

Labor Day Notice

SLECA's offices will be closed on Monday, Sept. 6, in observance of Labor Day. All outages or service emergencies will be handled by the 24-hour co-op dispatch service.



Across the Board

June 14, 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 May 12th regular board meeting, 188 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. 1404207802)

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 40 percent tax on "Cadillac Plans" has been delayed until 2018 and provides for higher thresholds due to the nature of line workers job; (3) The Gulf oil spill has brought renewed interest in the Kerry-Lieberman Energy Bill; (4) La Gen has assured SLECA that they will provide, in a timely manner, the reports and data needed by SLECA to comply with NERC/SERC regulations; (5) SLECA's medical alert list has been updated; (6) The implementation of the new computer system has been pushed back a couple of months due to the amount of data that needs to be transferred to the new system; (7) SLECA received the "Final Decree" closing the Cajun Bankruptcy, but said there was still an issue of completely dissolving the company. Mr. Guidry was appointed voting delegate for an upcoming members meeting on the Cajun Bankruptcy; (8) A large snake shorted out three arrestors and damaged the bushings in the Ashland Substation on May 16th; (9) SLECA was on alert status during the weekend of Family Fun Day and over the Memorial Day weekend for possible rolling blackouts due to capacity problems at a generator in the Teche area; (10) The oil spill could be devastating to the local economy due to the impact on the fishing industry and the suspension of deep-water drilling for six months and, in turn, could cause a drastic reduction in SLECA's customer base. Since the oil spill could affect storm restoration should a hurricane strike in this area, hazmat training of service personnel would need to be provided as soon as possible in preparation for working in areas of our service territory that could be declared hazardous areas following a storm; (11) SLECA continues to work on the compliance work sheet for the NERC/SERC Compliance Plan and Procedures in preparation for the 2012 audit, and (12) There are several conflicts with future board meetings dates that the board will resolve at a later date.

Next, the board approved Mr. Guidry's request to give him the option to select the lump sum or the lease-to-own option of either five years or eight years in duration to replace Amelia's digger derrick.

The board then approved the manager's report and expenses, the safety report showing employees have worked 2,218,306 hours without a lost time accident since December, 1996 and the attorney's report and fees.

The meeting was adjourned.

SLECA News



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Lion of the Year dedicated to serving others

It wasn't exactly an Academy Award, but the Lion of the Year Award meant more to Lawrence Olivier than any Oscar.

Olivier, a long-time employee at SLECA, recently accepted the accolade from his La Bonne Terre Lions Club for distinguished service.

And it wasn't his first Lions Club honor: Olivier received the acclaimed Melvin Jones Award (named for the club's founder) 15 years ago for his work benefiting the needy and the physically challenged.

Nominating Olivier for Lion of the Year were Ed and Catherine Babin, the first vice president and president of the Houma-based club who describe Olivier as their adopted son.

"The Lion of the Year Award is given to someone who has demonstrated outstanding service, loyalty and devotion to Lionism," Catherine said. "And Lawrence has these qualities and more. We really respect him and admire him for all that he does for others."

Olivier knows a thing or two about service. He was barely into his 20s when both of his parents passed away within the span of one year and as the eldest child he was left to raise his four brothers and little sister. He worked primarily in the grocery business for several years until he joined SLECA as a groundskeeper 31 years ago.

As his siblings got older and more able to take care of themselves, Olivier found more free time on his hands. He became friends with Lions Club member Nellie Lirette who encouraged him to join the group and become active as a community volunteer.

He participated in the meetings and mixers and fund-raising activities of the group, but he became a true Lion at heart about 10 years ago when he took a trip to one of the major beneficiaries of the Club's fundraising efforts - The Louisiana Lions Camp in Leesville, which for the past 53 years has served as a "summer place" for youth with special needs, diabetes and pulmonary disorders.

"I was thinking about getting out of the Lions Club for awhile until I went to the camp and got to

see all the people we help and got to see how happy they were to be at that camp," Olivier said. "You wouldn't believe the beautiful spirit the kids have, even though they have these physical challenges and problems that make it more difficult for them to do the everyday things the rest of us take for granted."

When he got back to Houma, Olivier re-dedicated himself to serving others. Not only does he participate in La Bonne Terre Lions Club, but he has expanded his reach and also assists other area Lions Clubs and is active in a number of organizations such as the American Legion and Ladies Auxiliary, Woodmen of the World, the Krewe of Mardi Gras and Terrebonne High School.

Describing himself as a "workaholic" who is always looking for something to do, Olivier says public and community service has become his avocation and there aren't enough hours in the day to do all the things he would like to do.

"I just want to help others and get involved and give my time. I don't play golf or hunt or fish, so volunteering my time is what I do for fun," Olivier said. "I enjoy meeting people and helping people any way I can. I like to spread myself around as much as possible."

Olivier said he's grateful to the Babins for supporting him and nominating him for Lion of the Year. Though they have six sons of their own, they consider Olivier to be part of their family. He calls himself "The Lucky Seventh."

"They're very warm, kind-hearted and friendly

people," Olivier said of the Babins. "I've known them for a long time and they've always been good to me and believed in me, and they've given me guidance and encouragement along the way."

Said Catherine, "Lawrence is like another son to us. He's always with us. When we get ready to go somewhere we check on him and tell him to come on



SLECA employee Lawrence Olivier is shown above with co-worker Rhonda Roddy.

and get in the car and off we go."

Added Ed, "He's true to every cause he undertakes and he's an honest person. He tells it like it is and doesn't beat around the bush. When he tells you he's going to do something, he does it. He's very dependable and is an unbelievably hard worker. Most weekends, when everyone else is out doing other things, he's always doing something to help others."

The Babins were able to keep the Lion of the Year Award under wraps until the presentation, and Olivier said he was taken aback by the honor.

"I was shocked. I didn't really know what to say, and there's rarely a time I don't have anything to say," Olivier joked. "They really caught me off guard." (Acct. No. 8152673502)

SLECA employees honored for working over 2.2 million safe hours

SLECA was recognized for logging 2,231,898 employee hours without a lost-time accident since December 1996 at a banquet held July 26 in Baton Rouge during the annual meeting of the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives (ALEC).

SLECA's 83 employees working out of offices in Houma and Amelia were recognized for their consistent, professional performance.

Member Services Manager and Safety Coordinator Joe Ticheli said all SLECA employees should be very proud of this achievement. (Acct. No. 2354111400)

"Working safely is something our employees do not take for granted," Ticheli said. "We are determined to provide our consumers with the most reliable service possible and we are committed to do it in the safest possible manner."

SLECA also received recognition for taking part in the development of a pilot safety program for the more than 900 rural electric cooperatives across the nation. SLECA was one of only 12 electric cooperatives in the nation and the only one in the state to participate in the program.

To help enhance and refine the Rural Electric Safety Accreditation Program (RESAP), SLECA worked with ALEC as well as the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. RESAP serves as the top accrediting agency for electric cooperatives across the country.

"It's an honor to be a part of this pilot program and the fact that we were asked to take part in this project is a reflection of SLECA as a national leader in safety," said Ticheli.



Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives Director of Loss Control Mike Bergeaux, right, presented a special safety award to SLECA at a recent banquet in Baton Rouge. Representing SLECA were (left to right) Brian Rivet, Farley Triche, Joe Ticheli, Marc Caldwell, Elaine Robertson, J.D. Boudreaux, Lloyd Gibson, Gabe Duplantis, Tracy Duval, Eroy Acosta, Steve Giroir and Mike Guidry.



Elaine Robertson, left, represented the Inside Employee Safety Committee, while Farley Triche represented the Outside Employee Committee. Triche holds a plaque recognizing the co-op's work in developing a new safety program for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Safety First



By Joe Ticheli
SLECA Safety Coordinator

The vampires lurking in your home

Vampires have frightened people for generations. The fangs, the wings, the immortality: it's scary stuff. A different breed of vampire could be lurking in your home right now. These vampires don't drink blood; they consume electricity.

An energy vampire, also called a phantom or parasitic load, is any device that consumes electricity when turned "off." These devices provide the modern-day conveniences we love but also waste energy and cost money.

Vampire loads can be found in almost every room, though a favorite spot is the entertainment center. When the TV is turned off, it isn't really off. It's sitting there, waiting patiently for someone to press the "on" button of the remote—and waiting uses energy. TVs also use energy to remember channel line-ups, language preferences, and the time. VCRs, DVD players, DVRs, microwaves and cable or satellite boxes also use energy when turned off.

According to a study by the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, the average home loses 8 percent of its energy consumption to these devices. A full 75 percent of the power used to run home electronics is consumed when those appliances are turned off, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

According to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the average electric co-op residential member consumes roughly 13,900 kilowatt-hours (kWh) per year. If 8 percent of this power is consumed when electronics are turned off, the average home wastes 1,112 kWh annually.

To eliminate the power consumption of an energy vampire, simply unplug the device or plug it into a power strip and use the power strip's switch to cut off electricity to every-

thing plugged into it.

Of course, there's always a catch. Some devices use standby power to make life more convenient. If you unplug your TV or cable/satellite receiver box, what happens? When plugged back in, the TV or set top box usually will have to run its initial setup program. Depending on the particular device, it could take up to 20 minutes to reset preferences.

But there are numerous devices that can be unplugged easily and safely, or plugged into a power strip without any inconvenience. Computer equipment, such as printers, scanners, desktop computers, and broadband modems, can be "unplugged" without harm. Cell phone, tool, and other battery chargers also should be unplugged when not in use. Even though the charger is not charging anything, it is still drawing power. (Acct. No. 3150749204)

A new device called the "smart" strip is now available. It allows you to plug devices into a specially marked section of the strip so they will still have power when turned off. Other devices that can be turned off safely are plugged into the rest of the strip. This allows you to turn off parts of an entertainment system, such as the stereo, DVD player, or theater audio system without losing the ability to record programs to a DVR or having to reprogram the television every time you want to watch a show.

For devices that cannot be turned off, consumers should look for Energy Star-certified devices or ask the salesperson about a device's standby power consumption. There can be big differences in power consumption between manufacturers, and sometimes even between models from the same manufacturer.

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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Lion of the Year

SLECA employee Lawrence Olivier
dedicated to community service