

Enter SLECA's Christmas Lighting Contest

Light up your home this Christmas and win a \$100 Cash Prize! Entries will be accepted through December 17, 2009.

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 17, 2009. Judging to be held December 21.
6. Winners will be notified by telephone.
7. 2008 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 17, 2009, to SLECA, P.O. Box 4037, Houma, La 70361.

SLECA's Christmas Lighting Contest

Name _____

Address _____

Account No.: _____

Phone #: _____

Or simply call SLECA's office in Houma, 876-6880, 1-800-256-8826; or Amelia 631-3605, 1-800-256-8836.

Across the Board

August 10, 2009

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 Elaine Robertson, member services supervisor and Joe Ticheli, manager of member services and communications.

After the invocation, pledge, and a brief ACRE presentation, the board approved the minutes of the July 6th regular board meeting, 176 new members and the 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, Mr. Guidry reported on the following: (1) SLECA continues to have the lowest rates in the area; (2) SLECA had the lowest rates statewide with the exception of a special 2005 SLEMCO rate offered to just a few customers; (3) June experienced disappointing kilowatt sales in spite of the extremely hot weather; (4) Chabert Medical Center asked SLECA to provide "primary metering" but SLECA will not absorb those costs; (5) The employee retirement program has experienced investment losses as a result of the overall economy; (6) The restoration efforts in Lake Decade are continuing and will be followed by Grand Pass; (7) The Magnolia Street office was sold; (8) Effective July 1st, the state sales tax will no longer be charged for the sale of electricity; (9) There were no NERC/SERC violations during the period; work was done on the NERC Reliability Standard Audit Worksheets and SLECA's Compliance Plan was modified and its compliance was self-certified; (10) SLECA has started receiving FEMA funds for Gustav and Ike; (11) Employees have earned another safety supper as of July 31st; (12) The Card Check Bill would make it easier to form labor unions; (13) The Congressional Budget Office announced that the Health Care Reform Bill would significantly expand the federal responsibility for healthcare costs; and (14) Many environmentalists who worked to get Obama elected have become disenchanted with his "compromise" on the Climate Change Bill passed in the House. (Acct. No. 1404208002)

Next, the board approved the following: (1) The low bid to rebuild the boom on Unit 355; (2) Form 219 for work performed from October, 2008 to March, 2009 to submit to RUS; (3) The engagement letter received from the firm Lanaux & Felger to perform the 2009-2011 SLECA audit; (4) The low bid to replace the relay panel at Ashland Substation; (5) Mr. Daigle as the voting delegate for the Region VIII Meeting and Mr. Rivet the alternate voting delegate.

The board then approved the manager's report and expenses, the safety report, a resolution authorizing Mr. Doyle to sign and Mr. Guidry and Mr. Funderburk to negotiate a right-of-way agreement with Alltel Mobiletel, LLC for a new road right-of-way around SLECA's Ashland Substation.

Finally, the attorney's report and fees were approved.

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 News



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



Saying it with WOOD

SLECA employee Tommy Trahan gives to others through the art of woodworking

Wood.

That's the first thing you notice when you walk into Tommy Trahan's house. Lots and lots of wood. There's oak, cedar, cypress, ash, pine and some varieties you rarely see.

Trahan, a substation foreman who has been employed at SLECA for 28 years, has a passion for working with wood. He fashions cabinets, tables, desks and more for his own home as well as for friends, neighbors and even the locally-owned electric cooperative.

Presently, he's in the process of building a tabletop safety demonstration model that is used to educate school children about electrical safety. (Acct. No. 2354292400)

Trahan remembers well the individual who inspired him to pursue the craft.

John Henry was the industrial arts instructor at El-lender Junior High School back in 1978. Henry taught Trahan and his classmates all the skills necessary to design and create furniture and other objects using wood, metal and other materials.

"If anybody wanted to learn anything, he would do anything he could to teach you," Trahan recalls. "He would meet you at lunch, after school, whenever you could make it. If you didn't have the money to buy the materials, he would find extra wood for you to use. He helped me with a lot of the projects I worked on."

Trahan took to the craft like a duck takes to water. He remembers building grandfather clocks, pirogues, wine cabinets and more.

"Mr. Henry always gave you a project that was a little more challenging than you thought you could handle.

That was his way of pushing you to grow," Trahan said.

The thing that made woodworking click with Trahan,



Trahan stands beside his fireplace mantel.

though, was the competitions his teacher encouraged the students to enter. Henry would announce upcoming competitions at shows and fairs in places like Baton Rouge and Alexandria and the students would give extra effort to produce a piece that was worthy of entering in a competitive event.

"If he picked your work to enter in the fair, that was



big-time," Trahan recalls. "Being able to go off to the big city for a few days was a big deal for a kid back then. We always had fun on the trips."

The fact that he experienced some success at the shows by winning trophies and ribbons only inspired him to excel. His interest in working with wood and building things also paid off in other ways.

When school was out during summers and holidays, he would work at a local bank doing reconstruction and new construction projects.

Savvy and skilled even as a teenager, though, Trahan used his success at woodworking and carpentry for other purposes. Once word of his abilities spread, teachers and administrators would ask him to build items for the school or for their own personal use.

"They would ask me to build things for them, and I was glad to do it. That kind of got you in good with the teachers and the principal," he said with a grin.

There's no room in Trahan's home that doesn't have some piece of hand-crafted furniture in it. There's an

armoire, the master bed, shelving, desks and even a table for reloading ammunition in his spacious walk-in closet – complete with a swivel seat.

His prime source of pride, however, is a "gentleman's lair" that he added onto the home a few years ago to entertain friends and family. The recreation room is decked out in cypress and cedar, including wall panel-



Trahan's home is replete with examples of his woodworking skills, including this bar (above, left) fashioned with bullet-casing cabinet knobs, his mailbox (above) and the master bed (left).

ing, a fireplace mantle, a bar and cabinets equipped with knobs uniquely fashioned out of 20 mm bullet casings.

The wood paneling serves as a natural backdrop for several prize trophy mounts, including a large elk, deer and wild turkey.

He also built himself a spacious shop in the backyard where he can focus on his woodworking pastime.

One of the drawbacks of becoming a skilled carpenter or woodworker, Trahan explains, is that almost everyone you know approaches you about doing a custom project for them. He obliges when he can, but there's only so much time for his day job as well as other hobbies such as hunting, fishing and cooking.

"It's flattering when someone asks you to do something for them, and I've done lots of projects. I take a lot of pride when I take on a project because when you finish a piece and you deliver it to someone, that's a piece of you that you're giving. It's a part of you and it's meaningful," Trahan said.

In keeping with that spirit of giving, Trahan, it turns out, is somewhat of a regular at Terrebonne General Hospital. Nurse Jean and Nurse Fran are used to seeing him walk through the door as he just reached the point of giving 100 pints of blood over the past 25 years.

"If nobody ever did it, the people who needed it wouldn't get what they need," he said. "Besides, once you get used to going and get used to visiting with the people, it's like going to see old friends."

You can win a Youth Tour EXPERIENCE!

Two local SLECA students will have the opportunity to be winners of the 2010 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 to Washington, D.C. 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 a lot of cool, new friends.

For over 27 years, SLECA has reached out to local students, offering them the opportunity to participate in the Youth Tour Program. If you are interested, this is 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. (Acct. No. 3754994200)

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 Feb. 22, 2010.

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.



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! (Acct. No. 8103227700)

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 an outdoor 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, but the picture MUST be in color.
- The entry form must be attached to the back of your drawing.
- Employees of SLECA will judge all entries.
- You should mail your entry to SLECA, P.O. Box 4037, Houma, LA 70361, or you can drop it off at the Houma office at 2028 Coteau Rd. in Houma or at the Amelia office.
- Deadline to receive entries is November 16th.

ENTRY FORM—Attach this form to the back of entry.

Child's Name: _____

Parent or Guardian: _____

Child's Age: _____

Address: _____

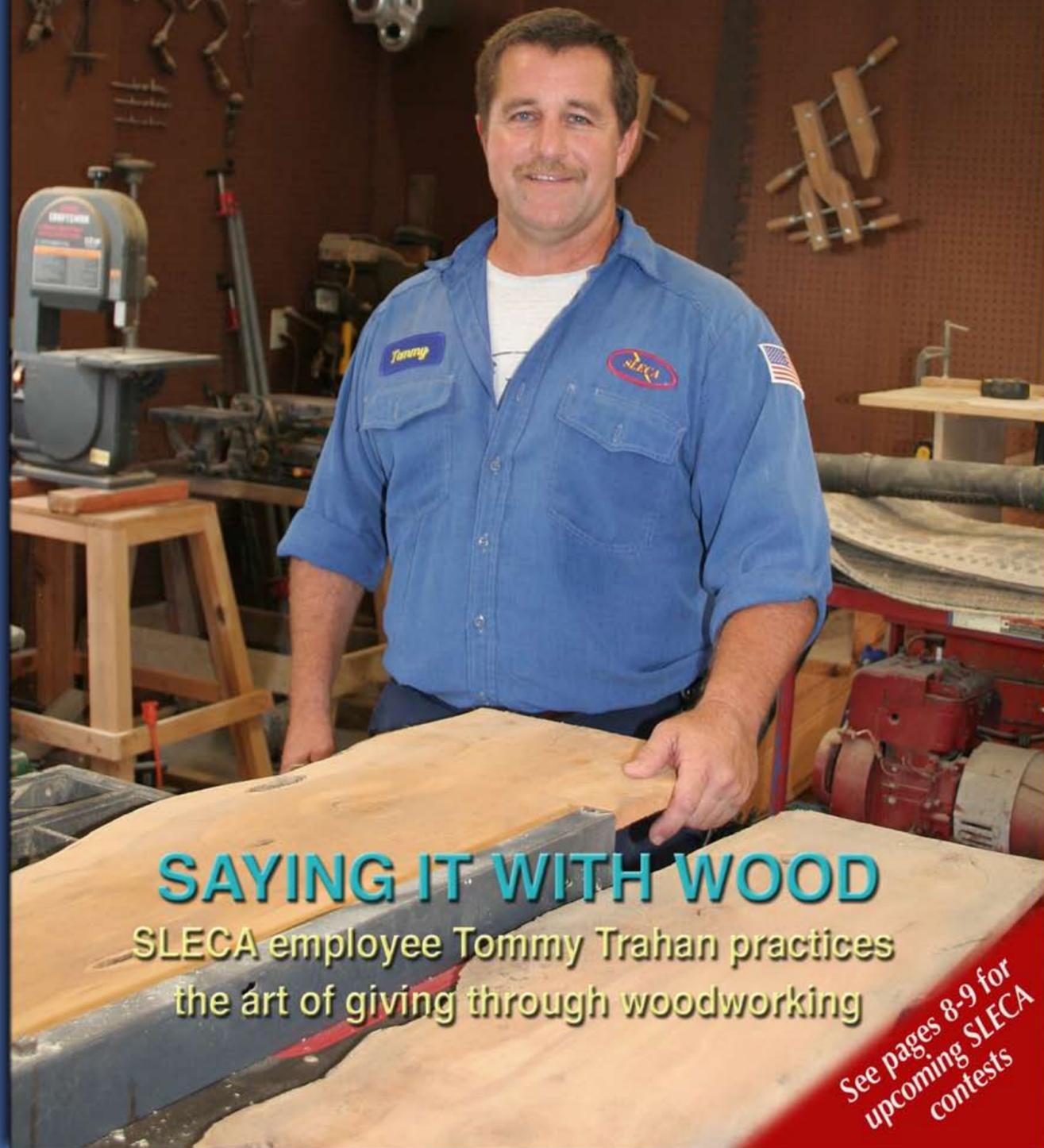
Telephone Number: _____

SLECA Account Number: _____

Your Cooperative Connection

LOUISIANA COUNTRY

SLECA NEWS
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SAYING IT WITH WOOD

SLECA employee Tommy Trahan practices the art of giving through woodworking

See pages 8-9 for upcoming SLECA contests