

Powering Our Rural Communities

DCEC Proposes Bylaw Changes at 2011 Annual Meeting



Left to Right: DCEC Board of Directors, Steve Oles, Meg Hungerford, Harry Peterson, CEO Greg Starheim & Board President Frank Winkler

In an effort to strengthen governance practice of the cooperative and in response to member input from the December 2010 survey, the DCEC Board of Directors will be proposing several bylaw changes at the 2011 Annual Meeting on September 9, 2011.

These proposed changes include:

- Allowing absentee balloting at Membership Meeting
- Strengthening director qualification requirements
- Revising the director nominating process
- Reducing the size of the board from 9 to 7 directors

“We believe these changes are in the best interest of the cooperative”, said Board Secretary Meg Hungerford. “We are committed to ensuring transparency and efficiency in the governance of DCEC which we believe these changes will help accomplish.”

More detail on these changes will be communicated in future newsletters and through the DCEC website (www.dce.coop). In addition, the board will hold two Membership Informational Meetings for members on these changes. The first meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 24th at 7:00 pm at the Hamden Town Hall. The current version of the DCEC bylaws and details on the proposed changes are available at www.dce.coop.

Planned Outage at Dryden Brook Substation

DCEC crews need to do some very important substation transformer maintenance at our Dryden Brook substation. For the safety of our linemen, we will be scheduling an outage on Tuesday, May 17, 2011 from 2:30—4:30 pm. In case of inclement weather the planned outage will be re-scheduled for May 18th during the same hours. This outage will affect members in the Towns of Walton, Masonville, Tompkins, Sidney and Franklin.

We apologize for any inconvenience it may cause our members. If you have any questions please call the DCEC office.

Faced With Rising Costs, DCEC Board Approves Rate Increase

On April 26, the DCEC Board of Directors announced plans for an increase in electric rates effective July 2011 due to rising operational costs. The total increase will result in a 7.9% increase in revenues to DCEC over a 2-year period of time. A 4.1% increase will be implemented in July 2011 and a tentative 3.8% increase in July 2012. The most significant cost increases necessitating this action include:



DCEC line crew at work

- Cost of purchased power
- Cost of maintaining existing power lines
- Property taxes (both school and town/county)
- Labor costs

“As a cooperative, it is important for us to maintain our commitment to maintaining our electrical distribution system”, says DCEC CEO & General Manager Greg Starheim. “DCEC service reliability is exceptional compared to other neighboring utilities. This is a direct result of our commitment to plant investment which must be built into our rate structure. With that said, we are very conscious of the current state of the economy and in keeping rates as low as possible for our members. The DCEC Board has also maintained a financial goal of proactively retiring \$200,000 of capital credits to members each year (on a “first-in, first-out” basis).”

The DCEC board will be holding two Membership Informational Meetings for members to hear more details about this rate increase. The first meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 24th at 7:00 pm at the Hamden Town Hall.

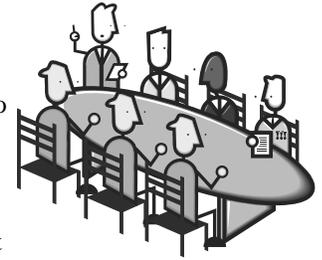
DCEC’s last increase in electric rates occurred in August 2006.

DCEC To Hold Nominating Committee to Identify Director Candidates for Upcoming 2011 Annual Meeting... See page 2



Nominating Committee Forming to Identify Director Candidates

Consistent with Cooperative Bylaws, a Nominating Committee is formed each spring for the purpose of identifying members interested in serving on the DCEC Board of Directors. This committee is made up of members of the Cooperative who are interested in learning more about the governance structure of DCEC and working to identify qualified candidates to serve as directors of DCEC. The candidates that are nominated by this committee are included on the ballot for membership vote at the Annual Meeting of the Membership which takes place each September.



“The board takes our governance responsibilities very seriously”, explains DCEC President Frank Winkler. “Over the last few years, we have worked hard in ensuring that our director nomination process is very transparent and fair.”

If you are interested in serving on the Nominating Committee, please contact the DCEC office by May 23rd. In accordance with DCEC bylaws, the committee is comprised of between 5 and 11 members representing the geographic diversity of the DCEC service area. Members serving on the committee receive a modest stipend for their service. The committee typically meets 2-3 times from May through July in the evenings.

DCEC would like to thank the members who served on the 2010 Nominating Committee: Thomas Courtenay-Clack, Robert Foote, Wesley Warren, Steve Mason, Anthony Caruso, Stephen Hodge, Carol LaTourette, Russell Darling, and Nancy Bellinger.

2011 Board of Director Nominations

Each year, 3 directors serving on the DCEC board complete 3-year terms. Elections for director positions occur at the DCEC's Annual Meeting in September each year. DCEC has 9 directors comprising its board representing each of the nine districts of the DCEC's service territory. In accordance with the DCEC bylaws, a Nominating Committee considers members interested in serving on the board and nominates candidates for the election. If you are a member of the Cooperative, at least 21 years old and are interested in being a candidate, or if you would like additional information, contact the DCEC office or any of the current board members.

In accordance with the Bylaws of the Cooperative, the Nominating Committee must meet and prepare a list of nominees at least 60 days before the Annual Meeting to make nominations for six candidates, three of whom will be voted in as directors, at the forthcoming Annual Meeting of the Members, to be held September 9, 2011 at 4:30 p.m.

The names of the directors whose terms are expiring are:

District No. 2: Harry Peterson —Town of Harpersfield, Delaware County and Town of Summit and that portion of the Town of Jefferson, Schoharie County west of NY State Highway Route 10.

District No. 5: Paul Menke—Town of Meredith, Delaware County.

District No. 9: Frank Winkler—Towns of Andes, Middletown and Colchester, Delaware County.

The committee will meet from May through July at the DCEC office at 39 Elm Street, Delhi, for the purpose of identifying candidates for the above positions.

Nominations for directors are governed by Article 4, Section 3, of the Bylaws. A director may be nominated in three ways: two ways in advance of the meeting and one at the meeting.

✎ The first way is by the **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**. Each year the Nominating Committee meets to consider at least two candidates to run for director in districts up for election.

✎ The second way is by **PETITION**. Any 15 or more members may petition the Cooperative to place a qualified member on the ballot. This must be done not less than 15 days before the Annual Meeting.

✎ The third way is by **NOMINATIONS FROM THE FLOOR**. A member's name may be placed as a candidate for election by a nomination from the floor at the Annual Meeting.

Rules regulating director elections are outlined in DCEC's bylaws which are available on www.dce.coop. Voting for directors is covered by Article 3, Section 5. Each member may cast one ballot for a nominee in each district. This year there are three positions to be filled so each member may cast one vote for three candidates.

A husband and wife holding a joint membership may cast one vote for three nominees, one from each district (joint membership is covered by Article 1, Section 3). ✎

ST 2-82-4

Bartz Selected As Student Youth Delegate



*DCEC Youth Delegate,
Emily Bartz*

The Delaware County Electric Cooperative (DCEC) announces the selection of Emily Bartz from Sidney Center as their 2011 Student Youth Delegate. Emily is the daughter of Timothy and Michelle Bartz. As a Youth Delegate, Emily represented DCEC at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Legislative Conference in Washington D.C. that was scheduled for May 1-4, 2011.

Each year, 11th grade sons and daughters of DCEC members are given the opportunity to apply and be considered to represent the Cooperative at this national event. Students are selected based on their academic achievement, involvement in extra-curricular activities, letters of recommendation, and service to the community.

Emily accompanied DCEC officials to Washington and joined representatives from 900 other rural electric co-ops in meetings with congressional leaders on Capitol Hill.

DCEC Institutes New Line Extension Policy & Charge for Meter Boxes

As of April 1, 2011 DCEC instituted a new line extension policy which outlines new practices for DCEC to provide service to new members while updating fees for various services.

As part of the policy, meter boxes may be purchased at the DCEC office or from a warehouse/vendor of your choice. Meter boxes sold at DCEC will be \$45 for a 100 amp unit and \$55 for a 200 amp unit. It is unfortunate that we have to resort to this but in these tough economic times we can no longer ask the membership as a whole to pay for these in their rate base.

The new line extension policy states all applicants requesting electric service must pay in advance a non-refundable site application fee of \$150. Any line extension of less than 250 feet and one pole will be included at no charge to the members, over 250 feet the cost will be \$10 per foot plus the cost of rock blasting and tree clearing. Non-permanent structures such as campers, signs, wells and temporary services will receive up to 75 feet free of charge, over 75 feet it will be at \$10 a foot plus the cost of rock blasting and tree clearing. New service requests will be left open for a 24 month period. Again, these charges were made to alleviate a burden on future rate reviews.



Electrical Safety Tips For Spring



As you spend more time outdoors this spring and summer try to remember these safety tips:

- ◆ Always keep power cords and electrical equipment away from water or other wet areas.
- ◆ Look up and look out for overhead power lines. Be sure you are aware of any nearby lines before you climb a ladder or extend the handle of a pool-cleaning tool.
- ◆ Call before you dig! Whether you are a homeowner landscaping your yard or a professional contractor digging utility trenches, remember to call 811 at least two working days before you dig. It is required by N.Y. State law.
- ◆ Keep materials, tools and all parts of your body at least 15 feet away from any overhead power lines at all times, including during installation of antennas or satellite dishes. If you plan to get any closer please contact the DCEC office before doing so.
- ◆ Never fly kites or model airplanes near power lines, radio, or TV antennas. If your kite does get tangled with overhead lines, do not try to get it down yourself. Have someone call the DCEC office for assistance. Never use any metallic material in your kite.
- ◆ Before every use, inspect power tools and electric lawn mowers for frayed power cords, broken plugs and weathered or damaged housings. Don't use damaged equipment until it has been repaired properly. Keep tools unplugged and stored in dry areas when they are not in use.
- ◆ Before you trim tree limbs and shrubs, watch out for power lines that could be hidden by foliage. Contact the DCEC office if there are concerns about tree limbs growing into or around overhead power lines on your property.
- ◆ Do not use electric-powered mowers on wet grass or around water. Always use an insulated extension cord designed for outdoor use with the correct power rating for that equipment.
- ◆ Instruct the kids to stay away from utility substation fences and pad-mounted transformers.
- ◆ Do not hang birdhouses, signs, basketball hoops, etc. on electric poles. The linemen have great difficulty climbing around them, also the nails or staples used to hold up these items could cause the linemen to slip or hurt themselves if they have to climb.
- ◆ Do not landscape around poles with flower boxes or anything else that might cause harm if a lineman were to fall.

Operations Update



Line Reconstruction:

Over the next few months DCEC line crews will be rebuilding the distribution lines in the Towns of Hamden, Delhi and Franklin on Stoodley Hollow Road, Ridge Road, West Platner Brook Road, East Handsome Brook Road and East Brook Road. The poles and conductors will be replaced and the immediate members affected will experience short outages during construction.

Right of Way (ROW) Clearing:

DCEC ROW tree clearing crews will be working in our Dryden Brook substation area, mainly in the Towns of Tompkins and Masonville.

KW Reese, a DCEC contractor, will be clearing lines on the Fall Clove Road, County Route 2 and Wolf Hollow Road in the Town of Andes, Bigger Hollow and Calhoun Hill Roads in the Town of Bovina, and Basin Clove Road in the Town of Hamden.

Written notifications have been sent out to affected members regarding the scope of work along our lines for ROW clearing.

Community Calendar



DCEC Annual Meeting
Friday, September 9, 2011



Sidney Annual Hometown Day Parade
June 11, 2011
@ 1 pm



Stamford Flag Day Parade
June 14, 2011 @ 6 pm



Opening Day at Hanford Mills Museum
May 15, 2011
8 am—5 pm



Meredith Dairy Fest
June 11th & 12th, 2011
10:00 AM—5:00 PM
FREE ADMISSION
Parking \$5.00



Congratulations to the Graduating Classes of 2011!



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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!**

Energy Efficiency Tip: Turn It Off!



Save electricity and reduce waste heat by shutting off lights. Seldom used home electronics should actually be unplugged from the wall. Items like DVD players, VCRs and cordless phones use 40 percent of their energy while in the off position to power functions like clocks and remote controls.

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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- Director.....Paul Menke
- Director.....Hartley Russell
- Director.....David Hartwell
- Director.....Ernest Bartz
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- Asst. General Manager...Wayne Marshfield

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For Sale:
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