

## Powering Our Rural Communities

### 2015 Annual Meeting

This year's Annual Meeting of the Members will be held on Friday, September 18, 2015 at the Delaware Academy and Central School in Delhi. Members can enjoy a Brook's barbecue chicken dinner starting at 4:30 p.m. before the business meeting, which starts promptly at 6:30 p.m.



Assemblyman  
Clifford Crouch

Highlights for this year's meeting include guest speakers Assemblyman Clifford Crouch of the 122nd District, Assemblyman Peter Lopez of the 102nd District, The Nelson Brothers Band, and plenty of chances to win cash and door prizes!

During this year's meeting, members will elect two members of the Board of Directors, one from both the Northern and Southern regions. Members can still become candidates for the board of directors by filing a petition signed by 15 members by August 4, 2015 (Bylaws Article IV, section 3). At this time there are no proposed Bylaw changes. For more information about becoming a board member, please contact General Manager, Mark Schneider at (607) 746-9282 or visit the website at [www.dce.coop](http://www.dce.coop).



Assemblyman  
Peter Lopez

The Annual Meeting special edition of Catskill Hi-Line will be included within the August bills and contains the official notice of the meeting, the financial report, and your Brooks BBQ Chicken ticket order form.

We hope to see you at this year's meeting!

### Jordan Crowned Dairy Princess



Photo from  
The Reporter

This year's Delaware County Dairy Princess is a sophomore from Franklin Central School. Malorie Jordan (*pictured left*) was crowned during the annual pageant on May 30th held at South Kortright Central School. Jordan's classmate Sabra Warner was named as the alternate Dairy Princess.

Both young ladies are looking forward to educating the public about how important dairy products are to a healthy and balanced diet.

### 2015 Official Candidates

The Board of Directors of the Delaware County Electric Cooperative (DCEC) annually appoints a Nominating Committee to identify candidates for Director elections that occur each year at the Cooperative's Annual Meeting. In accordance with DCEC bylaws, this year the Committee appointed two candidates for each of the two regions that are up for election. The top candidate with the most votes in each region will be elected as a Director for a 3-year term. The 2015 Annual Meeting will be held on Friday, September 18, 2015 at Delaware Academy and Central School in Delhi, New York. Candidate biographies can be found on pages 4 and 5.

*Continued on Pages 4 & 5...*

### Members Decide on \$2,000 Donation

At the Annual Meeting on Friday, September 18, 2015, DCEC will be teaming up with CoBank, one of our financial services partners to give a \$2,000 donation to a single 501(c)(3) charitable organization to be selected by the members. Nominations for charities should be sent by co-op members to Alicia Wyckoff by August 3rd at [alicia.wyckoff@dce.coop](mailto:alicia.wyckoff@dce.coop) or by regular mail to the office of the Cooperative. To be nominated to receive the \$2,000 donation, a charity must be a 501(c)(3) organization and have a significant presence within the DCEC service territory. Nominated charities will appear in the special edition of the Catskill Hi-Line, which you will receive with your August bill. Members will vote on the "winning" charity at the Annual Meeting. Many thanks to CoBank for their \$1,000 matching grant in support of the total donation of \$2,000.

### \$500 Prize at Annual Meeting

The grand prize at this year's Annual Meeting will be \$500. You must be present to win, so be sure to attend the Annual Meeting on Friday, September 18 2015!



**Can't Make the DCEC Annual Meeting? Vote by Absentee Ballot...**  
**See page 3 for More Details**

### 2015 Member Survey

To ensure Member satisfaction and reliability, DCEC will conduct a Member Survey in the fall. This survey will be a combination of online and paper questionnaires. Your feedback is important and appreciated, please take part in the 2015 Member Survey later this year.



## Comments on Renewables—Solar by President Steve Oles

Your DCEC Board of Directors has begun the task of evaluating the feasibility of including solar power into our energy portfolio. Nationally cooperatives are embracing this form of renewable power source as the costs of photovoltaic (PV) technologies are falling. The NYS Governor’s Reforming the Energy Vision (REV) clearly demonstrates that New York State is embracing renewable energy sources. Remember that 90 percent of the current electric energy that we DCEC members consume is from a renewable hydro source.

This September we will be conducting a survey of our membership to assess interest in solar energy and determine the level of investment in solar desired by our members. Solar related questions will be asked and your honest responses to these difficult questions will be appreciated.

The Board of Directors has focused our attention to the community solar option. This approach allows members to invest in this form of renewable energy on a larger scale, which can reduce the initial investment and provide for affordable operation and upkeep of the units in a safe and reliable setting.

Our goal is to produce solar energy at the appropriate scale so that those members interested in solar can be offered a more affordable and easier approach, and at an equitable price point.

The results of the September survey will be announced in the January/February newsletter. If favorable interest in solar energy is measured, we will provide education to you our members about the economics of a community solar energy project and how individual members would be affected by such a project. Your assistance in this endeavor is critical. Thank you.


## Need Help with Your Drafty House?

For many members, heating their home is the single biggest use of electrical energy. According to the US Department of Energy, drafts caused by a home’s air leaks can cost a homeowner 30% of their total heating bill. Delaware Opportunities has a Weatherization Program to improve home heating efficiency to produce fuel savings in the homes of low income, elderly and disabled persons. Eligibility for the Weatherization Program is based on the gross income level of the family and is annually established at 60% of the median family income.

Typical weatherization measures might include: caulking, window repair, and insulation in sidewalls and attic to stop the infiltration of cold to the home. The furnace in each home is tested for efficiency, and minor repairs are made to achieve at least a 75% efficiency rating. Furnaces which cannot be made efficient, or which are not operating are repaired or replaced. The heat distribution system is also analyzed. In addition to heating measures, the program reduces energy use through such measures as replacing inefficient light bulbs, installing low flow shower heads, replacing hot

water heaters and other measures.


For more information, please call the Cooperative’s office or contact the Delaware Opportunities Weatherization Program directly: Joseph Maggiore, Weatherization Director or Laurie Neidig, Weatherization Assistant at (607) 746-1690, or visit [doweather@delawareopportunities.org](mailto:doweather@delawareopportunities.org). For Schoharie county members please call Kelly Pitt, Assistant Director at (518) 234-2568 or visit [www.sccapinc.org](http://www.sccapinc.org).





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## The Changing Face of Solar Energy

The world of solar energy is changing rapidly, due in part to dropping prices for solar panels and installations. Many rural electric cooperatives around the country have worked with interested members to create community solar projects as an alternative in addition to the traditional single-family owned rooftop installations. The advantages of community solar projects include lower installation cost and the ability of all interested members to participate, even at very small scales. Throughout the fall of 2015 you will have the opportunity to express your opinion as a member of the Cooperative, regarding your interest in a community solar project and the relative value of various sources of electrical energy. The bi-annual member survey, which will kick off at the September 18 Annual Meeting of Members is a great

way to provide input on this important topic to your board of directors. Every member in attendance at the Annual Meeting will be given a survey. In addition, many members will be selected at random to receive a survey by e-mail or regular mail in late September. If you want to make sure you get a survey, you can call the office and ask to be placed on the survey distribution list. The Cooperative must wrestle with many technical and financial questions when considering taking on a project such as a community solar farm, but nothing is more important in the decision making process than the desires of our membership. Your Cooperative will work hard to provide a mix of power supply sources that matches the desires of our members/ owners.

## DCEC Hires Seasonal Employees

Due to extensive right-of-way clearing during the summer months DCEC announces the following new temporary employees on the Tree Crew: Quintin McGraw, Scott Smith, Russell Cobain, and Logan Robinson.

## Vote by Absentee Ballot

If you are not planning to attend the 2015 DCEC Annual Meeting, you can still make your vote count by requesting an absentee ballot. 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 submit it to the Cooperative by August 31, 2015. 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, 2015 (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.

Members can also complete an absentee ballot in person at the Co-op

office during regular business hours between August 31, 2015 and September 14, 2015. 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, 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 18, 2015** 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 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 31, 2015.** 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 18, 2015 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.



## 2015 Candidate Biographies

### Northern Region



**David Numbers** graduated from Ithaca College in 1971, then, began his career in musical education within the public school system, mostly in Hudson Valley. David moved to Stamford in 1990 to teach at Stamford Central School and retired June 2013. He joined Rotary

in 1995 and has been the Youth Exchange Officer for the Stamford Rotary Club for 15 years. Since retiring he has found enjoyment in volunteering at the Robinson Terrace nursing home in Stamford and on the Board of Assessment Review for the Town of Harpersfield.

David is grateful to the people who, sometimes risk life or limb, who allow electricity to flow to his appliances in all kinds of weather. He believes the reliability and delivery of electric service has improved greatly in the last decade. But in these turbulent times, he understands it might be possible for someone on the other side of the world to interrupt this reliability.

“The areas of utility security and the honest viability of alternate energy sources are of importance to me. To paraphrase Donald Rumsfeld, I don’t know what I don’t know. I would like to learn more about the entire process, and believe my perspective may be of value. Please consider me for candidacy for any available positions.”



**Shawn Hartwell** resides in the Whiting Hollow Development in the town of Jefferson. Shawn attended Jefferson Central School and graduated in 1985. He went on to receive a Bachelor of Science degree in Pharmacy from the Albany College of Pharmacy. After

obtaining his Pharmacy license, he was employed as a supervising Pharmacist for over 15 years. Currently, Shawn is the Vice President of the Audiosears Corporation in Stamford New York. Under his leadership, Shawn has implemented strategic planning, lean manufacturing, as well as, an ISO certified quality system. This position has gained him experience in Human Resources, Finance, Engineering, and Training.

Shawn has been a member of the DCEC Board for three years. During that time, He completed the required CCD courses to become a Certified Cooperative Director. He also served as a member of the Finance committee.

Shawn and his family have been DCEC members since the beginning of the Cooperative. “The success of the Coop is very important to our community. Safe, reliable, low-cost electric must be our priority”. Shawn would like to continue as a member of the board to strengthen our cooperative and ensure its continuation for many generations to come.

### Southern Region



**John Hubner** is currently the Manager of J. Hubner LLC. Fire, Security and Electric. He has over 40 years of experience as an Electrician in industrial, commercial, and residential environments. John began his career as a Ship Board Electrician in the US Navy and is a Veteran of

the Vietnam War.

Before moving to the Town of Walton in 1989, with his wife Carol and their four children, he was a licensed Master Electrician in Suffolk County NY, where he ran a successful electric business, J Hubner LLC currently serves Delaware County and surrounding states providing fire, security and electric services.

Since 2003, you have been able to see John at the Delaware County Fair; he is the Head Electrician and each year he works harder to make each fair better than the last one, electric wise.

“I am honored and excited to be considered for the position

of Director with the Delaware County Electric Cooperative. I believe my experience as an electrician and Business Manager have prepared me to be an effective member of the Board.”



**Hartley Russell** was born and raised in Walton, NY. He graduated from Walton Central School and Delhi College. He’s a fourth generation farmer on his family farm. He has been a member of the Electric Cooperative for almost fifty years. The family farm was first served by the cooperative in 1944 when the

original lines were run serving the farms and homes in the outlying areas surrounding Walton. One light bulb in each of the main rooms of the farmhouse and an electric motor to operate the vacuum pump in the dairy barn was a gigantic step toward bringing his family and his neighboring families into the modern world!

As the years have passed, their lives have come to rely more and more on dependable electric service to provide

*Continued on Page 5...*

## Southern Region Candidate Biographies Continued...

all the conveniences that life demands. He believes dairy farmers were among the first to recognize the value of the cooperative business model in providing electric service, milk marketing services, feed supply businesses, cooperative extension services, as well as farm and home liability and fire insurance needs. Hartley has worked closely with many of those farms and the related organizations over the years and he has always enjoyed representing the interests of others. "The influence of dairy farms in our region has diminished in recent years but our dependence on reliable electric service has not".

Hartley believes the energy sector of our economy is in a period of transition. "In the past we were willing to import

our energy needs from half-way around the world. Today increasing numbers of people are becoming interested in gaining more control over their energy needs by moving toward more locally produced power. The costs of wind and solar generated power are coming down. As a cooperative, I think we need to be looking for ways to be a part of this transition".

Hartley has enjoyed serving on the Board. He has completed all the courses offered by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association required to earn the Certified Credentialed Director designation. He would be willing to continue to serve if chosen by the members.

## Student Serena Simpson Represents DCEC

On May 4-6, 2015, DCEC's Student Delegate, Serena Simpson joined other students, directors, and staff members from all four of New York's rural electric cooperatives to fight for the interests of your cooperative in the halls of Washington, DC. DCEC General Manager Mark Schneider shared that, "Serena was a very effective representative of the values and needs of rural electric cooperatives in our meetings with congressional staff. I was proud of the maturity and enthusiasm that Serena brought to her responsibilities as a student delegate." Members of the delegation met with staff from almost every New York congressional and senatorial office during 2 ½ days of intensive meetings. DCEC Board President Steve Oles, who also participated in the lobbying effort said, "One of the biggest challenges in our meetings is to explain the ways that proposed legislation would impact local, democratically controlled, non-profit, member-owned utilities. Many congressional

representatives and senators think only of the large corporate investor-owned utilities when they think of our business. We need to explain that rural electric cooperatives are there to serve our members and not to make a profit."

While in Washington, Serena had some fun in addition to working hard for your cooperative. Serena visited the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian Institute, the Arlington Cemetery, and several national monuments. One of the highlights of Serena's week was attending a meet-and-greet session with one of her role models in the political world, Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts. After returning from Washington, Serena summed up her experience by saying, "This experience has honestly been life changing. It's always been my dream to go into politics and not knowing where to start in that journey has always made me uneasy. My trip with the DCEC unlocked so many doors for me. I was able to see Washington D.C as I had always dreamed, and as I explored the

beautiful Capitol I realized that it wasn't impossible to be a part of. I got to see monuments and read the words of several powerful and influential people that made a difference in our history—that was both inspiring and humbling. Most importantly on my trip I took in the fact that I was surrounded by people that cared, that gave nothing but encouragement, and seemed to truly hope the best for me. That made me realize that there are people out there ready to support kids and help them achieve their dreams. My experience was mind blowing, it renewed my hope for attaining my dreams, and it's something I'll be grateful for, for the rest of my life."



*DCEC Student Delegate Serena Simpson and Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts.*

## Broadband Questions

In an effort to keep our Members informed about the Delaware County Broadband Initiative (DCBI) project, DCEC, will be attending the August Town Board Meetings for Townships of Hamden and Meredith. Project Team Representatives will be available to answer any inquires that members may have and fiber maps will be displayed.

Please contact Mark Schneider, CEO/General Manager if you have any questions, at (607) 746-9282.

### ***Hamden Town Board Meeting***

August 5, 2015, at 6:30 pm  
20 Covert Hollow Rd, Hamden, NY 13782

### ***Meredith Town Board Meeting***

August 11, 2015, at 7:00 pm  
4247 Turnpike Rd, Delhi, NY 13753

### Operations Update

Cooperative line crews continue rebuilding 3.34 miles of electric line on County Route 16 in the Town of Delhi. For the safety of our lineman, members from the intersection of West Platner Brook Road to West Delhi may experience short duration outages.

Cooperative right-of-way clearing crews will be working on Dunham, Hollister Hill, Rathbun Hill, Grimm, Monkey Run, McDougal, Jersey, Palmer Hill Roads as well as County Route 10 all in the Town of Meredith. Members affected will receive notification prior to the work being done.

Asplundh Tree Company is working for the Cooperative and will be performing tree clearing on Felton Road, Perch Lake Road to the Pepacton Reservoir. Starting in mid-July they will be clearing right-of-way in Brower Hill, Deerlick, Barkaboom, Beech Hill, Mary Smith, Roads in the Town of Andes and on Berry Brook and Holiday Brook Roads in the Town of Colchester. It is anticipated that the completion date will be early November. Affected members will receive additional notification prior to the work.

### 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.

**DA 1-18-28**

### Generlink Transfer Switches available for purchase at our office



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**DCEC**  
Delaware County Electric Cooperative  
39 Elm St. Delhi, NY 13753

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

### Is Your Location Number in This Issue?

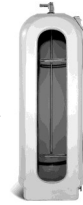
Your service location number begins with two letters and is located on your bill next to your account number. Keep your eyes peeled for the "hidden location number" in this newsletter! If you find the number, and it is your service location you will receive a DCEC fleece sweatshirt! **Good luck!**



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### Safety Clearance



As part of a multi-year project that will serve to increase the efficiency and expand production capacity at their Fraser, NY plant, member/customer Friesland Campina Domo is in the process of expanding their liquid storage facilities. DCEC line crew member, Steve Little, on site helping to ensure safety clearance at the plant during a portion of the construction phase of this "tank farm" expansion captured the action in this photograph of a new storage tank in the process of being installed.

**FOR SALE:** Generac Guardian 1,000 watt generator including automatic transfer switch. Runs on propane or natural gas. Never used. New \$3,000. Asking \$2,000. Call 607-652-5260.

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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