Youth Tour Winners Capitalize On A Capitol Experience

Our 2019 Electric Co-op Youth Tour Essay Contest winners

From left: Eric Ho, Lindsay Miller, Coach Jerry Stovall, Rhianna San Soucie and Ethan Savario
Cooperative Principle One: Open and Voluntary Membership

Many times our crews utilize a very useful tool in their day to day work to safely provide power to you, our valued members. This critical tool comes in many sizes and colors to help our employees accommodate the various types of work they are called to do on any given day. The larger size can tackle the task of lifting a transformer that weighs hundreds of pounds to be mounted at the top of a pole. The smaller sizes can be used to secure tools and materials to our trucks to make transportation safer. Another kind of this tool might be brightly colored to draw attention to a specific area of a job for the purposes of keeping bystanders safe. This tool, although diverse in its many assortments and uses, is not at all uncommon. In fact, you probably have one at your home or business as well. The tool I’m writing about is a simple rope. The Good Book says that “though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.” I interpret this to mean that when we work together we are strengthened. This Bible scripture communicates the essence of the seven cooperative principles.

As I mentioned in the last issue of Along These Lines, cooperatives around the world operate according to the same set of seven core principles and values adopted by the International Cooperative Alliance. These seven principles are a key reason that America’s electric cooperatives operate differently from other electric utilities, putting the needs of our members first. As a non-profit, member-owned organization, DEMCO adheres to these seven principles that serve as a compass for everything we do. Cooperative principle number one is “voluntary and open membership.” The principle states that cooperatives are voluntary organizations open to all persons able to use their services... without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination. When you become a member of DEMCO, we don’t ask where you came from or what your background is, nor do we ask the color of your skin, your religion or your economic circumstances. Membership in DEMCO is open to anyone who is in our service area and eligible to receive electric service from us according to the parameters set by the Louisiana Public Service Commission. Regardless of who you are, you deserve the highest quality, safest electric service at the lowest rates we can possibly provide.

It is this guiding principle of inclusion that brings us together as a cooperative family. You can read in this issue of Along These Lines how DEMCO is working with people and organizations throughout our seven parish service area to provide many services that help strengthen and unify our community.

In closing, I offer my sincere congratulations to the four winners of this year’s DEMCO Youth Tour Essay Contest and a trip to Washington DC; Eric Ho of the Runnels School, Lindsay Miller of Woodlawn High School, Rhianna San Soucie a student of St. Joseph’s Academy and from Zachary High School Ethan Savario. At DEMCO we are honored to have entries from all the students who participated as well as the twelve finalists that you can read more about in this issue of Along These Lines.
SEVEN COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES

Voluntary and Open Membership
Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all people able to use its services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

Democratic Member Control
Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members—those who buy the goods or use the services of the cooperative—who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions.

Members’ Economic Participation
Members contribute equally to, and democratically control, the capital of the cooperative. This benefits members in proportion to the business they conduct with the cooperative rather than on the capital invested.

Autonomy and Independence
Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by its members. If the co-op enters into agreements with other organizations or raises capital from external sources, it is done so based on terms that ensure democratic control by the members and maintains the cooperative’s autonomy.

Education, Training and Information
Cooperatives provide education and training for members, elected representatives, managers and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperative. Members also inform the general public about the nature and benefits of cooperatives.

Cooperation among Cooperatives
Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures.

Concern for Community
While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of communities through policies and programs accepted by the members.

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 four winners were selected on February 26th during an evening banquet honoring the 12 finalists, their families, teachers and school principals. The banquet was held at White Oak Plantation in Baton Rouge. Eric Ho is a student at Runnels High School, Lindsay Miller attends Woodlawn High School, Rhianna San Soucie attends St. Joseph’s Academy and Ethan Savario attends Zachary High School. The other eight finalists included: Emily Courtney (Central High School), Amber Daigle (East Ascension High School), Shelby Goodwin (Slaughter Community Charter), Malikai D. Hebert (French Settlement High School), Ryan Ly (The Runnels School), Camilla Nicosia (St. Joseph’s Academy), and Abigail Wheat (French Settlement High School).

David Latona, Vice President, Marketing and Member Services at DEMCO, served as master of ceremonies at the banquet. He introduced DEMCO directors Jill McGraw, Leslie Falks, and board president Danny Berthelot, as well as other cooperative employees who attended the event.

Keynote speaker for the evening was Jerry Stovall, president and CEO of Sports BR. Stovall was an All-American running back at LSU and runner-up for the Heisman Trophy in 1962. He was a first-round NFL draft choice for the St. Louis Cardinals and was a 3-time Pro Bowl defensive back before retiring from the NFL in 1971. Stovall later returned to Baton Rouge to serve as an assistant football coach under Charles McClendon and was named LSU’s head coach in 1980. Stovall's inspirational message centered around a key period in his life when he was graduating from West Monroe High School and was the last player to be recruited at LSU that year. “I want to hear about the color of your skin or who your parents are or how poor you are or that you're not smart enough or you don't have certain advantages,” he said. “Have a plan and strategy for your life. Don't limit yourself and don't let anyone else limit you. Be the best you can be with whatever talent and resources and circumstances God gave you. Earn for yourself the right to walk with your head held high.”

Each finalist was judged on the oral presentation of his or her essay. The finalists also completed a short written test on their knowledge of DEMCO and rural electrification. Youth Tour director Joni Kitchen of the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives, was also on hand to meet the Youth Tour contestants. DEMCO’s four Youth Tour winners will join 16 other Louisiana students this June to embark on their weeklong trip to Washington, D.C. During their stay in Washington, the Louisiana Youth Tour participants will visit the U.S. Senate, U.S. House of Representatives, Supreme Court, National Archives, Arlington Cemetery, and many other historically significant buildings and landmarks. (Account number 80299749-001)

They will also join about 1,500 other Youth Tour participants from 43 different states to learn more about electric cooperatives. This marks the 42nd year DEMCO has sponsored students in the Youth Tour program. DEMCO pioneered Louisiana participation in the Rural Electric Youth Tour in 1978 when it sent the first students from Louisiana to Washington, D.C. The purpose of the Youth Tour program is to provide outstanding youth with an insight into how their national government operates.
Mason Thacker entered retirement after 38 years of great service to the cooperative, most recently in DEMCO’s Finance Department as a Cable Locator Crew Leader. (pictured with Pat Mansfield) (Account number 80157974-001)

Fred Dabney was honored in his retirement after 37 years of dedicated service, his most recent role was Right of Way Coordinator. (pictured with Ryan Vandersypen)

Jan Landry retired after 37 wonderful years of service as Engineering Designer in DEMCO’s Engineering department. (pictured with Randy Pierce and Gina Pickering)

THANKS TO THESE RETIREES

Gina Pickering served over 38 years of dedicated service to the members of DEMCO as Engineering Designer in the Engineering Department.

Get more BUDGET POWER

Levelize your bill, sign up today at DEMCO.ORG

If you see a downed power line, always assume it is energized and dangerous. Avoid going near it or anything in contact with the power line.

Downed power lines can energize the ground up to 35 ft. away – so keep your distance.

Never drive over a downed line or through water that is touching the line.

If you see a downed line, notify the local authorities immediately.

Never try to move a downed power line, even if you think the line is deenergized or if you’re using a non-conductive item – this will not prevent injury or death!

Source: ESFI.org

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Source: ESFI.org
**Notice to DEMCO director candidates**

**DEMCO’s Annual Membership Meeting**

**Will take place on**
Saturday, May 11, 2019, beginning at 10 a.m. The meeting will be held at DEMCO’s headquarters facility, 16262 Wax Road.

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**DEMCO Bylaws**

Article IV, Section 4.04 of 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.

**Principal place of residence defined**

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; and,
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, step- mother or step-father, 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 for director candidates shall be established by the Board of Directors prior to the issuance of a nominating petition, the following bylaws shall be followed:

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 prequalify. 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 prequalify will be declared ineligible to seek a position on the Board of Directors and will not be issued a nominating petition.
**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:** __________________________

**Deadline for applications is June 27, 2016.**

**This is a one-time award.**

**Recipient must be a high school graduate in the class of 2016.**

**Recipient must provide verification of a minimum 2.5 GPA before scholarship monies are awarded.**

**Mail applications to:**

Ed Amedee,

1443 City Place,

Gonzales, LA 70737.

**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.**

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**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.**

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**SAFETY TIP: 01**

Inspect appliances regularly for faulty or damaged plugs, switches and cords and replace them or have them repaired immediately.
Employees in the community

Livingston Parish 4-H Livestock Show DEMCO Board Member Dennis Lott and his wife Darlene lead a group of DEMCO employees in providing a well-earned jambalaya to the Livingston Parish Livestock Show participants and their families.

Daniel Brooks was the champion of the 2019 Louisiana Utility Locate Rodeo

DEMCO was proud to once again field a team of runners at the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure event in Baton Rouge.

Like us — Like DEMCO on FACEBOOK today!

EXTREME TEMPERATURES
Whether it’s very high or very low, big changes can affect your bill.
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 6093702-002)
Be energy smart this spring!

Spring is a perfect time of the year to make your home more energy-efficient. Here are five quick tips that will save both energy and money.

1. Seal the cracks and gaps around your home.
Spring may be the right time to put away those storm windows, but it is also a good time to add weather-stripping and caulking around leaky windows. Don’t stop there, look for penetrations around your home that may need maintenance. Take a look.

2. Change filters monthly.
Furnace and air conditioner filters need to be changed regularly. This will maintain that your HVAC system can have maximum performance. Dirty filters can restrict air flow and reduce the overall efficiency of your cooling system making it work very hard on hot days.

3. Check your refrigerator.
Clean the outside of the refrigerator as well as the inside. Gently vacuuming the outside coils and checking the seals for air leaks can improve the refrigerators efficiency. Ideally, a refrigerator’s temperature should be between 37 and 40 degrees for maximum efficiency. When it’s time to replace your refrigerator, be sure to buy an ENERGY STAR labeled appliance. (Account Number 9030433-005)

4. Think sun block.
You can save on your cooling costs each month by closing the blinds on your south facing windows.

5. Control temperature settings.
Do you have a programmable or smart thermostat? This is one of the first steps in regulating your cooling costs.

Crawfish Hand Pies
Recipe by: George Graham
AcadianaTable.com

INGREDIENTS
Crawfish Filling
1 cup (2 sticks) unsalted butter
1 cup diced yellow onion
½ cup diced green onion tops
2 tablespoons diced green bell pepper
2 tablespoons diced celery
1 teaspoon minced garlic
1 cup all-purpose flour
1 cup seafood stock
1 pound Louisiana crawfish tail meat
1 teaspoon paprika
1 teaspoon Acadiana Table Cajun Seasoning Blend, see recipe here
Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
Dash of hot sauce

Hand Pies
1 cup all-purpose flour
1 package (2 sheets) Pepperidge Farm Puff Pastry sheets, thawed to room temperature
1 large egg, beaten
Kosher salt

INSTRUCTIONS
Crawfish Filling
In a large cast-iron pot or skillet over medium-high heat, melt the butter. Add the yellow onions, green onions, bell pepper, and celery, and sauté until the yellow onions turn translucent, about 5 minutes. Add the garlic, lower the heat to simmer, and stir to combine. Sprinkle ½ cup of the flour over the mixture, stir to incorporate, and cook the flour until it turns light brown, about 10 minutes. Add the stock, and stir until you reach a stew-like thickness.
Add the crawfish tail meat and simmer for 15 minutes. Add the paprika, Cajun seasoning, and season to taste with salt, pepper, and hot sauce. At this point, you want to thicken the mixture until it achieves the texture of a filling or stuffing by gradually stirring in the remaining flour. Bring the mixture back to a simmer and turn off the heat. Cover and refrigerate until ready to use.

Hand Pies
Preheat your oven to 350°F.
On a large countertop surface (granite or marble works well), sprinkle lightly with bench flour. Unwrap and lay out one of the puff pastry sheets. Unfold and sprinkle with more of the flour. Using a rolling pin, roll until it spreads out and expands to a thickness of ¼ inch. Using a one-tablespoon measuring cup, add about 2 tablespoons of the crawfish filling to the center of a circle. Brush along the edge of the inside of the dough and fold over the dough to form a half-moon shape. Using the tines of a fork (or a pastry wheel), crimp the edges tightly to seal in the filling. Place the hand pie on a baking sheet lined with parchment. Repeat with all the pies. At this point, you can refrigerate the pies until ready to bake. Just before baking, brush the top of the dough with egg wash and sprinkle with kosher salt. Bake in the oven until golden brown, about 45 minutes. Serve in a basket as an appetizer or two of the hand pies as an entrée along with a side salad.

NOTES
Try this recipe with shrimp or crab for a tasty seafood variation. When refrigerated, the crawfish filling should be thick enough to form into a ball. Any extra crawfish filling makes the perfect stuffing for a breakfast omelette. For a 5-inch circle guide, find a saucer or plastic lid from a container to use as a template. To reheat, I do not recommend the microwave; bake in the oven until heated through.
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

www.muellerinc.com
877-2-MUELLER (877-268-3553)
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

Applying online is EASY at demco.org