

SLECA announces 2012 Youth Tour winners



James Bollinger



Treva Johnson

James Bollinger and Treva Johnson have been selected winners of SLECA's 2012 Youth Tour Essay Writing Competition.

James is a sophomore at Central Lafourche High School and is the son of Kenny and Debra Bollinger of Houma. Treva is also a sophomore at Central Lafourche High School and is the daughter of Donald and Kakeisha Harris of Raceland.

The winning students will receive a one-week, all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., in June as part of the contest, according to SLECA Interim General Manager Joseph Ticheli. (Acct. No. 7849206)

During their trip to Washington, James and Treva will join students and chaperones from electric cooperatives and the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives in Baton Rouge where the trip begins.

While in Washington, the students will join more than 1,600 other students from 37 states for the 39th National Rural Electric Youth Tour.

SLECA has held its Youth Tour Writing Contest for the past 30 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.," Ticheli said.

We need to know if you are on a life-support system

We are updating our records for life-support equipment needs and would appreciate your cooperation in providing this information.

In order to maintain quality service and perform important maintenance or construction of our electric distribution system, it is sometimes necessary to plan a brief outage to protect the safety of the SLECA's linemen.

As members know, there is nothing that can be done to prevent outages due to extreme weather or other uncontrollable factors. By planning outages for maintenance and restoring service for all outages as quickly as possible, SLECA strives to minimize any inconvenience.

In a special effort to minimize the inconvenience to any member who relies on life-support systems or equipment, we need to know who you are and where you are located. We also need to be advised at any time any changes are made and if the system or equipment is removed. We appreciate your cooperation in this matter.

If someone in your home is dependent on life-support equipment, please fill out this form and mail it to SLECA, P.O. Box 4037, Houma, LA 70361.

Life Support System Information

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: Area Code(____) _____

Account Number: _____

Type of Support System: _____

Do you have an emergency standby generator to operate this equipment?
Yes _____ No _____

SLECA News



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



Don't miss your chance to win at SLECA's Annual Meeting

You can win a 46-inch 1080P LCD Sony giant screen TV at SLECA's 74th annual meeting

South Louisiana Electric Cooperative Association (SLECA) members attending their annual membership meeting on April 13, 2012, at the Houma-Terrebonne Civic Center will have a chance to win a 46-inch 1080P LCD giant screen TV in addition to many other prizes and also share the event with family, friends and neighbors.

Drawing for the Sony giant screen TV will close the annual meeting that will feature a great meal and entertainment by the Houma-Terrebonne Community Band along with health screenings, a magic show, face painting and balloon sculpturing for the kids, plus demonstrations on electrical, boating and fire safety.

This year's event once again includes a patriotic tribute to all of our service men and women stationed throughout the world protecting our freedom, the awarding of valuable door prizes, a report from SLECA Interim General

Manager Joseph Ticheli, plus a great meal and entertainment by humorist Black Guidry.

This year, as in past years, all door prize winners will have their names included for

the drawing of the 46-inch 1080P LCD giant screen TV. Don't miss SLECA's 74th annual membership meeting and be sure to bring the entire family!



Touchstone balloon set to visit SLECA

The Touchstone Energy Hot Air Balloon is scheduled to drop in on SLECA's Annual Meeting in Houma on April 13. (Acct. No. 5644101)

The balloon will be available for viewing in the parking lot of the Houma-Terrebonne Civic Center - weather permitting - and tethered rides will also be offered to members and their guests.

The balloon is guided by a professional flight team and makes appearances at local electric cooperatives all across the country. The balloon is designed to provide fun and entertainment to co-op members and also promote the value of cooperatives.



Check your account names now to speed Annual Meeting registration

To help speed your registration at SLECA's Annual Meeting, 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. 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. (Acct. No. 10288201)

Easy home wiring upgrades

When upgrading your home, a fresh coat of paint and updated fixtures may come to mind. But what about hiring a professional to update the wiring behind a switch plate or outlet? Here are a few clues to find out if your home's electric network needs a professional switch.

1. Type of wiring. Older homes may have copper or aluminum wiring. Copper can work just as well as modern wiring if it is in good condition and has not been altered. However, fire risk increases with both copper and aluminum. Corrosion to aluminum from copper can lead to loose connections causing fires. Use only aluminum-approved switches, outlets, and other accessories if your home has aluminum wiring.

2. Plugs fall out of outlets easily. Loose plugs are a high fire danger. Older outlets that have lost their grip need to be replaced. Luckily this upgrade is affordable.

3. Not enough outlets. The increasing use of chargers for phones and many other electronic devices means outlets are in high demand, especially in older homes where outlets are not as plentiful. A lack of outlets can result in overuse of extension cords and power strips. Be sure to use quality, 14-gauge or thicker cords that are approved by Underwriters Laboratories (UL). Never overload an outlet. Overloading can cause heat, leading to fire risk. Consider hiring a licensed electrician to add outlets to your home.

4. Danger in wet areas. GFCI (ground fault circuit interrupter) outlets are now required in areas around water like near a kitchen or bathroom sink or outdoors. But in older homes, GFCIs may not have been installed. It is fairly simple to replace old receptacles with GFCIs; hire a professional to upgrade outlets near water.

Official notice of Meeting of Members

In accordance with Article III, Section 3 of the Cooperative Bylaws, notice is hereby given of the Annual Membership Meeting of South Louisiana Electric Cooperative Association (SLECA) to be held on FRIDAY, APRIL 13, 2012, at the Houma-Terrebonne Civic Center, 346 Civic Center Blvd., Houma, Louisiana.

Member Registration (Registered members receive a gift).... 5:30-7 p.m.
Music/Houma-Terrebonne Community Band 5:30-7 p.m.
Health Screenings & Community Information Booths 5:30-7 p.m.
Magic Show For Children (David LeBoeuf)..... 6:15-6:45 p.m.
SLECA Annual Meeting 7 p.m.
Dinner (Approximate) 8 p.m.
Entertainment (Approximate) 8:30 p.m.
Door prize drawing following entertainment

The meeting is being held for the following purposes:

1. To administer the oath of office to SLECA Board members elected at 2012 district meetings.
2. To transact any other business which may come before the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Brian Rivet, Secretary

Across the Board

February 6, 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, Kenny Berrigan of Brooks Harbor & Associates and Penny Antill, Benefits Administrator.

After the invocation and pledge the board approved the minutes and summary of the regular board meeting of January 10, 2012 and 123 new members. (Acct. No. 9159702)

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. Ticheli reported on the following: (1) Entergy was fined \$140,000 by the Louisiana Public Service Commission because operators in the control room of the River Bend Nuclear Power Plant in St. Francisville, LA were not properly monitoring the plant's nuclear power operations; (2) CLECO entered into a 10-year contract to sell power to DEMCO; (3) Director qualifying for Districts 4, 5, and 6 would close on February 7, 2012; (4) Employees have worked another quarter year without a lost-time accident; (5) The repairs at the Grand Pass Crossing in Dularge were completed on January 24th and the repairs at the Old Crossing were completed on January 26th; (6) A meeting with Commissioner Jimmy Field went very well; (7) Bills mailed in January included the new rate increase; (8) SLECA members used the Co-op Connections Card to fill 269 prescriptions and saved \$2,213.00; and (9) There were no known NERC/SERC violations this period.

The board then approved the low bid received to cut grass and maintain SLECA's substations; the purchase of uniforms for the inside employees; a resolution approving the 219 forms for the months of May, 2011 through September, 2011; the manager's report; and the safety report showing employees have worked 2,495,339 hours without a lost time accident since December, 1996 and the attorney's report and fees.

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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**You could win
a 46-inch Sony
Flat Screen TV!**

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April 13th
Annual Meeting
at the
Houma-Terrebonne
Civic Center**



**Take a tethered ride in the
Touchstone Hot Air Balloon,
weather permitting**



**Annual Meeting
Special Insert
Included**