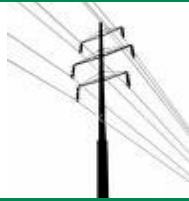




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CATSKILL HI-LINE

Bi-Monthly Newsletter

Volume 78—Issue 1
January/February 2022

Powering Our Rural Communities

Happy New Year!

From DCEC

Employee Recognition & Appreciation

DCEC employees and directors exchange their time for work that helps our organization succeed. This dedication deserves to be recognized on a regular, timely basis. One way that DCEC accomplishes this is awarding milestones to our employees at our Annual Meeting each year. At the 77th Annual Meeting the following employees were awarded for their hard work and dedication to DCEC:

Rosemary Alwine	20 years
James Green	20 years
David Schmidt	20 years
Mike Dianich	15 years
Tara Rifembark	15 years
Mike Schafer	15 years
Edward Pick Jr.	10 years
Steve Burnett	5 years

Pictured below:

Right to left first row Rosemary Alwine, James Green, David Schmidt, Mike Dianich.

Right to left second row Tara Rifembark, Mike Schafer, Edward Pick Jr., Steve Burnett.



**Congratulations on a
JOB WELL DONE!**

Wishing both Scott Tuttle and Larry Soule a Happy Retirement!

Thank you for all of your hard work and dedication throughout the years.

You two will be missed!



KO 2-22-25A



Can't Pay My Electric Bill: Where to Get Help

Members currently struggling to meet their monthly payment obligation have the following options available to them:

1. Contact DCEC's Billing Department to set up payment arrangements: 1-607-746-2341
2. Contact your local County Social Service program:
 - a. Delaware County 1-607-832-5300
 - b. Schoharie County: 1-518-295-8334
 - c. Otsego County: 1-607-547-4200
 - d. Delaware Opportunities provides assistance through certain agencies and can be reached at 1-607-746-1600
 - e. Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) Hotline: 1-800-342-3099

DCEC can provide supporting documentation regarding your account to these agencies that can assist in expediting your application.

2021-2022 HEAP Monthly Income Limits

Your total household gross monthly income for your household size must be at or below the following guidelines:

2021-2022 HEAP Benefit Gross Monthly Income Guidelines

<u>Household Size</u>	<u>Max Gross Monthly Income</u>
1	\$2,729
2	\$3,569
3	\$4,409
4	\$5,249
5	\$6,088
6	\$6,928
7	\$7,086
8	\$7,243
9	\$7,401
10	\$7,558
11	\$7,715
12	\$7,873
13	\$8,420
Each additional	Add \$568

**For Information about
the 2022 Youth
Delegate Program
please visit the
DCEC's website at:
[www.dce.coop/
content/2022-youth-
delegate-program](http://www.dce.coop/content/2022-youth-delegate-program)
OR
Call (607) 746-2341**

Questions regarding the HEAP program should be directed to your HEAP Local District Contact listed above or the OTDA Hotline at 1-800-342-3009.

Thank You to all that Participated...

Each year, during the holiday season the Cooperative runs a food drive calling for donations to help local families affected by poverty. These past 2 years have been particularly difficult. Cooperative members, directors, and employees were able to provide multiple nonperishable food donations to the Delhi Food Bank.

In addition, Cooperative directors and employees also gave to the Toys for Tots fund.

DCEC would just like to say THANK YOU for all that participated.



Engineering Manager Paul De Andrea Announces his Retirement

Following 13 years of employment at DCEC as the Engineering Manager, Paul De Andrea is planning to retire effective February 1, 2022. Paul said that he has enjoyed working at DCEC where he has been offered the opportunity to work on a variety of different projects and assignments since commencing his tenure on December 1, 2008. Additionally, Paul indicated that he has enjoyed working with the DCEC staff throughout his employment and expressed his gratitude for their support in his role at DCEC.

In retirement, Paul and his wife, Linda, who are residents of Franklin, NY, will remain in Franklin. He indicated that they both have an interest in traveling and are expected to develop a plan to do so soon.

Congratulations and Happy Retirement Mr. De Andrea



Full Nondiscrimination Statement

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at <https://www.usda.gov/oascr/how-to-file-a-program-discrimination-complaint> and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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2022 Board Meeting Schedule

January 25, 2022, January Board Meeting
 February 22, 2022, February Board Meeting
 March 22, 2022, March Board Meeting
 April 26, 2022, April Board Meeting
 May 24, 2022, May Board Meeting
 June 28, 2022, June Board Meeting
 July 26, 2022, July Board Meeting
 August 23, 2022, August Board Meeting
 September 27, 2022, September Board Meeting
 October 25, 2022, October Board Meeting
 November 22, 2022, November Board Meeting
 December 27, 2022, December Board Meeting

**All dates are subject to change. Please call the office to confirm meeting date before attending.*

CATSKILL HI-LINE is a Publication of the Delaware County Electric Cooperative, Inc. and is published bi-monthly for the membership. This newsletter has articles submitted by Interim General Manager Christopher Evans, Engineering & Technology Manager Paul DeAndrea, Operations Manager Ryan Sullivan, Billing Specialist Rosemary Alwine, and Billing Assistant Alicia VanZandt.

The information contained herein is designed to promote action and discussion among members. Statements published do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Cooperative. The information has been obtained from sources believed to be reliable, and the editor has exercised reasonable care to assure its accuracy.

Board of Directors

President Edward "Rusty" Pick Jr.
 Vice President Jeffrey Russell
 Secretary Laurie Wehmeyer
 Treasurer Paul Menke
 Director Steve Oles
 Director Steve Burnett
 Director Kimberly Tosi
 CEO/General Manager Christopher Evans

Operations Update

Line crews are working on system reliability improvements all over adding sectionalizing capabilities to reduce outage time and speed up restorations when possible. When not working on that project crews will be addressing pole replacements as reported by our pole inspectors in, Gilboa and Harpersfield. As well as new service requests for new and existing members. Right of way crews, including contract crews from Asplundh will be trimming trees and mowing in Delhi and Meredith along and off Peakes Brook.

COVID-19 Distance Notice

Please do not approach crews working in the field at this time we are striving to make as little contact with our members as possible. Please give out field staff a wide berth for their safety and yours.

Energy Efficiency Programs

Load Control and Fossil Free Incentive Program will be ending effective December 31, 2021. New Programs will roll out early 2022. Look for our flyers and bill inserts.

Is Your Location Number in This Issue?

Your service location number begins with two letters and is located on your bill next to your account number. Keep your eyes peeled for the "hidden location number" in this newsletter! If you find the number, and it is your service

location you will receive a

DCEC fleece sweatshirt!

Good luck!

2022 Nominating Committee

In accordance with DCEC bylaws, the Nominating Committee must prepare a list of candidates for membership consideration at least 60 days prior to the Cooperative's Annual Meeting. The 2022 Annual Meeting of the Members is scheduled to be held **September 9, 2022 at 4:30 p.m.**

Elections will occur at the 2022 Annual Meeting for one board seat representing the Central Region.

<u>Region</u>	<u>Current Director</u>
Central Region	Steve Burnett

The Nominating Committee will meet from April through June at the DCEC office at 5 North Depot Street, Delhi, for the purpose of identifying candidates for the above position. The committee must be comprised of between 5 and 11 members representing the geographic diversity of the DCEC service area. Members serving on the committee are offered a modest stipend for their service. If you are interested in serving on the Nominating Committee, please contact the DCEC office at (607) 746-9299.

Nominations for directors are governed by Article 4 of the Bylaws. A director may be nominated either through:

- 1) The **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**. The Nominating Committee meets to identify at least two candidates to run for each seat up for election.
- 2) The second way is by **PETITION**. Any 15 or more members may petition the Cooperative to place a qualified member on the ballot. This must be done at least 45 days before the Annual Meeting.

For more information about DCEC Annual Meeting and Nominating Committee please call the office at (607) 746-2341 or visit our website at www.dce.coop.

DCEC Office Closing Reminder:

DCEC's office will be closed on
 Monday, Feb. 21, 2022
 for Presidents' Day.