



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 66th Annual Meeting of the Members



Director Steve Oles, DCEC Operations Manager, Wayne Marshfield and DCEC member Jack Pardee

Members gathered on Friday, September 10th for DCEC's 66th Annual Meeting. A total of 217 people attended including 125 voting members.

Frank Winkler, Board President, discussed chal-

lenges in the electric utility industry due to a lack of clear energy policy at both the State and Federal levels of government. He also discussed the value of belonging to a cooperative utility and the importance for members to participate in the democratic process of decision making at the business meeting. Winkler further explained that DCEC will be conducting a membership survey in the near future to get feedback from members on how well the cooperative is meeting their expectations and what services they'd like to see DCEC provide in the future.

In his Manager's Report, Greg Starheim said that DCEC had an excellent year of service reliability attributed to a lack of major storms and the cooperative's commitment to plant modernization. He reported that construction projects to rebuild aging power lines over the last year were completed on-time and under budget. Starheim also talked about electric power supply, the cooperative's landfill gas power generation plant and a \$1 million "Smart Grid Demonstration" (stimulus) grant that was secured from the US Department of Energy to fund the replacement of the cooperative's aging remote metering and load control systems.

Members voted on the election of three directors to serve on the DCEC board and a resolution to give the DCEC board of directors the authority on rate setting. The members passed the resolution by a vote of 132 to 13.

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Thank You Bob Coager!



After 34 years of dedicated service Bob Coager is retiring from DCEC. Bob began his service to DCEC members in 1976 as a part-time right-of-way clearing employee. Throughout his career, he progressed through the ranks and retires as a 1st Class Lineman.

"We will miss him", say Operations Manager Wayne Marshfield. "Bob has been a very committed employee and has been one of the best equipment operators that DCEC has ever had."

Bob and his wife of 31 years, Peggy, plan to stay in Bloomville in retirement. "There's no place better", he admits. "I've really enjoyed working at DCEC. It's been a great career."

Members to Receive Capital Credit Payments

Christmas for some DCEC members will soon get a little greener. On October 20, 2010, the DCEC board approved a \$200,000 general retirement of capital credits to those individuals and businesses who were active members in 1988.



"As part of being a cooperative it's our obligation to retire capital credits over time", explains Steve Oles, DCEC Director and Treasurer. "These funds represent our member's equity in DCEC and the investment our members have made in the cooperative."

At the end of every fiscal year, any year-end "net margin" realized by DCEC is "allocated" (not paid out) to members based on their electrical usage for that year. As a non-profit cooperative, this represents the equity members have in the cooperative. When financial conditions of the cooperative are deemed to be sufficient, the board can vote to retire these capital credits as a return of member equity on a "First-In First-Out" basis. This retirement represents about 40% of the total margin realized in 1988.

Annual Meeting Continued from Page 1...

Results of the director elections were:

- ◆ District 4—Towns of Kortright and Stamford
Meg Hungerford 130 Unopposed
- ◆ District 6—Towns of Delhi and Bovina
Stephen Oles 85 Peter Bracci 59
- ◆ District 8—Towns of Masonville, Sidney and Tompkins
Ernest Bartz 87 Sheila Paul 34 Tammy Wagner 21



DCEC Employee, Don Buel

Members heard presentations from Legislative Youth Delegate Kristen Starheim and the Delaware County Dairy Princess Nikki Holdridge. Service awards were presented to Lineman Kim Armstrong for 30 years of service, and Lineman Steve Little and Director Frank Winkler for five years of service. Linemen Mike Pietrantonio and Scott Tuttle were also recognized for saving a house from destruction by extinguishing a fire while on duty. Before the business meeting, members were served a barbecued chicken dinner in the school cafeteria. At the end of the meeting there was a drawing for door prizes.

DCEC Reduces Costs with Federated Insurance

DCEC staff constantly looks for opportunities for cost savings to keep electric rates low to members. Recently, DCEC renewed its agreement with the Federated Rural Electrical Insurance Exchange for business insurance providing significant cost savings.

“We are very pleased to contract with Federated for our business insurance needs,” explained Dave Hartwell, DCEC Director and Finance Committee Chair. “Everyone sees costs increasing and it’s great to find a way to offset increasing expenses while working with a capable and professional organization.”

For five years, the New York cooperatives worked to get Federated licensed to offer insurance products in New York State. “We have to give thanks to Senators Seward and Bonacic, and Assemblymen Crouch and Lopez for their assistance in this area,” said Frank Winkler, Director & member of the Government Relations Committee. “It was a very long and bureaucratic process but we’re grateful to have them finally be able to serve our needs.” Federated is a cooperative insurance company formed specifically to provide insurance to electrical cooperatives throughout the U.S. with headquarters in Kansas City, Kansas, they serve over 725 electric cooperatives in 40 states.



Doug McGee of Federated Insurance with DCEC employees, Alain Harelimana & Millie Faulkner

Operations Update

Current highlights of DCEC’s operations include:

- ◆ DCEC and contractor KW Reese have completed over 52 miles of line-clearing year-to-date.
- ◆ DCEC crews are rebuilding a four mile section of electric line on County Route 10 in the Town of Meredith and Pumpkin Hollow Road in the Town of Davenport. This reconstruction should last throughout the winter.
- ◆ DCEC contractor Osmose is about 50% complete with line inspections throughout the Towns of Kortright, Meredith, Harpersfield, and Davenport areas. They are projected to be completed by the first of December.
- ◆ DCEC crews have replaced over 50 aged and defective electric poles discovered during the 2009 line inspection.
- ◆ High winds and flooding on Sept 30—Oct 1 caused minimal damage to DCEC’s plant, but outages did occur from 4:00 pm on Sept 30 to 5:00 am on Oct 1. At peak outage conditions, 700 members were without power. Flooded roads made it difficult to maneuver around for the final repairs. The DCEC renewable power project at the Delaware County land-fill was also forced to shut down due to flooding conditions. All in all, power was restored quickly, safely and with minimal disruption.



Between September 30th & October 1st Route 10 in Walton was closed due to flooding on Main Street

Energy Efficiency Tips For Winter

The following are low-cost and no-cost energy saving tips to help save money this winter:

- ◆ Unplug electronics when not in use
- ◆ Participate in DCEC's electric hot water heater Load Control Program
- ◆ Keep refrigerator coils clear of obstacles and dirt
- ◆ Replace incandescent bulbs with compact fluorescent (CFL) bulbs
- ◆ Wash only full loads of dishes and allow to air dry
- ◆ Install low-flow shower heads and fix leaky faucets
- ◆ Purchase a programmable thermostat
- ◆ Set your heat to 68 degrees Fahrenheit
- ◆ Set your water heater between 110 and 120 degrees
- ◆ Do not block radiators
- ◆ Keep shades open during the day and closed in the evening
- ◆ Close fireplace dampers when not in use
- ◆ Have your heating system serviced once a year
- ◆ Plug home leaks: install weather-stripping and caulk all doors and windows, and install gaskets behind all outlet covers. For less than \$20 in materials, you can save 20% of your heating bill!

Remember...make sure to decorate safely for the holidays!

Home Energy Assistance Program

Heating Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) is a federally funded program that offers financial assistance to income-eligible members for energy related expenses. 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



DCEC Members Install Solar Projects

Four DCEC members have completed the installation of solar photovoltaic systems at their homes totaling 25.5 kW of capacity as part of the DCEC Residential Solar/PV Incentive Program. Financial assistance for these installations is being provided by NYPA through DCEC incentive grant funding. This program provides for an initial portion of the grant incentive to be paid to members at the start of a qualified project with the balance being paid upon completion, and an acceptable review of documents pertaining to their PV system installation.



Solar panels at the home of Deirdre Hillis

Currently, five other DCEC members are participating in "Round 2" of the DCEC incentive grant. These five members are planning to interconnect approximately 25 kW of capacity with their projects. In Round 2, members receive \$3 per watt of installed capacity for new installations of qualified systems with a project limit of \$20,000, total. Incentive funding is still available for interested members. Please contact the DCEC office or visit www.dce.coop for program details.



Upcoming Holiday Parades & Events

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

- ◆ Friday, 12/3—Sidney, the Annual Jolly Holly Festival
- ◆ Saturday, 12/4—Delhi, 11:00 am—4:00 pm, the 12th Annual O'Connor Hospital Holiday Parade.
- ◆ Saturday, 12/11—Delhi, 1:00 pm—4:00 pm, Delhi Historical Society presents "Old Fashioned Christmas Party" located at Cannon House, 47 Main Street

DCEC Member Consent Form

DCEC is committed to protecting the personal information of its members. That is why DCEC will not release any account or other personal information to a 3rd party without a written consent from the member. Due to privacy rules, this extends to spouses (unless they are joint members), relatives, friends, and non-government organizations (e.g. Delaware Opportunities, Catholic Charities, etc.)

We realize this can cause an inconvenience to individuals who are attempting to help out members. If you would like to provide account access to someone, please contact the DCEC office for a waiver form or you can access the form online at www.dce.coop.

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Investor-Owned Utilities Increase Electric Rates

NYSEG: On September 16th, NYSEG was granted an 11% increase to electric delivery rates over a 4-year period of time. The increase goes into effect on September 25th.



National Grid: In September, the utility petitioned the NYS PSC to increase delivery rates for electricity by \$390M beginning 2011. The utility has since withdrawn its request pending an investigation by an independent auditor over possible inappropriate charges included in its basis for rate determination.





“Elfred, do you suppose that light would work if I pushed this little handle down.”

DCEC Welcomes New Employees



Kyle Shuman

Kyle Shuman and Marc Stewart joined DCEC during the summer of 2010 on a temporary basis as right-of-way clearing laborers. In October, both of them became permanent employees.

Kyle graduated in May with a Bachelor of Technology degree in Construction Management from SUNY Delhi. During his time at Delhi he also completed their Utility Lineman Training course. Kyle currently resides in Meredith with his girlfriend Erica.



Marc Stewart

Marc is a graduate of the Northwest Lineman College out of Meridian, Idaho. Originally from Unadilla, Marc currently resides in Oneonta.

Both Kyle and Marc were very excited to become a part of DCEC. We are glad to have such capable and promising additions to the DCEC staff.



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



Please Help DCEC In A Food Collection For The Holidays

DCEC will be collecting non-perishable food to donate to the local food bank in your community. There will be a drop off box in the main office at 39 Elm Street in Delhi. Food can be donated between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m., from Nov 22 through Dec 17. Please help deliver some cheer this holiday season.



DCEC Office Closing Reminder:

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

- * Thursday, November 25th, and
- * Friday, November 26th for Thanksgiving
- * Friday, December 24th for Christmas Eve
- * Monday, December 27th for Christmas Day
- * Friday, December 31st for New Year’s Day



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!**

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