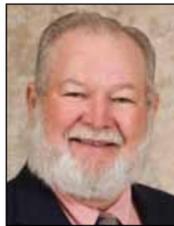


# BECi directors elected without opposition

L.W. "Peto" Sellers, J.R. Hickman and Donald R. Bush were re-elected to the BECi Board of Directors without opposition and officially began their three-year terms on March 22.



Donald Bush



J.R. Hickman



L.W. "Peto" Sellers

Sellers, a Sam Houston graduate and member of the Moss Bluff United Methodist Church, was elected to represent District 9. He is a self-employed real estate developer and member of the Moss Bluff Civic Club, Merchants Association and Optimist Club. He is a former member of the Moss Bluff Economic Board and past president of the Moss Bluff Gravity Drainage Board. Sellers has served his district since 2005 and says, "Moss Bluff is a growing community and needs someone who understands the area and the members' needs."

Sellers resides in Moss Bluff with his wife, Tina.

Hickman has been re-elected to represent District 3. He holds a bachelor's and master's degree, plus 30 hours, in education. Before retiring, Hickman was an assistant principal at DeRidder High School and an agriculture teacher at DeRidder and Merryville High Schools. He has a total of 33 years as an educator. Hickman is a member of Grace Church, past member of the Beauregard Parish Fair Board, past president of ALEC, a NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director, past president and state board member of the Beauregard Parish Association of Professional Educators in Louisiana and past board member of the

High School FFA Rodeo Association and Beauregard Farm Bureau. Hickman is also a 32nd degree Mason and Shriner. Hickman says, "I will continue to serve my constituents to provide the most reliable service at the most economical rates with BECi employees in mind."

Hickman resides in DeRidder with his wife, Mary.

Bush has been re-elected to represent District 1, a position he has held since 1989. Bush is a graduate of McNeese State University and holds a bachelor's and master's degree in education. Bush is a retired school administrator, attends Cooper Baptist Church, is a member of Pickering Lodge #447 and a 32nd degree Scottish Rite and Shriner. Bush is also a member of the West Louisiana Forestry Festival Fair Board. As a NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director, Bush also has a NRECA Board Leadership Certification. Bush states that his 25 years of experience on the BECi Board and experience gained from his professional life make him qualified to serve his constituents.

Bush resides in Pickering with his wife, Nelwyn.

For more information on BECi and the Board of Directors, visit [www.beci.org](http://www.beci.org).



## In Honor of those Who Have Protected Our Freedom...

BECi will be closed Monday, May 26, in observance of Memorial Day. A dispatcher and crews will be on duty for emergencies or interruption of service. Have a safe and happy Memorial Day!

## 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 June 15.

# BECi News



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

## BECi delegates attend annual Youth Leadership Summit

Four delegates from BECi's service territory recently participated in the annual Youth Tour Leadership Summit in Baton Rouge.

The two-day conference was held as part of the annual Rural Electric Washington Youth Tour program. The four high school students were winners of BECi's Youth Tour essay competition administered by the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives (ALEC) and will participate in an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., in June.

They joined 22 other students representing various electric cooperatives around the state for the Summit. The group will gather again in Baton Rouge this summer and travel to Washington, D.C., by motor coach.

Sponsored by BECi were Shanna Barrow of DeQuincy, Nautica Jacobs of DeRidder, and Shelby Hunt and Kerrigan Meaux of Ragley. BECi employee Danielle Spina also served as a chaperone.

During the conference, the students visited the State Capitol and met with their elected senators and representatives. They also engaged in team-building exercises and learned more about the history of the rural electric cooperative movement.

Program Coordinator Sandy Stockwell said the group is looking forward to a fun and productive trip to Washington, D.C., in the summer.

"This is a really good group of students who are eager to learn about how our government works, how the rural electric cooperative movement began and how it's still relevant today," Stockwell said.

BECi General Manager Kevin Turner said, "These are our future leaders and we're committed to contributing to their growth and development through this very worthwhile program." (Acct. No. 81206-001)



## Woolever represents state at national co-op event

Gus Woolever, a BECi Youth Tour delegate in 2013, is pictured at right with BECi General Manager Kevin Turner at the recent Annual Meeting of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association in Nashville. Woolever was selected among his peers to represent the state at the Nashville meeting.



## BECi members win \$50 in Lucky Account Number Contest



Brenda and Lynn Vaughn, pictured above at right with BECi General Manager Kevin Turner, recently won \$50 in the Lucky Account Number Contest after seeing their account number in Louisiana Country magazine. Congratulations!

## BECi director completes national co-op board certification program

At the January BECi board meeting, L.W. "Peto" Sellers was recognized for achieving national electric cooperative board certification.

Sellers received the Credentialed Cooperative Director certificate for his commitment to education from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

The NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director, or CCD, program

requires attendance and demonstrated understanding of the basic competencies contained in five core courses:

- Director Duties and Liabilities
- Understanding the Electric Business
- Board Roles and Relationships
- Strategic Planning
- Financial Decision Making.

Today's electric utility environment imposes new demands on electric



L.W. "Peto" Sellers (left) receives his Credentialed Cooperative Director certificate from Board President Dale Peterson.

cooperative directors, particularly increased knowledge of changes in the electric utility business, new governance skills and a working knowledge of the cooperative principles.

BECi has a commitment to work through the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives (ALEC) to sharpen his body of knowledge for the benefit of their electric cooperative members.

## From the Manager



By Kevin Turner  
General Manager

## BECi commends linemen during Electric Safety Month

They wake before the sun, pour steaming cups of coffee and kiss their families goodbye.

After logging into our computer system to get the day's list of work orders, they climb into their trucks and head out into the field.

BECi lineworkers form a solid team with one job: Deliver safe, reliable electricity.

But that job can change in a million ways any time inclement weather comes to southwest Louisiana.

We often take power - and the men and women who provide it - for granted. It's fitting that we take a moment during the month of May - nationally recognized as Electric Safety Month - and stand in their boots.

Linemen have to work safely and efficiently—all while 40 feet in the air wearing sturdy, thick rubber gloves that protect their lives but make performing many tasks more difficult.

On a typical day, lineworkers maintain electrical distribution lines or build service to new homes or businesses. Their plates are full. But when our dispatch center calls with a problem, everything else takes a backseat.

Power restoration takes precedence over a lineworker's daily to-do list. We have crews standing by to serve you 24 hours a day, every day of the week, including weekends and holidays.

Can you imagine getting a call at 3 a.m. telling you that you must go work outside during bad weather? Not many people are even willing to face storms, but our BECi lineworkers face the harsh elements every day, all to serve you.

At the scene of an accident, looking out for electrical hazards until an electric utility crew cuts off the power is vitally important for professional first responders and bystanders.

That sense of family extends to electric co-ops across the nation. One of our principles is Cooperation Among Cooperatives. We help other co-ops in their time of need, and they extend that service to us, too.

It's reassuring to know that if a severe storm strikes, a national team of lineworkers stands ready to answer the call. (Acct. No. 131310-001)

To be ready to respond no matter the situation or weather conditions, linemen are highly trained. At BECi, lineworkers go through regular training to ensure they can work safely with various kinds of equipment. The equipment, itself, is tested regularly, too.

These highly skilled workers help to provide the power we need to light our homes and businesses every day. They endure harsh weather and long hours, all to make our lives better.

Please take a moment to thank them for their efforts.

## BECi members win prizes at co-op's Annual Meeting



The members shown above won prizes at BECi's Annual Meeting on March 22 at co-op headquarters in DeRidder. Pictured above, left to right, are Lisa Simpson, Autis Willis, Carolyn Stokes, John Williams, Kayla Bush and Carlos Spina. (Acct. No. 130987-001)

Your Cooperative Connection

# LOUISIANA COUNTRY

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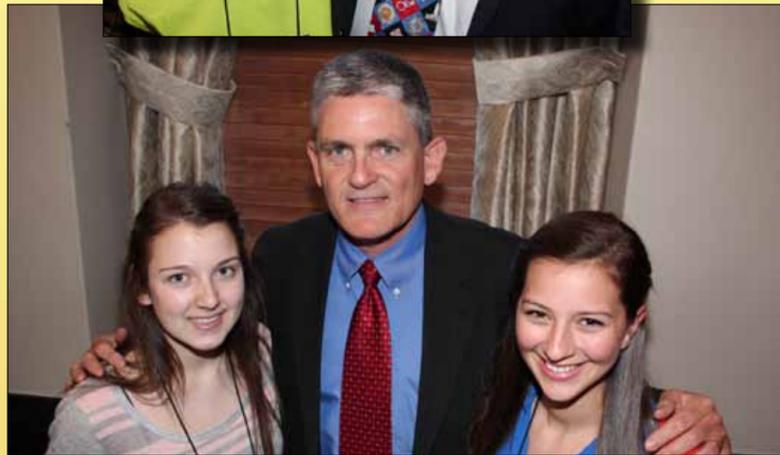


*BECi employee and chaperone Danielle Spina, Nautica Jacobs, Sen. John Smith, Shelby Hunt and Kerrigan Meaux.*



*Nautica Jacobs and Rep. James Armes*

## Leadership Summit prepares BECi delegates for D.C. trip



*Kerrigan Meaux Rep. Brett Geymann and Shelby Hunt.*