

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. (Acct. No. 412201)

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 9, 2011

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, Mark Felger and Shirely Porche, Lanoux & Felger CPAs and Penny Antill, benefits administrator. After the invocation and pledge, Mr. Guidry introduced Mr. Felger and Ms. Porche who were there to present the results of SLECA's 2010 audit showing that SLECA continues to be in a fairly strong financial condition.

The board then accepted the 2010 audit report, approved the minutes of the April 4th regular board meeting, kept all officers and the board advisor the same in the coming year, approved 182 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 rising price of oil and gasoline and recent engineering advances is making fuel derived from plant waste and attractive alternative to petroleum; (3) New technology appears to be making it practical to produce oil from oil shale; (4) SLECA has once again contracted with the University of South Alabama Weather Center to get storm reports from June through November because the service has proved to be a valuable tool in planning for storm response; (5) The state legislature adopted new congressional districts which split the northern parts of Terrebonne and Lafourche into separate districts from the rest of the parishes; (6) Consultants for SLECA's rate case should be chosen at the May 17th PSC meeting; (7) SLECA continues to review its compliance program, training and work with La Gen. SLECA is also close to a working agreement with La Gen that does not require the burdensome process of writing all new procedures. There were no violations this period; (8) There should be no problems in SLECA's substations with the possible exception of the Bayou Ramos Substation with the opening of the Morganza Spillway; and (9) SLECA sent crews to assist with restoration activities at Natchez Trace Cooperative in Houston, Mississippi that had been hit by tornadoes. (Acct. No. 9712401)

Following Mr. Guidry's referral to a letter from La Gen and a chart concerning the added charges from La Gen due to budgeted expenditures to deal with "mercury" regulations the board then approved two resolutions allowing either Mr. Guidry or Mr. Cedotal to sign RUS Forms 595 and 674 needed to ask for and account for RUS loan funds.

After he manager's report and expenses were approved by the board, Mr. Guidry told the board that they may want to consider changing the July board meeting to another day since Independence Day falls on the day of the board meeting.

The safety report showing employees have worked 2,370,357 hours without a lost time accident since December, 1996 and the attorney's report and fees were then approved by the board.

Mr. Guidry informed the board that he received a letter of retirement from Gabe Duplantis effective June 9, 2011

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)



Local students return from Washington after taking the 'trip of a lifetime'

South Louisiana Electric Cooperative Association (SLECA) recently sponsored Matthew Hymel and Paige Duplantis as they joined about 1,500 other teens to participate in the 2011 Rural Electric Youth Tour in Washington, D.C.

Matthew and Paige, 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.

On their bus trip to Washington, Matthew and Paige 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 39th National Rural Electric Youth Tour.

SLECA has held its Youth Tour Writing Contest for the past 29 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 Matthew and Paige 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 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 15 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 Elec-



tric 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. (Acct. No. 6892701)

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

president of the organization.

Each year, SLECA covers all expenses to send two delegates to the tour. Delegates truly appreciate the experience every year, and the 2011 delegates were no different.

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

Co-op Connection Card coming

SLECA will soon make available exclusively to its members the Co-op Connections Card. The card provides discounts from local merchants and applies to a wide range of goods and services, including pharmaceuticals. Be on the lookout for your card in your September bill. Also, see next month's issue of Louisiana Country for more details.



On-line payment option is now available

It's easy, secure and convenient. SLECA members now have the option of paying their bills on-line with a few quick clicks of the mouse.

Before you can take advantage of this easy way to pay your bill, you will need to provide SLECA with your e-mail address, phone number and Social Security Number.

There are several ways to do this:

1. Call it into our office.
2. Complete the back of your monthly bill and mail it to us.
3. E-mail it to us at billing@sleca.com, or
4. Click on the on-line payment icon on SLECA's homepage and then click on Contact Support located in the upper right hand side. Complete the information and submit.



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. 1494201)

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, four lucky SLECA consumers have their account numbers randomly selected by computer. The numbers are then 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

LOUISIANA COUNTRY

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2011 YOUTH TOUR

Matthew Hymel and Paige Duplantis
return from free trip to Washington, D.C.

