May is National Electrical Safety Month

Safety Above All Else
Manager’s Report
Randy Pierce
CEO & General Manager

The third cooperative principle: Members’ Economic Participation

Every member has a role. Every member plays a part. At DEMCO we believe this to be true. As we continue to explore the seven cooperative principles, we come now to the third. The third cooperative principle states that “Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative.”

This principle can certainly be compared to the cover story found in this issue of Along These Lines. As we celebrate National Electrical Safety Month, we learn that everyone plays a part in this culture of safety at DEMCO. It takes a team effort to keep our members, employees and the community safe and in the right mindset for safe practices.

From our members to our employees, we all have a place when promoting the safe distribution of power to our member homes and businesses. Whether we are restoring power after a major storm or presenting safety tips to an audience of members, everyone’s goal is a safe system to provide power to members. This is paramount to keeping everyone accident free. (Account number 4054102002)

Every department plays a role in reaching our goals of maintaining an infrastructure, office and system that bring safe, reliable and affordable power to you, our valued members. DEMCO’s Finance Department manages a budget necessary to equip our team of employees with the tools necessary to exercise safe work practices. Our Marketing and Member Services Department delivers a message of safety to members and provides safety tips to consumers and professionals alike. Meanwhile our Human Resources Department encourages this safety culture through the training of new employees as well as seasoned veterans, and DEMCO’s Engineering and Operations Department ensures that the safest 110,000 homes and businesses, and maintain over 8,600 miles of line throughout our seven-parish service area. Members are also responsible for democratically controlling the capital of the cooperative by electing a board of directors who work with management to oversee the finances of the cooperative.

You will also find information in this month’s Along These Lines about your cooperative’s annual meeting. As a member of our co-op community, you have a perspective that is valuable—and we invite you to share it with us. At the annual meeting co-op leaders will discuss priorities and challenges, as well as DEMCO’s financial health and goals for the coming years. It is in settings like these where the board of directors, elected by you, represents the interests of all the members, as a family working together. Our co-op family always appreciates the opportunity to visit with you!

All members control the capital of our cooperative through voting on bylaws and procedures which help to oversee DEMCO’s management of a utility plant of over $650 million and an annual revenue of over $225 million.
National Lineman Appreciation Day
April 18, 2019

Working with electricity is an inherently dangerous job, especially for linemen. DEMCO has a safety team whose focus is keeping employees and the community safe around electricity. We follow safety protocols based on leading national safety practices for the utility industry that our linemen must follow. We require our linemen to wear specialized equipment when working next to or with power lines. They monitor and track near-misses of accidents in order to understand them, share “lessons learned” and continuously improve safety practices. (Account number 18301001)

KEEP A LINEMAN TODAY!
At DEMCO, it is no accident that safety is a top priority. Safety is a tenet that is centric to our mission to provide safe, reliable and affordable electricity to our members. We are committed to a culture of safety because it is integral to our daily operations.

This month DEMCO highlights National Electrical Safety month to raise awareness about the dangers of electricity and to showcase our commitment to electrical safety practices. We all depend on electricity to power our lives. Because we live and work in the communities we serve, DEMCO’s concern for safety extends beyond our employees.

For 81 years DEMCO has worked continuously to create a culture of safety, by putting our employees’ safety and that of the community above all else. We strive to deliver affordable and reliable electricity to our members, but equally important, we want to return our workers home safely to their loved ones. To do this requires ongoing focus, dedication and vigilance. (Account number 80087107002)

According to the Electrical Safety Foundation International, thousands of people in the U.S. are critically injured as a result of electrical fires, accidents and electrocution in their own homes. Many of these accidents are preventable. There is much you can do to keep yourself and your community safe around electricity.

To promote safety education in our local communities, we conduct electrical safety demonstrations in schools and at community events. Each year since 2009, DEMCO sponsors a week of shows at area schools that feature an Electrical Safety Magician who teaches students about electrical safety. Each summer, DEMCO presents an exciting message to the campers at the Adventures in Safetyland Camp hosted by the St. George Volunteer Fire Department and the Alliance Safety Council. “Fire in the Wire” is another DEMCO outreach program worth mentioning for area youth, that demonstrates the utility and dangers associated with electricity and the importance of electrical safety.

DEMCO cares deeply about the safety of our members, and we encourage you – our members – to take a moment to learn about electrical safety to keep you and your loved ones safe. For a list of electrical safety tips to, please visit our website www.DEMCO.org.
ELECTRIFYING WORD SEARCH!

Can you find the words associated with electricity in the puzzle below? Use the word bank if you need a hint!

Word Bank

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ELECTRICITY</th>
<th>POWER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CIRCUIT</td>
<td>SWITCH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WATTS</td>
<td>VOLTAGE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CURRENT</td>
<td>BULB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WIRES</td>
<td>CHARGE</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Y R X B P O S T X K C G W A E
E T E U L X B I K W B A P G W
X B I W N P L U K L T B A L Z
A X I C O K U C V T K T H J L
E N E C I P B R S Q L A T P O
B P I Q H R C I S O L H J O E
M F A U R A T C V M U D E T E
W K X J L R R C I N Y G R Q M
I N B R S W U G E J J D S S R
J F E J I X C E L M M W Z L
C U R R E N T T T F E X I L B
R X O P P P G S E R I W T I K
O M O B R A I Q O S Q E C A R
D Q T H C L L L A L W B R H E Z
H T Z P H G G V V O C J I S S

Get more BUDGET POWER

Levelize your bill, sign up today at DEMCO.ORG

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.
Spring is the perfect time to begin saving energy around the home. By taking advantage of the mild weather, you can make the improvements needed to transition from the cold winter. Here are five ways to spring into summer.

1. Replace your air filter.
Replacing a dirty, clogged air filter allows your system not to work so hard to circulate the air. Spring is also a great time to get your HVAC system serviced to make sure it is operating most efficiently.

2. Seal the cracks and gaps.
Keep outside air from leaking into your home. Inspect the cracks and penetrations around the home. You may need to re-apply caulking or foam where cable lines, dryer vents, and telephone lines may penetrate your home. Look around windows for gaps and install door seals to the exterior doors. (Account number 80164584001)

3. Install a smart or programmable thermostat.
No need to cool an empty home. Installing an advanced thermostat can yield significant savings when programmed to work around your schedule.

4. Lower your water heating costs.
Turn down the temperature of your water heater to the warm setting (120 F). Washing clothes in cold water will help save energy and money.

5. Save in the laundry room.
The dryer is one of the larger appliances in a home. Make sure your dryer is operating at full efficiency by inspecting the dryer vent and cleaning the lint trap after every use. Air drying your clothes will help limit your laundry costs.
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 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 May 6, 2019 – May 8, 2019.

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.

Application for Scholarship Program

Applicant’s Name: ____________________________

Parents or Guardian: ____________________________

Member Co-op: ____________________________

Home Address: ____________________________________

Phone No.: ____________________________

City: ____________________________ ZIP: __________

High School Attended: ____________________________

Please supply a copy of your high school transcript to verify the 2.5 GPA.

Deadline for applications is June 27, 2016.

The award can be used for any college or university.

This is a one-time award.

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

Applicant must be the child of an ALEC member cooperative.

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.

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.

SAFETY TIP: 03

Always turn the light switch off before replacing a light bulb. Switching to LED bulbs can reduce your electricity bill.
DEMCO in the Community

March 22 Fire In the Wire demonstration – Rickey Cummings and Jacob Overhultz, take part in, “Fire in the Wire” a community program for electrical safety education.

Retiree Wayne Stevenson is pictured with V.P. of Engineering, Ryan Vandersypen and C.E.O. Randy Pierce. Wayne was honored for his 23 years of service as a linesman at DEMCO.

March 28 Career Day at Walker High School - 1 to r: Anne Hawes, Veronica Claiborne, Chad LaCost

Official Notice: Annual Meeting

In accordance with the provisions of Article III, Section 3.03 of the Bylaws of Dixie Electric Membership Corporation (DEMCO), notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the members of the corporation will be held at DEMCO’s Headquarters Facility, 16262 Wax Road, Greenwell Springs, Louisiana, Saturday, May 11, 2019. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 10:00 a.m.

In accordance with Article IV, Section 4.05 of the corporation Bylaws, notice is hereby given that the following persons have been nominated by the official nominating committee to fill the five positions on the Board of Directors in which vacancies occur this year.

BY NOMINATION:
Mr. Daniel P. Berthelot
Livingston Parish, District 9
Mr. Glenn DeLee
East Feliciana Parish, District 6
Mr. Randy Lorio
East Baton Rouge Parish, District 3

BY PETITION:
Kevin Beauchamp
West Feliciana Parish, District 13

If you would like to register for the 2019 annual membership meeting, please sign this notice and return it to Hawthorn, Waymouth, and Carroll, LLP, Certified Public Accountants, P.O. Box 82559, Baton Rouge, LA 70884, so that it is received by 4:30 p.m., Friday, May 3, 2019.

_________________________________________________________
Signature
Never use electrical cords that feel warm to the touch or are damaged in any way.

Safety starts with you.

MAY IS ELECTRICAL SAFETY MONTH

TREE PLANTING GUIDE

GROUND MEASUREMENT FROM POWER LINES

No Tree Zone

SMALL TREE ZONE
Trees less than 25’ tall/spread. At least 25’ from lines.

MEDIUM TREE ZONE
Trees 25’ - 40’ tall/spread. At least 40’ from lines.

LARGE TREE ZONE
Trees larger than 40’ tall/spread. At least 60’ from lines.

If unsure of your tree’s mature size, please contact your county agent.
Recipe by: George Graham
AcadianaTable.com

INGREDIENTS
3 tablespoons unsalted butter
1 cup diced yellow onion
½ cup diced celery
½ cup diced green bell pepper
½ cup diced red bell pepper
½ cup chopped parsley
½ cup diced green onions tops
1 tablespoon minced garlic
2½ pounds medium (51 – 60-count) raw shrimp, peeled and deveined
2 tablespoons dry vermouth
1 (8-ounce) package cream cheese
1 cup mayonnaise
1 (10.5-ounce) can Cream of Shrimp soup, such as Campbell’s
1 tablespoon Acadiana Table Cajun Seasoning Blend, see recipe here
1 tablespoon white pepper
1 tablespoon black pepper
1 tablespoon smoked paprika
Kosher salt and Freshly ground black pepper
Hot sauce
Cornstarch

INSTRUCTIONS
Preheat oven to 350ºF.
In a large skillet over medium-high heat, add the butter. Once sizzling, add the onion, celery, green and red bell pepper and cook until the onion turns translucent, about 5 minutes.
Add the shrimp and sauté until the shrimp turn pink but are not fully cooked.
Add the vermouth and cook for 2 minutes until most of the alcohol burns off.
Add the vermouth and cook for 2 minutes until most of the alcohol burns off.
Add the cream cheese, mayonnaise, and soup, and stir to incorporate. Cook until the cream cheese is melted and the mixture melds together.
Season with Cajun seasoning, white pepper, and smoked paprika.
Taste the mixture and add salt, black pepper, and hot sauce to your desired spice level. (Note: If your dip is too thin, tighten it up with a cornstarch slurry by mixing a couple of tablespoons of cornstarch with an equal amount of cold water. Just stir it together and add it to the dip. Once it begins to bubble it will thicken.)
In a 9x12-inch ovenproof baking dish coated with non-stick spray, add the mixture.
Bake in the oven until hot and bubbly, about 20 minutes.
Serve with toasted crostini.

Notes
I like to taste the shrimp, but some folks like this extra-cheesy so feel free to add your favorite melting cheese. I’ve even made a Mexican version of this using diced jalapenos, cilantro, and pepper jack cheese served with scooping corn chips. Any leftover dip makes the perfect stuffing for enchiladas or thinned out a bit to sauce a grilled fillet of red snapper. Get creative with this one.
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