

Congratulations to Scholarship winners

As part of South Louisiana Electric Cooperative Association's continuing efforts to enhance higher educational opportunities in its region, four local students have won scholarships for the 2008-2009 fall and spring semesters at Nicholls State University or the L. E. Fletcher Community College. (Acct. No. 2700949601) The scholarships, valued at \$1,000 each, were offered to graduating high school seniors to help with the costs of tuition, room and board, or books.

The scholarship winners are:

- Kate L. Hotard, the daughter of Dean and Sandra Hotard of Matthews, who attends Central Lafourche High and plans to study pre-med biology.
- Neal J. Bollinger, the son of Kenny

and Debra Bollinger of Houma, also attends Central Lafourche High and will be studying business.

• Megan N. Bergeron, the daughter of Joseph and Elmiere Bergeron of Gray, attends Vandebilt Catholic High and will be studying nursing.

• Rebecca Kay Laughlin is the daughter of Peggy and Chris Laughlin of Gray. She attends Vandebilt Catholic High and will be studying psychology.

As part of its commitment to local communities, SLECA has offered such scholarships to local students seeking to become tomorrow's doctors, lawyers, engineers and professionals for nearly two decades to enhance economic opportunities for our members and their children.

Across the Board

March 3, 2008

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; Roy Landry, manager of accounting and finance; Joe Ticheli, manager of member services and communications; and Elaine Robertson, member services supervisor.

After the invocation and pledge, the board approved 158 new members and the minutes of the February 6th regular board meeting. (Acct. No. 1600650914) There was no ALEC report.

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 and a brief report from Mr. Daigle on the recent NRECA Annual Meeting, Mr. Guidry reported on the following: (1) SLECA continues to have the lowest rates in the area; (2) Incumbents in Districts 7, 8 and 9 return to office unopposed; (3) The copper that had been stolen from the Amelia office has been recovered; (4) Construction should start soon on Cajun Land USA, the development along the Amelia By-Pass Road; (5) Louisiana Generating has decided to pull their support of ALEC and has sent a letter to SLECA giving a 90-day notice canceling the reliability services agreement with SLECA; (6) Florida recently experienced a blackout affecting two million customers; and (7) SLECA members have saved \$4,498,231 by the board going with the actual fuel rate instead of a fixed rate.

The board then approved the following low bids: (1) To reconductor Feeder 39; and (2) To purchase a new trencher.

Mr. Landry then discussed a change to Form 1099 and the board agreed that new Form 1099s should be issued to reflect the change.

The manager's report and expenses, the safety report and the attorney's report and fees were then approved by the board.

Mr. Ticheli then discussed in detail the results of the 2008 member survey.

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.

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



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



Member letters express energy cost concerns to lawmakers at SLECA's 70th Annual Membership Meeting

A majority of the estimated 2,000 people, including 643 registered members, attending SLECA's 70th Annual Membership Meeting on April 18 at the Houma-Terrebonne Civic Center signed prepared letters to be presented to local congressional leaders expressing their concern that legislation should balance energy needs, costs and mandates dealing with clean air emissions and climate change.

SLECA members and guests also heard comments by U.S. Rep. Charlie Melancon concerning Congressional efforts to deal with global warming (Acct. 8103311500).

"We are looking for signs of global warming around the world and must work in collaboration with each other to understand what the earth is telling us. Some



SLECA members hand in letters to Congressional members expressing their concern over the costs of air emission regulations on electric bills.

people say it's man-made and others say it's natural and some say there's no such thing at all, but it really comes down to making sure we make the right choices. Even if only two percent of the science about global warming is right, we can't ignore it. It's a very complicated issue with various factions and groups offering different opinions and views," Melancon stated.

"The fear for electric utilities, the average citizen and business is that we may face higher future energy costs when we're already dealing with \$3.45 a gallon gasoline. Energy affects the price of food and the cost of living keeps going up while our ability to earn has not," the Congressman added, commenting, "Everything has a price tag. Electric utilities such as SLECA strive to provide affordable electric service but we must also strive to deal with climate change so we leave the same world to our children and grandchildren that was left to us."

"The United States needs to set an example and make sure we don't do things that drive up the cost of food, fuel and energy unreasonably. There are some in Congress who want to reduce air emissions 66 percent by 2050 when our best efforts have only achieved a one-half of one percent energy use reduction over the past two years," Melancon said.

SLECA General Manager Mike Guidry reported on steady growth, system improvements and continued low utility rates at SLECA, but he also warned that electric utilities and their consumers were facing a "perfect storm" of increasing global energy demand, supply problems, aging infrastructure and climate control legislation that could significantly increase bills.

"SLECA's board can only influence certain parts of

your electric bill. Other parts, involving the wholesale cost of power, are determined by the production and transportation costs of the fuels used to generate electricity. Most of the electricity produced in America comes from coal-burning power plants, including the electricity used by SLECA's members. Added to the cost of mining and shipping coal are federally mandated costs to control air emissions," reported Guidry, who serves as secretary-treasurer on the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association board.

"Increased demand for coal and higher shipping costs have already resulted in higher fuel costs for Louisiana consumers. Congress also approved new clean air mandates this year and a recent Supreme Court ruling could include carbon dioxide as a EPA controlled emission gas, adding additional costs that could increase wholesale power bills an estimated 30-40 percent," Guidry warned. "There are special interests that believe the fastest way to reduce global warming is to price electricity so high that people can't afford it. In the meantime, China is adding a Texas-sized coal-burning power sector every year while using 2.5 times more energy annually than America."

"Earlier this year we polled our members to determine their views on global warming," Guidry continued. "Seventy-seven percent consider global warming a serious or somewhat serious matter and 51 percent of you think it's happening right now. Seventy-three percent believe it'll take Congress 10 years to effectively address global warming and 61 percent believe Congress should take a go-slow approach. Also, 67 percent think policies now being enacted will raise your electric rates from 27 to 40 percent. However, when asked what you were willing to pay in increased bills to combat global warming, 80 percent of those who responded didn't want to pay any higher bills at all and only 29 percent were willing to pay an additional 10 percent or more."

Guidry noted prepared letters had been distributed prior to the meeting addressed to Senators Mary Landreu and David Vitter as well as Rep. Melancon asking them three questions: (1) what are your plans to insure SLECA consumers have reliable energy while reducing future air emissions; (2) would you fund research to make emission-free electricity plants an affordable reality; and (3) how much will balancing electricity needs and environmental goals affect electric bills?

He proclaimed SLECA's board continues to honor the motto of "Low Rates, High Expectations," while investigating power supply options and maintaining quality service. He noted SLECA remains committed to local communities and educational opportunities through programs such as scholarships to local students, the annual Farmers' Market and the Washington, D.C. Youth Tour.

SLECA Manager of Member Services Joe Ticheli introduced this year's winners of the annual Youth Tour to Washington, D.C. They were Tyler Bunnell of Houma and Alyssa Ann Dowouis of Raceland.

Ticheli also announced four scholarships for the 2008-2009 fall and spring semesters at Nicholls State University or the L.E. Fletcher Community College to four local students. The scholarships, valued at \$1,000 each, are offered to graduating high school seniors. The winners are: Kate L. Hotard of Matthews who attends Central Lafourche High; Neal J. Bollinger of Hou-

ma who also attends Central Lafourche High; Megan N. Bergeron and Rebecca Kay Laughlin, both of Gray, La. who both also attend Vandebilt Catholic High School.

SLECA members and guests enjoyed a great meal with entertainment by the Houma-Terrebonne Community Band, Cajun humorist Kent Gonsoulin and talented singer Rochelle Glispy, who performed a musical tribute to American veterans and all those from the SLECA service territory currently serving in the U.S. military.

An annual health fair sponsored by St. Ann Hospital in Raceland was conducted for members prior to the meeting and magician David LeBoeuf presented a show for the younger SLECA members who also were treated to balloon art and face painting by artists Frank and Tammy Chaisson prior to the business meeting.

The U.S. Coast Guard offered tips on water safety



At top, re-elected to the SLECA board were (left to right) Tracy Duval, District 9; Eroy Acosta, District 8, and Terry Trahan, District 7. Above, left, SLECA General Manager Mike Guidry (left) speaks with Congressman Charles Melancon. Above, right, SLECA Board President Alexander Doyle and Guidry receive a safety performance award.

while the local fire department provided information on fire safety. Every SLECA member attending the meeting received an energy saving CFL bulb which Guidry said would be used as part of expanding Co-op programs to reduce energy use in homes and businesses. Registered members also received a heavy duty flashlight.

Following the opening of the meeting by SLECA attorney James Funderburk, Clerk of Court Bobby Boudreaux swore in re-elected SLECA directors Terry Trahan, District 7; Eroy Acosta, District 8, and Tracy Duval, District 9. Also serving on the board are Brian Rivet, District 1; J. D. Boudreaux, District 2; Larry Daigle, District 3; David Luke, District 4; Roger Dale DeHart, District 5; Alexander Doyle, District 6, and advisor to the board Lloyd Gibson.

The meeting closed with the awarding of more than 50 door prizes with Brandon Trahan of Houma winning the grand prize of a Sony 46-inch LCD 1080 p flat screen TV given away in random drawings.

SLECA Youth Tour winners attend conference

Among the 26 local high school students recently attending a Youth Leadership Conference held March 26-28 in Baton Rouge were Tyler Bunnell, son of Thomas and Angela Bunnell of Houma, shown with Alyssa Ann Dowouis, daughter of Darren and Rhonda Dowouis of Raceland (Acct. No. 4401326600).



In Honor of the Men and Women Who Have Protected Our Freedom...

SLECA will be closed Monday, May 28 in observance of Memorial Day.

A dispatcher and crews will be on duty for emergencies or interruption of service.

Have a safe and happy Memorial Day!

We need to know if you are on a life-support system

We are updating our records for life-support equipment needs and would appreciate your cooperation in providing this information.

In order to maintain quality service and perform important maintenance or construction on our electric distribution system, it is sometimes necessary to plan a brief outage to protect the safety of SLECA's linemen.

As members know, there is nothing that can be done to prevent outages due to extreme weather or other uncontrollable factors. By planning outages for maintenance and restoring service for all outages as quickly as possible, SLECA strives to minimize any inconvenience.

In a special effort to minimize the inconvenience to any member who relies on life-support systems or equipment, we need to know who you are and where you are located. We also need to be advised at any time any changes are made and if the system or equipment is removed. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

If someone in your home is dependent on life-support equipment, please fill out this form and mail it to SLECA, P.O. Box 4037, Houma, LA 70361.

Life Support System Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: Area Code(____) _____

Account Number: _____

Type of Support System: _____

Do you have an emergency standby generator to operate this equipment?

Yes _____ No _____

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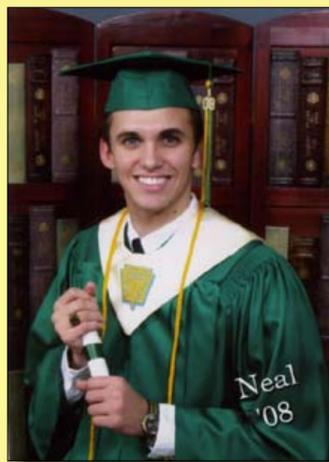
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