

Labor Day Notice

SLECA's offices will be closed on Monday, Sept. 5, 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 6, 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 and Elaine Robertson, member services supervisor.

After the invocation and pledge, the board approved the minutes of the May 8th regular board meeting, 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) Entergy claims its plan to turn over its transmission system to MISO will save \$1.5 BB over a 10 year period and Entergy is also in the early stages of considering a possible merger with American Electric Power; (3) Senator Gautreaux of St. Mary Parish had introduced a bill dealing with "expropriation" in St. Mary Parish that included a sentence dealing with utilities but language has been added to the bill that clearly removes SLECA from harm's way; (4) SLECA will proceed with acquiring the Co-op Connections Card; (5) SLECA went through its preliminary preparations for hurricane season and the generators were run under load conditions; (6) As of May 31st, SLECA had experienced no problems as a result of the opening of the Morganza Spillway; (7) The PSC has chosen Kennedy & Associates to act as their consultants for SLECA's Formula Rate Plan application and a status conference with the administrative law judge has been scheduled for June 8th; and (8) SLECA continues to review its NERC/SERC compliance program, training and work with La Gen. Sabotage training for both Houma and Amelia employees was conducted in May and there were no discovered violations this period. (Acct. No. 6018401)

Next, the board took the following actions: (1) Passed a resolution approving Form 595 for the purpose of requisitioning or accounting for loan funds; (2) Passed Form 674 that lists Mr. Guidry or Ann Arcement as contact persons for loan funds; (3) Accepted the quote for the property and casualty insurance renewal; and (4) Passed a resolution approving an agreement between Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government and SLECA that allows the parish to use a small portion of SLECA's right-of-way where they are widening Valhi Blvd.

The manager's report and expenses, the safety report showing employees have worked 2,384,613 hours without a lost time accident since December, 1996 and the attorney's report and fees were then approved by the board.

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)

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

Co-op Connection Card coming to consumers Look for it in your September bill

SLECA's commitment to its members goes far beyond just providing safe, reliable, and affordable electricity.

We're always looking for different and creative ways to provide value to our members and to our community, especially during tough economic times.

SLECA's new Co-op Connections Card that will be arriving in your home with your power bill in September is a money-saving tool we're proud to offer our membership.

The card connects you with discounts on everything from hotel stays to oil changes.

A wide variety of businesses throughout our community accept the card and will indicate their participation by displaying a decal in their windows. Be sure to present the card at the register to receive your discount! (Acct. No. 7205402)

Through this special incentive, we hope local businesses participating in the Co-op Connections program benefit from increased traffic from SLECA members.

"SLECA has always been an integral part of the business community and our local economy," said SLECA General Manager Mike Guidry. "We encourage all local businesses to

become our partners and join us in this project. It's good for our consumers and it's good for business."

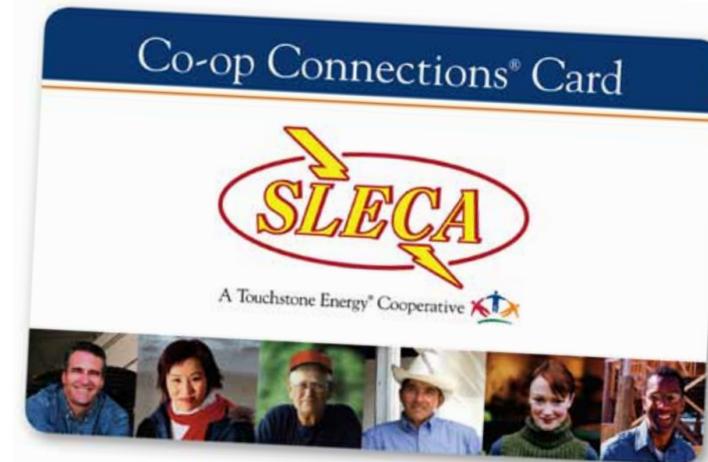
Businesses can sign up for the program at no cost. For a complete list of all participating businesses in our area, simply log on to our website, www.sleca.com, in September after the program is officially launched and follow the Co-op Connections Card link.

The card also gives you access to online savings at more than 95 national retailers like Barnes&Noble.com, Hertz Rental Cars, Best Western hotels, ProFlowers.com and many more.

Need appliances like a new washer and dryer? Your Co-op Connections Card could save you 40 percent or more. If you're shopping for new furniture, use the Co-op Connections Card and save hundreds of dollars depending on what you buy and where.

How about insulation or energy efficient windows? Are you thinking of remodeling the kitchen or weatherizing your home? Would you like to save money at your favorite restaurant? You can check out these great local and national discounts at www.connections.coop.

One of the most valuable features



of the Co-op Connections Card is the pharmacy discount. While it is not insurance, the discount can mean savings of 10 to 60 percent on prescription drugs. The logo and information on the back of your card is recognized at more than 60,000 national, regional, and local pharmacies.

The pharmacy discount has been widely used by cooperative members across the country, resulting in combined savings of nearly \$20 million on prescriptions.

Want to find out more? Log on to www.locateproviders.com to search

for pharmacies in our area honoring the card. Use code 22203 as the group number under the "Groups" login section. Next, enter your zip code.

SLECA strives to serve our members according to four core values: integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community. Our Co-op Connections Card is one of the ways we live up to those values.

We're eager to answer any questions you have about the card and how to take advantage of the discounts it provides. Call us to find out more, or log onto www.sleca.com.

SLECA employees honored for working over 2.2 million safe hours

SLECA was recognized for logging 2,398,868 employee hours without a lost-time accident since December 1996 at a banquet held July 25 in Baton Rouge during the annual meeting of the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives (ALEC).

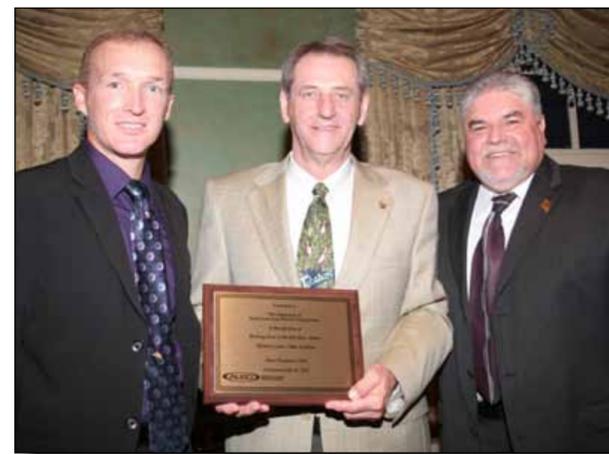
SLECA's 84 employees working out of offices in Houma and Amelia were recognized for their consistent, professional performance.

Member Services Manager and Safety Coordinator Joe Ticheli said all SLECA employees should be very proud of this achievement.

"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."

In addition, SLECA employees collectively covered 720,065 miles in their vehicles without an accident.

"This is a real credit to the extensive training our employees receive," Ticheli said. "As everyone knows, the roads are always dangerous, and this shows how alert, skilled and conscientious our employees are when they travel on the streets."



Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives (ALEC) Director of Loss Control Mike Bergeaux, above right, presented a special safety award to SLECA General Manager Mike Guidry (center), at a recent banquet in Baton Rouge. ALEC Safety Training Coordinator Aarron Graham (left) also participated in the presentation.



Yolanda Charles, left, represented SLECA's Inside Employee Safety Committee at the ALEC banquet held last month in Baton Rouge, while Eric Trahan represented the Outside Employee Committee at the annual banquet.

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.

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. (Acct. No. 4296401)

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 off, the average home wastes 1,112 kWh annually.

To eliminate the power consump-

tion 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 everything 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, 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.

A new device called the "smart" strip 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 without losing the ability to record programs to a DVR or having to reprogram the television every time you want to watch a show.

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:

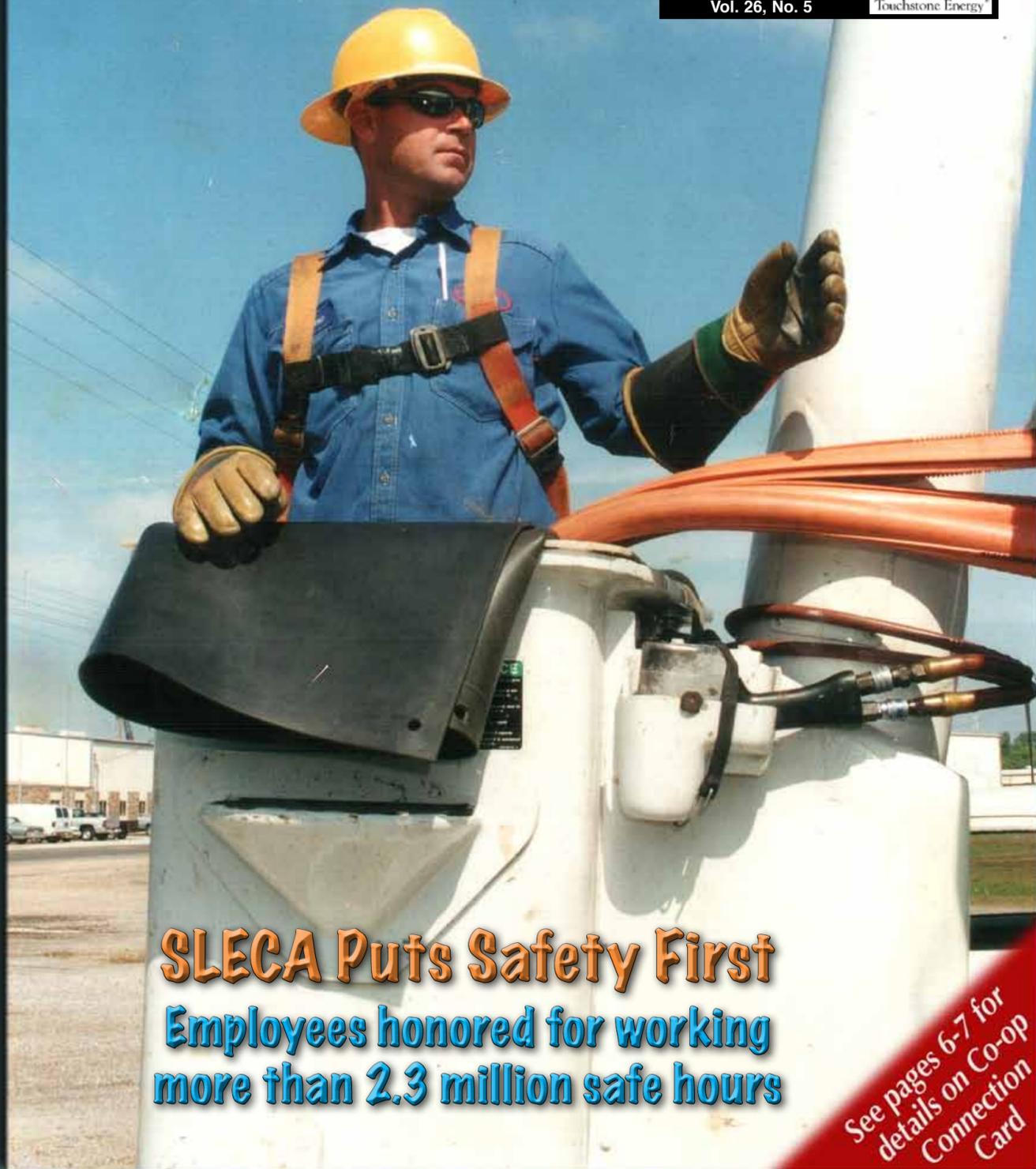
1. Call it into our office.
2. Complete the back of your monthly bill and mail it to us.
3. E-mail it to us at billing@sleca.com, or
4. Click on the on-line payment icon on SLECA's homepage and then click on Contact Support located in the upper right hand side. Complete the information and submit. (Acct. No. 7741901)



Your Cooperative Connection

LOUISIANA COUNTRY

SLECA NEWS
Pages 6-7 • Aug. 2011
Vol. 26, No. 5



SLECA Puts Safety First
Employees honored for working
more than 2.3 million safe hours

See pages 6-7 for
details on Co-op
Connection
Card