



Powering Our Rural Communities

DCEC Remembers Tom Lubbers, Director & Friend

We are saddened by the passing of Tom Lubbers, a dedicated DCEC director and friend. Tom, a long time resident of Davenport, served DCEC members for over 23 years on the Board of Directors. During that time, he brought pragmatism, thoughtfulness and concern for members to the board room. He truly loved DCEC and the cooperative business model and routinely represented DCEC at various events including national, regional and state meetings. In addition to completing his “Credentialed” Director Certification training, Tom actively served on several board committees at DCEC.

Thank you for your service and friendship, Tom. You have left your mark on DCEC and on the many of us who were fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with you. You will be missed and remembered with respect and admiration.

-The Staff and Board of DCEC-



DCEC Makes Capital Credit Distribution

About 2,500 DCEC members who received electric service from the cooperative in 1988 received a capital credit retirement in December. The retirement represents a partial-year retirement of “margins” that DCEC realized in that year.



Berco von Pel, Operations Manager for Friesland-Campina, receives a \$15,000 capital credit check from Rosemary Alwine and Sharon Mogridge of DCEC's billing department

DCEC Board Treasurer, Steve Oles, explained how capital credits work. “We operate on a non-profit basis”, he said. “When the cooperative has a positive financial margin at the end of the year, it is allocated to members and paid back when financial conditions allow.” Oles said the cooperative’s objective is to have a return each year. “Our new members are helping to maintain the strength of the cooperative. Retiring capital credits to long-standing members ensures fairness to all members while maintaining the financial health of the cooperative”, described Oles.

The decision to retire \$200,000 of 1988 credits was made by the DCEC Board of Directors in November. Members still active with DCEC received the retirement as a credit on their December electric bills while check payments were issued to members that are no longer receiving electric service from DCEC. The cooperative has a goal of retiring capital credits on a 20-year cycle.

DCEC Receives Additional Hydro Power for Economic Development

As part of its partnership with the New York Power Authority (NYPA), DCEC receives low-cost electricity from the Niagara Falls Hydro Generating Station. The cooperative uses part of that power allocation to support job growth in its service area.

DCEC CEO & General Manager, Greg Starheim, explained that under an agreement reached between New York State and the Federal Government in the 1950s, electric cooperatives and municipalities were provided a special power allocation. Through an agreement with NYPA, additional hydro power has also been made available for economic development purposes. This program allows DCEC to work with local governments and economic development agencies to attract industry and jobs with low-cost electricity. Recent allocations have aided expansions at the FrieslandCampina and Sportsfield Specialties facilities, both major employers in the Delhi area.

Starheim said the low-cost hydro power benefits all DCEC members, industrial and residential alike. “It allows us to keep our rates low for members”, he said. “It is a crucial program that NY uses to attract and retain businesses.”



FrieslandCampina 



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An Interview With Congressman-Elect Chris Gibson

Congressman Gibson,

Congratulations on your recent election to serve Congressional District #20. DCEC's ability to serve our members with affordable electricity greatly depends on national and state energy policy. We appreciate you taking the time to share your views on this issue and answering our questions below.



During your campaign, you discussed the importance of energy independence. What do you see as the best way for our nation to achieve this goal?

Energy independence is a vital issue as it affects our national security and our economic welfare as a nation. Therefore, I will look to promote an “all of the above” approach to expanding energy production domestically, including through the exploration and expanded production of natural gas and oil, research and development in wind, solar, bio-fuel energy, and expansion of hydroelectric and nuclear energy production. Diversifying our domestic energy sources will not only cut costs to Americans, but will also allow for our nation to no longer be reliant on foreign sources of energy and fuel. The key to accomplishing this is freeing up our private sector to invest in and expand research and production of these sources through cutting taxes and streamlining government regulation.

You have suggested that the federal government needs to act in a way that “balances environmental and economic interests”. Can you elaborate on what you mean?

My policy of balancing the environment and the economy is a vital part of my legislative plans while serving the people of the 20th District. What I mean by this is that we must ensure that neither the environment nor the economy is significantly adversely affected at the expense of the other. Our environment and natural resources, especially in the 20th District, are a vital part of our community, future, and economy and must not be sacrificed for inefficient or unproductive practices. At the same time, our economy is woefully underperforming and we must get it back on track and bring jobs back into our country through less government regulation and strangulation of private enterprise. The way in which we regulate sulfur dioxide today has allowed us to reduce emissions in a manner that has not adversely affected our economy, but I believe the cap and trade regulation would have minimal impact on reducing emissions but a significant adverse impact on our economy.

As U.S. nuclear plants approach the end of their operating licenses, how can the Federal Government ensure the successful development of new nuclear capacity?

Nuclear power is one of the energy sources that are best suited to allowing the United States to achieve energy independence. Nuclear energy is safe, clean and abundant. The US Navy has been using nuclear submarines since the 1950s without incident. Nuclear power stations can power 300,000 households and help reduce the cost of energy. France is a prime example of the success and potential of nuclear power, with more than 80% of its energy being derived from nuclear power plants.

What future do you see for electric vehicles? What initiatives should be taken to accelerate the commercialization of the technology in the U.S.?

Hybrid and electric technology for vehicles has expanded and become exponentially more efficient over the past 10 years. That being said, it is vital that this industry be promoted as one of many ways in which America can become self sufficient in energy production. The Federal Government must not be the body to choose what technology will succeed and what will not, that is the job of the American people through the free market.

Despite great strides that have been made in the development of renewable generation sources in recent years, the electricity from these technologies remains much more costly than power produced from traditional sources. What thoughts can you offer for ensuring that the development of renewable resources continues in light of projects being uneconomic without various forms of assistance?

The availability of our Nation's energy resources is a primary concern of mine. We need to ensure an adequate supply of energy at an affordable cost to allow our economy to recovery and continue to grow. That said, I would like to ensure that the concepts and proposals advanced are profitable. The Barton Mines wind farm in North Creek, NY is one such project that I believe will do well primarily due to its location. It already has accessible roadways and, even more critical, it is closely situated to existing transmission lines. In circumstances like this, wind power makes economic sense.

Another great example of where renewable energy makes economic sense is Walmart's use of solar panels on its roof tops. It already has over 31 solar power installations at various locations and at each of these locations the panels are expected to provide 20 to 30% of the energy needs of each store. It has available and unutilized open space on its rooftops that are perfect for making this application economically viable.

I believe that as technologies continue to improve, more and more economically viable applications will present themselves.

Thank you, Congressman Gibson. We look forward to your future leadership in Washington. —DCEC—

11th Grade Student Wanted for Legislative Conference



DCEC once again announces an exciting opportunity for 11th grade students. Annually, DCEC sponsors a “Legislative Youth Delegate”. If selected, the student will travel to Washington D.C. to meet with our Nation’s political leaders and learn about our Nation’s legislative process. This year the tour will take place Sunday, May 1, 2011 to Wednesday, May 4, 2011.

The student-delegate representing DCEC will attend the conference with other student-delegates from electric cooperatives across New York State. Together, co-op representatives from the 900+ co-ops across the U.S. will be in Washington that week for meetings with Congressional Representatives and Senators on Capitol Hill. The student will have the opportunity to experience government first-hand by visiting the Nation’s capitol. Time will also be reserved for visits to historical sites in Washington. This opportunity is an “all-expense-paid” trip except for general spending money that the student may elect to spend on souvenirs and incidentals.

To be considered, the student must be in their junior (11th grade) year, be a son/daughter of a DCEC member, demonstrate strong academic achievement (“B” average or better) and have demonstrated a commitment to community service. To be considered, students must submit an application to the DCEC office in Delhi, NY by March 4, 2011. Applications and further information is available at www.dce.coop, from school guidance counselors, or at the DCEC office.

DCEC Introduces New Website Design

DCEC is very excited about the upcoming launch of their new website. The latest design is a much better reflection of the cooperative. The new website provides valuable resources for members in a much easier and organized fashion. “Hot buttons” are available to access *MyAccount* as well as information on our energy programs.

DCEC’s new website is scheduled to “go live” in January of 2011.



Tips On Preparing For An Outage

1. Have fresh batteries for a flashlight, radio, and alarm clock.
2. Have a manual can opener, drinking water, and dry food available.
3. Keep a non-electrical corded phone or cell phone available with emergency numbers. If you are experiencing a medical emergency please call 911.
4. Protect your appliances, computers and other sensitive equipment with a surge protector.
5. If you have a generator, make sure that it is properly connected to isolate the generator from the possibility of feeding back into DCEC’s electric lines. If you have any questions, please contact DCEC’s office for consultation. Also, have enough gas on hand to run the generator for at least a few days.
6. Know how to use the manual override on your electric garage door opener.
7. Be sure to keep at least a half tank of gas in your vehicle.
8. Keep your refrigerator and freezer closed as much as possible. A well insulated freezer will keep your food from spoiling for days, depending on its location, as long as you don’t open the door.
9. If you hear that a storm is coming, fill your bathtub with water for use in flushing toilets, feeding pets and for other non drinking purposes.
10. Never use gas ovens, gas ranges, or barbeque grills for indoor heating.
11. Most of all, stay away from downed power lines.

Read more about how to lower your energy bills 10-15% with a Free Winter Home Heating Tune-Up Kit.

Please call or stop by the DCEC office for more information.



Another Round of Residential Solar/PV Incentive Funding Available

DCEC members are being given another chance to apply for solar energy grant funding. DCEC has received yet another round of funding from NYPA for an additional \$75,000 to continue the program. Additional grants will be awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis. New grants will be awarded up to \$3/watt with a maximum of \$20,000 per recipient.



Solar panels installed at DCEC member Frank Eppich’s home

Details on the program and application requirements are available at www.dce.coop.

DCEC Office Closing Reminder:

DCEC’s office will be closed on Monday, February 21, 2011 for President’s Day.



Operations Update

- **Pumpkin Hollow Project:** DCEC crews are continuing to upgrade an existing single phase line along Delaware County Route 10 and Pumpkin Hollow Roads in the Towns of Meredith and Davenport. The existing 65 year old poles and wires will be replaced with similar size poles and wires.
- **Ridge Road/East Brook Project:** Starting in January of 2011 DCEC crews will start to set poles on a five mile upgrade in the Ridge, Stoodley Hollow, East Brook, West Platner Brook, and East Handsome Brook Roads in the Towns of Hamden and Franklin. The completion of the upgrade for these poles and wires is projected to be in the summer of 2011.



Meet The DCEC Employees!

This Month: James Bright, 1st Class Lineman

First Class Lineman Jim Bright joined DCEC in 1986 as a member of the tree crew and became a lineman the following year. "I like interacting with the members and working outside," he said. "I enjoy the camaraderie with the guys."

He also enjoys the variety of the work. "Every outage we have is slightly different," he said, noting both a widespread outage after an ice storm in Jefferson and a recent event, when a DCEC member knocked out his own transformer by cutting a tree too close to the wires. He says the work has changed during his tenure, too, with the addition of technology both in the office and in the field. "The introduction of computers has just changed it dramatically," he said. "It's interesting to watch it change and develop." He says the introduction of bucket trucks has made field work more efficient. "We used to have to climb everything," he said.

Bright, 53, lives in Delhi with his wife, Jean. They have two grown children and two grandchildren. They keep goats and bees, producing milk, cheese and honey for family and friends. In the fall, they make apple cider with their own apple press.

Jim says two DCEC linemen are on call at all times and he's proud of the service they offer. "Our response is usually pretty good," he said. "It is a good place to work."

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!



*Congratulations to our latest winner!
Anthony Zupo*

Home Energy Assistance Program

Heating Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) is a federally funded program that offers financial assistance to income-eligible members who need help paying their energy related bills. Please contact your local Social Services office for additional information:

- ◆ Delaware County (607) 746-2325
- ◆ Otsego County (607) 547-4355
- ◆ Schoharie County (518) 295-8334

Statement of Non-Discrimination

Delaware County Electric Cooperative, Inc., has filed with the Federal Government a Compliance Assurance in which it assures the Rural Utilities Service (RUS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, that it will comply with all requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Age of Discrimination Act of 1975, and the Rules and Regulations of the Department of Agriculture issued thereunder, to the end that no person in the United States shall on the ground of race, color, national origin, handicap, or age be excluded from participation and be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination in the conduct of its program and the operation of its facilities.

Under this Assurance, this organization is committed not to discriminate against any person on the grounds of race, color or national origin in its policies and practices relating to treatment of beneficiaries and participants in any meeting of beneficiaries and participants or the exercise of any rights of such beneficiaries and participants in the conduct of the operation of this organization.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's nondiscrimination compliance efforts is, Gregory J. Starheim, General Manager. Any person who believes himself or any specific class of individuals to be subjected by this organization to discrimination prohibited by Title VI of the Act and Rules, and Regulations issued thereunder may, by

himself or a representative, file with the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington, DC 20250, or this organization, or all, a written complaint. Such complaint must be filed no later than 180 days after their alleged discrimination or by such later date to which the Secretary of Agriculture or the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) extends the time for filing. Identity of complaints will be kept confidential except to the extent necessary to carry out the purposes of the Rules and Regulations.

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