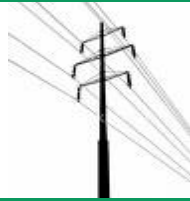




This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



# CATSKILL HI-LINE

Bi-Monthly Newsletter

Volume 79 — Issue 4  
July / August 2023

## Message from the desk of CEO John Gastrom

In just a couple of months, on Friday, September 15th, it is time for **YOUR** Annual Meeting. This is one of the most important events of the year, because it is your chance to be involved in the process of running your electric cooperative. Every member of DCEC has a say in how the Cooperative is operated. The most direct way you can influence our direction is by **voting** for the **Directors** that you feel will best represent you. Also, at this upcoming meeting, we will be proposing some updates to our Cooperative Bylaws that will give the Cooperative even more flexibility going forward in how we hold the Annual Meeting and in making the entire event more accessible and inclusive for all. I urge everyone to attend this meeting, either virtually or in person (did I mention **Brooks' BBQ**



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



# FRIDAY 15 2023 SEPTEMBER



Delaware Academy  
2 Sheldon Drive  
Delhi, NY 13753

4:30pm — *Brooks' BBQ Dinner*  
6:30pm — *Business Meeting*

[www.dce.coop/2023-annual-meeting](http://www.dce.coop/2023-annual-meeting)

**Chicken?)** and be a part of the Cooperative process. Also, if you have questions that you would like us to address during the meeting, please send them to us in advance. This allows us to fully research your queries and give the best answers possible.

I know that receiving steady and reliable power is extremely important, especially in today's world where we have sensitive electronic devices plugged in, and a reliable source of electricity is critical. Please be aware that factors beyond our control can impact the reliability of power delivered to you and we want to hear from you when there are issues. **If your power goes out, please call us** – we may not know that there is an issue affecting you. *.....continued on page 5*



### Official Candidate Bios on Page 2...

### Can't make the meeting in person?

- \* Attend Virtually
- \* Vote with an Absentee Ballot

### ...details on Pages 6 & 7

## 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

## 2023 Official Candidates

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 Monday, July 31, 2023 (Bylaws Article IV, section 3). There will be proposed Bylaw changes and a complete list will be available on DCEC's website.

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. 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.

The Annual Meeting special edition of Catskill Hi-Line will be included with the August bills and will contain more Annual Meeting news. *We hope to see you there!*

### NORTHERN REGION

**Edward "Rusty" Pick Jr.** runs a successful construction company and has been a home builder and mason for 40+ years. He is very dedicated to his friends and neighbors and has remained a pillar of the community for all of those years. Ed and his wife Sharon have owned and operated Harper Hill Farm in Harpersfield since 1975. Over the years they have expanded it to produce hay along with raising and training horses. Their eldest son, Edward, works in computer technology in Harpersfield and their younger son, Brian, is a culinary chef.

"I am a Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) and completed the Board Leadership Program. I am appointed to the DCEC Insurance Committee and I have been served on the Headquarters committee. For the past two years, I have also served as the President for the DCEC Board of Directors. My foremost work on the board is to help keep our electric cooperative strong and running smoothly. I would like to thank the members for their support for the last 12 years. I hope to once again be re-elected as one of the DCEC Board of Directors."

**Greg Starheim** is a long-time resident of Schoharie County, having grown up on the family farm in Gilboa. After graduating from Jefferson Central School, Mr. Starheim went on to Clarkson University where he earned his B.S. in Mechanical Engineering and subsequently an M.B.A. from RPI. He is a licensed Professional Engineer in the State of New York.

Mr. Starheim has over 38 years of experience in the electric utility industry. After graduating from college, he spent 19 years working for the General Electric Company where he held various engineering and leadership roles throughout GE's global power and utility businesses.

.....continued on page 3

Incumbent



**Edward "Rusty" Pick Jr.**



**Greg Starheim**

NORTHERN

.....continued During this time, he was involved in the development, design, construction and operation of numerous fossil, nuclear, renewable (wind, solar, & hydro) and distributed power generation facilities.

Upon leaving GE in 2003, Mr. Starheim moved back to the family farm to be closer to family and friends. He became active in the local community and the CEO & General Manager of the Delaware County Electric Cooperative, a position in which he served from 2003 to 2012. During this time, DCEC successfully invested in critical technology platforms and worked closely with state and county economic development officials to attract and retain industrial businesses to the area, including Amphenol Corp in Sidney.

After 8 years at DCEC, Mr. Starheim was named President & CEO of Kenergy Corp, a \$500M electric distribution cooperative serving western Kentucky. From there, he served six years as Sr. Vice-President of the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC), a \$30B financial services firm exclusively serving the nation’s electric cooperatives. In his most recent role, Mr. Starheim was the President & CEO of the Delaware Electric Cooperative, a large regulated electric utility serving the majority of the State of Delaware. Mr. Starheim retired in February 2023 and returned to the area on a full-time basis.

Mr. Starheim and his wife, Elaine (Many), have four grown children. He is active in the Stamford Chapter of Rotary International and enjoys flying airplanes and working on the family farm.

DE 4-16-12E

**CENTRAL REGION**

**David Krzyston** has lived in the Delhi area for 43 years. Mr. Krzyston has taught in the electrical program at SUNY Delhi since 1990 where he currently holds the rank of professor and works closely with faculty in the Utility Operations program.

Mr. Krzyston enjoys spending time with family and friends as well as volunteering in the community. He is a board member of The Compassionate Friends in Oneonta, and faculty advisor for the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) student club at SUNY Delhi.

“I hope to use my experience and knowledge to help DCEC continue to meet operational and sustainability goals, while maintaining their reputation for fiscal responsibility. In my experience, DCEC provides unparalleled service and support to both members and contractors, I would be honored to assist in continuing that tradition.”

Dave and his wife Jodi have three children and have been DCEC members for over 30 years.

**Thomas Little** has been a member of DCEC since 1995, when he began the construction of his home on his wife, Susie’s, family farm on Arbuckle Hollow. Mr. Little spent 35 years as a general contractor before making the switch to Code Enforcement Officer for the Village of Delhi. During his 15 year service to Delhi, Mr. Little served on the Delhi Flood Commision and the Delaware County Soil and Water Planned Action Committee. ....continued on page 4

CENTRAL



**David Krzyston**



**Thomas Little**



.....continued Although recently retired from the Village of Delhi, Tom is still serving the Town of Harpersfield and the Village of Hobart as CEO. Tom has served on the Town Board of Delhi, The Zoning Board of Appeals in Delhi and the Planning Board for the Village of Hobart. Tom has also served many years as president of the Board of Trustees at the First Presbyterian Church of Delhi. During his tenure as a member of the Delaware River Lodge #439, he has served as Master 3 times, and as State District Deputy for the Delaware District.

“My background in construction and codes has provided me with continuing education giving me a strong foundation on which to serve on the board of directors for DCEC. Every year I take 12 credit hours through NYSERDA in the area of NYS Energy Codes, keeping me up to date on new codes and trends in the energy field. I feel I have a good understanding of the challenges the Co-op and its members will be facing in the near future. I want to help make a difference moving forward as we meet these challenges. I want to help the Co-op and the community it supports grow into the future.”

**SOUTHERN REGION**

**Patrick O'Brien** has been a proud member of DCEC since June 2020, after purchasing a farm with his wife for their growing family. Patrick was raised in Walton and currently resides in Trout Creek with his wife, Morgan and their four children. Patrick has spent his career focusing on safety, quality and cost savings as a Project Manager for a local construction company working in the civil construction division. Patrick has also spent several years working as a foreman for a pipeline safety company. Patrick has a strong track record of accomplishing goals in an effective and safe manner.

“I am running for a Director Position at DCEC to uphold the Cooperative's duly adopted policies while acting in the best interests of the Cooperative and its members. I would like to streamline communication with members during emergencies, cost savings, as well as other current events. If elected as a Director, I will act with integrity, responsibility and with an open mind to keep DCEC safe, sustainable and affordable.”

**Cynthia A. Randles, Ph.D.** is a resident of Andes, New York since 2022, but has been coming to the area for over a decade to enjoy all that the Catskills have to offer. Cynthia is an atmospheric scientist by training, having a bachelor's degree from MIT and Ph. D from Princeton. Her work experience was first in academia for 8 years, working as a scientist at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland working on global modeling of fine particulate matter. She then spent six years in the energy industry working for ExxonMobil, where she studied a wide range of topics including renewable energy, optimization of electricity grids, and methane emissions from natural gas supply chains.

.....continued on page 5

**SOUTHERN**



**Patrick O'Brien**



**Cynthia A. Randles, Ph.D.**

.....*continued* Currently she is a contractor with the United Nations Environment Program where she leads a global effort to use satellite data to notify energy companies and countries when they have large emissions of methane, a powerful greenhouse gas.

Outside of work, Cynthia spends time with her family, including her 4-year old son, and enjoys hiking on their property and relaxing evenings on the deck watching the sunset from their mountain perch. Cynthia is very interested in serving on the DCEC Board to help ensure an affordable and green energy supply to those within the cooperative.

.....*CEO message continued from page 1*

Please don't assume that a neighbor will call, they may not have the problem, and the more detail we get about who is impacted by the problem, the more insight we gain into how to correct it.

Speaking of calling us, please let us know if you currently have or are planning to purchase an **electric vehicle** or add any other large load to the DCEC system, such as converting to **electric heat** or adding large motors. Increases in your electric load may require DCEC to take action to upgrade your service and ensure you have the power needed. Sometimes, it can take many months to order, receive, and install new electrical equipment, so the further in advance you let us know about your intentions, the more prepared we can be.

Another thought to consider is backup power. A simple device called an **Uninterruptible Power Supply** (or UPS) can help keep critical devices on for several minutes to several hours in the event of power loss. This is especially critical for folks who no longer have a traditional land-line phone, and may rely on a wi-fi connected device for telephone service. A UPS can keep your wi-fi router powered up, so that you can still have internet service (and internet-based telephone) during an outage. See <https://www.dce.coop/storm-outage-tips-center> for more information on UPS devices and links to a couple of popular models. If you have more power-hungry devices that need power for longer, a Generlink power generator may be a good choice for you. Please see <https://www.dce.coop/generlink> for more details on Generlink generators.

Finally, in the spirit of Cooperative Principle #5, **Education, Training, and Information**, I would like to invite all of you to submit your suggestions for topics you would be interested in having further information about. DCEC plans to hold some Member Events on topics of interest, where you will have the opportunity to attend meetings and ask questions about areas of importance to you. We currently plan to hold information sessions on electric vehicles, battery storage, solar power, and new electric rate structures. More details to come on signing up for these Member Events.

Cooperatively Yours,

*John Gasstrom*



# official Absentee Ballot Request Form

**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 below) and submitting it to the Cooperative by **August 21, 2023**. 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 11, 2023** (four business days prior to the Annual Meeting). Once DCEC has received a member's absentee ballot it cannot be revoked. The member may still attend the Annual Meeting, however, will not vote 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, 2023 and September 11, 2023**. 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 in person to:  
5 North Depot Street, Delhi

By mail to:  
DCEC  
Attn: Absentee Ballot Request  
P.O. Box 471  
Delhi, NY 13753

Fax to (607) 746-7548

Email to [office@dce.coop](mailto:office@dce.coop)

**DCEC strongly encourages all members to vote!**  
**If you vote by absentee ballot, electronic ballot or in-person at the Annual Meeting you will received a \$10 bill credit which will be applied to your November 2023 bill!**



# official Absentee Ballot Request Form

The Delaware County Electric Cooperative (hereinafter "Cooperative") will hold its Annual Meeting on **September 15, 2023** 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 6:30 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, 2023.*** All absentee ballots will be sent out on August 21, 2023.

I HEREBY REQUEST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT FOR THE SEPTEMBER 15, 2023 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.

# official Electronic Voting Request Form

DE 4-4-11

**VOTE AND ATTEND MEETING ELECTRONICALLY:** One method for a member to be eligible to vote is to request to attend virtually and cast a ballot electronically by completing the official form (available below) and submitting it to the Cooperative by **September 8, 2023**. Once the Cooperative receives your form we will provide you with an email link to attend and participate in the meeting virtually as long as requests are received by **September 8, 2023** (4 business days prior to the Annual Meeting).

Members can return the below form either in person to: 5 North Depot Street, Delhi

By mail to:

DCEC  
Attn: Electronic Voting Request  
P.O. Box 471  
Delhi, NY 13753

Fax to (607) 746-7548

Email to [office@dce.coop](mailto:office@dce.coop)

Answers:  
1) 106 poles ranging in size from 30 feet to 50 feet  
2) Despite having a short staff of only three workers for an extended period, DCEC's Tree Crew was still able to clear 38.33 miles of Right-of-Way!  
3) A—October 30, 1950

**DCEC strongly encourages all members to vote!**

**If you vote by absentee ballot, electronic ballot or in-person at the Annual Meeting you will received a \$10 bill credit which will be applied to your November 2023 bill!**



# official Electronic Voting Request Form

The Delaware County Electric Cooperative (hereinafter "Cooperative") will hold its Annual Meeting on **September 15, 2023** 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 6:30 pm.

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

To be eligible to attend and vote virtually, members may request that a meeting link 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 September 8, 2023.**

I HEREBY REQUEST ELECTRONIC ATTENDANCE & VOTING FOR THE SEPTEMBER 15, 2023 ANNUAL MEETING.

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

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

Member's Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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.



# When Floodwaters RISE

## 7 Tips to Evacuate Safely

Once you leave your home:

- 1 Never drive around barricades.
- 2 Listen to weather alerts for information and instructions.
- 3 Do not walk, swim or drive through floodwaters.
- 4 Know that standing water could be energized.
- 5 Stay off bridges over fast-moving water.
- 6 Stay inside your car if it is trapped in rapidly moving waters.
- 7 Get on the roof if water is rising inside the car.

**Do not return home until it is safe to do so.**

Source: Ready.gov

## Flooding Dangers

145 U.S. flood-related fatalities in 2021



Source: National Weather Service



## DCEC Trivia By James Small

**Question #1** - How many electric utility poles were set by DCEC lineworkers in 2022?

**Question #2** - How many miles of pre-existing Right-of-Way did DCEC's Tree Crew clear in 2022?

**Question #3** - Willie the Wired Hand was and is the cartoon company mascot for Cooperatives all across the nation and has been for quite some time. Do you know when he came into existence, when is Willies birthday?

- A) October 30, 1950
- B) July 4, 1940
- C) April 1, 1910
- D) January 10, 1895

**ANSWERS on Page 7!**



**SAVE THE DATE!**

**DTC Open House 2023**  
Wednesday, August 2, 2023  
11am–2pm

107 Main Street  
Delhi, NY 13753



## Can You Help the Cooperative Locate Lost Members?

Returned Capital Credit Checks	
Last	First
Ackerley	Jerry
Anderson	David Jr
Arnold	Margaret
Auriemma	Ronald J.
Aylen	Nick
Barry	Gary F. & Judith
Bernabe	Alfredo
Blaha	Frank
Blowers	Christina
Bonhote	Mary E.
Bonne	Ann
Bonsignore	Dolores
Brewer	H Jr & Diana B.
Burgher	John W.
Burgher	Pamela J.
Bush	John T.
Calabrese	Cindy L.
Cancel	Andrew
Carlson	Gordon F.
Cheslak Pavlou	Charlene
Clark	Dorothy S.
Costello	Anthony
Davis	Rodney F.
Donovan	Tracy
Edwards	Mylz
England	Christopher J.
Fusco	Eugenio
Giacomelli	Warren
Gilrane	Jean M
Grogan	Marcella J.
Halley	Charles
Jeffereys	Dorothy P.
Kendall	William K. & Barbara J.
Kilmurray	Ruth A.
Koopman	Edith
Krayer	Elizabeth
Leo	Robert A.
Manta	Maria C.
Mason	John P.
Mc Gowan	Jeffrey
Mendelson	Michael
Moceri	Mary W.

KO 2-71-14

Being a member of a cooperative does have many perks. One perk of being a member of DCEC is that you – or in some cases, your estate – could potentially receive money from the Co-op. A cooperative is not an investor owned utility, it is a not-for-profit member-owned utility. This means your cooperative does not earn profits in the sense other businesses do. Instead, revenues remaining after all expenses have been paid, are returned to the members in proportion to their usage of the Co-op's services through capital credit allocations and retirements. What happens to a member's capital credits if the member moves away from the system? A member who terminates service no longer receives additional capital credit allocations. It is the member's responsibility to notify the Co-op of any changes in address or phone number so the member can be located when it is time for the Cooperative to retire capital credits allocated to the member's account.

The adjacent is a list of DCEC members whose capital credit checks have been returned to DCEC by the USPS due to an insufficient or outdated address. Please review the list and if you have any information that will be helpful to us in locating these members, please contact the DCEC office at (607) 746-2341 or email us at [billing@dce.coop](mailto:billing@dce.coop). Thank you for your assistance!

Mohr	Ronald T.
Mondore	Lisa J.
Montgomery	SL James
Morganstern	Gretchen
Nash	Marjorie R.
Pacinello	Nicholas
Parisi	Lucy
Parks	Hannah G.
Patrick	Philip S.
Quinn	Richard G.
Robinson	Marion L.
Rode	Janet L.
Santha	Joseph P.
Shaw	David C.
Sherlock	Joseph
Sinisgalli	Peter V.
Smith	Alan B.
Tavolaro	Frank
Till	Mathew
Tompkins	Dianne
Trezevant	Rebecca E.
Tubbs	John
Van Horn	Earl
West	Herbert C.
White	Al
Wingate	David R.
Wolff	Melora
Wood	Catherine M.



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 John Gasstrom; COO Ryan Sullivan; Manager of Operations, Safety & Training James G. Small; Billing Specialist Rosemary Alwine; and 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.....Paul Menke
- Director.....Steve Burnett
- Director.....Edward Furgol
- Director.....Steve Oles
- CEO.....John Gasstrom

**Reporting Outages**

Members, please always report when you experience a power outage. There are some cases when a member has a single outage and we may not know unless you report the outage. Likewise, if an outage is widespread, the more members that report the outage, the more information this provides for our Line Crew to find the cause of the outage to restore power. Providing information such as where trees are down on the line or "hearing a pop" are helpful to relay to us to quickly diagnose and restore the outage.

To keep members in the know when there is an outage, we have been posting on our Facebook page and sharing to many local group pages with updates throughout the four counties we serve. We strive to get you information as it is discovered in the field so that our members know how long the outage may last for.

To report an outage, call **(607) 746-9283** or report online through **SmartHub**

**Operations Update**

The DCEC Line crews are working on a very high volume of new services for incoming and pre-existing members all over the service territory, as well as many pole replacements and all trouble calls and outage tickets.

The DCEC Right of Way crews are continuing their work in the Andes area on Beech Hill road, as well as many new member services and trouble trees in our service territory.

Asplundh Crews will continue to work on the DCEC property and will be cutting on Monroe Rd, Dry Brook Road, Turnpike Road and the end of Jersey Road.

**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!*

**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.

**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.*