



*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 67th Annual Meeting of the Members



*DCEC employee, Rosemary Alwine handing packets to members at the Annual Meeting*

Members gathered on Friday, September 9th for DCEC's 67th Annual Meeting at the Delaware Academy & Central School in Delhi. A total of 181 people attended including 105 voting members.

Frank Winkler, Board President, re-

viewed the results of the membership survey conducted in December 2010. Feedback received in the survey helped the board decide to strengthen governance practices and recommended the following bylaw changes that were voted on at the meeting: 1) Allow Absentee Balloting & Eliminate Proxies, 2) Eliminate Floor Nominations in Director Elections, 3) Reduce the Board Size from 9 to 7 Directors with Re-Districting, 4) Strengthen Director Qualifications, and 5) Provide More Time for Meeting Notices & Nominating Committee Appointments. All of these bylaw changes were passed.

*Continued on Page 2...*

### Members to Receive Capital Credit Payments

Christmas for some DCEC members will soon get a little greener. On October 25, 2011, the DCEC board approved a \$100,000 general retirement of capital credits to those individuals and businesses who were active members in 1988.

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 in that year. As a non-profit cooperative, this represents the equity that 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 30% of the total margin realized in 1988.

### Thank You Joe Dibble!



After 34 years of dedicated service Joe Dibble has retired from DCEC. Joe began his employment and service to DCEC members in 1978 on the right-of-way clearing crew. Throughout his career, Joe progressed through the ranks and retires as a 1<sup>st</sup> Class Lineman.

Joe and his wife of 30 years, Connie, have a son, 3 grandchildren, and 1 step grandchild to keep them busy. Joe also says he plans on doing plenty around the house. "My yard and garden are in the best shape they have ever been prior to winter", says Joe.

DCEC would like to thank Joe for his many years of dedicated service.

### DCEC Members Eligible for Free Home Energy Audits

Did you know that most DCEC members are eligible for a free home energy audit?

Under a new program offered by the New York State Energy Research & Development Authority (NYSERDA), most DCEC members can get a comprehensive energy audit of their home by a certified contractor to identify how they can save on their energy bill. The audit will review all aspects of a home's energy consumption including the efficiency of appliances, heating systems, insulation, windows and other areas of a home. As part of the audit, DCEC members will receive a report which would list all recommendations for improving energy consumption along with an estimated costs for each recommendation. In addition to lowering energy bills, grants and low-interest financing may also be available to homeowners to perform some of the recommendations to improve energy efficiency.

Members can apply for the free home energy audit by contacting DCEC or going online to [www.dce.coop](http://www.dce.coop).



## Annual Meeting Continued from Page 1...

In his Manager's Report, Greg Starheim updated members on the current co-op operations impact on recent storm damage from Hurricanes Irene and Lee as well as member initiatives.

Members voted on the election of three directors to serve on the DCEC board. Results of the director elections were:

- ◆ District 2 (now the Northern Region which includes the Towns of Davenport, Gilboa, Harpersfield, Jefferson, Maryland, Stamford & Summit)  
Edward ("Rusty") Pick 62     Steve Rinehart 37
- ◆ District 5 (now the Central Region which includes the Towns of Bovina, Delhi, Franklin, Hamden, Kortright & Meredith)  
Paul Menke 93 (sole candidate)
- ◆ District 9 (now the Southern Region which includes the Towns of Andes, Bainbridge, Colchester, Masonville, Middletown, Sidney, Tompkins & Walton)  
Russell Darling 32                     Frank Winkler 69

Members heard presentations from Legislative Youth Delegate Emily Bartz and the Delaware County Dairy Princess Haley Groat. Service awards were presented to Linemen James Green, Mike Dianich, Mike Schafer and David Schmidt, Billing Clerk Rosemary Alwine, and Secretary Tara Rifenbark, Directors Ernie Bartz and David Hartwell were also recognized for serving on the DCEC Board for 35 and 25 years, respectively. A special plaque was presented to the family of director Tom Lubbers posthumously for his dedication to DCEC as a director and to the members. Another plaque was presented to retiring director Harry Peterson for his 33 years of service on the board.

Prior to 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 CEO/General Manager, Greg Starheim and DCEC Board President, Frank Winkler present retiring Director Harry Peterson with a plaque in recognition of his 33 years of service*

## Governor Signs "Rural Definition" Bill Into Law

On September 23, 2011, Governor Andrew Cuomo signed into law a bill that will allow rural electric cooperatives to serve more areas of the state. The new law increases the size of a village that may be served by electric cooperatives from 1,000 to 20,000 in population.

"This is a major victory for rural electric cooperatives", said Bruce Geiger, Government Affairs for the New York State Rural Electric Cooperatives (NYSRECA). "We are very pleased to have been able to make this change."

Senator Bonacic sponsored the bill and was instrumental in its passage. The legislation was also strongly supported by Assemblyman Cliff Crouch and Assemblyman Pete Lopez. The new law brings the definition of "rural" as it relates to electric cooperatives to be consistent with federal law.

"The new law will provide for greater electric supply options to new loads in more areas of the state", says Geiger. "This can be beneficial to many businesses and commercial operations, residences, farms, municipalities, educational and community facilities that, up until now, had only one option for electricity supply."



## DCEC Completes New Construction Work

Every four years, DCEC completes a detailed assessment of its electrical system to identify the work that is required to maintain high-levels of reliability to its members. This work includes identifying existing power lines that are in need of replacement due to age and condition or are projected to be over-loaded due to growth in certain areas and projections for new service installations.

"This is an excellent planning process", says Wayne Marshfield, DCEC Operations Manager. "It allows us to take a thorough look at what is needed to ensure our plant continues to be strong and reliable even in tough weather conditions."

In addition to proactively re-building aged distribution power lines, DCEC conducts ongoing inspections of its lines and maintenance of its right-of-ways to minimize power outages and to allow linemen to quickly access and restore power to members. The work plan extends from 2012 through 2015.

## DCEC Partners with DCMO BOCES on Solar/PV Project

### DCMO BOCES SOLAR/PV PROJECT



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH...



Powering Our Rural Communities



Generating more than electricity

Signage to be displayed at project

Construction work has begun on the 11.75 kW rated solar photovoltaic (PV) at the DCMO BOCES campus near Trout Creek, NY. The project will be interconnected to the DCEC system using inverters and will consist of 50 PV panels rated at 235 watts per panel. The panels will be pedestal mounted on a south facing slope on the BOCES campus. The PV system is expected to generate approximately 13,500 kWh, annually.

Funding for the project is provided by the New York Power Authority (NYPA) through the DCEC Solar/PV Incentive Program.

“To date, 12 DCEC members have successfully installed residential solar/PV systems as part of the program”, says Paul DeAndrea, DCEC Engineering Manager. “This has been a very successful program with many of our members showing a strong interest in renewable energy.”

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## Upcoming Holiday Parades & Events



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

- ◆ Friday, 12/2—Sidney, 6:30 pm— the Annual Jolly Holly Parade
- ◆ Saturday, 12/3— Delhi, 11:00 am— the 13th Annual O’Connor Hospital Holiday Parade.
- ◆ Saturday, 1/21—Walton Fairgrounds—Winter Festival

## DCEC Sells Renewable Attributes from LFG Facility

In October, DCEC announced the sale of renewable energy credits or “RECs” to the Energy Cooperative of America (ECA), another non-profit cooperative that provides energy supply to consumers throughout New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Maryland.

As a qualified renewable energy resource, the Delaware County Waste-to-Energy Project located in Walton, NY, produces “renewable energy credits” or “RECs” during its normal course of operation. These credits are also referred to the industry as “green attributes or “tags” and represent the equivalent amount of electricity that is produced by the renewable resource that displaces an alternative (default) generation resource in the New York Power market. In NYS, the “displaced” generation resource is considered a natural gas fueled turbine generator – a resource which produces carbon and other air emissions.

RECs are marketable commodities that are purchased by businesses, municipalities and other large consumers to demonstrate commitment to renewable resources. Under the terms of the sale, ECA purchased 100% of the 2010 RECs generated from the facility.



Delaware County Waste-to-Energy Project

## NYPA Proposing Major Increase In Hydro Energy Rates



On July 26, 2011, the New York Power Authority (NYPA) Board of Trustees adopted a resolution that provided notice to “preference customers” of NYPA’s intention to increase hydro preference power rates beginning in November 2011. The new rates would increase the amount paid by preference power “customers” for hydro energy by over 26% over a 4-year period of time. DCEC is one of 51 preference power customers that would experience the rate increase.

“This is a major issue for us”, says Greg Starheim, DCEC CEO & General Manager. “We rely on our power supply agreement with NYPA to keep our rates as low as possible for members.” Under the supply agreement, NYPA sells hydro power to its wholesale customers at its cost of generation. NYPA has stated that the increase is necessary to cover increases it has experienced. It is estimated that this would cause an increase of over 2% to DCEC electric rates.

DCEC, working with other preference power customers, is evaluating NYPA’s cost-of-service study to determine whether the rate increase is justified and fair. At the request of its customers, NYPA agreed to a 3-week extension to the date for which the new rates would go into effect.

## Operations Update



### Pole Inspection:

DCEC contractor, Osmose is inspecting primary electric poles in the Harpersfield, Gilboa and Jefferson areas. They are checking the internal and external conditions of our poles. Work should be completed by the first of December.

### Line Reconstruction:

DCEC line construction personnel are completing a 1.4 mile line reconstruction project on Houghtaling Hollow Road in the Town of Meredith. They will be starting a 1.9 mile line reconstruction project on Holiday Brook Road in the Town of Colchester and Andes. Crews will also be on a similar project on Sal-Bren Road in the Town of Meredith. Most poles and conductor wire will be replaced on the above stated projects.

### Right of Way (ROW) Clearing:

KW Reese, a DCEC contractor, has completed 40 miles of right-of-way clearing in 2011. DCEC crews continue clearing in the Town of Masonville through the end of 2011. Clearing will take place on Delaware County Route 20 and all town roads leading off from Route 20. Planning work is underway on line locations that will be cleared in 2012.

## Hurricane Irene & Lee Update

On August 27, the remnants of Hurricane Irene hit Delaware and Schoharie Counties downing trees and power lines. Immediate assistance was solicited and received from Steuben Electric Cooperative from Bath, NY and from Wellsboro Electric in Wellsboro, PA. At the peak of the storm, DCEC had about 2,500 members or 48% of our system out of power. "We were able to restore power in its entirety in three days and were thankful for the assistance from the above stated utilities", says Wayne Marshfield, DCEC Operations Manager. The storm caused extensive damage to the DCEC system including five broken poles, pulled anchors, and broken conductors.



One week later, Tropical Storm Lee hit and again produced high winds and rain throughout Delaware and Schoharie Counties breaking conductors and washing out three poles. This storm was less of an impact on DCEC as restoration time was completed within 24 hours.

Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee left their mark for years to come. Our hearts go out to those in Margaretville, Fleischmanns, Sidney, Schoharie Valley, and Prattsville for their devastating losses.



39 Elm Street  
P.O Box 471  
Delhi, NY 13753  
Ph: (607) 746-2341  
Fx: (607) 746-7548  
www.dce.coop

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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!*



### DCEC Office Closing Reminder:

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

- \* Thursday, November 24th, and
- \* Friday, November 25th for Thanksgiving
- \* Friday, December 23rd for Christmas Eve
- \* Monday, December 26th for Christmas Day
- \* Monday, January 2nd for New Year's Day



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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  
Web Site: www.dce.coop

## Buyer's Market

*If you would like to place an ad in our Buyers Market please call our office at (607) 746-2341*



### For Sale:

Antique Parlor Stove  
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