

Enter SLECA's Christmas Lighting Contest

Light up your home this Christmas and win a \$100 Cash Prize! Entries will be accepted through December 16, 2011.

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 16, 2011. Judging to be held December 19.
6. Winners will be notified by telephone.
7. 2010 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 16, 2011, 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 12, 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. (Acct. No. 302801)

After the invocation and pledge, the board approved the minutes of the August 1st regular board meeting, 151 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) An individual vandalizing an Entergy substation on lower Coteau was killed in the process; (3) Total cost for the break-ins at SLECA substations is \$54,872.39; (4) Linda Stone was hired as manager of finance and accounting and Aaron Duplechin was hired as manager of operations; (5) Outages have not been as bad as they could have been given the extreme heat this summer and SLECA has been extremely fortunate this hurricane season; (6) Tropical Storm Lee resulted in only scattered power outages with no major outages however because of rising waters, meters were disconnected for safety reasons at the Falgout Canal Marina; (7) SLECA has reached a stipulated agreement with the PSC staff regarding its rate case; (8) The Grand Pass Crossing has only one leg left that is operable and that the Old Pass Underwater Crossing is completely out; (9) There were no known NERC/SERC violations during this period and after reviewing the Compliance Plan no Critical Assets or Critical Cyber Assets were found. Work continues with La Gen to create joint procedures and they have an agreement on the format and content of the first joint procedure; and (9) Flu shots will be administered October 26th.

Next, the board adopted a resolution approving the 219 Forms for the period of October, 2010 through April, 2011; accepted the low bid to replace the uniforms of outside personnel; approved the manager's report and expenses and the safety report showing employees have worked 2,425,703 hours without a lost time accident since December, 1996.

The board was then informed that Mr. Funderburk will prepare a resolution and confidentiality agreement concerning TESI's Beech Mountain system for signature at the next meeting.

The attorney's report and fees were then approved by the board.

After some discussion, the board decided it would like to know promptly when there are any inquiries to TESI regarding the purchase of any of TESI's systems

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



Low Rates. High Expectations.

Mike Guidry, Manager
Alexander Doyle, President
South Louisiana Electric Cooperative Assn.
P.O. Box 4037, Houma, LA 70361 (876-6880)



Local servicemen meet to honor those who served

To commemorate Veteran's Day this month, three SLECA members who are also military veterans met at the home of Harry Daigle in Houma to share their experiences and salute all of those who have served and protected our country.

Daigle, 75, was a Marine corporal; Keith Gros, 58, was a Marine sergeant-major; and Cliff Wilson, 87, served as a Navy medic and is one of a dwindling number of U.S. military servicemen who personally experienced Iwo Jima.

Daigle proudly flies the U.S. Marine Corps flag just beneath the U.S. flag in front of his home in Bayou Blue. Daigle says he served exactly "8 years, 8 days and 8 hours" after he was shipped off to boot camp in San Diego on Dec. 2, 1953, at the age of 17.

He was so eager to serve his country he tried to enlist a year earlier but was denied. He was working at a Gulf gas station when he approached a local recruiter who had come in for an oil change and Daigle told the man he wanted to enlist.

Daigle's eight-year hitch happened to occur after the Korean War and before the Vietnam War. His tour included posts in California, Japan and several years aboard various ships. He was discharged in 1960.

"If I was the right age, I'd go right in without hesitation. I love my country," Daigle said, whose home is a showcase for memorabilia from his time as a Marine.

Keith Gros noted that Daigle enlisted when Gros was just six months old. Gros, of Lockport, pointed to a block of wood resting atop Daigle's fireplace mantle etched with the word, "Jesus."

"That's what it's all about, right there," Gros said. "That's what gives us the strength to do the things we've done."

Gros, who joined the Marines in 1973 and retired in 2003, echoed Daigle's sentiment that "I'd go right now if they called. I would never trade a day I spent in the Marines. I thank God for letting me do the things I've done."

Gros said several of his relatives served in the military

and he was in fifth grade when he decided he wanted to be either a Marine or an FBI agent. He spent a few years working in the shipyard and oil fields before meeting a Marine recruiter in a chance encounter.

"I told him I was also thinking about joining the Air Force and he said that's exactly what I should do because he didn't think I'd ever make it as a Marine," Gros said, laughing at the memory. "He knew exactly what to say,



Shown in the photo at left (left to right) are Cliff Wilson of Houma, Harry Daigle of Houma and Keith Gros of Lockport. The three U.S. military veterans met at Daigle's home recently to tell of their experiences while working to protect our country's freedom and liberty. SLECA applauds these and all other members of the military - past and present - who put their lives on the line in defense of our country.

because after he said that, it was on!"

During his military career, Gros served in numerous capacities including recruiting, K-9, infantry, drill instruction and more. He spent time in California, Colorado, Kansas, Japan, Hong Kong, Morocco and Thailand, among other stations. (Acct. No. 20138601)

"When I talk about my experience in the military I get a little choked up because it's people like the corpsman here, and the corporal here, who gave me the freedom to make my choice to join the Marines in the first place. If not for those people, and many others like them, there's no telling where we would be today," Gros said.

Wilson was a "20-year-old farm boy from Arkansas" when he joined the Navy and later became a medical

specialist. He said he never liked talking about his experiences in WW II and never even liked thinking about it, but he figured it's time "history ought to be told."

His unit arrived at Iwo Jima just days after the invasion took place on Feb. 19, 1945. He describes being assigned as a dental assistant and his ship being in a position between the beach and a battleship that was launching shells toward the coast. Between both sides,

roughly 26,000 combatants lost their lives on the island and Wilson recalls seeing dead bodies being dumped into a mass grave "like cord wood."

Though his experience occurred many decades ago, Gros recalls with astounding clarity the things he saw and did on the island of Iwo Jima. He remembers a month after the invasion entering a cave with another soldier armed with a .45 sidearm, a knife and a flash light. The two ventured 100 yards or so in the cave and came to an intersection. Wilson said he shot a round to his left and one to his right to run off any enemy soldiers. Soon they happened upon a room with rifles lining the walls and a German luger pistol on the desk.

After leaving the cave, Wilson said he heard shooting in a nearby area and later learned that he and his partner had flushed out some Japanese soldiers.

"One of the war correspondents asked me what it was like being in the cave with the commanding general of the Japanese army. I didn't know what he was talking about, but later realized the Japanese had left the cave just ahead of us," he said.

The three men had lots of stories to tell and memories to share.

Before the men fell out to continue the rest of their day, Gros concluded the visit by saying, "On the drill field they tell you it's all about firmness, fairness, dignity and compassion. If you remember that and apply it to any part of your life, you can't go wrong."

SLECA to implement rate adjustment in January

After serving its members for nearly 30 years without a change in rates, SLECA recently announced that a modest adjustment will take effect for all consumers in January. Beginning with the January bills, SLECA consumers will notice an increase of 7.44 percent in the base rate. For the average consumer purchasing 1,000 kWh per month, the increase will equal to approximately \$3.53.

This change in the base rate is the first of a two-phase revenue adjustment plan, which was recently approved by the Louisiana Public Service Commission. The second phase, set to be implemented in May of 2012, involves the application of what the LPSC calls a Formula Rate Plan (FRP).

The LPSC, working in conjunction with electric

utilities across the state, devised the FRP to replace the old, inefficient procedure for preparing and presenting a case for periodic rate adjustments. The FRP assesses the financial condition of the consumer-owned, non-profit organization annually and calculates a new rate - up, down or unchanged - that will enable SLECA to cover the expenses of providing electrical service and meet its debt obligations.

"This new plan was created so that utilities don't have to spend a whole lot of needless time and money conducting rate studies whenever there's a need to adjust rates to meet our financial benchmarks," said SLECA Manager Mike Guidry. (Acct. No. 9478502)

Guidry said that even with the new rate, SLECA

continues to be one of the lowest cost providers in the state. He said it's a credit to the board, management and employees that SLECA has been able to operate effectively without a change in its rates for nearly three decades.

"Like everything else, the cost of providing affordable, reliable power keeps going up," Guidry said.

Guidry noted that over the years SLECA's revenue has been negatively impacted by the damage caused by four hurricanes and last year's BP oil spill.

"I think we've done a remarkable job to stave this off for many years. It's very unusual for a utility to go this long without a rate adjustment. I commend all of our employees and board members for their hard work and dedication on behalf of our members," Guidry said.

You can win a Youth Tour EXPERIENCE!

Two local SLECA students will have the opportunity to be winners of the 2012 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 29 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. 4734303)

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, 2012.

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.
- 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

LOUISIANA COUNTRY

SLECA NEWS
Pages 6-7 • Nov. 2011
Vol. 26, No. 8



THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED
SLECA honors our
military veterans

