

Energy emergency deferred billing

SLECA's 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.
- Those persons who need life-sustaining, electrically operated equipment, or life-sustaining medical treatment that requires electricity in order to live.

Across the Board

May 12, 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 April 5th regular board meeting, 168 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 and electric and total revenue verses cost per kilowatt hour. (Acct. No. 1404093203)

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) Penalties for "Cadillac" insurance plans will not go into effect until after 2018; (3) An economist with the International Monetary Fund is predicting a 4.2% growth in world output but also calls for caution as the global economy is showing signs of recovery; (4) There is a new climate change bill that is suppose to have the support of the Edison Electric Institute and several large IOUs; (5) The Legislative Cookout went very well and was well attended; (6) The annual Family Fun Day is scheduled for Saturday, May 22nd at the Donner recreation Center; (7) Once the new computer system is installed SLECA's bill will have a new format; (8) SERC accepted SLECA's offer to train TESI employees to get a reduced fine but SLECA then decided to accept the original fine because it would have cost more than that to provide the training; (9) An article that reported the findings of the Pelican Institute shows Louisiana would be hard hit if Cap and Trade, as contained in the bill passed by the House of Representatives last year, were to go into effect resulting in a loss of thousands of jobs and electricity prices increasing by at least 54%; (10) Re-entry into Terrebonne Parish following storms would require only your SLECA ID badge and a list will be furnished to the parish with the names of all employees issued IDs; (11) The annual meeting was well attended in spite of the threat of bad weather but the food was not as good as in past years; (12) SLECA has begun its annual review of the NERC/SERC Compliance Plan and Procedures in preparation for the 2012 audit. There were no violations this period; (13) Some documents regarding the Cajun Bankruptcy had been received; and (14) The board is invited to participate in SLECA's annual health fair.

Next, the board approved the low bid to reconductor Feeder 15 on Grand Cailou North, the hospital feeder.

The board approved the manager's report and expenses and the safety report showing employees have worked 2,204,543 hours without a loss time accident since December, 1996.

Mr. Daigle thanked Mr. Rivet for his help while at the Legislative Conference.

The board then passed a resolution authorizing Mr. Doyle to sign the settlement agreement that Mr. Rivet and other cooperatives entered into with Valley Electric and SWEPCO. This was followed by the board approving the attorney's report and fees.

The meeting was 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)



Duplantis brothers return from Washington after taking the 'trip of a lifetime'

South Louisiana Electric Cooperative Association (SLECA) recently sponsored Daniel Duplantis and Matt Duplantis as they joined about 1,500 other teens to participate in the 2010 Rural Electric Youth Tour in Washington, D.C.

The Duplantis brothers, sons of Denise and Clyde Duplantis III of Houma, were awarded the all-expense-paid trip to the nation's capital by being selected winners of SLECA's Youth Tour Essay Writing Competition.

Since SLECA began participating in the annual Washington, D.C., Youth Tour program in 1982, dozens of local students have benefited from what has often been described as a "life changing" experience, although this was the first time that two siblings won the trip.

On their bus trip to Washington, the Duplantis brothers joined a group of 30 students and chaperones from electric cooperatives across the state and the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives in Baton Rouge where the trip began.

While in Washington, the students joined more than 1,500 other students from 37 states for the 38th National Rural Electric Youth Tour.

SLECA has held its Youth Tour Writing Contest for the past 28 years.

"The purpose of the contest is to give local students a chance to develop leadership skills, learn how electric cooperatives work, see our government in action and tour Washington, D.C.," SLECA General Manager Michael J. Guidry said. "We're happy that Matt and Daniel had a great time in Washington and that SLECA could make this once-in-a-lifetime event possible. I know they learned a lot and represented south Louisiana well."

During the week-long Youth Tour, the students learned about electric cooperatives, visited Capitol Hill to meet Louisiana Senators and Representatives - including Rep. Charlie Melancon and Sens. David Vitter and Mary Landrieu - and had the unique chance to act as lobbyists and voice their concerns.

Students also visited the Lincoln Memorial, the World War II, Vietnam, and Korean War Memorials, Arlington National Cemetery, the Smithsonian Museum, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, and the National Archives.

In addition to taking in the sights and sounds of the nation's capital, all the various groups from participating states convened for National Youth Day on June 16 to hear from public figures and other inspirational speakers.

During their trip, the Louisiana students also visited the National Holocaust Museum, the Washington Monument, the Jefferson Memorial and the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial.

The Rural Electric Youth Tour was inspired in 1957 by Senator and future President Lyndon B. Johnson. During an address to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, he urged attendees to send young people to the nation's capital so they could see first-hand how the government works.

The following summer, electric cooperatives did just that, and the Rural Electric Youth Tour was born. In 1959, 130 youth attended the tour. NRECA began to coordinate joint activities among the states in 1964. Today, more than 1,500 youth attend the conference each year and more than 40,000 students have participated in the tour.

NRECA is the national service organization representing more than 900 private, not-for-profit consumer-owned electric cooperatives, which provide service to 42 million people in 47 states. Guidry represents Louisiana on the national board and presently serves as vice president of the organization. (Acct. No. 2353421101)

Each year, SLECA covers all expenses to send two delegates to the tour. Delegates truly appreciate the experience every year, and the 2010 delegates were no different. In notes sent from the nation's capital, SLECA's Youth Tour winners expressed their thanks to SLECA and its members.

SLECA's Youth Tour contest is held annually to



Daniel and Matt Duplantis are shown, clockwise from top-left; with their fellow Youth Tour students from Louisiana; dining at a restaurant in Washington, D.C.; and visiting the Natural Bridge en route to the nation's capital.

select two high school sophomores or juniors to participate in the week-long program, and all eligible students are encouraged to enter.

With the trip behind them, Daniel and Matt are now preparing to enter the 11th grade at Central Lafourche High School.

Safety First



By Joe Ticheli
SLECA Safety Coordinator

Emergency generators can be deadly

Now that hurricane season is upon us, many people may want to purchase an emergency generator to be used in case a storm hits our area.

No emergency generator, whatever its size, should EVER be connected directly to household wiring. Any emergency power system MUST be directly connected only to those appliances or equipment it serves UNLESS THAT GENERATOR IS CONNECTED TO A PROPERLY INSTALLED AND OPERATED DOUBLE-THROW SWITCH.

Such a switch is NOT OPTIONAL.

When any generator, no matter how small, is connected directly to a home's wiring, say by being "plugged" directly into an electrical outlet, the energy produced by that generator can "back-flow" through the household wiring, the service wire and even through the transformer serving that home or business.

Transformers work both ways. It takes 14,000-volts from a power line and reduces it to the 120-volts used in your home. But 120 volts generated by an emergency generator, when it "back-flows" through that same transformer, is transformed into 14,000 volts that will travel back along a power line.

Line crews working to restore service miles away on what should be a "dead" line risk death or injury from this current. So do any neighbors who touch a downed power line. Children, pets and livestock can all be endangered. (Acct. No. 8103327901)

If the power comes back on while that generator is improperly connected, appliances and electrical equipment in

your home can be damaged by power surges.

All generators are sold with instructions that outline their safe installation and proper use. No generator should ever be connected to household wiring without using a special Safety Transfer Switch.

Take time to read and obey safety material that comes with standby generators. The following tips can help avoid a tragedy.

- Deficiently or improperly installed generators can cause damage to the generator, the appliances connected to it or to utility equipment and could cause injury or death to service personnel or the public.
- Installation is not a do-it-yourself project—get an expert to do it.
- No matter who does the installation, make certain your generator has a double-throw (transfer) switch.
- Follow all regulations established by your local utility when using emergency generators.
- Once installed, operate the generator according to manufacture's recommendations (proper ventilation, limited load and preventive maintenance are all essential to safe operation).

The double-throw switch is not optional equipment. This transfer switch permits a safe change-over from utility service to an on-site power supply. The National Electrical Code requires a double-throw switch on a standby generator installation.

Otherwise, individual appliances should be plugged into the generator. Never connect a generator to household wiring that cannot be isolated from the utility system by a transfer switch.

SLECA SWEEPSTAKES

Did you know that each month SLECA gives away CASH just for reading LOUISIANA COUNTRY? It's true. Every month, SLECA account numbers are randomly selected by computer. While we usually have four numbers in each issue, this month we have included eight as last month's numbers were inadvertently omitted. The numbers are 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

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2010 YOUTH TOUR

Daniel and Matt Duplantis return
from free trip to Washington, D.C.

Look inside for your
2010 hurricane
tracking
chart!