

Safety First



By Joe Ticheli
SLECA Safety Coordinator

Remember the 10-foot rule at any job site

Electricity is so common in our lives we often forget that the power lines that serve our homes, schools and job sites should always be avoided and treated with the utmost respect.

Electric power is a faithful servant that travels along power lines to wherever it is needed. However, those lines, whether overhead or underground, should ALWAYS BE AVOIDED.

If your work requires or involves excavation, drilling or the use of tall or heavy equipment what might come into contact with power lines, always remember to LOOK UP FIRST.

The first step in electric safety on any work site is to survey the area and note the location of every electric line. That includes those underground.

For overhead lines, be sure your equipment will clear any wires by more than ten feet. Respect this 10-foot "safe zone" because electricity will always seek the path of least resistance to the ground. If equipment you operate comes into contact with a power line, that equipment (and you) may become part of that path.

Follow these safety rules when working with heavy equipment:

- Always contact the local electric power supplier to help survey a work site for electric hazards before beginning work.

- Always consider all overhead lines to be energized and uninsulated. Adhere to all local, state and federal regulations pertaining to minimum clearance required.

- Ground personnel should stand clear of equipment at all times. If they are in contact with equipment that comes in contact with a power line, then they are also at risk of being energized. Employees working on equipment that becomes energized should jump clear of the unit. Do not climb down or try to climb back on the unit.

- In the event of an accident, keep all personnel clear of the area. Don't assume that any lines are dead. Contact the power supplier or law enforcement for assistance.

Remember, whether it's a dump truck, earth mover, drilling rig, block loader, crane, backhoe, forklift or some other mechanical marvel, it can become deadly when operated close to a power line. Exercise sound safety habits on every job site.

SLECA News



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



SLECA employees receive advanced training



SLECA offers its employees a comprehensive training program that covers every aspect of utility field operations stressing safety and efficient operations under all possible conditions.

Level II Intensive Lineman Training— SLECA employees Brennan Blanchard, Lee Aucoin and Reggie Pontiff were among linemen from across Louisiana who took part in the eight level, four-year La. Intensive Lineman training program conducted recently in Baton Rouge.

Win a Youth Tour EXPERIENCE

Two local SLECA students will have the opportunity to be winners of the 2009 SLECA Youth Tour Contest and spend a week with about two dozen other students from across Louisiana on a "Government in Action" Youth Tour of Washington, D.C.

The trip has been described as "the experience of a lifetime" by past winners, offering an opportunity to learn about our government and meet many important figures while making new friends.

For over 23 years, SLECA has reached out to local students, offering them the opportunity to participate in this program. Here's what you need to know:

Eligibility Requirements

- High school sophomores and juniors are eligible.
- Electricity to your residence or parent's business must be provided by SLECA.

Youth Tour Contest Guidelines

1. Students must write a letter approximately 500 words long to an elected official. The entry must be submitted in the proper letter format to be eligible.
2. The students should voice their opinion (positive or negative) to the respective local, state or federal official in a letter format on any issue, problem or matter they believe to be critical to South Louisiana.
3. The topic of concern should be stated and thoroughly discussed and the letter should be addressed to the official the student has selected.
4. On a separate sheet attached to the essay, the student must write his/her name, Social Security Number, name of school and grade level, parents' names, address, and telephone number.
5. All entries must include a current photo with their submission for use in news releases at the conclusion of the contest.

Entries should be mailed to Youth Tour Essay Contest, c/o SLECA, P.O. Box 4037, Houma, LA 70361, or delivered to SLECA's main office at 2028 Coteau Road, Highway 660, Houma, LA, or SLECA's branch office in Amelia, 2903 Lake Palourde Rd., Morgan City, LA 70380; P.O. Box 1126, Amelia, LA 70340

All letters become the property of South Louisiana Electric Cooperative Association.

ENTRIES MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN January 31, 2009. A judging committee will select two top letters and one alternate. Letters are judged on knowledge of subject, originality, composition, neatness and grammar. For more information, contact SLECA at 876-6880 or 1-800-256-8826.

Across the Board

September 17, 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, and Elaine Robertson, member services supervisor.

After the invocation and pledge, the board approved 190 new members and the minutes of the August 4th regular board meeting.

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 outlined several items related to the two storms and discussed the implementation of SLECA's emergency work plan. He then reviewed the following items: (1) SLECA continues to have the lowest rates in the area; (2) The Courier and The Daily Comet both ran stories claiming that SLECA was part of the PSC declared emergency when SLECA is actually exempt from the emergency. A day later both papers ran a small retraction; (3) Medical insurance premiums will increase by only 4.5 percent and not the 6 percent that our two-year contract had originally guaranteed; (4) Several director courses will be offered at the Region VIII Meeting; and (5) SLECA experienced a cumulative fuel savings of \$4,879,905 as a result of the board's decision to go with the actual fuel rate instead of a fixed rate.

Following Mr. Guidry's report, the board accepted the low bid for the underwater crossing by the pontoon bridge and approved SLECA signing a 99-year lease on the boat shed.

Mr. Guidry informed the board that the appraisal on the Magnolia Street office had been received and that he will discuss it further at the next board meeting.

The board then approved the manager's report and expenses, the safety report, the attorney's report and fees and a motion to include Mr. Guidry under Operational Policies 31 and 31A.

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 (985) 876-6880 or 1-800-256-8826.

Enter SLECA's annual Christmas Lighting Contest

Light up your home this Christmas and win a \$100 Cash Prize! Entries will be accepted through December 19, 2008.

RULES:

1. Contest open to SLECA residential members only.
2. SLECA directors, employees, retired employees and/or their families are not eligible to win.
3. Electricity is required. Outdoor lighting only.
4. Suggested themes: Religious, Contemporary, Novelty.
5. Entries must be received at SLECA by December 19, 2008. Judging to be held December 22 from 5 p.m. until 11 p.m. Be sure your Christmas lights are on Dec. 22 for the judging.
6. Winners will be notified by telephone.
7. 2007 winners are ineligible.
8. Cash Prizes (\$100 in each of SLECA's nine member districts) will be awarded.

To enter, complete this form and return by December 19, 2008, to SLECA, P.O. Box 4037, Houma, La 70361. Or simply call SLECA's office in Houma, 876-6880, 1-800-256-8826; or Amelia 631-3605, 1-800-256-8836.

Christmas Lighting Contest Entry Form

Name _____
Address _____
Account No.: _____
Phone #: _____

Notice of holiday closing

SLECA's Houma and Amelia offices will be closed on Thanksgiving Day, November 27, and on Friday, November 28. Standby crews will be on call to handle outages and emergencies during the long weekend, and the night deposit boxes at both the Houma and Amelia offices will be available for payment drop-off.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING



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.

KIDS...Christmas is almost here

Draw a picture and win a prize!

We're having a Christmas contest for kids. And the prize is a \$100 Christmas gift certificate. All you have to do to win is draw a picture of your favorite Christmas activity. It can be anything you like to do at Christmas time, such as decorating the tree, wrapping gifts, Christmas shopping or going caroling...Anything!

In addition to winning the gift certificate, the winning picture will be featured in the December issue of Louisiana Country. And this is not all. Your picture will be prominently displayed on a billboard courtesy of SLECA and Lamar Outdoor Advertising for all your friends and family to see.

Here is what you need to know:

- You must be 10 years old or younger.
- Contest is open to SLECA members only.
- Entries must be submitted on one 8-1/2 x 11-inch sheet of paper.
- Any medium (crayons, markers, watercolors, etc.) may be used to draw your picture.
- The entry form must be attached to the back of your drawing.
- Employees of SLECA will judge all entries.
- You should mail your entries to SLECA, P.O. Box 4037, Houma, LA 70361 or drop it by the SLECA Houma office at 2028 Coteau Road.
- Deadline to receive entries is November 17th.

ENTRY FORM

Attach this form to the back of entry

Child's Name: _____

Parent or Guardian: _____

Child's Age: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

SLECA Account Number: _____

Your Cooperative Connection

LOUISIANA COUNTRY

SLECA NEWS
Pages 8-9 • Nov. 2008
Vol. 25, No. 8



**Even after two hurricanes,
there's still much to be thankful for...**



Even after Gustav and Ike, there's a lot for which we can all be thankful...like the dedicated men and women who restored service to our homes and businesses and the countless people from all over the nation who rallied to our aid.

We're especially thankful for our members, their patience and cooperation. As both consumers and owners of SLECA, you all hold a unique position.

We're in this for the long haul...we're thankful to help strengthen our towns and neighborhoods through jobs, service and community involvement. We're proud to be able to offer scholarships for local students and sponsor an annual educational Youth Tour to Washington D.C.

Most of all, SLECA is thankful to live up to your highest expectations.