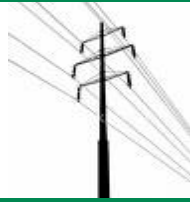




This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



CATSKILL HI-LINE

Volume 77—Issue 7

August: Special Edition - Annual Meeting

Bi-Monthly Newsletter

Powering Our Rural Communities

Due to COVID-19 the Delaware County Electric Cooperative has had to make major changes to the traditional Annual Meeting agenda and dinner. This is the Annual Meeting Newsletter, therefore, please make sure to read this newsletter carefully for all important updates.

—Our 77th Annual Meeting—

Agenda & Program

- Friday, September 10, 2021 -

- 4:30 PM REGISTRATION
- 5:30 PM BUSINESS MEETING
 - Quorum Determination
 - Official Notice of 2021 Annual Meeting
 - 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes
 - Reports from Officers & Directors
 - Election of Directors | Vote on Local Charities
 - Unfinished Business
 - New Business
 - Adjournment

PLEASE NOTE...

- ✎ All dinner reservations must be made in advance as tickets will not be sold at event. Meals served in **Take-Out** packaging only. Dinners will only be served at the conclusion of the Business Meeting. More information is available on page 8.

- LOCATION CHANGE -
Because of COVID-19 the meeting has been moved to a new indoor venue and will be held at the American Legion in Delhi located at 41 Page Ave. Delhi, NY.

—2021 Annual Meeting—

The 77th Annual Meeting of Members of the Delaware County Electric Cooperative will be held at the American Legion in Delhi, New York on Friday, September 10, 2021.

In accordance with DCEC bylaws, a Nominating Committee of members has officially identified the following candidates for the office of director of the Cooperative:

Regions	Names
Northern	Phoebe Schreiner Laurie Wehmeyer
Central	Kathleen Schaaf Stephen Oles
Southern	Jeffrey Russell Dana Scuderi-Hunter

Candidates biographies are available on Page 2...

ANNUAL MEETING

2021

For the MOST up to date information about this meeting please call the office at (607) 746-2341, or visit our website at www.dce.coop/annualmeeting This meeting will be recorded for record-keeping, quality assurance, and training purposes.

2021 Official Candidates

Each member shall be entitled to cast only one ballot. All questions shall be decided by a vote of a majority of the members voting thereon in person or by absentee ballot. Questions resulting in a tie vote shall be decided by a second round of voting in like manner. If a second round of voting results in a tie, the question shall be decided by a flipping of a coin, which shall be administered by a duly elected officer of the Cooperative. During the Annual Meeting, or by absentee ballot, eligible voters can vote for one (1) candidate from each of the three Regions. Please be aware that the members can vote for any of the three Regions even if they do not reside in that Region. For example, if you live in Kortright you are considered to be in the Central Region so you may vote for one candidate from the Central Region AND one candidate from both the Southern and Northern Regions.

NORTHERN REGION

Phoebe Schreiner is the 8th generation on her family's homestead in Gilboa, Schoharie County, settled in 1795. After spending much of her adult life and career living in NYC and abroad, she moved back to the area in 2012 to raise her son, now in 2nd grade, and continue the family legacy at the old homestead when her Grandmother, Catherine Kauffman Harwood White, passed away the same year.

Schreiner is currently Executive Director of the Center for Agricultural Development and Entrepreneurship (CADE), a non-profit based in Oneonta supporting agricultural and economic development in New York and serving area farms. Schreiner has a long history of public service having served in a civilian capacity in Iraq and Afghanistan with the U.S. Agency for International Development—a branch of the U.S. State Department. She is a member of the NY Grown Food for NY Kids Coalition organized by the American Farmland Trust, the Farm-to-School Task Force of Delaware County, the Otsego County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Committee, the Schoharie County Land Trust, and Gilboa Historical Society.

Schreiner earned her BA from Smith College and MA from Columbia University.

"I'm running for the DCEC Board because I believe deeply in businesses that keep local dollars circulating locally, communities determining their own economic futures, green energy, energy independence, and universal rural broadband."

Laurie Wehmeyer has lived in Jefferson for over 40 years and has always been a member of DCEC. She works at the Pavilion of Robinson Terrace in Stamford which is an Assisted Living facility. Laurie has been the Recreation Director at the Pavilion for over 6 years now but has worked in the healthcare field for almost 25 years. She has 2 children and although this pandemic has brought a lot of tough changes and sadness for many, her family grew with the addition of her first 2 grandchildren. They are the

NORTHERN



Phoebe Schreiner



Laurie Wehmeyer

Incumbent

Members to Vote on Local Organization Donations

DCEC members nominated three local organizations to receive donations from DCEC. The nominated organizations will be voted on and the top three organizations will receive a donation of \$1,000, \$600, and \$400.

The Cooperative received nominations for the following organizations:

- Cornell Cooperative Extension of Delaware County
- Ronald McDonald House
- SEVA Foundation

Usually, representatives from each organization would be present at the Annual Meeting however, this year because we are limiting the amount of people attending our meeting no representatives will be present. A print out with information about each organization and their involvement in DCEC's local community will accompany the official ballots.

**Proposed bylaw changes
are posted online at
[www.dce.coop/2021-
proposed-bylaw-changes](http://www.dce.coop/2021-proposed-bylaw-changes)**

Continued on Page 3...

2021 Official Candidates

Continued from Page 3...

“Loves” of her life.

“I have thoroughly enjoyed learning so much about our Cooperative and the many facets that go along with it. The future of energy is growing so fast in so many ways and I really look forward to finding DCEC’s path in that future because our Coop is such a valued part of the communities, we all belong to. I truly like being involved in the processes of moving our Cooperative forward and in making sure our Cooperative stays strong, has healthy growth and continues to be something we can be very proud of. I would be honored to continue as a Director at DCEC. Thank you for your consideration.”

CENTRAL REGION

Kathleen Schaaf (Cropper) is a lawyer in New York City who, with her husband and three children (and now 3 grandchildren), has enjoyed weekends and vacations at their family home in Hamden since 1985. Since March, 2020, Kathleen and her husband Steve Cropper have lived full time at their beautiful farm, where a nearby farmer grows corn and hay for his cows.

Kathleen has been impressed over the years by the quality of service that DCEC provides to its customers, particularly the responsiveness that a locally owned utility can provide. She believes that this is a critical time for rural utilities, as sustainable, renewable, and reliable energy becomes both a challenge and a necessity. She believes that her legal background (with an expertise in insurance law) and experience on the board of a New York insurance company will be an asset to DCEC as it faces the many challenges ahead, including financial responsibility and transparent corporate governance.

“It would be an honor to be able to serve my community as a director of the DCEC.”

Stephen Oles is a Delhi native who returned home after college to raise a family with his wife Lynn. Retiring in 2014 after 30 years of service with Delhi Telephone Company, Stephen believes staying abreast to developments in the renewable arena and the related industry’s strategic goals, DCEC will be well positioned to meet the energy goals established at the state level, nationally and internationally.

As a director since 1991, Stephen knows that safe, reliable and affordable electric service to the membership is critical for the stability and longevity of the Cooperative and the communities served. Providing opportunities to future generations to recognize the many benefits of the cooperative model of governance will ensure its continued value.

Stephen continues to promote good governance, which has driven his appreciation for advocacy and transparency. He also values prudent financial goals such as commitment to making annual payments of capital credits to members, maintaining a healthy equity level, and reducing debt level. These financial goals and objectives will advance the Cooperative into the future.

Stephen is especially proud of establishing a farmer’s rate, executing a plan to consolidate operations and extending the hydro contract.

While the Cooperative’s source of electricity is currently approximately 90% renewable, Stephen with assistance of the DCEC board will work vigorously towards securing future opportunities, partnerships and technologies to strengthen the renewable portfolio of the DCEC.

CENTRAL



Kathleen Schaaf



Steve Oles

Incumbent

Continued on Page 4...

2021 Official Candidates

Continued from Page 3...

SOUTHERN REGION

Jeffrey Russell is a Walton native who resides on his family’s multi-generational farm with his two children. Jeffrey works for the Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District where he is an Engineering Technician in the Stream Program. He has been on the board of directors for one term where he is currently serving as the Vice President. He chairs the Organization & Staffing Committee and was on the Headquarters Project Committee.

“I’m running for re-election to the Delaware County Electric Cooperative Board because I believe that the electric cooperative provides an invaluable service to our rural communities. The safe, reliable and affordable energy that we provide to our members allows them to be able to live, work, and enjoy our beautiful communities.”

“I am immensely proud and honored to have sat on the Headquarters project committee. Which worked to provide DCEC with a new facility that combines all our office staff with our field staff in one complex. The new facility will provide a safe work environment, and a welcoming location for all DCEC staff & members to do business for years to come.”

“If re-elected I want to make sure that the cooperative continues to be financially stable, and provides safe, reliable, and affordable electricity for years to come.”

Dana Scuderi-Hunter earned a Master of Social Work degree from the State University of New York at Albany and a Bachelor of Arts degree from the State University of New York at Oneonta receiving honors in dual majors, psychology, and philosophy. She served Delaware County in the Department of Social Services for 12 years, the last five as commissioner. Under her leadership, transparency and fiscal responsibility were increased substantially. In addition, millions of dollars were saved on behalf of Delaware County residents. Dana strives to be the best she can be for any organization she is working for and gives 100% no matter the task. She has helped businesses thrive with her financial, human services and administrative experience. Dana is passionate about helping people and doing the right thing. She believes that integrity in leadership is critical for the success and wellbeing of any organization and the people that work for it.

Dana and her husband own their home in the town of Andes and have a small farm with horses, chickens, and bees. They enjoy sharing the eggs and honey they harvest with their neighbors.

“As a member of the Delaware County Electric Cooperative since 2007, I have been privy to the excellent standards and service afforded to our members. DCEC brightens and betters and quality of life for its consumers by providing safe, dependable, renewable and cost-effective electric power supply to its 5200+ members throughout, Delaware, Schoharie, Otsego, and Chenango counties. It would be an honor to collaborate with the DCEC team, learn from colleagues and build upon its greatness in serving our community.”

SOUTHERN



Jeffrey Russell

Incumbent



Dana Scuderi-Hunter

Official Absentee Ballot Request Form

The Cooperative is making every effort to plan and execute the 2021 Annual Meeting in its customary fashion on Friday, September 10, 2021. DCEC is closely monitoring the coronavirus (COVID-19) situation and continues to prioritize the health and safety of our members, staff and event participants. Local, state and national orders, recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and World Health Organization, and travel industry guidance all inform our decisions regarding DCEC events.

DCEC strongly encourages all members to vote! If you vote by absentee ballot, or in person at the Annual Meeting you will received a \$10 bill credit which will be applied to your November 2021 bill.

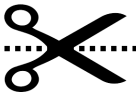
VOTE BY MAIL: One method for a member to be eligible to vote by absentee ballot is to request a ballot by completing an official form (available below) and submitting it to the Cooperative by **August 21, 2021**. Once the Cooperative receives your form we will provide you with an official absentee ballot which you can then complete and send back to the DCEC office. DCEC will count properly completed absentee ballots as long as they are received by **September 6, 2021** (4 business days prior to the Annual Meeting). Once DCEC has received a member’s absentee ballot it cannot be revoked if the member decides to attend the Annual Meeting and vote once there.

VOTE EARLY AT THE CO-OP OFFICE: Members can also complete an absentee ballot in person at the Co-op office during regular business hours between **August 21, 2021 and September 6, 2021**. You must have a government issued photo ID with you to vote by absentee ballot in the Cooperative office.

Members can return the below form either in person to 5 North Depot Street, Delhi, or by mail to the DCEC office at: P.O. Box 471, Delhi, NY 13753, fax to (607) 746-7548, or email to office@dce.coop. For members that are paperless, an electronic official absentee ballot request form can be downloaded on our website at www.dce.coop/annualmeeting.

For the most up to date information about DCEC’s 2021 Annual Meeting please visit our website at www.dce.coop/AnnualMeeting or our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/DelawareCountyElectricCooperative/>

If you vote by absentee ballot, or in person at the Annual Meeting you will received a \$10 bill credit which will be applied to your November 2021 bill.



Official Absentee Ballot Request Form

The Delaware County Electric Cooperative (hereinafter “Cooperative”) will hold its Annual Meeting on **September 10, 2021** for the transaction of all lawful business in accordance with its Bylaws and the New York State Rural Electric Cooperative Law. The Annual Meeting will be held at the American Legion, located at 41 Page Ave., Delhi, NY, and the business meeting shall begin at 5:30 pm.

Members who are unable to attend in person are permitted under Article III of the Cooperative’s Bylaws to vote, by absentee ballot, on any and all issues presented to the general membership at that meeting.

To be eligible to vote by absentee ballot, members may request that an absentee ballot be sent to them by providing the following information and returning this completed form to the Cooperative. **The Cooperative must receive this request no later than August 21, 2021.** All absentee ballots will be sent out on August 21, 2021.

I HEREBY REQUEST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT FOR THE SEPTEMBER 10, 2021 ANNUAL MEETING.

Member’s Name: _____
Account Number: _____

Member’s Address: _____

If you have any questions with respect to this form or the Annual Meeting, please contact DCEC at (607) 746-2341 or (866) 436-1223, or at Delaware County Electric Co-op, P.O. Box 471, 5 North Depot Street, Delhi, NY 13753.

DELAWARE COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
SUMMARY FINANCIAL REPORT ***

Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2020

<u>Assets</u>	
Electric plant and work in progress - at cost	\$ 37,601,423
Less accumulated provisions for depreciation	(12,643,752)
Investments in associated organizations	1,292,539
Cash	1,011,725
Accounts and notes receivable - Net	990,315
Materials and supplies (at average cost)	903,579
Prepaid expenses	203,622
Other current and accrued assets	429,284
Deferred charges	1,429,118
Total Assets:	<u>\$ 31,217,853</u>
<u>Liabilities</u>	
Long-term debt (current and non-current)	15,817,974
Accounts payable	293,727
Accrued interest	20,981
Consumer deposits and prepayments	180,971
Other current and accrued liabilities	409,871
Deferred credits	3,892,540
Total liabilities	<u>20,616,064</u>
<u>Equities</u>	
Memberships	60,380
Patronage capital	9,240,551
Other equities	1,300,858
Total equities	<u>10,601,789</u>
Total Liabilities and Equities:	<u>\$ 31,217,853</u>

Income Statement for the years ended December 31,	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Operating revenues	\$ 8,844,241	\$ 8,826,863
Nonoperating margins, G&T and other capital credits	221,845	192,473
Total revenues	<u>9,066,086</u>	<u>9,019,336</u>
Cost of power	2,007,535	1,943,856
Distribution expense	3,011,732	3,137,259
Consumer accounts and service	297,241	264,453
Administrative and general	1,563,764	1,471,617
Depreciation and amortization	1,016,362	978,005
Interest	525,117	602,156
Other deductions	4,531	4,612
Total expenses	<u>8,426,282</u>	<u>8,401,958</u>
Net margins	639,804	617,378
Retirement of capital credits	(528,614)	(466,863)
Net change	<u>\$ 111,190</u>	<u>\$ 150,515</u>

To view
DCEC's Policy on
**Member Partici-
pation in Annual
Meetings of
Members**

please visit our website at
www.dce.coop or call our
office at
(607) 746-2341.

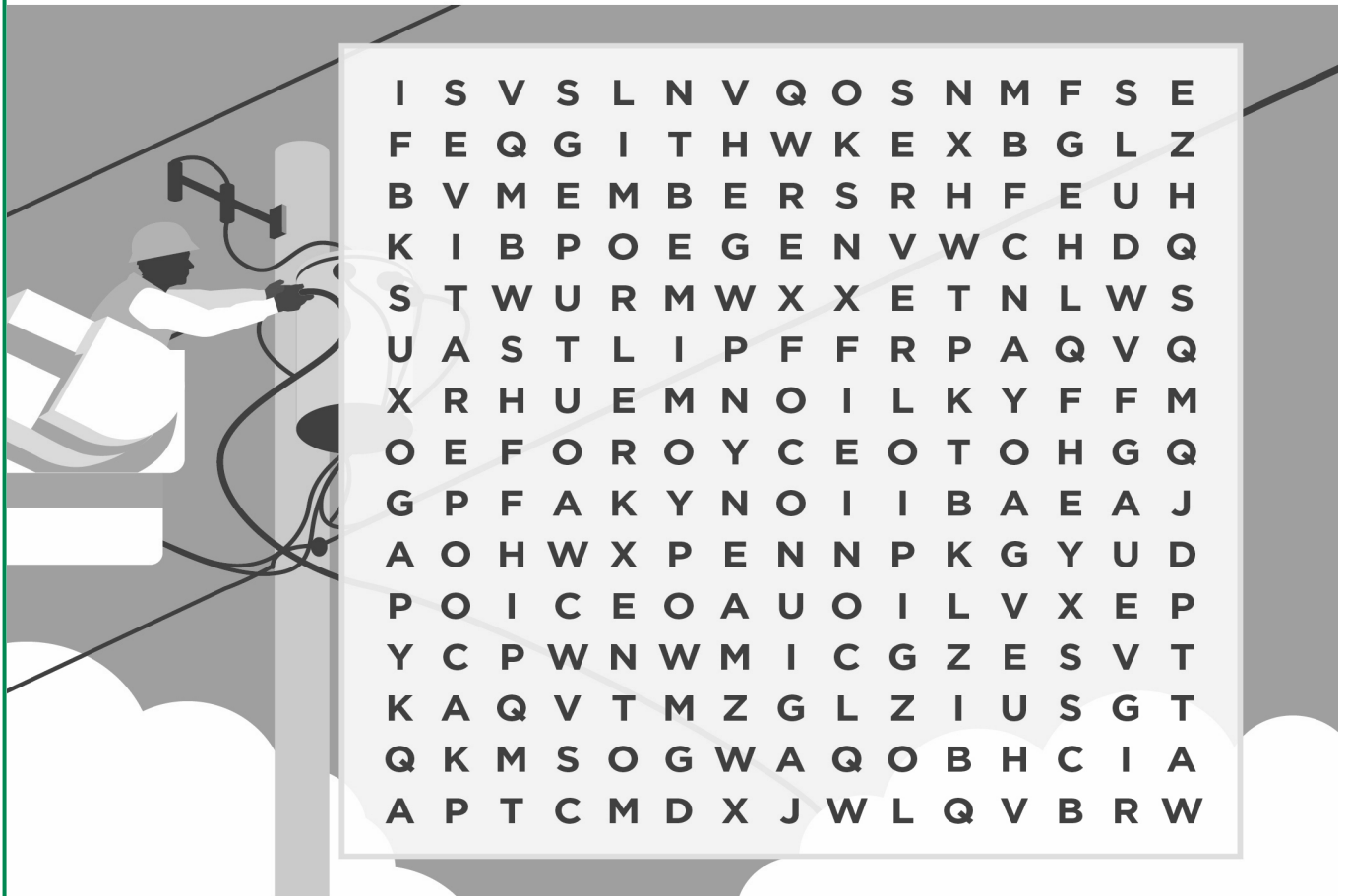
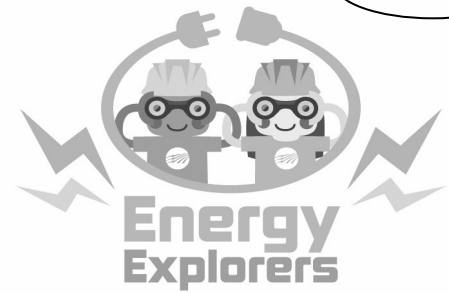
*** The above information was summarized from the Cooperative's audited financial statements which are available upon request.

FR 4-2-5

COOPERATIVE WORD SEARCH

As a member of an electric cooperative,
you're part of something special!

Read the facts below to learn how
co-ops are unique, then find and circle
the **BOLDED** words in the puzzle.



WORD BANK:

- **COOPERATIVES** are local organizations and businesses, so they understand the communities they serve.
- Co-ops don't have customers; instead, they have **MEMBERS**.
- All co-ops are guided by the same set of cooperative **PRINCIPLES**.
- "Concern for **COMMUNITY**" is the seventh cooperative principle.
- Co-ops are led by the members they **SERVE**.
- You're a member of an **ELECTRIC** cooperative, but there are also housing, grocery and other types of co-ops.



MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN

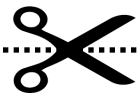


Is Your Location Number in This Issue?

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 sweat-shirt! *Good luck!*

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 CEO/General Manager Christopher Evans, CFO Mark Cannizzaro, and Administrative 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.....	Stephen Oles
Vice President.....	Jeffrey Russell
Secretary.....	Edward Pick Jr.
Treasurer.....	Paul Menke
Director.....	Kim Tosi
Director.....	Laurie Wehmeyer
Director.....	Steve Burnett
CEO/General Manager.....	Christopher Evans



Annual Meeting

Chicken BBQ Dinner Reservation Ticket

Friday, September 10, 2021

Chicken dinners provided by Brooks' Barbeque of Oneonta

SERVED AS TAKE OUT ONLY

All reservations must be made in advance as tickets will not be sold at event. Meals served in *take-out* packaging only. **Dinner will only be served** at the conclusion of the Business Meeting. Members and guests may stay and eat dinner together at the Legion or they may bring their dinners home. Reservations can be made either in-person at the DCEC office or by mailing in this reservation form by August 27, 2021.

Mail-in requests should include this entire coupon and payment of \$6.00 per dinner.

Name: _____

Account #: _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

*Please Reserve _____ tickets for the 77th Annual Meeting & Chicken BBQ (Cooperative members and family only please).

Please note that REFUNDS are available if this event is cancelled.

