



This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

# CATSKILL HI-LINE

Bi-Monthly Newsletter

Volume 74—Issue 3  
May/June 2018

## Locally Owned & Operated

Powering Our Rural Communities

### The Power of Membership

Cooperatives are not-for-profit, consumer-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. ...Continued on Page 5



Left to right, front row: CEO General/Manager Mark Schneider, Director Steve Burnett, Director Shawn Hartwell. Left to right, back row: Vice President Hartley Russell, Treasurer Paul Menke, Secretary Edward "Rusty" Pick Jr., Director Frank Winkler, and President Steve Oles.



Left to right: Steve Little – 1<sup>st</sup> Class Lineman, James Bright – 1<sup>st</sup> Class Lineman, Michael Schafer – 1<sup>st</sup> Class Lineman, on top of truck Kyle Schuman – Apprentice Lineman 2<sup>nd</sup> year, Micheal Pietrantonio – 1<sup>st</sup> Class Lineman, James Green - 1<sup>st</sup> Class Lineman, Scott Tuttle - 1<sup>st</sup> Class Lineman, Michael Dianich - 1<sup>st</sup> Class Lineman, Doug Rosa – Line Foreman, Michael Sackett - 1<sup>st</sup> Class Lineman, Todd Oles – Fleet Mechanic. Not present for photo David Schmidt - 1<sup>st</sup> Class Lineman.



Left to right: Engineering & Technology Manager Paul DeAndrea, CEO General/Manager Mark Schneider, Finance Manager Millie Faulkner, and Operations Manager Ryan Sullivan.



Left to right: Operations Clerk Betty Ives, Billing Assistant Tara Rifenburg, Administrative Assistant Alicia VanZandt, Billing Specialist Rosemary Alwine, and Systems Coordinator Larry Soule.



Left to right: Micah Scobie – Journeyman Line Clearance Arborist, Scott Smith – Journeyman Line Clearance Arborist, Randy Tweedie – ROW Crew Foreman, Quintin McGraw – Journeyman Line Clearance Arborist.

### DCEC Office Closing Reminder:

DCEC's office will be closed on **Monday, May 28, 2018 for Memorial Day.** DCEC staff asks our members to remember our fallen heroes who have served.

39 Elm Street, PO Box 471, Delhi, NY 13753  
Phone: 607-746-2341 or 866-436-1223  
Website: www.dce.coop  
Fax: 607-746-7548  
OUTAGES: 607-746-9283  
SECURE PAY-BY-PHONE: 1-844-209-7162

# May is National Electrical Safety Month

We're committed to electrical safety excellence – for our members and employees.



## Safety Demonstrations for Kids

Electrical safety is an important part of our day-to-day work at Delaware County Electric Cooperative (DCEC), and we also provide free Safety Demonstrations for the public and local schools. DCEC encourages schools, community groups and businesses to utilize an Electrical Safety Demonstration as part of their educational activities. The Safety Demonstration dramatically emphasizes the dangers posed by high-voltage electric lines, both underground and overhead.

Some specific things you'll learn about include:

- Historical electricity facts
- Safety precautions around electricity
- Safe use of electricity
- Safety around electrical poles, downed power lines, and utility substations
- Importance of staying away from power lines during outdoor activities such as kite-flying or climbing trees is also stressed
- Safety equipment used in the electric utility industry
- Various electrical voltages and circuits
- Telephone and cable TV wires and the potential of being energized
- Effects of current on a human body
- Backfeed of a circuit—for a member-operated generator
- Effect of contacting energized electric circuits and other hazards possible with various material and equipment
- Operation of reclosers and fuses

It is important to Delaware County Electric Cooperative and all of our employees to help kids learn how dangerous electricity can be if it is not respected. Our program helps them understand why it's important to take precautions around electricity. Presenters and kids have fun interacting and exchanging questions and answers.

For additional information, to request additional safety materials, or to schedule an Electrical Safety Demonstration, please contact us at (607) 746-2341 or [office@dce.coop](mailto:office@dce.coop).





## Jim "Barney" Bright Retiring June 1st

Jim Bright started his Cooperative career as a part time member of the Tree Crew, which we then called the "Brush Crew" in 1986. By the end of 1987 Jim had become a full time member of the Line Crew. He earned the title of 1<sup>st</sup> Class Lineman in the year 2000. During his 32 years of service to the Cooperative's members, Jim has been universally well liked by members and co-workers alike. His quiet demeanor and easygoing nature are traits that will be missed on the job site following Jim's retirement.



Jim and his wife Jean have operated a livestock farm and goat dairy for a number of years. Jim looks forward to spending more time on the farm and with Jean. They have plans to improve and expand their farm operation, and with Jim's retirement, they'll finally have the time to turn their plans into reality.

If you see Jim, please join us in wishing him congratulations and the best of luck in retirement.

## Are You Interested in Being on DCEC's Fixed Budget?

Members interested in being on DCEC's fixed budget plan must contact the office by the end of June in order to be enrolled. Members can also elect to be on a variable budget plan, which you can sign up for at any time throughout the year as long as you have 12 consecutive months of usage. For more information on the budget plans please contact the office.

## Members Decide

At the Annual Meeting on Friday, September 21, 2018, DCEC will be teaming up with CoBank, one of our financial services partners to give three donations to three, 501 (c)(3) charitable organizations to be selected by the members. 1st prize award will be \$1,000, 2nd prize is \$600 and lastly 3rd prize will be \$400. Nominations for charities should be sent by Co-op members to Alicia VanZandt by June 15th at [alicia.vanzandt@dce.coop](mailto:alicia.vanzandt@dce.coop) or by regular mail to the office of the Cooperative. To be nominated to receive a donation, a charity **MUST:**

- Be a 501(c)(3) organization.
- Have a significant presence within the DCEC service territory.
- Be able to attend the DCEC Membership meeting and educate Members on behalf of their organization.

Nominated charities will appear in the special edition of the Catskill Hi-Line, which you will receive with your August bill. Members will vote on the "winning" charities at the Annual Meeting. Many thanks to CoBank for their matching grants.



Providing our rural members with:

- ✓ Low-cost Electricity
- ✓ High System Reliability
- ✓ Community/Member Service

**Warranted for LIFE**  
Please call for availability



39 Elm Street  
P.O Box 471  
Delhi, NY 13753  
Ph: (607) 746-2341  
(866) 436-1223  
Fx: (607) 746-7548  
[www.dce.coop](http://www.dce.coop)  
local area  
dealer for electric

**Marathon**  
WATER HEATERS

## SAFETY ABOVE ALL ELSE!



## RHEEM PRESTIGE SERIES HYBRID HEAT PUMP WATER HEATER

2.45 Energy Factor | Easy to Adjust Water Temperature | 10 Year Warranty 50 Gallon | Acts as a Dehumidifier | Energy Star

Call (607) 746-9284 for Prices and More Information



Save Minimum of \$150/year  
in Electricity Costs



## Spring Into Safety

Electrical safety is a relevant topic for the *Catskill Hi-Line*, particularly so for the May/June issue with May being National Electrical Safety Month. With this in mind, let's try to "Spring into Safety."

Developing an awareness about ways to protect you and your family against harm from being exposed to energized electrical conductors or wires may someday prove to be lifesaving.

For example, operating a motor vehicle in our part of rural New York state is for the most part, a necessity. Would you know what to do if your vehicle crashed into an electric utility pole? Knowing what to do could be the difference between life and death.

If you're involved in a motor vehicle accident and power line conductors or other wires fall on your vehicle and there is no fire, your safest option is to stay inside your vehicle until help arrives. Exiting the vehicle increases your risk of electrocution.

Only attempt to exit your vehicle if it is on fire. If you have to exit, do so as follows:

- Jump out of the vehicle, making sure that no part of your body or clothing touches the ground and the vehicle at the same time.
- Land with both feet together and with small, shuffling steps, move at least 40 feet away from the vehicle and the power line or wires. The ground could be energized. Shuffling away with both feet close together decreases the risk of electrical shock or possible electrocution.

Do not drive over downed power lines. Even if not energized, these lines could become entangled with your vehicle, causing further damage.

If a person or pet comes into contact with a downed power line conductor, remain clear. Do not touch them or the conductor. You could sustain an electric shock or possibly be

electrocuted by doing so.

It is nearly impossible to tell if a power line conductor or a wire at an accident scene is energized and therefore, harmful. Always treat the power line conductor or wire as if it is energized.

Remember to call 911 for help as soon as you are safely able to do so. You may also call the DCEC outage telephone line at (607) 746-9283.

When working around your home this spring, always check for overhead wires every time that you use a ladder, work on a roof or yard tree or at the time when carrying long tools,

such as a pruning device. Also, avoid planting trees underneath power lines or near other utility equipment.

Let's consider another interesting safety topic related to renewable energy production. There is growing interest among DCEC's membership in the use of distributed generation or energy production equipment, such as a solar PV installation at their home, farm or business. It's important to keep safety in mind when planning a system that will be interconnected or "grid tied"  
*Continued on Page 5...*

## WHAT TO DO: IF YOUR CAR CRASHES INTO A UTILITY POLE

**Accidents happen.** Would you know what to do if your car crashed into an electric utility pole? Knowing what to do could be the difference between life and death.

**Always consider power lines and other electrical equipment to be live and dangerous!**

### IF A POWER LINE FALLS ON YOUR VEHICLE AND THERE IS NO FIRE:

Your safest option is to stay inside your vehicle until help arrives. The vehicle acts as a path for the electrical current to travel to reach the ground. You are safe inside the vehicle, but if you get out, you could be electrocuted.

**Call 911 or your local electric utility for help.**

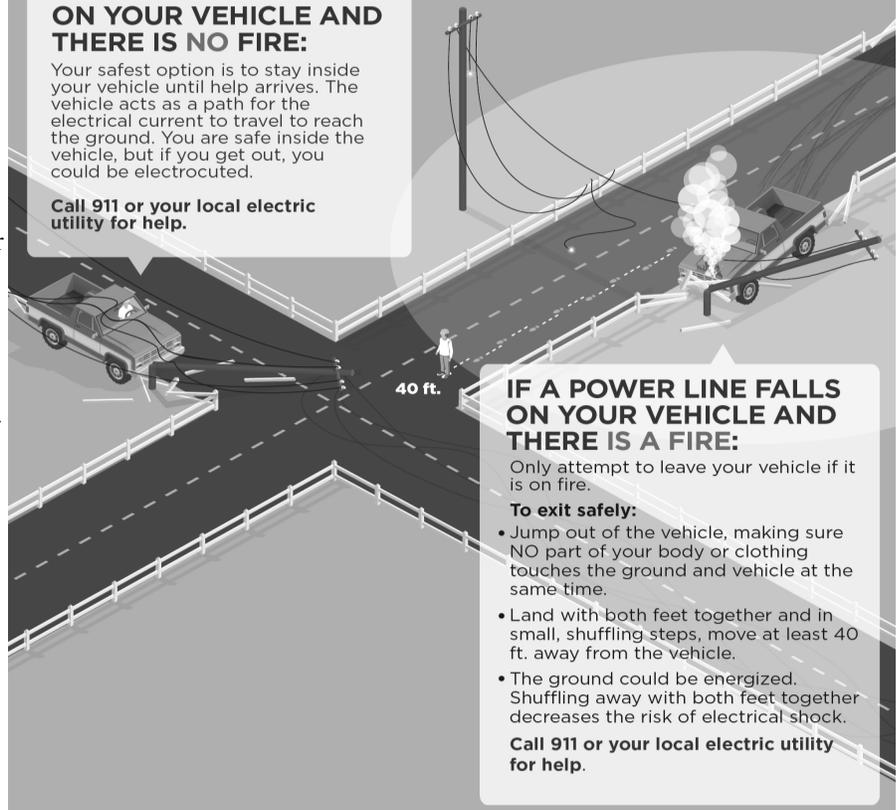
### IF A POWER LINE FALLS ON YOUR VEHICLE AND THERE IS A FIRE:

Only attempt to leave your vehicle if it is on fire.

#### To exit safely:

- Jump out of the vehicle, making sure NO part of your body or clothing touches the ground and vehicle at the same time.
- Land with both feet together and in small, shuffling steps, move at least 40 ft. away from the vehicle.
- The ground could be energized. Shuffling away with both feet together decreases the risk of electrical shock.

**Call 911 or your local electric utility for help.**



## It PAYS to be a Member of this Cooperative...literally!

Cooperative members are owners of their electric cooperative, not just customers. Members gain ownership shares in their cooperative through a process called “capital credit allocation.” DCEC is allocating \$814,788 in ownership equity to all members who paid electric bills to the Cooperative during 2017. You should see a note about your own capital credit allocation on your May electric bill. The amount of member equity created in 2017, which was \$814,788, is the amount of money collected through member electric bills that exceeded the cost to run the Cooperative during 2017. In most businesses that would be considered a profit and it would be distributed to shareholders. Remember shareholders of a for profit company are not the customers. However, in cooperatives, our members are also our owners. Therefore, we do not distribute our margin to a distant set of shareholders, we retain it as member equity in the Cooperative. Member equity in the Cooperative is essential to maintain good financial health. For example, if we did not have sufficient member equity in the Cooperative, then banks would not loan us money to invest in things like substations, poles, and wires. Member equity is returned to members approximately 25 years after it is allocated through a process of equity rotation. This past year we returned approximately \$300,744 in member equity to those members who received capital credit allocation for 1990. The process of developing and rotating member equity in the Cooperative is an essential function of every cooperative. Thank you for being a member-owner and not just a customer.



### The Power of Membership ...Continued from Page 1

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.

### Spring Into Safety ...Continued from Page 4

with the DCEC distribution system.

Co-op members who are interested in distributed generation systems should contact DCEC first. We can provide you with information that will assist you in planning for a system that will operate safely, ensure the safety of DCEC operating personnel and that will not degrade power quality. More information may be obtained from our website at [www.dce.coop/content/member-owned-distributed-generation](http://www.dce.coop/content/member-owned-distributed-generation)

## meet our NEW HIRES



### DCEC Hires Seasonal Employees

Due to extensive right-of-way clearing during the summer months DCEC announces the following new temporary employees on the Tree Crew: Cody Somers, Jarrett Offnick, Joseph Yambor, Carson Fuller, Michael Cardillo (photos below from left to right).



# HAPPY JUNE DAIRY MONTH!



## Power to the Farmer!

By DCEC Billing Assitant Tara Rifenkark

When DCEC first started there were only 12 members all of which were dairy farmers. In 1935 the Rural Electrification Administration was created by the Roosevelt Administration to bring electricity to rural areas. Farmers were urged to create electricity cooperative companies. It then channeled funding through these co-ops via low-interest loans to finance the construction of generation and



distribution facilities and power lines to bring electricity to farms. It's sad when you realize that at one point in time our local farms were the backbone of the local economy and area and now they are on the verge of extinction.

As an employee of the Cooperative I have a special place in my heart for the dairy farmer. My family has owned and operated a dairy farm for the past 200 years, Char-Marie Farm (a co-op member for 67 years). As a child some of my fondest memories are of spending time in the barn doing such things as helping my aunt and cousin feed the calves, searching for the kittens my uncle told us about, jumping from bale to bale in the haymow, riding and hiking all over the hills with my cousins and helping my grandpa and uncles get the cows across the road from the pasture to come in for milking.

When I think today of the terrible situation our local farmers are currently in with milk prices dropping so low I realize that a wonderful way of life for many families is almost non-existent. Throughout the past 39 years of my life many farms have not been able to continue and have their family legacies carried on. On the seven mile trip from my house to my family's farm there used to be eight dairy farms, including my family's. Today there are only two, one being Char-Marie Farm. As with the rest of the Cooperative's territory what were once miles of dairy farms are now only home to a small few.



## Harvesting Ash Trees- Making the Most of a Difficult Situation

By Board Director Frank Winkler

Many of us are aware that most ash trees in our area will be dying from the invasive Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) over the next several years. Pesticide treatment is only a practical option for landscape trees under most circumstances. Once an ash tree is infected it will rapidly lose upper branches and fall; especially in high wind events. The hazard of falling branches is an obvious danger to homeowners and DCEC power lines.

A well planned timber harvest can be a practical way to minimize the hazard of falling trees and can provide a good financial return. Most of us have limited knowledge of standing timber value. The standard recommendation is to hire a consulting forester to inventory your woodlot, mark and measure trees to be harvested, solicit bids, collect payment before harvest, ensure that the logger has adequate insurance, and then oversee the logging operation to see that only marked trees are harvested, and erosion control practices are installed including stabilizing trails. The Watershed Agricultural Council Forestry Division (607-865-7790) has a listing of consultants that work throughout the DCEC service territory- <https://www.mywoodlot.com/category/watershed-qualified-foresters>. It is important for you and the forester to have a good discussion of your goals. If a woodlot has not been harvested in the past 10 years there are other trees besides ash that are probably ready for harvest. However, harvesting every tree of monetary value could set the woodlot back for 40 years. Poor quality trees should be cut for firewood so that the future crop trees get the needed sunlight. A forester will know which trees to harvest and which ones should be

allowed to continue to grow. The forester’s service will cost about 10% of the total value of sale. Remember that by going to bid you should be assured of a good price and you have an experienced professional overseeing the operation. Some woodlot owners do sell directly to a logger. This can work especially on small projects, if you know that the logger is reputable and has done consistent quality work.

There can be other benefits to a timber harvest such as an improved trail system for access, and wildlife habitat will be improved by allowing sunlight to reach the forest floor. Many song birds need a more open forest canopy to thrive. Many people do not like the looks of the downed treetops after a harvest, but this provides shelter for wildlife, and more importantly a sight where the next forest seedlings can get started without being immediately devoured by deer.

Please contact DCEC at (607) 746-2341, for assistance before cutting any trees that could possibly fall on a power line. Nobody wants anyone to get hurt or cause a power failure with associated inconvenience and expenses. Try to provide a 5-10 day notice so that we can plan effectively.



## Board Appoints Nominating Committee

Each year, an independent committee of DCEC members works to recruit members interested in running for the DCEC board at the Cooperative’s Annual Meeting. This year members will elect new directors at the 2018 Annual Meeting scheduled for September 21st. The Committee kicked off their work on April 5th, and they will need to submit official nominations by June 25th. Members interested in learning more about being a director or becoming a candidate, should contact members of the Nominating Committee or the DCEC office.

All candidates will be expected to submit a letter to the Nominating Committee presenting their credentials and qualifications and explaining why they are interested in serving on the DCEC Board of Directors.



*The director positions that are up for election in 2018 include:*

- Northern Region: Towns of Gilboa, Jefferson, Summit, Davenport, Harpersfield, Stamford, and Maryland
- Southern Region: Towns of Andes, Colchester, Masonville, Middletown, Sidney, Tompkins, Walton and Bainbridge

| 2018 Nominating Committee |                        |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Region                    | Member                 |
| Central                   | Steven Mason           |
| Central                   | Troy Tucker            |
| Central                   | Kurt Apthorpe          |
| Northern                  | Thomas Courtenay-Clack |
| Northern                  | Christine Hauser       |
| Northern                  | Joseph Carroll         |
| Southern                  | Carol LaTourette       |
| Southern                  | Jason Mondore          |

### Anna Post from Bovina is selected as DCEC’s 2018 Student Delegate

After reviewing and interviewing several well qualified applicants the DCEC Board of Directors was faced with a happy dilemma—choosing the new 2018 Student Delegate. All applicants had excellent character, working knowledge, and communication skills. While this is a good problem to have, it can be challenging to make the final decision. DCEC announces the selection of Anna Post from Delaware Academy as the 2018 Student Delegate. As a Student Delegate, Anna was able to represent DCEC at the recent National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Legislative Conference in Washington D.C. which was April 8-10.

Each year, 11th grade sons and daughters of DCEC members 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. “We were very impressed with Anna,” says Frank Winkler, DCEC Board member. “This is an excellent opportunity for Anna to learn first-hand about the legislative process of our country and about the rural electric cooperative business model.” As a Youth Delegate, Anna accompanied DCEC officials to Washington. She joined representatives from 900 other rural electric co-ops in meetings with Congressional leaders on Capitol Hill.

Anna has also been selected by the New York rural electric cooperatives to represent all of New York as our youth delegate. This creates two additional opportunities for her to travel and interact with other youth delegates from around the country. Including the 2018 Youth Leadership Council Conference this summer in Washington D.C. During this trip Anna will gain a broader understanding of electric cooperatives and the energy industry. The Youth Leadership Council (YLC) members meet with NRECA leaders and Youth Tour alumni who work in Washington and on Capitol Hill. Also, the YLC students will deliver a 5-7 minute speech to their peers about what inspired them during the Youth Tour. Anna will also be able to attend the 2019 NRECA Annual Meeting in March of 2019 located in Orlando, FL.



*Anna Post with 19th District Congressman John Faso*



*Anna Post in front of the Capitol Building*



*Anna Post with New York State Senator James Seward*



*Washington Monument pictured with cherry blossoms*



## Family Fun Event

**Saturday, August 4, 2018**

**2 pm—7 pm**

**Courthouse Square in Delhi, NY**

**FREE ADMISSION TO ALL**

## Bylaws Changes Proposed

Members who participate in this year’s annual meeting on September 21, 2018, either by attending in person or voting by absentee ballot, will decide whether to adopt proposed bylaws changes. There are two main areas of change to be considered by the membership:

Articles IV through V regarding director qualification and meetings of directors. This proposal would allow for members who are part-time residents of the Cooperative’s service territory to serve on the board of directors. Currently, approximately 40% of the Cooperative’s members are “seasonal” members, but they are not permitted by the current bylaws to serve on the board of directors. This proposal would also add a requirement that board members attend, in-person, at least 9 regular board meetings per year, in order to continue to serve on the board.

Article VII regarding capital credit allocation and retirement as well as general language improvements. This proposal would bring the bylaws language regarding capital credit allocation and retirement into harmony with changes expected in the NY State Rural Electric Cooperative Law. Other language improvements throughout the bylaws document are proposed in order to clarify terms and eliminate ambiguity.

Bylaws proposals 1 and 2 will be voted on separately by the membership. Either bylaws proposal may be voted up or down regardless of whether the other proposal passes. The latest draft of the proposed changes can be viewed on the Cooperative’s website (<http://www.dce.coop/content/dcec-bylaws-policies>) or by requesting a paper copy from the Cooperative’s office at 607-746-2341. Member input on the bylaws is welcomed by CEO/General Manager Mark Schneider at 607-746-9282 or [mark.schneider@dce.coop](mailto:mark.schneider@dce.coop).

### Generlink Transfer Switches

*Plugs into 200 amp Meter Socket  
20 ft Cord to Connect to Generator Built in Surge Protector  
Accommodates 10,000 watt Generator*

*Available for Purchase at our Office*



*For More Information  
or to Confirm Compatibility  
Contact DCEC at (607) 746-2341.*

## Potential Hazards of Underground Utilities and How to Dig Safely

DCEC urges Members to know before you Dig! Don’t make that judgment call, instead make two calls:

- Call Dig Safely New York, by dialing 811 before you dig
- Call DCEC because secondary lines are not listed with Dig Safely New York

DCEC crews are able to locate underground wires or pipes for members upon request. Please call (607) 746-2341 to confirm if your service location has underground and the proper safety procedures.

There are potential hidden dangers and the Co-op urges members to please call and don’t make assumptions about whether or not their service location has underground. Every digging job requires a call - even "small" projects like planting trees and shrubs, installing mailboxes or hiring a contractor or landscaper to do a digging project. Failure to identify the location of underground utilities can result in damage to gas, electric, communications, water and sewer lines, which can lead to service disruptions, serious injuries or even death and costly repairs and fines.



**Know what’s below.  
Call 811 before you dig.**

# Operations Update

**Right of Way Clearing:** The ROW Crew is working on cycle clearing in, Franklin, Walton, Masonville, and Tompkins. County Route 21, White Hill, Loomis Brook and others.

**Pole Replacement & Line Reconstruction:** The Line Crew is working on various make ready jobs for Spectrum, MTC and DTC in Jefferson, Tompkins, Walton, and Masonville. Planning on working on Randall Hill in Masonville.

**DCEC Annual Meeting**  
**Friday, September 21, 2018**

**The Annual Meeting is your opportunity to ask questions about your cooperative. We value your input and are always looking for ways to serve you better.**

**Event begins at 4:30 p.m. with a Brooks BBQ Dinner and the Business Meeting to follow.**

**Is Your Location Number in This Issue?** 

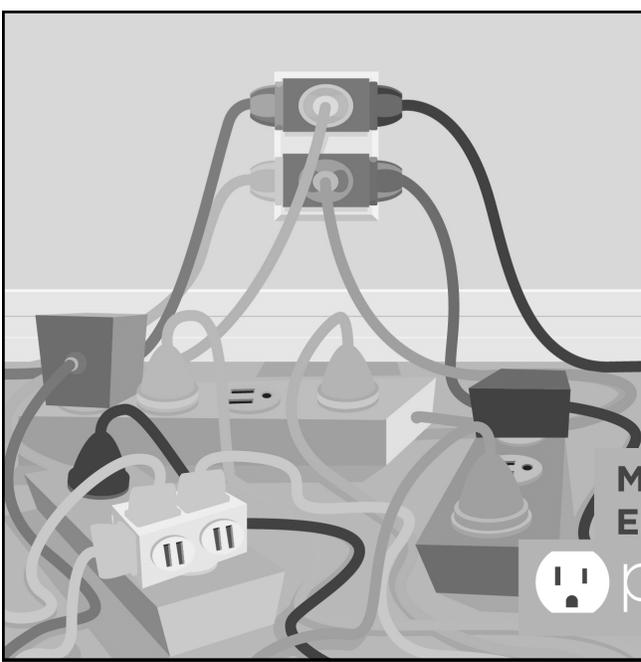
Your service location number begins with two letters and is located on your bill next to your account number. Keep your eyes peeled for the “hidden location number” in this newsletter! If you find the number, and it is your service location you will receive a DCEC fleece sweatshirt! **Good luck!**

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 Mark Schneider, Engineering & Technology Manager Paul DeAndrea, Finance Manager Millie Faulkner, Operations Manager Ryan Sullivan, Systems Coordinator Larry Soule, Billing Specialist Rosemary Alwine, Billing Assistant Tara Rifembark, and Administrative Assistant Alicia VanZandt.

**Board of Directors**

|                          |                 |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| President.....           | Stephen Oles    |
| Vice President.....      | Hartley Russell |
| Secretary.....           | Edward Pick Jr. |
| Treasurer.....           | Paul Menke      |
| Director.....            | Frank Winkler   |
| Director.....            | Shawn Hartwell  |
| Director.....            | Steve Burnett   |
| CEO/General Manager..... | Mark Schneider  |

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.





**OVERLOADED electrical outlets are potential FIRE HAZARDS.**

May is National Electrical Safety Month

 plug into safety