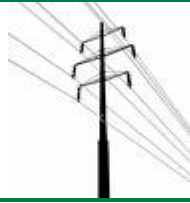




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# CATSKILL HI-LINE

Bi-Monthly Newsletter

Volume 77—Issue 5  
July/August 2021

*Powering Our Rural Communities*

## This Year's Annual Meeting of the Members

The meeting will be held on Friday, September 10, 2021 at the American Legion located at 41 Page Ave. in Delhi. Registration starts 4:30 p.m. before the business meeting, which starts promptly at 5:30 p.m. During this year's meeting, members will elect three members of the Board of Directors, one from each of the three Regions. Members can still become candidates for the Board of Directors by filing a petition signed by 15 members by Tuesday, July 27, 2021 (Bylaws Article IV, section 3). There will be proposed bylaw changes and a complete list will be available on DCEC's website and in the official notice of the meeting. For more information about becoming a board member, please contact the office at (607) 746-2341 or visit the website at [www.dce.coop](http://www.dce.coop). The Annual Meeting special edition of Catskill Hi-Line will be included within the August bills and contains the financial report, and your Brooks BBQ Chicken ticket order form. Please note that Members can enjoy a Brooks' Barbeque chicken dinner directly following the Business Meeting. Members can stay and eat or bring chicken dinners home.

*We hope to see you at this year's meeting!*



## JOIN US AT YOUR CO-OP'S ANNUAL MEETING



# FRIDAY 10 2021 SEPTEMBER



American Legion  
41 Page Ave.  
Delhi, NY 13753

Registration: 4:30 PM  
Business Meeting: 5:30 PM  
Dinner Following Meeting

[www.dce.coop/annualmeeting](http://www.dce.coop/annualmeeting)

- > Win \$500 CASH  
MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN
- > Brooks BBQ Chicken Dinner after Meeting

**For Official Candidates & Biographies see Page 2...**

**Can't Make the DCEC Annual Meeting? Vote by Absentee Ballot... See page 5 for More Details**



5 North Depot Street, PO Box 471, Delhi, NY 13753  
Phone: 607-746-2341 or 866-436-1223  
Secure Pay-by-Phone 1-844-209-7162

Fax: 607-746-7548  
OUTAGES: 607-746-9283

## 2021 Official Candidates

Each member shall be entitled to cast only one ballot. All questions shall be decided by a vote of a majority of the members voting thereon in person or by absentee ballot. Questions resulting in a tie vote shall be decided by a second round of voting in like manner. If a second round of voting results in a tie, the question shall be decided by a flipping of a coin, which shall be administered by a duly elected officer of the Cooperative. During the Annual Meeting, or by absentee ballot, eligible voters can vote for one (1) candidate from each of the three Regions. Please be aware that the members can vote for any of the three Regions even if they do not reside in that Region. For example, if you live in Kortright you are considered to be in the Central Region so you may vote for one candidate from the Central Region AND one candidate from both the Southern and Northern Regions.

### NORTHERN REGION

**Phoebe Schreiner** is the 8th generation on her family's homestead in Gilboa, Schoharie County, settled in 1795. After spending much of her adult life and career living in NYC and abroad, she moved back to the area in 2012 to raise her son, now in 2nd grade, and continue the family legacy at the old homestead when her Grandmother, Catherine Kauffman Harwood White, passed away the same year.

Schreiner is currently Executive Director of the Center for Agricultural Development and Entrepreneurship (CADE), a non-profit based in Oneonta supporting agricultural and economic development in New York and serving area farms. Schreiner has a long history of public service having served in a civilian capacity in Iraq and Afghanistan with the U.S. Agency for International Development—a branch of the U.S. State Department. She is a member of the NY Grown Food for NY Kids Coalition organized by the American Farmland Trust, the Farm-to-School Task Force of Delaware County, the Otsego County Agriculture and Farmland Protection Committee, the Schoharie County Land Trust, and Gilboa Historical Society.

Schreiner earned her BA from Smith College and MA from Columbia University.

"I'm running for the DCEC Board because I believe deeply in businesses that keep local dollars circulating locally, communities determining their own economic futures, green energy, energy independence, and universal rural broadband."

**Laurie Wehmeyer** has lived in Jefferson for over 40 years and has always been a member of DCEC. She works at the Pavilion of Robinson Terrace in Stamford which is an Assisted Living facility. Laurie has been the Recreation Director at the Pavilion for over 6 years now but has worked in the healthcare field for almost 25 years. She has 2 children and although this pandemic has brought a lot of tough changes and sadness for many, her family grew with the addition of her first 2 grandchildren. They are the

NORTHERN



**Phoebe Schreiner**



**Laurie Wehmeyer** Incumbent



Continued on Page 3...

## 2021 Official Candidates Continued from Page 2...

“Loves” of her life.

“I have thoroughly enjoyed learning so much about our Cooperative and the many facets that go along with it. The future of energy is growing so fast in so many ways and I really look forward to finding DCEC’s path in that future because our Coop is such a valued part of the communities, we all belong to. I truly like being involved in the processes of moving our Cooperative forward and in making sure our Cooperative stays strong, has healthy growth and continues to be something we can be very proud of. I would be honored to continue as a Director at DCEC. Thank you for your consideration.”

### CENTRAL REGION

**Kathleen Schaaf (Cropper)** is a lawyer in New York City who, with her husband and three children (and now 3 grandchildren), has enjoyed weekends and vacations at their family home in Hamden since 1985. Since March, 2020, Kathleen and her husband Steve Cropper have lived full time at their beautiful farm, where a nearby farmer grows corn and hay for his cows.

Kathleen has been impressed over the years by the quality of service that DCEC provides to its customers, particularly the responsiveness that a locally owned utility can provide. She believes that this is a critical time for rural utilities, as sustainable, renewable, and reliable energy becomes both a challenge and a necessity. She believes that her legal background (with an expertise in insurance law) and experience on the board of a New York insurance company will be an asset to DCEC as it faces the many challenges ahead, including financial responsibility and transparent corporate governance.

“It would be an honor to be able to serve my community as a director of the DCEC.”

**Stephen Oles** is a Delhi native who returned home after college to raise a family with his wife Lynn. Retiring in 2014 after 30 years of service with Delhi Telephone Company, Stephen believes staying abreast to developments in the renewable arena and the related industry’s strategic goals, DCEC will be well positioned to meet the energy goals established at the state level, nationally and internationally.

As a director since 1991, Stephen knows that safe, reliable and affordable electric service to the membership is critical for the stability and longevity of the Cooperative and the communities served. Providing opportunities to future generations to recognize the many benefits of the cooperative model of governance will ensure its continued value.

Stephen continues to promote good governance, which has driven his appreciation for advocacy and transparency. He also values prudent financial goals such as commitment to making annual payments of capital credits to members, maintaining a healthy equity level, and reducing debt level. These financial goals and objectives will advance the Cooperative into the future.

Stephen is especially proud of establishing a farmer’s rate, executing a plan to consolidate operations and extending the hydro contract.

While the Cooperative’s source of electricity is currently approximately 90% renewable, Stephen with assistance of the DCEC board will work vigorously towards securing future opportunities, partnerships and technologies to strengthen the renewable portfolio of the DCEC.

CENTRAL



Kathleen Schaaf



Steve Oles

Incumbent

## Southern Region Continued on Page 6...

## Planned Interruptions of Electric Service

Occasionally, DCEC will schedule planned interruptions of service to complete necessary maintenance, repairs, or install new equipment. These planned interruptions allow DCEC crews to safely effect needed repairs or to install replacement equipment or material.

In general, planned interruptions are scheduled at the time when minimum safety clearances to energized lines and equipment cannot be maintained by DCEC crews using normal “live line” work practices.

It is the Cooperative’s intention to limit planned interruption frequency and duration to the extent practicable in order to avoid causing undue inconvenience to our Membership.

DCEC uses Facebook to inform affected Members regarding planned interruptions. Additionally, if email or text notifications are enabled in your SmartHub account you may also receive notice of a planned interruption via email and/or text.

On Thursday, May 27, 2021, DCEC scheduled a planned interruption to those Members served by the Cooperative’s substation located at 108 Higgins Road, Stamford, NY. This interruption was planned to allow DCEC to safely replace three (3) substation surge protection devices that are connected to the 34.5 kV portion of the Higgins Road substation.

DCEC receives electric service at the 34.5 kV level from the transmission owner, NYSEG, at its Jefferson substation. At this location, it is transformed to DCEC’s distribution system voltage of 12.47 kV for distribution to members served from the Jefferson substation.

During this planned interruption, DCEC also replaced selected, defective distribution line insulating hardware which had been detected recently upon inspection by DCEC crews.

Just prior to the conclusion of this planned interruption on May 27, NYSEG detected an abnormal condition on the segment of their 34.5 kV system immediately adjacent that which connects to the Cooperative’s Higgins Road substation. In order to avoid a forced outage or an unplanned interruption of service to the Cooperative’s Jefferson substation, NYSEG made repairs to their system at that time. These repairs added approximately 45 minutes of time to DCEC’s originally planned interruption duration time.

Your patience and cooperation are appreciated during those times when it is necessary for DCEC to take a planned interruption of electrical service.

Once Logged into your SmartHub go to:  
 Notifications >  
 Manage Notifications >  
 Service >  
 Planned Power Outage

Log Out | Home |

Home Billing & Payments My Profile My Usage Notifications Contact Us

**Quick Links**  
 I want to...  
 • Pay My Bill  
 • View Billing History  
 • View Usage  
 • Report An Issue/Inquiry  
 • Get Help

• Catskill Hi-Line Newsletter  
 • Electric Hot Water Heaters for Purchase  
 • Delaware County Broadband Initiative  
 • Become a DCEC Director  
 • Rate Information

Available on the App Store  
 ANDROID APP ON Google play

Find us on Facebook  
 Delaware...  
 1.1K likes  
 Like Page

**View and Manage My Usage**  
 SmartHub Feed  
 Manage Contacts  
 Manage Notifications

**our usage management tools!**  
**Key Features**  
 Analyze and understand usage trends to find ways to cut back.  
 Create and track a monthly budget to avoid unexpected high utility bills.  
 Set a point or range in time to compare differences in usage.  
 And much more.

Check out all the great My Usage features! Start Now >

**Account Overview**

John Doe

Next Due: 06/12/2021  
 View Bill >

Amount: Paid

Account	Date Due	Amount
ELECTRIC SERVICE 1234567	06/12/2021 View Bill >	\$0.00

Billing & Payments My Profile My Usage Notifications Contact Us

## DCEC Makes 2020 Capital Credit Allocation

Capital credits are the retained margins left over at the end of the year for not for profit utilities, such as your member-owned Delaware County Electric Cooperative. This owner equity is an essential part in maintaining good financial health by reducing DCEC's borrowing needs and reducing the interest rates DCEC pays to banks.

For 2020, DCEC has allocated (set aside) \$639,804.26 to members who contributed to the revenue that exceeded expenses for the year simply by paying your monthly electric bill. The allocation factor is multiplied by the amount of revenue you contributed during that year. This is your share of the margins or your capital credit allocation.

Each year, DCEC's Board of Directors, with the help of the Finance Committee, determine if capital credits can be returned to members. In December, 2020, DCEC paid out a full Capital Credits refund from 1993 and partial 1994 for a total of \$460,000. Thank you for being a DCEC member and for your contributions in making our Cooperative financially strong.



## Official Absentee Ballot Request Form

The Cooperative is making every effort to plan and execute the 2021 Annual Meeting in its customary fashion on Friday, September 10, 2021. DCEC is closely monitoring the coronavirus (COVID-19) situation and continues to prioritize the health and safety of our members, staff and event participants. Local, state and national orders, recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and World Health Organization, and travel industry guidance all inform our decisions regarding DCEC events.

**DCEC strongly encourages all members to vote! If you vote by absentee ballot, or in person at the Annual Meeting you will received a \$10 bill credit which will be applied to your November 2021 bill.**

**VOTE BY MAIL:** One method for a member to be eligible to vote by absentee ballot is to request a ballot by completing an official form (available on page 7) and submitting it to the Cooperative by **August 21, 2021**. Once the Cooperative receives your form we will provide you with an official absentee ballot which you can then complete and send back to the DCEC office. DCEC will count properly completed absentee ballots as long as they are received by **September 6, 2021** (4 business days prior to the Annual Meeting). Once DCEC has received a member's absentee ballot it cannot be revoked if the member decides to attend the Annual Meeting and vote once there.

**VOTE EARLY AT THE CO-OP OFFICE:** Members can also complete an absentee ballot in person at the Co-op office during regular business hours between **August 21, 2021 and September 6, 2021**. You must have a government issued photo ID with you to vote by absentee ballot in the Cooperative office.

Members can return the below form either in person to 5 North Depot Street, Delhi, or by mail to the DCEC office at: P.O. Box 471, Delhi, NY 13753, fax to (607) 746-7548, or email to [office@dce.coop](mailto:office@dce.coop). For members that are paperless, an electronic official absentee ballot request form can be downloaded on our website at [www.dce.coop/annualmeeting](http://www.dce.coop/annualmeeting).

**For the most up to date information about DCEC's 2021 Annual Meeting please visit our website at [www.dce.coop/AnnualMeeting](http://www.dce.coop/AnnualMeeting) or our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/DelawareCountyElectricCooperative/>**

***If you vote by absentee ballot, or in person at the Annual Meeting you will received a \$10 bill credit which will be applied to your November 2021 bill.***

**Continued on Page 7...**

## 2021 Official Candidates Continued from Page 3...

### SOUTHERN REGION

**Jeffrey Russell** is a Walton native who resides on his family’s multi-generational farm with his two children. Jeffrey works for the Delaware County Soil and Water Conservation District where he is an Engineering Technician in the Stream Program. He has been on the board of directors for one term where he is currently serving as the Vice President. He chairs the Organization & Staffing Committee and was on the Headquarters Project Committee.

“I’m running for re-election to the Delaware County Electric Cooperative Board because I believe that the electric cooperative provides an invaluable service to our rural communities. The safe, reliable and affordable energy that we provide to our members allows them to be able to live, work, and enjoy our beautiful communities.”

“I am immensely proud and honored to have sat on the Headquarters project committee. Which worked to provide DCEC with a new facility that combines all our office staff with our field staff in one complex. The new facility will provide a safe work environment, and a welcoming location for all DCEC staff & members to do business for years to come.”

“If re-elected I want to make sure that the cooperative continues to be financially stable, and provides safe, reliable, and affordable electricity for years to come.”

**Dana Scuderi-Hunter** earned a Master of Social Work degree from the State University of New York at Albany and a Bachelor of Arts degree from the State University of New York at Oneonta receiving honors in dual majors, psychology, and philosophy. She served Delaware County in the Department of Social Services for 12 years, the last five as commissioner. Under her leadership, transparency and fiscal responsibility were increased substantially. In addition, millions of dollars were saved on behalf of Delaware County residents. Dana strives to be the best she can be for any organization she is working for and gives 100% no matter the task. She has helped businesses thrive with her financial, human services and administrative experience. Dana is passionate about helping people and doing the right thing. She believes that integrity in leadership is critical for the success and wellbeing of any organization and the people that work for it.

Dana and her husband own their home in the town of Andes and have a small farm with horses, chickens, and bees. They enjoy sharing the eggs and honey they harvest with their neighbors.

“As a member of the Delaware County Electric Cooperative since 2007, I have been privy to the excellent standards and service afforded to our members. DCEC brightens and betters and quality of life for its consumers by providing safe, dependable, renewable and cost-effective electric power supply to its 5200+ members throughout, Delaware, Schoharie, Otsego, and Chenango counties. It would be an honor to collaborate with the DCEC team, learn from colleagues and build upon its greatness in serving our community.”



SOUTHERN



### Which Will You Vote For?

In the last issue of the Catskill Hi-Line, DCEC’s newsletter, we asked members to nominate a local organization or charity, 501(c)(3), by June. The Cooperative received nominations for the following:

- Cornell Cooperative Extension of Delaware County
- Ronald McDonald House
- SEVA Foundation

Representatives from each organization will be present at the Annual Meeting on Friday, September 10th with a display table and educational materials. Please attend the meeting to learn more about each organization and cast your vote for the winners during the business portion of the meeting!



**CANCELED DUE TO COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS**



Continued from Page 5...

## Official Absentee Ballot Request Form

The Delaware County Electric Cooperative (hereinafter “Cooperative”) will hold its Annual Meeting on **September 10, 2021** for the transaction of all lawful business in accordance with its Bylaws and the New York State Rural Electric Cooperative Law. The Annual Meeting will be held at the American Legion, located at 41 Page Ave., Delhi, NY, and the business meeting shall begin at 5:30 pm.

Members who are unable to attend in person are permitted under Article III of the Cooperative’s Bylaws to vote, by absentee ballot, on any and all issues presented to the general membership at that meeting.

To be eligible to vote by absentee ballot, members may request that an absentee ballot be sent to them by providing the following information and returning this completed form to the Cooperative. **The Cooperative must receive this request no later than August 21, 2021.** All absentee ballots will be sent out on August 21, 2021.

I HEREBY REQUEST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT FOR THE SEPTEMBER 10, 2021 ANNUAL MEETING.

Member’s Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Member’s Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

If you have any questions with respect to this form or the Annual Meeting, please contact DCEC at (607) 746-2341 or (866) 436-1223, or at Delaware County Electric Co-op, P.O. Box 471, 5 North Depot Street, Delhi, NY 13753.

## Enter to win CASH

Sign up for AutoPay today and you'll be entered to win CASH

Four Chances to Win!!

Win \$200, \$150, \$100, or \$50.

Rules and restrictions apply.

**Drawing date is September 15, 2021.**

AutoPay, also known as **Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)** option is a convenient way that simplifies the method of paying your electric bill. When you sign up for EFT, Delaware County Electric Cooperative will automatically deduct your monthly bill amount from your checking account, savings account, MasterCard, Visa, or Discover. This deduction will be on the 5th of each month. You will still receive monthly statements by mail or email showing your kilowatts-hour usage and the amount due.



### MORE BENEFITS OF AUTOPAY:

- Saves you time: No more check writing, stamps/ mailing envelopes
- Save money: Stamps and checks are getting expensive!
- Environmental benefits-less paper. No mailed paper checks
- Reduces Identity theft potential: Paper checks with personal information get lost in the mail and sometimes find their way into hands of bad people. AutoPay reduces risk substantially.
- Helps business be able to spend more time on quality service

### Rules and Restrictions for CASH Giveaway Sweepstakes

#### Eligibility:

- **MUST** be active Delaware County Electric Cooperative Member. Member **MUST** enroll in autopay online at <https://dce.smarthub.coop>
- Member **MUST** not have any **returned items** to DCEC for non-sufficient funds, stop payment or closed account. Additional bank fees and DCEC's returned item fees may also apply
- Member **MUST** remain enrolled in autopay for a full 12 months
- Member **MUST** agree to terms and conditions listed below

#### How do I Enter to win?

Member **MUST** enroll in autopay online at <https://dce.smarthub.coop>

#### Rules & Restrictions

The Cooperative will make a good faith effort to contact members if a member's automated payment is rejected by the member's financial institution. If a member's automated payment is rejected during two consecutive months, the member will be removed from the automated payment program. The member would then be required to pay their bill using other available payment methods such as paying online, by phone, by mailing a check, or by coming to the Cooperative's office.

- Responsibility of member to update banking information via SmartHub as applicable (expired cc, closed account, etc.)
- DCEC's inability to complete a payment due to outdated or incorrect banking information may result in additional fees and disconnect policies apply
- When dishonored payments are returned, the member will be notified by a letter, requesting that the dishonored payment plus a \$20.00 handling charge be paid within ten days and all bank penalties, if any shall be applied. If the dishonored payment is not taken care of after ten days, the service shall be disconnected.

For more information visit, <http://dce.coop/content/autopay-incentive>.





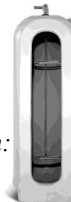
**What is it that makes you powerful?  
 Having a voice.  
 When you're part of DCEC, your voice is heard-loud and clear.  
 Because you're more than a customer.  
 You're a *Member-Owner*.**



Providing our rural members with:

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

*Warranted for LIFE*  
 Please call for availability



local area  
 dealer for electric

**Marathon**  
 WATER HEATERS

5 North Depot St.  
 P.O. Box 471  
 Delhi, NY 13753  
 Ph: (607) 746-2341  
 (866) 436-1223  
 Fx: (607) 746-7548  
 www.dce.coop

### Hot Water Heater Load Control Program

Sign Up for DCEC's Load Control Program and Get \$4.00 Taken Off you Bill Every Month!

- Do you have at least a 30 gallon electric hot water heater?
- Do you use at least 350 kWh's per month?
- If your answer was "YES" to all questions above and you would like to participate in DCEC's Load Management Program, which helps all DCEC members save money, please give us a call at (607) 746-9284 (no installation charge)!

**To view DCEC's Policy on Member Participation in Annual Meetings of Members please visit our website at [www.dce.coop/sites/dcec/files/PDF/Policies/Member Participation in Annual Meeting.pdf](http://www.dce.coop/sites/dcec/files/PDF/Policies/Member%20Participation%20in%20Annual%20Meeting.pdf) or call our office at (607) 746-2341.**

### DID YOU KNOW...

DCEC has a Facebook Page? Our Facebook page is intended to ONLY provide outgoing outage information to our members.



If you need to contact Delaware County Electric Cooperative please do so by calling the Cooperative office at (607) 746-2341.

### 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!

Call (607) 746-2341 if you find your number.  
Good luck!

*Community-centered values combined with best in class service is something you can always count on as a MEMBER of DCEC.*

### 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 Andes, Delhi, Kortright, Jefferson, Gilboa and Harpersfield. As well as any new service requests for new and existing members.

**Right of way crews**, including contract crews from Asplundh will be trimming trees and mowing in Jefferson near North Harpersfield Road and Sternberg Road.

### 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.



*"Personally, I think the first thing we should do is organize a rural electric cooperative."*

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 Engineering & Technology Manager Paul DeAndrea, Operations Manager Ryan Sullivan, Billing Specialist Rosemary Alwine and Administrative 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 President.....Stephen Oles  
Vice President.....Jeffrey Russell  
Secretary.....Edward Pick Jr.  
Treasurer.....Paul Menke  
Director.....Steve Burnett  
Director.....Laurie Wehmeyer  
Director.....Kimberly Tosi  
CEO/General Manager.....Christopher Evans

### Keep your Contact Information Updated

It's important to keep your contact information including all your contact numbers and current address up to date with the Cooperative. If any of this information has changed please give the office a call at, (607) 746-2341.

**WA 3-37-2F**

### Generlink Transfer Switches

*Plugs into 200 amp Meter Socket  
20 ft Cord to Connect to Generator | Built in Surge Protector  
Accommodates 10,000 watt Generator*

*Available for Purchase at our Office*

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

