

## SLECA DIRECTORS RE-ELECTED

The following directors that were re-elected without opposition will be sworn in at the cooperative's Annual Membership Meeting on Friday, April 23, at the Houma-Terrebonne Civic Center, 346 Civic Center Blvd., Houma, La.

The directors who were re-elected without opposition are:  
District 1 - Brian Rivet, 111 South Leon Drive, Gheens.  
District 2 - J. D. Boudreaux, 183 Azalea Drive, Donner.  
District 3 - Larry J. Daigle of 3265 Hwy. 316, Gray.

### Brian Rivet

Gheens resident Brian Rivet, owner of a logging and sawmill business, has served on SLECA's Board since 1983. He is presently secretary of the Board, is a former member of the Cajun Electric Power Cooperative Board of Directors, and serves as a board member of the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives, Inc., as well as a past director of Western Fuels. Rivet is the owner and operator of Brian's Trucking, leased to Venture Transportation. He serves District 1, that includes the Gheens, Raceland and Mathews areas, and portions of Upper Bayou Blue, Coteau and Lockport.



### J.D. Boudreaux III

Julien Dennis (J.D.) Boudreaux III, a resident of Donner who has been active in the Donner-Chacahoula Fire Department and Jaycees also has served on the St. Lawrence Church Parish Council. He received the Bishop's Medal in 1987. A self-employed grocery operator and bulk-fuel dealer, he served as president of the Terrebonne Parish Police Jury and was a member and the first chairman of the Terrebonne Parish Council. A former Justice of the Peace, Boudreaux is the Recipient of the Roland J. Thibodaux Award as a Terrebonne Parish school bus driver. Boudreaux worked in a supervisory capacity at McDermott Fabrications for 15 years. He has represented District 2 since January 2006.



### Larry J. Daigle

Bayou Blue native Larry J. Daigle was elected to the SLECA board in April 2004 representing District 3. Having served 39 years as senior vice-president of Caro Produce and nine years as president of Prime Source and Southland Distribution, he is currently the local produce buyer and grower liaison for Rouse's Supermarket. A SLECA member since 1965, Daigle currently is treasurer of the finance committee of St. Louis Catholic Church and has served on the parish council of the church for eight years. Daigle, who served as advisor to Bishop Boudreaux on the Pastoral Council, received the Bishop's Award in 1988 for outstanding service to the parish. He serves on the board of directors of the Andrew Johnson Senior Citizens Center of Bayou Blue. Daigle has been married to his wife, Ruby, for 47 years. He counts his spouse as his most helpful and trusted supporter and advisor in his role as a SLECA board member.



## SLECA News



Low Rates. High Expectations.

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



## Floating Monuments

# Verrett builds boats in memory of his late daughter

Thaddeus Verrett didn't plan on being a model ship builder.

But then again, he didn't plan on spending so much idle time at St. Jude's Hospital in Memphis, either.

Verrett's young daughter, Christine, was being treated at the hospital back in the 1980s, a battle against an aggressive form of brain cancer that was sustained over the course of four years. The first round of treatment lasted 56 days, and Verrett realized he was going to find himself with a lot of spare time on his hands.

"One day I asked one of the workers there if I could get some cardboard, some scissors, some glue, a ruler, a pencil and one of those little scalpels. I figured I would make a boat while I was waiting around," Verrett recalled. (Acct. No. 1451684911)

Though fighting bravely, Christine eventually succumbed to the cancer in 1990 at the age of 14. But Verrett is still building his scaled-down boats and giving them as gifts to others. It's his own small way of honoring the life of his late, beloved daughter.

Two of the craftsman's boats have been presented to employees at SLECA as a gesture of gratitude for the locally-owned electric cooperative's assistance during Christine's illness. The boat named "Captain Ivy" was built for employee Ivy Deroche while the "Mr. Mike" was given to General Manager Mike Guidry, who actually spent some time in his younger days working on a tug boat and a push boat.

Verrett recalls with a sense of appreciation that SLECA organized a special fund to defray costs incurred by him and his wife Elaine as they trekked back and forth from their Bayou Blue home to Memphis over the course of many months. The co-op also worked with Thaddeus and Elaine to make arrangements to help with the family's utility account. It's a spirit of cooperation that Thaddeus says he will never forget.

"SLECA did a lot for us in a time of need. They just saw the story in the newspaper and set up that special



At left is Verrett with a few of his boats. Above is a close-up of the "Mr. Mike."

fund, and they worked with us when we would have to be away from home for weeks at a time," Verrett said. "They're good people. I can't say enough about them."

Guidry said the organization's role in the community is one of the things that sets the cooperative apart.

"We're owned and controlled by our members, not some far-away stockholders. We're here to not only serve electric power but also enhance the quality of life for our community and do anything we can to help," said Guidry, who serves as vice president of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association board.

A shipyard worker before he became disabled from an on-the-job accident in 1980, Verrett builds his boats without the benefit of printed designs or prepared blueprints. Sometimes he refers to photographs but mostly crafts his vessels from his memories of working in the shipbuilding industry for over 13 years.

Verrett, a 64-year-old card-carrying member of the United Houma Nation, estimates each boat takes about two days to construct and that he has built "hundreds" of the boats over the years, including two for charitable purposes. A few years back, a civic group in Dulac was

raising funds to assist a family that had no burial insurance for a deceased family member and Verrett donated a boat that was raffled off for several hundred dollars. He uses all manner of materials and scraps including cardboard, drinking straws, styrofoam, aluminum foil rolls, wire, plastic "and anything else I can get my hands on."

He enjoys naming the boats after people who are important in his life. There's the "Miss Elaine" for his wife and the "Capt. Lakin," the "Brett-Michele" and the "Capt. Justin" named for his three grandchildren.

Understandably, the "Miss Elaine" is one boat that he splurged on. He made that one out of balsa wood, though he usually avoids using wood because of the expense. Verret figures it would cost over \$100 to make just one boat completely out of wood.

The avocation is something Verret intends to keep on pursuing. The boats, he has found, fascinates, intrigues, and brings a smile to the faces of those he encounters. And every hull that's shaped, every deck that's laid out, every little piece that's put into place brings back fond memories of the dear daughter he lost long ago.

## Check account names to speed Annual Meeting registration

To help speed your registration at SLECA's Annual Meeting, April 23, 2010, please take a couple of minutes to check something now.

Check the name (or names) listed on the mailing label on the front of this newspaper. This is how your account is listed on our records. If any changes have occurred, you need to contact us to find out what needs to be done to make the proper corrections.

Your registration is important in the event of voting and also for the prize drawing at the end of the business session.

Only members of record (those listed on the bill cards and newspaper labels) may register at the meeting. A joint membership of husband and wife counts as one registration. A tenant may not register if the account is in the landlord's name, nor may a landlord register if the account is in the tenant's name.

A qualified representative of a church, business or organization may register if proper documentation is presented. Only the president, officer or manager of a corporation may vote for the corporation at a meeting of the members.

Any employee of the corporation may vote for the corporation as authorized by corporate resolution of the Board of Directors. This resolution must be adopted within ninety (90) days prior to the meeting. (Acct. No. 2603128201)

We urge you to contact us as soon as possible if any changes or corrections need to be made on your records.

## Want to save on your power bill?

Check out our website at [www.sleca.com](http://www.sleca.com) where you will find a link to "Together We Save." The site is loaded with ideas and tips on how you can consume power more efficiently and save money on your monthly electricity bill!



## NOTICE

SLECA's offices will be closed on Good Friday, April 2. A standby crew will be on call at all times to handle emergencies during the holiday.

## SLECA offers scholarships to local students

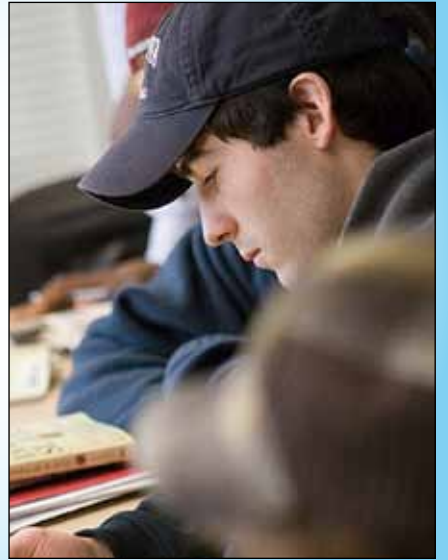
South Louisiana Electric Cooperative Association (SLECA) is offering scholarships for the 2010-2011 fall and spring semesters at Nicholls State University or the L. E. Fletcher Community College. Four scholarships valued at \$1000 each are being offered to graduating high school seniors to help with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

The deadline for applying for this scholarship is March 31. Send in your application now! (Acct. No. 7653020101)



## Bonne Terre Garden Fair

The annual Bonne Terre Garden Fair will be held May 1, 2010 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the grounds of TARC at #1 McCord Road, Houma, LA 70363, at the Houma airbase. Admission is \$4.00 or \$2.00 in advance; children under 12, free.

For more information, call 985-873-6495 or email [bonne.terre@yahoo.com](mailto:bonne.terre@yahoo.com).

## Across the Board

January 4, 2010

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 the minutes of the December 14th regular board meeting, the minutes of the December 21st District/Annual Meeting Planning Committee Meeting and 138 new members.

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 verses 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) The Senate version of the health care bill was passed and now goes to the Conference Committee; (3) Horizontal drilling technologies have opened the door to vast amounts of natural gas finds giving the United States an estimated 90 year supply at current levels of usage; (4) ALEC had filed a petition with the PSC requesting an investigation of the Valley acquisition by SWEPCO but it was denied by the executive secretary; (5) Brian Rivet signed a letter to the Valley-area newspapers; (6) The board supper was one of the best held; (7) LA Ship has plans to expand its site beyond what was originally planned and would require an additional 6,000 kva of service capacity; (8) SLECA is working on a compliance tracking system to help assure we are complying with all requirements of NERC/SWERC regulations; and (9) Calvin Savoy is retiring on January 29, 2010.

Next, the board appointed Mr. Daigle as voting delegate and Mr. Dehart as alternate for the NRECA Annual Meeting and accepted the low bid to replace the damaged underwater crossing at Bayou LaCarpe.

The board then approved the manager's report and expenses; the safety report showing employees have worked 2,148,226 hours without a loss time accident since December, 1996 and the attorney's report and fees.

The meeting was then adjourned. (Acct. No. 3405104201)

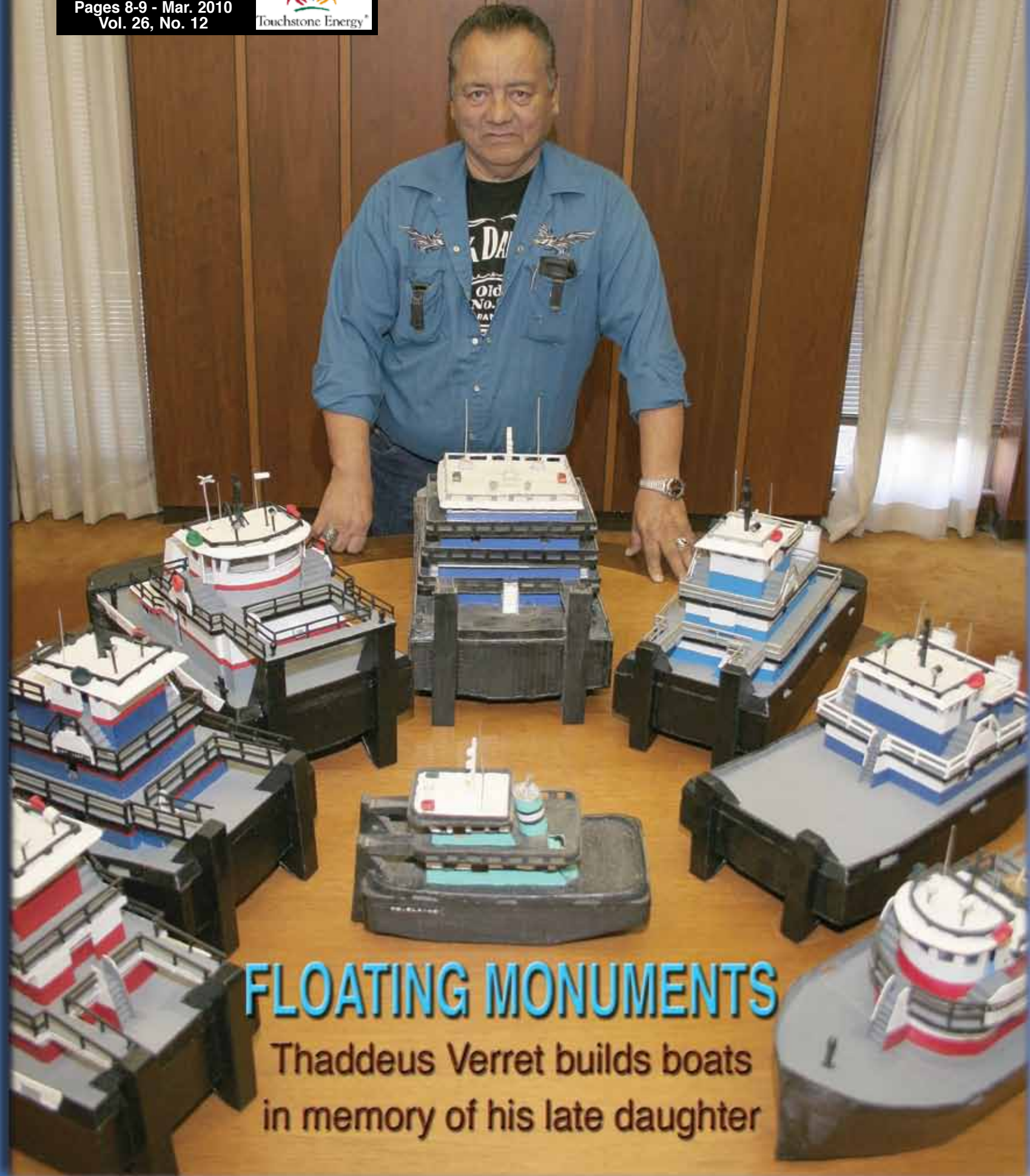
You may obtain copies of the minutes by contacting SLECA, P.O. Box 4037, Houma, LA 70361 or by calling (985) 876-6880 or 1-800-256-8826.



Your Cooperative Connection

# LOUISIANA COUNTRY

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## FLOATING MONUMENTS

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