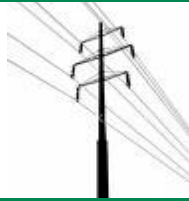




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# CATSKILL HI-LINE

Bi-Monthly Newsletter

Volume 72—Issue 4  
July/August 2016

## Powering Our Rural Communities

### 2016 Annual Meeting

This year's Annual Meeting of the Members will be held on Friday, September 23, 2016 at the Delaware Academy and Central School in Delhi. Members can enjoy a Brook's barbeque chicken dinner starting at 4:30 p.m. before the business meeting, which starts promptly at 6:30 p.m.



Assemblyman Peter Lopez

Highlights for this year's meeting include guest speaker 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, both from the Central Region. Members can still become candidates for the Board of Directors by filing a petition signed by 15 members by August 9, 2016

(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).

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!

### Student Cullen LaFever Represents DCEC

Cullen LaFever of Delhi, NY and a Junior at Delaware Academy Central School, was chosen by the DCEC Board of Directors as the 2016 DCEC Youth Delegate. Mr. LaFever accompanied DCEC CEO/General Manager Mark Schneider, Board President Steve Oles, and Board Treasurer Frank Winkler on a trip to Washington, D.C. to meet with government representatives and participate in the 2016 National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Legislative Conference.



DCEC Student Delegate Cullen LaFever from Delaware Academy Central School at the Lincoln Memorial

Continued on Page 5...

### 2016 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 nominated four candidates for the two Central Region board seats up for election. The top two candidates with the most votes will be elected as a Director for a 3-year term. The 2016 Annual Meeting will be held on Friday, September 23, 2016 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 to Vote on Charitable Donations

At this year's Annual Meeting DCEC will be teaming up with CoBank, one of our financial services partners to give three donations to three, 501(c)(3) charitable organizations to be selected by the members. 1st prize award will be \$1,000, 2nd prize is \$600 and lastly 3rd prize will be \$400.

In the last issue of the Catskill Hi-Line, DCEC's newsletter, we asked members to nominate a charitable organization, 501(c)(3), by June 16th. The Cooperative received nominations for the following charities: Catskill Area Hospice and Palliative Care, Farm Catskills, Habitat for Humanity of Delaware County, Jefferson Historical Society (JHS), Lake Delaware Boys Camp, West Kortright Centre, Inc., and Western Catskills Community Revitalization Council, Inc.

Representatives from each organization will be present at the Annual Meeting on Friday, September 23rd with a display table. Please attend the meeting to learn more about each organization and cast your vote for the winner at the business portion of the meeting!

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

### \$500 Grand Prize at Annual Meeting

Courtesy of Delhi Telephone Company & Margaretville Telephone Company the Grand Prize is \$500 CASH. You must be present to win! **Good Luck!**



## Potential Hazards of Underground Utilities and How to Dig Safely

Because Digging Season is officially here DCEC urges Members to know before you Dig!

Don't make that judgement call, instead make two calls:

- 1.) Dig Safely New York Call 811 before you dig.
- 2.) Call DCEC because secondary lines are not listed with Dig Safely New York. DCEC crews are able to locate underground for members upon request. Please call (607) 746-2341 to confirm if your service location has underground and the proper safety procedures.

There are potential hidden dangers and the Co-op urges Members to please call and don't make assumptions whether or not their service location has underground. Every digging job requires a call - even "small" projects like planting trees and shrubs, installing mailboxes, hiring a contractor or landscaper to do a digging project. Failure to identify location of underground utilities can result in damage to gas, electric, communications, water and sewer lines, which can lead to service disruptions, serious injuries or even death and costly repairs and fines.

## Go 100% GREEN with DCEC

Did you know that approximately 90% of the power distributed by Delaware County Electric Cooperative (DCEC) comes from the Niagara Project, which is a source of clean hydro renewable electricity? The Co-op has developed a program for members to become 100% Green if they choose. The program is called **GO 100% GREEN** and will be available in September of this year. This program allows the other 10% of incremental power purchased for you by your Co-op to be environmentally friendly. The source of renewable energy for the **GO 100% GREEN** program is a landfill gas energy project owned and operated by fellow cooperative, Steuben Rural Electric Cooperative, in Bath, NY. Please keep in mind that DCEC's **GO 100% GREEN** is completely voluntary. If you choose, this would be an easy and affordable option to support renewable energy directly through your electric bill. There is no cancellation fee and you can terminate this program at any time. This program allows the member to purchase Renewable Energy Credits monthly, which will depend on the member's total monthly kWh usage. The 2016 cost will be only \$0.006 per kWh of use.

### Example Bill:

Monthly Fixed Charge	\$20.00
Energy Charge 1000 kWh @ .10895	\$108.95
Power Cost Adj 1000 kWh @ -.00983	-\$9.83
Go 100% Green 100 kWh @ 0.00600	\$0.60
Load Mgmt Credit	-\$4.00
Formulary Rate Adj 1000 kWh @ 0	\$0.00
Current Charges Due	\$115.72

In this example, a member who would have paid \$115.12 would now pay \$115.72 due to their participation in the Go 100% Green program. Please be advised that the cost is subject to change in the future but the member may cancel at any time without penalty.

To sign-up for the **GO 100% GREEN** Program please contact the Billing Department at (607) 746-9290 or (607) 746-9288.

## Your Commitment to a Cleaner, More Sustainable Energy Future

The Cooperative is very fortunate to have a 90% renewable power supply sourced from clean hydro power at Niagara Falls. With our good fortune comes a responsibility to utilize that precious resource wisely. Wise use of our hydro power comes in four forms:

**Conservation:** Conserving energy means only using energy when it is truly useful to you. The simplest example of conservation is turning off lights when you're not in the room. Other forms of conservation can be a little less convenient, like unplugging electronics or appliances that will be unused for a period of time. Still other forms of conservation can border on uncomfortable, like reducing the temperature on your thermostat in the winter season. Your key to energy conservation is to listen to your own common sense and be conscious of your energy choices. No special tools or studies are required.

**Efficiency:** Efficiency means using the right tool for the job so you can do it with the least amount of energy. The low hanging fruit for many of us is LED lighting instead of traditional incandescent bulbs. Bigger gains in efficiency may be available in your home if you have old inefficient appliances, heating sources (boiler or furnace), insufficient weatherization and insulation, or if you run inefficient motors on your farm or business. The key to these efficiency gains is identifying the inefficiencies and targeting them. The Cooperative can help you to do that by getting you a free or low-cost home or farm efficiency study, funded through the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) or the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Call the office if you

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*Continued on Page 5...*

### DCEC Promotes McGraw

The Co-op is pleased to announce that Quintin McGraw, a member of DCEC’s Tree Crew, has met all requirements to be promoted to Journeyman Tree Crew Member.



### 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: Scott Smith, Russell Cobain, Cody Somers, and Korey Fisher.

### Vote by Absentee Ballot

If you are not planning to attend the 2016 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 September 2, 2016. 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

19, 2016 (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 September 2, 2016 and September 19, 2016. You must have a government issued photo ID with you to vote by absentee ballot in the

### Warner Crowned Dairy Princess



Sabra Warner of Franklin was crowned the 2016 Delaware County Dairy Princess at the coronation ceremony on May 28<sup>th</sup> at South Kortright Central School. Malorie Jordan was named as the alternate

Dairy Princess this year. The Ambassadors include: Jessica Coleman, Anna Reinshagen, Theresa Cerosaletti, Morgan Hungerford, Lizette Bishop, Morgan Kuhn, Julianna Archibald, Lauren Davis, Chloe Davis, and Emily Burns (*Entire Court Pictured left*).

In addition to the crowning of the Dairy Princess the Delaware County Chamber of Commerce name the 53<sup>rd</sup> Farmer of the year. This award was given to Mark and Amanda Kenyon of Kortright.

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 23, 2016** 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 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 September 2, 2016.** 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 23, 2016 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.



## 2016 Central Region Candidates

**Steve Burnett** has been a member of DCEC since 1989. He and his family have a farm in Bovina. It's an organic, sustainable operation that has fruits/berries, vegetables, animals, maple syrup and honey. Mr. Burnett's career was in marketing and design. For 33 years he owned and operated a communications business headquartered out of NYC. They



*DCEC Candidate  
Steve Burnett*

helped companies explain their story. They also gave a large portion of their time and efforts to 'not for profit' causes. Mr. Burnett is a board member of Farming Bovina, a member of the Bovina historical society, a board member of the Livestock foundation, and an elder of the Bovina United Presbyterian Church.

"I'm running for a board position at our energy coop for a few reasons. I believe that the DCEC members belong to one of the best run energy businesses in the industry. I'd like to contribute to that legacy with the knowledge I have gained by running my own business. Moreover, I want to help answer these question, what happens when we as stakeholders come together and move towards a vision of Rural America's energy future? How do we sustain and increase our renewable energy usage? It's an exciting and challenging time. Thank you for your consideration."

**Donald Conklin** was born and raised on a dairy farm in Walton, NY within the DCEC service area and moved away after high school to go to college. Mr. Conklin moved back to the area in 1996 to raise his children in a rural agricultural setting on a DCEC served livestock farm on East Brook Road, in Hamden.

Mr. Conklin and his wife, Beth are currently empty nesting after many

years of supporting their 3 sons' community, scholastic, and athletic activities and are starting the next chapter of their lives; while still residing on their farm caring for their gardens and over 100 livestock.

Outside of the farm Mr. Conklin has a job in town as a Programmer/Analyst for SUNY Delhi, specializing in telecommunications and networking. He has worked from NYC to Boston to Tokyo and most all the major cites of United States designing state of the art communications networks. This includes working for some of the largest companies in the world to working for his own LLC for 7 years.

Mr. Conklin has a BS in Electronic Engineering and as part of his empty nesting is currently in his 6th class of an online program for a MS in Information Design Technology from SUNYIT.

He grew an interest in applying for the board when the Delaware County Broadband Initiative (DCBI) project rollout came to his attention.

For those who don't know DCBI, it is a collaboration between DCEC, MTC (Margaretville Telephone Company), and DTC (Delhi Telephone Company) on a fiber optic based broadband services project for currently unserved DCEC members. Mr. Conklin brings a common sense approach to the table with 30 years' experience working within engineering technology and a deep connection to the local rural agricultural community.

**Steve Oles** is a Delhi native who returned home after college, currently residing on Federal Hill Road with his wife Lynn. Retiring in 2014 after 30 years of service with DTC, a local

communications and broadband provider. Mr. Oles has been a DCEC director since 1991 and currently serves as the Board President.

"I have studied and now embrace the cooperative model of governance. The seven

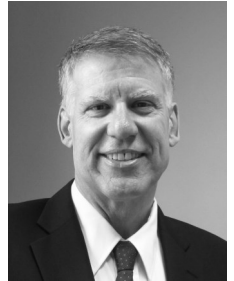
cooperative principles identify the purpose and the reasons why this cooperative has been successful since its birth in 1942. With my 30 year experience in the utility field I can contribute in meeting the challenges that this Cooperative will face in the future. Good communications with the membership is an essential part of maintaining a safe, reliable and affordable electric system. I am proud to be a representative and a member of the Delaware County Electric Cooperative."

**James Warren** has lived in the Hamden and Delhi area most of his life. Mr. Warren moved to this area at the age of five when his father accepted a job with then REA. This is where he first began his relationship with DCEC. Hamden is where Mr. Warren's family decided to call home for the last twenty eight years. Mr. Warren has been a member of DCEC for that time and still is.

Mr. Warren has three children, Jeremiah, Riann, and Hannah.



*DCEC Candidate  
James Warren*



*DCEC Candidate  
Steve Oles*

Jeremiah lives in North Carolina, Riann resides in Cortland and Hannah is still going to Delaware

*Continued on page 5...*

## Central Region Candidate Biographies Continued...

Academy Central School.

Mr. Warren is a graduate of SUNY Delhi and has worked as an electrician for thirty three years. He's currently employed at SUNY Delhi, where he has been an electrician for fourteen years.

## Are you Interested in Having an Item on the Annual Meeting Agenda?

To review DCEC's policy and have an item listed on the agenda visit our website at [www.dce.coop](http://www.dce.coop), click on the menu option, "About Us", select "DCEC Bylaws & Policies", listed under the heading "Public, Member & Government Relations", review the policy entitled "Member Participation in Annual Meetings of Members".

If you have any questions please contact the DCEC office at (607) 746-2341 or email [office@dce.coop](mailto:office@dce.coop)

## Your Commitment to a Cleaner, More Sustainable Energy Future...Continued from Page 2

would like more details.

**More Renewables:** Believe it or not, part of our responsibility as stewards of our hydro power is to supplement it with even more renewable energy. If you are interested in personally going 100% green, you can invest in your own distributed generation resources like solar panels at your house or you can participate in the Cooperative's Go 100% GREEN program so that all of your electricity needs can be met renewably. For those interested in their own solar panels at their home, please note that the NY Sun program still has a small amount of funding available to assist you. You are also still eligible

for federal and state tax credits to help offset your cost to install solar panels. Call the office if you would like more details.

**Smart Grid:** New York State's Smart Grid initiatives are intended to meet everyone's electricity needs without constantly expanding the capacity of the grid through tens of billions of dollars of investment. The Smart Grid will take many shapes in the next decade including distributed energy storage and demand response programs. The Cooperative has had a Smart Grid program in place for over 20 years called the Hot Water Heater Load Control Program. If you have an

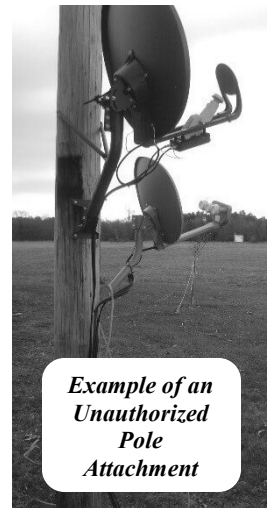
electric hot water heater and use at least 350 kWh per month, you can participate in this incredibly effective program, which shifts member electricity demand away from peak times. Participating members receive a \$4.00 credit each month. Call Wayne at 607-746-9284 for more information.

Not every member of the Cooperative has to participate in all 4 of these areas, but each one of us should make a commitment to make our own contribution to the effort. Please take stock of your energy consumption and make a commitment to the changes that fit into your life. Become a part of a cleaner, more sustainable energy future.

## Dangers of Unauthorized Pole Attachments

Do you have a satellite dish, bird feeder, clothes line or any other kind of unauthorized attachment to the Cooperative's utility pole near your house? If you do, you are not alone. Unfortunately these unauthorized attachments pose a threat to the safety of line workers when they must climb a pole to perform maintenance or restore power after a storm. Under OSHA regulations enacted in 2014, a line worker needs to utilize a fall restriction device that wraps around the pole as he climbs. Each time a line worker reaches an unauthorized attachment, he needs to remove the fall restriction device from the pole to climb past the obstruction, placing the worker at increased risk for a fall. Please do your part to keep our workers safe. If it can be done safely, remove any unauthorized attachments from the utility poles near your home. If you need help removing an attachment or you don't know whether an attachment is authorized, call the Cooperative's office at 607-746-2341. We would be happy to assist you.

The Cooperative will be observing a grace period until September 1, 2016 to allow members to remove unauthorized attachments from the Cooperative's utility poles. After September 1, 2016, Cooperative personnel will be instructed to carefully remove any unauthorized attachments that they come across in the normal conduct of their duties.



*Example of an Unauthorized Pole Attachment*

## Cullen LaFever Represents DCEC...Continued from Page 1

LaFever will be reporting on his experience at the Legislative Conference at the upcoming DCEC Annual Meeting on Friday, September 23, 2016. 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. Mr. LaFever was chosen for this honor. He will participate in the upcoming NRECA Youth Leadership Conference (YLC) this July back in Washington, D.C. and in the 75th NRECA Annual Meeting in February of 2017 in San Diego, CA. There he 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. LaFever was chosen from a pool of very qualified applicants.

## Delaware County Broadband Initiative Member Testimonial

*“Martin from Delhi Telephone Company was fantastic! He tirelessly figured out a very creative way to accommodate the challenging physicality of my home to be sure that I had fiber optics. It was an extremely hot day yet he stayed climbing ladders and resolved the problem. I appreciate his respect, kind demeanor and hard work. His team was equally matched. I would also like to mention Sandy who runs the office in Delhi, is like a wizard. Between her organization, knowledge and customer service, I would say that DTC as a corporation needs to recognize their team.”*

**Lisa – Kortright, NY**

*“We have had an excellent experience from start to finish with our new broadband service provided in part by DCEC and Delhi Telephone Company. Setting the appointment was easy and they accommodated my travel schedule. The technicians were very professional. They showed up on schedule and explained the process and then went right to work.*

*Technicians Martin and Chad ran the broadband fiber line from the poles well over 100 yards from the house. Martin then completed the intricate installation running the fiber lines into the house and seamlessly integrated the inside wiring to stay out of view yet cover the whole house with high speed wifi. He even installed and configured the wifi and tested the broadband speed.*

*We now enjoy the ability to work from home and get to use internet entertainment services via an unlimited plan that accommodates the entire families devices. This includes multiple laptops, tablets, smart phones, and 2 smart TVs without worrying about overages. Our cell phones which never worked here now work great for voice and data in a area that has no cell signal.*

*Thank you for offering and providing this great service!”*

**Michael & Adrienne – Bloomville, NY**

## Operations Update

### **Pole Replacement & Line Reconstruction:**

Cooperative line crews will continue working on County Route 16 in Delhi and in Kortright/Harpersfield/Davenport preparing for an inter connection with NYSEG and service to Greene Lumber. Additionally, crews will be rebuilding a single phase line (poles & wires) on Donna Brook Road, Town of Davenport.



### **Right of Way Clearing:** KW Reese a

Cooperative tree clearing contractor will be working in the Gilboa area on Bund, Meeghan, Todd, and Souer Roads. Cooperative crews will be clearing right of way easements in the Town of Davenport & Harpersfield on Tedle Brook, Quaker Hill, Rose Lane, and Parker Schoolhouse Roads.

## Keep Contact Information Updated

It’s important to keep your contact information including all your contact numbers and current address up to date with the Cooperative. If any of this information has changed please give the office a call at, (607) 746-2341.

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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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