

## Daigle receives director certification

SLECA board member Larry Daigle has completed the course-work required to earn special recognition by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

Daigle received his Board Leadership Certificate at NRECA's Region 8 and 10 meeting in November. He followed fellow SLECA board member Roger Dale DeHart, who received his certification in 2007.

The director training program distinguishes co-op board members as leaders among the national network of more than 900 electric cooperatives.

NRECA's Director Education program emphasizes the importance of locally-elected directors understanding the roles and responsibilities of their position. The program helps directors acquire the knowledge and skills to govern member-owned cooperatives in today's economic climate.



Daigle, above, left, is shown with NRECA CEO Glenn English and SLECA General Manager and NRECA Vice President Michael J. Guidry. Below, Daigle casts his vote during the business session at the Region 8 and 10 meeting.



## Hundreds visit Christmas open house

Hundreds of children visited SLECA's Houma and Amelia offices on Dec. 15 and 17 where Santa greeted them with refreshments and picture taking.

This year's visit also included an appearance by Mrs. Claus. Santa presented four \$25 Wal-Mart gift cards and other goodies to the children in Houma.

He also presented two gift cards and goodies at SLECA's Christmas Open House at the Amelia office. Apples and oranges were given to the children at both offices, courtesy of SLECA board members.

## Across the Board

November 9, 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, Mark Felger, Lanaux and Felger, Kenny Berrigan, Brooks Harbour and Steve Giroir, manager of engineering. (Acct. No. 1454987601)

After the invocation, pledge and introduction of guests, Mr. Berrigan and Mr. Giroir presented SLECA's Long Rang Work Plan. Following the presentation, the board approved the work plan. Mr. Guidry then informed the board that Mrs. Hazel Gibson, mother of Lloyd Gibson and Amelia employee Ella Banks, had passed away.

After an executive session and explanation of agenda item #5, Hand in Time, the board approved minutes of the Oct. 5, regular board meeting, 179 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) A troubling aspect of the Health Care Reform proposal is a 40 percent excise tax on annual insurance plans on the excess of \$9,850 for individuals and \$26,000 for family coverage beginning in 2013; (3) Socorro Electric Cooperative in New Mexico is experiencing some board-related problems; (4) Several important activities and meetings will take place in November and December; (5) A response to Mr. Guidry's letter to Valley Electric was received; (6) There were no violations this period for NERC/SERC and SLECA is working to improve its Compliance Tracking System and organizing and improving its documentation; and (7) The PSC has approved DEMCO's Formula Rate Plan resulting in approximately a \$5.00 per month increase which is a 3.33 mil/kwh increase.

Next, the board approved the following items: (1) The low bid to purchase uniforms for the men; (2) The price, pending FEMA approval to retire the line to the Wildlife and Fisheries camp in Grand Pass; (3) The price to change out eight poles in Lake Decade; (4) The low bid to complete the clean up work from Hurricane Gustav; (5) The renewal of SLECA's medical insurance premiums; and (6) The vendor for SLECA's new computer system.

The board then approved the manager's report and expenses, the safety report showing employees have worked 2,119,708 hours without a loss time accident since December, 1996, additional wording to the Oct. 5 redistricting resolution and the attorney's report and fees.

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.

# SLECA News



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 1, 2 and 3 will get under way in February.

Qualified SLECA members who wish to seek election as a director of District 1, 2 and 3 must file their applications at SLECA's main office at 2028 Coteau Road, Houma from 7:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. from Monday, Feb. 1, through Thursday, Feb. 4. Applications can also be filed Friday, Feb. 5, from 7:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Elections will be held at the district meetings. (Acct. No. 2700943105)

Only members who officially qualify will be eligible to run for board director: 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.

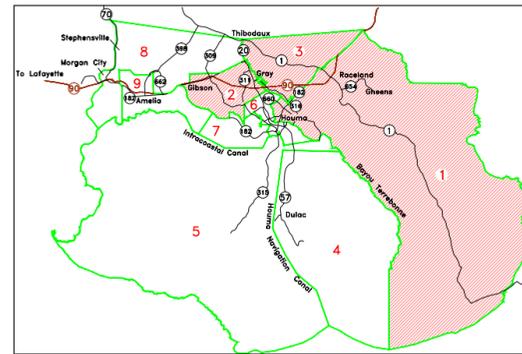
The District 1 meeting will be held at the Vacherie Gheens Community Center on Tuesday, March 9.

The District 2 meeting will be held at the Donner Community Center on Thursday, March 11.

The District 3 meeting will be held at the St. Louis Church Hall on Wednesday March 10.

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.)

## 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.

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 (Acct. No. 3600033903)

All entries 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.



## SLECA Christmas lighting contest winners announced

Nine area residents from Houma, Gheens, Donner and Morgan City are the winners of South Louisiana Electric Cooperative Association's (SLECA) annual Christmas Lighting Contest. A total of 25 entries were received in SLECA's nine board districts.

Judging took place on December 21<sup>st</sup>. Each of the nine winners will receive a \$100.00 cash prize. Every year the contest is open to SLECA residential consumers and entries are judged on workmanship, originality, color, scale and proportion, suitability to Christmas and neatness. One winner is selected in each of SLECA's nine board districts.

This year's winners are: Mr. and Mrs. Parrish Triche, 2433 Bayou Blue Rd, Houma; Mr. and Mrs. Russell Gregoire, 111 Santa Monica Dr., Houma; Mr. and Mrs. Laban Voisin, Sr., 209 Tina St., Houma; Mr. and Mrs. Shawn Smith, 405 Forest Blvd., Houma; Mr. and Mrs. Larry Fonseca, Sr., 126 Nottingham Trail, Houma; Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Robichaux, 1706 Hwy. 654, Gheens; Mr. and Mrs. Larry LeBlanc, 163 Azalea Dr., Donner; Mr. and Mrs. Gilday Gaudet, 468 Hwy. 663, Morgan City and Mr. and Mrs. Larry Aucoin, 2204 Lake Palourde Rd., Morgan City.

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

Guidry said that it's unbelievable how much work goes into these holiday displays. The decorations get bigger and more elaborate each year.

"You don't have to travel far to get into the Christmas spirit," said Guidry. "It's right here in our own backyard." (Acct. No. 8050373000)

SLECA is a locally owned electric cooperative serving over 16,000 consumers in Assumption, Lafourche, St. Mary, St. Martin and Terrebonne parishes and is a Touchstone Energy Cooperative.

## It's a Kid's Christmas Drawing Contest winner

Anna Rose M. Serigny, daughter of Amber Serigny who resides in Houma, was the winner of SLECA's eighth annual "It's a Kid's Christmas" Drawing Contest. In addition to a \$100 gift certificate from Southland Mall, Anna Rose's drawing was featured on an outdoor billboard courtesy of Lamar Advertising for the holiday season.

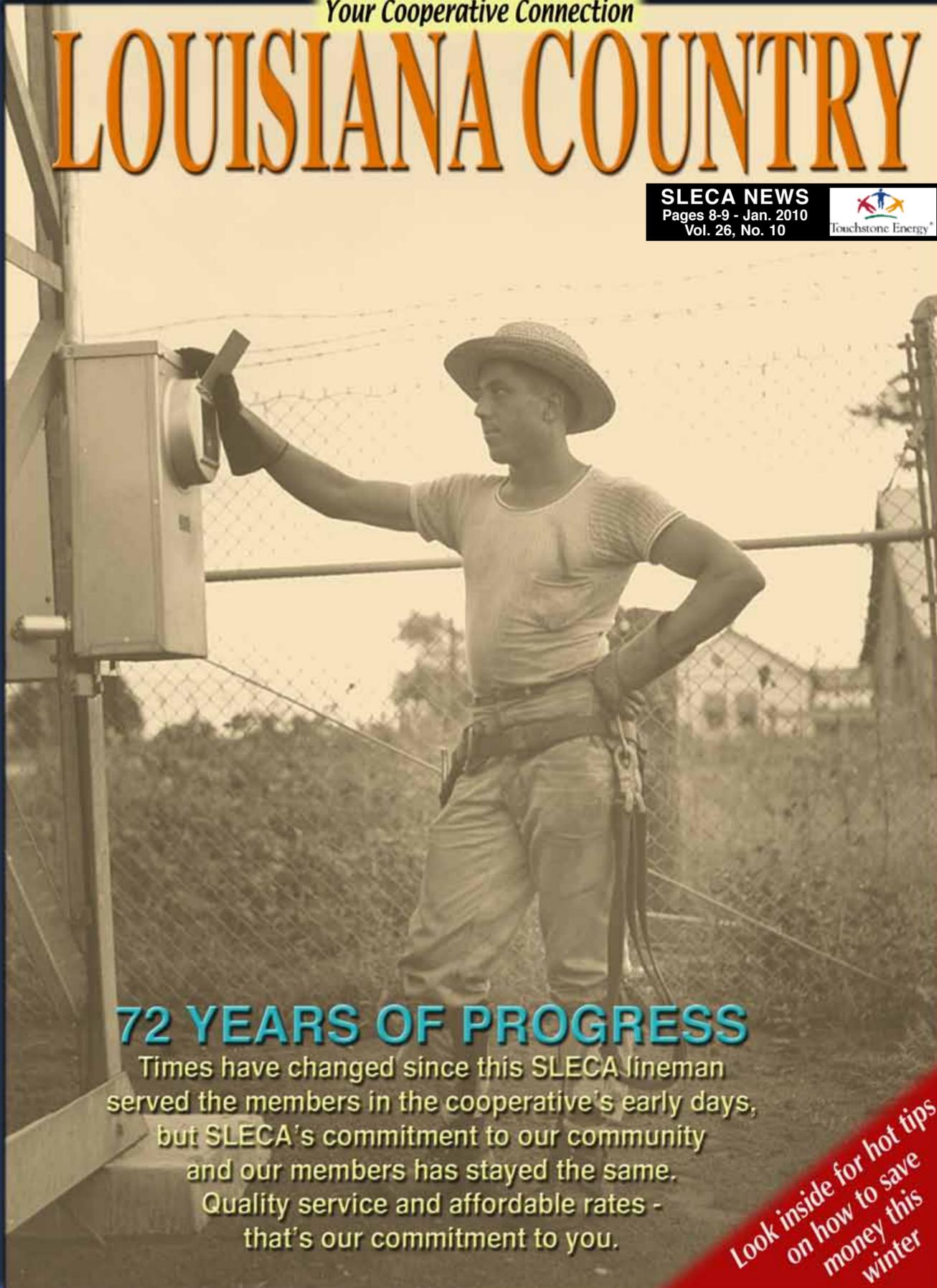
Anna Rose is shown receiving her gift certificate from SLECA's Manager of Member Services and Communications Joe Ticheli.



Your Cooperative Connection

# LOUISIANA COUNTRY

SLECA NEWS  
Pages 8-9 - Jan. 2010  
Vol. 26, No. 10



## 72 YEARS OF PROGRESS

Times have changed since this SLECA lineman served the members in the cooperative's early days, but SLECA's commitment to our community and our members has stayed the same. Quality service and affordable rates - that's our commitment to you.

Look inside for hot tips  
on how to save  
money this  
winter