

Long-time SLECA member makes sure he stays sharp

One digit. Just one stinkin' digit.

That's how close 83-year-old Jackson Chaisson came to winning a big-screen television at SLECA's annual membership meeting two years ago.

"I was just one number off from winning. I almost had it," Chaisson said. "I haven't won anything at the meeting yet, but I'm going to keep on trying. We go back every year."

Chaisson and his wife, Loretta, have been married for 64 years and have been SLECA members since 1947. They make it a habit to attend the annual meeting not only because of the good food and the chance to win a valuable door prize, but more for the opportunity to get together with friends and family.

"SLECA does a great job and they have the cheapest power you can buy," he said. "We know a lot of people who work there, and we know some of the directors. We're happy with the co-op and we love to go to the meeting to see everybody."

Chaisson also interacts with SLECA on an entirely different level: he runs a blade sharpening business and performs work for the cooperative when a saw or drill bit or some other piece of cutting equipment needs to be honed.

Farley Triche, SLECA's right-of-way foreman, has been using Chaisson's services for several years and has come to admire the craftsman's skills.

"He does a really great job when we need some sharpening done. I'll go by and drop off a saw or a drill bit and we'll just start talking and visiting," Triche said.

Chaisson has lots of stories to tell, from his time serving for over two years as an electrician for the Coast Guard back in World War II to the side-business he started in 1967.

He describes what it was like aboard a flotilla of LST landing vessels cruising around the south Pacific, hopping from island to island to support amphibious operations and transport invading U.S. troops to shores and beaches occupied by Axis forces.

"We were fortunate because our crew never got hit, but I saw one LST get sliced in half by a torpedo and you could see all the men diving off into the water to get off that boat," Chaisson said. "It was a terrible time. The Japanese had those suicide pilots that would run their planes right into the ships and blow them to pieces."

Thankful that he came out of the conflict unscathed, Chaisson said service in the Coast Guard wasn't quite what he expected when he signed up. He said the first idea he had that joining the Coast Guard might be a good idea came when he would go fishing out in the Gulf and see the men monitoring boat traffic moving in and out of the pass.

"They looked like they were having a good time, sitting out there in the sun and taking it easy," he said. "But the first that happened after I signed up was they sent me straight to Australia and we were on the run the whole time. They wanted me to re-enlist when my tour was finished, but I'd had enough. I wanted to go home."

He returned home to find out that the girl he thought was waiting for him had married someone else. That person she married just happened to be one of Loretta's cousins. But the two met and fell in love and tied the knot just a few months afterwards.

"My grandmother said it would never last because I was just 16 at the time," Loretta said. "But we've had a very good life. We've been blessed."

Loretta stayed home to raise their five children while Jackson worked for Texaco and a construction company before settling in for a 25-year stint doing maintenance work at the Houma Medical and Surgical Clinic beginning in 1967.

A self-described "multi-craft mechanic," Chaisson started up the side-business of sharpening implements as a means of having a source of steady income during his retirement years. Loretta tended to the details of running the business while Jackson tended to cranking out the jobs sometimes until late at night.

"The day I retired is the day she retired," Jackson joked. "Now, I've had to do all of the office work and filing receipts and signing checks. I hate doing that kind of stuff."

Still, business is fairly brisk, and he continues to receive referrals from many different sources from local hardware stores and homeowners to local industry contacts he has made through the years. (Acct. No. 60307-01)

Sharpening saws and other drilling and cutting tools is pain-staking, precise work. But Chaisson said he intends to continue as long as his he's able.

"It's good to feel useful and to know that you can still provide a service that people need," he said. "But the best feeling is knowing that you satisfied a customer and when you see them walk away happy."

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SLECA's Right-of-Way Supervisor Farley Triche, left, and Jackson Chaisson visit in Chaisson's shop.

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)



Qualifying for SLECA's Board of Directors set for February

Qualifying for SLECA's Board of Directors for districts 7, 8 and 9 will get under way in February.

Qualified SLECA members who wish to seek election as a director of district 7, 8 or 9 must file their applications at SLECA's main office at 2028 Coteau Road, Houma, from 7:30 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday through Thursday, Feb. 1, 2 and 3; from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 4; and 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 7. Elections will be held at the district meetings.

Only members who officially qualify will be eligible to run for director, as nominations will not be allowed from the floor at the district meetings.

To be eligible, a member must qualify for the district in which they reside.

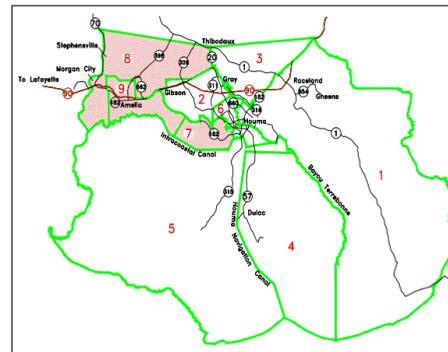
The District 7 meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 22, at the Bayou Black Fire Station, Houma.

The District 8 meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday, March 23, at the Stephenville Fire Station, Stephenville.

The District 9 meeting will be on Thursday, March 24, at the Amelia Civic Center, Amelia.

Meeting registration begins at 6 p.m. and closes at 7 p.m. Only those in line at registration closing time can complete registration to vote. All district meetings begin at 7 p.m.

The details and guidelines for qualifying for the board of directors are outlined in the accompanying excerpts from the bylaws. (Acct. No. 43598-01)



SLECA By-Laws

ARTICLE IV

SECTION 3. QUALIFICATIONS AND TENURE (A).

The persons named as directors in the articles of conversion shall compose the Board of Directors until the next meeting or until their successors shall have been elected and shall have qualified. These bylaws acknowledge and affirm the action of the Board of Directors that directors from District 1, 2 and 3 are serving three year terms beginning in the year 1980; that the directors from District 7, 8 and 9 are serving three year terms beginning in the year 1981; and the directors from Districts 4, 5 and 6 will be elected for three year terms in the year 1982. At the annual meeting in 1983, the directors from Districts 1, 2 and 3 will be elected to serve for a period of three years. Thereafter, a director whose term shall expire as above provided shall be elected at the respective district meeting to serve for a period of three years or until their successors shall have been elected by and from the members of the respective district. No member shall be eligible to become or remain director or to hold any position of trust in the Cooperative who is not a bona fide resident in a district served by the Cooperative or who is in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise. (Amended at a meeting of the membership held on April 28, 1988.) (Amended at a meeting of the membership held on April 10, 1992.)

(B). In order to qualify to become or remain on the Board of Directors, a person seeking or holding the position of Director must live and reside in the District in which he is elected. If said Director should move within the area served by the Cooperative during his term, he shall remain on the board until his successor is chosen at the next district meeting. In the event the Director moves outside the area served by the Cooperative a vacancy shall occur and the Board of Directors shall appoint a new Director. Additionally, in order to qualify as a candidate for director from a district, the candidate must sign qualifying papers at the Cooperative's main office in Houma, Louisiana during the first five working days of February. The qualifying papers shall be returned to the Cooperative's main office.

All applicants attempting to qualify for director will be notified within forty-eight (48) hours of the close of the qualifying period that they do or do not qualify. Written reasons will be submitted for any rejection upon request.

In order to qualify for the Board of Directors, any candidate for election to the Board shall be not more than 45 days in arrears regarding any indebtedness or any electric bill owed to the Cooperative. In the event said candidate is a majority stockholder in a corporation which likewise shall be indebted to the Cooperative by being more than 45 days in arrears on any indebtedness or any electric bill, then that person shall not so qualify as a candidate to be a member of this board. Further, if any Board member, once elected, becomes indebted for any electric bill or otherwise for more than 45 days, or any corporation in which he owns a majority of stock becomes indebted to the Cooperative for its electric bill or otherwise for a period of more 45 days in arrears, then that board member must resign from the Board of Directors at the end of any 45 day period; provided, in the event of a Board member

being asked to resign, he will be given thirty (30) days additional written notice; provided, further, any party affected by the foregoing may make arrangements with the Cooperative to pay any arrearages on a work-out plan approved by the Board so as to remain a member in good standing and thus eligible to be either a candidate for election to the Board or to remain on the Board. (Amended at a meeting of the membership held on April 28, 1988.) (Amended at a meeting of the membership held on April 10, 1992.)

(C.) Blood relatives of employees of the Cooperative shall not be permitted to qualify and run for the Board of Directors. Blood relatives are defined as direct ascendants, descendants and collateral relations; that is, mother, father, son, daughter, grandfather, grandmother, brother, sister, aunt and uncle. (Amended at a meeting of the members held on April 26, 1984.)

SECTION 4 (A). NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF DIRECTORS. Not less than twenty (20) days prior to any meeting in which directors are to be elected, the Board of Directors shall serve notice of a separate meeting of the members of each district from which directors will be elected to be held at a suitable place in such district for the purpose of selecting a director to represent such district and the members located within such district, the notice of such meeting shall be delivered to each member located in such district in the same manner as provided in Section 3, of Article III, and shall indicate the district to which such member belongs. The notice shall state names of the persons running for director and shall state the exact time and place of the meeting. The meeting shall, however, be opened for discussion of any other matters pertaining to the business of the Cooperative, regardless of whether or not such matters were listed in the notice of the meeting; and recommendations with respect thereto may be submitted to the Board of Directors of the entire membership.

The district meeting shall be called to order by the director representing the district or by another designated representative of the Board of Directors, or in his absence, by any member residing within the district. The members shall then proceed to elect a chairman, who shall be someone other than a director, and who shall appoint a secretary to act for the duration of the meeting. Forty members residing in the district shall constitute a quorum. Members must be present to vote. In the event no quorum exists at the district meeting, the election from that district will be held at the regular annual meeting. However, only members from any district lacking a quorum at the district level would be allowed to constitute a quorum for that district (a quorum being a minimum of 40 members) at the annual meeting and vote for the candidate(s) who previously qualified for director as provided for herein. It will not be necessary for there to be a quorum at the regular annual meeting to conduct the district election, provided that district has a quorum of at least 40 of its members present at the regular annual meeting. (Amended at a meeting of the membership held on April 28, 1988.)

SECTION 4 (B). ELECTION OF DIRECTORS. Nominations for directors shall not be allowed from the floor at the district meeting. The election for directors from the various

districts shall take place at least twenty (20) days and not more than forty-five (45) days prior to the annual meeting and newly elected directors shall take office and be sworn in at the annual meeting. Notice of the time for directors to qualify as a candidate for director from a district shall be given to the members at least ten (10) days prior to the time of qualification. (Amended at a meeting of the membership held on May 29, 1986.)

SECTION 4 (C). PROCEDURE FOR VOTING FOR DIRECTORS. The Board of Directors is authorized and directed to enact policies to insure and protect the sanctity of the ballot at all elections for members of the Board of Directors. Voting shall be by secret ballot and can be by voting machine or by ballot box. No member or employee of the Cooperative shall be authorized to fill out the ballot of another member or assist another member with his or her ballot. If a member needs assistance in casting his ballot, this assistance may only be furnished by a person designated to do so by the Board of Directors of this Cooperative and approved by the candidates in the election. After the member has received his official ballot he shall be directed forthwith to the ballot box to cast his vote. No unauthorized person shall be in the voting area during the time that members are receiving their ballots and casting their votes.

The candidate receiving a plurality of the vote shall be declared as the elected director from the district. In the event there are more than two candidates and the top two candidates receive the same number of votes there shall be a second election between the top two candidates. In the event of another tie the Board of Directors shall select a director from among said candidates who were tied. In the event there are only two candidates and there is a tie there shall be no second election and the Board of Director shall select the director from among said candidates who were tied. (Amended at a meeting of the membership held on May 29, 1986.)

SECTION 4 (D). PENALTIES FOR VIOLATING THE VOTING PROCEDURES ESTABLISHED BY THESE BYLAWS AND THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS. Any employee of this Cooperative who violates any of the election procedures established by these bylaws and by the board of Directors shall be discharged from his employment. Any member of this Cooperative who violates any of the election procedures established by these bylaws and by the Board of Directors may be terminated in his membership after a hearing concerning the charges against him before the Board of Directors. Any member may bring charges against another member for violation of election rules. Thereafter the accused member shall be informed in writing of the charges at least ten days prior to the hearing before the Board of Directors at which the charges are to be considered and shall have an opportunity to be heard in person or by counsel and to present evidence in his own behalf.

The question of whether or not to terminate the membership for violation of the election rules shall be voted on by the Board of Directors and any decision made by the Board of Directors may be appealed to the membership at either the annual or special meeting. (Amended at a special meeting of the members held on August 19, 1971.)

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. (Acct. No. 95673-01)

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.



Across the Board

November 9, 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, Kenny Berrigan, BHA, and Larry McGraw, RUS Field Representative

After the invocation, pledge and introduction of guests, Mr. Berrigan with BHA reviewed the Cost of Service Study. Following his presentation, the board passed a resolution approving the Cost of Service Study. Next, Mr. Berrigan reviewed SLECA's Financial Forecast and the board passed a resolution approving the Financial Forecast and agreeing to move forward with any necessary rate cases.

Mr. Larry McGraw then addressed the board about RUS loans and cooperative rate increases. He also spoke about the resolution required to have \$19,777,000 available as a loan to SLECA. After a request by Mr. Guidry, the board approved the resolution.

The board then approved the minutes and summary of the regular board meeting of October 4, 2010, 187 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) Landry Substation was recently broken into but no SLECA property was stolen; however some "aluminum stringing dollies" in the contractor's trucks were stolen; (3) The Budget Committee Meeting will be held on November 18th; (4) The new formatted bills have been well received; (5) A temporary employee has been hired to assist in dispatching; and (6) NREC has posted its Notice of Penalty for SLECA with FERC noting the violation was "minor" and there were no known NREC/SERC violations for this period. Also, SLECA participated in a webinar on proposed new "cyber-security" standards. If the new changes are adopted, there would be different definitions of "critical assets" that could be a problem.

The board then approved the manager's report and expenses, the safety report showing employees have worked 2,287,542 hours without a lost time accident since December, 1996 and the attorney's report and fees.

The meeting was then adjourned. (Acct. No. 93168-02)

You may obtain copies of the minutes by contacting SLECA, P.O. Box 4037, Houma, LA 70361 or by calling (805) 876-6880 or 1-800-256-8826.

Your Cooperative Connection

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STAYING SHARP
Long-time SLECA member
gives his customers an edge