

## SLECA DIRECTORS RE-ELECTED

The following directors that were re-elected without opposition will be sworn in at the cooperative's Annual Membership Meeting on Friday, April 13, 2012, at the Houma-Terrebonne Civic Center, 346 Civic Center Blvd., Houma, La.

The directors who were re-elected without opposition are:

- District 4 - David Luke, 4415 Grand Caillou Rd., Houma
- District 5 - Roger DeHart, 1353 Dr. Beatrous Rd., Theriot
- District 6 - Alexander Doyle, 135 Alamo Dr., Houma



### David Luke

Board vice-president David Luke, a board member since 1981, is a wholesale seafood processor. For more than 35 years, the Dulac native has worked in seafood processing. He and his wife, Elaine, are former owners of D'Luke's Seafood, Inc. in Dulac. The couple owns St. Michael Ice & Fuel in Biloxi, MS, which not only provides fuel and ice to the Gulf Coast but also has two shrimp loading piers. A lifetime member of the VFW 4752 Rifle Team and the 2nd Marine Division Assn., Luke is also a member of the KC Council 7722 and the Grand Caillou Volunteer Fire Department.

### Roger DeHart

Dularge native Roger Dale DeHart was elected to the SLECA Board of Directors in March of 1997. DeHart represents District 5 covering all of Bayou Dularge and Ashland North Subdivision. He is a member of the Terrebonne Parish School Board and served as its vice-president and president. He was appointed to and served on the Terrebonne Parish Home Rule Charter Commission. DeHart served more than seven years as a commissioner for Fire District 10. He is very active in his community and is very serious about all of his commitments.



### Alexander Doyle

Alexander Doyle, a resident of Houma, is president of the SLECA Board and has served in this capacity since his election to the Board in 1985. An attorney, Doyle is a member of the Louisiana Bar Assn., the Terrebonne Parish Bar Assn. and is qualified to practice law in Federal Court. Additionally, Doyle served as Terrebonne Parish's Assistant District Attorney for 12 years. Doyle is a former captain in the Louisiana National Guard and serves the District 6 areas of Mulberry, Barrios, Summerfield, Little Bayou Black, Coteau and Oakshire.



## SLECA offers scholarships to local students

South Louisiana Electric Cooperative Association (SLECA) is offering scholarships for the 2012-2013 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. (Acct. No. 85871-01)

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](http://www.sleca.com).

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



## SLECA News



Low Rates. High Expectations.

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



## Lonnie and Marie agree: Bayou Delight is the best

It's a miracle.

That's how 61-year-old Lonnie Crochet describes the fact that a fellow with no degree from an established culinary institution and no educational background in business can own and operate a successful restaurant for over three decades.

Bayou Delight is the establishment that he and a relative started back in September of 1981, and Crochet contends it's a miracle the restaurant has survived through good times and bad times, high points and low points.

Making the story even more miraculous is the fact that Crochet and his wife's cousin, Doris Marie Abramson, decided to open the restaurant's doors on the banks of Bayou Black just before the oil bust of the 1980s sent the local economy into a downward spiral.

During the lunch hour on a recent Monday, the place was buzzing with delighted diners. The atmosphere was relaxed and laid-back as folks were visiting and eating, some of them watching the latest news on the wide screen TV. Crochet, clad in his signature cooking apron, emerged from the kitchen to check on things and glanced at the crowd. He almost had to pinch himself to believe it's true.

"It's really a miracle that we've survived for almost 31 years," he said with the accent of one who was born right there in the Bayou Black community. "We appreciate all of our customers who have stuck by us for so long and trust us to give them great food and great service every time they come in."

Bayou Delight started out as a small outfit specializing in fried chicken served up to hungry customers fast and hot. The restaurant sputtered in fits and starts through the sour oil economy but managed to persevere thanks to its dozens of loyal patrons.

In a fitting example of the old phrase, "what doesn't kill you makes you stronger," Crochet said the last 10 or 15 years have been, well, delightful.

Looking back, Crochet said that what he and Marie lacked in formal education and training they made up for by calling on the time-honored practices and traditions of their families.

"Everything I know was taught to me by my mom and dad and just by figuring it out for myself based on the things I learned growing up," Crochet said. "We have a lot of great cooks in our family, so Marie and I just put our heads together and we make it work. We use a lot of her recipes and I do most of the cooking and contribute any way I can. But we both have the same vision."

Many diners come back for the scrumptious trademark fried chicken but



many also return for the lengthy list of menu items such as bread pudding served swimming in a sweet rum sauce, zesty seafood gumbo, stuffed crabs, smothered potatoes, shrimp and chicken stew and white beans.

The restaurant originally opened at its current location on the Abramson's family property on the banks of Bayou Black but grew so popular it expanded to more than twice its size in 1992. The added space enabled the owners to add a small bandstand in the back of the main dining room and offer Cajun dancing on the weekends.

Seating is tight and a reservation is usually required on Friday nights when the two-piece Cajun duo Bayou Pride takes the stage and folks from miles around come to showcase their dancing skills to the chank-a-chank beat.

Bayou Delight is well known to people in the community, but it's also known by many outside the country. After the first expansion, Crochet decided to construct a long patio and dock on the bayou for folks to enjoy the outdoors on sunny days and perhaps stretch their legs a bit after an evening meal under a moonlit sky.

Not long after, the dock served as the launching point for swamp tour groups led by famed tour guide "Alligator" Annie Miller. Before Annie died in 2004, bus-

loads of visitors would begin their foray into the swamps and marshlands from the Bayou Delight dock.

"That was a busy time," Crochet recalls. "We used to have 40 or 50 buses come through here during the tourist season."

One group that stands out in Crochet's memory was a group of 50-60 visitors from Belgium. Gesturing toward some pictures of the travelers on a nearby wall, Crochet described how the Belgians began mingling with local folks in the restaurant and were so impressed by the hospitality they received that they asked Crochet if they could return the next night to entertain.

They returned the next night with musical instruments and led an evening of singing and dancing done in the traditional style of their European homeland. (Acct. No. 70642-02)

"They really loved the Cajun food and the Cajun music, and they saw how friendly our people are," Crochet said. "They wanted to come back and re-pay the hospitality they had received. They came back the next night and really put on a show for everybody."



At top, Lonnie Crochet (right) visits with regular visitors Baylis Bergeron and Don Giroir. Above, Crochet takes a break after the lunch rush with waitress Tiffany Boudreaux.

**"It's really a miracle that we've survived for almost 31 years."**

"We're grateful for our regular customers who allow us to stay in business," Marie said. "We've been here a long time and feel like they trust us to give them the best food and the best service at the right price. We do our best to take care of them and it's the greatest thing when they express how they had a great time and how well you took care of them."

Baylis Bergeron and Don Giroir are two frequent diners at Bayou Delight. Both live just a stone's throw away from the restaurant and meet several days a week with a group of retirees to catch up on the latest news and swap gossip.

"We've been coming here since it opened and we really like it here," Bergeron said. "It's a nice place to eat and it's right down the road. They've got good food - I like the fried chicken the best - and Lonnie puts up with us pretty good."

When tour buses arrive these days, Bergeron and Giroir fashion themselves as the official welcoming committee for the Bayou Black community.

"I can speak a little Cajun French, but if it's a group that comes right from France and they start speaking real French, I might not be able to understand them," Giroir said with a chuckle.

The restaurant seats anywhere from 80 to 100 guests and has poker machines on-site. Bayou Delight is located at 4038 Bayou Black Dr. The facility is also available for private parties, receptions and other events. For more information on the restaurant, call 985-876-4879.

## Check account names to speed Annual Meeting registration

To help speed your registration at SLECA's Annual Meeting, April 13, 2012, please take a couple of minutes to check something now.

Check the name (or names) listed on the mailing label on the front of this newspaper. This is how your account is listed on our records. If any changes have occurred, you need to contact us to find out what needs to be done to make the proper corrections. (Acct. No. 80799-01)

Your registration is important in the event of voting and also for the prize drawing at the end of the business session.

Only members of record (those listed on the bill cards and newspaper labels) may register at the meeting. A joint membership of husband and wife counts as one registration. A tenant may not register if the account is in the landlord's name, nor may a landlord register if the account is in the tenant's name.

A qualified representative of a church, business or organization may register if proper documentation is presented. Only the president, officer or manager of a corporation may vote for the corporation at a meeting of the members.

Any employee of the corporation may vote for the corporation as authorized by corporate resolution of the Board of Directors. This resolution must be adopted within ninety (90) days prior to the meeting.

We urge you to contact us as soon as possible if any changes or corrections need to be made on your records.

## District Meeting Notices

SLECA members in Districts 4,5 and 6 should be on the lookout for this year's notice of the cooperative's district meetings. The notices will have a different look this year. For the first time, your notice will be mailed to your home in an envelope instead of a post card as in previous years. Look for your notice to arrive soon.

## Across the Board

January 10, 2012

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

After the invocation and pledge the board approved the minutes and summary of the regular board meeting of December 12, 2011, the minutes of the District and Annual Meeting Planning Committee Meeting of December 20, 2011, and 170 new members. 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) Over 900 children attended SLECA's Christmas Open Houses in Houma and Amelia; (3) The Christmas Lighting Contest winners have been announced; (4) The winner of the Children's Christmas Art Contest is Adrianna Albares; (5) The board Christmas Dinner was one of the best ever; (6) The Ashland Substation repairs were completed on December 12; (7) A new cell phone rule issued by the Federal Motor Carrier Administration to restrict the use of hand-held cell phones for drivers of commercial vehicles took effect January 3; (8) The Dularge Crossing repairs will begin January 16; (9) After further study, it was found that SLECA's system would be at risk, during higher load demands during the peak winter or summer periods, if SLECA agreed to a request from Entergy for a metering point to serve approximately 179 of their customers in the Stephenville area; (10) SLECA's request to de-register from NERC/SERC overview was denied but an appeal to NERC was submitted. There were no known violations this period; (11) The manager's transition is going well with employee morale high; (12) SLECA paid \$1,042,009 in property taxes for 2011; (13) Danny LeBlanc has been named the new manager of purchasing to succeed Buck Theriot who is retiring; and (14) There are only two conflicts with SLECA board meetings for the coming year including the NRECA Annual Meeting in March and Labor Day in September.

The board then approved the bad debt write-offs for 2009, the manager's report and expenses, the safety report showing employees have worked 2,482,397 hours without a lost time accident since December, 1996 and the attorney's report and fees.

The meeting was then adjourned. (Acct. No. 98513-04)

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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## BAYOU DELIGHT

Local restaurant attracts  
locals and tourists alike