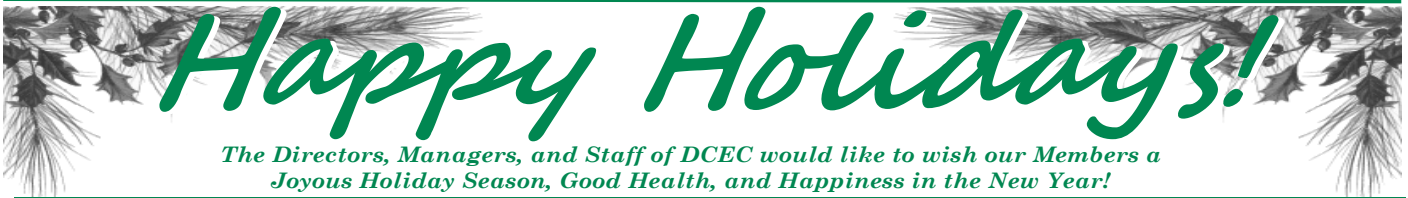


Powering Our Rural Communities



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 Held 71st Annual Meeting

DCEC would like to thank all the members that were able to attend the 71st Annual Meeting in September. To those of you that missed it we hope you can make next year's meeting! Some of the highlights included the Nelson Brother's Band of Rome, NY and special guests Assemblymen Clifford Crouch and Peter Lopez, who both addressed the membership on current events affecting our rural communities. Members heard a speech from the Delaware County Dairy Princess Malorie Jordan. Service awards were presented to Operations Clerk, Ryan Sullivan for 5 years and Journeyman Line Clearance Arborist, Kyle Shuman for 5 years. Director Frank Winkler was also recognized for serving on the DCEC Board for 10 years. Prior to the business meeting, members were served a barbecued chicken dinner by Brooks House of BBQ in the Delaware Academy school cafeteria. At the end of the meeting there was a drawing for door prizes.

Continued on Page 2...

DCEC's Newest Employee

DCEC has recently hired a permanent employee from the Walton area to join the Tree Crew. Quintin McGraw is the new Line Clearance Arborist. McGraw is a graduate from Walton High School and has worked from the summer of 2013 to 2015 as a part time employee on DCEC's Tree Crew. During the winter months McGraw worked for DCEC contractor, Asplundh Tree Company.



We welcome Quintin McGraw to our Co-op family and we wish him every success in his future career at DCEC.

HEAP Benefits Available

The New York State Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) provides payment assistance for income eligible residents to use towards the 2015-2016 heating season. This year's regular HEAP benefits will open on November 16th. For eligibility, including income guidelines and how to apply contact your local Department of Social Services or the NYS OTDA Hotline at 1-800-342-3009. Additional information is provided on <https://otda.ny.gov/programs/heap/>

Formulary Rate Adjustment Reduced

You may have already noticed that the Formulary Rate Adjustment has been reduced effective on your September bills. The reduction in the Formulary Rate Adjustment was the result of a mid-year review of the Cooperative's financial position by your elected Board of Directors. The purpose of the Formulary Rate Adjustment is to adjust the year's revenues to match the amount needed to cover the Cooperative's costs as well as the amount needed to retire capital credits on a regular basis. During the first half of 2015 revenues were higher than anticipated due to colder than normal temperatures in our area, which tend to increase energy consumption by our members. The unexpected revenue created by cold temperatures would have led to an over-collection of revenues from our members during 2015, so the Board acted to reduce the Formulary Rate Adjustment.

The Board of Directors is also conducting a complete cost of service study and rate review in conjunction with the Cooperative's financial experts at the Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC). A complete cost of service study helps the Board of Directors understand if and how rates should be

Continued on Page 2...

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.

Continued on Page 4...

Heating Options & Cost

Are you interested in how to keep energy costs down or alternative options for heat supply? Please call the DCEC office with your questions at (607) 746-9284 or (607) 746-9297.

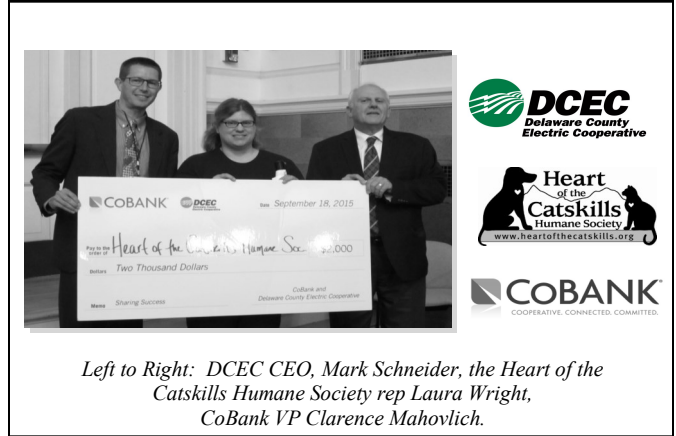
Annual Meeting...Continued from Page 1

DCEC would like to again thank all the vendors and sponsors that donated door prizes for our Annual Meeting. A special thank you to Margaretville Telephone Company (MTC) and Delhi Telephone Company (DTC) for donating the \$500 Grand Prize. A total of over \$1,000 in cash, prizes and credit towards member's electric bills were allocated during the door prize drawing.

In his CEO/General Manager's Report, Mark Schneider updated members on the Cooperative's recent field inspections, safety practices, the launch of SmartHub and the many benefits to the new online application, the joint collaboration between DCEC and NYSEG to provide service to Greene Lumber (*See article below about the Greene Lumber Project*), investigating renewable energy sources, reducing DCEC debt level, and the Delaware County Broadband Initiative.

A total of 120 members voted at the Annual Meeting. The election results are as follows (*including absentee ballots*): Northern Region: (Towns of Gilboa, Jefferson, Summit, Davenport, Harpersfield, Stamford, and Maryland). *Shawn Hartwell* - 82, David Numbers - 41

Southern Region: (Towns of Andes, Colchester, Masonville, Middletown, Sidney, Tompkins, Walton and Bainbridge). John Hubner - 22, *Hartley Russell* - 100



Left to Right: DCEC CEO, Mark Schneider, the Heart of the Catskills Humane Society rep Laura Wright, CoBank VP Clarence Mahovich.

\$2,000 CoBank & DCEC Charitable Donation:
Jefferson Historical Society - 19, *Heart of the Catskills Humane Society* - 61, Farm Catskills - 45

Generlink Transfer Switches available for purchase at our office



Plugs into 200 amp Meter Socket
20 ft Cord to Connect to Generator
Built in Surge Protector
Accommodates 10,000 watt
Generator



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

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Formulary Rate Adjustment Reduced ...Continued from Page 1

changed for different kinds of members such as residential, commercial, and industrial. The goal of the complete cost of service study is to align costs and revenues for each group of members so that each group of members is paying a fair share of the total cost to run the Cooperative. More information about the complete cost of service study will be forthcoming in the January newsletter and any rate changes that would result from the study would take effect in April of 2016. The financial goals of your Cooperative will continue to be:

- Maintain compliance with all financial commitments to our lenders and regulators
- Maintain competitive rates for our members
- Increase member equity in the Cooperative to provide for future stability of the Cooperative
- Decrease the amount of debt owed by the Cooperative to lending institutions
- Retire capital credits to members on a regular basis

Greene Lumber Project

The Cooperative has been engaged in economic development activity in partnership with County Economic Development staff and, in some cases, our competitor, New York State Electric and Gas (NYSEG). A new example of this cooperation is Greene Lumber in Davenport. DCEC is providing a power wheeling service to get the necessary energy from local transmission lines to NYSEG's distribution lines in Davenport. This will allow NYSEG to serve a load that otherwise they would not have the capacity to serve. This is actually a mirror image of what NYSEG is doing for the Cooperative at Amphenol in Sidney. By working together we're helping local businesses create and maintain jobs in our communities.

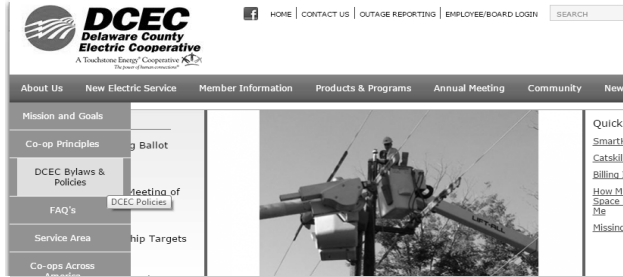
DCEC electrical distribution system upgrade:

- Voltage conversion of approximately 5 miles of existing overhead distribution line
- Rebuild and conversion of approximately 4,850 ft. of existing single phase overhead distribution line along Route 23 to the point of interconnection
- 1.5 Megawatts of power to the interconnection with the NYSEG system

Right of Way Management & Line Extension Policies

Did you know that all DCEC policies are listed on our website? Recently DCEC has adopted a new policy on Right of Way Management and has revised the Line Extension Policy.

Please visit www.dce.coop to review these and other policies. Click on "About Us" on our homepage and then select "DCEC Bylaws & Policies". Please feel free to contact the office at (607) 746-2341 should you have any questions.



Screenshot of DCEC's homepage

Delaware County Broadband Initiative (DCBI) Update

The DCBI partners continue with engineering and pre-construction activity in anticipation of commencing fiber construction in 2016. As the project moves forward information can be found on our website or by calling the office at (607) 746-2341.



Providing our rural members with:

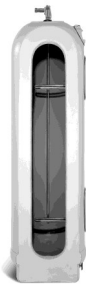
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Attention: Engineering Students

DCEC is offering to host one Engineering student intern position (non-compensated) for the period of mid-December, 2015 through February, 2016. To qualify, the student must be enrolled in an accredited Engineering program leading to at least the Bachelor's degree level. The student's program of study must require an internship in order to meet degree requirements. Additionally, preference will be given to the students whose parent or legal guardian is a current DCEC Member in good standing.

More Ways to SAVE

Your Cooperative is now selling energy efficient Rheem Heat Pump hot water heaters. We have 50 gallon heaters in stock with a 2.45 energy factor. They have three operating modes: energy saver, heat pump only, and electric only. The water surrounding it extracts heat from the air and delivers the heat to the water. These units require at least a seven foot ceiling height, will operate with ambient air temperatures as low as 40 degrees Fahrenheit and up to 140 degrees Fahrenheit. There is a filter on top of the unit that needs cleaning on a regular basis and the unit must be in a room with a minimum size of 1,000 cubic feet of unconditioned space. (For example a 10 ft x 14 ft room with 7 ft ceilings).

Additionally, the heater acts as a dehumidifier and must have access to a drain as it produces a small amount of condensate much like an air conditioner. They are an ideal choice for new homes and for water heater replacements in attics and basements.

Please contact your Cooperative for pricing and more information.

Third Party Notifications

Every member has the right to designate a third party to be notified if the member's bill is not paid and if the member's service becomes subject to disconnection for nonpayment. For example, a parent can designate an adult child as the third party to receive notifications. Third party notifications can be very helpful in situations where health troubles or other factors might make it difficult for the member to stay on top of bill payments. For more information about third party notifications, please contact the office at 607-746-2341.

RHEEM PRESTIGE SERIES HYBRID HEAT PUMP WATER HEATER

- 2.45 Energy Factor
- Easy to Adjust Water Temperature
- 10 Year Warranty
 - 50 Gallon
- Acts as a Dehumidifier
- Energy Star Label
- Save Minimum of \$150/year in Electricity Costs



Call (607) 746-9284 for cost and information

Operations Update

Pole Replacement & Line Reconstruction:

Cooperative crews continue rebuilding 3.34 miles of electric lines on County Route 16 and .80 miles on Charlie Wood Road, both in the Town of Delhi. They will also be working on .70 miles of line rebuild on Davis Road in the Town of Meredith.

Right of Way (ROW) Clearing:

Cooperative right-of-way clearing crews will be working on Irish Hill and Turnpike Roads in the Town of Kortright. Affected members have been notified.



Sign Up for DCEC's Load Control Program and Get \$4.00 Off Your Monthly Bill!

Please contact the office and see if you are eligible

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!**



Delhi Fuel Bank...Continued from Page 1

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 Company 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.

Pole Damage

On the 13th of August the Cooperative took a planned power outage to make some upgrades to our substation that supplies service to our members in the Towns of Andes, Middletown, and Colchester.



During this power interruption the Cooperative also took care of replacing a couple of main line three phase poles that had been damaged by bears. DCEC really is unsure what it is that causes the bears to chew on and scratch at these poles but we do know that they are capable of causing problems if they are persistent.

DCEC has found that sometimes simply replacing the poles doesn't stop the bears from continuing to cause problems. We are looking into installing some protective covers on about eight different poles in various locations to prevent further damage.

SmartHub Recap

SmartHub offers a safer and more secure interface allowing members to view their daily usage as well as save their payment information online. SmartHub is Android and iOS smartphone, tablet, and of course web friendly. SmartHub has many benefits including bill reminders, knowledge to stay on budget, evaluating tenant usage, and ability to notify DCEC of service or account issues.

For additional information about signing up, training videos and step by step instructions please visit www.dce.coop or call the DCEC office directly at (607) 746-2341.



Office Closing Reminder:

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

- Thursday, November 26, 2015 and
- Friday, November 27, 2015 for Thanksgiving
- Thursday, December 24, 2015 for Christmas Eve
- Friday, December 25, 2015 for Christmas Day
- Friday, January 1, 2016 for New Year's Day

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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