

Powering Our Rural Communities

Director Elections & Bylaw Changes at the 2013 Annual Meeting



*DCEC members enjoying Brooks
Chicken BBQ dinner at the 2012
Annual Meeting*

The Cooperative will hold its Annual Meeting on Friday, September 20, 2013 at 4:30 p.m. in the Delaware Academy & Central School in Delhi. Members can enjoy a Brook's chicken barbeque dinner before the business meeting. During this year's meeting, members will elect two members of the board of directors to represent the Central Region. Members from the Central Region (which include the Towns of Bovina, Delhi, Franklin, Hamden, Kortright, and Meredith) can still become candidates for the board

of directors by filing a petition signed by 15 members by August 6, 2013. For more information about becoming a board member, please contact General Manager, Mark Schneider at (607) 746-9282.

Members will also be asked to vote on minor changes to the Cooperative's bylaws at the Annual Meeting. Proposed bylaw changes include the following:

- Clarifications to the director nomination and election process
- Clarifications to the names and coverage areas of the Cooperative's director regions
- Minor wording corrections

Members will be receiving an Annual Meeting special edition of the Catskill Hi-Line in their August bills, which will contain the official notice of the meeting, biographies of director candidates up for election, the financial report, and your Brooks Chicken BBQ reservation ticket. We hope to see you at this year's meeting!



Can't Make the DCEC Annual Meeting? Vote by Absentee Ballot...

See page 3 for More Details

Wayne Marshfield Receives Aiken Award



DCEC's Operations/Assistant General Manager, Wayne Marshfield was recently recognized and honored by the Northeast Association of Electric Cooperatives as a recipient of the George D. Aiken award. Presented annually, the Aiken Award recognizes cooperative individuals who exemplify the ideals and practices of George D. Aiken, a Vermont native, governor and US Senator for 34 years. His vision and action were instrumental in the conception and implementation of the Rural Electrification Administration which President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed into law on May 11, 1935.

Wayne started at the Cooperative in October of 1967. He had just graduated from the State University of New York at Delhi and was asked to come to the Cooperative by then director John Eckert.

Continued on Page 2...

DCEC Implementing Cost Saving Measures

DCEC's Board of Directors, managers and employees have been investigating all practical ways of reducing the costs of operating the Cooperative. Here are a few examples of measures being implemented to keep your electric rates as low as possible:

- Change of health insurance plan
- Refinancing debt to the lowest available interest rate
- Closing the landfill gas to energy plant and selling related assets
- Reducing travel costs for employees
- Increasing fees such as disconnect and reconnect fees to cover the full cost of performing those tasks
- Modifying power transmission contracts to lower cost options
- Deferring expensive substation improvements to future years

Every director, manager and employee has played a significant role in helping the Cooperative achieve cost savings.

Planting & Trimming Trees Near the Cooperative Line

DCEC works very hard to keep the electric line right of ways cleared of trees and branches that can cause outages. Trees are the number one cause of outages in our very rural service territory. Our own tree crews and our contractor crews are constantly trimming and removing trees under our electric lines, in an ongoing effort to make your electric service as reliable as possible. We remove trees from the right of way, rather than trim them repeatedly over the years. However, we work with our members whenever we are able to without endangering the safety of our personnel or the reliability of the system.

Our members are responsible for making sure trees aren't growing into their secondary lines from the transformer pole to the house or to their meter pole. If limbs are getting close, contact us and we will make arrangements to trim the trees near your service wires when in the area. Never attempt to trim trees under or around our electric lines, doing so could put you at risk of deadly electrical shock.

Also, when planting trees you should plan ahead. A tiny tree today will eventually grow large enough to create safety hazards and possibly interrupt power during storms. Please use these guidelines when planting trees:

1. You should choose trees and plant them so the outer branches will never grow to within 15 feet of a power line. Check with your local nursery or Cornell Cooperative Extension for assistance in choosing the trees that fit your environment and work in concert with the electric line.
2. Avoid planting directly under power lines. Even short growth trees or shrubs create a safety concern for our line personnel. During outages we patrol on foot and need to have unobstructed access to assess the outage and potential problems. Many times we need to gain access to the right of way with our vehicles to either change out a pole, install an anchor, install a mid span splice, etc.
3. Plan ahead for plantings and give yourself an appropriate distance from not only electric lines, but from public and private roads and from your buildings as well.
4. You should keep plantings at least ten feet away from all underground electric lines. Remember, a tree's root system is as wide as the tree is itself. If planted too close to underground cables your tree could be seriously damaged if the Cooperative or its contractor needs to dig up the cable for repair or replacement.

In any case, feel free to contact DCEC when planting around power lines so that we can help to locate underground cables and offer suggestions on planting clearances.

Wayne Marshfield, Continued from Page 1...

Wayne had rented a room on John's farm while he attended SUNY Delhi and Mr. Eckert offered Wayne "temporary" employment until Wayne could find something in his field of study. Wayne applied for a job as a bookkeeper but he was hired instead as a Field Representative for operations. He was appointed to his current position as Assistant General Manager in September of 1992.

Over the years, Wayne took many courses related to the utility industry and familiarized himself with every aspect of electric distribution system installation including maintenance. Wayne very quickly realized a need for a map to track all of our meter locations. Over the years that map grew into an elaborate detailed compilation and marking of every meter, pole, line, recloser, fuse and substation that spans over the 800 miles of DCEC's distribution line. This map has been admired and duplicated by other cooperatives. The map that Wayne created is now in electronic format.

Although the times have changed Wayne still remains as innovative as he was when he began his career. He has been instrumental in implementing the installation of DCEC's load control program and automated meters. Our Cooperative has been using load control for over 20 years and just completed the installation of our second generation of automated meters, the first generation was installed over ten years ago. The current smart grid project is near completion and it is a system that will surely be looked at and emulated by other utilities in the future.

As a Delaware County Electric Cooperative employee for 45 years and also a co-op member for over 20 years, Wayne is well known for his dedication and commitment to the members and the rural electric cooperative utility industry. He proudly speaks of the fact that we do not have stockholders, we are owned by the members we serve.



Left to Right: DCEC Systems Coordinator, Larry Soule, Assistant General Manager, Wayne Marshfield, CEO/General Manager, Mark Schneider and Board President, Frank Winkler

Can't Make the DCEC Annual Meeting? Your Vote Counts!

If for some reason you are not planning to attend the 2013 DCEC Annual Meeting, you can still make your vote count by requesting an absentee ballot. In order for a member to be eligible to vote by absentee ballot they must request a ballot by completing an official form (available below) and submit it to the Cooperative. 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 10, 2013 (10 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.



DCEC must receive the completed Request for Absentee Ballot form no later than August 21, 2013.

Members can return the below form either in person, 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.



REQUEST FOR ABSENTEE BALLOT

The Delaware County Electric Cooperative (hereinafter "Cooperative") will hold its Annual Meeting on **September 20, 2013** 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 and Central School, located at 2 Sheldon Drive, Delhi, NY, and the business meeting shall begin at 6:30 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 must 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, 2013.*** Upon receipt, the Cooperative shall send to the requesting member an absentee ballot with instructions for its completion and submission.

I HEREBY REQUEST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT FOR THE SEPTEMBER 20, 2013 ANNUAL MEETING.

Member's Name: _____

Member's Address: _____

Member's Account Number: _____

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 the address below.

Send to: Delaware County Electric Cooperative
P.O. Box 471
39 Elm Street
Delhi, NY 13753

Storm Preparedness

When the power goes out DCEC's goal is to restore it quickly and safely. Below are recommended safety measures for our members during outages. The first steps you should take if your power goes out are:

- Check to see if your neighbors' lights are on. If they are, then the problem could be in your home.
- Locate your fuse box or breaker panel to be sure that all fuses are intact or that the breakers are all in the "on" position. If they are all "on", try turning off and on the main power fuse on the fuse box or the main breaker on the breaker box.
- If able, put your ear against your meter, if there is a hum then you have power to the meter. Also if the digital read-out is blank this may also indicate a power failure. When the meter flashes all 8's that indicates power to the meter.



If you still have no power call DCEC's outage line at (607) 746-9283 or (866) 436-1223 to report the outage and be prepared to provide the following information:

1. The name on the account for the location of the outage
2. The service location number, if you know it
3. A telephone number where you can be contacted
4. The nature of the outage, how long you have been out and anything you may have seen or heard

BO 5-41-8B

Be sure to stay safe during an outage. Make sure to keep away from downed power lines and debris that is resting on a power line, turn off major appliances to help avoid a sudden surge of power when service is restored, and leave one or two lights on as a signal for when power is restored.

Being prepared for outages is important, especially during weather related outages where damage can be widespread and repairs may be complex. Having a plan and an emergency outage kit are good ideas for everyone to consider. If a member of your household is dependent on electricity for life support, be sure to have portable oxygen tanks, backup power and/or a temporary relocation plan. Outage kits should be kept in an accessible location and should provide for basic needs. Items should include: battery powered flashlight(s), portable radio, extra batteries, battery powered alarm clock, dry and warm clothing, sleeping bags and/or blankets, bottled water, foods which can be consumed with little or no preparation and a phone that does not need electricity to work.

If you have any questions on what you can do to be more prepared for an outage please contact the DCEC office.

Safety Training Courses Completed for DCEC Employees

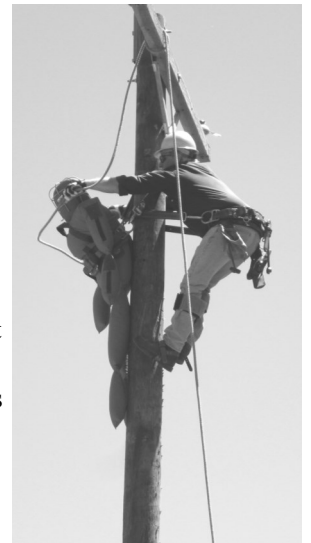
Safety and training, these are two topics that go hand-in-hand. With proper training we feel that our level of safety greatly improves. We strive to create a culture of safety at our cooperative. Educating our employees through various training topics will help to create a safe working environment as well as protect our members and the general public.

From May 29th - 31st, DCEC's tree crew completed a certified line clearance arborist training course given by ACRT, Inc. This training dealt with best work practices as well as safety training for our employees involved in maintaining our right of ways. This training included rescue techniques for safely getting an injured employee to the ground in the event of an injury while operating a bucket truck (aerial device) or by climbing a tree where an aerial device is not accessible.

All DCEC employees also went through a fire extinguisher safety training on June 6th. This is a training that is held once a year to go over the different types of fire extinguishers and what their uses are. This training also covers what we need to inspect on our extinguishers on a monthly basis to ensure that they are ready to use in the event of a fire. Each employee is given the opportunity to operate an extinguisher and put out a small controlled fire. This hands-on training gave the employees a level of comfort should they ever need to respond to a real fire emergency.

On June 4th, DCEC linemen completed pole top and bucket truck rescue training. This training is very important to assure that in the event of an injury to an employee while working on a pole or in a bucket truck that we are trained to safely get them on the ground. This training uses a rescue mannequin to simulate an injured lineman. Each lineman must complete this training on a yearly basis.

These and other training we receive at the Cooperative are designed and conducted to not only keep our employees safe but to also protect our members and the general public. If you see something that is a safety concern please contact the DCEC office immediately.



DCEC Lineman, Ron Schmitz performs a pole top rescue

DCEC & Legislative Youth Delegate Visit Washington, D.C.



Left to Right: DCEC Board President, Frank Winkler, General Clerk, Betty Goodrich, Legislative Youth Delegate, Karina Miranda and Director, Paul Menke

Karina Miranda of Bayside, NY and a Junior at St. Francis Preparatory, was chosen by the DCEC Board of Directors as the 2013 DCEC Youth Delegate. Karina accompanied DCEC officials on a trip to Washington, D.C. to meet with government representatives and participate in the 2013 National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Legislative Conference. Karina will be reporting on her experience at the Legislative Conference at the upcoming DCEC Annual Meeting on Friday, September 20, 2013.

Each NY State cooperative sends a student to the Legislative Conference in Washington. During the trip the students are evaluated and one is chosen at the end of the trip to represent NY. Karina was chosen for this honor. She will participate in the upcoming NRECA Youth Leadership Conference (YLC) this July back in Washington, D.C. and at the NRECA Annual Meeting in February of 2014 in Nashville, TN. There she will be joined by each state's Youth Delegate representative. The purpose of the YLC is to build leadership and public speaking skills, and to enhance the delegates' knowledge of the energy industry and the cooperative form of business.

Karina was chosen from a pool of very qualified applicants. "I was very impressed by how quickly Karina understood and became engaged with the legislative issues we were trying to convey to Congress", said Frank Winkler, DCEC Board President. "I'm confident that Karina will be an excellent ambassador for New York State at the Youth Leadership Conference."

2012 Capital Credit Allocation

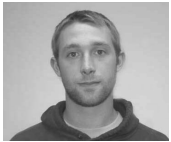
DCEC maintains its financial records on a calendar year basis. Each January the Cooperative completes year-end financial statements and determines "net margin" for the prior year. The 2012 net-margin totaled \$209,385.18. This amount was allocated for future pay out of Capital Credits for all members who had an active electric service in 2012. Your specific allocation amount appeared on your June 2012 bill.

Annually, the DCEC Board determines whether the financial condition of the Cooperative is strong enough to retire, or give back to its members, a portion of this equity in cash. That is called a general capital credit retirement. Currently, DCEC has retired through part of 1988.

DCEC Promotes Dianich & Schafer



DCEC Lineman, Michael Dianich has been promoted to 1st Class Lineman. Mike started working at the Cooperative in 2006 as an Apprentice Lineman.



DCEC Lineman, Michael Schafer has been promoted to 1st Class, 2nd Grade Lineman. Mike also started working at the Cooperative in 2006 as a Laborer 1 on the right-of-way clearing crew.

DCEC To Use Automated Calling System

There are times when DCEC needs to reach a large number of members to convey time sensitive information. For example, if a line crew discovers a piece of failing equipment and has to take an outage to repair the problem, the Cooperative would like to inform all members who would be affected by the outage. In these situations you may receive an automated phone call from DCEC. The voice you hear on the phone will be a recording of a DCEC employee. We will always identify ourselves as the Delaware County Electric Cooperative and we will always provide the name of the employee sending you the message. If you ever have doubts about the authenticity of an automated call from the Cooperative, you can always call the office at (607)746-2341 or (866) 436-1223 to verify the information you have received.

What is a Pad-Mounted Transformer?



The role of the pole mounted distribution transformer was presented in a previous edition of the Catskill Hi-Line newsletter. Not all members are served from an overhead, pole mounted transformer. Should the member desire to have an underground service to their home, requiring an extension of primary line facilities, DCEC can work with the member to install a pad-mounted transformer. These transformers are mounted on a "pad" or foundation at or near grade. Both the primary (high voltage) and secondary (low voltage) access the transformer from beneath. Pad-mounted transformers perform the same duties as their overhead, pole-mounted counterparts in that they safely reduce the high voltage of the primary line to the low voltage (service voltage) used by members to power their homes. It's not unusual for this type of transformer to produce an audible "hum" whose frequency is approximately 120 Hz.

Operations Update

Line Reconstruction & Pole Replacement:

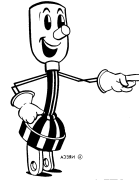
DCEC crews will be rebuilding electric lines on West Terry Clove in the Town of Hamden and on Barkaboom Road in the Town of Andes.

Right of Way (ROW) Clearing:

DCEC ROW tree clearing crews will be working on Gray Road and Ridge Road in the Town of Hamden and on West Platner Brook and Lumbert Hill Roads in the Town of Delhi.

KW Reese, a DCEC contractor, has started their work at our Jefferson substation on Taylor Road and are working west of that area. They will be working in the Town of Harpersfield in Delaware County and the Town of Jefferson in Schoharie County.

Members will be notified if other areas are to be cleared before the next newsletter.



Community Calendar

**DCEC Annual Meeting
Friday, September 20, 2013**

**Otsego County Fair
July 30—August 4, 2013
Morris, NY**



**127th Delaware County Fair
August 12—17, 2013
Walton, NY**

**Delaware County
Historical Society:
Enchanted Evening at the
Gideon Frisbee House
July 27, 2013**



**6—7:30 pm Buffet Dinner
7:30—9:00 pm Dessert Buffet
in the Frisbee House
Live Music
To RSVP and for ticket
information contact DCHS
at (607) 746-3849**

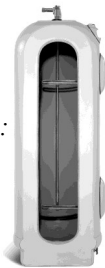
**Schoharie County
Sunshine Fair
July 27—August 3,
2013
Cobleskill, NY**



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Keep an Updated Address with DCEC

Just a reminder to DCEC members. If you move and leave DCEC's service territory please remember to keep an updated address with the Cooperative. If the co-op needs to send you a capital credit check in the future we want to make sure you receive the funds you are owed.

**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!*



**Congratulations to the
Graduating Classes of 2013!**

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 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.

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