

Enter SLECA's Christmas Lighting Contest

Light up your home this Christmas and win a \$100 Cash Prize! Entries will be accepted through December 17, 2010.

RULES:

1. Contest open to SLECA residential members only.
2. SLECA directors, employees, retired employees and/or their families are not eligible to win.
3. Electricity is required. Outdoor lighting only.
4. Suggested themes: Religious, Contemporary, Novelty.
5. Entries must be received at SLECA by December 17, 2010. Judging to be held December 20.
6. Winners will be notified by telephone.
7. 2009 winners are ineligible.
8. Cash Prizes (\$100 in each of SLECA's nine member districts) will be awarded.

To enter, complete this form and return by December 17, 2010, to SLECA, P.O. Box 4037, Houma, La 70361.

SLECA's Christmas Lighting Contest

Name _____

Address _____

Account No.: _____

Phone #: _____

Or simply call SLECA's office in Houma, 876-6880, 1-800-256-8826; or Amelia 631-3605, 1-800-256-8836.

Across the Board

September 13, 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, Elaine Robertson, member services supervisor, and Glenn Cedotal.

After the invocation and pledge, Mr. Guidry introduced Mr. Glenn Cedotal who will assume the responsibilities of Mr. Roy Landry upon his retirement. Following brief remarks by Mr. Cedotal, the board approved the minutes of the August 2nd regular board meeting, 178 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.

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 construction of coal-fired plants has increased due to the inaction of Congress on regulations and the high cost of alternative fuels; (3) Entergy's rates will increase slightly to raise funds to pay for the decommissioning of the nuclear plant at Waterford 3; (4) On the topic of renewable energy, CLECO is installing a wind turbine at the north end of the Ponchartrain Causeway to help power the toll booths; The PSC is pushing utilities to purchase renewable power as their power contracts expire with SLECA being required to purchase 3 MW of renewable power; and a British firm is planning to use the Michoud facility to build wind turbines; (5) It appears that the City of Houma will participate in the proposed power plant by LEPA; (6) Employees have earned another safety supper as of July 31st; (7) Terrebonne Parish has identified over 60 street lights served by SLECA that they will no longer pay for because they are on private property; (8) Repairs to Ashland Substation have been complete; (9) SLECA has received \$1,596,339 from the state for PW 805, the lake lines; (10) The letter was finally received from La Gen for NERC/SERC reporting after they were threatened that they would be reported to NERC for not cooperating. There were no violations for this period; (11) Allyson Pellegrin retired on August 26th and Roy Landry is planning to retire at the end of October. Allyson's responsibilities were split between Jill Morner and Jordy Bourg; and (12) There is a board meeting conflict in December due to the NRECA Winter Board Meeting and the November board meeting was moved to November 8th. (Acct. No. 78020-02)

The board then approved the low bid to replace unit 232; made recommendations for the board Christmas Party; granted permission to go out for bids on the materials needed to complete the buss work and the addition of a bay at Ashland Substation with the understanding that there will be additional costs to complete the job especially for labor costs and passed a resolution approving SLECA's 2010-2012 work plan.

Next, the board approved the manager's report and expenses, the safety report showing employees have worked 2,259,723 hours without a lost time accident since December, 1996 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)



SLECA partners with Blue Star Mothers

Local group sends provisions to overseas troops

There's possibly only one creature on the planet more strong-willed than an American soldier, and that's the mother of an American soldier.

"I'm just not going to rest until all of our military personnel come home safe and sound," vows Suzette Johnston of Shriever. "Mothers of soldiers never exhale because we worry about them all. They are all our babies."

Johnston is president of the area chapter of a national organization called Blue Star Mothers, which operates under the motto: "Keeping the Home Fires Burning." The local group is one of five chapters across the state made up of mothers whose children are serving, or have served, in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Her son, 25-year-old William Johnston, served as a Marine for five years and engaged in three tours in Iraq before taking a stateside job with PHI as a helicopter mechanic last December.

But just because her son is no longer in the military, she hasn't forgotten those mothers who find it hard to sleep at night not knowing what kind of danger their son or daughter may be facing in a foreign land.

"People forget that our sons and daughters are still over there," she said. "We can't let people forget that our country is still at war and they're still fighting for us. As mothers, we're united because we've all been through the same experience."

Besides worrying and praying, the primary activity the Blue Star Mothers engage in is their semi-annual mailing of care packages to overseas troops.

Every year before Christmas and then again in July, the group spearheads an effort to send the packages filled with an assortment of provisions that not only include items such as shaving cream and toilet paper but they also let the soldiers know that someone back home is thinking about them by dropping in a handkerchief with a word of thanks and a copy of Psalm 91. (Acct. No. 11893-01)

This past summer, the group put together more than 340 packages and shipped them overseas. To support the program, the Blue Star Mothers recruit individuals to

donate items and help box the items, and they also send letters to local businesses, schools, churches and other organizations requesting financial assistance to cover the shipping costs.

They conduct fundraising activities in the schools each year on Sept. 11 not only to support the care pack-

"Our employees are so generous and giving, we got more things than I could have ever expected," Antill said. "I was very pleased with the way our employees and directors responded. We would like to continue to do this every year. It's touching when you hear back from the soldiers and they express how appreciative they are. A

lot of times they will share their things with someone in their unit who never gets any mail or anything from back home."

In addition to sending the well-stocked care packages, the Blue Star Mothers also conduct special ceremonies for the parents of those whose sons or daughters have been killed in action, which is called the "Blue to Gold" program. A member of the group will present a Gold Star banner to the mother, father and spouse of the fallen soldier to recognize the sacrifice made on behalf of the country. (Acct. No. 16126-02)

"This year alone, I've already done three presentations to Gold Star Mothers," Johnston said. "Those are very difficult to do. Losing a son or daughter in a war is tragic. We try not to get political; our goal is to make sure we do what we need to do to remember these brave individuals who have sacrificed so much for us."

Also active in the organization are Johnston's friends Brenda Naquin and Zinda Leonard of Houma. Naquin's son, 28-year-old Marine Staff Sgt. Brandon Bolt, has been in the service for over nine years. He spent a year in Iraq and is presently stationed at Camp Lejeune Marine Corps Base in North Carolina.

Leonard's son, 28-year-old Marine Staff Sgt. Ryan James Leonard, has served for 10 years and has done three tours in Iraq. He is presently stationed at the Marine Forces Reserve headquarters in Algiers.

Leonard said Debbie Hansen, whose son Jack serves in the military, was also instrumental in starting the local chapter, which has about 15 active members and meets once a month.

"We do the two big events every year, but it really never stops because we send packages out every time we get someone's name or if we hear about somebody who needs some help or may be down," Leonard said. "It's a roller coaster adventure, faith is what carries us through."

The Blue Star Mothers can be contacted through their website at www.bluestarmomsl2.com or by e-mail at kajunred@bellsouth.net.



Pictured above are Suzette Johnston and Zinda Leonard displaying one of the handkerchiefs the Blue Star Mothers place in the care packages they ship to U.S. troops deployed overseas. The handkerchief is inscribed with Psalms 91. Shown at right, from top to bottom are Jay Hebert, Jarrod Martin and Jerry Cunningham, who recently received packages donated by SLECA employees.



You can win a Youth Tour EXPERIENCE!

Two local SLECA students will have the opportunity to be winners of the 2011 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 28 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

All letters become the property of South Louisiana Electric Cooperative Association.

ENTRIES MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN Feb. 1, 2011.

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.



KIDS...Christmas is almost here Draw a picture and win a prize!

We're having a Christmas contest for kids. And the prize is a \$100 Christmas gift certificate. All you have to do to win is draw a picture of your favorite Christmas activity. It can be anything you like to do at Christmas time, such as decorating the tree, wrapping gifts, Christmas shopping or going caroling...Anything!

In addition to winning the gift certificate, the winning picture will be featured in the December issue of Louisiana Country. And this is not all. Your picture will be prominently displayed on an outdoor billboard courtesy of SLECA and Lamar Outdoor Advertising for all your friends and family to see.

Here is what you need to know:

- You must be 10 years old or younger.
- Contest is open to SLECA members only.
- Entries must be submitted on one 8-1/2 x 11-inch sheet of paper.
- Any medium (crayons, markers, watercolors, etc.) may be used to draw your picture, but the picture MUST be in color.
- The entry form must be attached to the back of your drawing.
- Previous winners are ineligible.
- Employees of SLECA will judge all entries.
- You should mail your entry to SLECA, P.O. Box 4037, Houma, LA 70361, or you can drop it off at the Houma office at 2028 Coteau Rd. in Houma or at the Amelia office. (Acct. No. 78397-01)
- Deadline to receive entries is November 16, 2011.

ENTRY FORM— Attach this form to the back of entry.

Child's Name: _____

Parent or Guardian: _____

Child's Age: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

SLECA Account Number: _____

Your Cooperative Connection

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BLUE STAR MOTHERS

Local group sends care packages
and TLC to overseas troops