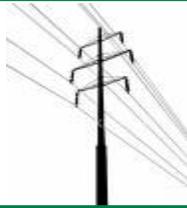




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# CATSKILL HI-LINE

Bi-Monthly Newsletter

Volume 77—Issue 3  
May/June 2021

## Powering Our Rural Communities



**DCEC's New  
CEO/General Manager  
Christopher N. Evans**

### DCEC Announces New CEO/General Manager

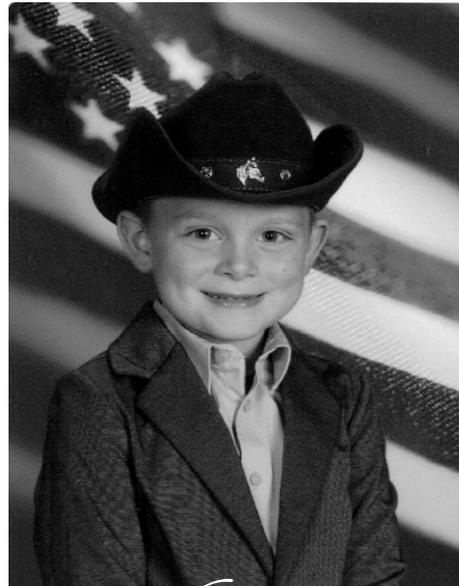
Delaware County Electric Cooperative (DCEC) Board of Directors is pleased to announce the appointment of new CEO/General Manager Christopher N. Evans effective Friday, April 2, 2021.

Mr. Evans has 26 years of experience in the energy industry having worked for municipal, investor- owned and cooperatives in engineering, operations and management capacities. He has almost two decades working with electric Cooperatives and remarked, "I have 19 years in electric cooperatives and appreciate how each system has unique challenges and opportunities, rich histories and traditions but also the ability to independently and distinctively flourish by leveraging and living the seven cooperative principles... I'm extremely proud to be joining a team that operates with a clear focus on those we serve – our members..."

**Join us in welcoming our new  
CEO/General Manager,  
Christopher N. Evans  
to the Coop family!**

### **DCEC Office Closing Reminder:**

DCEC's office will be closed on **Monday, May 31, 2021 for Memorial Day.** DCEC staff asks our members to remember our fallen heroes who have served.



*Winner!*

Congratulations to Bo Schmidt the winner of the Linemen Gear Up For Safety— Coloring Contest.

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

## Two Substations Darkened and One Blinked by Transmission Outage

In all, 2,417 of DCEC's meters were impacted. 717 were blinked but 1,700 experienced outages ranging from 6 to 10.5 hours. At approximately 12:34 pm On Tuesday, April 20<sup>th</sup>, a felled tree by loggers near Hamden resulted in five spans on NYSEG's 46,000 Volt transmission line between Delhi and Downsville being damaged and the line being initially shut off between Oneonta and Stilesville. The resulting fault also caused damage to equipment in the NYSEG Delhi substation and took that station offline as well. Unfortunately, the DCEC Cat Hollow and DCEC Delhi substations are between Delhi and Stilesville. Automated transmission switching attempted to redirect the feed which resulted in blinks for our DCEC

Dryden Brook station. NYSEG sectionalized the line after assessing station damage and finding the cause. These efforts were able to facilitate NYSEG to energize their Delhi station in about 3 hours. NYSEG then restored from Stilesville to Downsville resulting in Cat Hollow coming online after approximately 6 hours. DCEC's Delhi station was not as fortunate as it is located between the NYSEG Delhi substation damage and the accident location. NYSEG affected repairs to the off-road site and was able to restore DCEC Delhi within 10.5 hours. After 10.5 hours, DCEC Delhi was back online but not from its normal transmission feed from NYSEG Delhi. NYSEG was later able to repair their damaged substation equipment in Delhi and returned their system to our preferred configuration on May 3<sup>rd</sup>.

## Potential Hazards of Underground Utilities and How to Dig Safely

DCEC urges Members to know before you Dig! Don't make that judgment call, instead make two calls:



Call Dig Safely New York, by dialing 811 before you dig.

Call DCEC because secondary lines are not listed with Dig Safely New York.

DCEC crews are able to locate underground for members upon request. Please call (607) 746-2341 to confirm if your service location has underground and the proper safety procedures. There are potential hidden dangers and the Co-op urges Members to please call and don't make assumptions whether or not their service location has underground. Every digging job requires a call - even "small" projects like planting trees and shrubs, installing mailboxes, hiring a contractor or landscaper to do a digging project. Failure to identify location of underground utilities can result in damage to gas, electric, communications, water and sewer lines, which can lead to service disruptions, serious injuries or even death and costly repairs and fines.

### Scholarship Recipient Alexis Rockefeller



## DCEC Selects Scholarship Winner

Annually, the Delaware County Electric Cooperative (DCEC), sponsors a "Legislative Youth Tour" providing a selected youth-delegate the opportunity to travel to Washington D.C. to meet with our nation's political leaders, learn about our Nation's legislative process and how that process benefits the critical issues that face Rural Electric Cooperatives.

This year that trip to Washington D.C. was canceled due to COVID-19 related concerns. DCEC wanted to still give back to the community but in a safe and healthy way. Therefore, the Cooperative decided to award a scholarship to a selected student. After several applications were received and reviewed and through the interview process the Board of Directors selected Ms. Alexis Rockefeller of South Kortright Central School. The Board wants to thank all the contestants and was appreciative and impressed with their efforts.

Congratulations on a job well done to Alexis Rockefeller the recipient of the 2021 DCEC Scholarship Program. Ms. Rockefeller was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship from Delaware County Electric Cooperative. Through her hard work and determination, she has proven to be a student that our local electric cooperative wants to recognize and encourage to continue her educational effort.

Delaware County Electric Cooperative (DCEC) wishes Ms. Rockefeller continued success throughout her college career and beyond.

## Faulkner Retires After 32 Years

Millie Faulkner retired on April 2nd, 2021 after 32 years of dedicated service to Delaware County Electric Cooperative, Inc. Millie started in February 1989 as a General Clerk. She was promoted to Billing Clerk in 1996 and then to Operations Clerk in 2000. On September 8, 2005, Millie was appointed to the position of Finance Manager which also included Human Resources Manager, Office Manager and Benefits Administrator. The Delaware County Electric Cooperative, Inc. Board of Directors appointed Millie to the position of Interim CEO/General Manager on November 30, 2020. Millie prides herself on being the first woman to work in Operations in the field, the first woman to retire with over 30 years of service, and the first woman to serve as the CEO of the Cooperative.

Millie will be remembered as a staunch advocate of the members of the Cooperative. When assessing any situation, she would always ask the question “Is this the best thing for the members” and then act accordingly. Millie also strived to bring attention to the often-underrated profession of a Lineman and to remind the public of the rigorous undertaking that these dedicated individuals embrace daily, and most importantly, in dangerous storms, to “keep the lights on”.

Millie, and her husband Mike, have many plans in retirement which include traveling, enjoying family and indulging in more relaxation time.

Millie states “It has been an absolute honor and privilege to serve the members of Delaware County Electric Cooperative, Inc. for 32 years and I would like to thank the Co-op members, the Board of Directors, the staff, and other Cooperative business associates for allowing me to enjoy such a rewarding career.”



**DE 4-37-4**

## Access to Meter Pans and the Base Poles

Did you know insects can damage your electric meter? Insects nest in the meter and the meter is unable to report accurate usage to our office. This may result in an estimated billing amount rather than a true amount. Clearing your meter from flowers, brush and trees will help keep the bugs away. Remember your utility pole too. There shouldn't be any attachment on a utility pole unless it is from the utility company themselves. This helps keep our lineworkers safe.



**DCEC Annual Meeting  
Friday, September 10, 2021**

**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.**

**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. For more information on the budget plans please contact the office.

## DCEC Has Taken Actions To Support Our Members During The COVID-19 Pandemic

The Cooperative has continued with the suspension of penalties for late payments and disconnection for non-payment. *These actions do not exempt any member from paying for the energy that they consume during the moratorium period.*

If you've experienced financial difficulties due to COVID-19, please submit a signed statement to DCEC stating the following:

"I attest that due to the COVID-19 state of emergency, which began on March 7, 2020, I have experienced a change in financial circumstances."

Members currently struggling to meet their monthly payment obligation have the following options available to them:

1. Contact DCEC's Billing Department to set up payment arrangements: 1-607-746-2341
2. Contact your local County Social Service program:
  - a. Delaware County 1-607-832-5300
  - b. Schoharie County: 1-518-295-8334
  - c. Otsego County: 1-607-547-4200
  - d. Delaware Opportunities provides assistance through certain agencies and can be reached at 1-607-746-1600
  - e. Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) Hotline: 1-800-342-3099

DCEC can provide supporting documentation regarding your account to these agencies that can assist in expediting your application.

Once the moratorium is lifted, DCEC's disconnection policy will be re-implemented. To view the policy, visit: [https://dce.coop/sites/dcec/files/PDF/Policies/Disconnect\\_Policy\\_2018July24\\_approved.pdf](https://dce.coop/sites/dcec/files/PDF/Policies/Disconnect_Policy_2018July24_approved.pdf) or contact our office for a printed copy at 1-607-746-2341.



## 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 2020 financial statements present fairly, in all material aspects, the financial position of DCEC.

### 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!**



## Members Decide

At the Annual Meeting on Friday, September 10, 2021, 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 Alicia VanZandt by June 10th at [alicia.vanzandt@dce.coop](mailto:alicia.vanzandt@dce.coop) or by regular mail to the office of the Cooperative. To be nominated to receive a donation, a charity **MUST**:

- 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 Annual Meeting. Many thanks to CoBank for their matching grants.





# Family Fun Event

**Friday, August 6, 2021 @ 5 pm**  
**Courthouse Square**  
**in Delhi, NY**  
**FREE ADMISSION TO ALL**



**Looking to become a vendor at our event?**  
Applications for DCEC's Family Fun Day are handled by Alicia VanZandt. To apply please contact Mrs. VanZandt at (607) 746-9299 or email her at [alicia.vanzandt@dce.coop](mailto:alicia.vanzandt@dce.coop).

## Become an "A" Student of Electrical Safety

With May being National Electrical Safety Month, the following 10 tips may help to energize you about your electrical safety:

1. Fly kites far away from power lines. Electricity always finds its way to the ground, which could be down a kite string if it touches the energized power line.
2. Don't fly drones near power lines. If flying toys hit a power line, they could cause a power outage. Or even worse, cause a downed power line, which is extremely hazardous.
3. Never play on transformers. Pad mounted transformers should be clearly marked with a safety warning. Please do not to climb on or play around these "boxes".
4. Don't climb trees near power lines. If branches touch the wires, the tree could be energized. Even branches that are close, but not touching a power line, could become dangerous in windy conditions or if weighted down by the weight of a child.
5. Electricity and water don't mix. Keep all electrical equipment away from water. Don't plug in electronic or electrical devices that may have been damaged by water.
6. Never yank an electric cord from the wall. Pulling the cord could damage the appliance, plug or outlet. Remove the appliance safely by pulling on the plug.
7. Electric outlets are only for plugs. Please do not stick fingers or other objects in electric outlets.
8. Avoid using electrical cords that are damaged. Frayed or worn out cords can be a safety hazard.
9. Electric cords should be kept out of the way. Keep all cords out of main traffic areas where people could trip on them. You should also be careful not to pinch them in doorways or run them beneath rugs.
10. When in doubt, ask an adult for help and advice.

Now for your assignment, here's some helpful electrical safety homework for you to try:

1. With the help of an adult, make sure all electrical cords are out of the path of traffic in your home. Cords can be damaged when stepped on, creating a shock hazard.
2. Test all light switches in your home to ensure that they work properly. If a switch doesn't work, tell an adult so that they can have the problem corrected.
3. With the help of an adult, make sure all outlets in your home have faceplates covering all wiring. Exposed wiring is a shock hazard.
4. Tell one friend why electrical safety is important to you.



**Teaching Electrical Safety  
to Children.**



Want to know what your home needs for better comfort, health and energy efficiency? CONTACT us today!



# Home Energy Audit

## *What is Included?*

### **BLOWER DOOR TEST**

Measure the amount of air leakage.

### **APPLIANCE CHECK**

Determine if your HVAC equipment is energy efficient and safe.

### **COMPREHENSIVE REPORT & RECOMMENDATIONS**

Find which improvements will have the greatest benefits.

## *What Are the Benefits?*

### **LOWER ENERGY BILLS**

### **IMPROVED INDOOR AIR QUALITY & HOME HEALTH**



## Enjoy Year Round Comfort & Savings!

*Please note that this program is subject to change due to the availability of funds. To confirm the program details, please call (607) 746-2341.*



## 2021 ENERGY STAR APPLIANCE REBATE PROGRAM

In order to qualify for the Energy Star rebate, the following conditions must be met:

- 1.) The appliance must be purchased on or after January 1, 2021.
- 2.) The appliance must be Energy Star rated as noted on the sales receipt or on the Energy Star informational tag.
- 3.) The member must complete the Energy Star rebate form attached. The form may be submitted in person, by mail, by fax, or by e-mail to [office@dce.coop](mailto:office@dce.coop).
- 4.) The receipt showing the date of purchase must be attached to the Energy Star rebate form.
- 5.) The old appliance must be removed from service and disposed in an environmentally responsible manner. The Cooperative may require proof of disposal.

All rebate checks are subject to available funds. Please call the Co-op before making a purchase to confirm rebate funds availability. Please allow at least one week for DCEC to issue your rebate check. All rebate programs are subject to modifications or termination without notice. Additional information for more energy efficiency programs visit our website at [www.dce.coop/content/energy-efficiency-programs](http://www.dce.coop/content/energy-efficiency-programs).

If you have purchased an Energy Star appliance between May 1, 2019 and December 31, 2020 there is another rebate program you can apply for. For more information about that program visit our website at [www.dce.coop/content/energy-efficiency-programs](http://www.dce.coop/content/energy-efficiency-programs).



*Up to 3 Appliances per  
Membership per Year &  
HIGHER REBATES Now Available  
see next page for more details...*

***All members of all Service Classes  
are eligible for this program!***

If you have any questions concerning the Rebate Programs, please contact:  
Delaware County Electric Cooperative  
5 North Depot Street | P.O. Box 471 | Delhi, NY 13573  
(607) 746-2341 | [office@dce.coop](mailto:office@dce.coop)

*Up to 3 Appliances per Membership per Year & HIGHER REBATES Now Available*



**Rebates are available on the ENERGY STAR certified products listed below.**

<b>Appliances</b>	<b>Rebate Amount</b>
Window Mounted Air Conditioner	\$100
Refrigerator/Freezers Replacement	\$200
Clothes Washer/Dryer	\$200
Dishwasher	\$200
Home Heating Boiler/Furnace	\$500
Heat Pump Hot Water Heater smaller than 120 gallons	\$800
Combined Heat & AC Unit/Heat Pump	\$1,000

## 2021 Energy Star Rebate Application

Member Name:

\_\_\_\_\_ (please print)

DCEC Account Number:

\_\_\_\_\_ (found in the upper left portion of your monthly bill)

Type of Energy Star Appliance:

\_\_\_\_\_ (see list above)

Date Purchased: \_\_\_\_\_ (please attach receipt)

By signing my name below, I certify that the information provided on this form is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. I also attest that the old appliance, which this Energy Star appliance replaces, has been removed from service and disposed in an environmentally responsible manner.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



Your local area dealer for electric  
**Marathon**  
 WATER HEATERS  
*Warrantied for LIFE*  
*Please call for availability*

Providing our rural members with:

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

**Operations Update**

**Line Crew:**

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 new service requests for new and existing members.

**Tree Crew:**

Right of way crews, including contract crews from Asplundh will be trimming trees and mowing in Harpersfield, near Titus Lake and Parker School House.

**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**

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.

**To Harry Peterson’s Family and Friends, DCEC is Thinking of You and Wishing You Moments of Peace and Comfort**

Our hearts go out to long time member Harry Peterson’s family and friends following his sudden passing on April 15, 2021. Mr. Peterson served on the DCEC board from 1978 to 2011 and he served as Vice President from 1991 to

2011. He was a dedicated and loyal member of this Cooperative and his community. Harry’s obituary says it best, “He has been described as a public servant, pillar of the community, kind, a gentleman, dependable, always with a smile and a warm greeting, honest, always willing to listen and offer advice if asked, a thoughtful neighbor who would readily lend a hand when asked or just show up and dig someone out with his front end loader after a heavy snow-storm.”



Donations in Harry’s memory may be made to East Jefferson Cemetery and mailed to c/o Peterson, 2070 Harper Road, Jefferson, NY 12093.

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, Engineering & Technology Manager Paul DeAndrea, Operations Manager Ryan Sullivan, Systems Coordinator Larry Soule, 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.....Chris Evans