

BECi Board calls for nominations by petition

In accordance with the BECi Bylaws, the Board of Directors will approve a call for nomination by petition at the December 2, 2014 Board Meeting. The announcement is the beginning of a process for election of three (3) board members (one each from Districts 2, 4, and 7) in March 2015. Three board members will seek re-election to serve another three-year term.

Current directors are Dale Peterson of Rosepine, District 2, Alan Dane Slaydon of Pitkin, District 4 and Doug Sonnier of Oberlin, District 7. The procedure and schedule for the process are as follows:

2015 Election Information

- One director to be elected in each, District 2, District 4, and District 7.
- All nominations to be by petition. Official petition forms and instructions will be available beginning December 19, 2014.
- Petitions must be delivered to the BECi DeRidder Office no later than 9:30 a.m., January 27, 2015.
- Names of nominees will be posted at BECi offices by February 2, 2015.
- Membership cut-off date to be eligible to vote is January 27, 2015.
- Ballots may be mailed no earlier than March 3, 2015 and no later than March 18, 2015. (Acct. No. 134919-001)
- Deadline to receive ballots and announcing results will be announced.
- Annual Meeting will be Saturday, March 28, 2015.

Districts 2, 4, and 7

District 2 is that portion of BECi's service territory in Vernon Parish lying generally south of the southern boundary of District 1, north of the Beauregard-Vernon Parish line from the Sabine River to its intersection with the Santa Fe Railroad and thence northeastward along the centerline of said railroad to the Ouiska Chitto Creek, and west of the centerline of said creek as it runs north.

District 4 is that portion of BECi's service territory in Beauregard and Vernon Parishes lying south of the southern boundary of District 2, west of a line that begins at the intersection of the Santa Fe Railroad and Ouiska Chitto Creek and runs generally south along the centerline of said creek to and along the centerline of the Beauregard-Allen Parish line south and west to where said Parish line turns south, and from that juncture generally east of a line that runs east and north following the boundary between Wards 4 and 8 to the juncture of Sections 11 and 14 in Ward 4 and Sections 12 and 13 in Ward 8, and north of a line that runs from that juncture straight west of the Kansas City Southern Railroad at its juncture with the boundary of Sections 12 and 13 in Ward 5.

District 7 is that portion of BECi's service territory in Allen, Evangeline, and Jefferson-Davis Parishes generally south of its boundary with District 5, east and south of the Beauregard-Allen Parish line boundaries with Districts 4 and 6, and east and north of the Calcasieu-Jefferson Davis Parish line boundary of District 9.

Contact Kay Fox, BECi, (337) 463-6221 or 1-800-367-0275.

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 Dec. 15.

BECi News



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

BECi employees support Operation Christmas Child

Sometimes even the smallest token or gesture can have a tremendous impact in the life of an underprivileged child.

That's why this time each year BECi employees participate in a program called Operation Christmas Child (OCC). Working through their respective church congregations, BECi employees join tens of thousands of volunteers throughout the country to pack shoebox-sized containers and dispatch them to needy children all across the globe.

The OCC area coordinator for Southwest Louisiana is James Groves, who has been involved in the program since 1993 when he was teaching Sunday School at Westlake Church of God. He and his students packed two boxes that year; last year the Westlake congregation packed more than 2,000.

Groves began to promote OCC through his church and his rental business in Lake Charles and helped create a collection and distribution network that includes church congregations of various denominations in the region. (Acct. No. 110531-001)

"It's a lot of logistical work to get these gifts into the hands of children who need them," Groves said. "The volunteers work hard to get everything in place, then the boxes have to be labeled and inspected, loaded onto containers and sent all over the world. It's just been a real blessing to me knowing that for just a few dollars it's such a simple thing we can do to show needy children around the world there's someone who cares about them."

He described OCC as "the world's largest Christmas project," which since 1993 has sent more than 113 million boxes of supplies to 150 countries through the efforts of over 100,000 U.S. volunteers. Groves said that in the five-parish area nearly 20,000 boxes are prepared and delivered each year with roughly 8,000 volunteers giving their time and service.

Five of those local volunteers are BECi employees Missy Callais, Lesley Hooks, Tammy Dugas, Darlene Miers and Leslie Williams.

Callais and Hooks attend First Baptist Church in DeRidder, which has been in-



BECi employees Lesley Hooks, Leslie Williams, Darlene Miers, Tammy Dugas, and Missy Callais pack boxes along with James and Shirley Groves.

involved in OCC for five years.

Hooks, a Sunday School teacher, said her students and other members of the congregation donate items which are boxed by the students. During a specified service in November, the students gather the boxes together, carry them to the front of the sanctuary, and place them on a set of stairs leading to the altar.

"To me, that's one of the most meaningful things, to have the children participate and make this offering right in front of their God and their congregation, and in the spirit of Christian service," Hooks said.

Callais said she got involved many years ago while she was a member of Gravel Hill Baptist Church in Cravens.

"Both of our boys are over 20 now, but when they were young they had a lot of fun packing the boxes. I remember how excited they got about learning to give to other children who might not have any Christmas at all without that box," Callais said, adding her family also participates in Angel Tree and other charitable projects. "It was also fun for them when the kids who received those boxes responded with a picture and a letter thanking us for the gift."

are now encouraging their grandchildren to become involved.

"We always wanted to teach our children that we've already been given everything we need because Jesus died on the cross and rose again," she said. "Our giving to others in need is an example we follow. His mission was reaching out to the needy."

Miers said members of her congregation also received photos and letters of thanks from gift recipients.

"They come from all over the world, telling us how much they appreciate it because if it weren't for that box they wouldn't have received anything," she said. "There have been so many children who have been saved through this outreach. It's been a wonderful experience."

The congregation of First Baptist Church of Moss Bluff has been involved in OCC for the past eight years, according to BECi employee and church member Tammy Dugas.

But it's Dugas' first year to take part. She became involved after her mother purchased 20 boxes and needed some help packing them. She then recruited additional assistance from her 12-year-old son.

"We had barrettes and pony tail holders and coloring books and just wanted to give it all to someone who could use it," Dugas said. "I had never really given it much thought before, but it's been a real positive experience. I'm planning on putting a letter in the boxes letting the children know about the message of God's love for us."

BECi General Manager Kevin Turner said he's not surprised these employees donate their time and effort to such a worthy project. He said both the employees and the organization itself are always eager to contribute to the community in a positive way.

"When people get together and pool their energy and resources in this manner, good things happen. And it's always incredible to me to realize how generous and giving our people can be," Turner said.

The national collection week for OCC is Nov. 17-24. Groves can be contacted at 337-405-9022, or jwgroves@communicom.com. More information on OCC can be found at www.samaritanspurse.org.

BECi sponsors 2015 Washington Youth Tour contest

See and learn how your government works! Meet senators and congressmen! Enjoy visiting historic sites! Make lots of new friends! Travel through the beautiful Smoky Mountains!

Four local students will win a free trip to our nation's capital as part of the Rural Electric National Youth Tour set for June 12-19, 2015.

The students will also attend a Youth Leadership Summit in Baton Rouge on March 23-25, 2015. Students may view more information online at www.beci.org, www.alec.coop, and www.youthtour.coop.

ESSAY CONTEST - Students must write a 300-400 word essay on "What is the biggest issue facing your generation and how can we most effectively address that issue?" The topic of concern should be stated and thoroughly dis-



cussed. Good luck to all and have fun writing!

JUDGING - Entries will be judged on originality, composition, neatness and gram-

mar. Winners will travel to Washington to join 1,500 other young people sponsored by the Rural Electrification Program.

CONTEST RULES

1. High School sophomores, juniors and seniors are eligible to enter.
2. Students must write a 300-400 word essay on "What is the biggest issue facing your generation and how can we most effectively address that issue?" Please do not sign or place your name in the essay. Your name should only be listed on the cover sheet. Please have the essay available by email. Obscene or offensive material will not be accepted and will automatically be disqualified.
3. Entries must be written in ink or typed.
4. A cover sheet must be attached contain-

ing the following information:

- a. Name, Address, Phone Number, Age, E-Mail Address, Grade
 - b. Parent's or Guardian's Name
 - c. School's Name, Address, Phone Number
 - d. Sponsoring Teacher's Name.
 5. Entries are to be delivered, mailed or emailed to: Danielle Spina, BECi, P.O. Drawer 970, DeRidder, LA 70634; marketing@beci.org
 6. The due date is Friday, February 6, 2015. (Acct. No. 23751-001)
- Entries received after the due date will not be judged. Papers entered will become the property of BECi and not returned.
- Winners will be announced Friday, March 13, 2015.

From the Manager



By Kevin Turner
General Manager

Local before local was cool

Whether you travel across the country or prefer to stay close to your hometown, one thing you may be noticing is the emphasis on "Buy Local" campaigns.

This is based on one simple fact: It's important to support businesses that support our community.

The Small Business Administration and the research firm Civic Economics estimate that dollars spent at a locally owned business stay in the community more than three times longer than money spent at "Big Box" stores, headquartered far away from your hometown. (Acct. No. 125033-001)

This means your community wealth is more likely to grow by shopping locally.

We were formed more than 75 years ago by people in this community to serve the people that work, worship, play and live in this community.

Across the country, there are more than 900 electric cooperatives of all types and sizes. Some are mammoth generation operations, some are small distribution cooperatives serving sparsely populated areas.

But they all have several very important similarities, not the least of which is the fact that they are all guided by seven essential principles they are obliged to uphold.

The fourth of those seven cooperative principles is autonomy and independence, which is defined as follows: Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If the co-op enters into agreements with other organizations or raises capital from external sources, it is done so based on terms that ensure democratic control by the members and maintain

the cooperative's autonomy.

This enables BECi to continue to be the kind of self-sustaining organization envisioned by the founders of the modern cooperative movement.

In other words, for the co-op to stay a co-op it is vitally important we stay close to you, our members, to ensure we are continuing to respond to your needs and providing the highest quality service possible.

This is done through increasing energy-efficiency programs and continuing our efforts to support other local businesses, schools and civic organizations.

We were formed more than 75 years ago by people in this community to serve the people that work, worship, play and live in this community.

You can be sure that BECi will not be moving our operations to some far-flung region like so many for-profit corporations do.

We began right here in Central Louisiana, and we plan on being here for a very long time. You can take that to the bank, or better yet, the credit union – as all credit unions are financial cooperatives.

As always, we encourage your participation and welcome your suggestions about how we can improve our performance and be the efficient, responsive and community-minded service provider that you expect and that you deserve.

BECi holiday office closures

BECi's headquarters and branch offices will be closed on the following dates:

- Thanksgiving - Thursday, Nov. 27 and Friday, Nov. 28
- Christmas - Thursday, Dec. 25 and Friday, Dec. 26
- New Year's Day - Thursday, Jan. 1, 2015

Dispatchers will be on duty to handle emergency calls.

We wish you and your family a happy holiday season!



Your Cooperative Connection

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Shown left to right are Danielle Spina, Missy Callais, Leslie Williams, Kevin Turner, Shirley Groves, James Groves, Tammy Dugas, Lesley Hooks, and Darlene Miers.

