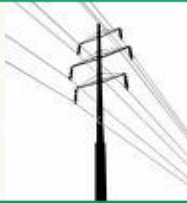




This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



CATSKILL HI-LINE

Newsletter — September 2026

From the desk of CEO John Gasstrom

August provided two excellent reminders of what cooperation looks like in practice: members taking part in the governance of their cooperative, and our employees continuing to learn from others across New York's electric-power industry. First, I want to thank everyone who participated in DCEC's 82nd Annual Meeting on August 25. Members joined virtually, used the physical attendance option at the DCEC office, and cast ballots in advance. Member voting far exceeded the 50-member quorum requirement.

Members elected David Krzyston to represent the Central Region with 222 votes, Joseph Hornbeck to represent the Northern Region with 220 votes, and Patrick O'Brien to represent the Southern Region with 217 votes.

Members also approved both proposed bylaw amendments. The large-load amendment passed by a vote of 235 to 36 and gives DCEC clearer, more flexible tools for addressing the connection costs, rates, and service terms associated with unusually large prospective commercial or industrial loads. Approval of the amendment does not itself establish a particular rate, fee, or service term.

The capital-credit amendment passed by a vote of 205 to 66 and gives the Board greater flexibility in allocating and retiring capital credits among different types of members and electric service. Again, the amendment provides authority and flexibility for future decisions; it does not by itself establish a particular allocation or retirement.

As a thank-you for participating, DCEC provided a single \$10 bill credit to each membership that voted in advance, attended virtually, used the physical attendance option at our office, or participated through a combination of those methods.

Anne Marie Garti was also selected as the winner of the separate \$250 bill-credit drawing for eligible members who attended the Annual Meeting.

An Annual Meeting requires considerable work behind the scenes. I want to thank our members, directors, employees, election administrator, technical team, and everyone who helped make the virtual and physical-attendance arrangements possible. I also want to thank Nominating Committee members Molly Oliver, Frank Winkler, Millie Faulkner, Seth Blocker, Lindsey Gardepe, and Meg Hungerford for supporting this year's director-election process.

The draft minutes from the 2026 Annual Meeting are included elsewhere in this issue. They remain subject to approval by the membership at the 2027 Annual Meeting.

In August, a group of DCEC representatives had the opportunity to tour the New York Power Authority's Blenheim-Gilboa Pumped Storage Power Project. The facility uses electricity during lower-demand periods to pump water to an upper reservoir. When electricity is needed during higher-demand periods, that water is released to generate power.

Seeing this 1,160-megawatt facility firsthand gave our team a valuable look at how energy storage and generation help balance the larger electric grid. Although DCEC operates a local distribution system, our reliability, planning, and service to members are all connected to that broader system. Opportunities to learn from organizations such as NYPA help our employees better understand those connections and bring useful ideas back to the cooperative.

Thank you again to our members for participating in your cooperative and to the New York Power Authority for hosting our team. Whether through voting, attending a meeting, asking questions, or learning more about how electricity reaches our communities, participation makes our cooperative stronger.

Cooperatively Yours,

John Gasstrom

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

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES August 25, 2026

DRAFT — SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE MEMBERSHIP

The 82nd Annual Meeting of Members of the Delaware County Electric Cooperative, Inc. was held at the Delaware County Electric Cooperative office at 5 N Depot St, Delhi, NY on Tuesday, August 25, 2026.

The meeting was called to order at 5:02 p.m. by Jeff Russell, President of the Board of Directors, who served as Chair of the meeting. Board Secretary Laurie Wehmeyer served as Secretary of the meeting, and Treasurer Ed Furgol served as Treasurer. President Russell also introduced Vice President Ross Gill and Directors David Krzyston, Joseph Hornbeck, and Patrick O'Brien, who were also in attendance.

President Russell reviewed the Seven Cooperative Principles and presented a safety minute focused on back-to-school school bus safety.

Secretary Laurie Wehmeyer reported that a quorum had been established. She also reported that the official notice of the 2026 Annual Meeting was provided to the membership in the July 2026 special edition of the Catskill Hi-Line, which was mailed to members and made available on the DCEC website.

Secretary Wehmeyer presented the 2025 Annual Meeting minutes for approval. Upon motion duly made and seconded, the reading of the minutes was waived, and the minutes were approved as presented.

President Russell thanked Secretary Wehmeyer and proceeded to the Reports portion of the agenda. President Russell called upon Treasurer Ed Furgol to present the Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Furgol reported that the Cooperative's 2025 financial report had been provided to members in the July 2026 issue of the Catskill Hi-Line and was also available on the Cooperative's website. The Treasurer's Report was received and placed on file as part of the records of the Annual Meeting.

CEO Gasstrom presented the Chief Executive Officer's Report. CEO Gasstrom thanked members, directors, employees, and community hosts for their participation and support; reviewed DCEC's 2025 capital credit activity; discussed recent reliability challenges and the ongoing AMI rollout; outlined the Cooperative's updated five-year strategic priorities, including system resilience, business resilience, rate planning, and workforce readiness; and highlighted workforce development, utility career education, and the Youth Tour program.

CEO Gasstrom recognized the following employees for service milestones:

·Rosemary Alwine, Jimmy Green, Dave Schmidt - 25 years Mike Schafer - 20 years Jake Marshall, Joe Johnson - 5 years

CEO Gasstrom concluded his report and returned the meeting to President Russell. President Russell then thanked the Nominating Committee members - Molly Oliver, Frank Winkler, Millie Faulkner, Seth Blocker, Lindsey Gardepe, and Meg Hungerford - for their service in supporting the 2026 director election process. President Russell then announced that voting was closed.

Secretary Wehmeyer presented the certified advance voting results provided by Survey and Ballot Systems. SBS certified 273 advance ballots. The director election results from those advance ballots were: David Krzyston, Central Region, 219 votes; Joseph Hornbeck, Northern Region, 218 votes; and Patrick O'Brien, Southern Region, 215 votes. The advance voting results for the proposed bylaw amendments were: Article I — Large Load Members and Rate Classes, 231 Yay and 36 Nay; and Article VII — Patronage Capital Allocation and Retirement, 201 Yay and 66 Nay.

President Russell stated that the chair was not aware of any unfinished business, and hearing none proceeded to New Business. President Russell invited members to bring forward any new business properly before the membership. No new business, questions, or comments were presented. There being no further business to come before the membership, President Russell declared the 82nd Annual Meeting adjourned at 5:17 p.m.

Post-Meeting Vote Reconciliation: Following adjournment, provisional ballots cast during the Annual Meeting were reviewed, verified, and counted as part of the Cooperative's election administration process. These ballots were not included in the Survey and Ballot Systems advance-voting totals announced during the meeting. The verified provisional ballots added three votes for David Krzyston, two votes for Joseph Hornbeck, two votes for Patrick O'Brien, four Yay votes on Article I, and four Yay votes on Article VII. No additional Nay votes were cast on either proposed bylaw amendment.

After incorporating the verified provisional ballots with the certified advance-voting results, the final combined voting results were:

David Krzyston, Central Region, 222 votes Joseph Hornbeck, Northern Region, 220 votes Patrick O'Brien, Southern Region, 217 votes.
Article I — Large Load Members and Rate Classes received 235 Yay votes and 36 Nay votes
Article VII — Patronage Capital Allocation and Retirement received 205 Yay votes and 66 Nay votes

Respectfully Submitted,

Laurie Wehmeyer
Secretary



DCEC representatives toured the Blenheim-Gilboa Pumped Storage Power Project in August.
Photo courtesy of the New York Power Authority

GENERATOR Safety

Learn more at:

 Safe
Electricity.org

FOLLOW THESE TIPS TO ENSURE EVERYONE'S SAFETY:

- Make sure there is **nothing plugged into the generator when turning it on**. Use a **heavy-duty** extension cord to connect appliances to the outlet on the generator.
- Always operate the generator on a stable, dry surface **outside the home**—out and away from the garage, doors, windows, and vents into your home. The carbon monoxide the generator produces is **DEADLY**.
- **Never** connect your portable generator to the home directly. This **can result in potentially deadly backfeed**, which happens when electricity is fed back through the electrical system onto power lines, creating a hazard for line workers and others.



America's Electric Cooperatives

From booming suburbs to remote rural communities, America's electric cooperatives are energy providers and engines of economic development. Electric cooperatives keep the lights on and play a vital role in transforming communities.

Cooperatives power
56%
of the American landscape.



Our co-ops ...

... **SERVE**
42 million people,
including **92% of persistent**
poverty counties.

... **POWER over**
22 million
businesses, homes,
schools and farms
in **48 states.**

... **RETURN more than**
\$1 billion
to their consumer-members
annually as not-for-profit
organizations.

830
distribution cooperatives
are the foundation of the electric
cooperative network. They were built
by and serve co-op members in the
community by delivering electricity
and other services.

64
generation & transmission cooperatives
provide wholesale power to distribution
co-ops through their own electric
generation facilities or by purchasing power
on behalf of the distribution members.



electric.coop @NRECANews June 2025

STAYING SAFE DURING AN OUTAGE

We work hard to provide the most reliable service possible. Rest assured, if the power is out, we are on it!

The length of time it takes to restore your power depends on several factors, including the:



Extent of
the storm's
destruction



Severity of
utility
equipment
damage



Number and
extent of
outages



Accessibility
to damaged
equipment

STAY SAFE UNTIL POWER IS RESTORED

- Stay far away and keep others away from downed power lines, which could be live and deadly.
- If you come across a downed line, immediately call 9-1-1 to report it.
- Never enter a flooded room; the water could be energized.
- If you are standing in water, do not turn on/off power or flip a switch.



Prepare for a storm by gathering these items:



Bottles of water



Non-perishable food



Portable phone charger



Prescriptions



Battery-operated radio

Flashlights



Extra batteries



Pet supplies



Blankets



Warm clothing



First-aid kit



Hand sanitizer

THANK YOU for your patience during outages. When the lights go off, we are working safely and efficiently to restore power. The safety of our employees, as well as those we serve, is our TOP priority.

Safe
Electricity.org®



STORM SAFETY KIT

Severe weather can strike at any time, causing destruction and power outages. To keep your family safe, have an emergency kit on hand and an evacuation plan in place.

Learn more at:

Safe
Electricity.org®



Bottles of water
Nonperishable food
Portable phone charger



Flashlights



Batteries



Can opener



First-aid supplies



Hand sanitizer



Prescriptions



Pain reliever



Warm clothing



Blankets



Battery-operated radio



Toys, books and games



Important documents

Money

Baby supplies

Pet supplies



DCEC
Delaware County
Electric Cooperative

SAVE ENERGY THIS *Fall and Winter*

Follow these simple DIY tips to reduce energy use
and keep you warm this season:

- Seal gaps around windows and doors with caulk or weatherstripping.
- Close curtains and blinds at night to keep the cold out.
- Open window coverings on sunny days to let the sun in.
- Clean or replace furnace filters.
- Run ceiling fans clockwise to push warm air down.
- Check insulation in your attic, attic hatch and crawl space.
- Use a smart thermostat to lower temperatures when asleep or away.
- Close the fireplace flue when not in use.
- Schedule a home energy audit to find and fix energy wasters.

For more tips, visit: SafeElectricity.org

BEWARE OF THE **ENERGY VAMPIRES**

Some electronics draw power even when turned off.
Learn how to stop these energy vampires at:

SafeElectricity.org

Top Nine Energy Vampires

Are home electronics and appliances draining your energy?

If you collect your spare change in a jar, all those coins add up over time, usually to a larger amount than you expect. Small amounts of energy consumed throughout your home add up as well. Plug “energy vampires” into a smart power strip that detects dormant devices, or unplug items when they are not in use, especially those with illuminated controls.

The top nine energy vampires are:

1. TVs
2. Video game consoles
3. Computers
4. Surround sound systems
5. Printers
6. Standby coffeemakers
7. Cellphone and tablet chargers
8. Satellite and cable boxes
9. Microwaves

easy • cozy • delicious

Apple DUMP CAKE

WARM, SWEET & PERFECT
FOR FALL

minimal effort, maximum coziness

10 MIN PREP

45-50 MIN BAKE

SERVES 8-10

INGREDIENTS

- 4 (20 oz) cans apple pie filling
- 1 box (15.25 oz) yellow cake mix
- ½ cup (1 stick) unsalted butter, melted
- ½ tsp ground cinnamon

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1 Preheat oven to 350°F.
- 2 Spread apple pie filling evenly in a 9x13-inch baking dish.
- 3 Sprinkle dry cake mix evenly over the apples.
- 4 Drizzle melted butter evenly over the cake mix.
- 5 Sprinkle cinnamon on top.
- 6 Bake 45-50 minutes, or until the top is golden brown and bubbly.

♥ Serve warm & enjoy!

Great with vanilla ice cream!

TIP: For extra flavor, add ½ tsp vanilla extract to the apple pie filling before layering!

DCEC is Committed to Helping Members During Financial Hardships

DCEC encourages members currently struggling to meet their monthly payment obligation to contact the local agencies listed below for payment assistance.

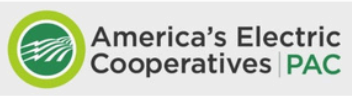
1. Contact DCEC's Billing Department to set up payment arrangements: 1-607-746-2341
2. Contact your local County Social Service program:
 - a. Delaware County 1-607-832-5300
 - b. Schoharie County: 1-518-295-8334
 - c. Otsego County: 1-607-547-4200
 - d. Delaware Opportunities provides assistance through certain agencies and can be reached at 1-607-746-1600
 - e. Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) Hotline: 1-800-342-3009

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

Contributions to the NRECA America's Electric Cooperatives PAC are not tax deductible for federal income tax purposes. Contributions to America's Electric Cooperatives PAC are voluntary and will be used for political purposes. You have the right to refuse to contribute without reprisal. Federal law prohibits contributions from foreign nationals who lack permanent resident status. Any contribution guidelines presented are merely suggestions. You are free to contribute more or less than the suggested amounts, or not at all. NRECA will not favor or disadvantage anyone by reason of the amount contributed or a decision not to contribute.

DCEC Office Closures:

Tuesday, November 3, 2026 - Staff Training
Wednesday, November 11, 2026 - Veterans Day
November 26–27, 2026 - Thanksgiving
December 24–25, 2026 - Christmas
Thursday, December 31, 2026 - New Year's Eve

☐ Bill Addition *	☐ \$1/Month (\$12/year)
☐ One-Time Contribution	☐ \$2/Month (\$24/year)
	☐ \$5/Month (\$60/year)
\$ _____	☐ \$10/Month (\$120/year)

I affirm that my contribution has been made with personal funds:

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

COOPERATIVE: _____

EMAIL: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

*Federal law requires the following information for contributions exceeding \$200:

EMPLOYER: _____

OCCUPATION: _____

☐ Also sign me up for Voices for Cooperative Power

*Monthly contributions will continue until you notify us to discontinue



**LOOK UP
BEFORE
BUILDING
A FIRE!**

Keep bonfires far from power lines. Heat, smoke and sparks can ignite serious hazards.

 **Safe
Electricity.org**