

*Powering Our Rural Communities*

## *Happy Holidays!*

*The Directors, Managers, and Staff of DCEC would like to wish our Members a Joyous Holiday Season, Good Health, and Happiness in the New Year!*

### DCEC Holds 69th Annual Meeting of the Members



*Congressman Chris Gibson addressing DCEC members at the 2013 Annual Meeting*

Members gathered on Friday, September 20 for DCEC's 69th Annual Meeting at the Delaware Academy & Central School in Delhi. A total of 218 people attended including 123 voting members.

DCEC Board President, Frank Winkler, called the meeting to order and introduced special guests that were in attendance. Among those special guests was Congressman Chris Gibson who addressed the member-

ship on current events affecting our rural community.

In his CEO/General Manager's Report, Mark Schneider updated members on the Cooperative difference, the financial condition of the Cooperative and its core mission, the construction progress at Amphenol, DCEC's Safety Achievement Program, employee contributions and staffing changes.

*Continued on Page 2...*

### \$5.00 Incentive to Go Paperless



DCEC is offering a one-time \$5.00 incentive to members to sign up for paperless billing through our on-line payment system called "MyAccount." In an effort to save money and reduce our environmental footprint, DCEC would like as many members as possible to choose a bill-paying option that reduces monthly mailings of paper bills. If you sign up for "My Account" between now and February 10, 2014 for a paperless billing option, you will receive a \$5.00 credit on your next bill.

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### Director Ernie Bartz Retires



Director Ernie Bartz has retired from the DCEC Board of Directors after 37 years of service. Mr. Bartz joined the board in 1976.

Having been an integral part of the Cooperative for more than half of its existence, Mr. Bartz stated he felt it was time to go. The management, employees and directors at DCEC have greatly appreciated Mr. Bartz contributions and dedication throughout the years to the Cooperative. He

will be missed and we wish him all the best!

### Monthly Billing Available to All Members

Members receiving electric service under rate schedule 2, traditionally called "seasonal members," currently pre-pay their bill each January for a full year of service. Starting in January of 2014 ALL members will be offered monthly billing. This means that no member will be required to pre-pay an annual bill. Here is how the monthly billing schedule breaks down:



On or about December 17, 2013 – seasonal members will be billed just for the true-up amount for 2013. For most seasonal members the December bill will be a small amount consisting of the difference between their 2013 pre-payment and their actual usage for 2013.

On or about January 17, 2014 – seasonal members will be mailed their first monthly bill. The bill will include a monthly service charge of \$22.50, plus an energy charge of 11.671 cents/kWh plus or minus the power cost adjustment. The bill sent on or about January 17, 2014 will be for service between December 15, 2013 and January 15, 2014.

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## Annual Meeting...Continued from Page 1

Members voted on the election for two directors in the Central Region to serve on the DCEC board. The top two vote-getters would win the board seats. Results of the director elections were:

- ◆ Central Region (Towns of Bovina, Delhi, Franklin, Hamden, Kortright and Meredith)
 

Meg Hungerford	<u>72</u>	Andrew Kiraly	<u>31</u>
Stephen Oles	<u>61</u>	Wayne Oliver	<u>32</u>

Members heard presentations from the Delaware County Dairy Princess Alternate McKenzie Smith and the DCEC 2013 Legislative Youth Delegate Karina Miranda. Service awards were presented to Billing Assistant, Sharon Mogridge for 25 years, 1st Class Lineman, Mike Pietrantonio for 10 years, Engineering Manager, Paul DeAndrea for 5 years, and General Clerk, Betty Goodrich for 5 years. Directors Paul Menke and Hartley Russell were also recognized for serving on the DCEC Board for 20 and 10 years, respectively. A special plaque was presented to retiring Director, Ernie Bartz, for his 37 years of service on the board.

Prior to the business meeting, members were served a barbecued chicken dinner by Brooks House of BBQ in the school cafeteria. At the end of the meeting there was a drawing for door prizes.



*DCEC Employees and Directors Receive Service Awards, Left to Right: Sharon Mogridge, Mike Pietrantonio, Paul DeAndrea, Betty Goodrich, Hartley Russell and Paul Menke*

## Monthly Billing...Continued from Page 1

February 12, 2014 – payments for the January monthly bill become past due if not received at the office of the Cooperative. Payments not received by February 12, 2014 will be considered late and will be assessed a penalty.

On or about February 17, 2014, the next monthly bill will be mailed. The monthly billing cycle repeats itself throughout the year.

For those members who find it convenient to make one annual pre-payment each year, special arrangements can be made with the billing department by calling 607-746-9290 or e-mailing [billing@dce.coop](mailto:billing@dce.coop).

## \$5.00 Incentive... Continued from Page 1

To sign up for our web-based MyAccount service, go to [www.dce.coop/content/myaccount](http://www.dce.coop/content/myaccount) and then click on “Click here to set up an account: New User Registration.” You will be prompted to provide information that can be found on your current paper bill. By signing up for paperless billing, you save money for yourself and your cooperative. Thank you for doing your part for your cooperative.

Once you decide to go paperless, you may want to also sign up to have DCEC automatically withdraw your payment from a checking, savings, or credit card account on a monthly basis. To sign up for automatic withdrawal, call the office at 607-746-2341 or download the form from <http://www.dce.coop/content/paying-your-bill>. In order to implement your request for recurring payment through electronic funds transfer, you must sign the completed form and mail it or fax it per the instructions on the form.

## Interested In a Home Energy Audit?

Did you know that most DCEC members are eligible for a free home energy audit?

Under a program offered by the New York State Energy Research & Development Authority (NYSERDA), most DCEC members can get a comprehensive energy audit of their home by a certified contractor to identify how they can save on their energy bill. The audit will review all aspects of a home’s energy consumption including the efficiency of appliances, heating systems, insulation, windows and other areas of a home. As part of the audit, DCEC members will receive a report which would list all recommendations for improving energy consumption along with an estimated costs for each recommendation. In addition to lowering energy bills, grants and low-interest financing may also be available to homeowners to perform some of the recommendations made to improve their energy efficiency.

Members can apply for the free home energy audit by contacting DCEC or going online to [www.dce.coop/content/home-performance-energy-star-audit](http://www.dce.coop/content/home-performance-energy-star-audit).



**DA 1-29-22**

## DCEC Finishing Line Work at Amphenol

In mid- September, DCEC personnel began installation of the structures and overhead line equipment for the primary service to Amphenol's new development at Sidney. The service is composed of four wood pole structures and approximately 320 feet of three phase circuit conductors. By mid October, construction of the service was approximately 90% complete. The installed equipment on each structure performs specific tasks in delivering energy to Amphenol, including metering, communications, fusing and switching.



The DCEC interconnection with the NYSEG system, which will provide transmission service to DCEC, is expected to be completed during November. Following completion of the interconnection, DCEC will be able to make electric service available to Amphenol at their new development.

## Upcoming Holiday Parades & Events



With the arrival of the holidays you may want to check out what events the area has to offer:

- ◆ Friday, 12/6—Sidney, 6:30 pm— the Annual Jolly Holly Parade
- ◆ Saturday, 12/7— Delhi, 11:00 am— the 15th Annual O'Connor Hospital Holiday Parade.
- ◆ Saturday, 12/14— Delhi, 10 am to 5 pm— Christmas at the Farm, Maple Shade Farm

## Delhi Substation Power Interruption

On Tuesday, October 15, DCEC personnel de-energized the Delhi substation at approximately 7:00 PM, interrupting service to all members served from that substation, to ensure the safe repair of an overheated electrical connection. In addition to the repairs made to the overheated connection, DCEC line personnel inspected and tightened several other similar connections. Service was restored to all members served from the Delhi substation at approximately 7:40 PM.

## DCEC Member Survey

DCEC is currently conducting a member survey. On October 8, we emailed out surveys to those members who have email addresses on file with us. If you are one of these members who have received an email from our CEO/General Manager, Mark Schneider please take a few moments to respond to the brief survey. The questions are designed to find out how we as employees and directors at the Cooperative can better serve the members. If you should have any questions in regards to the survey please feel free to contact the DCEC office for more information.

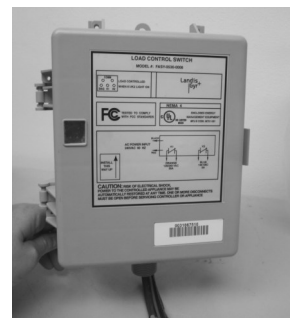
## HEAP Information for Members

The New York State Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) provides payment assistance for income eligible residents to use towards the 2013-2014 heating season. This years regular HEAP component benefit will open on November 18. For additional information including income guidelines and to apply, visit <https://mybenefits.ny.gov> or contact your local Department of Social Services.

## Reduce Your Electric Bill, Participate In DCEC's Load Management Program

DCEC's Load Management program allows our computer controlled software to temporarily interrupt the heating of your hot water heater for short periods of time. This interruption would occur during peak loading times sometime between the hours of 7:00—10:00 am or pm and would occur most likely in the months of December, January or February. Peak load times are defined as those times when the most electricity is used by the entire cooperative membership. The purpose of the program is to lower power costs from our power supplier, thus letting us pass this savings on to the member with a lower Power Cost Adjustment surcharge.

The Cooperative or our contractor, Wire Nutz Electric, will install the load controller in your hot water heater circuit at no charge. If at any time you wish to no longer participate we will remove the unit. A \$4.00 credit will appear on your bill monthly for signing up and having the load control unit on your hot water heater. If you would like to participate and have at least a 30 gallon electric hot water heater and use at least 350 Kwh's per month, please call (607) 746-9284 and your questions will be answered and your information forwarded to the installer if requested. This has been a very successful program for the members and with your continued participation it should continue to benefit the membership for many years to come.



## Operations Update



### Pole Replacement & Line

#### Reconstruction:

DCEC line crews are rebuilding a 1.3 mile section of single phase line on Delaware County Route 7 in the Cat Hollow area of the Town of Colchester.

#### Right of Way (ROW) Clearing:

KW Reese, a DCEC contractor, will be finishing up their work this year on Harper Hill Rd, Delaware County Route 29, Hornbeck Road and Streeter Hill in the Town of Harpersfield.

DCEC crews will be clearing right-of-way in the Towns of Delhi and Franklin on Delaware County Route 16, Middlemist, Fleming, and Sutherland Roads as well as Sweet Pea Drive.

## Holiday Safety Tips



- When purchasing an artificial tree, look for the label "Fire Resistant."
- Be sure at home to place your tree at least 3 feet away from fireplaces and radiators. Keep the stand filled with water.
- Check each set of lights, new or old, for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections.
- Use no more than three standard-size sets of lights per single extension cord.
- Before using lights outdoors, check labels to be sure they have been certified for outdoor use and they should be plugged into ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs).
- Stay away from power or feeder lines leading from utility poles into homes.
- Turn off all holiday lights when you go to bed or leave the house. The lights could short out and start a fire.

Source: Consumer Product Safety Commission

### DCEC Office Closing Reminder:

DCEC's office will be closed on the following days:



- \* Thursday, November 28th and
- \* Friday, November 29th for Thanksgiving
- \* Tuesday, December 24th for Christmas Eve
- \* Wednesday, December 25th for Christmas Day
- \* Wednesday, January 1st for New Year's Day

## Delhi Fuel Bank Offers Heating Help

The Delhi Fuel Bank is accepting applications from residents in the Delhi area for assistance with heating bills this winter. The "Delhi area" is loosely defined as the area served by the Delhi Central School District. The Delhi Fuel Bank provides help to individuals and families who would not normally qualify for other assistance programs but, due to an unforeseen circumstance or an emergency, are now having a difficult time making ends meet. According to committee chairman, Al Davino, "A death, disability, or loss of employment are some of the triggering events that might tip a family's finances over the edge." The Fuel Bank offers help with all forms of home heating including electric heat.

The Fuel Bank is not looking to duplicate programs such as HEAP, nor is it intended for individuals with substantial resources of their own. However, given projected decreases in HEAP benefits, it is possible that some of the beneficiaries of Fuel Bank assistance could be people who exhaust their HEAP allotment.

The Delhi Fuel Bank is administered by a committee of volunteers and is not associated with any public assistance program or religious entity. Recipients are chosen by the committee based on information they provide in a short application. Applications are available at the Cooperative's office at 39 Elm Street. Allocations from the Fuel Bank are made on a first-come-first-served basis for those showing the greatest need. The Fuel Bank is funded through private donations, grants, and gifts from several local community clubs such as Delhi Rotary Club, Delhi Women's Club, and Delhi Kiwanis.



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- ✓ Low-cost Electricity
- ✓ High System Reliability
- ✓ Community/Member Service

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## 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!**



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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