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CATSKILL HI-LINE

Bi-Monthly Newsletter

Volume 76—Issue 4
July/August 2020

Powering Our Rural Communities

DELAWARE COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC



Win \$500
CASH!

MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN

YOU'RE INVITED!

FRIDAY 18 2020 SEPTEMBER

The Cooperative is preparing multiple plans to conduct a safe and productive Annual Meeting depending on how much progress has been made in defeating the COVID-19 virus. Please read the August Special Edition of this newsletter and check out the Cooperative's website and Facebook page for the latest changes.



Brook's BBQ Dinner for
ONLY \$6

Business Meeting
4:30 pm to 5:15 pm
Brooks BBQ Take Out
Immediately after Meeting
Located at Delaware Academy
2 Sheldon Dr., Delhi, NY



Board President Steve Oles

Highlights include...

FREE LED Battery Backup Bulb Gift

Win \$500 in CASH

Win bill credit

Door prizes

Can't Make the DCEC Annual Meeting? Vote by Absentee Ballot...
See page 2 for More Details



Operations Manager Ryan Sullivan giving an energy efficiency demonstration at DCEC's Annual Meeting.

39 Elm Street, PO Box 471, Delhi, NY 13753
Phone: 607-746-2341 or 866-436-1223
Secure Pay-by-Phone 1-844-209-7162

Fax: 607-746-7548
OUTAGES: 607-746-9283



31 years

OF SERVICE

MICHAEL SACKETT

1st Class Lineman

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

You will be missed!

*and so your
adventure begins*

The Cooperative Advantage

LOCAL PEOPLE. SERVING YOU.

Integrity | Accountability | Innovation | Commitment to Community

Official Absentee Ballot Request Form

The Cooperative is making every effort to plan and execute the 2020 Annual Meeting in its customary fashion on Friday, September 18, 2020. 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 submit an absentee ballot, which will assure that your vote is counted regardless of how the Annual Meeting is impacted by COVID-19. Even if the meeting has to be postponed, your absentee ballot will still be counted.

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 29, 2020**. 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 14, 2020** (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 29, 2020 and September 14, 2020**. 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 39 Elm 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 *WAS* emailed to all members that have an active SmartHub account on Wednesday, 6/17/2020 with instructions.

A \$10 bill credit will be applied to the October 2020 electric bill for a properly completed and received absentee ballot.

For the most up to date information about DCEC’s 2020 Annual Meeting please visit our website at <http://dce.coop/content/2020-annual-meeting-and-covid-19> or our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/DelawareCountyElectricCooperative/>

REQUEST FOR ABSENTEE BALLOT

The Delaware County Electric Cooperative (hereinafter “Cooperative”) will hold its Annual Meeting on **September 18, 2020** 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 Delaware Academy Central School, located at 2 Sheldon Drive, Delhi, NY, and the business meeting shall begin at 4:30 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 29, 2020.*** All absentee ballots will be sent out on August 29, 2020.

I HEREBY REQUEST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT FOR THE SEPTEMBER 18, 2020 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, 39 Elm Street, Delhi, NY 13753.

DCEC's Energy Efficiency Programs

LOAD CONTROL & FOSSIL FUEL FREE INCENTIVES

Delaware County Electric Cooperative (DCEC) would like to help promote and increase energy efficiency for members using hot water heaters. DCEC has introduced a new program that encourages being fossil fuel free. This incentive is a continuation of the Cooperative's long history of supporting and promoting energy efficiency, conservation, and clean energy production. The Cooperative's programs have included an Energy Star rebate program, home energy audits, member-owned solar and wind energy, fuel cell demonstration, community-scale wind energy and hydro energy research projects, and our current community-scale solar energy project in partnership with the New York Power Authority and the State University of New York at Delhi.

The Cooperative is providing multiple ways to participant in this incentive goal.

1.) EXISTING FOSSIL FUEL HOT WATER HEATER

For members with existing fossil fuel hot water heaters, the Cooperative will provide a FREE unit and installation of a 50 gallon Marathon hot water heater and load control switch. Members may choose to upgrade to a larger size hot water heater by paying the difference between the 50 gallon and the cost of a larger hot water heater they choose.



2.) UPGRADING FROM ANOTHER ELECTRIC HOT WATER HEATER

For members upgrading from some other brand electric hot water heater to a Marathon hot water heater, the Cooperative will hire and coordinate FREE installation of the hot water heater and load control switch. To be eligible for this option the member must purchase at least a 30 gallon hot water heater.

3.) JOINING THE EXISTING LOAD CONTROL PROGRAM

For members willing to join the existing load control program, the Cooperative will hire and coordinate a FREE installation of the load control switch and pay members a \$50 program signing bonus.

4.) FOR MEMBERS BUILDING A NEW HOME

For new members building new homes, the Cooperative will provide a FREE unit and installation of a 50 gallon Marathon hot water heater and load control switch. Members may choose to upgrade to a larger size hot water heater by paying the difference between the 50 gallon and the cost of a larger hot water heater they choose.

Please note there are requirements and limitations that apply to each option above.

- 1.) *These incentives are only available to active Cooperative members.*
- 2.) *Members will be required to stay enrolled in the load control management program for three consecutive years.*

Whenever applicable members will also receive a \$4 credit monthly for load control switch if all requirements are met.

Continued on page 6...

CLEAN ENERGY BENEFITS

When converting from fossil fuels, conversion of fossil fuel consumption to electric is approximately 94% cleaner.

Important Notice

This program is limited to one free 50 gallon hot water heater per membership. Member is required to enter a contractual agreement when applicable. All energy efficiency programs are subject to changes or termination without notice.

	
Marathon Size	Dimensions
30 Gallon	21 5/8" x 53"
50 Gallon Short	28 1/4" x 47 1/4"
50 Gallon	23 1/2" x 66 3/4"
75 Gallon	28 1/4" x 62 5/8"
85 Gallon	28 1/4" x 70 1/4"
105 Gallon	30 1/4" x 70 3/4"

Event Canceled Due to the Coronavirus

Every year, DCEC looks forward to connecting with our members and the local community at the Family Fun Day event. But given the growing concerns around COVID-19, we've made the difficult decision to cancel this event.

This was a tough call to make – Family Fun Day is an incredibly important event for DCEC and it's one of our favorite ways to connect with our members and their families-- but we need to prioritize the health and safety of our community, employees, and members.

DCEC wanted to still give back to the community but in a safe and healthy way. At the June board meeting the board of directors approved a motion to donate a total of approximately \$10,000 to both Delaware and Schoharie counties to help fund back to school programs within those counties. With the help of CoBank, one of our financial services partners and their Sharing Success program DCEC is able to provide a total of \$20,000 because CoBank will match the Cooperative's contribution. These programs provide traditional school supplies plus sneakers, socks, and essential items for children of need within our service territory. If you have any questions about how to apply for these programs please contact Delaware Opportunities at (607) 746-1600 or Schoharie County Community Action at (518) 234-2568. DCEC remains committed the members and to our community during this difficult time.

Yes We're Moving

The Cooperative has been working on a consolidated headquarters facility to be located at the current location of the Cooperative's shop at 5 North Depot Street in Delhi. Barring any unforeseen impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the project schedule, the office move from 39 Elm Street to 5 North Depot Street will begin after the office closes on Friday, August 14, 2020. On Monday, August 17, 2020 the DCEC office will be closed to finish the moving process. That means that Tuesday, August 18, 2020 at 7:30 am the office will be officially moved and open to the public, ready to resume regular office functions. 39 Elm Street in Delhi will no longer be owned by DCEC and members and the public will no longer be able to conduct Cooperative related business at that location. For any members



**39 Elm Street,
Delhi, NY**

OPEN HOUSE

**7/24/2020
noon to 2 pm**

that are interested, the Cooperative will be hosting an Open House. This Open House will consist of guided tours of the building on Friday, July 24th, noon to 2 pm. The Cooperative will also be hosting several Open Houses of the new consolidated headquarters, dates to be provided at a later date.



Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers



COVID Precautionary Measures

Please be aware that any and all events, open houses, and gatherings are subject to change. For the MOST up to date information call the office at (607) 746-2341.

DCEC's Energy Efficiency Programs

LOAD CONTROL & FOSSIL FUEL FREE INCENTIVES Continued from page 4

DCEC's Load Control Management Program

What is Load Control Management?

Load Management is a method used by your Cooperative to defer or spread out the peak demand of its members. When peak demand is controlled the Cooperative is able to save money for our members by lowering costs from our power suppliers.

Who is eligible to participate?

Any Cooperative member using over 350 KWh's per month and having one or more electric water heaters, 30 gallons or larger.

When and for how long will my water heater be turned off?

Water heaters will be turned off at various periods of time, depending on the heater size. The shut-off will usually occur for relatively short time periods between the hours of 6:00 AM and 11:00 AM and/or 6:00 PM and 10:00 PM.. Frequency of shut-offs vary from month to month, with some months only having 1 or 2 events.

Is there a charge for having the system installed?

No, and if by rare chance a problem occurs the Coop will replace non-working load control units for members and only remove units per members request following the three year contract minimum.

Do I receive a credit on my monthly energy bill for participating?

Yes, you will receive a \$4.00 credit off your monthly electric bill when you use 350 kWh per month.



What's the Catch?



THAT'S THE BEST PART, THERE IS NO CATCH!

Both the member and the Cooperative benefit from this program. In 2018, the Cooperative was able to save approximately \$72,000 for our members because of the Load Control Management Program.

For more information about this program or this incentive and any additional energy efficiency programs that may save you money please contact the office at (607) 746-2341 or email DCEC at office@dce.coop.

**We're your cooperative, and we're working for you.
At, DCEC, you're more than a customer. You're a member: an owner
with a voice, a vote and a financial share. You're our neighbors, our
friends and our community.
That's the cooperative difference.**

www.dce.coop

ENERGY STAR APPLIANCE REBATE PROGRAM

Don't forget DCEC is still offering this program to active members. For complete program details visit www.dce.coop/content/energy-efficiency-programs



Which Charity Will You Vote For?

In the last issue of the Catskill Hi-Line, DCEC's newsletter, we asked members to nominate a local charitable organization, 501(c)(3), by June. The Cooperative received nominations for the following:

- Delaware County Emergency Services
- Cannon Free Library
- Delaware County Office for the Aging

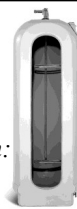
Representatives from each organization will be present at the Annual Meeting on Friday, September 18th with a display table and educational materials. Please attend the meeting to learn more about each organization and cast your vote for the winners during the business portion of the meeting! You can also vote for your charity of choice with an absentee ballot. See page 3 for details about absentee ballots.



Providing our rural members with:

- ✓ Low-cost Electricity
- ✓ High System Reliability
- ✓ Community/Member Service

Warranted for LIFE
Please call for availability



39 Elm Street
P.O. Box 471
Delhi, NY 13753
Ph: (607) 746-2341
(866) 436-1223
Fx: (607) 746-7548
www.dce.coop
local area
dealer for electric

Marathon
WATER HEATERS

To view DCEC's Policy on Member Participation in Annual Meetings of Members please visit our website at [www.dce.coop/sites/dcec/files/PDF/Policies/Member Participation in Annual Meeting.pdf](http://www.dce.coop/sites/dcec/files/PDF/Policies/Member%20Participation%20in%20Annual%20Meeting.pdf) or call our office at (607) 746-2341.

CO 4-68-13

DCEC Makes 2019 Capital Credit Allocation

Capital credits represent each member's owner equity in The Delaware County Electric Cooperative, Inc. (DCEC). Owner equity is an essential part in maintaining good financial health and used by DCEC for long term investments such as reliability improvements and maintenance. These can include projects such as replacing power lines, updating substations or any major improvement that assists in providing safe, reliable and affordable energy to our members. This equity allows DCEC to reduce its borrowing needs, and secure favorable interest rates.

Capital credit amounts are determined by DCEC's margin (revenues that exceed expenses) which are then credited (or allocated) to the members of the cooperative based on their revenue contribution in a particular year.

For 2019, DCEC has allocated \$617,378.10 to members who contributed to the revenue that exceed the expenses for the year. Allocation notices appear on the July 2020 bill print.

Each year, DCEC's Board of Directors, with the assistance of the Finance Committee, determine if capital credits can be returned to members. In December 2019, DCEC returned 1992 allocated capital credits in the amount of \$409,323.

Thank you for being a DCEC member and for your contributions in making our Cooperative financially strong.



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! Call (607) 746-2341 if you find your number. Good luck!

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 reported by our pole inspectors in Andes, Delhi, Kortright, Jefferson, Gilboa and Harpersfield.

Right of way crews will be trimming trees and mowing in Davenport and East Meredith near County Route 10 and Pumpkin Hollow.

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 our field staff a wide berth for their safety and yours.

For the most up to date information about DCEC’s 2020 Annual Meeting please visit our website at

<http://dce.coop/content/2020-annual-meeting-and-covid-19>

or our Facebook page at

<https://www.facebook.com/DelawareCountyElectricCooperative/>

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 Engineering & Technology Manager Paul DeAndrea, Operations Manager Ryan Sullivan, Billing Specialist Rosemary Alwine 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
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- Secretary.....Edward Pick Jr.
- Treasurer.....Paul Menke
- Director.....Steve Burnett
- Director.....Jeffrey Russell
- Director.....Laurie Wehmeyer
- CEO/General Manager.....Mark Schneider

NOTICE

Keep Contact Information Updated



It’s important to keep your contact information including all your contact numbers and current address up to date with the Cooperative. If any of this information has changed please give the office a call at, (607) 746-2341.

Generlink Transfer Switches

*Plugs into 200 amp Meter Socket
20 ft Cord to Connect to Generator | Built in Surge Protector
Accommodates 10,000 watt Generator*

Available for Purchase at our Office

**For More Information
or to Confirm Compatibility
Contact DCEC at (607) 746-2341.**

