



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 70th Annual Meeting of the Members



Congressman Chris Gibson addresses DCEC members at the 2014 Annual Meeting

Members gathered on Friday, September 19th for DCEC's 70th Annual Meeting at the Delaware Academy & Central School in Delhi. A total of 284 people attended including 140 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 membership on current events affecting our rural community.

In his CEO/General Manager's Report, Mark Schneider updated members on the Cooperative's core values. He also discussed last winter's cold weather and the effect on electricity prices in NY State. He stated that the DCEC board and management have been working to manage power cost risks as well as work with members to try and limit power cost through demand reduction in preparation for the 2015 winter season. CEO Schneider also discussed changes to the

Continued on Page 2...

HEAP Benefit Available for DCEC Members Who Need Assistance

The New York State Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) provides payment assistance for income eligible residents to use towards the 2014-2015 heating season. This year's regular HEAP component benefit will open on November 17. For additional information including income guidelines and to apply, visit <https://mybenefits.ny.gov> or contact your local Department of Social Services.

Treasured Gifts from Co-op Member



DCEC member, Lillian Barnhart has been crocheting blankets for over 40 years. Recently she has been making baby blankets. In a month's time she makes approximately two or three blankets.

Mrs. Barnhart has contributed one of her full size afghans to the Cooperative's Annual Meeting the last couple of years and it has been a treasured door prize to receive. "I do it as a way to relax in the evening", she stated. "I prize things that are homemade."

Home Heating Options & Cost

Members often want to know what the most cost effective method would be to heat their homes. The best way to reduce your home heating costs is to reduce the amount of energy needed to heat it. You can do that by reducing cracks and gaps around doors and windows and by lowering your thermostat.



For those homes with multiple heating sources, home owners will want to choose the lowest cost fuel. At today's prices for the most common heating fuels, here is a list from least expensive (#1) to most expensive (#5):

1. Wood
2. Wood Pellets, 47% more expensive than wood
3. Fuel Oil, 150% more expensive than wood
4. Electricity, 167% more expensive than wood
5. Propane, 170% more expensive than wood

While traditional wood burning and wood pellet stoves offer dramatic savings relative to fuel oil, electricity and propane, there is relatively little difference in cost effectiveness between oil, electricity and propane. Market prices can swing wildly on fuel oil and propane during the coldest part of the winter. If you do not pre-pay for your fuel, keep an eye on prices throughout the heating season.

Annual Meeting... *Continued from Page 1*

Member Owned Distributed Generation Policy. He also provided an update on two pockets of members experiencing reliability problems: members fed by the Delhi substation in areas around Bell Hill, Peakes Brook and up into Meredith, and also members in the Cat Hollow area. Last, CEO Schneider stated the Cooperative is on a good financial trajectory by keeping rates stable and reducing debt level.

Members voted on the election for three directors, one in each of the three regions (Northern, Central and Southern) to serve on the DCEC board. Results of the director elections were:

- ◆ **Northern Region** (Towns of Gilboa, Jefferson, Summit, Davenport, Harpersfield, Stamford and Maryland)
Camilia K. Eldidi 18 **Lester Parker** 41
Edward G. Pick, Jr. 71
- ◆ **Central Region** (Towns of Bovina, Delhi, Franklin, Hamden, Kortright and Meredith)
Paul Menke (unopposed) 125
- ◆ **Southern Region** (Towns of Andes, Colchester, Masonville, Middletown, Sidney, Tompkins, Walton and Bainbridge)
Frank Perkins, III 27 **Frank Winkler** 102

* *As of the September 23rd board meeting, new officers were elected: President, Stephen Oles; Vice-President, Hartley Russell; Treasurer, Frank Winkler and Secretary, Paul Menke.*

The voting results for the ten bylaw changes were as follows:

- ◆ **Bylaw 1:** Clarify that adhering to the Cooperative Policies is a condition of membership.
123 YES 7 NO
- ◆ **Bylaw 2:** Bring bylaws into compliance with the NY State Law as articulated in the 2011 Marriage Equality Act.
111 YES 16 NO
- ◆ **Bylaw 3:** Explain how a tie vote will be handled.
127 YES 2 NO
- ◆ **Bylaw 4:** Give members more time to return absentee ballots and offer an option to walk into the office to complete an absentee ballot.
117 YES 11 NO
- ◆ **Bylaw 5:** List the Northern, Central and Southern director regions where they are otherwise missing.
122 YES 5 NO
- ◆ **Bylaw 6:** Eliminate historical language referring to the time when the Cooperative had more than seven directors.
121 YES 8 NO
- ◆ **Bylaw 7:** Clarify that directors “SHALL be elected by a plurality vote of members” instead of “MAY be elected by a plurality vote of members”.
125 YES 3 NO
- ◆ **Bylaw 8:** Give the Nominating Committee 200 days instead of 150 days to gather director nominations prior to the Annual Meeting.
113 YES 15 NO
- ◆ **Bylaw 9:** Eliminate a federal government notification process that was formerly required by the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) but is not required by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).
112 YES 16 NO
- ◆ **Bylaw 10:** Change the name of our federal regulator from REA to USDA.
92 YES 36 NO

Members heard presentations from the Delaware County Dairy Princess Stephanie Bishop and the DCEC 2014 Legislative Youth Delegate Mary Mitsopoulos. Service awards were presented to Line Foreman, Doug Rosa, 1st Class Linemen, Mike Sackett and Scott Tuttle, and Finance Manager, Millie Faulkner all for 25 years each. Tree Crew Forman, Randy Tweedie also received a service award for 15 years.

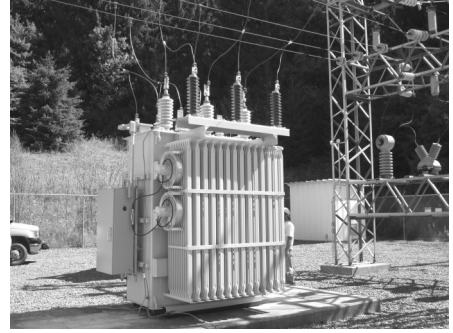
Prior to the business meeting, members were served a barbecued chicken dinner by Brooks House of BBQ in the school cafeteria. Several displays were present in the lobby, including booths for the three charities that were up for election: **Farm Catskills (18 votes), the Heart of the Catskills Humane Society (52 votes) and the Alzheimer’s Association (56 votes)** who was awarded the \$2,000 donation. At the end of the meeting there was a drawing for door prizes.



Right to Left: CoBank VP Clarence Mahovlich, Alzheimer's Association reps Rebecca Little & Laura Doenges, DCEC CEO, Mark Schneider

Dryden Substation Transformer Replacement

DCEC has nearly completed the work associated with a transformer replacement project at the Dryden Substation. This project included the installation of a rebuilt transformer which was placed into service during August 2014. This transformer is rated to serve the expected loads at the Dryden Substation for the next 40 years with greater efficiency than the previous operating equipment which it has replaced. The former active transformer bank will now be used as the spare bank. The former spare bank has been sold as surplus. The former spare banks that were sold have had their insulating oil reclaimed by DCEC to be used as heating fuel at the DCEC garage on Depot St. Upgrades to the driveway of the substation were included with this project to allow for improved access to the Substation. DCEC expects to complete the sale and removal of the surplus equipment prior to the end of November 2014. The Dryden Substation serves approximately 700 members. The photo shows the completed installation of the rebuilt transformer.



Upcoming Holiday Parades

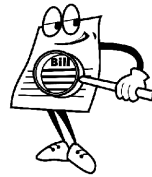


With the arrival of the holidays you may want to check out what events the area has to offer:

- ◆ Friday, 11/28, 10 am to 6 pm & Saturday, 11/29, 10 am to 4 pm—Bovina Center, Christmas at the Creamery
- ◆ Friday, 12/5—Sidney, 6:30 pm— the Annual Jolly Holly Parade
- ◆ Saturday, 12/6—Delhi, 11:00 am— 16th Annual O'Connor Hospital Holiday Parade.

Formulary Rate Adjustment Set to \$0.00

You may have noticed on your October and November bills that the line item called "Formulary Rate Adj" has changed from \$0.0021 per kWh to \$0.0000 per kWh. The formulary rate adjustment is a way for the Cooperative's board of directors to fine tune the rates members pay in order to meet the revenue requirements of the Cooperative without collecting any more money than necessary. The formulary rate adjustment was last modified in April of 2014 to raise the Cooperative's revenues enough to meet our obligations to our lenders and federal regulators. However, a mid-year review indicated that a combination of conservative spending and new revenues from industrial members will allow the Cooperative to meet its 2014 financial targets with a formulary rate adjustment of \$0.0000. The formulary rate adjustment will remain \$0.0000 until April of 2015. At that time it will be adjusted as appropriate given the changing financial condition of the Cooperative.



What Is the Monthly Service Charge On My Bill?

What is a monthly service charge and why do I pay it? Every member of the Cooperative pays a monthly service charge to help pay a portion of the Co-op's fixed costs. Fixed costs are the kind of costs that do not go up and down depending on how much energy our members use. There are many types of fixed costs, including employee payroll and benefits, vehicle maintenance, power line construction, and substation maintenance. DCEC incurs these costs regardless of the amount of energy used in a given month.

Until January of 2014, owners of seasonal homes paid their bills annually. An annual service charge of \$270 was included in those bills. Now that those members pay monthly instead of annually, the \$270 service charge is divided into 12 monthly charges of \$22.50 each.

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 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 members with a lower Power Cost Adjustment surcharge.

The Cooperative will install the load controller in your hot water heater circuit at no charge, and 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 continue to rebuild a section of single phase line from Crystal Brook to Fish Hollow Road in the Town of Hamden.

DE 4-27-16E

Right of Way (ROW) Clearing:

DCEC right-of-way crews are working on clearing electric lines on Delaware County Route 2, Scobie, Fred White, Stoddard Hollow and Carman Roads in the Town of Hamden, and on Bob Holloway and Kemp Hill Roads in the Town of Delhi.

Asplundh, DCEC's right-of-way contractor, will be finishing up and working on Braehead Road, View Road and Delaware County Route 33 in the Town of Kortright.

DCEC Office Closing Reminder:

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



- * Thursday, November 27th and
- * Friday, November 28th for Thanksgiving
- * Wednesday, December 24th for Christmas Eve
- * Thursday, December 25th for Christmas Day
- * Thursday, January 1st for New Year's Day



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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!**



Holiday Safety Tips



- When purchasing an artificial tree, look for the label "Fire Resistant."
- At home be sure 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 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

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. 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 and also at Delhi Telephone, the Delhi Diner and Attorney Charles Hill's office. 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.

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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