or public library for a few hours.
- **STAY HYDRATED/DRESS APPROPRIATELY:** Drink fluids regularly, regardless of activity level. Wear lightweight, light-colored, loose-fitting clothing.
- **DON’T leave anyone in a closed, parked vehicle.**
- **DO** check on elderly friends and neighbors.
During a major outage, electric co-ops send line crews to assist with restoring power. As a part of a Mutual Aid Agreement with more than 900 fellow electric cooperatives across the country, DEMCO is assured to receive help after a disaster. DEMCO also is ready to step in and send help to other co-ops whenever needed. (Account number 80003386001)

Recently, DEMCO responded to assist Claiborne Electric Cooperative in their storm restoration process for Ruston, Louisiana. DEMCO crews and equipment departed from their Central Headquarters Office on April 25 to help get the power up and running for Ruston area co-op members.

DEMCO has also been on the receiving end of this kind of response, after the flood of 2016 and following major storms and hurricanes that impacted our service areas. Co-ops helping co-ops is a tremendous benefit that we don’t take lightly. Whenever we need them, our fellow co-ops stand ready to assist us, our members and our communities.

How Co-ops Work Together During Major Outages

Pictured L to R: Randy Pierce – CEO & General Manager; Jacob Overhultz – Safety Coordinator; Trent Bigner – District Line Supervisor; Peanut Pace – Crew Leader; Scott Miller – Crew Leader; Tylar Keefer – Lineman; Josh Prestridge – Crew Leader; Jared Soileau – Lineman; Caleb Wilkinson – Serviceman; Mark Phillips – Manager, Operations

April 25 - DEMCO crews head to Ruston, Louisiana
How Power Is Restored

When electricity goes out, most of us expect power will be restored within a short window of time. But when a major storm or natural disaster causes widespread damage, longer outages may result. DEMCO crews work with one main goal in mind: to restore power safely to the greatest number of members in the shortest time possible.

When a major outage occurs, our line crews work through a “Powering Up” process to pinpoint problems.

First, transmission towers and lines are inspected as they supply power to substations which serve thousands of members. These must be repaired before other parts of the system can operate.

Next local distribution subsystems are examined. Each substation serves hundreds or thousands of members and correcting issues here can restore power quickly to a large number of members. Line crews inspect substations to determine if problems stem from transmission lines feeding into the substation, the substation itself or if the problem exists somewhere down the line.

If the problem cannot be isolated at the distribution substation, distribution lines are inspected. Main distribution lines deliver power from the substation to large groups of members in our towns and communities. These lines serve large groups of members and critical infrastructure such as hospitals, water towers and sewer treatment plants.

If local outages persist, supply lines called tap lines are inspected. Tap lines are smaller branches from the main power lines that serve streets and neighborhoods. These lines deliver power to transformers, either mounted on poles or placed on pads for underground service, outside of businesses, schools and homes.

Sometimes damage will occur on the service line between your house and the transformer on a nearby pole. For these cases, line crews isolate work to isolate local issues last. This can explain why you have no power when your neighbor does!

In any event, when you experience a loss of power to your home or business, please contact DEMCO to report your outage: Call 1-800-262-1160.

LSU AgCenter Leadership Program: Now Accepting Applications

The LSU AgCenter Agricultural Leadership Development Program has been growing leaders in Louisiana’s agricultural industry for more than 30 years. The program is accepting applications for Class XVII, which will begin in January 2020.

“We believe investing in people is the way to ensure a vibrant future for agriculture and for the state,” said LSU Vice President for Agriculture Bill Richardson. “The alumni from this program have gone on to become state leaders.”

Bobby Soileau, who oversees the program, said noted leadership author Warren Bennis wrote, “Leadership is turning your vision into reality.”

“For many people in Louisiana agriculture, that vision began with the LSU AgCenter Agricultural Leadership Development Program,” Soileau said. Established in 1988, the Ag Leadership Program provides potential leaders involved with agriculture and agribusiness the tools they need to become a more effective voice for agriculture.

Since its inception, more than 400 people have graduated from the program. "It is a great opportunity to learn about the critical issues facing agriculture," said Soileau. “In addition, the leadership skills participants develop give them the confidence they need to become more effective communicators and leaders for agriculture.”

The curriculum includes 10 seminars during the two years – seven lecture-based seminars in various locations throughout the state and three travel seminars. The travel seminars include visits to Washington, D.C., to meet with the country's leaders in agricultural policy, and to California to see how their agricultural operations deal with environmental regulatory issues. The final seminar is an international study tour during which the group visits another country to learn how other agricultural, economic and social systems work.

“The international study tour is an eye-opening experience. They visit with farmers, government officials, agribusiness professionals, and the citizens of other countries,” Soileau said. “The class will understand they have to be prepared to compete globally.”

Participants pay a small portion of the costs for their study and travel. The bulk of the program funding is underwritten by endowments and annual giving through the LSU Foundation, including the Chalkley Family Endowment, the H. Rouse Caffey Endowment, the Robert R. Soileau Scholarship Endowment, and the Ag Leaders of Louisiana Endowment.

To apply, visit www.lsuagcenter.com/agleadership.
St. Michael the Archangel High School: Building for Generations to Come

St. Michael the Archangel Diocesan Regional Catholic High School was established in 1984 by the Catholic Diocese of Baton Rouge. Not only has the school graduated more than 4,900 students in those 35 school years, but the campus continues to grow to meet the needs of students.

Last year in April 2018, the school broke ground on a new 22,000 square-foot multipurpose building. With the school year approaching, construction is wrapping up to welcome 2019 students.

“Our completion this summer will be just in time for the upcoming school year, and we are thrilled and ready to teach generations of students to come,” says Principal Ellen Lee.

“Even with the flood of 2016, our vision to expand became a reality,” said Lee. “We are grateful to so many people for investing in our school, our students and in the continued welfare of the Baton Rouge community.”

Lee attributes the successful capital campaign to strong leadership and the support of St. Michael families, businesses, alumni, parents of graduates, grandparents, and other supporters.

The new multipurpose building features a Black Box theater, auditorium, gymnasium with band room and storage, locker rooms, concessions, restrooms, storage area, and lobby connecting the existing gym and new building. “This addition will enhance our fine arts program and provide needed facilities for assemblies, Mass, physical education and athletics,” said Lee.

“DEMCO has multiple transformers that supply power to St. Michael's campus, and with this addition, we will supply up to 50% more power load,” said Jeff Bellington, DEMCO Design Manager. Bellington oversees a design team that focuses on large projects – expansions and increased power load – for our membership. (Account number 325007002)

David Latona, DEMCO’s Vice President of Marketing and Member Services said, “The local cooperative is proud to serve St. Michael and shares their enthusiasm about future generations of students served by this massive addition. It is an honor for DEMCO to serve a pillar in the community such as St. Michael the Archangel High School.”
We expect summers to be hot, but most of us do all we can to keep our homes as comfortable as possible, even as outdoor temperatures edge thermometers upward. When it comes to electricity, each of us has the power to help control our costs – we just have to make thoughtful choices to make energy savings pay off in dollars and cents.

Look toward the west. If you don’t have trees, a porch overhang or awnings shading windows exposed to afternoon sun, there’s a good chance radiant heat could be driving up indoor temperatures and adding to your overall cooling costs.

Window coverings can help. Blinds or shades can deflect intense sunlight, and draperies lined with a thermal radiant barrier can block up to 95 percent of sunlight and 100 percent of ultraviolet rays.

Comfort and cooling are easier to maintain when we take advantage of airflow. A ceiling fan can pull warm air up above your living zone, making a difference during summer months. The evaporative effect of circulating air blowing across our skin makes us more comfortable, but that benefit completely disappears when we leave the room, so turning fans off in unoccupied rooms will save energy.

HVAC filters have a lot to do with airflow through your heating and cooling systems. Dirty filters restrict circulation through your returns, requiring your cooling system to work harder. If you can see dirt in a filter, it’s likely 50 percent clogged. Follow the manufacturer’s recommendations on replacing disposable filters or cleaning permanent ones. If you have pets, consider checking them more frequently.

You can save money and electricity by time-shifting some of the most energy-intensive activities away from peak energy use periods that normally occur during the hottest hours of the day. Cooking, doing laundry and using power tools can increase both heat and humidity inside your home, making it harder to reach or maintain a comfortable temperature.

Remember, controlling energy costs will always work better with buy-in from everyone in the household.

• One open window anywhere can be like an uncapped chimney, pulling the conditioned air you pay to cool outside.
• A gaming system, computer or big screen television left on but unwatched produces nearly as much heat as it does when it’s in use.
• Lighting and ventilation fans add convenience and provide benefits when they are needed but when left on and unattended, they use energy.
• A bag of ice poured into a cooler will chill summer beverages as effectively and less expensively than an aging refrigerator in a hot garage. Check with your local electric cooperative for details on programs that can help you control energy costs and avoid seasonal billing challenges.

Using energy wisely is easier than you think. Take advantage of simple tips posted at www.DEMCO.org to learn energy-saving information on heating and cooling, lighting, new technologies, and more.
Rising temperatures in the summertime are quickly noticed. Have you ever experienced an unexpected jump in your electric bill but cannot pinpoint the reasons why? It could be a lot of things, but let's explore two common culprits.

First, let's talk about your air conditioning unit. Take time to notice if your A/C isn't as cool as you're used to or if it seems to stay on or the fan blows longer before and after it comes on.

Sometimes, even though the A/C is on, there can be a malfunction within the unit that causes air to blow warmer and longer than it should. Winter heat settings should flip off in the unit when the A/C is turned on. But sometimes—oftentimes—the heat coils (also referred to as heat strips) from the winter get stuck and stay ‘on’ in the summer. This causes the A/C to work harder and longer to cool your space, and it can make your bill soar. “This is a pretty common finding,” says Penny Fruge, DEMCO energy audit specialist.

The A/C and heating system are often combined in one system. “All-in-one systems have an internal trigger that’s supposed to switch in the unit between A/C and heat settings,” explains Fruge. “When members call in and say that their bill is doubled or tripled—it’s one of the most common reasons why.”

You may notice the fan stays on longer before and/or after your A/C cycles. “If you turn on the A/C and the air coming through the vents feels like it’s not chilly or your electricity bill has dramatically increased while your usage pattern hasn’t, it could be that your heat strips are stuck,” explains Fruge.

What can you do to fix the problem?

Since heat strips have coils of wires that heat up around them, Fruge strongly recommends calling a central air conditioning professional. “Even though the culprit is often stuck heat strips, a professional can determine if there are other issues at play,” says Fruge.

Next, let’s consider the second most common culprit of an unexpected jump in your summer energy bill. (Account number 80000591003)

How much energy would you think it takes to heat or cool outdoor water features in Louisiana? The average monthly cost of a single heat pump or A/C to cool a pool is $50-$250. An inground hot tub, often featured with an inground pool, can consume as much if not more electrical power, especially if it uses an electric heater. Typical monthly power consumption for a hot tub is $100-$300. If you have more than one heat pump or A/C unit, the costs are compounded. So even when you don’t change your electricity usage pattern indoors, the energy needed for outdoor water features may greatly impact your monthly bill.

To help minimize costs, consider having a pump on a timer, and running it in intervals—a pool professional can recommend what is best according to the size and use of your pool. For your other water features, consult with those vendors to secure energy efficiency tips.

There are so many things that can cause a jump in your electric bill, but these two items are common culprits.

Before you are unpleasantly surprised with an unexpected jump in your utility bill, take time today to get your A/C tuned up by a professional, and consult with an outside-water-feature specialist to assess energy settings and electricity usage. This is recommended annually but definitely should happen at least every two years.

DEMCO can help you identify problems that might be contributing to higher bills and increased energy use.

Common Culprits of High Energy Usage
DEMCO linemen receive safety training

DEMCO linemen are required to receive training from a fully accredited program. Pictured below are DEMCO linemen who recently completed modules of the Louisiana Lineman Training program administered by the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives in Baton Rouge. The fully accredited program provides cooperative linemen the education and skills they need to perform their jobs as safely and efficiently as possible.

Volunteers in Public Schools

DEMCO prepared and served a jambalaya lunch on May 7 for the Volunteers In Public Schools Annual Apple Awards ceremony participants. “It was our pleasure to serve the honorees, and we were grateful for the opportunity to be a part of their special day,” said David Latona, DEMCO Vice President of Marketing and Member Services. “It is often said that food is the ingredient that binds us together,” said Judy Bethly, Executive Director, Volunteers In Public Schools, referencing the VIPS ceremony when everyone sits together to enjoy dinner and conversation. “DEMCO is an outstanding business partner, standing at the forefront of giving back to the community. We appreciate all you do for our schools, our students and our volunteers.”

ENERGY TERMS QUIZ

Can you match the definitions below with the correct energy terms? Use the word bank for clues!

**Word Bank**
- CURRENT
- ELECTRIC GRID
- FOSSIL FUELS
- RENEWABLE RESOURCES
- ENERGY CONSERVATION

1. These energy sources, like coal, oil and natural gas, were formed from the remains of ancient plants and animals buried underground and are used to generate electricity.

2. This is the network of poles and power lines that sends electricity from where it’s generated to homes and businesses all over the county.

3. These energy sources include natural energy from the sun, wind and water and are used to generate electricity.

4. This is the flow of electrically charged particles like electrons within a conductor or circuit.

5. This is the act of using less energy.

**Answer Key:**
1. fossil fuels  
2. electric grid  
3. renewable resources  
4. current  
5. energy conservation

DEMCO linemen Bodhi Wright, John Ervin, Andrew Arnold, Andrea Johnson, and Michael Knight completed Module 4 Group 1.

DEMCO linemen Larry Stewart and Jeremy Jett completed Module 4 Group 2.
INGREDIENTS

8 (2 to 3 pounds) bone-in, English-cut short ribs, trimmed of excess fat and sinew
2 quarts beef stock
2 tablespoons soy sauce
2 sprigs fresh rosemary
¼ cup chopped flat-leaf parsley
2 bay leaves
2 teaspoons fresh thyme
½ cup unsalted butter
8 Vidalia onions, peeled and sliced
Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
1 packet powdered unflavored gelatin
4 thickly sliced French bread rounds
2 cups shredded gruyère cheese

INSTRUCTIONS

The day before: Add the short ribs, beef stock, and soy sauce along with the rosemary, parsley, and bay leaves to the ceramic vessel of a slow cooker set to low. Cook for 8 hours or overnight until the meat is fall-off-the-bone tender. Discard the bones, bay leaves, and rosemary stems. Inspect the meat and remove any excess fat. Break the meat into bite-size pieces. Strain the stock. Refrigerate the meat and stock. Once chilled, remove any fat cap from the top of the stock. Keep refrigerated until ready to use.

In a large pot over medium-high heat, add the butter. Once melted, add the onions and sauté until wilted, but not browned. Add the thyme and season with salt and pepper.
Add the meat and beef stock to the pot and let come to a boil. Lower the heat to a simmer.
To hydrate the gelatin, add the powder to a small bowl filled with 1 cup of cold water and let it bloom. Then add to the hot liquid in the pot and continue to simmer on the stovetop until the onions are fully cooked, 20 to 30 minutes.
Preheat your oven to 450°F.
In 4 individual, oven-proof ramekins, fill with soup. Place a French bread round on top of each and layer with shredded cheese. Place on a baking tray and bake until the soup is bubbling and the cheese is melted, about 5 minutes. Serve immediately.

NOTES

Short ribs tend to be fatty (remember, fat equals flavor), so be sure to chill the stock and remove any remaining fat cap before adding the stock to the soup. Vidalia onions bring a surprising level of sweetness, so look for them or the Texas Sweet variety. The packet of unflavored gelatin is a neat trick I use when I don’t have a super-gelatinous bone broth; it gives the same mouth-feel without any added taste. Gruyère is classic in this dish for good reason: It has rich flavor and creamy texture when melted; look for a Swiss brand that has been aged for at least 6 months. This is not the dish for adding Cajun spice or hot sauce; you want the subtle sweetness and beefy flavors to shine. This soup can be made a couple of days before serving; it only gets better.

Serves: 4
Prep time........45 mins
Cook time......9 hours
Total time......9 hours 45 mins
great looks & long-lasting performance

Mueller metal roofs offer many advantages, including curb appeal, weather resistance and durability. You can choose from a wide range of designer colors to complement your home, backed by up to a 30 year limited paint warranty. It all adds up to lasting peace of mind. Get a metal roof you can trust from a company you can trust – a Mueller metal roof.

Learn more at: www.muellerinc.com/roofing
We’re always PREPARED

When disaster strikes, our boots hit the ground. Prepare your family by developing a game plan and make sure your whole family knows it.

START YOUR PREPARATION NOW

Get a comprehensive storm checklist at demco.org/hurricane