



As a democratic organization, Cooperative members vote each year to elect directors to represent them on the DCEC Board. Elections for director positions occur at the DCEC's Annual Meeting in September. DCEC currently has seven directors representing three regions of the DCEC's service territory. Directors serve 3-year terms. In accordance with the DCEC bylaws, a Nominating Committee considers members interested in serving on the board and nominates candidates for the election.

Interested in serving on the DCEC 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 2023 Annual Meeting of the Members is scheduled to be held on Friday, **September 15, 2023 at 4:30 p.m.**

Elections will occur at the 2023 Annual Meeting for **three board seats representing the Northern, Central, and Southern Regions.**

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 positions. The committee is composed of members representing the geographic diversity of the DCEC service area (see chart below). Members serving on the committee are offered a modest stipend for their service.

Nominations for directors are governed by Article IV 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.

Rules regulating director elections are outlined in DCEC's bylaws, which are available on: www.dce.coop/dcec-bylaws-policies. Voting for directors is covered by Article III. Each member may cast one ballot for a nominee for each seat up for election. **A married couple holding a joint membership are considered one member and will receive one ballot.**

DCEC would like to thank Adriaen Jackson (Northern), John J. Lynch Jr. (Central), Rachel Polens (Central), and Mark Rossley (Southern), the members who served on the 2022 Nominating Committee. Thank you!

BOARD DISTRICT REGIONS		
Northern	Central	Southern
Gilboa	Bovina	Andes
Jefferson	Delhi	Colchester
Summit	Franklin	Masonville
Davenport	Hamden	Middletown
Harpersfield	Kortright	Sidney
Stamford	Meredith	Tompkins
Maryland		Walton
		Bainbridge

Interested in Serving on the DCEC Board? The governing body of DCEC is a member-elected Board of Directors comprised of active DCEC members who are compensated for their time. The Board is responsible for the Co-op's overall policy and direction, as well as for standards and requirements for safety, affordability, and reliability. The DCEC Board is a working board with active committees. The Board currently meets in-person once monthly, typically on the 4th Tuesday of each month. The Board also has separate committees for such matters as financials, staff and organization, and core projects. The current Board of Directors invites any interested candidates to join a regular scheduled monthly meeting. The interested candidate can get a sense of the regular business addressed at the monthly meetings and will have the opportunity to ask any questions that they may have about serving on the Board. If you are interested in attending a Board meeting please contact the Cooperative at (607) 746-9294 prior to the meeting so we can ensure you are notified of any changes/modifications of the regular schedule. Serving on the Board of Directors is a worthwhile and enriching experience, both personally and professionally. If you are interested in adding your name to this year's ballot, please send an email to Janelle.Linehan@dce.coop informing the Cooperative of your intent to do so. A letter of intent, along with a high resolution headshot, should be submitted by June 5, 2023.

If you are interested in being a candidate, or if you would like additional information, please contact the DCEC office at (607) 746-9294.

For additional information about the Nominating Committee and how to serve please call Janelle Linehan at (607) 746-9294

Members' Corner:

Q: Is it cheaper to run appliances (dishwasher, washing machine, dryer) in the evening or at night, or is there no difference in cost?

A: As of right now, DCEC does not have "time-of-use" or "day/night" electric rates. Some utilities will offer these types of rates where the cost of electricity will vary depending on the time that you use it. Typically, in those cases, electricity would be cheaper at night and more expensive during the day. The electricity rates that members pay through DCEC are the same regardless of the time of day that electricity is used. However, as electricity usage increases, we are finding that more and more often DCEC has to buy additional electricity from the power market in order to meet members' needs. This most often happens roughly between 5-10 AM and again between 5-10 PM. When you are able to schedule your non-critical electricity usage outside of those time periods, you help the Cooperative overall keep costs lower, which benefits all members. As we look at these cost drivers, we analyze the impact of making updates to our rates in order to continue to provide safe, reliable, and cost-effective electric power to our members.

Q: It seems that lately, summers are getting hotter, even in the Catskills, and while we don't have air conditioning yet, we're now considering it. I wonder what impact this will have on DCEC as temperatures increase, especially during summer months, and usage increases.

A: Yes, we've noticed those warm summer days as well! Many of us remember growing up and never having an air conditioner in the home, but being able to cool your home in summer now seems to be more of a requirement for many people. DCEC has historically had its system peak occur in the winter months. With our system designed to meet those winter-load needs, modest air conditioning loads in our territory should not pose a near-term problem. However, as our nation as a whole is moving towards the adoption of "beneficial electrification" (see www.be-league.org), power companies are analyzing the impact on their systems and the ability of our power generation sources to continue to meet electricity needs reliably and sustainably. DCEC is continually monitoring those trends, and works with the New York Power Authority (NYPA) to ensure that we have enough power to meet our members' needs.

Email your questions to Janelle.Linehan@dce.coop and our staff will research and answer your questions in our newsletter, on Facebook, and/or on our website: www.dce.coop

Q: How much, if any, could the average household save by unplugging small appliances, lamps, etc when not in use? Are there any other advantages (i.e.: reducing the risk of electrical fires, perhaps?) to unplugging small, unused items?

A: There are so many variables in the different types of appliances that people use in their homes, and even between the different makes and models of similar appliances, that this question is very hard to answer. But the short answer is yes, there could be some benefit to unplugging appliances both in terms of energy savings and safety. Many electrical devices used in homes today consume some amount of power, even when turned "off." This is sometimes referred to as "phantom power." The amount you could save by unplugging devices will depend on the device itself. Even though most consumer devices pass electrical safety standards, if a device is plugged into an electrical source there is the possibility that some sort of malfunction could occur risking hazards. Every member should be aware of the electrical devices in use around their home, and should make a conscientious decision on whether or not to unplug them when not in use, based on their balance of concerns over costs, safety, environmental impact, and convenience.

A little effort goes a long way.

HELP OFFSET PEAK ENERGY DEMAND

Help conserve energy by adjusting your energy use to lower-demand times of the day. Making small changes can help even out energy use and avoid service interruptions caused by high demand.

BEFORE 8:00 a.m.

Use the oven
Shower
Do laundry

8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Close window coverings
Unplug appliances not in use

AFTER 3:00 p.m.

Grill supper outdoors
Use countertop appliances or a microwave (instead of the oven)
Turn off circuit breakers for electric hot water heaters
(Water will remain hot for hours; turn the breaker back on later)

AFTER 8:00 p.m.

Wash dishes
Set the dishwasher or other appliances to start after 10:00 p.m.
Shower

OVERNIGHT

Charge your electric vehicle

You can help by making these energy use adjustments to your day:

IN GENERAL

-  Turn up your thermostat
-  Use fans in occupied rooms to cool off
-  Turn off and disconnect electronics not in use
-  Turn off lights
-  Turn off stand-alone dehumidifiers
-  Turn off all non-essential pumps and motors

Making small changes can help you save on your energy bills, decrease the chances of future rate increases and ease the strain on the power grid.

Learn more at:

 Safe Electricity.org®