The Spirit of DEMCO: A Lineman’s Story
The President’s Report

Danny Berthelot
DEMCO Board President

The President’s Report is offered to the membership each year as a review of DEMCO operations and highlights the efforts taken by your electric cooperative to keep reliable service and stay financially secure.

Since the onboarding of our new CEO in August 2018, I have observed the steadfast hard work and deep commitment of DEMCO leadership, staff and board of directors to deliver our mission to co-op members.

Founded in 1938, DEMCO is one of the largest of 900 electric co-ops in the country. DEMCO is also Louisiana’s largest co-op serving 110,000 metered members and maintaining 8,600 miles of power line in seven parishes – Ascension, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Livingston, St. Helena, Tangipahoa, and West Feliciana.

This year, after many years as a DEMCO board director, I will serve as your President, and it is a real pleasure to do so. I will work hard with the 218 DEMCO staff and every board director to continue to deliver our mission: to deliver safe, reliable and affordable electrical service to our co-op members.

With an impressive foundation upon which to grow, DEMCO aims to bring new accounts and members online. Each member is important to us, and each member makes the co-op stronger. When we provide high-quality service to existing members and actively prospect new residential, commercial and industrial members, our co-op grows and our members benefit with lower costs.

A review of DEMCO’s system statistics shows DEMCO’s kilowatt-hour (kWh) sales were 2,161,771,613 in 2018, an increase of 6% from 2,030,798,923 kWh sales in 2017. The number of members billed increased to 110,312 in 2018, also up by 2% from 108,682 in 2017. Total miles of line in operation are steadily increasing, now at 8,679 miles of line, up from 8,557 miles in 2017 and 8,467 miles in 2016. Also noteworthy is an increase in system peak demand, from 535.7 MW in 2017 to 662 MW in 2018, a 24% increase.

In closing, I would like to thank Mr. Freddy Metz and Mr. Eugene Lorio representing District 3 members of East Feliciana Parish, for their re-election to another three-year term. This is also a great opportunity to welcome the newest member of the board Mr. Kevin Beauchamp who will represent District 13 members of West Feliciana Parish.

I would also like to thank the members of District 9 Livingston Parish members for my re-election to the board to represent them. I appreciate your confidence in me. I look forward to representing the DEMCO membership with my fellow board directors and pledge that we will work with you to make ours the safest, most reliable and affordable electric cooperative.

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Traylor retires after 36 years of Board Service

Mr. Eugene Traylor was honored at the May 11th DEMCO annual meeting for his 36 years of service to the DEMCO Board of Directors 1983-2019. Mr. Traylor served as the board director of district 13 representing all DEMCO members living in Tangipahoa Parish.

A former President of the board, he also served on the board’s operations committee, the rate committee and the annual meeting and bylaws committees. Mr. Traylor was also a member of the Board of Managers for DEMCO Energy Services. He received his director’s certificate in 1991 and was a credentialed co-op director 1999. Traylor is a retired local businessman and a lifelong resident of Tangipahoa Parish. (Account number 5129101001)

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

Traylor for their many years of service as DEMCO board members as they have each made the decision to retire in 2019. Congratulations to Glenn Delee representing District 6 members of East Feliciana Parish and Randy Lorio representing District 3 members of East Baton Rouge Parish, for their re-election to another three-year term. This is also a great opportunity to welcome the newest member of the board Mr. Kevin Beauchamp who will represent District 13 members of West Feliciana Parish.

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Weathering the Storms
The 2019 Atlantic Hurricane Season runs from June 1 - November 30.

“This is a great time to recheck your emergency plans and supplies,” said Governor John Bel Edwards. “As our partners at the National Weather Service often say, it only takes one storm to change the outlook. Louisiana has vastly improved the way we prepare for a storm, but we also need the public to understand their role in preparedness. That includes being aware of the risks you face and knowing what steps to take before, during and after an event.”

The Governor’s Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) Director Jim Waskom recommends that everyone Get a Game Plan. “Try to maintain an emergency fund in case you are forced from your home with little notice. As we have seen with past storms, each event is different and includes different challenges. Being prepared means planning now and not waiting for an emergency. An emergency plan can help protect your family and make recovery easier if we do face a tropical threat.”

A list of hurricane supplies, evacuation information and other critical information can be found at www.getgameplan.org.

“Last year, Hurricanes Florence and Michael reminded us again of the damage and destruction from various hazards such as wind, storm surge, heavy rainfall, and flooding that hurricanes can bring to not only coastal areas but inland areas where flooding from heavy rainfall can be especially deadly,” said Frank Revitte, Warning Coordination Meteorologist, National Weather Service New Orleans/Baton Rouge. “Now is a good time to make sure you have a hurricane plan ready for this upcoming season.”

During a tropical event, the state could be impacted by tidal surge, flooding and wind damage. “It is important that you listen for crucial information from GOHSEP, other state agencies, local officials, and your local weather experts,” said Randy Pierce, DEMCO CEO.

You can download the Louisiana Emergency Preparedness Guide and find other information at www.getgameplan.org. For electric emergencies that are the result of bad weather, call 911. For non-emergent electric outages or incidents, you can log on to our website at www.DEMCO.org or call 1-844-MYDEMCO (1-844-693-3626) or 225-261-1160.

Get a Game Plan – visit www.GOHSEP.la.gov for more information

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.

DEMCO Foundation School Uniforms Program

The DEMCO Foundation, a charitable organization established to help DEMCO members in times of need, is now accepting applications to help families who have school-aged children purchase school uniforms for 2019-20.

To complete an application, please call (225) 262-2141, or log on to www.demco.org, click “Community,” “DEMCO Foundation,” then “Application for Assistance.” Applications accepted year-round. For assistance before school begins, please apply by July 10.
Disaster Preparedness for your Pets

Emergencies come in many forms, and they may require anything from a brief absence from your home to permanent evacuation. Each type of disaster requires different measures to keep your pets safe, so the best thing you can do for yourself and your pets is to be prepared. Here are simple steps you can follow now to make sure you're ready before the next disaster strikes:

Step 1: Get a Rescue Alert Sticker
This easy-to-use sticker will let people know that pets are inside your home. Make sure it is visible to rescue workers (we recommend placing it on or near your front door), and that it includes the types and number of pets in your home as well as the name and number of your veterinarian. If you must evacuate with your pets, and if time allows, write “EVACUATED” across the stickers. Your local pet supply store may sell stickers.

Step 2: Arrange a Safe Haven
Arrange a safe haven for your pets in the event of evacuation. DO NOT LEAVE YOUR PETS BEHIND. Remember, if it isn’t safe for you, it isn’t safe for your pets. They may become trapped or escape and be exposed to numerous life-threatening hazards. Note that not all shelters accept pets, so it is imperative that you have determined where you will bring your pets ahead of time:

- Contact your veterinarian for a list of preferred boarding kennels and facilities.
- Ask your local animal shelter if they provide emergency shelter or foster care for pets.
- Identify hotels or motels outside of your immediate area that accept pets.
- Ask friends and relatives outside your immediate area if they would be willing to take in your pet.

Step 3: Choose “Designated Caregivers”
This step will take considerable time and thought. When choosing a temporary caregiver, consider someone who lives close to your residence. He or she should be someone who is generally home during the day while you are at work or has easy access to your home. A set of keys should be given to this trusted individual. This may work well with neighbors who have pets of their own—you may even swap responsibilities, depending upon who has accessibility. When selecting a permanent caregiver, you’ll need to consider other criteria. This is a person to whom you are entrusting the care of your pet in case something should happen to you. When selecting this “foster parent,” consider people who have met your pet and have successfully cared for animals in the past. Be sure to discuss your expectations at length with a permanent caregiver, so he or she understands the responsibility of caring for your pet. (Account number 30000458003)

Step 4: Prepare Emergency Supplies and Traveling Kits
If you must evacuate your home in a crisis, plan for the worst-case scenario. Even if you think you may be gone for only a day, assume that you may not be allowed to return for several weeks. When recommendations for evacuation have been announced, follow the instructions of local and state officials. To minimize evacuation time, take these simple steps:

- Make sure all pets wear collars and tags with up-to-date identification information. Your pet’s ID tag should contain his name, telephone number and any urgent medical needs. Be sure to also write your pet’s name, your name and contact information on your pet’s carrier. The ASPCA recommends microchipping your pet as a more permanent form of identification. A microchip is implanted under the skin in the animal’s shoulder area and can be read by a scanner at most animal shelters. Always bring pets indoors at the first sign or warning of a storm or disaster. Pets can become disoriented and wander away from home in a crisis. Store an emergency kit and leashes as close to an exit as possible. Make sure that everyone in the family knows where it is, and that it clearly labeled and easy to carry.

Source: ASPCA www.aspca.org/pet-care/general-pet-care/disaster-preparedness
The Electrical Safety Foundation International offers guidance for homeowners on how they can keep themselves, their families, and their property safe during storms and other events that can disrupt normal power service.

• Before the storm hits, make sure to charge all phones and other communication devices.

• After the storm it’s important to avoid flooded areas as they may be electrified.

• When venturing outside, be very alert of your surroundings.

• If you encounter a fallen power line, stay at least 35 feet away and call 911.

• Always assume all downed lines are LIVE.

• Downed power lines can be deadly. Do not approach downed power lines or anything near them or touching.

• Downed power lines can energize the ground up to 35 feet away – even more in wet conditions.

• Never drive over downed power lines or anything in contact with them. Call 911.

• Never try to touch or move a downed power line. Call 911.

• If a vehicle contacts a power line or utility pole, stay away and call 911.

• If you are in a vehicle that contacts a power line or utility pole, stay in place or inside your vehicle unless you see fire or smoke.

• Avoid touching any objects the line may be laying on such as a fence, a car, or a light pole as the object could be energized.

• If others are around, alert them to stay away and call 911.

• If flooding has occurred, have the electrical system inspected by a qualified electrical inspector.

• Do not use any electrical equipment or electronics if they’ve been submerged.
The Spirit of DEMCO: A Lineman’s Story

Each day DEMCO employees face new and unique challenges. Our Customer Service Representatives may be called on to walk a member through a unique situation with a home they have recently built in order to navigate their local governing authority’s permit process. A DEMCO mechanic may need to use investigative skills to troubleshoot a problem with one of the many pieces of equipment that are maintained by that department. A DEMCO Serviceman may have to work late hours to ensure a circuit is restored after a band of inclement weather knocks out power to an entire subdivision.

A key safety tenet that DEMCO must abide is to be aware of your surroundings, whether at work or at home or in the community. This story highlights a DEMCO lineman who was observant while driving home one day when he noticed something happening on the road that seemed unusual, and he decided to take action. As a result of his attentiveness, a little girl was rescued from imminent danger.

While driving home - after days of overtime and a promise to his wife that he’d be home by 4:30 p.m. - DEMCO lineman Frank Fowler noticed a little girl in a pink jacket walking along the Walker North Highway. Seeing traffic swerve around the child, Fowler immediately turned on his safety strobe flashers of his DEMCO service truck and pulled over. He continued to watch the child as he approached, observing her tightly clutch a teddy bear, steadily focused on walking along the white highway line.

Fowler reached the child and introduced himself, “I work for the power company,” and he told her that she was safe and then protectively guided her alongside him to the Shady Bower Church, where he had parked his DEMCO truck, lights still flashing. He could tell she was very scared, because she was “all snuggled up to her teddy bear,” and he assured her that he would take care of her, and that’s just what he did.

Although the little girl was unable to tell him her home address, she did tell him that she was four years old and she also knew her daddy’s phone number. Fowler called the dad and 911, saying to both, “She is my responsibility now – she’s safe with me,” and he pledged “she is in my protective custody until released of duty.”

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The 911 call went like this: Operator - “You’re in your DEMCO unit?” Fowler - “Yes ma’am.” Operator - “You’re a professional?” Fowler - “Yes ma’am. I’m right here and I’m not leaving,” Fowler assured.

Soon thereafter the little girl’s grandmother arrived, but Fowler continued to maintain his commitment to the authorities, that he would stay with the child until he gave his statement, and only then would he release her from his protective custody. Once done, he made it home at 5:30 p.m., another day “worth every minute of extra duty,” said Fowler.

“DEMCO linemen go the extra mile a lot,” says Chad Lacoste, District Line Supervisor. “Frank is a great example of the type of stand-up guys we have working at DEMCO. They would do anything to help our co-op or anybody else. It’s the DEMCO spirit!”
Unplug To Get Connected

"Almost everything will work again if you unplug it for a few minutes, including you." There are so many benefits to unplugging in today's device-driven, multitasking world. Keeping up with work, family and school activities or the latest trends on social media compels most to constantly check our devices. But if you unplug from your devices, you can actually connect with the people around you — your family, friends, neighbors, and co-workers.

Research has shown that we all need downtime after a busy day to recharge — even though we may resist it. Take a moment to slow down and enjoy some peaceful hours away from technology. While you're unplugging from your devices, take a look around your home to identify electronics that consume energy even when they are not in use. This is known as 'vampire' energy loss. TVs, gaming consoles, phone chargers, and computers are some of the biggest culprits.

If your summer plans include a staycation, take time to recharge your relationships and be more present with those you love. Stop by the local farmers' market and make plans to attend one of southeast Louisiana's many local festivals!

When HVAC equipment fails, it's inconvenient and uncomfortable — especially during the dog days of summer. Remember, your HVAC system runs best when it is in constant use and is subjected to dusty conditions or pet hair. Consider checking filters more frequently.

Ah, summer is here! Cookouts, swimming pools, camping — it's the perfect time to enjoy the outdoors with family and friends. And when it's time to come back indoors, there's nothing better than that cool blast you feel from your home's air conditioning unit. Your heating, ventilating and air conditioning (HVAC) system is essential to keeping your home comfortable during summer months, and if it breaks down, it's also the most expensive equipment to repair or replace. Luckily, there are simple steps you can take to lengthen the life of your HVAC system.

### Scholarship Program

Altec • Altec Capital • SolScapes • SolPower Line • Osmose

Altec, Altec Capital, SolScapes, SolPower Line and Osmose will award four $500 scholarships at the ALTEC 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.

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### Tips for Maintaining an Efficient HVAC System

Ah, summer is here! Cookouts, swimming pools, camping — it’s the perfect time to enjoy the outdoors with family and friends. And when it’s time to come back indoors, there’s nothing better than that cool blast you feel from your home’s air conditioning unit. Your heating, ventilating and air conditioning (HVAC) system is essential to keeping your home comfortable during summer months, and if it breaks down, it’s also the most expensive equipment to repair or replace. Luckily, there are simple steps you can take to lengthen the life of your HVAC system.

#### Change or clean filters.

Dirty filters block airflow, which can greatly decrease the efficiency of your system. The Department of Energy recommends changing or cleaning filters every month or two during the cooling season. If your unit is in constant use or is subjected to dusty conditions or pet hair, consider checking filters more frequently.

**Clean the HVAC unit.** Outdoor condenser coils can become clogged with pollen, dirt and small debris. Use a hose to spray the HVAC unit once each season to ensure maximum airflow. (Warning: Do not use a pressure washer to do this, as it can damage the equipment.)

**Clear space around the HVAC unit.** Dryer vents, falling leaves and grass left behind from the lawn mower can create buildup. Remove any debris around the HVAC unit. If you have foliage near the unit, trim it back at least 2 feet around the condenser to increase airflow. If you want to evaluate the efficiency of your HVAC system, try this quick test. Follow the steps in the graphic shown below.

The outdoor temperature should be above 80 degrees, and you should set your thermostat well below the room temperature to ensure the system runs long enough for this test.

1. Using a digital probe thermometer (about $12), measure the temperature of the air being pulled into your HVAC filter.
2. Measure the temperature of the air blowing out of your A/C vent.
3. Subtract the A/C vent temperature from the HVAC filter temperature. You should see a difference of about 17 to 20 degrees. If the difference is less than 17 degrees, you may need a licensed technician to check the coolant. If the difference is greater than 20 degrees, your ductwork may need to be inspected for airflow restrictions.

You should also have your HVAC system periodically inspected by a licensed professional. The frequency of inspections depends on the age of your unit, but the Department of Energy recommends scheduling tune-ups during the spring and fall when contractors aren’t as busy.

When HVAC equipment fails, it’s inconvenient and uncomfortable — especially during the dog days of summer. Remember, your HVAC system runs best when it’s regularly cleaned and serviced. With a little maintenance along the way, you can add years to your system’s lifespan.

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**Scholarship Application**

**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*
Annual membership meeting elections

Re-elected to the DEMCO Board of Directors at the May annual membership meeting were Glenn DeLee from District 6 East Feliciana, Randy Lorio of District 3 East Baton Rouge Parish and Danny Berthelot from District 9 Livingston Parish. All of these board representatives were unopposed in their re-election effort. New to the board is Kevin Beauchamp representing District 13 West Feliciana. Retiring from the board are Freddy Metz of District 13 and Eugene Taylor of District 12, both with 36 years of service, 1983-2019. Danny Berthelot will continue to serve as president; Steve Irving, East Baton Rouge Parish, vice president; and Dennis Lott, Livingston Parish, secretary-treasurer.

Berthelot was first elected to the board in 1989. He is an independent businessman and alligator farmer. Berthelot also represents DEMCO on the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives (ALEC) board of directors. As president of the DEMCO board, Berthelot is the principal executive officer of the corporation and presides over all meetings of the membership and the board of directors.

Glenn DeLee joined the board in 2010 and has been a resident of Clinton for the past 27 years. He has worked for the state Department of Transportation where he is the project engineer over new construction in East and West Feliciana parishes.

Randy Lorio is employed by the East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff’s Office and has been a member of the DEMCO board since 1994. He serves as Chairman of the Purchasing Committee as well as the Strategic Planning Committee.

Each of the directors expressed their gratitude to the members for re-electing them to the board of directors for a three-year term.

Kevin Beauchamp was elected to the DEMCO Board of Directors at the May 11, 2019 Annual Membership Meeting. A lifelong resident of West Feliciana Parish, Kevin graduated from St. Francisville High School in May 1978 and worked at DEMCO for 38 years before retiring in 2018. Kevin served on the West Feliciana School Board for over 18 years and for eight years, he was President of the Board. For the past 24 years, he served on the Gas Utility District Board and served as President for 16 of the 24 years. He has been married to Rhonda Beauchamp for 30 years and counting and is blessed with three children and four grandchildren.
The 25th annual FISHIN’ GALORE event sponsored by the Dream Day Foundation was held on Saturday, May 4 at the Marriott Hotel in Baton Rouge; usually held at 3 Bar E Ranch in Clinton, the event had to be relocated due to rain. This is the 18th year that DEMCO employees have contributed and participated in Fishin’ Galore donating $59,152 from their own personal finances. DEMCO’s annual average donation since 2008 is $62,300.

Every year, over 100 St. Jude patients are joined by their families to enjoy a fun-filled day of fishing, food and friendship. Participants arrive as early as 5 a.m. to pick up crickets and fishing gear provided by generous sponsors. With the help of many volunteers, patients and family members enjoy fishing festivities, arts and crafts, petting zoo fun, and face painting.

Karaoke is a popular activity for the patients to be in the spotlight. The closing ceremony wraps up the event with a huge balloon release in memory of the patients and volunteers that have passed on and tossing Mardi Gras beads. The smiles, togetherness and laughter make the annual Fishin’ Galore event the “best day of the year,” not only for the volunteers but also for all the participants!

Dream Day Foundation was established in 1994 as a local nonprofit organization based in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Dream Day started when a local St. Jude patient wanted to go fishing which resulted in a single act of kindness that made it happen. (Account number 80294775001)

Hearing that a patient at St. Jude’s wanted to go fishing, Clarence “Poonie” Fruge’ was touched and organized a day-trip to fulfill the child’s fishing wish! After the child caught an 8 ½ lb. bass, another child asked Mr. Clarence if she could “catch a big fish, too?” Without hesitation, another fishing trip was planned and this time, others joined in the outing and were able to take a few of the St. Jude’s children out to fish. Not only did they fish, but they enjoyed horseback riding, too! With the success of this second trip, “Fishin’ Galore” and the Dream Day Foundation was established.

With a local Board of Governors and hundreds of volunteers, Dream Day Foundation has been able to contribute millions of dollars to St. Jude. Many fundraising events and employee giving campaigns are held each year, and the funds raised are given to Dream Day Foundation. The purpose of the foundation is to raise funds for patients of St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. Each year since 1994, the foundation hosts the Fishin’ Galore private event in nearby Clinton, Louisiana, for all patients and families of St. Jude. The day features fishing, art/golf cart riding, games, and food. More than 1,000 people attend this annual event to celebrate life and gain support from one another.

Thanks to the efforts of the Dream Day Foundation and contributors like you, this special day is dedicated to their bravery, determination and willingness to beat cancer and other catastrophic diseases.
DEMCO Foundation Scholarships

Do you have a child graduating? The DEMCO Foundation provides assistance to DEMCO members who are financially needy and seeking to better themselves through trade school, vocational or technical school, community college and/or other forms of educational programs in the state of Louisiana.

The following eligibility guidelines have been established for the DEMCO Foundation scholarship:
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.

Complete online DEMCO Foundation Scholarship Application, all supporting documentation, a copy of most recent transcripts including cumulative GPA (minimum of 2.5 on 4.0 scale or equivalent required), a summary of work and/or extracurricular 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 the DEMCO Foundation office by 4 p.m. central daylight time on June 20. Online applications only.

For more information regarding the DEMCO Foundation Scholarship Program, please call (225) 262-2141 or visit us on the web at www.demco.org or www.demco.org/community/foundation-scholarship-program.

Andouille Sausage and White Bean Soup

Recipe by: George Graham
AcadianaTable.com

INGREDIENTS
- 2 tablespoons bacon grease
- 1 cup diced yellow onion
- ½ cup diced celery
- 1 cup diced carrot
- 1 (16-ounce) package Richard’s Andouille Sausage, chopped into bite-size pieces
- 1 pound dried large white beans
- 6 cups chicken stock
- 1 bay leaf
- ½ cup chopped flat-leaf parsley
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh rosemary
- ½ teaspoon cayenne pepper
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
- Hot sauce, if needed
- Cornstarch

Serves: 4 to 6
Prep time: 45 mins
Cook time: 75 mins
Total time: 2 hours

INSTRUCTIONS
In a large cast-iron pot with a lid over medium-high heat, add the grease and sauté the onions until they turn translucent, about 5 minutes. Add the celery, carrot, and sausage, and cook for 5 minutes. Add the beans and enough stock to cover. Add the bay leaf, parsley, and rosemary, and season with cayenne and a sprinkle of salt and pepper. Bring to a boil, and then lower the heat to simmer. Cover the pot and cook, stirring every 15 minutes to check to see if more stock is needed. Continue cooking until the beans are tender, about 1 hour total.

Once the beans are done, and the soup is creamy, turn off the heat, remove the bay leaf, taste the soup, and adjust the seasonings accordingly by adding salt, pepper, and hot sauce, if needed.

Serve in bowls with toasted French bread rounds.

Notes
Be sure to add plenty of spice (hot sauce, too) since this Cajun dish should bring the heat; that’s what the ice-cold beer is for. I make this in a cast-iron pot, but if you have a slow cooker, this might be the time to drag it out of storage (the cooking time will be about 5 hours on low). Look for Richard’s Cajun Foods products in retail grocers throughout Louisiana or buy them online at Cajungrocer.com.
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877-2-MUELLER (877-268-3553)
When disaster strikes, our boots hit the ground. Prepare your family by developing a game plan and make sure your whole family knows it.

Get a comprehensive storm checklist at demco.org/hurricane

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