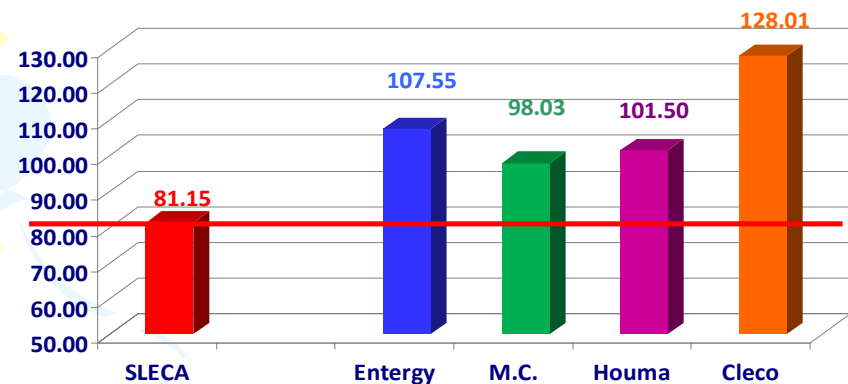


## Rate Comparison for 1,000 KWH for August 2014



## Across the Board

July 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, Kathryn Richard, attorney, and Yolanda George, member services supervisor.

After the invocation and pledge, the board approved the minutes and summary of the June 2, 2014, meeting, and the special board meeting of June 3, 2014, the ALEC minutes and 188 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 kWh.

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) Brennan Blanchard and Jackie Jones were chosen to represent the Outside and Inside Safety Committees at this year's ALEC Safety Awards Banquet during the ALEC Annual Meeting; (3) Twice in two weeks SLECA has experienced two outages in the Dulac, Dularge and Grand Caillou areas due to snakes in the Ashland Substation; (4) Mr. Ticheli was invited to participate in a meeting at the Big Cajun II Power Plant hosted by Senator Mary Landrieu Monday, June 9. Representatives from all electric utilities in Louisiana attended the meeting to discuss EPA's recently released regulations governing carbon dioxide emissions from existing power plants. Senator Landrieu made it clear that she does not support the new EPA regulations; (4) On June 18, Cleco made a surprising announcement that it had received and was seriously considering an acquisition bid made by Canadian-based Borealis Infrastructure. Several day later, reports indicated that Houston-based Center-Point Energy was also thinking about providing a bid. Cleco's buyout could dramatically alter the electric utility landscape in Louisiana; and (5) Several new commercial and residential projects on SLECA's lines are either in the planning stages, under construction, or completed. (Acct. No. 86620002)

The board then granted permission to replace SLECA unit 903, with a new marsh buggy, and approved the manager's report and expenses, and the safety report showing employees have worked 2,290,757 hours without a lost time accident since December, 1996. The board then approved the attorney's report and fees.

Following executive session, the board granted the request to redistrict a portion of South Ellendale Estates which is currently in District 6 into District 7. 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 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 members recall the early days of their coop

For more than 75 years, SLECA's Annual Membership Meeting has been a great time to visit with friends and family.

SLECA Board Member Eroy Acosta and his long-time friend and fellow consumer Barbara Landry Ewes always mark the meeting on their calendars and often find themselves discussing their co-op connection and how SLECA has been a meaningful part of their lives over the decades.

Ewes recently donated a copy of a 1962 edition of Rural Louisiana magazine in which she and her brother Ronald appear during a visit to a store owned by B.J. Stephens. In the article, Stephens is quoted as saying in regard to SLECA, "Better service can't be found!" He served as a payment collector for the Stephensville area, tending to 75-85 accounts. (Acct. No. 105400001)

Ewes, who was 12 at the time her photo was taken, just happened to be at the store with her brother on the day the reporter visited and is shown at the check-out counter with a soda bottle in her hand.

The article, mounted on a wooden backing with a varnish coating, caught the attention of Acosta, who has served on the SLECA board since 1987.

"We've been friends for a long time and Barbara and her family have always supported SLECA and they've supported me as a board member," Acosta said.

For his part, Acosta remembers when electricity came to his family's home in Stephensville. A native of the Four-Mile Bayou community, Acosta was 20 years old when power became available.

The wait seemed to take forever. When he was still a teen-ager, Acosta formed a musical group that was hired to play all around the region. The young band members were eager to plug their instruments into electric amplifiers and sing into microphones so they could really make some noise.

He also became a store owner at the age of 17 and managed the store for three years before the power finally arrived.

"I saved all the money I made from playing music and putting on dances at our house and working at the sawmill," he said. "I had all that money saved up and was working on a tug boat at the time. The money was up in the attic and when I was working one day my father went and got the money and bought a store that I could run because he thought I was going to drown on the tug boat."

That began a lifetime of entrepreneurial enterprises for Acosta, who has owned a variety of businesses over



SLECA Board Member Eroy Acosta and his wife, Yat, display a copy of the co-op's newsletter from January of 1962. The copy was mounted by lacquered by long-time member Barbara Landry Ewes and donated to the co-op.



many decades. By his count, he and his wife, Yat, owned seven businesses at one point in time.

"I've owned a lot of businesses and I know that SLECA is a very well-run business that takes care of its members and gets the most out of every dollar," Acosta said. "Just like Mr. Stephens said back in 1962: Better service can't be found."

### Bayou Blue

Rodney "Pooch" Bergeron of Bayou Blue cherishes an old black-and-white photograph he has that shows his father, Dovie, winning the grand prize at SLECA's Annual Meeting.

The year was 1948, and Bergeron was 6 years old when his father attended the annual meeting held at a local Catholic church. Though Bergeron wasn't at the meeting, he remembers when his father came home and told him the family had become owners of a brand new Westinghouse refrigerator.

"We couldn't wait to get home from school to see that refrigerator," said Bergeron, a neighbor and life-long friend of SLECA Director Larry Daigle. "It was like

heaven, having a refrigerator in the house. You didn't have to worry about things spoiling all the time. My mom used to take root beer and freeze it, and that was our Pop-cicles."

Though the refrigerator stayed in the family for many years, Dovie passed away of a sudden heart attack at the age of 45 six months after winning the appliance.

"He died young, but he was a good man and always worked hard," Bergeron said of his sharecropper father. "Electricity made all of our lives better up and down Bayou Blue and SLECA's always been there to help the members."

SLECA General Manager Joe Ticheli said the co-op's connection to the past is important in determining the path forward and making sure SLECA continues to deliver the low rates and high expectations members deserve. (Acct. No. 80025001)

"We always like to remember the past because it keeps us grounded and focused on what we need to do to accomplish our mission of serving our members to the best of our ability in a cost-effective manner."

## SLECA linemen receive training

SLECA employees Brent McNamara (left) and Stephen Sullivan recently completed Module I, Levels 1-6 as part of the Louisiana Lineman Training Program administered by the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives in Baton Rouge.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

When it's hot outside, appliances and lighting can actually heat up our homes more than we think. To save energy, minimize the activities that generate additional heat, such as burning open flames, continuously running a computer, or using hot-hair devices like curling irons. This will ultimately keep your house cooler.

## Bayou Blue resident wins statewide scholarship quilt drawing



Tammy Roberson (center) was the lucky winner of the Louisiana Electric Cooperative Scholarship Quilt. Members of electric cooperatives from across the state participated in the drawing in support of the annual \$500 scholarship program. Producing the quilt were local quilters Janelle Moen (left) and Maura Trahan, owner of M.J.'s Longarm Quilting.

## SLECA implements state-of-the-art outage management system

In our ongoing effort to provide better service at the lowest possible cost, SLECA is implementing a state-of-the-art outage management and interactive voice response system. (Acct. No. 2308002)

According to SLECA General Manager Joe Ticheli, "With this new system, we can better detect, manage and respond to service outages, whether for a single member or for system-wide disturbances."

The new system will enable SLECA employees to detect, evaluate, diagnose and respond to service interruptions through automated collection, organization, analysis and display of relevant system and customer information. This will enable speedy, accurate response and restoration and ensures timely and accurate communications with employees and consumers.

Ticheli said the new system will prove especially valuable during large outages and emergency conditions when call volumes are high and no customer will be turned away by a busy signal.

Ticheli emphasized that members who call will still have the option to speak to a customer service representative or choose to leave a recorded message. Recorded messages will prompt the system to automatically display the member's address and account information for dispatchers, which will pinpoint the location of the trouble area and reduce response time.

"We always do our homework when investing in new technology and we have found that this system has proven very valuable to those electric utilities that have implemented it across the country," Ticheli said.

He stressed that the new system is not an automated answering service that would replace SLECA's receptionist. The new outage management system is only activated when call volumes are extremely high.

Your Cooperative Connection

# LOUISIANA COUNTRY

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## SLECA members recall early days of their co-op

*Pictured at left is SLECA member Dovie Bergeron after his ticket was drawn to win a new refrigerator at SLECA's Annual Meeting in 1948. Below, SLECA Board Member Eroy Acosta (left), is shown with long-time SLECA member and personal friend Barbara Landry Ewes, second from right.*

