

SLECA employees receive training

Two SLECA employees recently participated in advanced safety training administered by the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives in Baton Rouge.



Pictured in the photo at right, Brent McNamara (left) and Stephen Sullivan completed Module 3, Levels 6-10 of the Louisiana Lineman Training Program.

You can win a Youth Tour EXPERIENCE!

Two local SLECA students will have the opportunity to be winners of the 2016 SLECA Youth Tour Contest and spend a week with about two dozen other students from across Louisiana on a "Government in Action" Youth Tour of Washington, D.C.

Eligibility Requirements

- High school sophomores and juniors are eligible.
- Electricity to your residence or parent's business must be provided by SLECA.

Youth Tour Contest Guidelines

1. Students must write a letter approximately 500 words long to an elected official. The entry must be submitted in the proper letter format to be eligible.

2. Students should voice their opinion (positive or negative) to the local, state or federal official in a letter format on any issue or topic they believe to be critical to South Louisiana.

3. The topic should be stated and thoroughly discussed and the letter should be addressed to the official the student has selected. (Acct. No. 103718002)

4. On a separate sheet attached to the essay, the student must write his/her name, Social Security Number, name of school, grade level, parents' names, address and phone number.

5. Entries must include a current photo for use in news releases after the contest.

Entries should be mailed to Youth Tour Essay Contest, c/o SLECA, P.O. Box 4037, Houma, LA 70361, or delivered to SLECA's main office at 2028 Coteau Road, Highway 660, Houma, LA, or SLECA's branch office in Amelia, 2903 Lake Palourde Rd., Morgan City, LA 70380; P.O. Box 1126, Amelia, LA 70340.

ENTRIES MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN Feb. 3, 2017.

For more information, contact SLECA at 876-6880 or 1-800-256-8826.



Christmas Open House will host over 1,000 kids

You are cordially invited to attend SLECA's annual Christmas Open House. Santa will be on hand with treats for the children and pictures will be taken. Refreshments will also be served.

This year's event will be bigger than ever with over 1,000 students attending and being bused from local schools to see Santa.

- Houma Office: Thursday, Dec. 8, 2016 - 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Amelia Office: Tuesday, Dec. 6, 2016 - 9 a.m. to 4 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 offers programs to benefit members and the community

Even though SLECA's service area has seen hard economic times over the past few years, General Manager Joe Ticheli said the locally-owned cooperative is doing all it can to continue to offer affordable rates with the high quality of service members deserve.

Along with that commitment, Ticheli said SLECA is also committed to improving the quality of life for members of the community by supporting scholarship programs, educational programs and other contests and drawings that are fun and entertaining.

Programs include the Washington Youth Tour, academic scholarships, and annual contests such as the kids' Christmas drawing contest, the Christmas lighting contest and visits with Santa Claus. (Acct. No. 81671001)

"These are programs and events that we make available every year just to bring some joy and fun into the lives of our members," Ticheli said. "We've been a part of this community for nearly 80 years and we know how hard the economy has been on everyone - with another year to go before the experts tell us things will start getting better.

"But we're placing our faith in God and the assurance that we know how to get through these times because we've seen it before and every time our people demonstrate the perseverance and grit that it takes to make it."

Ticheli concluded: "We count our blessings for the things we do have, not obsessing over the things we don't have. We have our friends and families, our culture, our way of life - and thankfully this year, no hurricanes."



Clockwise from far left: 2016 Washington Youth Tour delegates Bethany Ekiss (left) and Shea Hunter; a winner of the house decorating contest; kids drawing contest winner Dominic LeBoeuf of Houma with SLECA General Manager Joe Ticheli

Across the Board

September 12, 2016

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, Jamie Funderburk, attorney, and Yolanda George, member services supervisor.

After the invocation and pledge, the board approved minutes and summary of the regular meeting dated August 2, 2016, the ALEC minutes and 192 new members.

The financial report, approved by the board, highlighted interest earnings, cash on hand, rate comparison showing SLECA rates being some of the lowest 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. 7701002)

Following an update on upcoming schools, meetings and events, Mr. Ticheli reported on the following: (1) SLECA has some of the lowest rates in the area; (2) It's time to select the location and date for the board Christmas dinner; (3) A safety supper will be held October 5 for the Houma office and October 6 for Amelia; (4) The Gulf rig count both on land and offshore dropped by four in August, and the Houma-Thibodaux area has one of the highest unemployment rates in the country; (5) A milestone will be reached this fall when the first U.S. offshore wind farm opens off the coast of Rhode Island; (6) The August flood was the worst flooding event in Louisiana since Hurricane Katrina. Though it rained for five days, SLECA's service territory was spared any flooding and except for a few scattered, isolated outages, there were no service interruptions; (7) The board is invited to attend a fundraiser for Commissioner Foster Campbell who is running for U.S. Senate; (8) Two 32 year-old RUS loans totaling \$9,090,000 were paid off in July resulting in a savings of \$49,650.00 a month; and (9) SLECA recently came to the rescue of the local military museum when four SLECA employees installed tie-downs for the museum's F-4 Phantom aircraft securing it to the concrete foundation.

The board then approved the renewal of SLECA's medical insurance premium at an increase of 4.65%, the mold remediation and replacement of the carpet in the General Manager's office and the board room, the manager's report, the safety report showing employees have worked 3,267,896 hours without a lost time accident since December, 1996 and 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 offers scholarships to local students

South Louisiana Electric Cooperative Association (SLECA) is offering scholarships for the 2017-2018 fall and spring semesters.

For the first year ever, the scholarship may be used at any Louisiana university, college, community college or technical school.

Four scholarships valued at \$1,000 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, 2017. Send in your application now!



SLECA holiday office closures

SLECA's Houma headquarters and the Amelia branch office will be closed on the following dates:

- Thanksgiving – Thursday, November 24 and Friday, November 25.

Dispatchers will be on duty to handle emergency calls. We wish you and your family a Happy Thanksgiving!

Enter SLECA's Christmas Lighting Contest

Light up your home this Christmas and win a \$100 Cash Prize! Entries will be accepted through December 8, 2016.

RULES:

1. Contest open to SLECA residential members only.
2. SLECA directors, employees, retired employees and/or their families are not eligible to win.
3. Electricity is required. Outdoor lighting only.
4. Suggested themes: Religious, Contemporary, Novelty.
5. Entries must be received at SLECA by December 8, 2016. Judging to be held December 12.
6. Winners will be notified by telephone.
7. 2015 winners are ineligible.
8. Cash Prizes (\$100 in each of SLECA's nine member districts) will be awarded.

To enter, complete this form and return by December 8, 2015, to SLECA, P.O. Box 4037, Houma, La 70361. (Acct. No. 44510001)

SLECA's Christmas Lighting Contest

Name _____

Address _____

Account No.: _____

Phone #: _____

Or simply call SLECA's office in Houma, 876-6880, 1-800-256-8826; or Amelia 631-3605, 1-800-256-8836.

KIDS...Christmas is almost here Draw a picture and win a prize!

We're having a Christmas contest for kids. And the prize is a \$50 Christmas gift certificate. All you have to do to win is draw a picture of your favorite Christmas activity. It can be anything you like to do at Christmas time, such as decorating the tree, wrapping gifts, Christmas shopping or going caroling...Anything!

Here is what you need to know:

- You must be 10 years old or younger.
- Contest is open to SLECA members only.
- Entries must be submitted on one 8-1/2 x 11-inch sheet of paper.
- Any medium (crayons, markers, watercolors, etc.) may be used to draw your picture, but the picture MUST be in color.
- The entry form must be attached to the back of your drawing.
- Previous winners are ineligible.
- Employees of SLECA will judge all entries.
- You should mail your entry to SLECA, P.O. Box 4037, Houma, LA 70361, or you can drop it off at the Houma office at 2028 Coteau Rd. in Houma or at the Amelia office.
- Deadline to receive entries is Dec 13, 2016.

ENTRY FORM

Attach this form to the back of entry.

Child's Name: _____

Parent or Guardian: _____

Child's Age: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

SLECA Account Number: _____

YOUR COOPERATIVE CONNECTION

LOUISIANA COUNTRY

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**SLECA members have much to be thankful
for despite hard economic times**

See inside for upcoming
contests sponsored
by SLECA