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# CATSKILL HI-LINE

Newsletter — September 2025

## From the desk of CEO John Gasstrom

Dear Members,

I would like to thank you all for participating in our 81st Annual Meeting of Members on Saturday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> and for joining our virtual Q&A session on Monday night, August 18th, as well as our in-person Member Q&A on Saturday morning, August 23rd. Your engagement is greatly appreciated.

As always, our goal is to make myself and the DCEC staff and Directors available to answer your questions and keep you informed. This year, we were pleased to have 168 Members participate in the annual meeting, and each will receive a \$10 bill credit on their October bill for casting their votes in advance.

We are happy to announce that Ed Furgol was re-elected as Director for the Central region. During the subsequent reorganization meeting, the following officers were elected:

—President: Jeffrey Russell

—Vice President: Ross Gill

—Treasurer: Ed Furgol

—Secretary: Laurie Wehmeyer

We would also like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Edward “Rusty” Pick, who has stepped down from his Director position after 14 years of service. Rusty has made a lasting impact on our cooperative, and we are deeply thankful for his many contributions to the Board and the Members of DCEC.

We also wish to thank our Member Advocacy committee for their participation in the process. In the past, we have always chosen three charities and let the members vote on giving them differing levels of contributions (from \$400 to \$1,000). We’ve always felt bad to tell two of them that they didn’t

get the full \$1,000 award, so this year we made the decision to let the members pick the three charities through the Member Advocacy committee and to award each of them the full \$1,000. Congratulations to **The Heart of the Catskills**, the **Jefferson Fire Department**, and the **Stamford Library**. We are always looking for more volunteers for the Member Advocacy committee to help provide advisement to the Cooperative on our direction. Please send an email to [MemberAdvocacy@dce.coop](mailto:MemberAdvocacy@dce.coop) if you’d like to be a part of this fine group of Members.

I’d also like to thank our Members for your patience and cooperation as we complete our drone survey of power lines. This effort, which is entirely funded through grant dollars, will help DCEC better identify our vulnerable sections of line by determining where there are deteriorating poles, cracked insulators, or other conditions that can impact reliability. This drone survey also provides insight into vegetation encroachment along our rights-of-way, and we are hopeful that we will spot trouble areas that we can address before the weather starts to get into winter-storm season.

Finally, I would like to thank Congressman Josh Riley. The Congressman has agreed to co-sponsor the FEMA Act of 2025 (H.R. 4669), which is a comprehensive proposal to reform and modernize the Federal Emergency Management Agency and includes many reforms that benefit electric cooperatives. We appreciate the Congressman’s ongoing support of electric cooperatives and his engagement with DCEC.

Cooperatively Yours,

*John Gasstrom*

## America’s Electric Cooperatives Political Action Committee:

If you want to be a part of helping the Cooperative engage with elected officials, both in Albany and Washington, D.C., consider signing up for the America’s Electric Cooperatives Political Action Committee (PAC), as well as Voices for Cooperative Power. By supporting these programs, you can help make sure that cooperative voices are heard by elected officials that understand the issues that are important to electric co-ops and their Members. Please consider contributing by filling out and clipping the box to the right and returning it with your next bill, or drop it in an envelope to the coop office.

Alternatively, you can email [CoopVoice@dce.coop](mailto:CoopVoice@dce.coop) or call us at 607-746-2341 with your information on contributing to the PAC and joining the Voices for Cooperative Power grassroots list.



America’s Electric  
Cooperatives | PAC

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

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

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

COOPERATIVE: Delaware County Electric Cooperative

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE: \_\_\_\_\_

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

EMPLOYER: \_\_\_\_\_

OCCUPATION: \_\_\_\_\_



Also sign me up for Voices for Cooperative Power

## Powering Our Rural Communities

5 North Depot Street  
PO Box 471  
Delhi, NY 13753

AUTOMATED LINE (payments & outage reporting): **(855) 939-3672**

Office Phone: (607) 746-2341

Fax: (607) 746-7548

DIRECTOR ELECTIONS:	Official Count
Ed Furgol, Central	168

Prize Winners:	
Bonnie Loftstad (Annual Meeting)	\$250 Bill Credit
Louis Thomason (Auto Payment)	\$250 Bill Credit

## 2025 Charities:

### Jefferson Volunteer Fire Department:

Aside from the heroic duties of fire and EMT Response, the Jefferson Fire Department hosts a wide variety of acts of community service including but not limited to, warming stations in the winter, Fire Prevention and Distracted Driving Courses, fund raisers for local community members, participation in local events, and many other services to Jefferson and the surrounding community in Delaware County.



### Heart of the Catskills:

Heart of the Catskills Humane Society is dedicated to the mission of caring for the homeless pets of our communities and connecting every adoptable pet to a loving home. We welcome the community to visit and help us by volunteering, fostering, attending and helping at fundraisers, shopping at our Gifts from the Heart Store, donating wish list items or becoming part of our planned giving program.

### Stamford Library:

Stamford Library is at the heart of our community, serving Stamford and neighbors across Jefferson, Gilboa, Hobart, South Kortright, and beyond. With over 1,400 cardholders and nearly 12,500 annual visits, we offer far more than books—our shelves hold 24,000+ items, plus thousands of eBooks, audiobooks, and streaming media. Last year, patrons borrowed nearly 15,000 materials, while our free WiFi, computers, printing, and copying services made the library a vital hub. We also hosted more than 230 programs for all ages, from storytimes and gaming nights to workshops, performances, and wellness events—drawing 3,000+ attendees. Always expanding, our growing **Library of Things** now offers fishing kits, binoculars, games, household tools, craft equipment, museum passes, NYS Park passes, and more—continuing our mission to connect, inspire, and enrich everyday life.

