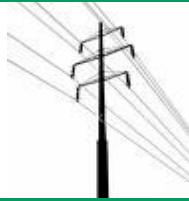




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CATSKILL HI-LINE

Bi-Monthly Newsletter

Volume 79 — Issue 6
November / December 2023



As the days continue to get shorter, and wintry weather rears its head once again, it is a good time to be reminded of the importance of safety and preparedness. While DCEC strives to prevent power outages from happening by maintaining our equipment and rights-of-way in good order, still outages may happen. There are many ways you can prepare yourself and we have mock set-ups in our office of a portable generator with a Generlink adapter and Uninterruptible Power Supplies (UPS) that can help power small devices during an outage. Our staff is happy to help answer questions about potential solutions for your home for the winter season.

I am reminded of the many things I am thankful for this season, not the least of which is the amazing membership of our Cooperative. I thank all of you who attended and helped make our 79th Annual Meeting a success this year. We implemented a few changes to this year's annual meeting in order to help the flow and ensure a good experience to those attending virtually as well as in-person and we appreciate the feedback we've received on the meeting updates. With great appreciation, we recognized our dedicated Directors and our amazing staff: Mike Pietrantoni & Betty Soule that celebrate milestone years of service with DCEC in 2023!

I am very pleased to welcome David Krzyston and Patrick O'Brien to the Board of Directors, and also extremely excited to announce that Delaware County's own Erin Coppersmith has been nominated to represent all of New York State at the National Rural Electric Coop-

erative Association's Annual Meeting in March of 2024. We further celebrated our youth as we introduced you to Gracie Deysenroth, the Delaware County Dairy Ambassador, and Logan Nealis, our student intern this spring.

It was also a great honor to host Mr. Chuck Tiemann, who has dedicated his career to saving the lives of line workers and counseling those who have been injured in the line of duty, as well as their families. We also appreciate the participation in the democratic process, as we passed four of the five proposed by-law changes, and decided to table one. We will be working on the language surrounding that remaining change for re-introduction in the future.

HA 4-36-9

Finally, I hope everyone stays safe and enjoys the beauty of the coming season.

Cooperatively Yours,

John Gasstrom



Mike and Betty, we are grateful for your hard work "keeping the lights on" & your commitment & determination throughout the years! Congratulations!



Mike Pietrantoni - 20 years



Betty Soule - 15 years

Powering Our Rural Communities

5 North Depot Street, PO Box 471, Delhi, NY 13753
Phone: 607-746-2341 or 866-436-1223

Fax: 607-746-7548
Pay-by-Phone 844-209-7162
OUTAGES: 607-746-9283




HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

Make a difference this holiday season!

Drop off unexpired, non-perishable goods at DCEC's office 11/15/23 through 12/15/23

5 NORTH DEPOT STREET, DELHI, NY 13753

DONATIONS WILL GO TO: WALTON FOOD PANTRY



TO 3-47-16

Have you recently had a check sent back to you? Please, CHECK YOUR CHECKS!


- ◇ Did you sign it?
- ◇ Is the date correct?
- ◇ Do both values match?
- ◇ Is your check made out to DCEC?
- ◇ Is your account number on your check?
- ◇ Is your check included in your envelope?



Here is a reminder to please check your checks! If you are choosing to mail a check, it is always recommended to review your check before mailing it. By checking the boxes above not only does it allow us to process your payment, it also allows us to do so in a timely fashion and help you prevent having a late fee because of having to return it for you to reissue.

Don't want the hassle? Sign up for **auto-pay** on our Automated Payment Line 844-209-7162 or on the SmartHub app. You can always stop into the office or call us to get the **auto-pay paperwork** sent your way!

HA 4-24-13B



Pay to the Order of Delaware County Electric Co-op (DCEC)

Do both values match? _____ Dollars

For Account number on check?

Is the date correct? **FRAUDARMOR**

Date _____

Do both values match?


Did you sign it? _____

STAY SAFE OUT ON THE HUNT




Take precautions to stay safe on your next hunting expedition.


Know the signs of a heart attack or other life-threatening condition.

 Have a way to get in touch with the outside world.

Always implement firearm safety techniques.

 Do not lean a tree stand against a utility pole.

Do not fire at power lines, insulators or conductor cans.

 Carry a first aid kit.

Check the weather in advance and be prepared.

Check tree stands regularly for stability.

Survey the area for potential electrical hazards.

Be visible: Wear blaze orange.

Learn more at: 

It's that time of year again, the time many of our members have marked on their calendar months in advance. Of course, that time would be deer hunting season in upstate New York! Many of the second homes come to life and seasonal camps get opened up for a few weeks. Friends and family get together spending some time reconnecting with each other and nature, in hopes of bagging the big one.

We here at DCEC know how special this time can be and we want you all to enjoy the season together, telling the tall tales of the one that got away and enjoying all of what this area has to offer. There are a few things all of us here at Delaware County Electric Cooperative would like for you to keep in mind when you are out in the woods. As many of you know, DCECs rights-of-way (ROWs) are some of the best in NY State and our crews do a fantastic job with the tree clearing to ensure your electric supply gets interrupted as little as possible. Many of you might use the ROWs during the hunting season and you may encounter trees on the wires, a limb hanging on the conductor, telephone wires on the ground and countless other issues. If you come across something that just doesn't look quite right, please call the office at **607-746-2341** and let us know so we can address the problem as soon as possible. Never touch a downed wire, any tree or branch on the wires, or any damaged equipment you come across while in the field. Our highly-skilled lineworkers are more than equipped to make any repairs that you may discover.

Keep this in mind on your vacation as you should be enjoying your time away. Let us take care of the electricity and you can keep an eye out for the big one to ensure he doesn't get away this time!!

Good luck and please stay safe this year, from all of us here at DCEC.

Operations Update

The DCEC Line crews have been busy to say the least. They have been working on a large number of jobs and services for new members as well as many upgrades for our existing accounts. Sportsfield Specialties has a large job underway, a line relocation on Harsh Road in the town of Andes, and many other services and trouble calls.

The DCEC Right of Way crews are getting closer to completing the Andes circuit, but with the large amount of new work orders coming in they certainly have their work "cut out" for them to close out 2023.

The Asplundh Crews are finishing up their work on DCEC property for the year but still have some cutting in the Meredith area on Monkey Run Road, Houghtaling Hollow, Palmer Hill, and others before they are done for the year.

It's been a very busy year for us here at the Co-op and we're all working hard to try and get as many projects and jobs done as we can. The Line, Tree and associated staff have done a great job taking care of the many work orders, phone calls, and member requests thus far.

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 and content submitted by CEO John Gasstrom; Manager of Operations, Job Training & Safety James G. Small; Member Services Representative Brittany Hall; and editor: Manager of Cooperative Relations Janelle Linehan.

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.....Steve Oles
- Director.....David Krzyston
- Director.....Patrick O'Brien
- CEO.....John Gasstrom

Is Your Service 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! You must call within 60 days of publication—there are FIVE numbers in this newsletter, go and find ‘em! *Good luck!*

DCEC Lobby Hours are 8:00am - 4:00pm

DCEC Office will be closed for these holidays:

- Thursday, November 23, 2023 - Thanksgiving
- Friday, November 24, 2023 - Day after Thanksgiving
- Monday, December 25, 2023 - Christmas Day
- Tuesday, December 26, 2023 - Day after Christmas

Third Party Notification

Every member has the right to designate a third party to be notified if the member's bill is not paid and if the member's service becomes subject to disconnection for nonpayment. For example, a parent can designate an adult child as the third party to receive notifications. Third party notifications can be very helpful in situations where health troubles or other factors might make it difficult for the member to stay on top of bill payments.

For more information about third party notifications, please contact the office.



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.