

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

July 1, 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, Mark Felger, Lanaux and Felger, CPAs and Elaine Robertson, member services supervisor. (Acct. No. 96836001)

After the invocation and pledge, the 2012 audit report was presented by Mark Felger to the board, the board approved the audit report, the minutes and summary of the June 3, 2013, meeting, the ALEC minutes and 155 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. Ticheli reported on the following: (1) SLECA continues to have the lowest rates in the area; (2) SLECA's offices will be closed on Thursday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day; (3) Outside and Inside Safety Committee members Bobby Dungan and Buffy Simmons were chosen to attend the ALEC Safety Awards Banquet during the ALEC Annual Meeting; (4) Houma employees are required to show their company ID to return to work following a storm evacuation according to Terrebonne Parish Assistant Director of Homeland Security and Office of Emergency Preparedness, Ben Walker, while Amelia employees must have a special badge issued by St. Mary Parish according to Duval Arthur, Director of the St. Mary Office of Emergency Preparedness; (5) There are rumors stating that the McDermott Fabrication Plant in Amelia could close soon; (6) The latest environmental news from the President that he will use all of his executive power to require a reduction in carbon plants and provide incentives to encourage more alternative energy options could result in increased costs to cooperative members; and (7) There were no new developments in SLECA's appeal to FERC to be deregistered. SLECA had no violations for the period;

The board then selected a voting delegate and alternate to vote on directors who are up for three-year terms on the ALEC board and on the Louisiana Director on the NRECA board; accepted the quote received from Federated Insurance to renew SLECA's property and casualty insurance for a two-year period with a 4% increase; approved going out for bids to replace the boom on Unit 357; approved the Visa Business Card Agent Authority and Revocation Form designating company agents to handle credit card matters; and the safety report showing employees have worked 2,740,252 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.

SLECA News



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Twelve Oaks specializes in Southern hospitality

Back when Barbara Cenac was a school teacher in Bayou Black many years ago, she used to ride to work with a few of her fellow teachers in a convenient carpool arrangement.

The group's daily commute took them past a stately plantation estate surrounded by a row of majestic live oak trees on Southdown Mandalay Road outside of Houma. The home always attracted Cenac's attention, sparked her curiosity and piqued her imagination.

"That's my dream house and I'm going to own that house one day," Cenac recalls telling her carpool mates, who passed off the proclamation as foolish whimsy.

It took a few years to accomplish, but by 1980 Cenac and her husband Clark had acquired the home and several acres of surrounding land. The couple would soon purchase more than 725 adjacent acres that would become a sugar cane crop.

After Clark passed away in 1993, Barbara hatched the idea of turning the home into a bed and breakfast inn, an opportunity for her to apply her affinity for Southern hospitality, gentility and the manners and social graces of a bygone era.

"Gone With the Wind is one of my favorite movies," Cenac said. "There was a lot of respect for tradition back then, proper etiquette, good manners, cultural charm, social order, protocol and common courtesy. Everything seemed to be grandiose and larger than life. Things are a lot different today." (Acct. No. 102551002)

As an homage to the classic film, the four guest bedrooms at Twelve Oaks are named after the movie's lead characters. There's the Rhett Butler Room, the Scarlet Room, Miss Melanie's Room and the Bonnie Blue Room. Prissy's Cottage located a few yards away from the main house is a one-bedroom, one-bathroom abode with a kitchen and washer/dryer set that gives guests the feel of living "down the bayou" just like the local inhabitants.

The home has been a labor of love since the day the Cenacs purchased it. It took more than a year from the close of the sale for the family to move in as the previous owner spent most of his time living in Europe and leaving the home in a state of neglect for nearly a decade.

"My mother went to church with the owner of the house and they would hold church parties there," Cenac recalls. "It was always such a warm and welcoming home, perfect for both raising a family and also entertaining friends and guests."

She describes the home as a never-ending work in progress, always upgrading, updating, rearranging and adding on to achieve a warm and inviting ambiance.



Interspersed throughout the home are some of Cenac's personal collections including tea sets, crystal, Faberge eggs, Santa Claus figurines, nutcrackers, elephants and more. There are numerous antique curios and furnishings acquired over years of traveling to markets both domestic and abroad in a quest to find interesting conversation starters. Parts of a fireplace mantle were even fished out of a dumpster and refurbished.

Though Cenac still spends a lot of her time seeing that Twelve Oaks Plantation properly reflects the charm of old south Louisiana, she directs much of her attention to making sure her guests receive a memorable experience when they visit.

"We treat everyone just like they're part of our own family," Cenac said. "We have so many people come here from other parts of the world - Australia, the Netherlands, Europe - and we want them all to go back with a favorable impression of south Louisiana and a new understanding of our people and our culture."



Barbara Cenac (left) and her daughter Kacy welcome guests at Twelve Oaks Plantation who come from all over the world to get a taste of living in south Louisiana and experience the hospitality and charm of the region and its people.



"It's sort of customary around here that you first enter the home through the front door, but then you become part of the family and you come in through the side door. We want people to feel comfortable with coming in through the side door."

A highlight of any visit to Twelve Oaks Plantation has to be the gourmet breakfast Cenac personally prepares especially for her guests. The meal may include fresh fruit, homemade banana nut or other specialty breads, waffles, sausage, oatmeal, quiche, juice or whatever the guests request.

"It's the kind of breakfast I would make for my own family. People don't often sit down these days and relax for a three- or four-course breakfast served on china or imported crystal," she said.

During the breakfast hour, Cenac is content to leave the dining room and allow her guests to quietly visit with each other, but more often than not she finds herself being pulled into the conversation and asked to describe the history of the



area, plantation life, alligators, sugar cane farming and the Cajun culture. She said she finds men often want to talk about the local hunting and fishing environment while the women take an interest in the home's décor.

For those interested in wildlife, there's a well-stocked fishing pond behind the home, an alligator nesting area nearby and special swamp tour packages that can be arranged. (Acct. No. 61443001)

The facility is well suited for weddings, showers, luncheons, honeymoons, community meetings, business groups, reunions and many other occasions. There's also an indoor pool area, spa and pool-side cocktail and reception area.

"Twelve Oaks is truly a gem in our community," said SLECA General Manager Joe Ticheli. "We're grateful for the opportunity to deliver the power they need and proud to have them as one of our loyal members."

For more information, visit www.twelveoaksplantation.com.

Attaching signs to poles is illegal

Utility poles are designed and maintained to support the electric power conductors and communications cables that provide vital services to countless consumers. They aren't designed or intended for anything else.

Signs, posters and handbills don't belong on utility poles. In fact, it's against the law to post a sign on utility poles.

Signs not only interfere with a lineman's access, making it difficult or even dangerous to climb the pole, but the nails and staples used to post these items may damage pole grounding devices or the lineman's protective rubber gloves.

Linemen also wear special boots and climbing "hooks." If a spike or hook hits metal, like the head of nail, they can be deflected and cause a fall that could cause serious injury to the worker.

SLECA General Manager Joe Ticheli said often linemen have to work at night or in foul weather, making it impossible to spot such hazards.

Basketball backboards, birdhouses and private lighting as well as any other devices for personal use should never be installed on any utility pole. During hunting season, some hunters even hang deer stands on utility poles which can be especially deadly should the barrel of a rifle or anything else come in contact with the uninsulated overhead power lines.



Each year, hunting season also brings an increase in vandalism when insulators, poles, transformers, power lines, meters and all sorts of utility hardware become "targets" for sportsmen.

This criminal damage is not only an unnecessary expense and causes outages that have to be repaired, it can also be extremely dangerous not only for those who cause the damage, but for personnel who have to deal with the damaged facilities.

A damaged insulator can cause a power line to fall or sag, posing a risk of electrocution. (Acct. No. 104607001)

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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

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