

Are You Prepared?

Are you prepared to protect your family and property if a hurricane strikes? We encourage you to follow the checklist below to create your hurricane survival kit:

- Battery operated clock, radio and TV
- Bottled water (7 gallons per person)
- Flashlights (one for each family member)
- Extra batteries
- Blankets and pillows
- Canned and dry food
- Can opener
- Butane lighter
- Cell phone
- Camp stove and lamp, with fuel
- Fire extinguisher
- First Aid kit
- Propane for stove or grill
- Wired telephone

Across the Board

May 6, 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, NRECA Field Representative Dave Broeker, and Elaine Robertson, member services supervisor.

After the invocation and pledge, the board approved minutes and summary of the April 1, 2013, meeting, the ALEC minutes and 178 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. 78613001)

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; (2) SLECA's 75th Annual Meeting was a big success; (3) An employee health fair is scheduled for Tuesday, May 7th; (4) SLECA's annual Family Fun Day is scheduled for Saturday, May 18th at the Donner Gym; (5) SLECA's offices will be closed on Monday, May 27th, in observance of Memorial Day; (6) Safety accreditation that took place on May 1-2 was one of the best ever; (7) The 2013 hurricane season is predicted to be more active than usual with 18 named storms, 4 of them major; (8) SLECA has once again contracted with the University of South Alabama Weather Center to get storm reports from June through November; (9) The Legislative Cookout is scheduled for Tuesday, May 21st at the Pentagon Barracks; (10) SLECA received a check from CFC in the amount of \$32,231.24 for SLECA's semi-annual interest earned on its investments in CFC's Capital Term Certificates; (11) Large crude oil reserves have been located in the Gulf's deepest waters and will probably take about five years to pump out the oil but will greatly stimulate the economy at that time; and (12) NERC filed a protest to contest SLECA's appeal to be de-regulated. SLECA filed a response refuting NERC's claim. We had no violations for the period.

The board then approved a wage adjustment for the general manager, the manager's report, and the safety report showing employees have worked 2,709,478 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 (855) 876-6880 or 1-800-256-8826.

SLECA News



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



Local students return from Washington after taking the 'trip of a lifetime'

South Louisiana Electric Cooperative Association (SLECA) recently sponsored Brittany Dupre and James Rodrigue of Houma as they joined about 1,500 other teens to participate in the 2013 Rural Electric Youth Tour in Washington, D.C.

James and Brittany were awarded the all-expense-paid trip to the nation's capital by being selected winners of SLECA's Youth Tour Essay Writing Competition.

Since SLECA began participating in the annual Washington, D.C., Youth Tour program in 1982, dozens of local students have benefited from what has often been described as a "life changing" experience.

On their bus trip to Washington, the SLECA representatives joined a group of 30 students and chaperones from other electric cooperatives across the state and the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives in Baton Rouge where the trip began.

While in Washington, the students joined more than 1,500 other students from 37 states for the 41st Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.

SLECA has held its Youth Tour Writing Contest for the past 31 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," SLECA General Manager Joe Ticheli said. "We're happy that James and Brittany and the rest of the group had a great time and that SLECA could make this once-in-a-lifetime event possible. I know they learned a lot and represented SLECA well."

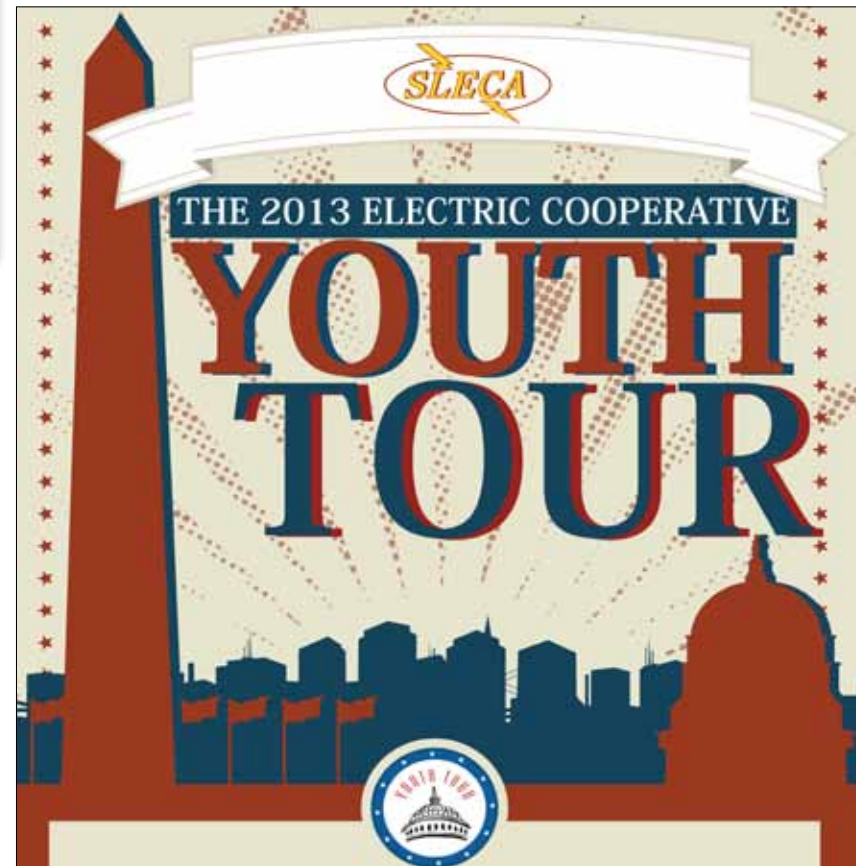
During the week-long Youth Tour, the students learned about electric co-ops, visited Capitol Hill to meet Louisiana Senators and Representatives and had the unique chance to act as lobbyists and voice their concerns.

Students also visited the Lincoln Memorial, the World War II, Vietnam, and Korean War Memorials, Arlington National Cemetery, the Smithsonian, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, and the National Archives.

In addition to taking in the sights and sounds of the nation's capital, the various groups from participating



Shown above, James Rodrigue and Brittany Dupre of Houma visit with Rep. Bill Cassidy in front of the U.S. Capitol Building in Washington, D.C., last month as part of their Youth Tour adventure. Above, right, the Youth Tour students sponsored by Louisiana's electric cooperatives are shown meeting with Sen. David Vitter on the steps of the Capitol. SLECA has sponsored two local students to participate in the Youth Tour program for the past 31 years and takes pride in supporting local education and the development of the leaders of tomorrow.



states convened for National Youth Day on June 19 to hear from public figures and other speakers.

During their week-long trip, the Louisiana students also visited the National Holocaust Museum, the Martin Luther King monument, the Washington Monument, the Jefferson Memorial and the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial.

The Rural Electric Youth Tour to Washington was inspired in 1957 by Senator and future President Lyndon B. Johnson. During an address at an annual meeting of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, he

urged attendees to send young people to the nation's capital so they could see first-hand how the government works. (Acct. No. 97540002)

The following summer, electric cooperatives did just that, and the Rural Electric Youth Tour was born. In 1959, 130 youth attended the tour. NRECA began to coordinate joint activities among the states in 1964.

Today, more than 1,500 youth attend the conference each year and more than 40,000 students have participated in the tour.

NRECA is the national service organization representing more than

900 consumer-owned electric cooperatives, which provide service to 42 million people in 47 states.

Each year, SLECA covers all expenses to send two students to the tour. The students truly appreciate the experience every year, and the 2013 students were no different.

In personal notes sent from the nation's capital, SLECA's Youth Tour winners expressed their thanks to SLECA and its members.

SLECA's Youth Tour contest is held annually to select two sophomores or juniors, and all eligible students are encouraged to enter.

From the Manager

By Joe Ticheli
General Manager



Summer Safety Tips

When the weather gets hot, we head outdoors for sun and fun. SLECA wants you to keep in mind some tips to make sure everyone has a safe summer. (Acct. No. 77499001)

Water and electricity don't mix

Summer is the season for swimming and boating, and awareness of electrical hazards around water can prevent deaths and injuries. Water and electricity don't mix.

- Use covers on outdoor power outlets, especially near swimming pools. Keep cords and electrical devices away from the water, and never handle electrical items before you've dried off.

- Be sure to use a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) to help prevent electrocutions and electrical shock injuries. These devices interrupt the flow of power when they sense a surge. Portable GFCIs require no tools to install and are available at prices ranging from \$12 to \$30.

Lightning and storms

Lightning strikes are fatal in 10 percent of all victims, and 70 percent of victims suffer serious long-term effects, according to the National Weather Service.

Because lightning can travel sideways for up to 10 miles, blue skies are not a sign of safety. If you hear thunder, take cover.

- If weather conditions indicate a storm, stay inside—away from doors and windows—or seek shelter

in a low-lying area away from trees and any metal, including sheds, clotheslines, poles, and fences. If you're near water, stay as far away as possible.

- If you're in a group, spread out—don't stand close together.
- Indoors, unplug electronics before the storm arrives, and don't use corded phones.

- Avoid plumbing—sinks, bathtubs, faucets.

- Don't forget about your pets. Doghouses are not safe from lightning, and chained animals are easy targets.

- If your home is flooded during a storm, don't turn on appliances or electronics until given the okay by an electrician. If there's laying water, don't go inside. The water could be energized.

Working with large appliances

If your air conditioner goes out, keep a few things in mind before you start poking around. Large appliances, such as air conditioners, are responsible for almost 20 percent of consumer-product electrocutions each year.

- Understand your electrical system—know which fuse or circuit breaker controls each switch, light, and outlet.

- Make sure circuits are turned off before starting work and take measures to ensure they're not turned back on while working.

- Use a circuit tester—always test before you touch. (Acct. No. 77449001)

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.

Your Cooperative Connection

LOUISIANA COUNTRY

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Washington Youth Tour

Local students take the trip of a lifetime

James Rodrigue and
Brittany Dupre of Houma
are shown visiting
Capitol Hill

