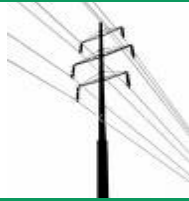




*This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*



# CATSKILL HI-LINE

Newsletter — June 2025

## *From the desk of CEO John Gasstrom*

JE 2-36-1B

Welcome summer. We are happy to put our wet, rainy spring behind us, and we hope that you have had some good weather for enjoying outdoor events. We are taking advantage of the longer days, and crews have been working to keep the Rights of Way trimmed, continuing to take down dead, dying ash trees that have succumbed to the Emerald Ash Borer. We are also excited to receive our new substation transformers to upgrade the capacity of our Delhi Substation (see picture below, right). The installation of these transformers will require two short outages for the entire substation. These outages are scheduled for July 25<sup>th</sup> and July 29<sup>th</sup> in the afternoon on each day. If you are served by the Delhi Substation and will be affected by these outages, you will have received an additional notice in this mailing, providing additional details. You can always call our office with any questions.

We are very proud of this year's scholarship winner and youth delegate to our Legislative Conference, Niko Krzyston. Niko joined Director Jeff Russell and myself in Washington D.C. in late April as we visited several members of Congress on Capitol Hill to advocate for important cooperative issues. We especially appreciate Congressman Josh Riley for spending some time with us to listen to our issues, and following up with us by meeting again back here in New York.

This year, we held our first Member Q&A session on March 31<sup>st</sup> in Delhi. We have upcoming sessions in the Southern Region (Location and date tbd) and August 18 at 5:30 PM (virtual). We also appreciate those that stopped to chat with us at the Meredith Dairy Fest. DCEC will once again host a tent at the DTC Open House on August 6<sup>th</sup> in Delhi. Stayed tuned for announcements about more sessions to come in the fourth quarter of the year!

Please also save the date for our 81<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of Members on Saturday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Request your ballot by mail, or stop by the Cooperative office to vote in the Director election this year. This is an important part of your membership in the Cooperative, and all members who cast a vote in advance will receive a \$10 bill credit. Please ensure that your vote is received in our office by Tuesday, August 19<sup>th</sup> to be counted.

Cooperatively Yours,

*John Gasstrom*



*Pictured left to right: Tim Johnson- CEO of Otsego Electric Cooperative, Congressman Josh Riley, John Gasstrom-CEO of Delaware County Electric Cooperative*



*Pictured (left) SUNY Delhi's Dean of Applied Technologies & Architecture Dan Davis, and DCEC's EIT Dakota Aiken standing in front of DCEC's two new 12 MVA transformers.*

## *Powering Our Rural Communities*

5 North Depot Street  
PO Box 471  
Delhi, NY 13753

AUTOMATED LINE (payments & outage reporting): **(855) 939-3672**

Office Phone: (607) 746-2341

Fax: (607) 746-7548

## *Niko Krzyston selected as DCEC's 2025 Student Delegate*

DCEC's student delegate 2025, Niko Krzyston of Delhi, represented the Cooperative at the recent National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) legislative Conference in Washington, D.C.

Each year, 11th graders of DCEC community schools are given the opportunity to apply and be considered to represent the Cooperative at this national event. Students are selected based on their academic achievement, involvement in extra-curricular activities, letters of recommendation, and service to the community. As a Student Youth Delegate, Niko accompanied DCEC officials to Washington. Niko, along with Student Delegates from two NY Cooperatives, Oneida Madison's delegate Thatcher Bugbee, and Otsego's delegate Elias MacLeish, joined representatives from 900 other rural electric co-ops in meetings with Congressional leaders on Capitol Hill.

Life-long friendships, enhanced leadership skills, and a broader understanding of electric cooperatives and the energy industry are among some take aways from past attendees. DCEC is delighted to have Niko as 2025's Delaware County Electric Cooperative Student Delegate.

*A word from Kyla Lawrence, Operations and Member Engagement Coordinator, of Onieda-Madison Electric Cooperative:*

Niko's enthusiasm, curiosity, and warmth made him effortlessly engaging—not just for me, but for the other two students as well. Though I've visited D.C. many times, experiencing the city through the perspective of a first-timer never fails to offer a fresh lens. What stood out most was how Niko gravitated toward the small, often-overlooked details—those quiet elements that shape the character of the nation's capitol in ways many miss. I appreciated his insights and humor, but more than anything, I valued the camaraderie that quickly formed among the students in just a few short days.



*Niko Krzyston*



*Pictured left to right: Thatcher Bugbee, Elias MacLeish, and Niko Krzyston*





## 2025 Official Candidates & Voting Details

During this year's meeting, members will elect **one member of the Board of Directors**. This year, there are two ways to vote-In-Person at the Cooperative office, or by mail using an absentee ballot. All votes are due by August 19th and the ballot results will be announced at the annual meeting. Each membership shall be entitled to cast only one ballot; for example, a joint membership has one vote. 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. In person, or by absentee ballot, eligible voters can vote for one (1) candidate. Members can vote for a candidate of any of Region, even if they do not reside in that Region. For example, if you live in Walton you are considered to be in the Southern Region, you may vote for a candidate in the Central Region.

JE 2-37-6B

## 2025 Candidate for Central Region

**Edward Furgol** has developed a strong appreciation for the value of public utilities. Born in Utica, NY, his family has lived in upstate New York since 1748. Ed's work as Managing Director of the National Museum of the United States Navy gave him experience in workplace safety, budget processes, ethics, anti-discrimination, personnel management, and public service. Beginning in 2006 he spent part of each year in Delhi, retiring here just over a decade later. By teaching and researching online, Ed has a personal interest in the reliable delivery of electricity and understands the challenges that arise in ensuring that. He has completed his Certified Credentialed Director training. Since September 2023 he has served as treasurer of the board. He always looks for ways to make electricity more affordable to the members.

CENTRAL



# Official Absentee Ballot Request Form

**VOTE BY MAIL:** One method for a member to vote is by requesting a mail-in ballot, also known as an absentee ballot. Request an absentee ballot by completing the official form below and submit to DCEC by **August 3, 2025**. 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 **August 19, 2025** (four business days prior to the Annual Meeting). Once DCEC has received a member's absentee ballot, it cannot be revoked. A member voting by absentee ballot may still attend the Annual Meeting, however, can not vote again.

**IN-PERSON VOTING AT THE COOPERATIVE OFFICE:** Members can also complete their ballot in person at the Co-op office during regular lobby hours between **July 28 and August 19, 2025**. You must have a government issued photo ID with you to vote in the Cooperative office.

Members can return the below form:

In person:

5 North Depot Street, Delhi

By mail:

DCEC

Attn: Absentee Ballot Request

P.O. Box 471

Delhi, NY 13753

**DCEC Lobby Hours:**

Monday-Friday 8am-4pm

Please vote, and receive a  
**\$10 bill credit**  
to be applied to your  
October 2025 bill.

DE 4-18-15

Fax to: (607) 746-7548 Email to: [office@dce.coop](mailto:office@dce.coop)



The Delaware County Electric Cooperative (hereinafter "Cooperative") will hold its Annual Meeting on **August 23, 2025** 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 Delaware Academy, located at 2 Sheldon Dr., Delhi, NY, and the business meeting shall begin at 9:00am.

All votes cast by mail or in-person must be received by the Cooperative no later than **August 19, 2025**.

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 3, 2025.**

I HEREBY REQUEST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT FOR THE AUGUST 23, 2025 ANNUAL MEETING.

Member's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Account Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Member's Address (where you'd like the ballot sent to): \_\_\_\_\_

By signing this ballot application, I certify that I am the member whose name appears herein, and that the information in this application is true and correct and that this application will be accepted for all purposes as the equivalent of an affidavit and, if it contains a material false statement, shall subject me to the same penalties as if I had been duly sworn.

Member's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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.



## DCEC Recipe Corner:

### Summer Lavender Lemonade

EatingWell.com, April 2025

#### Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup granulated sugar
- 4 cups water
- 2 tablespoons dried lavender, plus more for garnish
- 2 cups fresh lemon juice (~12 large lemons)
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- Ice

#### Directions:

1. Combine ½ cup sugar and 1 cup water in a small saucepan over medium heat. Cook, stirring occasionally, until the sugar dissolves, about 5 minutes. Remove from heat and stir in 2 tablespoons lavender. Let stand until the flavors meld and the mixture cools, about 30 minutes. Strain the mixture through a fine-mesh sieve into a large pitcher; discard the lavender.
2. Add 2 cups lemon juice, ¼ teaspoon salt and the remaining 3 cups water; stir well to combine.
3. Divide the lemonade among 8 ice-filled glasses. Garnish with additional lavender, if desired.

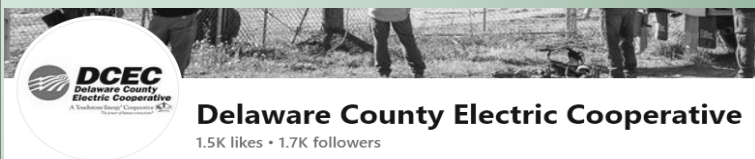


Credit: Photographer: Jen Causey, Prop Stylist: Kay Clarke, Food Stylist: Chelsea Zimmer

Each Newsletter, DCEC would love to share member's favorite recipes. If you'd like to submit a recipe, please email it to:

[memberservices1@dce.coop](mailto:memberservices1@dce.coop)

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DE 4-15-15C



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**www.dce.coop**

### DCEC Office Closures:

*Monday-May 26, 2025 Memorial Day*

*Friday July 4, 2025-Independence 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, call us at (607)746-2341 and you will receive a \$10 bill credit!

*Good luck!*

### DCEC's UPDATED NUMBERS:

**AUTOMATED LINE**  
for payments & outage reporting:  
**(855) 939-3672**

**LIVE Representative 24/7/365:**  
**(607) 746-2341**

### HEAP Benefits

The New York State Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) provides payment assistance for income eligible residents to use towards the 2024-2025 heating season. This year's regular HEAP benefits opened November 1, 2024. For eligibility, income guidelines, and how to apply contact your local Department of Social Services or the NYS OTDA Hotline at 1-800-342-3009.

Additional information is provided on:

<https://otda.ny.gov/programs/heap>

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 John Gasstrom, and Cooperative Relations Manager, Stacey Young.

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.....Edward Pick Jr.  
Vice President.....Jeffrey Russell  
Secretary.....Laurie Wehmeyer  
Treasurer.....Edward Furgol  
Director.....Ross Gill  
Director.....David Krzyston  
Director.....Patrick O'Brien  
CEO.....John Gasstrom

