

SLECA DIRECTORS RE-ELECTED

The following directors that were re-elected without opposition will be sworn in at the cooperative's Annual Membership Meeting on Friday, April 11, 2014, at the Houma-Terrebonne Civic Center, 346 Civic Center Blvd., Houma, La.

The directors who were re-elected without opposition are:
 District 7 - Terry Trahan, 313 Lake Decade Ct., Houma
 District 8 - Eroy Acosta, 1018 Tower Tank Rd., Morgan City
 District 9 - Tracy Duval, P.O. Box 629, Amelia



Terry Trahan

Director Terry Trahan, elected to SLECA's Board of Directors in 1987, currently serves as the board treasurer. He retired from Trahan's Heating and Air Conditioning after 34 years. Trahan is a native of Bayou Black who enjoys hunting often on his property in Mississippi in his spare time. He serves District 7, which includes areas of Bayou Black, Gibson, Southdown West, Ouiski Bayou and The Lakes.

Eroy Acosta

Stephensville native Eroy Acosta, elected to the Board in 1987, served his community as a restaurant and lounge owner for many years. Acosta is president of the combined St. Martin Parish Sewage District Board and St. Martin Parish Water District Board. The Stephensville Volunteer Fire Dept. was established through his fundraising efforts and he served 21 years as president of the department. Acosta serves District 8, which includes Stephensville, Bayou L'Ourse, Deadwood and parts of Gibson, Morgan City and Greenwood. Acosta has also represented SLECA on the board of directors of the Assn. of Louisiana Electric Co-ops. Acosta says he enjoys serving the community at both the state and local level.



Tracy Duval

Amelia resident Tracy V. Duval has served on SLECA's Board since 1993 and currently serves as one of two representatives on the board of the electric cooperatives statewide group, the Assn. of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives. Duval is Justice of the Peace for Ward 9 in St. Mary Parish as well as serving as the liaison between the Policy Council and the St. Mary Community Action Committee and secretary of the Community Action program. She is also a commentator and the Eucharistic Minister of the Bread and Wine at St. Andrew's Catholic Church in Amelia. Duval represents SLECA District 9, which covers areas of Amelia, Siracusaville and part of Bayou L'Ourse.



Check account names to speed district and annual meeting registrations

To help speed your registration at SLECA's district meetings and its Annual Meeting, April 11, 2014, please take a couple of minutes to check something now.

Check the name (or names) on your bill. 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. (Acct. No. 14950001)

Only members of record (those listed on the bill) 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.

SLECA News



Low Rates. High Expectations.

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



George leans on SLECA family for support during health crisis

SLECA employee Yolanda George has learned to become a good listener. And she pays particular attention when she's listening to what her body is trying to tell her.

It's a practice her favorite celebrity physician, Dr. Oz, enthusiastically encourages and she's glad she took the good doctor's advice.

Not long after she joined SLECA two years ago, George began to notice a twinge of pain in her lower abdomen. She scheduled a visit with her general practitioner, who suspected a gall bladder problem but after running several tests could find nothing abnormal.

But George kept sensing that something wasn't right, so she and her doctor decided to investigate further by seeing a gastroenterologist, who recommended a colonoscopy. Just having reached the age of 50, George figured having her first colonoscopy was probably a good idea. (Acct. No. 102363001)

The procedure itself was a breeze, George explained, but the news she got after she awoke from the sedative was a stunner.

"It's really a routine procedure, so my husband (Milton) wasn't there, but my sister was with me," George recalled. "When I woke up I noticed that everyone else had gone home, and my sister said I wasn't going home, that I had colon cancer."

The doctor explained the situation, including showing George the results of the colonoscopy, plus another scan that was performed. Faced with the option of preparing for surgery the next day or waiting and seeking a second opinion, George made the more aggressive choice and chose the surgery to remove the cancerous cells and re-section the colon.

She described hearing the three words that many have heard and many others dread: "You have cancer."

"When I first heard it, I thought, 'You've got to be kidding! Not me.' I was in shock. It didn't really hit me until I got home after the surgery and was alone. I talked to my husband and told him I was scared, and we cried and we prayed together. You start thinking about your kids and your grandkids."

But George's crisis wasn't completely done. While the colon cancer was contained and declared Stage 1, a few months later a scan showed spots on her liver. Once again choosing the most aggressive option, she went through four rounds of chemotherapy and later had surgery at M.D. Anderson in Houston to remove the suspected abnormalities.

In total, George was away from her job for nine months, but counts God and her SLECA "family" as keys to her recovery and continued good health.

"They really are like family to me," she said. "Everyone has been so supportive, non-stop, always asking me how I'm feeling, visiting me and asking me what they can do."

Her close friendships at SLECA complement her already close connection with her extended family members and her family of faith at Victory of Houma.

Those who have supported her are now having to listen to her admonishments to get tested for colon cancer, including her three brothers and two sisters. She confirmed what many others have observed, that the most uncomfortable part of a colonoscopy is the



Yolanda George, shown above (center) with two of her five children, Courtney and Cody Charles, also relied on her SLECA family during her treatment for colon cancer. She says a strong support system is essential for battling the disease.



Yolanda George is shown with her husband, Milton, at left, and above with fellow SLECA employee Cheryl Richardson.

preparation of cleaning out the colon.

George, who is eager to call attention to the fact that March is Colon Cancer Awareness Month, reports that she had no family history of colon cancer and no other problems before the diagnosis. She said she can identify at least 40 friends and family members who have been screened with only a few polyps found here and there.

"If you get tested and it's caught early enough, it's treatable," she explains. "Dr. Oz is my favorite because he always says to listen to your body because it talks to you. If you feel something, don't just shrug it off. Had I not paid attention to what he was saying,

I probably would have just taken some medication for the pain, but I pushed farther and probably saved my own life."

George receives a scan every three months and her most recent test revealed no cancer. Though she was in good health before her diagnosis, she is eager to continue her exercise routine and settle into a healthy diet regimen. She is also excited that she was recently promoted to Member Services Supervisor.

"I look at life totally different now," she said. "Though I've always been upbeat and tried to greet everybody with a smile, I really to live my life to the fullest each and every day."

SLECA offers scholarships to local students

South Louisiana Electric Cooperative Association (SLECA) is offering scholarships for the 2014-2015 fall and spring semesters at Nicholls State University or the L.E. Fletcher Community College.

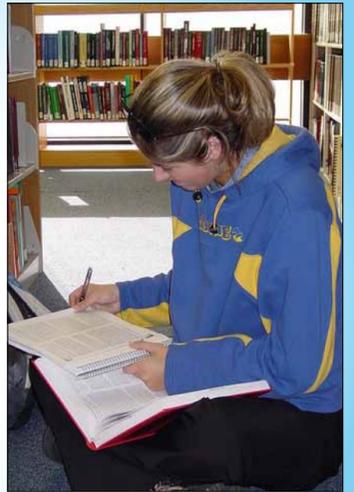
Four scholarships valued at \$1000 each are being offered to graduating high school seniors to help with the costs of tuition, room and board, or books.

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. (Acct. No. 87801001)

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!



Across the Board

January 7, 2014

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 Yolanda George, member services supervisor.

After the invocation and pledge, the board approved minutes and summary of the December 2, 2013 regular board meeting, the minutes of the Budget Committee Meeting of December 16, 2013, and the ALEC minutes and 137 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. 80525001)

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) Approximately 750 children attended SLECA's Christmas Open House in Amelia and Houma; (3) The 19 entries in SLECA's Christmas Lighting Contest were judged on December 16th; (4) SLECA Board of Director's Christmas Dinner was held at Scully's Restaurant; (5) The winner of SLECA's Christmas Art Contest was Brady Sins who received a \$50 Southland Mall gift card and had his drawing made into a billboard courtesy of Lamar Advertising; (6) SLECA was recognized in the December issue of NRECA's Rural Electric Magazine for reaching over 2.7 million hours without a lost time accident since December 1996; (7) SLECA received a check in the amount of \$1,890.07 from the Arkansas Electric Cooperatives for the retiring of capital credit certificates for the years 1977, 1978 and 1979; (8) SLECA received a reimbursement check in the amount of \$55,802.04 for Hurricane Isaac damages; (9) SLECA paid a total of \$1,119,969 in property taxes in 2013; (10) December 19 FERC denied NERC's request for a rehearing which means SLECA is no longer under NERC/SERC regulation; (11) The board appointed Mr. Daigle, voting delegate and Mr. DeHart, alternate.

The board then approved the 2014 budget, 2011 bad debt write-offs in the amount of \$101,731, the manager's report, and the safety report showing employees have worked 2,828,302 hours without a lost time accident since December, 1996.

Following executive session, the board approved the attorney's report and fees, 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

LOUISIANA COUNTRY



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Colon Cancer Awareness Month
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family in time of personal crisis