

Monk wins Co-op Quilt in random drawing



Shown above are BECi employee Margaret Simmons, BECi member Kathy Monk and BECi General Manager Kevin Turner. Monk, of Six Mile, recently won the Louisiana Rural Electric Cooperative Spirit Quilt in a random drawing at the annual meeting of the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives in Baton Rouge. Monk purchased the winning ticket from Simmons in the DeRidder Office. The Cooperative Spirit Quilt project was initiated as a means of endowing an annual academic scholarship. (Acct. No. 108373-001)

BECi member claims Lucky Account Number Contest

BECi member Daisy Geiger was the winner of the cooperative's Lucky Account Number contest.

Geiger claimed the \$50 cash prize by spotting her BECi account number on the inside pages of Louisiana Country magazine.

Geiger is shown at right with BECi General Manager Kevin Turner.

Turner said the locally-owned electric cooperative sponsors the contest to encourage members to keep abreast of all the latest developments at their cooperative.

"Part of our obligation as a member-owned cooperative is to keep our member/owners informed of what's going on, not only locally but throughout the country as well," Turner said. "The things that happen in Washington,



D.C. and other parts of the country, for instance, have an impact on what we all pay for power. We use this publication as a means of reaching all our members and we encourage everyone to read it and stay up on the latest news and events."

You could win \$50!!

Beauregard Electric is offering its members an opportunity to win the Co-op's Lucky Account Number Contest by publishing four account numbers somewhere on pages 6-7 of Louisiana Country.

Look for your account number hidden somewhere on these pages.

To win, you must locate your account number (listed on your electric bill) on these pages and then contact the Co-op. To claim your prize, call 800-367-0275 or 463-6221 by Oct. 15.

BECi News



Kevin Turner, Manager
Dale Peterson, President
Beauregard Electric Cooperative, Inc.
P.O. Drawer 970, DeRidder, LA 70634 (800-367-0275)

BECi awarded electric co-op Statewide Safety Trophy

BECi recently claimed the coveted Statewide Safety Trophy presented each year by the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives (ALEC) in Baton Rouge. The locally-owned co-op was recognized at ALEC's annual membership meeting held at the Baton Rouge Hilton July 21-23.

BECi was honored for working 897,328 man-hours without a lost-time accident since March 2010, a figure that includes emergency restoration work after storms and other adverse conditions.

General Manager Kevin Turner, along with several employees and board members, accepted the Statewide Safety Trophy on behalf of everyone involved with making the co-op a state and national leader in safety.

"There's no doubt that safety is a true team effort, and the credit goes to all of our employees who make safety a priority in performing their day-to-day tasks," Turner said. "Our success begins with our member-elected leadership at the board level and runs throughout our organization. Everyone plays a role."

Turner said the co-op places a premium on safety not only to protect the health and well-being of employees, members and the public at-large, but also because it makes economic sense.

"When you can create an effective culture of safety, everybody wins," Turner said. "Not only do all of our employees get to go home to their families at the end of the work day, but it also keeps our costs down when it comes to insurance rates, down time and other ancillary expenses."

The Statewide Safety Trophy is



Above, BECi employees and board members accept the Louisiana Electric Cooperative Statewide Safety Trophy at the annual meeting of the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives in Baton Rouge. General Manager Kevin Turner (shown above, right) also received a plaque recognizing the co-op for working 897,328 hours without a lost-time accident. Turner praised BECi employees and board members for adopting a culture of safety at the co-op.

determined by using a comprehensive formula that accounts for safe operation on the job including field work, warehouse work, transportation and all other aspects necessary to deliver reliable, affordable power to BECi members.

The prestigious award affirms BECi's standing as a statewide leader in safety. The co-op recently earned its re-accreditation through a nationally recognized safety program. Over the past 15 years, BECi has received the Statewide Safety Trophy eight

times. In 2005, BECi achieved an unprecedented record for safety by logging 2 million consecutive employee-hours without a lost-time accident over an eight-year period, something no other electric cooperative in the nation had achieved.

BECi Safety Director Eddie Hanks said, "I want to thank our board, management and employees, everyone for making safety an important part of what we do. We sometimes lose sight of the fact that working around electricity and power delivery equip-

ment can pose a great risk to life and limb. It's vital that we respect that and do what's necessary to make sure our men and women are aware of the dangers, are well-trained, and operate with caution and care." (Acct. No. 74078-001)

DeRidder-based BECi serves more than 40,000 members along more than 5,800 miles of power line in Allen, Beauregard, Calcasieu, Evangeline, Jeff Davis, Rapides and Vernon parishes. It operates branch offices in New Llano and Moss Bluff.

BECi employees complete safety training program

BECi provides its employees a comprehensive training program that covers every aspect of utility field operations, stressing safety and efficient operations under all possible conditions.

BECi employees (shown in the photo at right, from left to right) Demetrius Mark and Casey Havens were among linemen from electric cooperatives across Louisiana who successfully completed Module 2, Levels 6-10, of the Louisiana Lineman Intensive Training Program administered by the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives in Baton Rouge.



Download our Mobile App to manage your electric bill. Visit the App Store and search for BECi.



From the Manager



By Kevin Turner
General Manager

BECi helps contain costs by implementing FRP

Your electric co-op is initiating a streamlined rate-adjustment process that will enable BECi to continue covering the cost of providing electric service to more than 40,000 meters across seven parishes in southwest Louisiana.

In 2008, the Louisiana Public Service Commission (LPSC), which regulates the electric utility industry in the state, began allowing utilities to implement what's known as the Formula Rate Plan (FRP). The plan is designed to reduce or eliminate the expense of hiring a team of consultants and attorneys to present a case to the LPSC any time a rate adjustment becomes necessary to keep the utility solvent.

Since that time, the FRP has become an industry standard not only in Louisiana but in other states as well.

As a non-profit, member-owned power provider, we have an obligation to do everything we can to squeeze every last cent out of every dollar, but from time to time there's a need for increased revenue. This type of plan endorsed by the Commission helps us and other utilities deliver the information the Commission needs to make sure the interests of both the ratepayers and the utilities are considered in a fair and equitable manner.

According to the plan approved by the LPSC, beginning Oct. 1, and for the next 12 months, a system average rate adjustment of three percent - or a \$2.94 increase for every 1,000 kWh purchased by the member - will be implemented. (Acct. No. 129444-001)

Even after this adjustment, our rates will remain well below those of other utilities in the state and nation. According to LPSC figures, in July a competing utility in our area charged \$172.51 for 1,500 kWh and \$118.67 for 1,000 kWh. BECi members paid \$143.61 and \$98.74 respectively.

Traditionally, as operating expenses continued to increase, electric utilities were forced to expend thousands of dollars and many months conducting internal studies to determine if a rate adjustment was in fact warranted. The case would be presented to creditors for examination and to the LPSC for regulatory approval.

This system ensured customers were charged a fair and reasonable rate for power and that utilities would be able to continue to stay in business and pro-

vide the service.

The FRP was designed to expedite this process, and the LPSC worked to develop separate agreements with individual utilities. As it pertains to non-profit electric co-ops, the plan enables BECi to meet its operating expenses while also meeting the financial requirements of its creditors. Any margin that may appear on BECi's balance sheet at the end of the fiscal year is invested back into the system for maintenance and upgrades to ensure reliability. (Acct. No. 130616-001)

The plan calls for an annual LPSC review of our financial information along with any appropriate revenue adjustments above or below current levels, which must fall within a pre-determined range.

With this plan, the cooperative won't have to resort to measures such as tapping into expensive lines of credit or cutting maintenance or right-of-way expenses and risking system reliability to meet financial targets and goals.

The new rate plan was approved for the next three years. After that time, we will work with the LPSC to assess the plan to determine if it has met its intended goals.

No one likes to pay more for power, but the reality of doing business in this day and time is that costs keep going up. I think it's also important to bear in mind that our board members are co-op members themselves and they pay the same rates for the same service that every other member pays. The board, along with management, is in agreement that this plan is the best path forward for everyone involved.

Last year, the co-op spent nearly \$11 million in system upgrades under the first phase of a four-year work plan. The work plan includes maintenance and upgrade projects crucial to the long-term reliability of the co-op's electrical system. Full implementation of this work plan will help carry us into the next 30 years.

Consequently, our system is more reliable than ever, and our electric costs are some of the lowest in the nation.

Due to the leadership of your board of directors and the hard work of the co-op's employees, BECi is on solid ground and poised for a successful future. We appreciate the opportunity to serve you.

Your Cooperative Connection

LOUISIANA COUNTRY

BECI NEWS
Pages 6-7 • Sept. 2013
Vol. 30, No. 6

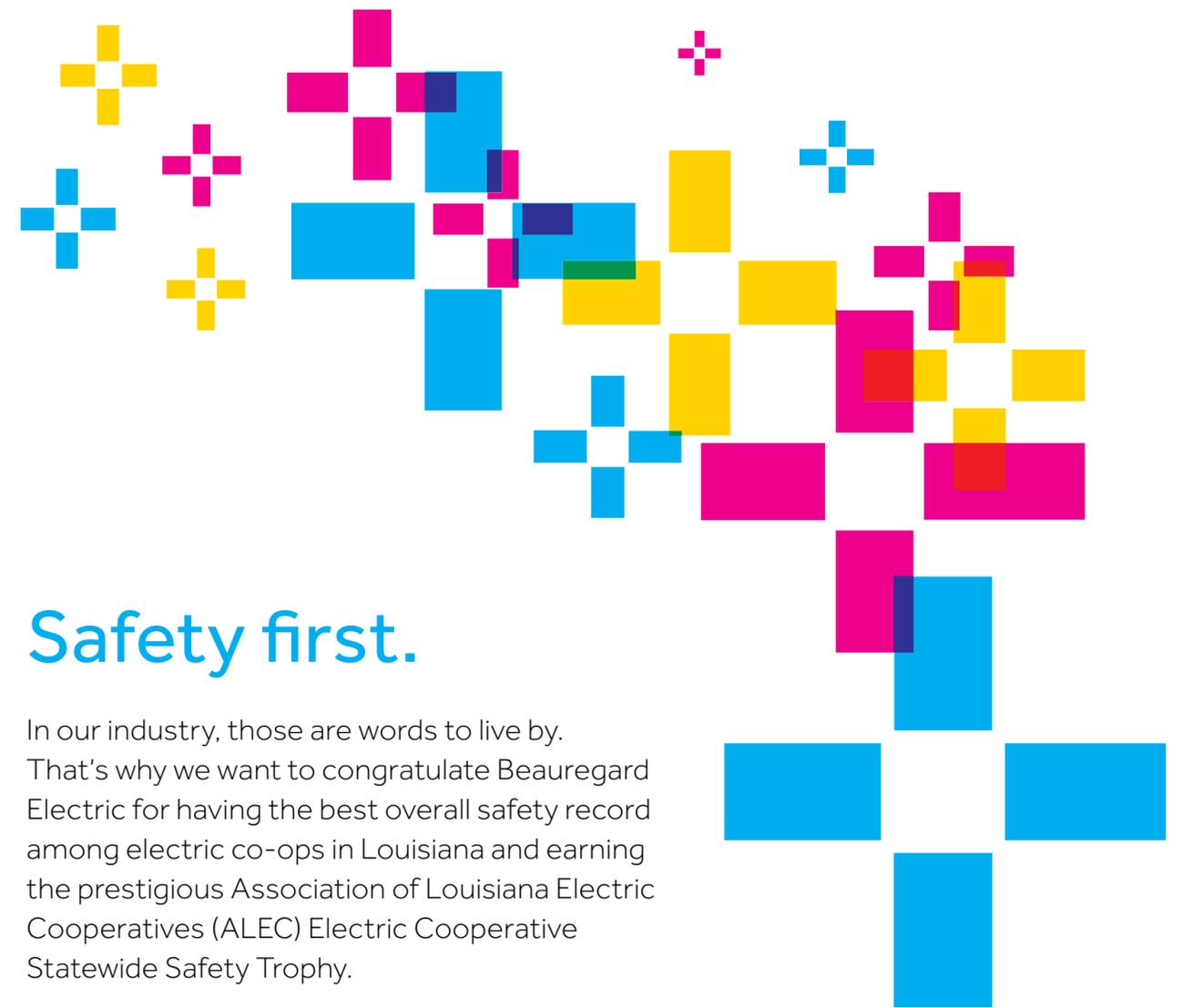


First in Safety

BECi claims Statewide Safety Trophy



Pictured left to right are Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives (ALEC) Safety Director Mike Bergeaux, BECi Safety Manager Eddie Hanks, BECi General Manager Kevin Turner and ALEC Safety Coordinator Aarron Graham



Safety first.

In our industry, those are words to live by. That's why we want to congratulate Beauregard Electric for having the best overall safety record among electric co-ops in Louisiana and earning the prestigious Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives (ALEC) Electric Cooperative Statewide Safety Trophy.

At NRG, we're working tirelessly to put safety first, as well, with an ultimate goal of zero injuries and a focus on preventative safety practices.



The power to change life.™