

Powering Our Rural Communities

DCEC Lineman Kim Armstrong Retires After 38 Years of Service



Kim Armstrong started at DCEC as a 17 year old kid in December of 1975 working as an Assistant to the Janitor doing maintenance during the summer. After that he came back as a seasonal employee with DCEC's right-of-way crew. In the fall of 1980 Kim was hired on for a permanent position as an Apprentice Lineman. After taking all of the necessary training courses required, Kim became a 1st Class Lineman in March of 1987 and remained one of the Cooperative's dedicated linemen for the next 26 years.

"Kim always put the members first, he really understood what it meant to work for a Cooperative", says DCEC Operations Manager, Wayne Marshfield. DCEC Lineman, Steve Little remembers seeing the co-op truck and Kim come to his house one day when he was six years old. "That was 32 years ago, who knew then I would wind up working with him," Little said.

Kim vividly remembers when he started as a lineman going to a members house and seeing a little boy looking out the window so excited to see that the linemen were there to restore power. "That image is what kept me coming to work each day and realizing how important it was to keep the lights on."

DCEC Employees and Board Donate Toys to the Christmas Feeling Fund



DCEC Employees Tara Rifjenbark and Ryan Sullivan with the Stamford Christmas Feeling Fund Coordinator Katie Graves (in middle)

Early in December 2013 DCEC employees and the board of directors donated toys to the Stamford Christmas Feeling Fund. This fund impacts 200 local

families within the greater Stamford area and also includes the Towns of Jefferson, Gilboa, Davenport and Kortright. All funds for the charity are raised through donations. The only expenses they have are mailing expenses; all time towards planning and executing is donated by area volunteers including the local school clubs and teams. Volunteers help sort, box and wrap gifts. Besides toys they also take donations for clothing, jackets, scarves, hats, etc. Every family that receives a donation from the fund also receives a food basket which contains either a turkey or ham for the Christmas holiday.

Many area businesses take part in giving donations. ACE Hardware of Stamford donates some Christmas trees. Other donations came from Walmart, Price Chopper, Tops, Delaware Opportunities and the Regional Food Bank.

DCEC Makes Capital Credit Distribution

About 2,200 DCEC members who received electric service from the Cooperative in 1988 received a capital credit retirement in December.

DCEC operates on a non-profit basis. When the Cooperative has a positive financial margin at the end of the year, it is allocated to members and paid back when financial conditions permit. One of the goals of the DCEC Board of Directors is to retire capital credits annually to the members.

The retirement amounted to \$82,000 which was the remainder of the 1988 credits. Members from 1988 who are still active with DCEC received the retirement as a credit on their December electric bills while check payments were issued to members that are no longer receiving electric service from DCEC.



**Hey 11th Graders!
Interested In Becoming a
Legislative Youth Delegate?...**

See page 3 for Details



DCEC Begins Monthly Bills for Seasonal Members

This is the first month that all members of the Cooperative, including seasonal members with rate schedule 2 accounts, will receive monthly bills. For many seasonal members, the annual prepayment was difficult because it was a large bill due right after the holiday season. Now those members will receive a bill each month throughout the year. The bill will include a monthly service charge of \$22.50, which is equal to a one-month portion of the old annual service charge of \$270.00. The bill will also include charges for energy consumed during the past month.



For those members who preferred the old annual payment, the option still exists to make a prepayment on an account. Our billing department can be reached at 607-746-9290 to help you estimate a suggested amount of prepayment. Even if members pre-pay, they will still receive a monthly bill in the mail showing their running credit balance unless they sign up for paperless billing. Members who sign up for paperless billing by February 10 will receive a one-time \$5 credit as a thank-you from the Cooperative. For more information about paperless billing please check our website at <http://www.dce.coop/content/paying-your-bill>.

All members are responsible for checking their monthly bills, either on-line or when they receive them in the mail, to make sure that their accounts are kept current. Even if members make prepayments, they must verify that unexpected energy consumption has not used up their prepayments faster than expected. Past due amounts are subject to late penalties. Past due amounts greater than \$125 are also subject to disconnection for non-payment.

All of us at the Cooperative hope that providing monthly bills to our seasonal members will help our members manage their finances more comfortably. If you have any questions or comments about the change to monthly billing, please feel free to call our General Manager, Mark Schneider, at 607-746-9282.

Economic Development Power Available

The Cooperative has participated for many years in the New York Power Authority's (NYPA's) Economic Development Power (EDP) program. The purpose of our participation in the EDP program is to attract, expand, and retain jobs within DCEC's service territory by helping to keep energy costs down. In accordance with NYPA's program guidelines, the Cooperative is eligible to receive blocks of inexpensive NYPA hydro power associated with a business that creates new jobs and increases its power demand. Non-retail businesses that are existing members of the Cooperative or who plan to site a new facility on the Cooperative's lines are eligible participants in the program. DCEC currently has allocations of inexpensive EDP power associated with Friesland Campina Domo, Sportsfield Specialties, and Amphenol Aerospace Corporation. If you know of a business considering expanding or relocating within the Cooperative's service territory, please call General Manager Mark Schneider to discuss the Economic Development Power program.

DCEC Completes Line & Metering Work at Amphenol



During November and December, NYPA and DCEC personnel completed the construction and installation of the distribution hardware, instrumentation devices and metering equipment needed at the interconnect with the NYSEG system to provide electric service to the new Amphenol development at Sidney, NY. On December 18, NYPA and DCEC personnel successfully completed functional testing of the interconnect equipment subsequent to energizing by NYSEG. DCEC is now ready to provide electric service to the Amphenol development and will work with Amphenol to do so on or about January 13, 2014.

Two Substations Darkened by Transmission Outage

On Saturday, January 4 at approximately 2:40 am there was a fault on NYSEG's 46,000 Volt transmission line between Delhi and Downsville. NYSEG equipment and personnel responded quickly to limit the impact of the outage, but efforts were made difficult by extremely cold temperatures. The Cooperative's Dryden Brook and Delhi substations were de-energized by the outage. The Dryden Brook substation was restored at approximately 3:20 am and the Delhi substation was restored at approximately 5:40 am. Cooperative crew members manned the operations room on Elm Street and the Delhi Substation throughout the outage to ensure that all systems would come back up normally when NYSEG restored the transmission line. Kudos to the linemen from NYSEG and DCEC for restoring power under difficult conditions.

11th Grade Student Wanted for Legislative Conference



DCEC announces an exciting opportunity for 11th grade students. Annually, DCEC sponsors a “Legislative Youth Delegate”. If selected, the student will travel to Washington D.C. to meet with our nation’s political leaders and learn about our nation’s legislative process. This year the tour will take place Sunday, May 4 to Tuesday, May 6, 2014.

The student-delegate representing DCEC will attend the conference with other student-delegates from electric cooperatives across New York State. Together, co-op representatives from the 900+ co-ops across the U.S. will be in Washington that week for meetings with Congressional Representatives and Senators on Capital Hill. The student will have the opportunity to experience government first-hand through meetings with legislators and other electric cooperative leaders. Time will also be reserved for visits to historical sites in Washington. This opportunity is an “all-expense-paid” trip except for general spending money that the student may elect to spend on souvenirs and incidentals.

To be considered, the student must be in their junior (11th grade) year, be a son/daughter of a DCEC member, demonstrate strong academic achievement (“B” average or better) and have demonstrated a commitment to community service. To be considered, students must submit an application to the DCEC office in Delhi, NY by March 3, 2014. Applications and further information is available at www.dce.coop, from school guidance counselors or at the DCEC office.

DCEC Made Changes to Member Owned Distributed Generation Policy

Starting January 1, 2014 all new member owned generators (e.g., solar panels and wind turbines) will be paid DCEC’s wholesale price for energy instead of the retail price. All contracts with members who already own generation will be honored for the length of those contracts, after which those generators will also be paid the wholesale rate. Energy payments are made by DCEC to a member in cases where a member’s solar panels are producing more power than the member is consuming. The energy in excess of the member’s consumption is delivered on to the Cooperative’s grid to be used by other co-op members.



The policy has been changed to eliminate a subsidy to members owning their own generation, which has been paid by all other members of the Cooperative. DCEC has the ability to purchase wholesale energy for approximately 3 to 4 cents per kWh. The retail price paid by members is approximately 10 cents per kWh. When DCEC purchased energy from member owned generators at the retail price of 10 cents per kWh, all the other members of the Cooperative were paying about 7 cents above wholesale prices for each kWh of energy.

The board of directors of your cooperative believe that no member should pay more than their fair share of the costs to own and operate DCEC. By eliminating this subsidy all members will pay a fairer share of total costs.

For more information about the policy, please visit our website at www.dce.coop/content/member-owned-distributed-generation.

Does DCEC Have a Key To Your Gate?

The Electric Cooperative recognizes the importance of protecting your properties and limiting access to them by means of gates or chains. What we encourage our Cooperative members to do is to provide us with keys to your properties so that we can access them in the event of a power outage or to perform routine maintenance. Many property owners have provided us with keys or lock combinations to allow us access when we need it.

Often times we come up on a new chain or gate and have no means to gain access except to remove the gate or cut the chain to access the property. In these circumstances we remove the gate if possible or cut a link from the chain and install a repair link in its place when we leave.

If you’re a new property owner or an existing DCEC member that has installed a gate or chain please contact us at (607) 746-2341 in regards to providing us with a key. This would be beneficial to both of us in the event of an emergency.

Sign Up for DCEC’s Load Control Program and Get \$4.00 Taken Off you Bill Every Month!

Do you have at least a 30 gallon electric hot water heater?

Do you use at least 350 kWh’s per month?



If your answer was “YES” to both of those questions and you would like to participate in DCEC’s Load Management Program, which helps all DCEC members save money, please give us a call at (607) 746-9284!

Operations Update

Pole Replacement & Line Reconstruction:

DCEC line crews will be rebuilding electric lines in the Town of Colchester on Cat Hollow and County Route 7 and also in the Town of Meredith on Monroe Road.

Right of Way (ROW) Clearing:

DCEC ROW clearing crews will be working in the Town of Delhi on the following roads: Sutherland Road, Peakes Brook Road, Frank Hafele Road, Bell Hill Road, Ryder Hill Road and Dick Mason Road.

Prior notification to the members affected will take place. If anyone has any concerns please feel free to call (607) 746-9284.

Home Energy Assistance Program

Having trouble paying your energy bills? Heating Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) is a federally funded grant program that offers financial assistance to income-eligible members who need help paying their energy related bills. Please contact your local Social Services office for additional information:

- ◆ Delaware County (607) 746-2325
- ◆ Otsego County (607) 547-4355
- ◆ Schoharie County (518) 295-8334



Remember, you can manage your account 24/7 by signing up for "MyAccount" at www.dce.coop.

DCEC Office Closing Reminder:

DCEC's office will be closed on Monday, February 17, 2014 for President's Day.



Income Eligibility Guidelines for HEAP

Household Size	Monthly Income (gross)
1	\$2,175
2	\$2,844
3	\$3,513
4	\$4,182
5	\$4,852
6	\$5,521
7	\$5,646
8	\$5,772
9	\$5,897
10	\$6,023
11	\$6,461

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!

Save \$ for Your Coop

If you have signed up for MyAccount and you still receive a paper bill in the mail, you can save your cooperative money by discontinuing the monthly mailed paper bill. To do so, log into MyAccount and click on the link called "Stop/Start Print Bill" along the left side of the MyAccount screen. Then "uncheck" the box next to "Send Me A Statement By Mail." By eliminating your paper bill, you will save DCEC over \$14 per year in printing and mailing expenses. If you would prefer, you can call the co-op office and ask us to make that change for you.

Statement of Non-Discrimination

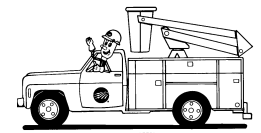
Delaware County Electric Cooperative, Inc., has filed with the Federal Government a Compliance Assurance in which it assures the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, that it will comply with all requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Age of Discrimination Act of 1975, and the Rules and Regulations of the Department of Agriculture issued thereunder. No person in the United States shall on the ground of race, color, national origin, handicap, or age be excluded from participation and be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination in the conduct of its program and the operation of its facilities.

Under this Assurance, this organization is committed not to discriminate against any person on the grounds of race, color or national origin in its policies and practices relating to treatment of beneficiaries and participants in any meeting of beneficiaries and participants or the exercise of any rights of such beneficiaries and participants in the conduct of the operation of this organization.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is, Mark Schneider, General Manager. Any person who believes himself or any specific class of individuals to be subjected by this organization to discrimination prohibited by Title VI of the Act and Rules, and Regulations issued thereunder may, by

himself or a representative, file with the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250, or this organization, or both, a written complaint. Such complaint must be filed no later than 180 days after their alleged discrimination or by such later date to which the Secretary of Agriculture or the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) extends the time for filing. Identity of complaints will be kept confidential except to the extent necessary to carry out the purposes of the Rules and Regulations.

JE 2-5-9F



CATSKILL HI-LINE is a Publication of the Delaware County Electric Cooperative, Inc. and is published bi-monthly for the membership. The information contained herein is designed to communicate aspects of the cooperative to its 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..... Frank Winkler
 Vice President Hartley Russell
 Secretary..... Rusty Pick
 Treasurer Stephen Oles
 Director..... Shawn Hartwell
 Director..... Paul Menke

Director..... Meg Hungerford
 CEO/General Manager..... Mark Schneider
 Asst. General Manager..... Wayne Marshfield

Delaware County Electric Coop., Inc.
 39 Elm St., PO Box 471
 Delhi, New York 13753-0471
 607-746-2341 Toll Free: 866-436-1223
 Fax: 607-746-7548
 Email: office@dce.coop
 Web Site: www.dce.coop