



# **CATSKILL HI-LINE**

Bi-Monthly Newsletter

Volume 76—Issue 2 March/April 2020

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

## Powering Our Rural



#thankalineman

## April 13, 2020 is Co-op Lineworker Appreciation Day

Please join us in thanking our lineworkers for all their hard work!

When the weather causes an outage, lineworkers respond to restore power as safely and quickly as possible. Even in normal conditions lineworkers maintain the safety and reliability of our electrical infrastructure.

Line Crew and Tree Crew members are at the heart of our safe and reliable service to members.

# Interested in Serving on the DCEC Board?

The governing body of the Delaware County Electric Cooperative is a member-elected Board of Directors comprised of active DCEC members who are compensated for their time. The Board is responsible for the Co-op's overall policy and direction, as well as for standards and requirements for safety, affordability, and reliability. The DCEC Board is a working board with active committees. The Board currently meets in-person once monthly, typically on the 4th Tuesday of each month. The Board also has separate committees for such matters as financials, staff and organization, and core projects.

Elections will occur at the 2020 Annual Meeting for three board seats representing the Northern, Central, and Southern Regions. Director of the Northern Region Edward

**Continued on Page 8...** 



# LINEWORKER TOUGH

I AM A
POLE-CLIMBING
NO-WHINING
POWER-RESTORING
ELEMENT-ENDURING
GRAVITY-DEFYING
ENERGY-SUPPLYING
LINEWORKER

39 Elm Street, PO Box 471, Delhi, NY 13753 Phone: 607-746-2341 or 866-436-1223

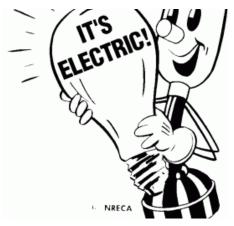
Website: www.dce.coop

Fax: 607-746-7548 OUTAGES: 607-746-9283

SECURE PAYMENT BY PHONE 1-844-209-7162

#### **NYPA Hydro Contract Signed**

The Delaware County Electric Cooperative and the New York Power Authority (NYPA) have signed a contract, which extends through 2040 the Cooperative's right to purchase clean, green, economical hydro power from NYPA's Robert Moses Hydroelectric Power Station in Niagara Falls, NY. The Cooperative, along with 50 other consumer-owned, non-profit electric utilities in New York State, negotiated the contract extension with NYPA for over three years starting in 2016. The contract extension was approved by the NYPA Board of Trustees and Governor Andrew Cuomo late in 2019. Ultimately the contract with the Cooperative was signed on February 19, 2020.

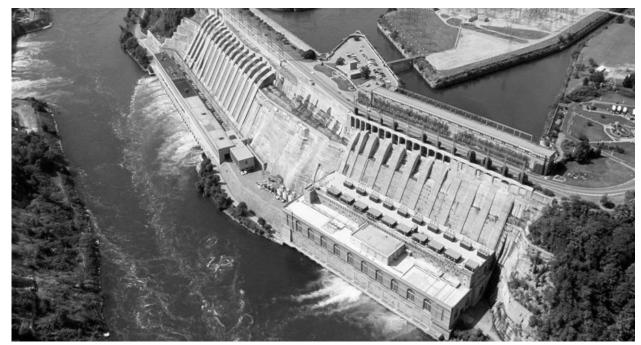


The hydro power contract helps the Cooperative to achieve its financial and sustainability goals:

Financially, the Cooperative benefits from stable and fair pricing for the energy that it needs to purchase on behalf of its members. For example, in 2018 the Cooperative saved \$1.5 million by purchasing hydro power through NYPA instead of buying power in the open market. In 2017 and 2016, the Cooperative saved approximately \$900,000 annually due to the hydropower contract.

The hydropower contract also helps the Cooperative achieve its sustainability goals and honor our clean energy commitments. The Cooperative's wholesale power supply portfolio is currently about 92% clean and renewable, due in large part to the hydroelectricity we purchase from Niagara Falls. The Cooperative has plans to increase the percentage of clean renewable energy in its portfolio each year, and NYPA is helping us do that. NYPA is helping the Cooperative build a 2 Megawatt solar farm adjacent to our Delhi Substation in 2020. The renewable energy attributes of the clean energy generated at the local solar farm will contribute to the Cooperative's goals of having a cleaner and greener power supply each year.

NYPA has been an important partner to the Cooperative since 1958 when NYPA built its first large scale hydroelectric plant on the St. Lawrence River. Ever since then, NYPA and the Cooperative have been in continuous partnership, working together to provide affordable clean energy to the homes, farms, and businesses served by the Cooperative. This contract extension gives us the opportunity to continue and enhance that partnership through 2040.



NYPA's Robert Moses Hydroelectric Power Station in Niagara Falls, NY

#### **Pietrantoni Named Line Foreman**

Mike Pietrantoni has been appointed as the new Line Crew Foreman following the retirement of previous foreman, Doug Rosa, effective February 3, 2020. Mike started at the Cooperative in 1999 as a laborer on the Tree Crew. In 2003, Mike began his line apprenticeship. He achieved the highest classification as a line worker in 2011 when he became a 1<sup>st</sup> Class Gloving Lineman. That means that Mike routinely works on energized conductors and equipment with voltages as high as 12,470 Volts. Like all of the Cooperative's gloving lineman, Mike relies upon years of training and experience so that he can safely handle live conductors. This allows certain repairs and upgrades to be made without inconveniencing members with power outages.

Cooperative CEO, Mark Schneider credited Mike's planning and organizational skills as a big part of the reason Mike was selected as the Cooperative's next line foreman. Schneider stated, "the Cooperative's board and management have faith in Mike's ability to do a great job in the role of Line Crew Foreman. Mike has earned the respect of all his colleagues on the line crew. Mike will also do a good job of working with other parts of the operations team such as the tree crew and the fleet mechanic."

to Mike and good luck taking on this challenge!



Mike Pietrantoni Line Crew Foreman



Scott Smith Lineman Apprentice

#### **Smith Moves to Line Crew**

Scott Smith, previously a Journeyman Line Clearance Arborist on the Cooperative's Tree Crew, began his lineman apprenticeship on March 9, 2020. Scott started working at the Cooperative in 2015 as a temporary laborer on the Tree Crew. Scott has a reputation for having an incredible work ethic and a positive attitude. Scott progressed quickly on the Tree Crew and achieved full journeyman status in 2017. Although Scott's contribution to the Tree Crew will certainly be missed, the whole Cooperative family is excited to see Scott apply his skills and attitudes to the line craft.

Scott has already been out in the field helping senior linemen get the lights back on. As part of Scott's apprenticeship, he serves as a trainee member of the on-call crew, so he gets the call in the middle of the night if a Cooperative member is experiencing a power outage. Scott also has begun the classroom portion of his training, along with fellow line apprentice, Micah Scobie. CEO, Mark Schneider noted that he "couldn't be any more excited about the quality of our new line apprentices. Line work is difficult and dangerous, but these new apprentices are learning from the best so that they can become the best."

## **DCEC Welcomes 2 New Employees**

The Cooperative welcomed two new employees this month, both of whom came with a wealth of experience and qualifications that will help them to immediately contribute to the safe and efficient operations of the Cooperative.

Mitchell Fisher started as the Cooperative's Fleet Mechanic on February 27, 2020. Mitchell's responsibilities include all maintenance and repairs on the Cooperative's fleet of bucket trucks, digger truck, small trucks, bull dozer, track digger, skidder bucket, mowing machine, and a myriad of other equipment. Mitchell will assist the Line Crew and Tree Crew from time to time with setting up safe work zones along roadways. Like a number of other Cooperative employees, Mitchell holds a Class A Commercial Driver's License, so he will be able to move equipment such as the track digger and the bull dozer between job sites. Mitchell comes to the Cooperative from the Delaware County Department of Public Works where he also served as a fleet mechanic.

Mitchell Fisher Fleet Mechanic

## This Article Continues on Page 6...

April 13, 2020 is Co-op Lineworker Appreciation Day

# You've got friends in high places.



Have you thanked a Lineworker today?



#### **Headquarters Project Update**

The Cooperative's directors and staff have been working for the past year on a design for a consolidated headquarters facility to be located at the current location of the Cooperative's shop on North Depot Street in Delhi. The main goals of the headquarters project are:

- Create a safe and effective material warehouse space.
- Provide a secure and welcoming member services area.
- Bring all Cooperative staff together under one roof to facilitate better communications and efficiency.

The new headquarters will incorporate the existing DCEC shop and the former CE Kiff Inc. shop, which are adjacent to each other. The site improvements will include additions to both existing buildings including an addition that will link the two existing buildings together. Other improvements will be the creation of a truck fueling island, and new pole storage bunkers.

At their February 25, 2020 meeting, the Cooperative's board of directors approved a project budget of \$2,497,901 inclusive of all materials, contractors, permits, and service charges associated with the construction of the consolidated headquarters facility. The Cooperative will borrow a portion of the construction cost from the Rural Utility Service of the United States Department of Agriculture. The cost per member for the consolidated headquarters project will be approximately \$1.76 per month.

Construction is expected to begin in late March or early April of 2020. The goal is to begin serving members from the 5 North Depot Street location prior to September 1, 2020. In anticipation of moving all office and operations functions to the North Depot Street location, the Cooperative has signed a contract to sell the office at 39 Elm Street to the owners of Decker Advertising,

which performs custom publication services in addition to publishing their own newspapers, including The Reporter.

Any member who has questions about the headquarters project is encouraged to call CEO Mark Schneider at 607-746-9282.



## **Broadband Update**

The Delaware County Broadband Initiative (DCBI) team has entered a new phase of broadband Internet deployment within the Cooperative's service territory. At this stage, Delhi Telephone Company (DTC) and Margaretville Telephone Company (MTC) are focused on two kinds of field work:

- 1.) In those areas that already have fiber installed, spliced, and tested, both companies are scheduling installations for new customers as quickly as they can. Both companies have added staff members to handle the volume of installations that are needed to meet the demand for high speed Internet service.
- 2.) In addition, there are pockets of the Cooperative's service territory that did not receive any federal or state grant funding to support the fiber installation. However, DTC and MTC committed to serve 100% of the Cooperative's members who are currently unserved by a broadband provider. DTC and MTC are currently filling in the gaps of fiber installation left after all the grant-funded fiber build-out has been completed.

If you have questions about the availability of fiber service at your home, please call DTC at 607-746-1500 or MTC at 845-586-3311.

#### **Can You Help the Cooperative Locate Lost Members?**

Being a member of a cooperative does have many perks. One perk is that if you were ever a member of the Cooperative you or in some cases your estate could potentially receive money from the Cooperative. A cooperative is not an investor owned utility. It's a non-for-profit member-owned utility. This means your cooperative does not earn profits in the sense other businesses do. Instead, any margins, or 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 credits allocations and retirements. Margins are "allocated" or assigned to members who belong to the Cooperative during the year in which a margin is generated. The allocation is based on the member's proportion of revenue contribution for that year. Each member's portion is referred to as a "capital credit allocation." The cooperative has established a retirement cycle, approximately 27 years, for the retirement of capital credits. Under a 27-year cycle, capital credits that were allocated in 1992 were just retired in December of 2019. Capital credits of a deceased member are paid to the member's estate. 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 credits 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 Co-op to retire capital credits allocated to the member's account.

The following 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 <a href="mailto:billing@dce.coop">billing@dce.coop</a>. For a complete list of Lost Members please visit our website at <a href="http://dce.coop/content/missing-members">http://dce.coop/content/missing-members</a>. Thank you for your assistance.

Michael H.	Acquaro
Joseph E.	Ahearn
Hezekia	Allen
Linda	Astuto
Erika A.	Baker-Heinegg
Hugh P.	Barlett
Crystal	Barlow
Robert L.	Barney
Jeanette	Bartlett
John	Bauso
James	Behrends
George J	Bennett
Brett K.	Board
Alicia	Boest
Kellie L.	Bouton
Ron	Bowie, Sr.
Doug & Nanci	Bradt
William W.	Buchanan
Lynn	Carr
Annette	Cassese
Laura	Chalfin
Marian	Chrisman
Pauline	Ciriello
Harry	Clark
Joshua	Clark
Sarah	Cline
Ermanno	Coletti
Peter & Josephine M.	Conte
Christopher	Cooley
Paul & Kaitlin	Coughlin
Jason	Craig

Deborah & Edward	Cuprys
Richard A.	D'Ambrosi
Ricky Allen	Davis
Ralph	De Angelis
Sebastian & Gail	De Luca
Frank & Sandy	Decker
B.	Delahunty
Helen S.	Deming
Lester H.	Dockter
Joseph J.	Dolci
Robert J.	Dutcher
Marian S.	Edwards
	Elmore
Lynda S	
Frances	Epps
Dorothy	Forni Rusch
Diana	Gaetano
Leonard H.	Garrome
Thomas	Gilsinan
Theresa	Graff
Kimberly	Greenough
Timothy	Griffith
William	Griner
Jason	Grizzard
Jill	Gromley
William & Linda	Havrish
Marilyn	Healey
John J.	Heimbuecher
Clarence	Henderson
Joseph C.	Henn
Arthur A.	Highbridge
Lloyd G.	Hinrichs



Lost Members Continued on Page 6...

## **Lost Members List Continued from Page 5...**

Sharon L.	Holley
Michael J.	Jonas
Cesar C.	Jusino
Robert W.	Kamerling
Andrew	Konitsky
Frances	Kruse
Harvey M.	La Terre
Tom	Lane
Victor E.	Lane, Jr.
John E.	Leonard
Cecilia	Leonardi
Gerry	Levers
Peter H.	Lipton
Donald	Lizotte
Connie	Lutz
Ignatious	Manceri
Peter P.	Mandia
Louis	Marino
Charles	Mc Farland
Matthew C	Merrill
William	Merwin
Mike & Halina	Mienicky
Biagio	Mingoia
John	Mocarski
Bill & Noreen	Mullens
Anna M.	Musci
Janos	Nagy
Natali	Niles
Steven R.	Noren
Leonard	Orr
Christine	Palmater
Angela H.	Panasside
Clayton D.	Peavey
R.	Phalon, Sr.
Evelyn C.	Poteralski
Mario	Pratti
Frank	Rapacioli
Maybelle E.	Renzi
Lisa A.	
Mike	
Cheri A.	Ridlon
Clayton D. R. Evelyn C. Mario Frank Maybelle E. Lisa A. Mike	Peavey Phalon, Sr. Poteralski Pratti Rapacioli Renzi Reynolds Rickli, Sr.

Donna	Roberts
Alfred	Rogers
James	Romano
John K.	Ronayne
Anthony J.	Ross
Thomas & Dawn	Sanzone
John	Saxton
Kathy D.	Scott
Andrew C.	Scott
Shirley	Seamon
Lisa M.	Sheehan
Diane P.	Smith
Jeanne	Smith
William & Mary Ellen	Snyder
Charles R.	Stephens III
Lois	Stern
Donald R.	Sweet
Jo Ann	Swick
Dennis	Szentmariay
Ralph P.	Tagliatela
Cynthia	Tait
Dominick	Tavella
Dawn	Tiffany
Peter	Tiller
Hideaki	Tsuda
Enos & Karen	Van Amburgh
Pamela L.	Van Buren
Candy L.	Van Zandt
Linda	Vander Kooy
Anne	Verrill
Sean	Wahl
Terry	Webb
Wallace W.	West, Jr.
Zachery T.	Whitney
James D.	Williams
Marie G.	Willis
Marty	Wolken
Peter	Wyman
Kevin J.	Youngers
•	

SAVE THE DATE 9—18—2020 DCEC ANNUAL MEETING OF MEMBERS

## DCEC Welcomes 2 New Employees... Continued from Page 3...

Damin McNeilly started as a Line Clearance Arborist on the Cooperative's Tree Crew on March 9, 2020. Damin will contribute to the Cooperative's annual right-of-way vegetation management program, which is a central element of the Cooperative's electric service reliability program. Damin comes to the Cooperative from Asplundh Tree Experts, LLC, where he also worked as an arborist.



Damin McNeilly Line Clearance Arborist





#### The Tree Doctor

Again in 2020 spray season Delaware County Electric Cooperative will be contracting with The Tree Doctor. The Tree Doctor founded in 1961 has been providing tree and shrub care to their extensive client base. Based out of western New York they have developed a Vegetation Management arm responsible for the removal and management of invasive species in and along Electric Rights of Way. They will be providing this service for Delaware County Electric Cooperative this year. The Tree Doctor's crews will be applying the same herbicides that the Cooperative has applied in the past. Details about the process please visit our website at <a href="https://www.dce.coop/content/vegetation-management">www.dce.coop/content/vegetation-management</a>.





Bounce Houses

FUN FOR ALL AGES

August 7, 2020, 5 pm Courthouse Square in Delhi FREE ADMISSION

If you are interested in being a vendor at this years Family Fun Day please contact the DCEC office at (607) 746-9299 and ask for Alicia VanZandt.

#### Interested in Serving on the DCEC Board...Continued from Page 1...

"Rusty" Pick Jr., Central Region Director Paul Menke and Director of the Southern Region Frank Winkler. Earlier this year Director Frank Winkler announced that he will not be seeking re-election at the 2020 Annual Meeting in September. Mr. Winkler represents the townships of Andes, Colchester, Masonville, Middletown, Sidney, Tompkins, Walton, and Bainbridge. Both Directors Pick and Menke will be seeking re-election in September.

The current Board of Directors invites any interested candidates to join a regular scheduled monthly meeting. The interested candidate can get a sense of the regular business addressed at the monthly meetings and will have the opportunity to ask any questions that they may have about serving on the Board. If you are interested in attending a



Board meeting please contact the Cooperative at (607) 746-9299 prior to the meeting so we can ensure you are notified of any changes/modifications of the regular schedule.

Serving on the Board of Directors is a worthwhile and enriching experience, both personally and professionally. If you are interested in adding your name to this year's ballot, please send an email to <a href="mailto:office@dce.coop">office@dce.coop</a> informing the Cooperative of your intent to do so. A letter of intent, along with a high-resolution headshot, should be submitted by June 5, 2020.





WHEN THE LIGHTS GO OUT SO DO THEY.

SOUTHERN REGION

Official Candidates Biography examples



#### Call Before You Dig!

As spring time comes upon us we all have projects that we've waited all winter to get started and the spring weather excites us to get outside. Many of these projects include digging or excavating. Some may be big projects and others just simple things that really don't seem like much at all, but, regardless of what we may be digging it is very important to call 811 before we begin.

811 or Dig Safely New York as many of you know is a free service for people to call to be sure that before you begin any project that requires digging or any type of excavation that the area to be excavated is clear of any underground utilities. These can include electric lines, gas lines, water lines and other phone or communication cables.

It is the law to make these calls to prevent not only damage to utilities but, to also protect the public from any of the danger that can be caused by coming in contact with these types of underground facilities.

Any damage caused to any types of these facilities that have not been called in to be located and flagged or painted will be the responsibility of those doing the excavation to pay for the repairs.

Anyone who has an underground electric service going to your home can certainly call the Electric Cooperative to have this line located. This is a cost free service to our members and we encourage you to take advantage of this.

Feel free to call the Electric Cooperative with any questions you have and remember, as we prepare for our upcoming projects, **before you dig call 811.** 



Know what's **below. Call** before you dig.

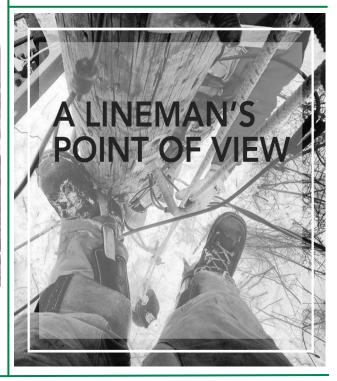
ME 1-56-7B



# Member Advisory Group

DCEC will be establishing member advisory groups to offer DCEC members an opportunity to take an active role in providing feedback, increasing access to services, identifying innovative solutions, and improving the overall quality of energy efficiency and conservation services available to members.

If you are interested in serving on a DCEC Member Advisory Group please contact Administrative Assistant Alicia VanZandt at (607) 746-9299.





Providing our rural members with:

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

Warrantied for LIFE
Please call for availability



Your local area dealer for electric





#### Is <u>Your</u> 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!* 



## **Operations Update**

Line crews are working on system reliability improvements and adding sectionalizing capabilities to reduce outage time and speed up restorations when possible. When not working on that project crews will be addressing pole replacements as reported by our pole inspectors in Andes, Delhi, Kortright, Jefferson, Gilboa and Harpersfield.

Right of way crews will be trimming trees and mowing in Davenport along Charlotte Creek Road.

# Generlink Transfer Switches

available for purchase at our office

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



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

#### DCEC Annual Meeting Friday, September 18, 2020

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.

#### Attention Members—Annual Meeting Agenda

For those of you interested in adding an item on the agenda for the *Annual Meeting of Members* please review **Member**Participation in Annual Meetings of Members Policy listed on DCEC's website, www.dce.coop, under About Us >DCEC Bylaws & Policies > Public, Member & Government Relations > Member Participation in Annual Meetings of Members or call the office directly at (607) 746-2341.

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, Operations Manager Ryan Sullivan, Systems Coordinator Larry Soule, Billing Specialist Rosemary Alwine, and Administrative Assistant Alicia VanZandt.

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	Stephen Oles
Vice President	Frank Winkler
Secretary	Edward Pick Jr.
Treasurer	Paul Menke
Director	Laurie Wehmeyer
Director	Jeffrey Russell
Director	Steve Burnett
CEO/General Manager	Mark Schneider