



## Powering Our Rural Communities

### Nominating Committee Meets to Identify Director Candidates



The DCEC Board of Directors at last year's 2011 Annual Meeting

Each year, an independent committee of DCEC members work to recruit members interested in running for the DCEC board at the Cooperative's Annual Meeting. This year members will elect new directors at the 2012 Annual Meeting scheduled for September 21.

The Committee, which kicked off their work on April 25, will submit official nominations by July 22.

Members interested in learning more about being a director or becoming candidates, should contact members of the Nominating Committee or the DCEC office. All candidates will be expected to submit a letter to the Nominating Committee presenting your credentials and qualifications and explain why you are interested in serving on the DCEC Board of Directors. Further details are available on the DCEC website.

The director positions that are up for election in 2012 include:

- Northern Region: Towns of Gilboa, Jefferson, Summit, Davenport, Harpersfield, Stamford and Maryland
- Southern Region: Towns of Andes, Colchester, Middletown, Masonville, Sidney, Tompkins, Walton and Bainbridge

### 2012 DCEC Nominating Committee

Central Region:	Northern Region:	Southern Region:
Frank Eppich	Robert Foote	Carol LaTourette
Anthony Caruso	Dennis Lawrence	Stephen Hodge
Steve Mason	Tom Courtenay-Clack	Sheila Paul
Wesley Warren		
Wayne Oliver		

**Interested in a Home Energy Audit? For more information visit [www.dce.coop](http://www.dce.coop) or call the DCEC office!**



### DCEC Meter Upgrade Program On-Track



Strong maintenance practices are vital to the performance of any piece of equipment or system. DCEC prides itself on implementing strong and safe maintenance practices of its electrical plant and equipment and in delivering high levels of service reliability to its

members. When the chance to receive over \$1.6M in grants from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the New York State Energy Research & Development Authority (NYSERDA) presented itself, DCEC staff jumped at the opportunity to fund maintenance upgrades at minimal cost to members. Over the past 6 months, DCEC has been working on implementing upgrades to metering and software systems to better improve service performance and reliability.

As part of the upgrade, DCEC is on-track to complete a 100% meter change-out to digital meters by June 2012. In addition to the many benefits that the meter upgrades will provide (including outage management, engineering analysis, member support, billing accuracy and other areas) it will also allow DCEC to offer a variety of programs to members to help them become more energy efficient and save money on their electric bills.

*Continued on Page 2...*

### DCEC to Introduce the Co-op Connections Card to Members

DCEC members should be on the look-out in their upcoming July bills for their Co-op Connections Card. This card is just another aspect of DCEC's Member Savings Program that was introduced last year.



This card will offer members discounts on prescriptions at local pharmacies, discounts at local businesses including MidTown Grill & Restaurant, Sal's Traditional Meat Center, Curtis Lumber and more. It also includes national discounts to retail stores such as Lands' End and Advanced Auto Parts, also many travel discounts are available to hotel chains such as Wyndham as well as rental car discounts.

A complete list of all the discounts both local and national that the Co-op Connections Card will be offering will be available on DCEC's website at [www.dce.coop](http://www.dce.coop).

## Meter Upgrade Program...*Continued from Page 1*

Starting earlier this year, members were notified of these opportunities through bill inserts, emails and on the DCEC website ([www.dce.coop](http://www.dce.coop)). These programs include:



**In-Home Displays:** This pilot project that involves distributing 50-75 devices to residential members that provide consumers information on their electrical usage and hourly cost of consumption. Members can use this information to make informed decisions on their electrical usage. Over 100 DCEC members expressed interest in participating in the program.

**Electric Hot Water Heater Load Control:** This program involves an upgrade to the aged system DCEC deployed over 20 years ago. The program is available to members who have electric hot water heaters. Within constraints, DCEC automatically controls the charging of the water heaters during periods of high peak demand and energy prices. Members also receive a credit on their monthly bill for participating and save money on their electric bill by helping keep costs low. Approximately 800 DCEC members participate in the program today. DCEC's goal is to increase the number to 1,000 participants.

**Heat Pump Hot Water Heaters:** Through a grant from NYSERDA, DCEC will be offering to a select number of members a very efficient new kind of hot water heater based on heat pump technology. These appliances offer substantial improvements to traditional resistive electric hot water heaters. DCEC will be giving away 35 of these heaters which will be instrumented and monitored for performance over a 12-month period of time. DCEC will be recruiting members for this program in the upcoming months.

**Web Portal / Consumer Access to Usage Information:** Currently DCEC offers members an on-line account access called "MyAccount". This web application allows members to pay bills on-line, view historical monthly electrical usage and manage their account information. In the future, this on-line service will be enhanced with many new and helpful features including providing members hourly usage information which will allow members to see what is driving their utility costs and to assist in identifying what actions they can take to reduce demand.

Be on the look-out for these programs in upcoming months. DCEC will be offering services and programs to assist members in managing their energy usage and in offering ways that will allow the members to be more energy efficient.

## DCEC Efforts to Serve Amphenol Progressing... NYPA Awards Low-Cost Hydro Power

In support of economic development efforts to save 1,100 jobs in Sidney, NY after devastating flooding that occurred in August, DCEC joined forces with the New York State Empire State Development, Delaware County Industrial Development Agency (IDA) and elected officials to develop an economic incentive package to entice Amphenol Aerospace to remain in New York State. In late December, Governor Andrew Cuomo announced that the vital area employer had accepted the \$20M assistance and aid package and committed to keep its operations and jobs in Sidney, NY. DCEC's contributions to the incentive package were a commitment to provide the business low-cost power supply on a non-profit basis.

Since December, DCEC has been actively working on the project which involves providing electric service to a new manufacturing facility to be built at a new site location on Delaware Street in Sidney (outside the flood plain). In February, DCEC received a franchise from the Village of Sidney to operate as an electric utility within the village limits. In March, DCEC secured a wholesale delivery commitment from NYSEG to transmit the hydro power to a new DCEC substation location along with a commitment from NYSEG not to challenge DCEC's right to serve the new site (NYSEG previously served Amphenol at their old location). During the March meeting, the DCEC Board of Directors approved Amphenol as one of the newest members of the Cooperative.

"Our ability to supply Amphenol is entirely due to the efforts by Senator John Bonacic, Assemblyman Pete Lopez and Cliff Crouch who were major champions in changing New York State law to allow us to serve within village limits", explains Greg Starheim, DCEC CEO & General Manager. Prior to last August, electric cooperatives could only provide electric service in villages up to 1,000 in population. The new bill, which was signed into law by Governor Cuomo in August 2011, increased the limit to allow electric cooperatives to service villages and cities up to 20,000 in population consistent with federal law. The Village of Sidney has a population of 4,000.



*DCEC CEO Greg Starheim speaks with the Sidney Town Board regarding serving Amphenol*

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## Starheim Selected As Student Youth Delegate



DCEC Youth Delegate,  
Elissa Starheim

Miss Elissa Starheim of Jefferson Central School was selected by the DCEC Board of Directors on April 24 to be the Cooperative's 2012 Legislative Youth Delegate. As a Youth Delegate, Elissa represented DCEC at the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Legislative Conference in Washington D.C. that occurred April 29—May 2. Elissa is the daughter of Greg and Elaine Starheim of Gilboa.

Each year, 11<sup>TH</sup> 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.

As a Youth Delegate, Elissa accompanied DCEC officials to Washington. She joined representatives from 900 other rural electric co-ops in meetings with Congressional leaders on Capitol Hill.

## Final Phase-In of Rate Increase Scheduled for July

As a non-profit, cooperative-owned organization, DCEC has a single and straight-forward business objective of providing reliable and affordable electric service to its members. While the board, management and staff at DCEC work hard to keep rates as low as possible to the members, it is sometimes necessary to make adjustments to electric rates to maintain strong service reliability, to retire capital credits on a regular basis and to keep the Cooperative financially healthy.

After 5 years with no rate increases, the DCEC Board approved in early 2011 a 7.9% increase in electric rates to residential and small commercial members. To minimize the impact to members, the increase was approved to be phased in over a 2-year period of time; a 4.1% increase that was introduced in July 2011 and the 3.8% increase that is scheduled for July 2012. The upcoming increase represents about a 15 cents per day increase to the average residential member.

## Amphenol... *Continued from Page 2*

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"We are very grateful for all of the support we have received in our efforts to serve Amphenol as a new member of the Cooperative", says Starheim. "We are honored to be able to contribute to this significant economic development initiative in our area." DCEC electric service will save Amphenol up to 15% on their annual electric expenditure.

The key to DCEC's ability to offer low-cost power to Amphenol is its access to clean, hydro power from the New York Power Authority Niagara Power Project. As a "preference power" customer of NYPA, DCEC is eligible to participate in the NYPA Municipal and Rural Electric Cooperative Economic Development Program which awards low-cost power to economic development opportunities throughout the state. On March 27<sup>th</sup>, the NYPA Board of Trustees approved a 2.3 MW allocation to DCEC for Amphenol amounting to 50% of the business's anticipated electrical demand.

## Electrical Safety Tips for Spring and Summer

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. 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.
- ◆ 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. This could cause harm to our linemen.
- ◆ Do not landscape around poles with flower boxes or anything else that might cause harm to a lineman.

## Operations Update



### Line Reconstruction:

DCEC line crews are currently working on short sections of single phase lines in Merrickville in the Town of Franklin and Sal Bren Road in the Town of Meredith. Work has started to re-conductor and relocate a section of single phase line on North Road in the Town of Kortright. They will also be starting to rebuild 1.35 miles of line on Turner Hill Road in the Town of Davenport.

### Right of Way (ROW) Clearing:

DCEC crews will be clearing line on Wolf Hollow Road in the Town of Andes and on Maggie Hoag Road in the Town of Delhi.

DCEC contractor, KW Reese, has started to clear right of ways on Arbor Hill, NYS Route 10, and Frasers to Platner Brook Roads in the Town of Delhi. They will then proceed to the NYS Route 30 Andes area for further clearing.

Members affected by the above stated work will be contacted prior to the beginning of the projects.

## DCEC Board Members Earn Their Credentialed Cooperative Director Certification

DCEC Board of Directors Meg Hungerford, Paul Menke and Rusty Pick have finished their required courses to earn their Credentialed Cooperative Director certification (CCD).

These courses allow the directors to gain training and knowledge in the operations of the Cooperative and how best to serve the members. All of the directors that sit on the board of DCEC are now CCD certified.



Meg Hungerford



Rusty Pick



Paul Menke

### DCEC Office Closing Reminder:

DCEC's office will be closed on Monday, May 28, 2012 for Memorial Day



DCEC staff asks our members to remember our fallen heroes who have served our Country.

### 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!*



## Community Calendar



**DCEC Annual Meeting**  
Friday, September 21, 2012

**Sidney Annual Hometown Day Parade**  
June 9, 2012 @ 1 pm

**Stamford Flag Day Parade**  
June 14, 2012 @ 6 pm



## DCEC Needs to Update Member Contact Information

The following is a listing of DCEC members whose capital credit checks have been returned to DCEC by the USPS due to an insufficient or outdated address. Please review the list and if you have any information that will be helpful to us in locating these members, please contact the DCEC office at (607) 746-2341 or email us at [billing@dce.coop](mailto:billing@dce.coop). Thank you for your assistance.



Isabel R. Ackerley	Frances M. Davis	Nancy C. Hall	James McGrath	Brian Smit
Deborah A. Ameden	Linda Ann De Luca	Raymond D. Harsch	Marguerite L. Mehegan	Charles M. Snyder
Earl L. Beers	Mark A. Eckert	Andrew Havrish	Paul E. Menhennett	Arnold Steele
Virginia Brunner	Gary T. Fisher	Marja Jaaskelainen	James E. Nolan	Dale Stevens
Edward H. Budine	Gaetano L. Florio	Robert Jefferys	Frank Quartuccio	Kim A. Stiles
Shelley Chamberlain	Ralph Gantasano	Chris S. Jones	Dennis Roe	Conrad Spry
John Coughlan	Losang Gyatso	Dieter Kopf	Norma Seaward	Arthur H. Van Brunt, III
John Cojocar	Bertil V. Hall	Shirley Lindquist	William Shaw	Ronald E. Young
		Patricia F. Le Duc	Janet A. Sibley	

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### Board of Directors

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 Vice President..... Hartley Russell  
 Secretary ..... Meg Hungerford  
 Treasurer ..... Stephen Oles  
 Director..... Ernest Bartz

Director..... David Hartwell  
 Director..... Paul Menke  
 Director..... Rusty Pick  
 CEO/General Manager..... Greg Starheim  
 Asst. General Manager..... Wayne Marshfield

Delaware County Electric Coop., Inc.  
 39 Elm St., PO Box 471  
 Delhi, New York 13753-0471  
 607-746-2341 Fax: 607-746-7548  
 Email: [office@dce.coop](mailto:office@dce.coop)  
 Web Site: [www.dce.coop](http://www.dce.coop)