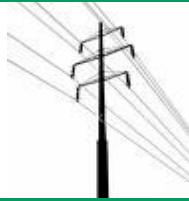




This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



CATSKILL HI-LINE

Bi-Monthly Newsletter

Volume 79 — Issue 5
August 2023

SPECIAL EDITION: ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION

It is almost time for YOUR 79th Annual Meeting. This event is one of the most important parts of belonging to a cooperative. We hope to see all of you there for a BBQ chicken dinner and to hear about what's been happening at the cooperative this past year. We have several by-law changes to vote on, three director elections, and of course – we need you to select the recipients of our charity donations for this year.

This year, we have a special keynote speaker, Mr. Chuck Tiemann. I've had the pleasure of working with Chuck for the past several years and I feel blessed to have had my life touched by him. Chuck has an incredible story to share about how changes to his life and situation led to him fulfilling a greater purpose. You won't want to miss this opportunity to hear one of the most inspirational speakers I have experienced. DCEC is incredibly lucky to have him at our 79th Annual Meeting.

Also, if you have questions you would like us to address, please send them to us in advance at AnnualMeeting@dce.coop. This will allow us to fully research your queries and give the best answers possible.

So please, make time to join us at Delaware Academy on Friday, September 15th. We will begin serving Brooks' BBQ chicken dinners at 4:30 PM, and our business meeting will start at 6:30. Of course, we will have prizes for those attending (in person) and if you can't attend, please request an absentee ballot and be sure to vote on our important topics at this year's Annual Meeting. Hope to see you there!

Cooperatively Yours,

John Gasstrom

.....more Annual Meeting details on page 2



FRIDAY, September 15th

Delaware Academy
2 Sheldon Drive
Delhi, NY 13753



4:30pm – Brooks' BBQ Dinner

6:30pm – Business Meeting

www.dce.coop/2023-annual-meeting

RESERVE YOUR BROOKS' BBQ CHICKEN DINNERS (2 PER MEMBERSHIP) TODAY!

DEADLINE TO ORDER: 9/8/2023

CALL OUR OFFICE AT
(607)746-2341

ALL DINNERS MUST BE PRE-ORDERED



Must be present to win*:

- ✂ Ten \$50 bill credits
- ✂ Uninterruptible Power Supplies (UPS)
- ✂ ONE \$500 bill credit!!!

*You must be in the auditorium to win. Only active members are eligible for door prizes. Directors, managers, employees and their immediate families are not eligible.

Powering Our Rural Communities

AN 4-68-3D

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

Member-Owned & Operated

In an effort to be inclusive to all members regardless of how they choose to attend and vote (in-person, virtual/electronic, or absentee), we have pre-recorded director candidate speeches, charity announcements, and proposed by-law changes in advance. Our aim is to give DCEC members time to view their options and vote. The pre-recorded videos will be available on our website under the “Annual Meeting” drop-down menu at www.dce.coop.

FOR 2023’S NOMINATED CHARITIES, SEE PAGE 8

DCEC’s 79th Annual Meeting Agenda & Program

4:30pm - REGISTRATION
Brooks’ BBQ Chicken Dinner**

- 6:30pm - BUSINESS MEETING
- Welcome / Call to Order
 - Quorum Determination
 - Official Notice of 2023 Annual Meeting
 - Present Director Candidates
 - Present proposed By-law changes
 - Present nominated Charities
 - Members vote
 - Keynote speaker: Chuck Tiemann
 - NY Youth Delegate, Erin Coppersmith
 - Dairy Ambassador, Gracie Deysenroth
 - Reports from Officers & CEO
 - 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes
 - Unfinished Business / New Business
 - Member Questions
 - Service Awards
 - Adjournment
 - Door Prize Drawings!

**Because of the limited seating in the cafeteria, we ask that once you are finished eating that you proceed to the auditorium so others can be seated prior to the business meeting.

**Members not wishing to attend the chicken dinner are welcome to attend the 6:30 PM business meeting held in the auditorium and will be eligible for all door prizes.

2023 DIRECTOR CANDIDATES:

In accordance with DCEC bylaws, a Nominating Committee of members has officially identified the following candidates for the office of director of the Cooperative:

NORTHERN REGION: Towns of Davenport, Gilboa, Harpersfield, Jefferson, Maryland, Stamford & Summit:

- * *Edward “Rusty” Pick*
- * *Greg Starheim*

CENTRAL REGION: Towns of Bovina, Delhi, Franklin, Hamden, Kortright & Meredith:

- * *David Krzyston*
- * *Thomas Little*

SOUTHERN REGION: Towns of Andes, Bainbridge, Colchester, Masonville, Middletown, Sidney, Tompkins & Walton:

- * *Patrick O’Brien*
- * *Cynthia Randles, Ph.D.*

FRIDAY 15
SEPTEMBER **2023**

Can’t make the meeting in person?

* Attend VIRTUALLY / VOTE ELECTRONICALLY

* Vote with an ABSENTEE BALLOT

...details on Pages 6 & 7



Please...No Smoking on Delaware Academy school grounds



2023 Official Candidates & Voting Details

During this year's meeting, members will elect **three members of the Board of Directors**, one from each of the three Regions. There are **five proposed Bylaw changes** and the complete list is available on DCEC's website at <https://dce.coop/2023-proposed-bylaw-changes>. Members will also vote for their **preferred charity**—all charities will receive an award, however. See charity details on page 8.

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.

AN 5-52-3C

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 4

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.

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 Commission and the Delaware County Soil and Water Planned Action Committee.continued on page 5



David Krzyston



Thomas Little

CENTRAL

.....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 8

SOUTHERN



Patrick O'Brien



Cynthia A. Randles, Ph.D.

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

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

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

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

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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.

.....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.

2023 Nominated Charities

At this year's Annual Meeting, DCEC has teamed up with CoBank's Sharing Success program, a provider of banking services, to donate \$2,000 to three nonprofit organizations. The Cooperative received nominations for the following charities:

- CADE - Center for Agricultural Development & Entrepreneurship
- Cooperative Family Fund
- Delaware County Fire Fighter's Association

The nonprofit with the most votes will receive a check for \$1,000.

The nonprofit with the second most votes will receive a check for \$600.

Lastly, the nonprofit with the third most votes will receive a check for \$400.

Pre-recorded videos and details from each charity will be available soon on our website under the "Annual Meeting" drop-down menu at www.dce.coop.

AN 5-41-13A

The Seven Cooperative Principles



Voluntary and Open Membership:

Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership.



Democratic Member Control:

Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions.



Members' Economic Participation:

Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative.



Autonomy and Independence:

Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members.



Education, Training and Information:

Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperative.



Cooperation Among Cooperatives:

Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together.



Concern for Community:

While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities.

DELAWARE COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
SUMMARY FINANCIAL REPORT ***

Balance Sheet as of December 31, 2022

<u>Assets</u>	
Electric plant and work in progress - at cost	\$ 39,923,663
Less accumulated provisions for depreciation	(14,360,677)
Investments in associated organizations	1,427,018
Cash	255,038
Accounts and notes receivable - Net	1,117,096
Materials and supplies (at average cost)	941,952
Prepaid expenses	203,267
Other current and accrued assets	424,643
Deferred charges	894,138
Total Assets:	<u>\$ 30,826,138</u>
<u>Liabilities</u>	
Long-term debt (current and non-current)	13,890,173
Accounts payable	923,648
Accrued interest	15,406
Consumer deposits and prepayments	141,450
Other current and accrued liabilities	283,892
Deferred credits	4,248,377
Total liabilities	<u>19,502,946</u>
<u>Equities</u>	
Memberships	63,170
Patronage capital	9,660,850
Other equities	1,599,172
Total equities	<u>11,323,192</u>
Total Liabilities and Equities:	<u>\$ 30,826,138</u>

Income Statement for the years ended December 31,

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Operating revenues	\$ 10,046,358	\$ 9,108,037
Nonoperating margins, G&T and other capital credits	60,175	455,931
Total revenues	<u>10,106,533</u>	<u>9,563,968</u>
Cost of power	3,026,065	2,331,474
Distribution expense	3,538,971	3,131,475
Consumer accounts and service	311,234	297,448
Administrative and general	1,281,749	1,310,809
Depreciation and amortization	1,131,381	1,117,759
Interest	445,258	473,207
Other deductions	4,072	4,323
Total expenses	<u>9,738,730</u>	<u>8,666,495</u>
Net margins	367,803	897,473
Retirement of capital credits	(407,812)	(437,165)
Net change	<u>\$ (40,009)</u>	<u>\$ 460,308</u>

*** The above information was summarized from the Cooperative's audited financial statements which are available upon request.

The Power of Cooperative Membership

Cooperatives are not-for-profit, member-owned businesses. Electric utility cooperatives build and maintain three times the miles of power line of other utilities and do so at comparable rates despite fewer customers. They do this by operating on a not-for-profit, cost-of-service basis.

Once a member pays the membership fee, they become a part owner of the cooperative. They have a voice in how the Cooperative is operated and influence this process through casting their vote at the annual meeting. It is also at the annual meeting that the members elect DCEC's seven-member board of directors from the membership.

Because the members of the Cooperative are also the owners this means the cooperative is locally owned and operated. Employees of the Cooperative are also local residents who are familiar with the needs of the communities they serve.

ME 1-55-2B



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

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 the Barkaboom and Post 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!*

Reporting Outages

DA 1-18-28

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**

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.