

Along these **LINES**

MAY/JUNE 2020



Elm Park Substation, West Feliciana Parish



/DEMCOLouisiana

DEMCO.org

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Comings and Goings at Your Statewide

The retirement earlier this year of Mike Bergeaux, longtime director of loss control for the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives, prompted a promotion and new hiring by your statewide.



Mike Bergeaux

Mike spent nearly 40 years working for Louisiana electric cooperatives. He began his career as a lineman at Jeff Davis Electric Co-op Inc. before joining ALEC.

With a passion for safety, he educated cooperative employees to make sure they went home safe every day. Mike made a tremendous impact on the culture of safety at electric cooperatives around the state.

He earned respect from employees and in the boardroom, serving on national and regional committees. He was a chairman on the boards of the National Utility Training and Safety Education Association and Southern Area Instructors Association. He also led Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program team inspections across the state.

A certified loss control professional, Mike earned continuing education credits from the National Rural Electric



Aarron Graham

Cooperative Association and Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange.

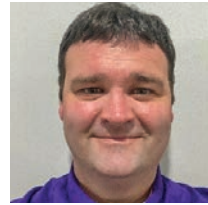
Mike battled in the trenches alongside his fellow cooperative employees through hurricanes, storms and natural disasters.

Most electric cooperative employees mark time by major events such as hurricanes, natural disasters, equipment upgrades and incidents, but Mike is unique because he also can quantify his career by the number of lives saved. Mike was truly his brother's keeper throughout his career.

Aarron Graham, ALEC's safety coordinator, was promoted to director of loss control upon Mike's retirement. He has been with ALEC for 14 years.

Prior to joining the statewide, Aarron spent eight years as a lineman at DEMCO.

He is a certified loss control professional,



Derek Seal

accredited by NRECA. Aarron has logged many hours traveling to Louisiana electric cooperatives to train employees, attend safety meetings and conduct safety presentations. He is vice chairman for NUTSEA, has served as chairman on the SAIA and is on the RESAP team.

Aarron worked closely with Mike during disasters to coordinate mutual-aid relief for cooperatives in our state and cooperatives that are part of our mutual-aid agreement.

To fill Aarron's safety coordinator position, ALEC hired Derek Seal.

Derek has 19 years of experience with Washington-St. Tammany Electric Cooperative. Derek will work primarily with safety and operations departments, teaching safety rules and regulations adopted by ALEC's electric cooperatives.

We wish Mike the best in his retirement, look forward to Aarron carrying on his legacy and welcome Derek to the team.

—CEO Jeff Arnold

Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives Inc.

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CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

Beama Pierce

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Mike Bergeaux

SAFETY COORDINATOR

Aarron Graham

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Reflect and Honor During Military Appreciation Month

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Mission

DEMCO is focused on enhancing the quality of life for members by providing safe, reliable and competitively priced energy services.

Along These Lines (USPS 4089) is published bimonthly by the Association of Louisiana Electric Co-ops Inc., 10725 Airline Hwy., Baton Rouge, LA 70816, in partnership with Pioneer Utility Resources.

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Manager's Report

Randy Pierce
CEO & General Manager



At a time when there is a lot of uncertainty and anxiety for us all, I want to reassure you that your electric cooperative is on solid ground. You can count on us to continue to provide the essential service of electric power.

Every day, whether we are responding to a weather event or facing the COVID-19 pandemic, DEMCO is focused on our mission, which is to deliver safe, reliable and affordable power to our co-op members.

“When nothing is certain, everything is possible” is a quote that I think fits this time well. It reminds us that there are things within our power—things we can control from where we sit, which for most of us has been at home.

In the spirit of optimistic thinking, this issue lays out some great tips on saving electricity. You see, to some extent, you can control the energy you use, and this can save you money—and having control over your budget is important, especially during challenging situations.

In “Knowledge is Power: Small Changes Add Up,” several energy efficiency tips are provided that can be implemented by anyone and everyone. Learn what you can do at home to reduce your energy use, and the money saved can add up in a big way. (story on page 5)

And while you're in the mindset of becoming more energy efficient, read “Make Your Yard Work For You,” for a birds eye view of how to make changes in your yard to help you save money by saving energy. (story on page 17)

The cover story, “Stewards of Power,” highlights the value of DEMCO—your electric cooperative—a \$700 million corporation owned by the members we serve. Each year, the system improvements made result in better service—quicker response time, fewer outages and more reliability—to name a few. (story on pages 20-21)

Over the past few months, we've been planning for an annual meeting and expo, but as a public health and safety precaution, the expo event is canceled, and the annual meeting will be postponed until later in the year. We look forward to getting together in 2021 to celebrate our co-op community with food, family and fun.

I want to conclude by talking a moment about the DEMCO Board of Directors—comprised of 13 locally elected members—charged with representing the membership of their respective district. In all matters pertaining to the electric cooperative, the board is a conduit of your voice.

I am pleased to announce and welcome two new board members: Ms. Tresa Byrd, serving St. Helena Parish; and Mr. Mike Anderson, serving East Feliciana Parish. I also congratulate three existing board members: Steve Irving, serving East Baton Rouge Parish; Dennis Lott, serving Livingston Parish; and Richard Sitman, serving St. Helena Parish, who were reelected without opposition.

Keep your hopes up, your mind at ease and take one step at a time, and DEMCO will keep you in power and help light the path forward.

2020 Annual Meeting Postponed

Dear DEMCO Member,

I'm writing to you today to inform you that the 2020 DEMCO Annual Membership Meeting has been postponed indefinitely.

This is the place in the Along These Lines magazine that normally would contain the official meeting notice that announces the date and time of our annual meeting. It was originally scheduled to be held at DEMCO headquarters May 9 at 10 a.m. However, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and uncertainty surrounding group meetings of any size, the DEMCO Board of Directors has postponed the Annual Membership Meeting. The meeting will be rescheduled later this year. Once we know the details of the rescheduled Annual Membership Meeting, we will inform you.

Please stay safe. We look forward to better and brighter days ahead.

Randy Pierce, DEMCO CEO and General Manager

Knowledge Is Power: Small Changes Add Up

WHEN IT COMES TO ELECTRICITY, the more you know about the power you use, the more you can save by using it wisely.

Use Your Energy Guzzlers Efficiently

Without actually tracking your power use, you can bet the three things likely guzzling the most energy in your home are your air conditioner, water heater and refrigeration.

To reduce your power consumption and lower your electric bill use your air conditioner, water heater and refrigerator/freezer efficiently, simply cleaning filters and setting temperatures can make a difference. (Account No. 80093741001)

Set your air conditioning to 78 degrees in the summer and 68 degrees in the winter and potentially save up to 5% off your energy bill. Set your water heater temperature to 120 degrees; and set your refrigerator to maintain a temperature of 37 to 40 F to work at peak efficiency and minimize energy costs. Freezers should be at 5 degrees and stand-alone freezers for long storage can be set at 0 degrees.

Additional Tips to Lower Energy Use

Grilling outdoors is a great way to save energy and eliminate unwanted heat from cooking indoors. When cooking on the stove, use pot lids to help food cook faster

and to keep the heat in. If you are heating water on the stove, use hot tap water instead of cold. Also try using a slow-cooker instead of simmering foods on the stove or use the microwave for cooking when possible.

Replace incandescent bulbs with LEDs, especially if you have them on for more than one hour per day. LED bulbs use less energy to give you the light you're used to. When you're not using electronics and gaming consoles—and if you don't unplug them—use the energy-saving modes, power-down and automatic sleep functions. Turn off computers, monitors and large screen TVs when not in use. Reduce the brightness on computer monitors and set the power saving sleep mode on all devices.

Only run full laundry loads and minimize clothes drying time by using an auto moisture sensor, if available. Wash clothes in cold water and use hot water only for very dirty loads. Be sure to clean the lint trap before each load and check that the dryer vent hose is tightly connected to the inside wall fitting and the exterior vent is clear. Also avoid running the dryer during the heat of the day and dry consecutive loads to harvest heat remaining in the dryer from the last load. Use cold-water rinse when washing clothes. If you must do smaller wash

loads, adjust the water level in the washing machine to match the load size, especially when using hot water. You could also consider using a “solar-powered” clothes dryer—the good old-fashioned clothesline!

If you pay attention to the little things, the money you save will add up in a big way.

For more energy-efficiency tips, visit DEMCO.org. ■



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MONTHLY CHECK WRITING

Set up an automatic bank draft, and say goodbye to the hassle of monthly check writing.

Sign up now at DEMCO.org or on the free DEMCO Mobile app.

Sign Up for Bank Draft!

DEMCO members who pay their bill by bank draft are eligible to win a \$50 gift card! Winning account numbers are published in each issue of Along these LINES.

Congratulations to these winners:
Account #80033093001; #80072486001;
#80194329001; 80096552001.

It's easy to sign up and be eligible to win! Go to DEMCO.org/PaymentOptions or call 1-844-MyDEMCO.

Reflect and Honor

May is Military Appreciation Month

By Anne Prince and Addie Armato

While enjoying Memorial Day festivities, please take a moment to reflect on the sacrifices of our country's veterans and their families. Be thankful for those who made the ultimate sacrifice so we can enjoy the freedoms their service affords us in this great country of ours.

In the words of President John F. Kennedy, "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."

At our Louisiana electric cooperatives, we are proud to serve veterans and their families in our service territory.

In addition to providing safe, reliable and affordable energy, we show appreciation for our veteran community through our ongoing commitment to them and their families.

Recently, Louisiana electric cooperatives and their employees donated items for more than 70 care packages. We donated the items to the Geaux Seven Blue Star Mothers service group, which packaged and shipped them to our active-duty soldiers around the world.

We are not alone in our efforts to honor and serve veterans. Louisiana's electric cooperatives are part of a network of more than 900 electric cooperatives across the country that support and honor our nation's veterans of all generations. Our national association spans 48 states and serves 13% of U.S. consumers.

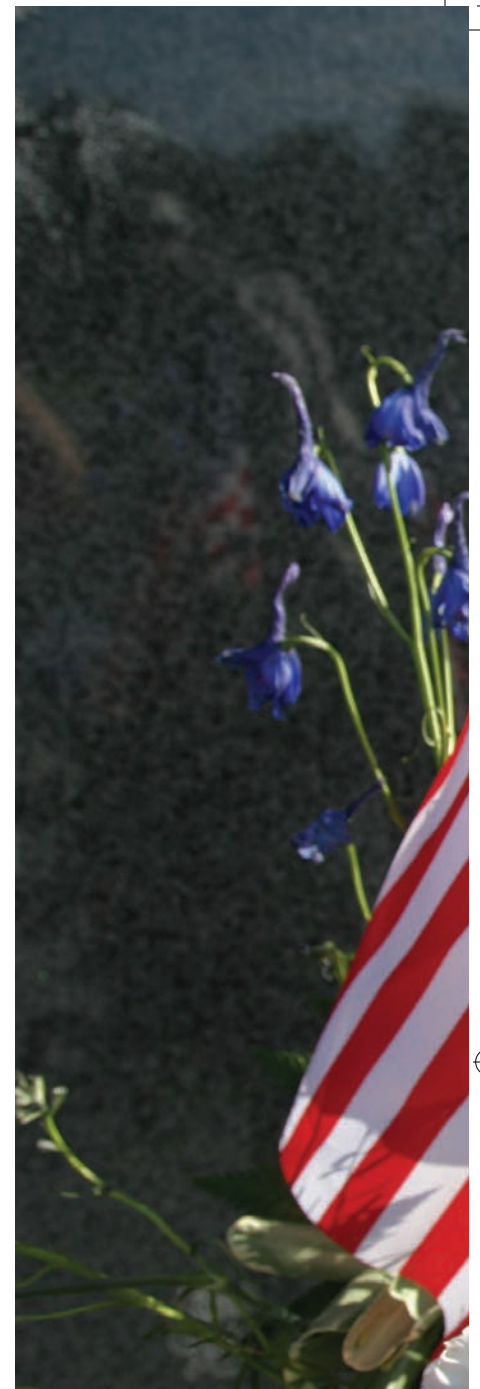
Our family of electric co-ops has initiated countless programs specifically to serve veterans and active military members.

At the national level, we support the Vets Power Us program, which helps veterans, active military members and their spouses understand potential career paths with electric co-ops. The program also provides co-ops with best practices in attracting, onboarding and retaining veterans.

The Department of Defense is one of the largest energy consumers worldwide and the single largest energy consumer in the U.S. Like other electric co-ops across the country, Louisiana's cooperatives work closely with military installations, providing electricity and partnering on various projects.

Not only do we pause on Memorial Day to remember the service of those who sacrificed their lives, but the month holds several other military anniversaries and events, including Military Spouse Appreciation Day on May 8 and Armed Forces Day on May 16.

The Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives is proud to be a part of the electric cooperative network that honors and supports veterans of all ages, ranks and military branches. Please join us and take a moment to show your appreciation to a veteran—not just in May, but every month. ■





Flags and flowers were placed as a tribute at the Korean War Memorial in Washington, D.C.
PHOTO BY ROBIN CONOVER

BELOW: Geaux Seven Blue Star Mothers of America gather to assemble packages for active-duty service members.



Don't Get Caught In a Whirlwind: Prepare Early

It's that time of year again to prepare for hurricane season, June 1 through November 30. With the season comes a whirlwind of angst—as many of us watch as storms brew in the Atlantic to gauge the path and assess our risk. For us southeast Louisianans, we are used to this way of life, and we sometimes wait to prepare.

Let's get a jumpstart on the season. Instead of waiting until a storm is imminent, take time now to prepare.

Severe weather often results in interruptions to electrical service. To stay safe and more comfortable during a power outage:

Before an outage, take inventory of the items you need that rely on electricity. If you plan to use a generator, make sure it is properly sized for what you plug into it and that it is not directly connected to household wiring unless a transfer switch has been installed by a licensed electrician. Use generators outdoors, away from windows. (Account No. 80316567001)

Put together an emergency kit that includes flashlights with extra batteries, a radio, nonperishable food, water and first-aid supplies.

Talk to your medical provider about a plan for devices powered by electricity and critical medicines that require refrigeration.

Keep mobile phones and other electric equipment charged, and gas tanks full ahead of

a storm.

Monitor weather reports.

During an outage, disconnect appliances and electronics. Power may return with momentary surges or spikes that can cause damage.

Keep freezers and refrigerators closed. The refrigerator will keep food cold for about four hours. A full freezer will keep the temperature for about 48 hours.

Do not use a gas stove to heat your home. Go to a community location with power, if necessary.

Check on your neighbors. Older adults and young children are especially vulnerable to extreme temperatures.

After an outage, throw away any food that has been exposed to temperatures 40 degrees or higher for two hours or more, or that has an unusual odor, color or texture. If power is out for more than a day, discard medication that should be refrigerated, unless advised otherwise by a medical professional. ■

THE STEPS TO RESTORING POWER
AFTER A MAJOR POWER OUTAGE

DEMCO
A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

Step 1
Transmission towers and lines are inspected first as they supply power to substations which serve thousands of members.

Step 2
Local distribution substations are examined. Correcting issues here can restore power quickly to a large number of members.

Step 3
Main distribution lines, which deliver power from the substation to large groups of members in our towns and communities, are inspected. These lines also service critical infrastructure such as hospitals, water towers and sewer treatment plants.

Step 4
Line crews begin repairing lateral taps, which are smaller branches from the main line that serve the street or neighborhood level.

Step 5
Sometimes, damage will occur on the service line between your house and the transformer on a nearby pole. This can explain why you have no power when your neighbor does. In any event, when you experience a loss of power to your home or business, please contact DEMCO to report your outage.

DANGER! Assume any downed power line is energized. Call 311 and stay away!

DANGER! Any downed power line may still be energized — Stay away and call 311

During a major outage, other cooperatives send line crews to assist with restoring power.

Report your outage to DEMCO. The co-op uses every available phone line in addition to an automated outage reporting system to receive outage calls. A major outage can affect thousands of other members.

To report an outage:

- Website: DEMCO.org/member-services/report-outage
- Mobile app: Download and use the free app for iPhone and Android
- Phone: 1-800-262-1160

Members are responsible for damage to the service installation on the building and should call a licensed electrician for repairs.

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U.S. GENERAL SUPER COUPON

30", 4 DRAWER TECH CART
 • 12,600 cu. in. of storage
 • 580 lb. capacity

Customer Rating
 ★★★★★

SAVE \$730

COMPARE TO Snap-on BLUE-POINT \$880
 MODEL: KRBC10TRPC

NOW \$149.99
~~\$199.99~~

YOUR CHOICE OF 6 COLORS



Side tray sold separately.

Item 56387, 56393, 64096, 56392, 56386, 56394

LIMIT 1 - Coupon valid through 7/6/20

WOW! SUPER COUPON

SAVE 65%

HEAVY DUTY BATTERIES
 AA, AAA - 24 PACK

Customer Rating
 ★★★★★

THUNDERBOLT BATTERIES

YOUR CHOICE

WOW! \$139
~~\$399~~

Item 61675 shown

LIMIT 3

71948965

Coupon valid through 7/6/20

SCISSOR SUPER COUPON

20% OFF

ANY SINGLE ITEM*

71946310

Limit 1 coupon per customer per day. Save 20% on any 1 item purchased. *Cannot be used with other discounts, coupons or any of the following items or brands: Tesla Truck Club membership, Extended Service Plan, gift card, open box item, 3 day Parking Lot Sale item, compressors, floor jacks, sales, storage cabinets, chests or carts, trailers, welders, aluminum, Ames, Atlas, Bauer, Central Machinery, Sears, Craftsman, Dayton, Diamondback, Earthquake, Fisher, Hercules, Icon, Justrite, Lynx, Pulsion, Predator, Tailgator, Viking, Vulcan, Zurich. Not valid on prior purchases. Non-transferable. Original coupon must be presented. Valid through 7/6/20

SCISSOR SUPER COUPON

200 LUMEN LED SUPER BRIGHT FLIP LIGHT

• Wireless, tool-free and easy installation

Customer Rating
 ★★★★★

NOW \$199
~~\$299~~

COMPARE TO PREMIER \$7.99

SAVE 60%

MODEL: SW-SWITCH-1224

ITEM 64189/64723/63922 shown

71950097

LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 7/6/20

PITTSBURGH SERIES 2 SUPER COUPON

***1 SELLING JACKS IN AMERICA**

RAPID PUMP® 3 TON STEEL HEAVY DUTY LOW PROFILE FLOOR JACK

Customer Rating
 ★★★★★

• Weighs 78 lbs.

SAVE \$90

COMPARE TO TEQ CORRECT \$189.99
 MODEL: T8300182

NOW \$99.99
~~\$109.99~~

ITEM 56618/56619/56620/56617 shown

71951134

LIMIT 1 - Coupon valid through 7/6/20

CENTECH SUPER COUPON

AUTOMATIC BATTERY FLOAT CHARGER

Customer Rating
 ★★★★★

NOW \$499
~~\$999~~

COMPARE TO SCHUMACHER ELECTRIC \$3041
 MODEL: SC1

SAVE 83%

ITEM 69594/69955/64284/42292 shown

71951784

LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 7/6/20

MCGRAW SUPER COUPON

Customer Rating
 ★★★★★

20 GALLON, 135 PSI OIL-LUBE AIR COMPRESSOR

• Air delivery: 4.0 SCFM @ 90 PSI

NOW \$164.99
~~\$189.99~~

COMPARE TO PORTER-CABLE \$249.99
 MODEL: 118903799

SAVE \$85

ITEM 56241/64857 shown

71953243

LIMIT 1 - Coupon valid through 7/6/20

PREDATOR SUPER COUPON

Customer Rating
 ★★★★★

2000 WATT SUPER QUIET INVERTER GENERATOR

• 12 hour run time

NOW \$479.99
~~\$499.99~~

COMPARE TO HONDA \$1,009
 MODEL: EU2000i

SAVE \$529

ITEM 62523

71953705

LIMIT 1 - Coupon valid through 7/6/20

HaulMaster SUPER COUPON

72" x 80" MOVING BLANKET

Customer Rating
 ★★★★★

NOW \$5.99
~~\$8.99~~

COMPARE TO BLUE HAWK \$19.99
 MODEL: 77280

SAVE 70%

ITEM 69505/62418/66537 shown

71953912

LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 7/6/20

PORTLAND SUPER COUPON

7AMP ELECTRIC POLE SAW 9.5" BAR

6 FT. TO 8 FT. 10"

Customer Rating
 ★★★★★

NOW \$59.99
~~\$99.98~~

COMPARE TO WORX \$99.98
 MODEL: WX699

SAVE \$39

ITEM 68862/63190/56808/62896 shown

71954928

LIMIT 1 - Coupon valid through 7/6/20

HaulMaster SUPER COUPON

Customer Rating
 ★★★★★

30" x 18" HARDWOOD DOLLY

• 1000 lb. capacity

NOW \$11.99
~~\$19.97~~

COMPARE TO MILWAUKEE \$19.97
 MODEL: 33700

SAVE 39%

ITEM 38970/92486/39757/60496/62398/61897 shown

71960883

LIMIT 1 - Coupon valid through 7/6/20

SCISSOR SUPER COUPON

Customer Rating
 ★★★★★

10" PNEUMATIC TIRE

NOW \$3.99
~~\$6.99~~

SAVE 50%

COMPARE TO FARM & RANCH \$8.09
 MODEL: FR1065

ITEM 69385/62388/62409/62698/30900 shown

71961702

LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 7/6/20

PORTLAND SUPER COUPON

1750 PSI ELECTRIC PRESSURE WASHER

• 1.3 GPM
 • Adjustable spray nozzle

Customer Rating
 ★★★★★

NOW \$199.99
~~\$299.99~~

COMPARE TO BRIGGS & STRATTON \$174.44
 MODEL: 20600

SAVE \$94

ITEM 63255/63254 shown

71963314

LIMIT 1 - Coupon valid through 7/6/20

HARDY SUPER COUPON

MECHANICS GLOVES

AVAIL. IN SM, MED, LG, XL, XXL

Customer Rating
 ★★★★★

NOW \$4.99
~~\$5.49~~

COMPARE TO VALED \$14.99
 MODEL: 25521

SAVE 66%

ITEM 62434, 62426, 62433, 62432, 62429, 64179, 62428, 64178 shown

71963700

LIMIT 4 - Coupon valid through 7/6/20

PITTSBURGH SUPER COUPON

LIFETIME WARRANTY 130 PIECE TOOL KIT WITH CASE

SAE AND METRIC

Customer Rating
 ★★★★★

NOW \$29.99
~~\$39.99~~

COMPARE TO ANVIL \$66.99
 MODEL: A137HOS

SAVE 54%

ITEM 68998/63248/64080/64263/63091 shown

71965067

LIMIT 1 - Coupon valid through 7/6/20

PITTSBURGH SUPER COUPON

300 LB. CAPACITY ATV/LAWN MOWER LIFT

• Fits lawnmowers/ATV/Quads with wheelbases 25" to 39" wide

Customer Rating
 ★★★★★

NOW \$174.99
~~\$199.99~~

COMPARE TO MAX LOAD \$121.47
 MODEL: 38028

SAVE \$46

ITEM 60395/62325/62493/61523 shown

71965105

LIMIT 1 - Coupon valid through 7/6/20

HaulMaster SUPER COUPON

18" WORKING PLATFORM STEP STOOL

Customer Rating
 ★★★★★

• 350 lb. capacity

NOW \$19.99
~~\$29.99~~

COMPARE TO NEOCRAFT \$39.99
 MODEL: 60635

SAVE 50%

ITEM 62515/66911 shown

71965666

LIMIT 3 - Coupon valid through 7/6/20

luminar OUTDOOR SUPER COUPON

24 FT., 18 BULB, 12 SOCKET OUTDOOR LINKABLE STRING LIGHTS

YOUR CHOICE OF COLOR

Customer Rating
 ★★★★★

NOW \$21.99
~~\$27.99~~

LINK UP TO 9 STRINGS

SAVE 44%

COMPARE TO PORTFOLIO \$39.98
 MODEL: SLG12BK

BLACK WHITE
 ITEM 64486 ITEM 64739
 63483 shown

71966762

LIMIT 2 - Coupon valid through 7/6/20

CHICAGO ELECTRIC POWER TOOLS SUPER COUPON

Customer Rating
 ★★★★★

6AMP VARIABLE SPEED RECIPROCATING SAW

Blade sold separately.

NOW \$19.99
~~\$28.99~~

COMPARE TO PORTER-CABLE \$59.98
 MODEL: PCE360

SAVE 66%

ITEM 65570/61884/62370 shown

71966797

LIMIT 3 - Coupon valid through 7/6/20

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PLUGGED IN

Pressing the Flesh

Louisiana electric cooperative leaders visit state's representatives and senator in D.C.

Members of the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives and representatives of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, along with the Action Committee for Rural Electrification, hosted Louisiana's congressional delegation at the NRECA Capitol Hill Townhouse March 9-11. Members also met with Louisiana Sen. John Kennedy in his Capitol office.

ALEC, NRECA and ACRE's goal is to thank Congress for passing the Revitalizing Underdeveloped Rural Areas and Lands (RURAL) Act of 2019 and to continue to educate Congress on the cooperative model and to remind them of our mission.

A nonprofit organization, ALEC represents electric distribution cooperatives operating in Louisiana. Together, these cooperatives provide electric service to roughly 1 million citizens in 50 of the state's 64 parishes.

ALEC provides a range of services to its member cooperatives, including communications, state and national governmental affairs, regulatory affairs, a general-interest bimonthly magazine, marketing, job safety and training programs, employee and director education, emergency aid efforts, audio and visual aids, and credit union services.

NRECA represents more than 900 consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives, public power districts and public utility districts in the U.S. Driven by member feedback and engagement,



From left, John Bruhl, Washington-St. Tammany Electric; Chanon Martin, DEMCO; Rep. Garret Graves; Winnie Farris, Jeff Davis Electric Cooperative; Jeff Arnold, Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives; and Mike Heinen, JDEC.



From left, John Bruhl, WSTE; Jim Matheson, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association; Rep. Mike Johnson; Jeff Arnold, ALEC; Chanon Martin, DEMCO; Winnie Farris, JDEC; and Mike Heinen, JDEC.

NRECA strives to anticipate, shape and respond to changes in technology, law and public policy, and support economic development in local communities across the country. Its purpose is to power communities and empower members to improve the quality of their lives.

Political participation is a crucial requirement to the success of electric cooperatives in Louisiana and across the nation. As such, the member cooperatives of ALEC are encouraged to fully participate in Action Committee for Rural Electrification. ACRE contributes funds to candidates for federal office who support rural electrification. Approximately

50% of ACRE donations are used by Louisiana ACRE—a political action committee that contributes to candidates for state office who support the public policy positions of Louisiana's electric cooperatives.

ALEC, NRECA and ACRE are nonpartisan organizations that work across all lines for the betterment of cooperative member owners. ■

You Can Help Make a Difference

We need you, our members, to cut through the noise and raise our voices about rural revitalization. To find out how you can get involved, please visit our website at ALEC.coop or call us at 225-293-3450.



From left, Jeff Arnold, ALEC; Chanon Martin, DEMCO; Rep. Clay Higgins; John Bruhl, WSTE; Winnie Farris, JDEC; and Mike Heinen, JDEC.



From left, Mike Heinen, JDEC; John Bruhl, WSTE; Winnie Farris, JDEC; Sen. John Kennedy; Chanon Martin, DEMCO; and Jeff Arnold, ALEC.



From left, Chanon Martin, DEMCO; John Bruhl, WSTE; Rep. Cedric Richmond; Jeff Arnold, ALEC; Winnie Farris, JDEC; and Mike Heinen, JDEC.



Louisiana Electric Cooperative representatives in front of the NRECA Townhouse on Capitol Hill, where they hosted congressional leaders.

IN THE KITCHEN

SPRING *Greens*

Micro Green Medley

4 cups loosely packed baby and micro greens, such as baby beet greens, baby arugula, baby spinach, pea shoots, and sunflower or alfalfa sprouts

12 cherry tomatoes, sliced in half

2 tablespoons pomegranate seeds

1 orange, peeled and sliced into small chunks

½ cup blue cheese

½ cup pecan halves, crushed or whole

4 tablespoons olive oil

½ teaspoon crushed sea salt

½ teaspoon ground black pepper

Juice of ½ fresh lemon

2 tablespoons honey

Gently toss together first six ingredients in a large salad bowl, or place into individual salad bowls, adding the pecans and blue cheese last. Just before serving, whisk together the oil, salt, pepper, lemon juice and honey in a small bowl. Drizzle over salad. Toss lightly and serve.

Serves 2

Recipe by Chelsea Glanz

Photo by Dan Glanz

Grilled Radicchio

2 heads radicchio
1 cup olive oil
1 cup balsamic vinegar
1 tablespoon fresh oregano, crushed and minced
1 tablespoon fresh thyme, crushed and minced
6 garlic cloves, minced
1 tablespoon honey
1 tablespoon lemon juice
Salt and pepper, to taste
8 ounces mozzarella cheese, sliced into 8 pieces

Heat oven to 350 F.

Slice radicchio heads lengthwise into quarters, ensuring the stem remains attached to each slice so each piece stays intact. Fill a large bowl with water. Soak radicchio for 2 hours to minimize bitterness.

Combine all other ingredients except the cheese in a mixing bowl. Whisk together.

Drain excess water from the radicchio and pat dry. Slightly unfold the leaves and spoon some of the olive oil mixture into them. Place the slices on a baking sheet and pour the rest of the mixture on top, saving a drizzle for when the radicchio is ready to serve.

Bake for approximately 5 minutes, until lightly browned on the outside but uncooked in the center. Turn once or twice while baking. Once lightly browned, place a slice of mozzarella inside each piece.

Return radicchio pieces to the oven. Continue baking until the cheese melts. Remove from heat and place on a serving platter. Drizzle the remaining olive oil mixture on top before serving hot.

Serves 2

Recipe by Chelsea Glanz

Mini Endive Tacos

4 to 6 Belgian endive heads, washed
6 ounces shredded cheese, such as cheddar or mozzarella
½ red pepper, diced
3 ounces artichoke hearts, diced
3 ounces black olives, sliced
½ cup black eyed-peas, well cooked and rinsed
½ bunch cilantro, washed and finely chopped
½ cup ranch dressing, for drizzling and dipping

Carefully pull apart the endive heads, separating each leaf so the leaves stay whole and intact, resembling small boats. When the leaves near the center of the heart become too small to use as mini taco shells, they can be finely chopped and used in salad or as additional taco filling. Fill each leaf with combinations of the remaining ingredients.

Use the ranch dressing as a dipping sauce or drizzle on top of the filled tacos.

Serves 2

Recipe by Chelsea Glanz

Watercress Salad with Honey Lime Vinaigrette

1 large bunch watercress, finely chopped
One bunch curly parsley
One bunch cilantro, finely chopped
¼ cup pomegranate seeds
¼ cup almonds, soaked in water for 30 minutes and sliced
1 orange, peeled and sliced into chunks
½ cup olive oil, divided
2 tablespoons rice vinegar
2 tablespoons honey
1 tablespoon lemon juice
1 tablespoon lime juice
Salt and pepper, to taste

Pour the lemon juice and half of the olive oil over the parsley. Massage until parsley becomes more tender. Once tender, finely chop the parsley.

In a large mixing bowl, combine parsley, cilantro, watercress, pomegranate seeds, almonds and orange chunks. Set aside.

Whisk together olive oil, rice vinegar, honey, lime juice, salt and pepper. Drizzle over the salad mixture and lightly toss.

Serves 2

Recipe by Chelsea Glanz

Wilted Arugula With Sweet Potatoes

2 cups baby arugula
2 sweet potatoes, peeled and sliced into wedges ½-inch thick and 1 to 2 inches long
½ cup feta cheese, crumbled
½ cup green olives, sliced
½ cup olive oil, divided
Juice of 1 fresh lime
4 ounces artichoke hearts, marinated and sliced
¼ teaspoon paprika
½ teaspoon grey Himalayan or Celtic salt
Pepper, to taste

Heat oven to 375 F.

Toss the sweet potatoes in the olive oil, leaving about 3 tablespoons of oil for later use. Evenly spread the sweet potatoes in a 9-inch baking dish, so they are no more than 1-inch thick across the pan. Cover with foil and bake for 20 to 25 minutes, until soft but not mushy. Remove foil. Use a spatula to scrape potatoes from the pan and gently toss. Bake for 10 to 15 minutes until lightly browned and thoroughly cooked.

While sweet potatoes are baking, heat a tablespoon of the remaining oil in a large saucepan over medium-low heat. Add the arugula and cook just until wilted, about a minute or two. Add the artichokes, olives and feta. Mix. Remove from heat.

In a small mixing bowl, whisk together the remaining olive oil—adding slightly more, if desired—lime juice, paprika, salt and pepper.

In a large mixing bowl, combine the sweet potatoes and arugula mixture. Pour the dressing on top. Mix and toss thoroughly until all ingredients are combined and glossy with dressing. The dish can be served hot or cold.

Serves 2

Recipe by Chelsea Glanz



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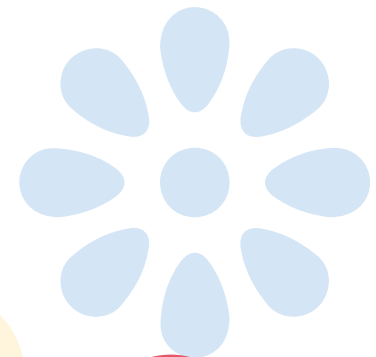
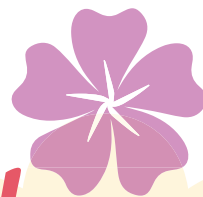
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Scholarship Program

Altec, Altec Capital, SolScapes, SolPower Line and Osmose will award four \$500 scholarships at the ALEC Annual Meeting for fall semester 2020. The award is open to all children of active members of ALEC cooperatives.

The following rules apply:

1. Recipient must be a high school graduate in the class of 2020.
2. Recipient must provide verification of a minimum 2.5 GPA before scholarship monies are awarded.
3. This is a one-time award.
4. The award can be used for any college or university.
5. Deadline for applications is June 22, 2020.
6. Mail application to Ed Amedee, 1443 City Place, Gonzales, LA 70737.
7. Application must be postmarked by June 22, 2020. Altec is not responsible for mail delivery.
8. Applicant must be the child of an ALEC cooperative member.

Application for Scholarship

Applicant's Name: _____

Parents or Guardian: _____

Member Co-op: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone No.: _____

High School Attended: _____

Please supply a copy of your high school transcript to verify the 2.5 GPA

Make Your Yard Work for You

Proper planting can increase comfort while lowering power bills.

“LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION” is a mantra of real estate, but it also applies to shading your home.

Strategically positioning the right combination of plants and trees can yield shade and unearth energy savings. The U.S. Department of Energy determined proper placement of just three trees on a property can save an average household \$100 to \$250 in yearly energy costs.

Use trees and plants to shade a window air conditioner to increase its efficiency by as much as 10%. But keep the plants more than 3 feet away from the air conditioner. (Account No. 80307492001)

Shrubs and trees can form windbreaks or protective walls that keep windchill away from a home.

Evergreens, especially when combined with a fence to deflect or even lift wind over a home, are particularly effective.

Leave two to five times the mature height of the trees or shrubs between the windbreak and your home.

When selecting shade trees, keep in mind the mature height of the tree and the shape of its canopy in relation to your home's height. These factors are important because they influence how far from the house you should plant a tree.



Planting trees in the correct spot creates shade and can act as a windscreen.

PHOTO BY LIGHTFIELD STUDIOS

Shade trees can drop the surrounding air temperature as much as 9 degrees. Shading takes time. A 6- to 8-foot deciduous tree planted near a house will begin shading windows in a year, but it may take 5 to 10 years to shade the roof.

Make planting shade trees due west of west-facing windows your first priority.

Select a tree that can be planted within 20 feet of the window and that will grow at least 10 feet taller than that window.

If you have the space, create a

continuous row of trees along all major west- and east-facing windows.

To block summer heat while letting sun filter through in winter months, use deciduous trees, or those that lose their leaves seasonally. Evergreens and shrubs are ideal for providing continuous shade and blocking heavy winds.

Start planting savings and let your yard do all the work, but remember to always avoid planting near underground and overhead utility lines. ■



Lucky Account Number Contest

Four lucky co-op members will win \$25! Your account number is listed on your mailing label, but to win you must also find it in the pages of the magazine. If you find it, call 225-262-2160 to claim your prize.





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Stewards of Power

Even in times of uncertainty, DEMCO members can rest assured their co-op is on solid ground.

Each year, ongoing measures are taken to ensure the safety and reliability of the entire system. Whenever possible, cost-control measures are implemented to allow members to enjoy a more affordable product. These things demonstrate our commitment to the members and will forever direct our sure and steady stride. (Account No. 80149390002)

“Our co-op members own a distribution system valued at \$700 million,” says Randy Pierce, DEMCO CEO and general manager.

“DEMCO employees work to be good stewards of this tremendously valuable asset. It’s our job to make sure we maintain and improve the 112,000 meters and 8,679 miles of line entrusted to us for the benefit of our members.”

During the past year, DEMCO made great steps to improve many large-scale features of our system, including lines, poles and transformers.

Thousands of utility poles were inspected, and many were replaced with new poles. In some cases, old copper wiring was replaced with new aluminum wiring—a more efficient material that can help pass along cost savings to members over time.

Even though South Louisiana was hit by a major thunderstorm in June and Tropical Storm Barry in July, outages were kept at a minimum. Only 87 meters experienced an outage of more than 24 hours.

“That’s a really good number,” says Ryan Vandersypen, DEMCO vice president of engineering and operations. “For having two major weather events, it’s something to be proud of.”

Other system improvement projects completed in 2019 include voltage regulator bank locations, transmission breaker replacements and transmission relay replacements at Magnolia and Elm Park substations.

Notable completed and upcoming projects are detailed in this article.

Transmission Line

The Bains to Tunica section of transmission line in West Feliciana Parish—a highly wooded area along a hilly terrain—was damaged and caused frequent power outages. To restore electricity to members served by this line, DEMCO needed special equipment that was both costly and time-consuming to acquire. In difficult-to-access areas, members experience delays in power restoration.

“We rerouted the line closer to the highway, and now it’s easily accessible,” Vandersypen says. “This was quite a project but well worth it. Now we can get to these lines much easier and more quickly—a benefit to the members that correlates to quicker turnaround on outage assessment and restoration time.”

Automatic Restoration or Recloser Projects

These projects are part of a developing smart grid technology that improves outage-locates and restoration. These circuits can self-assess for certain faults, and automatically restore or reclose on their own.

“Instead of a lineman needing to go to the site and flip the switch, it can be a remote action,” Vandersypen says. “Members can potentially get power restored in less than a minute.”

With five more circuits planned for 2020, about 30% of all system circuits will be automated.



Voltage regulators automatically adjust to low- and high-load situations to ensure all members have proper voltage.



Relay panels inside the control building tell circuit breakers when to open and close.

Tie Lines and Transformers

By adding tie lines and transformers, we increase the number of circuits, which means we can split electricity more and fewer members are without power for any one incident. More circuits allow us to reroute power from one source to another and restore members back to their original source once repairs are completed.

Distribution tie lines, which connect two different circuits on the system and allow DEMCO to switch electricity from one source to another, were installed on the circuits serving the Galvez community in Ascension Parish and the Watson community in Livingston Parish. These tie lines will benefit more than 3,100 households.

A transformer—a device that changes electricity from one voltage level to another voltage level—was added to the Elm Park Substation to allow for power to come from more sources. This addition will have many benefits for DEMCO members in West

Feliciana Parish by improving voltage regulation, thereby decreasing the number of members affected by outages.

“These types of improvements mean quicker power restoration and fewer members without power for any one incident,” Vandersypen says.

Smart Meter Deployment

Pending approval from the Louisiana Public Service Commission—and in addition to the already 30,000 smart meters installed—DEMCO will deploy about 6,000 smart meters in 2020; 36,000 in 2021; and 28,000 in 2022. A key feature of smart meters is they allow for remote two-way communication.

“This technology is key for our members,” Vandersypen says. “It will help us quickly isolate outages in rural communities, which helps speed up restoration progress.” A smart meter can self-report the outage even when a member isn’t home, which is both smart and efficient. ■

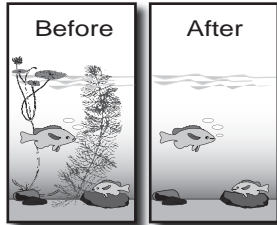


The gray rectangular box on the pole is called a recloser. It has electronics and measurement equipment inside it that can detect and interrupt a momentary fault on the line. It will open up to deenergize the circuit and reclose once the fault or short-circuit is resolved.



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