

1938-2008

SLECA celebrates 70 years of service

The directors and employees of South Louisiana Electric Cooperative Association (SLECA) continue a 70-year quest for excellence demonstrated on this month's cover. In 1938 SLECA began serving 300 members on 118 miles of power line along Hwy. 90 around Raceland and Gibson. There were only three employees and one service truck. A typical bill for 52 kilowatts of electricity ran about \$3.58 a month.

Today, SLECA serves 15,500 members and 19,820 meters along 1,392 miles of power line across five parishes. SLECA's 81 employees operate out of modern offices in Houma and Amelia using state-of-the-art equipment. And yet, on a per-kilowatt basis, consumers today pay just about the same for electricity today as they did 70 years.

In 1938 or 2008, SLECA has the power to make a difference.



SLECA officials address consumers at an early membership meeting.

It's a Kid's Christmas Drawing Contest winner

Mitchell Hymel, the son of Donna and Dwayne Hymel who attends St. Francis de Sales School, was the winner of SLECA's seventh annual "It's a Kid's Christmas" Drawing Contest. In addition to a \$100 gift certificate from Southland Mall, Mitchell's drawing was featured on an outdoor billboard courtesy of Lamar Advertising for the holiday season (Acct. No. 2800930301). Mitchell lives in SLECA Director Terry Trahan's District 7.

Hundreds visit Christmas open house

Hundreds of children visited SLECA's Amelia office on Dec. 11 and the Houma office on Dec. 13, where Santa greeted them with refreshments and picture taking.

Awarded \$25 Wal-Mart Gift Cards during SLECA's Christmas Open House were:

Houma Office—Ozlynn Trosclair, Pre-K at Coteau Bayou Blue Elementary, Houma; Logan LeFort, Oakshire School, Houma; Destiny Berrun, Houma, and Abbie Breaux, Oakshire School, Houma.

Amelia Office—Zakariah Burrell, Baby Bear Head Start, Morgan City, and Trevor Crum, J. S. Aucoin Elementary, Amelia.

SLECA SWEEPSTAKES

Did you know that each month SLECA gives away CASH just for reading LOUISIANA COUNTRY? It's true. Every month, four lucky SLECA consumers have their account numbers randomly selected by computer. The numbers are then hidden in the articles in the SLECA News section of LOUISIANA COUNTRY. Then it's up to you. If you see your account number, call SLECA and win \$25.00 in cash or have your winnings applied to your bill. It's that simple. So, if you are not reading LOUISIANA COUNTRY you're missing out on great local articles and the possibility of winning extra money.

SLECA News



Low Rates. High Expectations.

Mike Guidry, Manager
Alexander Doyle, President
South Louisiana Electric Cooperative Assn.
P.O. Box 4037, Houma, LA 70361 (876-6880)



Qualifying for SLECA's Board of Directors set for February

Qualifying for SLECA's Board of Directors for districts 7, 8 and 9 will get under way in February.

Qualified SLECA members who wish to seek election as a director of district 7, 8 or 9 must file their applications at SLECA's main office at 2028 Coteau Road, Houma, from 7:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 1, or Monday, Feb. 4 from 7:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. SLECA's offices will be closed for Mardi Gras on Tuesday, Feb. 5. Applications can be filed Wednesday, Feb. 6, and Thursday, Feb. 7, from 7:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. Applications can be filed Friday, Feb. 8, from 7:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. (Act. No. 1602720805) Elections will be held at the district meetings.

Only members who officially qualify will be eligible to run for director, as nominations will not be allowed

from the floor at the district meetings. To be eligible, a member must qualify for the district in which they reside.

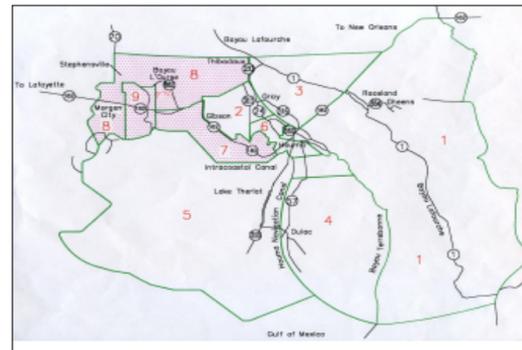
The District 7 meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 11, at the Bayou Black Fire Station, Houma.

The District 8 meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, March 12, with a location to be announced.

The District 9 meeting will be on Thursday, March 13, at the Amelia Civic Center, Amelia.

Meeting registration begins at 6 p.m. and closes at 7 p.m. Only those in line at registration closing time can complete registration to vote. All district meetings begin at 7 p.m.

The details and guidelines for qualifying for the board of directors are outlined in the accompanying excerpts from the bylaws.



SLECA By-Laws

ARTICLE IV
SECTION 3. QUALIFICATIONS AND TENURE (A).
The persons named as directors in the articles of conversion shall compose the Board of Directors until the next meeting or until their successors shall have been elected and shall have qualified. These bylaws acknowledge and affirm the action of the Board of Directors that directors from District 1, 2 and 3 are serving three year terms beginning in the year 1980; that the directors from District 7, 8 and 9 are serving three year terms beginning in the year 1981; and the directors from Districts 4, 5 and 6 will be elected for three year terms in the year 1982. At the annual meeting in 1983, the directors from Districts 1, 2 and 3 will be elected to serve for a period of three years. Thereafter, a director whose term shall expire as above provided shall be elected at the respective district meeting to serve for a period of three years or until their successors shall have been elected by and from the members of the respective district. No member shall be eligible to become or remain director or to hold any position of trust in the Cooperative who is not a bona fide resident in a district served by the Cooperative or who is in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise. (Amended at a meeting of the membership held on April 28, 1988.) (Amended at a meeting of the membership held on April 10, 1992.)

(B). In order to qualify to become or remain on the Board of Directors, a person seeking or holding the position of Director must live and reside in the District in which he is elected. If said Director should move within the area served by the Cooperative during his term, he shall remain on the board until his successor is chosen at the next district meeting. In the event the Director moves outside the area served by the Cooperative a vacancy shall occur and the Board of Directors shall appoint a new Director. Additionally, in order to qualify as a candidate for director from a district, the candidate must sign qualifying papers at the Cooperative's main office in Houma, Louisiana during the first five working days of February. The qualifying papers shall be returned to the Cooperative's main office.

All applicants attempting to qualify for director will be notified within forty-eight (48) hours of the close of the qualifying period that they do or do not qualify. Written reasons will be submitted for any rejection upon request.

In order to qualify for the Board of Directors, any candidate for election to the Board shall be not more than 45 days in arrears regarding any indebtedness or any electric bill owed to the Cooperative. In the event said candidate is a majority stockholder in a corporation which likewise shall be indebted to the Cooperative by being more than 45 days in arrears on any indebtedness or any electric bill, then that person shall not so qualify as a candidate to be a member of this board. Further, if any Board member, once elected, becomes indebted for any electric bill or otherwise for more than 45 days, or any corporation in which he owns a majority of stock becomes indebted to the Cooperative for its electric bill or otherwise for a period of more 45 days in arrears, then that board member must resign from the Board of Directors at the end of any 45 day period; provided, in the event of a Board member

being asked to resign, he will be given thirty (30) days additional written notice; provided, further, any party affected by the foregoing may make arrangements with the Cooperative to pay any arrearages on a work-out plan approved by the Board so as to remain a member in good standing and thus eligible to be either a candidate for election to the Board or to remain on the Board. (Amended at a meeting of the membership held on April 28, 1988.) (Amended at a meeting of the membership held on April 10, 1992.)

(C). Blood relatives of employees of the Cooperative shall not be permitted to qualify and run for the Board of Directors. Blood relatives are defined as direct ascendants, descendants and collateral relations; that is, mother, father, son, daughter, grandfather, grandmother, brother, sister, aunt and uncle. (Amended at a meeting of the members held on April 26, 1984.)

SECTION 4 (A). NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF DIRECTORS. Not less than twenty (20) days prior to any meeting in which directors are to be elected, the Board of Directors shall serve notice of a separate meeting of the members of each district from which directors will be elected to be held at a suitable place in such district for the purpose of selecting a director to represent such district and the members located within such district, the notice of such meeting shall be delivered to each member located in such district in the same manner as provided in Section 3, of Article III, and shall indicate the district to which such member belongs. The notice shall state names of the persons running for director and shall state the exact time and place of the meeting. The meeting shall, however, be opened for discussion of any other matters pertaining to the business of the Cooperative, regardless of whether or not such matters were listed in the notice of the meeting; and recommendations with respect thereto may be submitted to the Board of Directors of the entire membership.

The district meeting shall be called to order by the director representing the district or by another designated representative of the Board of Directors, or in his absence, by any member residing within the district. The members shall then proceed to elect a chairman, who shall be someone other than a director, and who shall appoint a secretary to act for the duration of the meeting. Forty members residing in the district shall constitute a quorum. Members must be present to vote. In the event no quorum exists at the district meeting, the election from that district will be held at the regular annual meeting. However, only members from any district lacking a quorum at the district level would be allowed to constitute a quorum for that district (a quorum being a minimum of 40 members) at the annual meeting and vote for the candidate(s) who previously qualified for director as provided for herein. It will not be necessary for there to be a quorum at the regular annual meeting to conduct the district election, provided that district has a quorum of at least 40 of its members present at the regular annual meeting. (Amended at a meeting of the membership held on April 28, 1988.)

SECTION 4 (B). ELECTION OF DIRECTORS. Nominations for directors shall not be allowed from the floor at the district meeting. The election for directors from the various

districts shall take place at least twenty (20) days and not more than forty-five (45) days prior to the annual meeting and newly elected directors shall take office and be sworn in at the annual meeting. Notice of the time for directors to qualify as a candidate for director from a district shall be given to the members at least ten (10) days prior to the time of qualification. (Amended at a meeting of the membership held on May 29, 1986.)

SECTION 4 (C). PROCEDURE FOR VOTING FOR DIRECTORS. The Board of Directors is authorized and directed to enact policies to insure and protect the sanctity of the ballot at all elections for members of the Board of Directors. Voting shall be by secret ballot and can be by voting machine or by ballot box. No member or employee of the Cooperative shall be authorized to fill out the ballot of another member or assist another member with his or her ballot. If a member needs assistance in casting his ballot, this assistance may only be furnished by a person designated to do so by the Board of Directors of this Cooperative and approved by the candidates in the election. After the member has received his official ballot he shall be directed forthwith to the ballot box to cast his vote. No unauthorized person shall be in the voting area during the time that members are receiving their ballots and casting their votes.

The candidate receiving a plurality of the vote shall be declared as the elected director from the district. In the event there are more than two candidates and the top two candidates receive the same number of votes there shall be a second election between the top two candidates. In the event of another tie the Board of Directors shall select a director from among said candidates who were tied. In the event there are only two candidates and there is a tie there shall be no second election and the Board of Director shall select the director from among said candidates who were tied. (Amended at a meeting of the membership held on May 29, 1986.)

SECTION 4 (D). PENALTIES FOR VIOLATING THE VOTING PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED BY THESE BYLAWS AND THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS. Any employee of this Cooperative who violates any of the election procedures established by these bylaws and by the board of Directors shall be discharged from his employment. Any member of this Cooperative who violates any of the election procedures established by these bylaws and by the Board of Directors may be terminated in his membership after a hearing concerning the charges against him before the Board of Directors. Any member may bring charges against another member for violation of election rules. Thereafter the accused member shall be informed in writing of the charges at least ten days prior to the hearing before the Board of Directors at which the charges are to be considered and shall have an opportunity to be heard in person or by counsel and to present evidence in his own behalf.

The question of whether or not to terminate the membership for violation of the election rules shall be voted on by the Board of Directors and any decision made by the Board of Directors may be appealed to the membership at either the annual or special meeting. (Amended at a special meeting of the members held on August 19, 1971.)

SLECA Christmas lighting contest winners announced

Nine area residents from Houma, Schriever, Dulac, Raceland and Morgan City were winners of South Louisiana Electric Cooperative Association's (SLECA) annual Christmas Lighting Contest.

Judging took place on December 17 (Act. No. 3705217202). Each of the nine winners will receive a \$100 cash prize. Every year the contest is open to SLECA residential consumers. Entries are judged on workmanship, originality, color, scale and proportion, suitability to Christmas and neatness.

This year's winners were: District 1, Denise Miller, 180 Lake Dr., Raceland; District 2, Roger Boudloche, 2001 Bull Run Rd., Schriever; District 3, Dana Triche, 2433 Bayou Blue Rd., Houma; District 4, Ronald P. Lunk Jr., 117 Marjorie St., Dulac; District 5, Britt Theriot, 129 Tina St., Houma; District 6, Shawn Smith, 404 Forest Blvd., Houma; District 7, Lenis A. Authement, 121 Nottingham Trail, Houma; District 8, M/M Carl J. Gaudet Sr., 1804 Hwy. 662, Morgan City, and District 9, Eugene Aucoin, c/o Janice Aucoin, 2204 Lake Palourde Rd., Morgan City.

"Every year the judging gets tougher and tougher," said SLECA General Manager Michael J. Guidry. "Some residents start planning their Christmas decorations months in advance for the contest."

Guidry said that it's unbelievable how much work goes into these holiday displays. "You don't have to travel far to get into the Christmas spirit," said Guidry. "It's right here in our own backyard."

SLECA serves over 15,000 consumers in Assumption, Lafourche, St. Mary, St. Martin and Terrebonne parishes and is a Touchstone Energy Cooperative.

Across the Board

November 19, 2007

Present were directors Alexander Doyle, president; David Luke, vice-president; Brian Rivet, secretary; Terry Trahan, treasurer; Tracy Duval, J. D. Boudreaux, Eroy Acosta, Roger Dale DeHart, Larry J. Daigle and Lloyd Gibson, advisor. Also attending were Michael Guidry, general manager; James Funderburk, attorney; and Elaine Robertson, member services supervisor.

After the invocation and pledge, the board approved 165 new members, the minutes of the October 1st regular board meeting and the ALEC report (Acct. No. 8302608903).

The financial report, approved by the board, highlighted interest earnings, cash on hand, rate comparison showing SLECA having the lowest rates compared to other area utilities, line loss, kilowatt hour sales for the month, cumulative sales to date, cost of service, equity, TIER, electric and total revenue versus cost per kilowatt hour.

Following an update on upcoming schools, meetings and events, Mr. Guidry reported on the following: (1) SLECA continues to have the lowest rates in the area; (2) David Crane, NRG president, called Americans "carbolic" and said that NRG emits more CO2 than all of Norway; (3) The Nuclear Energy Regulatory Commission issued a report saying that usage in the U.S. is expected to grow twice as fast as there are power plants planned to be built; (4) The Kansas Department of Health & Environment denied a request by Sunflower Electric Power to build a coal plant citing "health" concerns due to CO2 emissions; (5) A recent news article reported on when and how much "taxes" will be placed on CO2 emissions; (6) The Commission asked that electric utilities work with their staffs to develop a program to educate the public in an effort to promote decreased energy demand and usage; (7) According to a recent NRECA poll on climate change, the public believes "they" are doing "a lot" to curb CO2 emissions and trust their "utility company" more than Congress or the White House to deal with the problem; (8) The Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) is the only organization to put forth a "plan" to deal with CO2 emissions; (9) Several groups are opposing Entergy's plan to re-power its natural gas plant, Little Gypsy, to burn petroleum coke and coal; (10) The PSC rejected Entergy's request to increase rates to recover storm damages before selling bonds designed to reduce the overall cost to customers; (11) Mr. Rhett Wagner made contact with SLECA's primary line while operating equipment on October 9th but seemed to have minor injuries. SLECA did have adequate clearance; (12) SLECA had outages on October 11th due to bad weather; (13) SLECA is re-pricing two variable rate loans with CFC; (14) The mediation with NRG continues; (15) At the recent regional meeting it was said that the future of this industry will depend on how Congress deals with climate change and global warming; and (16) SLECA's members saved nearly \$3.3 million year-to-date by the board going with actual costs.

Following his report, the board approved the bid from Terex to replace Unit 354. Next, the manager's report and expenses, the safety report and the attorney's report and fees were approved by the board.

The meeting was then adjourned.

You may obtain copies of the minutes by contacting SLECA, P.O. Box 4037, Houma, LA 70361 or by calling (504) 876-6880 or 1-800-256-8826.