



CATSKILL HI-LINE

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Bi-Monthly Newsletter

Volume 76—Issue 1
January/February 2020

Powering Our Rural Communities

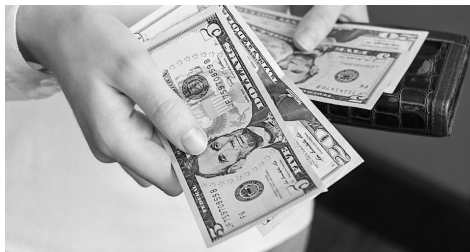
DCEC Makes Capital Credit Distribution

Capital credits represent each member's ownership of the Delaware County Electric Cooperative. They are the positive margins credited (or allocated) to the members of the Cooperative based on their purchases from the cooperative in any given year. In between the years of allocation and retirement, these margins are used by the Cooperative as capital to maintain adequate cash flow to meet current expenses and preserve enough equity to meet banks' equity requirements which lower DCEC's costs for borrowing money.

After reviewing DCEC's financial position and determining it to be sound, the DCEC Board of Directors approved payout of the 1992 allocation in the amount of \$385,110. Current members who were actively receiving electricity in 1992 will receive a credit on the December 2019 bill identified as "CAPITAL CREDIT REFUND". Members who are no longer receiving electric service from DCEC today but did so in 1992 will receive a check in the mail provided their refund is \$5.00 or greater.

DCEC's Board of Directors also approved a payout of all inactive members with a capital credit allocation of less than \$100.00. This resulted in several inactive members receiving their final payment of capital credits. These checks were mailed in mid-December.

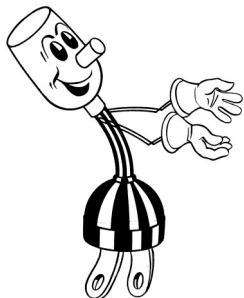
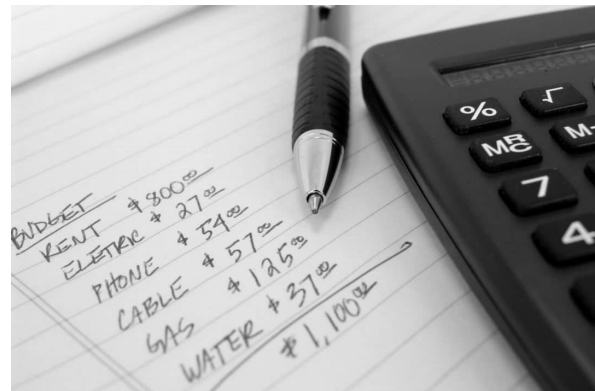
To review policies and bylaws pertaining to DCEC's procedure on allocations and retirements of Capital Credits, please visit our website at <http://dce.coop/content/dcec-bylaws-policies>.



Rate Changes Ahead

The Cooperative will be changing two separate charges on members' April electric bills. Members in all residential and small commercial classifications will see a 50 cent per month increase in their Monthly Fixed Charge. For example, members in the 202/ Residential SC-2 rate classification will see their Monthly Fixed Charge change from \$26.50 per month to \$27.00 per month. This is the final increase in the 2015 cost of service study, a new study will be conducted in 2020.

All members in all rate classes will see a change from \$0.0000 to \$0.0030 in the Formulary Rate Adjustment (FRA). The FRA is reviewed twice each year by the board of directors in light of the Cooperative's financial goals and objectives (<http://www.dce.coop/content/dcec-bylaws-policies>). In August, 2019, the FRA was reduced due to strong revenues because of cold temperatures extending into June. The FRA will be reviewed again in the middle of the year and could be further adjusted based on the financial condition of the Cooperative at that time. If you would like to discuss these rate changes, please contact CEO/General Manager Mark Schneider at 607-746-9282.



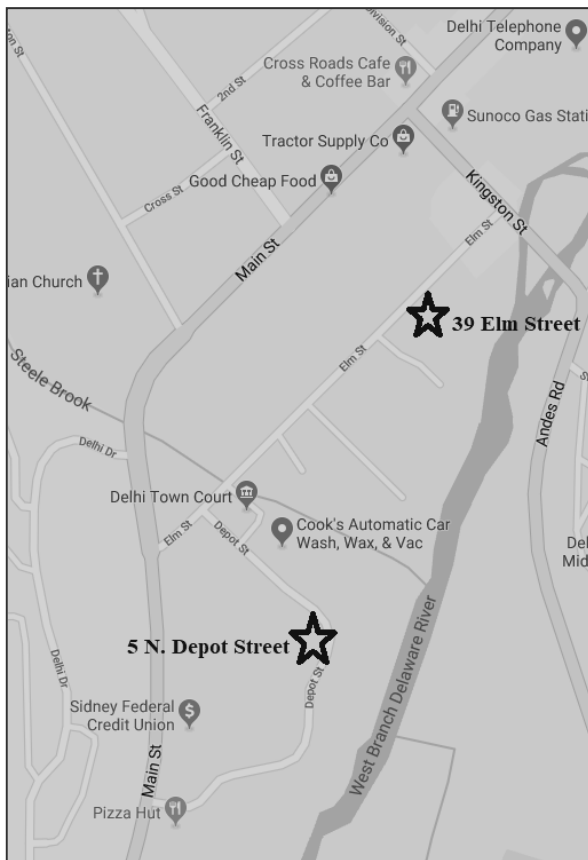
DCEC's 2020 Annual Meeting will be on September 18, 2020 at 4:30 pm in Delhi, NY

Headquarters Consolidation Project Update

The Cooperative's headquarters upgrade and consolidation has three goals at the top of our priority list:

- A safe and efficient warehouse space that is integrated with the Cooperative's operations functions,
- A welcoming and secure member services entrance, and
- Consolidation of all Cooperative staff into a single location in order to facilitate team coordination and communications.

The headquarters project is still on track to begin offering member services at our consolidated location at 5 North Depot Street in the Village of Delhi in the second half of 2020. The Cooperative's operations headquarters, including equipment and material storage, have been located on North Depot Street for about 50 years, but the office and member services functions have been located at 39 Elm Street since the mid-1950's. All headquarters functions will now be located together at 5 North Depot Street. North Depot Street intersects with Elm Street where the Delhi Town Hall and the Delhi Town Highway Garage are located. Other landmarks on North Depot Street include the car wash, McDowell and Walker, and Catskill Kettlebells. Members will be able to reach the Cooperative's North Depot Street location just as easily as the current Elm Street location, but they will have the benefit of convenient off-street parking and entry into the building with no stairs or ramps.



Recent developments in the headquarters project include the following:

- A temporary warehouse location was created at 5 North Depot Street by pouring a concrete floor and installing steel shelves in the existing maintenance pole barn.

- An agreement was reached with federal and state regulators to allow the Cooperative to demolish the old warehouse at Depot Street after preserving historically significant artifacts and salvaging all useful building materials such as timbers and floorboards.

- The Cooperative signed a contract with another local business to sell the office at 39 Elm Street in 2020. Cooperative President, Steve Oles commented that "the Board of Directors is very pleased to have reached an agreement to sell the property at 39 Elm Street to another local business. This will keep the property in the hands of individuals committed to preserving the architecture of the office and the carriage house; keeps the property on the tax rolls for the Village, Town, County, and Delaware Academy; and allows for a use of the property that respects the traditions and customs of the neighbors on Elm Street."

- The Cooperative brought local contractor Tom Howard Construction onto the team to participate in a process known as value engineering. Value engineering is a process whereby lower cost solutions are sought while still achieving the same or similar level of functionality for a construction project. The team is pouring over the design documents looking for every opportunity to squeeze the best value out of every dollar that gets invested in the consolidated headquarters facility.

Upcoming activities include:

- The Cooperative's project team is working with the New York City Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to finalize the storm water management plans and designs. Through this process, the Cooperative will help protect water quality and maximize the financial support available to the project through the Catskill Watershed Corporation (CWC).
- Initial construction activities at 5 North Depot Street could begin as soon as February or March.

The Cooperative's board of directors and management intend to maintain open communications with our member-owners throughout this important project. Please do not hesitate to call the Cooperative's CEO/General Manager if you have any questions about the project. He can be reached at 607-746-9282.



DCEC's Family Fun Day

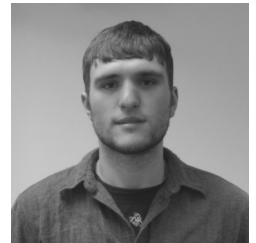


LIVE Band, Games, Crafts,
Bounce Houses
FUN FOR ALL AGES

August 7, 2020, 5 pm
Courthouse Square in Delhi
FREE ADMISSION

New Tree Crew Member

Zach McNeilly became the newest member of the Cooperative's Tree Crew on January 2, 2020. Zach came to the Cooperative from Asplundh Tree Experts, where he worked as a Journeyman Treeman. Zach's prior experience in right-of-way vegetation management included stints as a contractor on the Cooperative's system, so he is familiar with the Cooperative's quality and safety standards. Cooperative CEO, Mark Schneider said, "I am thrilled that the Cooperative has been able to attract a new member to our team with Zach's qualifications and his reputation for hard work and a great attitude." Zach is replacing former Tree Crew member and current Line Apprentice, Micah Scobie.



Zach McNeilly



When electricity goes out, most of us expect power will be restored within a few hours. But when a major storm causes widespread damage, longer outages may result. Co-op line crews work long, hard hours to restore service safely to the greatest number of consumers in the shortest time possible.

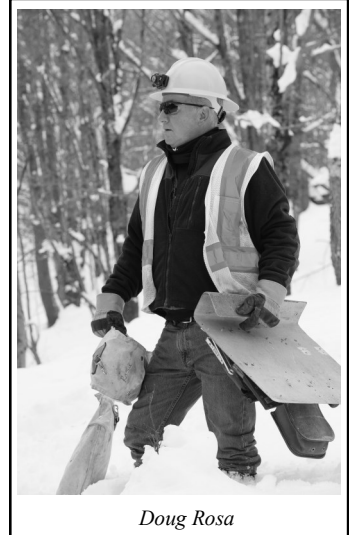
Line Foreman Doug Rosa Retiring

Doug Rosa began his Cooperative career in 1986 as a seasonal employee on the Tree Crew. He began as a permanent employee in 1989 and began his line apprenticeship that same year. Doug achieved the distinction of Lineman 1st Class in 2003. He was promoted to Maintenance Foreman in 2007 and took the helm as Line Foreman in 2008. Doug will begin enjoying a well-earned retirement on February 3, 2020.

Doug has developed an expertise in all aspects of the Cooperative's distribution system. He has seen just about every inch of the Cooperative's 800 miles of distribution line, either because he helped initially construct it, helped to re-build it, or helped to restore an outage on that section of line. The job of Line Foreman is widely recognized as one of the toughest jobs at the Cooperative because the Line Foreman is responsible for the safety of every member of his crew, from the line apprentice on his first day to the 30-year veteran. Doug is known for thinking about the Cooperative "24 hours per day" as he manages the demands of various projects, line re-builds, and member needs. Doug can be proud of the fact that every one of his crew members went home safely each night to their families throughout his long tenure as Line Foreman.

In addition to serving the members of our own cooperative, Doug helped other cooperatives and municipal electric utilities over the years as they recovered from the devastation of everything from ice storms to hurricanes. Doug noted that, "It was always great to see how well trained and how safe DCEC linemen were when we went out to help other utilities during storms. I feel like my fellow DCEC linemen were among the safest and the best linemen anywhere."

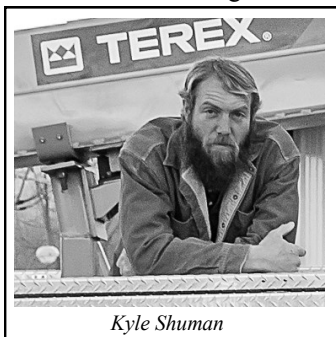
The Cooperative's System Coordinator, Bucky Soule said this of Doug: *"Doug is part of a great tradition of linemen at the Cooperative. He came up through during an era when we didn't have a lot of the equipment we have today. I can't imagine how many poles Doug has climbed over the years. I don't think we'll really understand how much Doug does for the Cooperative until after he retires. You just can't replace a guy like Doug."*



Doug Rosa

Shuman Completes His Line Progression

Lineman Kyle Shuman has been promoted to 1st Class Gloving Lineman effective January 2, 2020. Kyle started at the Cooperative in 2010 as a Line Clearance Arborist. In 2015 Kyle started his line apprenticeship. In 2019 Kyle completed the last of the requirements to attain the title of 1st Class Gloving Lineman at DCEC. Having attained the title of 1st Class Gloving Lineman, Kyle is now qualified to perform any electric distribution line work, energized or de-energized. He is also qualified to supervise other linemen in any conditions, including night-time storm work.



Kyle Shuman

Kyle's achievement is impressive, but he came by it naturally because Kyle's dad is a retired lineman from National Grid, the Upstate NY investor-owned utility formerly known as Niagara Mohawk. Kyle said, "I'm proud to carry on the family tradition. I learned a lot from my dad and now it's my turn to keep the lights on." Fellow 1st Class Gloving Lineman, Jim Green added, "Kyle is real handy to have with us on the Line Crew in all kinds of situations. He can figure out how to fix it if it's broken, and if he can't fix it, he'll figure out how to build a new one."

Congratulations Kyle!

Scobie Starts Line Apprenticeship

Micah Scobie started his career as a lineman on January 2, 2020 when he began his 1st Year Line Apprenticeship. Micah's 1st Year Line Apprenticeship will include classroom work, field training in a climbing yard, and on-the-job training with experienced DCEC linemen. Throughout Micah's multiple years of lineman training, he will contribute as a productive member of the Line Crew. As he progresses through his apprenticeship, he will take on more and more responsibility.

Micah started his Cooperative career in 2012 as a temporary member of the Tree Crew and most recently served as a Journeyman Line Clearance Arborist on that same crew. Micah is a graduate of Delaware Academy Central School in Delhi and he earned an Associates in Integrated Energy Systems from the State University of New York at Delhi.



Micah Scobie

Continued on page 8...

2020 Board of Director Nominations & Nominating Committee

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 7 directors representing three regions of the DCEC's service territory (see DCEC Board Regions list below). 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. If you are a member of the Cooperative, at least 21 years old and are interested in being a candidate, or if you would like additional information, please contact the DCEC office.

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 2020 Annual Meeting of the Members is scheduled to be held **September 18, 2020 at 4:30 p.m.**

Elections will occur at the 2020 Annual Meeting for three board seats representing the Northern, Central, and Southern Regions.

<u>Region</u>	<u>Current Director</u>
Northern Region	Edward "Rusty" Pick Jr.
Central Region	Paul Menke
Southern Region	Frank Winkler

The Nominating Committee will meet from April through June at the DCEC office at 39 Elm Street, Delhi, for the purpose of identifying candidates for the above positions. 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.

Rules regulating director elections are outlined in DCEC's bylaws, which are available on: www.dce.coop/content/dcec-bylaws-policies. Voting for directors is covered by Article 3. 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.***



Nominating COMMITTEE

DCEC would like to thank the members who served on the 2019 Nominating Committee:

Central	John J. Lynch Jr.
Central	Kurt Apthorpe
Northern	Thomas Courtenay-Clack
Northern	Christine Hauser
Northern	Joseph Carroll
Southern	Amber Phraner
Southern	Lynne Van Valkenberg
Southern	Tammy Wagner

Board Regions

Northern Region: Towns of Gilboa, Jefferson, Summit, Davenport, Harpersfield, Stamford and Maryland

Central Region: Towns of Bovina, Delhi, Franklin, Hamden, Kortright and Meredith

Southern Region: Towns of Andes, Colchester, Masonville, Middletown, Sidney, Tompkins, Walton and Bainbridge

For additional information about the Nominating Committee and how to serve please call Alicia VanZandt at (607) 746-9299.

Co-op Members & Employees Donate to Delhi Food Bank & Local Families within Delaware County

This is the time of year for charitable giving. Every year for Christmas DCEC employees, retirees, and the Board of Directors donate toys toward a local toy bank within the DCEC service territory. For 2019, the Cooperative chose the Walton Toy Bank. All donated gifts were given to children residing within DCEC service territory within Delaware County. We hope the toys were a welcome sight to those children on Christmas morning.



We look forward to donating to more local families again next Christmas season! If you would like to suggest a local toy bank or local food bank for 2020 donations please contact Administrative Assistant Alicia VanZandt at (607) 746-9299 or send an email to alicia.vanzandt@dce.coop.

This year DCEC members and employees also donated to the Delhi Food Bank. All donations were delivered to the Delhi Food Bank on December 20th 2019. The Delhi Food Bank depends upon the support of a generous community to operate.

DCEC would like to thank all those that have donated and are making a difference!



Statement of Non-Discrimination

Statement of Non-Discrimination Delaware County Electric Cooperative, Inc., is an equal opportunity provider and employer. 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, domestic violence victim status, family/parental status, salary history, 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: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html 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: mail:

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410
Fax: (202) 690-7442
E-mail: program.intake@usda.gov

MA 3-42-8

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History of Electric Cooperatives

Electric cooperative history dates back to May 11, 1935 when President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued an Executive Order making federal funds available for rural electric service and creating the Rural Electrification Administration (REA).

The early intent was to establish a loan program to provide incentive for power companies to extend service to rural areas.

At the time only about 10 percent of the country's farms had electric service. It soon became evident that existing power companies were not going to use the federal loan program to remedy the lack of rural electrification. There were so few residents per mile of line – power companies said it was not feasible to serve rural areas. The existing companies made it clear that they expected the farmers to bear the cost of constructing electric lines and then deed it back to the power supplier. Keep in mind that this was a time when many didn't have the money for the necessities of life, let alone money for something that could be classified as a luxury.

This was just not acceptable to the hundreds of thousands of rural Americans that needed and wanted electricity. As friends and neighbors banded together, cooperatively, they literally lit up the countryside!

Photos © Copyright NRECA

Source of article Adams Electric Cooperative in Camp Point, IL



Ready to Answer

Electric cooperatives brought power to rural America when no one else would. We've always been there, and will always be there for you and your family.

Scobie Starts Line Apprenticeship...Continued from Page 4...

As a Cooperative employee, Micah has completed many training courses and he upgraded his driver's license to a Class A Commercial Driver's License so that he can safely and legally operate all of the Cooperative's truck/trailer combinations.

The Cooperative's Tree Crew Foreman, Randy Tweedie stated that "Micah will be missed on the Tree Crew" but Line Crew Foreman, Doug Rosa stated that "the entire Line Crew is real happy to have Micah start his Line Apprenticeship."

New ROW / Pole Inspection Program

The Cooperative has hired retired DCEC Lineman Bob Coager to inspect poles and right-of-way, conduct meter reads and check cable heights on the Cooperative's system. In 2019, Bob took on a contract to inspect poles for the cooperative working in Jefferson, Harpersfield and Stamford. In 2020, when the weather is favorable Bob will continue inspections finishing up the work in Harpersfield, Kortright and Davenport, then heading to Delhi, Meredith and eventually Hamden.



Amphenol Aerospace Development

Since its connection to the DCEC system during the first quarter of 2014, the Amphenol Aerospace ("Amphenol") development in Sidney, NY has become DCEC's largest, single location, energy consumer. With an employment level currently in excess of 1,000, Amphenol is also one of the largest employers in the DCEC service area.

Following the initial year of operations in the new energy efficient complex in 2014, the electrical energy consumed by Amphenol for industrial production and building operations has grown by approximately 3.2% per year reflecting solid growth in production and employment at its Sidney, NY location. On an annual basis, energy deliveries to Amphenol amount to approximately 21% of DCEC's total system energy deliveries.

An index known as the load factor is often cited in the power industry as a measurement of the effective and efficient utilization of electric power with 100% being the maximum achievable. Load factor is a useful indicator for describing the consumption characteristics of electricity over a period of time. Increased load factor indices yield purchased power cost savings for DCEC and its membership under the energy supply contract with our supplier, the New York Power Authority ("NYPA"). Indeed, DCEC has historically worked to achieve a good system load factor index by encouraging the use of its controlled electric water heating program by the membership. With Amphenol's monthly load factor index averaging in excess of 80%, the Amphenol load is considered to be very desirable. Moreover, Amphenol's greatest demand for power and energy occurs during the summer months. During the summer period, DCEC's system loadings are at a minimum so that Amphenol's summer time energy needs are fully

accommodated under DCEC's hydroelectric power contract with NYPA. Additionally, Amphenol's peak demand loading is not coincident with DCEC's system peak demand loading during any month, thus enhancing DCEC's monthly system load factor throughout the year. This results in reduced per unit power purchase costs for all DCEC members.

Amphenol has been a valued addition to DCEC's membership ranks and the Cooperative looks forward to many mutually beneficial years to come.



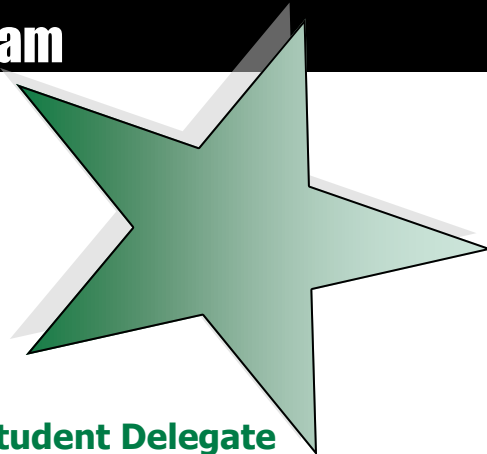
DCEC's 2020 Student Delegate Program

Investing today in the leaders of tomorrow

****Attention High School Juniors****

**Enter to win a FREE TRIP
to Washington D.C.**

for more information see below or visit our website at
www.dce.coop/content/2020-legislative-youth-tour



DCEC is Accepting Applications for the 2020 Student Delegate

Do you know an 11th grader within DCEC's service area that would be interested in participating in an all-expense paid trip to Washington D.C.? The Cooperative is looking for a student delegate to attend the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. This trip will include interaction with key people from around the country working in a field critical to the world's security, economy, and future energy needs. DCEC representatives and the selected 11th grader, will travel to Washington, DC on Sunday, April 26, 2020 and return to Delhi on Wednesday, April 29, 2020. They will join over 3,000 Cooperative leaders from more than 40 states, representing over 900+ rural electric cooperatives. The student will make visits to Capitol Hill Congressional Members and/or their staffs from New York State. Plenty of time will be reserved for educational exploration as well.

In order to be considered, students must meet the following qualifications:

- Be in their junior (11th grade) year
- Be a son/daughter of a member of the Delaware County Electric Cooperative
- Have at least a "B" average or better
- Participate in extra-curricular activities and community service



Students interested in being considered for this event must complete the application below and submit it to the office by February 17, 2020. Applications can either be sent by regular mail or emailed to: alicia.vanzandt@dce.coop.

A completed application must include:

- Completed application form (see below).
- 1-page student essay describing yourself (including where you go to school, favorite subjects, extra-curricular activities, and community service you have been involved in) and what you hope to get out of participating in the trip.
- Letter of recommendation from a teacher or administrator from your school, including your academic transcript showing an academic standing of at least a "B" average or above.
- Attach a copy of your family's DCEC electric bill proving their membership in the Cooperative.
- Be available to interview with the DCEC General Manager and Board on February 25th at the February Board Meeting.

Application



DCEC's 2020 Student Delegate Program



Student's Name: _____

School: _____

Service Address: _____

Account Number: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Name of Parent or Guardian: _____

2020 Board Meeting Schedule

January 28, 2020, January Board Meeting
 February 25, 2020, February Board Meeting
 March 24, 2020, March Board Meeting
 May 5, 2020, April Board Meeting
 May 26, 2020, May Board Meeting
 June 23, 2020, June Board Meeting
 July 28, 2020, July Board Meeting
 August 25, 2020, August Board Meeting
 September 22, 2020, September Board Meeting
 October 27, 2020, October Board Meeting
 November 24, 2020, November Board Meeting
 December 22, 2020, December Board Meeting

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

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!

2019-2020 HEAP Monthly Income Limits

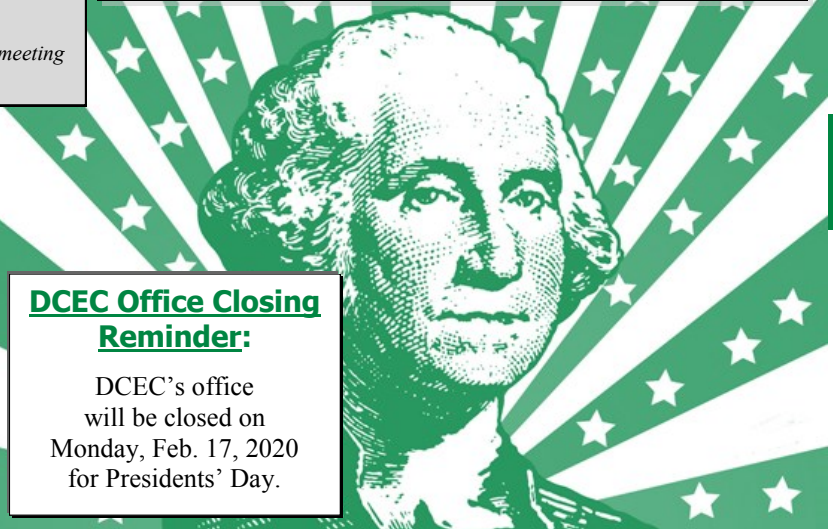
The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) helps low-income people pay the cost of heating their homes. Your total household gross monthly income for your household size must be at or below the following guidelines:

2019-2020 HEAP Benefits Gross Monthly Income Guidelines

Household Size	Maximum Gross Monthly Income
1	\$2,494
2	\$3,262
3	\$4,030
4	\$4,797
5	\$5,565
6	\$6,332
7	\$6,476
8	\$6,620
9	\$6,764
10	\$6,908
11	\$7,086
Each additional	Add \$553

DCEC Office Closing Reminder:

DCEC’s office will be closed on Monday, Feb. 17, 2020 for Presidents’ Day.



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 Mark Schneider, 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
 Vice President.....Frank Winkler
 Secretary.....Edward Pick Jr.
 Treasurer.....Paul Menke
 Director.....Jeffrey Russell
 Director.....Laurie Wehmeyer
 Director.....Steve Burnett
 CEO/General Manager.....Mark Schneider

Operations Update

Crews are finishing up work for Spectrum in Hamden. The line crew have regular work planned on Clark Road and Randall Hill in the town of Masonville. Right of way crews will be trimming trees and mowing in Davenport along Charlotte Creek.