

SLECA offers scholarships to local students

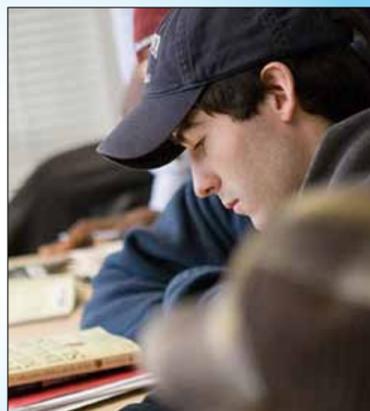
South Louisiana Electric Cooperative Association (SLECA) is offering scholarships for the 2011-2012 fall and spring semesters at Nicholls State University or the L. E. Fletcher Community College. Four scholarships valued at \$1000 each are being offered to graduating high school seniors to help with the costs of tuition, room and board, or books.

Qualifying students must live on SLECA electric lines or have a parent who is a manager or owner of a company that is a SLECA member.

Financial need is considered as well as scholastic performance.

See your guidance counselor for an application or call SLECA at 876-6880 in Houma or 631-3605 in Amelia. You may also download an application from www.sleca.com.

The deadline for applying for this scholarship is March 31. Send in your application now!



Energy emergency deferred billing

South Louisiana Electric Cooperative Association's (SLECA) 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.

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.

SLECA Mardi Gras Office Hours

Due to Mardi Gras parades and float traffic build-up, SLECA's offices in Houma and Amelia will be closed on Tuesday, Feb. 21. SLECA's offices in Houma and Amelia will also close at 3:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 10, Friday, Feb. 17 and Monday, Feb. 20. (Acct. No. 1975901)

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.

SLECA News



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



Krewe of Aphrodite: It's all about the children

Scenes from Aphrodite's Children's Mini-Parade

For the Krewe of Aphrodite, it's all about the children.

SLECA employee Penny Antill, who has been a member of Aphrodite for more than 20 years and currently serves as a float lieutenant, said the look on the faces of the children having fun at the annual Mardi Gras parade is "priceless."

"It's the most awesome thing to experience," Antill said. "You can see their faces light up when you throw them candy or beads or some kind of toy. It's like their birthday and Christmas morning all rolled into one."

In addition to the parade and parade-related activities, the all-female krewe also stages a parade just for children. Aphrodite will roll for the 29th year on Friday, Feb. 17, beginning at 6:30 p.m., but the Children's Mini-Parade took place on Jan. 28. (Acct. No. 4251102)

According to krewe member Roxanne Chaisson, Aphrodite wanted to organize an event that would allow the children to take center stage. The mini-parade began about 20 years ago and is held in the parking lot of Rouse's Grocery on West Main. The store even provides king cake and punch for the kids who dress up in costumes and ride in their own non-motorized floats.

"We love to do whatever we can for the children," Chaisson said. "We



that happen."

Chaisson said many people think Mardi Gras krewes are only active during the pre-Lenten season. Aphrodite, she explained, is involved in all kinds of projects throughout the year, including its main fund-raising vehicle, a weekly bingo game held every Monday night at the Mardi Gras bingo hall on Main Street in Houma.



enjoy getting them involved and seeing what kind of costumes they have on. They have a great time riding in their own parade and we appreciate all that Rouse's does to help us make



Pictured at top, left, are board members of the Krewe of Aphrodite Roxanne Chaisson and Penny Antill. With more than 450 members, Aphrodite donates roughly \$10,000 each year to charitable organizations.

She and co-chair Theresa LeCompte work hard just about every day to prepare the hall site, order supplies, supervise staff and make sure all regulatory and accounting rules



and procedures are followed.

Chaisson, who was initially picked for the job because she had prior experience running a bingo game for her church, has been overseeing the program for the past 23 years and said the bingo game and her involvement in Aphrodite are a labor of love.

"Some people are in different clubs and organizations. I don't have any

hobbies or do anything else except this," Chaisson said. "I get to meet so many wonderful people throughout the community and make a lot of friends. It's a real joy for me."

Each year the krewe disburses \$10,000 to local charitable organizations. The list of recipients is long and includes groups such as the Ronald

McDonald House, March of Dimes, Louisiana Lions Eye Foundation, Camp Project Read and dozens more.

The krewe also offers assistance for those who can't afford to bury

deceased loved ones, help with medical expenses, aid for fire victims and others. Five local nursing homes are also on the list of recipients.

Chaisson said the folks who attend the weekly bingo games are enthusiastic about supporting the krewe and its charitable activities.

"Everybody comes and has a good time. It's like family and friends getting together to have some fun," she said. "They know that they're supporting a good cause and all the money stays right here to help people in our community."

The krewe has about 460 members and usually rolls nearly 20 floats during its Mardi Gras parade. Many of the members also participate in the TARC parade that takes place the day before Aphrodite rides. (Acct. No. 9307201)

Chaisson said krewe members are inspired and moved every time they are able to help a local family or receive notes of gratitude from someone they've served.

"I can tell you that there have been a lot of tears around that board table when we meet and start going over the letters we get from people," she said. "We've helped a lot of people get through some hard times and we're proud that we've been able to make a difference."

SLECA district meetings scheduled

SLECA has announced those members who have qualified as candidates for board of director positions in districts 4, 5 and 6.

Qualifying in District 4 is David Luke, 4415 Grand Caillou Rd., Houma. Luke returns unopposed.

In District 5, incumbent director Roger DeHart, 1353 Dr. Beatrous Rd., Theriot, returns unopposed.

Returning unopposed in District 6 is Alexander Doyle, 135 Alamo Dr., Houma.

The district meetings are scheduled as follows:

DISTRICT 4

Wednesday, February 29
VFW Post 4752
7587 Grand Caillou Rd., Dulac, LA

DISTRICT 5

Thursday, March 1
Bayou Dularge Recreation Center
1330 Dr. Beatrous Rd., Theriot, LA

DISTRICT 6

Tuesday, February 28
Mulberry Baptist Church Fellowship Hall
2025 Bayou Black Dr., Houma, LA

Registration for all meetings begins at 6:00 p.m. and closes sharply at 7:00 p.m. The meetings begin immediately after registration. Refreshments will be served and prizes will be awarded.

Directors elected at the district meetings are sworn in at SLECA's Annual Membership Meeting on Friday, April 13, 2012, at the Houma-Terrebonne Civic Center, 346 Civic Center Blvd., Houma, La.

Across the Board

December 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, Joe Ticheli, interim general manager, James Funderburk, attorney and Elaine Robertson, member services supervisor.

After the invocation and pledge, the board approved the minutes of the November 7th regular board meeting, the special board meetings of November 14th, 28th and 29th, 165 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 versus cost per kilowatt hour.

Following an update on upcoming schools, meetings and events, Mr. Guidry reported on the following: (1) The District and Annual Meeting Committee Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 20th; (2) Kenny Berrigan with BHA looked into Entergy's request to have a metering point to serve customers in the Stephenville area and found that SLECA does have the capacity to serve the load in an emergency situation; (3) The Dularge crossing repairs are progressing with permits in place and materials purchased. The only thing pending is for the contractor to rent a tugboat; (4) A two-hour outage at the Ashland Substation was scheduled for upgrades and repairs but the outage only lasted an hour and a half. Contractors completed their work today and switching will be completed tonight at midnight; (5) A letter was received from SERC stating that they had denied SLECA's request to de-register; and (6) There were no NERC/SERC violations this period. (Acct. No. 8244002)

The board then took the following actions: (1) Approved the 2012 budget as presented and approved by the Board Budget Committee on November 29, 2011; (2) Selected Mr. Daigle as the voting delegate and Mr. Rivet as the alternate for the 2012 annual meetings of NRECA, CFC, Federated and NRTC; (3) Approved the manager's report and expenses; and (4) Approved the safety report showing employees have worked 2,469,048 hours without a loss-time accident since December, 1996.

Finally, the board passed a resolution authorizing Mr. Rivet to sign the confidentiality agreement with Aqua PA regarding its interest in TESI's holdings in Pennsylvania. 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.

Your Cooperative Connection

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KREWE OF APHRODITE

Local club supports
community's children

