

SLECA district meetings scheduled

SLECA has announced those members who have qualified as candidates for board of director positions in districts 1, 2 and 3.

Qualifying in District 1 is Brian Rivet, 111 South Leon Drive, Gheens. Rivet returns unopposed.

In District 2 incumbent director J. D. Boudreaux, 183 Azalea Drive, Donner, returns unopposed.

Also returning unopposed in District 3 is incumbent director Larry J. Daigle of 3265 Hwy. 316, Gray.

The district meetings are scheduled as follows:

District 1

Tuesday, March 9, 2010
Gheens Community Center
Hwy. 654, Gheens, LA

District 2

Thursday, March 11, 2010
Donner Community Center, Donner, LA

District 3

Wednesday, March 10, 2010
St. Louis Catholic Church Hall, Gray, LA

Registration for all meetings begins at 6:00 p.m. and closes sharply at 7:00 p.m. The meetings begin immediately after registration. Refreshments will be served and prizes will be awarded.

Directors elected at the district meetings are sworn in at SLECA's Annual Membership Meeting on Friday, April 23, 2010, at the Houma-Terrebonne Civic Center, 346 Civic Center Blvd., Houma, La.

Across the Board

December 14, 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, and Elaine Robertson, member services supervisor.

After the invocation, pledge and introduction of guests, the board approved the minutes of the November 9th regular board meeting, the minutes of the November 19th budget committee meeting, the minutes of the December 7th special 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. (Acct. No. 1403175407)

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) Computer hackers tapped into emails among scientists raising questions about global warming; (3) Senator Landrieu cited the pros and cons of the Health Care Reform Bill; (4) Commissioner Foster Campbell sent out a news release regarding the sale of Valley Electric; (5) SLECA's offices will be closed on Christmas Day and on New Year's Day and will likely close early on the day before those holidays; (6) The NERC/SERC report shows that SLECA has completed some major tasks and is now working on minor enhancements and requirements in preparation for a scheduled 2012 audit; and (7) Weather has delayed the replacement of the breaker in Ashland Substation and the transformer cooling fins in Dulac.

Next, the board approved the following items: (1) The 2010 Budget as approved the Board Budget Committee; and (2) The 2007 bad debt write-offs.

The board then approved the manager's report and expenses and the safety report showing employees have worked 2,135,932 hours without a loss time accident since December, 1996.

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)



Krewe of Hercules keeps the party rocking 365 days a year

Mardi Gras is marked by just one day on the calendar. But for Danny Picou, Mardi Gras is a year-around activity. More like an obsession, actually.

Picou is president of the Terrebonne Men's Carnival Club, popularly known as the Krewe of Hercules.

The krewe joins in the party on Fat Tuesday and the festive days leading up to the big event, but Picou and other members of the roughly 400 members of the group are constantly planning and preparing for activities unrelated to Mardi Gras.

Headquartered at its 50,000-square-foot "den" located off Hwy. 182, the krewe is involved in several programs that benefit the community. Most notable is the annual Thanksgiving and Christmas parties organized for senior citizens.

Picou said the club works with the local Sheriff's Department and the Council on Aging to gather seniors from throughout the community for a half-day of eating, singing and general merriment.

"The thing about this event is seeing the people get together. They live in separate facilities and don't get to see one another all the time," Picou said. "But when we get them all together in one room and they start visiting with one another, you should see the smiles on their faces. That's what makes it all worthwhile."

Hanging from the walls inside the spacious headquarters are personal notes of appreciation from local groups that have benefitted from the club's outreach and charitable programs.

The cavernous headquarters building happens to be the site of one of the club's most popular community activities.

Each year during the three weeks before Mardi Gras Day school groups from throughout the area are invited to participate in what's described as a Mardi Gras parade safety program.

The students are given advice and instruction on what to do, and what not to do, when viewing a parade and catching beads and trinkets.

After a brief talk, the students are given a drink and dessert and then taken to the back warehouse where all the colorful floats await their time on the grand stage.

Half the students climb aboard the floats and throw beads at their fellow students below. Picou and other krewe members on hand instruct the students on how to avoid dangerous scenarios and then the students groups switch roles.

"Parades are a lot of fun for families but they can present a hazardous situation if you don't take the proper precautions. We want the kids to have fun but we don't want anyone getting hurt. This

program has been one of the most popular things we do. We can't even accommodate all the classes who want to get involved in this every year," Picou said.

Other activities include a benefit for local children's advocates and the annual Redfish Fishing Rodeo that has grown to include more than 2,500 anglers each year. On parade day, the krewe also boards a caravan of buses and makes a run past a local children's home to give the kids a special parade experience.

Picou pointed out that many believe the krewe and similar organizations are strictly social groups that don't provide much beyond an excuse to throw a party.

But the group is always looking for an opportunity to have a positive impact on the community.

One example is the group's willingness to accommodate SLECA's need for an off-site warehouse facility after Hurricane Gustav hit two years ago. With its own space filling up fast and the community under distress, SLECA was granted permission to store transformers, conduit, poles and other materials on the krewe's property located near the local electric cooperative's main office on Coteau Road. And no matter how vehemently the co-op insisted, the krewe refused to accept compensation.

"We appreciate the way they stepped up when we needed them," said SLECA Manager of Member Services



Joe Ticheli, who noted that SLECA employee Mark Hue is a member of the Hercules Krewe. "When there is a disaster, it's amazing how members of the community all work together to pitch in to help."

Picou said the group was only happy to assist.

"I think the co-op does a fantastic job and they really responded magnificently after that storm," Picou said. "We're thankful the employees worked so hard to get the lights back on for the people and did it in a very timely manner."

The Krewe of Hercules was founded 26 years ago by a small group of men led by S.P. LaRussa, who was friends with Blaine Kern, the New Orleans-based master of all things Mardi Gras.

LaRussa rounded up 18 original board members who in turn rounded up 20 riders. Since then, the krewe has grown to nearly 40 floats. In the beginning, the floats were rented from Kern, but today the floats are housed in Houma and considerable effort is expended to change the look of the floats from year to year according to the current theme.

Picou, who is retired from a career in the oilfield industry, remembers the first Hercules parade.

"I remember coming over the canal on the bridge and seeing a sea of people. People were standing right out in the middle of the street and were moving out of the way as we came through. It was like the parting of the Red Sea. That's when I decided this might be something fun to do," Picou said.

All the service work is over and beyond the amount of time and effort required to stage the many events that are strictly parties. (Acct. No. 2253790402)

In addition to fund-raising events, charitable activities and parties, the krewe also operates a store selling a wide assortment of beads, stuffed animals and other "throws."

"It's an awful lot of work all during the year," Picou said, who finds time to head a float with 24 riders. "But it's something we have a passion for. We can help out the community and have a good time too. That's a pretty good deal. How could you ask for more than that?"



At top, Roy Landry of SLECA, Eddie Bergeron and Danny Picou chat at the Krewe of Hercules Mardi Gras supply shop. Above, Picou is shown with his float depicting a two-headed dragon.

SLECA offers scholarships to local students

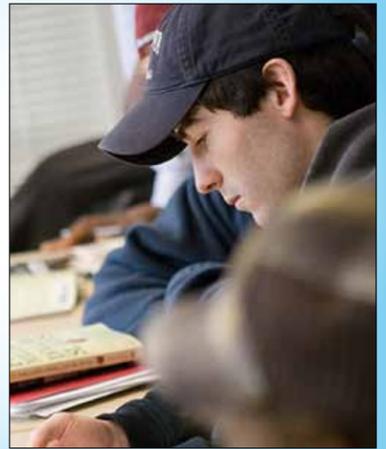
South Louisiana Electric Cooperative Association (SLECA) is offering scholarships for the 2010-2011 fall and spring semesters at Nicholls State University or the L. E. Fletcher Community College. Four scholarships valued at \$1000 each are being offered to graduating high school seniors to help with the costs of tuition, room and board, or books.

Qualifying students must live on SLECA electric lines or have a parent who is a manager or owner of a company that is a SLECA member.

Financial need is considered as well as scholastic performance.

See your guidance counselor for an application or call SLECA at 876-6880 in Houma or 631-3605 in Amelia. (Acct. No. 8552026200)

The deadline for applying for this scholarship is March 31. Send in your application now!



Energy emergency deferred billing

South Louisiana Electric Cooperative Association's (SLECA) Energy Emergency Deferred Billing Program provides eligible customers with a mechanism to defer utility payments in the event the Louisiana Public Service Commission should declare an "Energy Emergency."

To qualify for the program, a residential customer or government entity must meet certain requirements and be pre-qualified and pre-enrolled prior to any LPSC declared energy emergency.

For details and the requirements to become a "Qualified Consumer," contact SLECA at P.O. Box 4037, Houma, LA; 985/876-6880.

Eligible consumers—Eligible customers include any one of the following:

- Those persons whose income does not exceed 150% of the poverty level as established by the Federal Government and who are 65 years of age or older.
- Those persons who receive either one of the following: (1) Food stamps; (2) Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).
- Those persons whose sole income consists of Social Security payments.
- As determined by the Commission or other vital government entities who provide services, the absence of which could result in imminent peril to the public health, safety, and welfare. (Acct. No. 3751367301)
- Those persons who need life-sustaining, electrically operated equipment, or life-sustaining medical treatment that requires electricity in order to live.

SLECA Mardi Gras Office Hours

Due to Mardi Gras, SLECA's offices in Houma and Amelia will be closed Feb. 16. SLECA's offices in Houma and Amelia will also close at 3:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 12.

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.

Your Cooperative Connection

LOUISIANA COUNTRY

SLECA NEWS
Pages 8-9 - Feb. 2010
Vol. 26, No. 11



KREWE OF HERCULES
keeps the party going
365 days a year