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CATSKILL HI-LINE

Bi-Monthly Newsletter

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May/June 2022

Powering Our Rural Communities



Scholarship Winner

DCEC is pleased to announce the winner of the 2022 Youth Tour Delegate Scholarship is Mr. Tyler Branigan.

Tyler is a Junior at Delaware Academy where he is part of thirteen extracurricular activities including the Governor’s Youth Council and playing tennis and soccer.

Upon receiving notice of being selected for the \$1,000.00 scholarship, Tyler remarked, “Thank you so much. This has been an incredible opportunity, and I am extremely grateful to have participated”.

Unfortunately, due to COVID, the May trip to D.C. portion of the program was cancelled. However, Tyler had remarked “Service means so much to me because of the ability to make an impact on people’s lives while also understanding the importance of giving back to a community... If given the opportunity to participate in the trip offered through the scholarship by Delaware County Electric Cooperative, I would see a world that is very different from the small-town life I have always known. I would hope to hear and understand experiences from others and allow myself to become better through understanding human differences. Additionally, I see a life for myself in public service and government. If I were able to travel to the Capital, I could gain exposure to what I hope to do with my future, and if the world of government is where I would spend my years as I settle into a career. I anticipate taking away from the trip an arsenal of experiences to enhance my understanding of the importance of governance and its role in connecting with people”.

DCEC Office Closing Reminder:

DCEC’s office will be closed on **Monday, May 30, 2022 for Memorial Day.** DCEC staff asks our members to remember our fallen heroes who have served.

DCEC Annual Meeting Friday, September 9, 2022

The Annual Meeting is your opportunity to ask questions about your cooperative. We value your input and are always looking for ways to serve you better.

Event begins at 4:30 p.m. with a Brooks BBQ Dinner and the Business Meeting to follow.

5 North Depot Street, PO Box 471, Delhi, NY 13753
Phone: 607-746-2341 or 866-436-1223
Website: www.dce.coop
Fax: 607-746-7548
OUTAGES: 607-746-9283
SECURE PAY-BY-PHONE: 1-844-209-7162

Job Openings

Delaware County Electric Cooperative is more than a great job and great benefits. DCEC highly values its talented employees and provides a great working environment. Our corporate culture has a strong focus on community with management and employees working together to reach shared goals to serve our local communities.

DCEC offers competitive compensation and benefits and is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

DCEC is currently accepting applications for the following full-time positions working from our Delhi, NY Headquarters:

- Staking Technician I - V (1 position)
- Engineering Manager (1 position)

To view job descriptions, requirements, and how to apply please visit our website at www.dce.coop/content/job-openings.



DCEC Completes Annual Audit

Each year, the DCEC board retains an outside accounting firm to conduct a comprehensive audit of DCEC financial practices and internal controls. The auditing firm of Fiore Fedeli Snyder Carothers, LLP, located in State College, PA., completed a very comprehensive audit of how DCEC conducts business, applies accounting practices, and records financial transactions from all departments. We are pleased to report to our members that the 2021 financial statements present fairly, in all material aspects, the financial position of DCEC.

Are You Interested in Being on DCEC's Fixed Budget?

Members interested in being on DCEC's fixed budget plan must contact the office by the end of June in order to be enrolled. Members can also elect to be on a variable budget plan, which you can sign up for at any time throughout the year as long as you have 12 consecutive months of usage, zero account balance and good credit with DCEC. For more information on the budget plans please contact the office.

Members Decide

At the 2023 Annual Meeting, DCEC will be teaming up with CoBank, one of our financial services partners to give three donations to three, charitable organizations to be selected by the members. 1st prize award will be \$1,000, 2nd prize is \$600 and lastly 3rd prize will be \$400. Nominations for charities should be sent by Co-op members to CEO/General Manager Christopher Evans by June 10th at office@dce.coop or by regular mail to the office of the Cooperative. To be nominated to receive a donation, a charity **MUST**:

- Be a 501(c)(3) organization.
- Have a significant presence within the DCEC service territory.
- Be able to attend the DCEC Membership meeting and educate Members on behalf of their organization.

Nominated charities will appear in the special edition of the Catskill Hi-Line, which you will receive with your August bill. Members will vote on the "winning" charities at the 2023 Annual Meeting. Many thanks to CoBank for their matching grants.



April 2022 Snowstorm

The catastrophic winter storm of April 2022 brought unprecedented challenges for DCEC, our members, and portions of the transmission grid. Thank you for weathering the storm with us. Our crews as well as crews from Steuben REC worked almost around the clock (17-20 hours a day), day and night, through ice, snow, and freezing temperatures, as well as constant danger to their lives (as falling branches and trees and other hazards continued after the snow stopped, deserve a resounding thank you. The office staff and call center also worked tirelessly responding to inquiries and entering outages into the system.

On Tuesday, April 19, the event began around 2AM. At the peak that day, DCEC had 4568 meters offline. NYSEG transmission and DCEC distribution were both impacted.

On April 20, restorations continued with 2148 meters off. The numbers improved over the days that followed... 798, 296, 20, 4...As with any restoration effort, the focus remains to prioritize work to restore power to the most members in the least time but in the safest manner. Generally speaking, the order of restoration for a DCEC that still has power available from NYSEG is getting the station energized, getting the main 3-phase and station tie lines energized, getting main lines restored, getting primary lines serving multiple members restored, getting individual primary taps and services restored and, finally, individual follow-up work for specific situations such as replacing broken poles that were temporarily repaired and individual members that require electricians or tree work to repair damage to buildings and private electrical equipment.



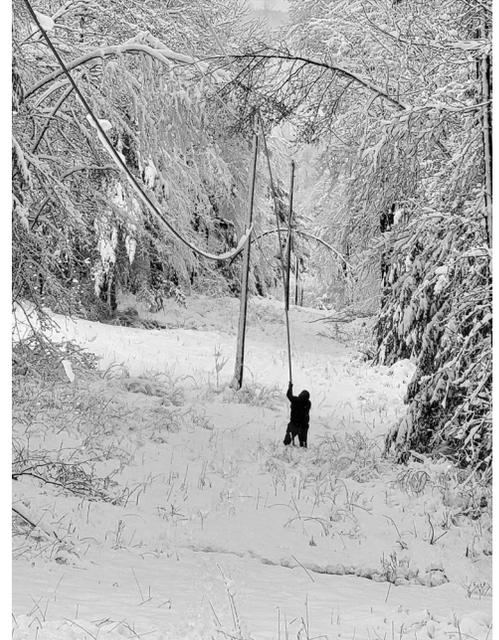
Many ask why the storm was so different. The reason is that trees that bent, broke, or fell most likely had never previously experienced the weight of the snow. In places, the measured weight was upwards of 30 pounds per cubic foot whereas typical settled snow generally weighs 6-12 pounds. Solid ice weighs around 57 pounds per cubic foot.

Other issues that slowed the restoration efforts and made it impossible to give exact or approximate restoration times were that many roads and lanes were blocked which required finding alternative routes (or going to other areas readily accessible) or taking time to cut and move debris before even assessing damage and making repairs.

Some members inquired why the parked trucks at the mall weren't being used. The parked trucks widely seen in these events are generally crews contracted by larger utilities that are either grouped waiting to be dispatched to other sites, on rest periods resting/sleeping in their trucks due to lack of hotel accommodations or just waiting to be 'released' from the utility they are assisting. Until they are 'released', they are not available to support other

utilities.

As with any outage event, DCEC reviews all available information to better develop plans and strategies and looks to technologies for improved system reliability, resiliency, and response





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Providing our rural members with:

- ✓ Low-cost Electricity
- ✓ High System Reliability
- ✓ Community/Member Service

Operations Update

Line crews are working on system reliability improvements all over adding sectionalizing capabilities to reduce outage time and speed up restorations when possible. When not working on that project crews will be addressing pole replacements reported by our pole inspectors in, Kortright and Meredith. As well as new service requests for new and existing members.

Right of way crews be trimming trees and mowing in Delhi and Meredith along and off Peakes Brook. Asplundh has begun work for the Cooperative starting in Delhi near Federal hill headed into Bovina.

COVID -19 DISTANCE

NOTICE: Please do not approach crews working in the field at this time we are striving to make as little contact with our members as possible. Please give out field staff a wide berth for their safety and yours.

Generlink Transfer Switches

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 Accommodates 10,000 watt Generator

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For More Information
 or to Confirm Compatibility
 Contact DCEC at (607) 746-2341.

Board Appoints Nominating Committee

Each year, an independent committee of DCEC members works to recruit members interested in running for the DCEC board at the Cooperative's Annual Meeting.

Members interested in learning more about being a director or becoming a candidate, should contact members of the Nominating Committee or the DCEC office or visit www.dce.coop/content/interested-becoming-dcec-director.

For information about how to contact the Nominating Committee please call CEO/General Manager Christopher Evans at (607) 746-9282 or email him at chris.evans@dce.coop.



REMINDER:

Please make sure to keep your billing address and phone numbers up to date.

CATSKILL HI-LINE is a Publication of the Delaware County Electric Cooperative, Inc. and is published bi-monthly for the membership. This newsletter has articles submitted by CEO/General Manager Chris Evans, Operations Manager Ryan Sullivan, Billing Specialist Rosemary Alwine, and Billing Assistant Alicia VanZandt.

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.

Board of Directors

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- Vice President.....Jeffrey Russell
- Secretary.....Laurie Wehmeyer
- Treasurer.....Paul Menke
- Director.....Steve Burnett
- Director.....Steve Oles
- Director.....Kimberly Tosi
- CEO/General Manager.....Chris Evans