



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Using compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) in outdoor lights can save money and energy because these lights stay on the longest. ENERGY STAR-qualified CFLs use 75 percent less energy than traditional incandescent bulbs. To save even more, look for fixtures designed for outdoor use that have automatic daylight shutoff and motion sensors. Learn more at www.energysavers.gov.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Across the Board

July 2, 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, and Larry J. Daigle. Also attending were Joseph Ticheli, 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 June 11, 2012 regular board meeting, 148 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. (Acct. No. 36652001)

Following an update on upcoming schools, meetings and events, Mr. Ticheli reported on the following: (1) SLECA has the lowest rates in the area; (2) SLECA's offices will be closed on Independence Day, July 4th; (3) Power generation using coal in the United States is forecast to fall below 40% this year; (4) A transformer in the Morgan City Power Plant caught fire and exploded causing most of the city to be without power; (5) Weather-related outages have increased slightly due to increased thunderstorm activity; (6) SLECA's Houma employees will need only its SLECA photo ID to return to the parish following a storm evacuation, while Amelia employees are required to show a St. Mary parish-issued badge; (7) Inside and Outside Safety Committee members Jonathan Fanguy and Suzanne Woods were chosen to attend the ALEC Annual Awards Banquet on July 30th in Baton Rouge; (8) SLECA's general manager and staff will be interviewed by TSC Services, the firm that conducted a customer satisfaction survey for SLECA in the fall, and the interviews made part of a case study to be used as a learning tool for other cooperatives because of the high score SLECA received on the survey; and (9) SLECA will be testing its ct metering installations and recalibrating the metering as necessary.

The board then selected voting delegates for the ALEC Annual Meeting and the Region VIII meeting and approved the manager's report and expenses and the safety report showing employees have worked 2,561,690 hours without a lost time accident since December, 1996. The board then approved 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.

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



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SLECA scholarship program pays dividends

Antill uses scholarship money to jump start medical career

SLECA has supported local education through its annual academic scholarship program for decades.

Each year, four applicants are selected by an independent review panel to receive a scholarship for \$1,000.

While the money goes toward offsetting the rising costs of obtaining a college degree, the demonstration of support for local students and their academic ambitions also resonates with the scholarship winners, according to 2000 recipient Dr. Troy Antill.

"The money means a lot because it's a struggle for most students to make it through, but it also means a lot to know that an organization like SLECA considers it important to help bolster the dreams of young people in their academic pursuits," Antill said. "It's a wonderful program and definitely helped me a lot."

Antill is one of many success stories among those scores of students who have benefitted from SLECA's scholarship program.

Antill graduated from Vanderbilt High School in Houma with his sights set squarely on a career in medicine. He earned his undergraduate degree at Nichols State University. For his graduate studies, Antill ventured to the Caribbean and Grenada where he

earned his master's degree in public health at St. George's University. He spent two years working on his medical degree at St. George's and two years at various hospitals in New York City.

Presently, Antill is in his first year of a three-year residency program at University Medical Center in Lafayette where he's studying general internal medicine.

Antill said he plans to move into pulmonary and critical care as he advances along his medical career path.

Meanwhile, Antill and his wife Kati became parents eight months ago when their daughter Kirsten was born. (Acct. No. 68009001)

"We're really enjoying being parents," Antill said. "It's a lot of hard work, but I wouldn't trade anything else for it."

Antill said his new perspective on life since becoming a parent has made him even more aware of the importance of helping others and pulling together as a community. He said he is considering one day spending some time attending to patients in developing countries and also doing what he can to curb the obesity epidemic that is plaguing his home state.

"Louisiana just placed second on



Shown above are members of the Antill family: Troy, Kati and baby Kirsten.

a list of the most obese states in the country," he said. "We have a unique culture here that enjoys good food and good times. But we need to educate our citizens on making the right choices. It's okay to indulge once in a while, but we have to make people understand that moderation is the key."

Such awareness would not only improve the quality of life in the state, he said, but also help to bring down the cost of delivering health care.

SLECA General Manager Joe Ticheli said Antill is a prime example of the many scholarship recipients who have made the most of this worthwhile program as it was originally intended.

"It's very gratifying to see young people like this benefit from the program and go on to do productive things to maximize their potential," he said. "We're very proud of Troy and all the others who receive this scholarship and work hard to succeed. Our future is in their hands."

Utility rights-of-way make dangerous playgrounds

For electric utilities, service reliability starts and ends with rights-of-way.

South Louisiana Electric Cooperative Association (SLECA) alone has 1,434 miles of power line rights-of-way in Assumption, Lafourche, St. Martin, St. Mary and Terrebonne parishes.

Electric utilities spend millions of dollars every year maintaining thousands of miles of rights-of-way by spraying, trimming trees and clearing brush to prevent outages and to enable crews rapid access to power lines whenever necessary.

Some rights-of-way run through dense woods. Others may cross open fields or run next to roads and highways.

The land these rights-of-way go through is not owned by the utility. The land is usually private property on which a property owner pays taxes. The utility only has permission to enter the property to service and maintain power lines in the course of providing service. That right of access is

limited only to the utility or its contractors and is not extended to the general public.

Unfortunately, the same process that ensures service reliability and provides easy access to power lines makes them ideal driving ranges for golfers, tempting mud-tracks for off-road vehicles and race courses for 4-wheelers.

Whether on public or private property, a utility rights-of-way exists solely to ensure reliable utility service, and any action that interferes or prevents that function has serious consequences.

Those who misuse rights-of-way may not only be criminally and financially responsible for any damage they cause to the land itself or the utility's property located in such rights-of-way, they also can be financially responsible for any damage to private property caused in homes or businesses served by those lines because of misuse of a right-of-way.

When rights-of-way are used as driving ranges,

golf balls can damage insulators, allowing power lines to come into contact with each other or the ground, causing damage to utility hardware, appliances or electronics. (Acct. No. 10080001)

Off-road vehicles or 4-wheelers making unauthorized use of rights-of-way can snag guy-wires or hit power poles, damaging the utility equipment attached to them, and disrupting service to thousands of homes and businesses.

Rutting due to off-road vehicle usage can cause erosion requiring expensive control measures to be undertaken to preserve the land. Those responsible can be held financially liable for the damage and financial losses they cause.

Utility rights-of-way may look like an inviting playground, but that's not what they're intended for and misuse of a right-of-way can be very expensive in the long run. It can also be deadly because damage that causes a power line to fall puts everyone in deadly peril.

SLECA members design - and win - cooperative quilt for scholarships

SLECA members Janelle Moen and Maura Trahan found a way to put their sewing skills to good use recently when they created a quilt to be raffled off as a fundraiser for an academic scholarship.

Moen and Trahan were approached by Sandy Stockwell, director of statewide services at the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives (ALEC) in Baton Rouge. The organization sponsors a scholarship program each year where a \$500-\$1,000 cash award is given to the student named to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Youth Leadership Council. (Acct. No. 11953001)

Moen and Trahan designed a quilt to commemorate the New Orleans Saints Super Bowl win two years ago. According to Stockwell, the quilt raised nearly \$5,000 at \$1 per ticket, far exceeding the contributions of previous years.

The quilt is typically circulated around the state at the annual membership meetings of ALEC member electric cooperatives.

"This quilt was the most popular one we've had," Stockwell said, mentioning that this year's scholarship winner was Jasper Williams of New Roads. "We appreciate all the effort made by Janelle and Maura to come up with this fantastic work of art. It truly is a great piece and everybody wanted to win it."

Stockwell explained that the quilt was raffled off during an evening banquet at the Baton Rouge Hilton as part of ALEC's annual meeting. SLECA representatives attending the meeting were surprised when out of the thousands of entries, a familiar name was drawn: Rudy Daigle.

Daigle is the wife of SLECA's District 3 Board Member Larry Daigle.

"I was so surprised, I couldn't believe it," Ruby Daigle said. "We always buy a lot of tickets every year because we really believe in supporting education through scholarships and other worthwhile programs, but we never thought we would actually win it!"

Moen and Trahan, who also made a quilt for the Cooperative Scholarship Program several years ago, are already planning next year's quilt, which will feature an LSU theme.

"Football designs are always popular," Trahan said. "You can't go wrong with football in south Louisiana."



Shown above displaying the 2012 Cooperative Quilt are Janelle Moen, Ruby Daigle and Maura Trahan.

Your Cooperative Connection

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SLECA Scholarship Program
pays off for local students

