

BECi linemen receive advanced training



BECi linemen (above, left) Gaston Barrow and Justin Fogleman recently completed Module 2, Levels 6-10, of the Louisiana Lineman Training Program administered by the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives in Baton Rouge. Casey Havens (above, right) completed Module 3, Levels 6-10 of the program

BECi scholarship program

BECi is proud to offer its annual scholarship program in support of education. To be eligible, an applicant must be a BECi member or a child or legal ward of a BECi member who has been a member in good standing for at least 12 consecutive months as of March 1, 2015. Only one scholarship will be awarded per membership per family per year. Recipients will be chosen at a random drawing at the BECi annual meeting held March 28, 2015. Applicant or their sponsoring member need not be present to win. Each scholarship awarded shall be for a total of \$1,500, payable in two (semesters) or three (quarters) installments. Application must be postmarked by Friday, Feb. 27, 2015 to qualify. (Acct. No. 136166-001)

For a complete list of qualifications, or to apply on-line, please visit www.beci.org.

BECi SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM

Deadline to apply: Feb. 27, 2015
(Please print or type)

Name _____
 Mailing Address _____
 City/Zip Code _____
 E-mail Address _____
 Telephone No. (____) _____
 Applicant Date of Birth _____
 BECi Member Name _____
 BECi Account Number _____
 BECi Member Relationship to Applicant _____
 Most Recent Grade Point Average (GPA) _____
 This is a High School/College GPA (Circle One) _____
 High School Attended _____
 Year of High School Graduation _____
 University You Plan to Attend or Attending at Present _____
 The Above Institution is on the Semester or Quarter System (Circle One) _____
 No. of Hours You are Planning to Take Per Semester/Quarter _____
 PLEASE MAIL APPLICATION TO: BECi SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM, P.O. DRAWER 970, DERIDDER, LA 70634.

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 Feb. 15.

BECi News



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

Mazilly, Deason named BECi Employees of the Year

Ashley Mazilly and Fred Deason were selected among their peers as BECi's Employees of the Year for 2014.

Mazilly was named Inside Employee of the Year while Deason was named Outside Employee of the Year. Mazilly began working with BECi in February 2011 as a Finance Manager, a position she still holds today. (Acct. No. 106683-001)

Deason began working with BECi in

June 1973 as an apprentice lineman and has worked his way up through the ranks during his 41-year career. He is currently a Lineman Superintendent.

"We sincerely congratulate Ashley and Fred on their much deserved recognition and appreciate all the hard work and dedication they've demonstrated throughout the years," said BECi General Manager Kevin Turner.



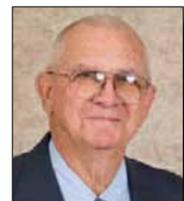
Ashley Mazilly (far left) and Fred Deason are shown with BECi General Manager Kevin Turner.

BECi employees reach milestones

The employees shown here are recognized for reaching certain milestones in their employment at BECi. Congratulations to all of these employees and thank you for your loyal and dedicated service to BECi members! (Not pictured: 10-year employee Rita Smith.)



Jean Spikes
25 Years



Donald Bush
25 Years



Teddy Welch
25 Years



Alfred Scott
20 Years



Bobby Brown
20 Years



Kenny Boycher
20 Years



Tammie Cooley
15 Years



Troy Hudson
15 Years



Curtis Johnson
15 Years



Charles Lewis
15 Years



James Perkins
15 Years



Steve Simpson
15 Years



Leslie Williams
10 Years



Daniel Pruitt
10 Years



Rhonda Power
10 Years



Tammy Leviner
10 Years



Joey Keel
10 Years



B.J. Duhon
10 Years



Paul Burge
10 Years



Bradley Ashworth
10 Years



Terry Backhaus
10 Years



Missy Barron
5 Years



Timmy Cantrell
5 Years



Raife Carroll
5 Years



Bentley Eddins
5 Years



David Green
5 Years



David Keel
5 Years



Josh Onellion
5 Years

From the Manager



By Kevin Turner
General Manager

BECi reflects cowboy spirit

The origin of electric cooperatives in this country is an inspiring story that demonstrates the exceptional nature of the people who populated rural America, then and now.

The beginning of a new year is an appropriate time to reflect on the reasons for the creation of electric cooperatives like Beauregard Electric more than 75 years ago.

It's hard to imagine what life was like outside urban areas in 1935, especially through the lens of our 21st century existence—news taking days to reach you, dirt roads, manual labor and no electricity. Life for a large portion of the country, including southwest Louisiana, was really a frontier life.

Rugged people made a living by strength, persistence and hard, often crushing, work. They relied on themselves or their neighbors when things got tough. A few are still around who remember when the lights first came on, but for most, life without electricity is an alien concept. While 95 percent of urban dwellers had electricity, only one in 10 rural Americans was so blessed.

On May 11, 1935, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed Executive Order 7037, creating the Rural Electrification Administration, which would serve as a means for rural communities to acquire low-interest loans and thus provide the resources to build the infrastructure necessary to energize their homes, businesses and farms.

Immediately, the people who would make up our "cowboy" cooperatives took the bit in their teeth and started putting together electric co-ops across America. (Acct. No. 14136-001)

The term "cowboy" might conjure up Hollywood images of hard-living,

rugged individuals fighting injustice against great odds. The cooperative model matched the cowboy ethic and the cowboy narrative just perfectly.

An insightful book written by a retired Wall Street executive, James Owen, captured this ethic and boiled it down to the following eight points:

1. Live each day with courage.
2. Take pride in your work.
3. Always finish what you start.
4. Do what has to be done.
5. Be tough, but fair.
6. If you make a promise, keep it.
7. Ride for the brand.
8. Talk less and say more.

Some might think that so-called "cowboy co-ops" would be restricted to the West, but the case can be made that every co-op was formed by the cowboys of their area. They were tough, self-reliant, hardworking, honest, resilient men and women willing to take bold action to serve their interests and create a better life for their families. They were working together for their neighbors and for their communities.

Today, that spirit still persists in a new generation. Here at BECi, our employees work hard every day to embrace and demonstrate the ideals Owen outlined. BECi employees and members alike, we all share the common goal of making our community a better place to live, work and play.

We look forward to a productive and bountiful 2015 and it's our pledge to do our very best to make sure the spirit that led to our creation many years ago stays as strong as it ever was and inspires us to provide the quality service you deserve and that you've come to expect from your locally-owned cooperative.

Retired BECi employees recognized



Former BECi employees, representing more than 1,000 total years of service to the membership, were honored in December at BECi's Annual Retirees Luncheon. BECi thanks our retirees for their hard work, loyalty and dedication. (Acct. No. 25800-001)

Your Cooperative Connection

LOUISIANA COUNTRY

BECI NEWS

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BECi holds Safety and Career Day at Pitkin H.S.



On Nov. 13, 2014, in collaboration with Pitkin High School, BECi held a Safety and Career Day. Safety and Training Coordinator Eddie Hanks spoke to 7th and 8th grade honor students about the importance of using caution around power lines, and what to do in scenarios like vehicle accidents involving power lines. Hanks taught students how electricity is generated and the various paths it travels before arriving to your home. BECi linemen Dennis Wagnon and Ty Durbin spoke to Pre-K through 3rd grade students about careers in the utility industry. Students tried on linemen gear, like gloves, rig belts, and climbing equipment and also explored a bucket truck. Danielle Spina, BECi's communication specialist, was the guest speaker at Pitkin's Junior High 4-H Club where she taught students about cooperatives, the benefits of being a member, as well as BECi's history and role in the community.

