

SLECA offers scholarships to local students

South Louisiana Electric Cooperative Association (SLECA) is offering scholarships for the 2013-2014 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! (Acct. No. 48565003)



Members invited to District, Annual Meetings

SLECA members are invited to attend both their district meetings and the cooperative's Annual Meeting.

The Annual Meeting will be held on Friday, April 19, 2013, at the Houma-Terrebonne Civic Center, 346 Civic Center Blvd., Houma, La. District meetings are as follows:

District 1 - March 12, 2013, Vacherie-Gheens Community Center, serving a hot meal and sandwiches. Qualifying were Incumbent Brian Rivet, 111 South Leon Dr., Gheens, LA, and Mark A. Breaux, 160 St. James St., Gheens, LA.

District 2 - March 13, 2013, Donner Community Center, serving a hot meal and sandwiches. Qualifying unopposed was incumbent director J. D. Boudreaux, 183, Azalea Dr., Donner, LA.

District 3 - March 14, 2013, St. Louis Church Hall, serving sandwiches, chips, cookies and soft drinks. Qualifying unopposed was incumbent director Larry J. Daigle, 3265, Highway 316, Gray, LA.

District meeting registration opens at 6 p.m., and the meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. Registration for the Annual Meeting opens at 5:30 p.m., and the meeting begins at 7:00 p.m.

SLECA SWEEPSTAKES

Did you know that each month SLECA gives away CASH just for reading LOUISIANA COUNTRY? It's true. Every month, SLECA account numbers are randomly selected by computer. Four account numbers are 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, General Manager
Alexander Doyle, President
South Louisiana Electric Cooperative Assn.
P.O. Box 4037, Houma, LA 70361 (876-6880)



SLECA hosts co-op contingent from Guatemala

SLECA recently played host to a group of electric utility industry representatives from Guatemala seeking to form an electric cooperative in their native Central American country.

The program was held in conjunction with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) Annual Meeting held in New Orleans Feb. 18-20. The NRECA International Program arranged for the Guatemalan group to visit SLECA so that the visitors could learn more about how a top-quality cooperative operates.

Rajeena Shakya of NRECA International explained that Guatemala presently has no electric cooperatives but government officials and local community leaders are interested in establishing member-owned electric utilities in an effort to energize remote villages and sparsely populated areas.

She said plans called for the formation of government-based programs to assist in creating cooperatives similar to the Rural Electrification Administration that spanned the rural electrification movement in the U.S. back in 1938.

The visitors spent the day in Houma talking with SLECA staff, management and board members and ventured into the field to get a close glimpse of SLECA's power distribution infrastructure. They gained knowledge about how the cooperative runs from the board room to the tap lines that deliver power to homes and businesses. Other topics covered included advanced meter reading, inventory, billing processes, safety measures, member services and more.

SLECA General Manager Joe Ticheli said the site visit was supposed to conclude at 3 p.m. but the group extended its stay several hours because the meeting was so productive.

"We're excited that we were able to have this opportunity to share our expertise with our friends from Guatemala," Ticheli said. "Cooperatives are about people helping people and that principle extends beyond any country's borders."

The group was particularly interested in the formation of the democratically-elected board of directors, how candidates are selected and how elections are conducted.

SLECA board president Alexander Doyle said the board election process is one of the hallmarks of elec-



tric cooperatives. (Acct. No. 8323700101)

"The board stands at the center of any cooperative because it sets goals for the cooperative, steers the co-op in the direction it needs to go and establishes a path for the future," Doyle said. "It's especially important when an effort is made to form a cooperative from the ground up like the folks in Guatemala are trying to do because a strong board can make the difference between success and failure."

This is not the first time SLECA has been involved in NRECA International. Several years ago the co-op hosted a lineman from Haiti, Wilbert Joseph, and provided two weeks of training for him to apply back in his home country.

"It's an honor for us to participate in NRECA International's program," Ticheli said. "We look forward to hosting groups and sharing our south Louisiana hospitality that we're known for in this part of the world."



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.

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. (Acct. No. 203051001)

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.

Across the Board

January 7, 2013

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 Advisor to the Board, Lloyd Gibson. Also attending were Joseph Ticheli, general manager, James Funderburk, attorney, and Elaine Robertson, member services supervisor.

After the invocation and pledge, the board approved minutes and summary of the December 3, 2012 regular board meeting, the minutes of the Budget Committee Meeting of December 17, 2012, and the Special Board Meeting of December 26, 2012, the ALEC minutes and 149 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. (Acct. No. 84693001)

Following an update on upcoming schools, meetings and events, Mr. Ticheli reported on the following: (1) SLECA continues to have the lowest rates in the area for December; (2) Congressman Charles Boustany defeated Congressman Jeff Landry in the December 8 runoff election for District 3; (3) Approximately 650 children attended SLECA's Christmas Open House in Amelia and Houma; (4) The 38 entries in SLECA's Christmas Lighting Contest were judged on December 17th; (5) The winner of SLECA's Christmas Art Contest was Brian Blanchard who received a \$100 Walmart gift card and had his drawing made into a billboard courtesy of Lamar Advertising; (6) Morgan City residents will pay a surcharge on their electric bills for a year beginning in January to pay for the installation of equipment at the Joseph Cefalu Plant; (7) CLECO held another planned outage at its substation that feeds SLECA's Bayou Ramos Substation with the outage affecting about 2,200 customers in the Amelia and Stephenville area; (8) There were a few outages on Christmas Day caused by the bad weather with the longest outage caused by three poles falling in a cane field due to the high winds and damage to the poles because the fields were burned by the owner; and (9) SLECA paid a total of \$1,021,796 in property taxes in 2012.

The board then approved the 2013 budget, 2010 bad debt write-offs in the amount of \$133,750, the manager's report, and the safety report showing employees have worked 2,651,971 hours without a lost time accident since December, 1996. The board then approved the attorney's report and fees.

Following executive session, the meeting was 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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SLECA hosts international delegation



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