

Employee of the Month - March 2017
Sheryl St. Amant

Each month Pointe Coupee Electric highlights one of its valued employees. (Acct. No. 2189700)

The cooperative understands the importance of its member owners getting to know the people who are instrumental in providing them with quality electric services.

This month Pointe Coupee Electric introduces Sheryl St. Amant to its member owners. The cooperative is glad to have Sheryl as part of its Operations Department. Sheryl joined the

Pointe Coupee Electric team in March 2016 and she holds the position of Shift Dispatcher.

Sheryl is responsible for receiving and handling trouble calls and emergency calls for the cooperative.

What Sheryl enjoys most about her job is assisting the cooperative members when they call in to the office.



National Lineman Appreciation Day April 10th!

National Lineman Appreciation Day is a time to express our utmost appreciation to all of the linemen that work for us each and every day. It is our honor to celebrate the hard work, innovation and dedication of these electrical linemen.

www.pcemc.org
 225-638-3751 or 800-738-7232



A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

Pointe Coupee Electric is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Pointe Coupee Electric will be closed on Good Friday, April 14 in observance of the Easter holiday. A dispatcher will be on duty if there is an outage or emergency.

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A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

Look for your lucky account number on pages 6-7

If you see your account number published this month on inside pages 6-7 of this issue of LOUISIANA COUNTRY, call Pointe Coupee Electric by the last business day of the month to receive a \$25 credit on your bill! Contact us at (225) 638-3751 or (800) 738-7232. Your account number can be found on your bill statement. Winning account numbers will only be listed on the inside, centerfold pages.

Pointe Coupee Electric News



Myron A. Lambert, Manager
 Jimmy Ewing, President
 Pointe Coupee Electric Membership Corp.
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Give your electric bills a spring break

Take steps to trim your electricity usage while you're away

Taking some much needed time away from your hum-drum daily routine during spring break can be expensive.

A great way to save money is to make sure to give your electric bills a vacation, too.

There are several steps you can take to trim your electricity usage while you're taking some time away from your home:

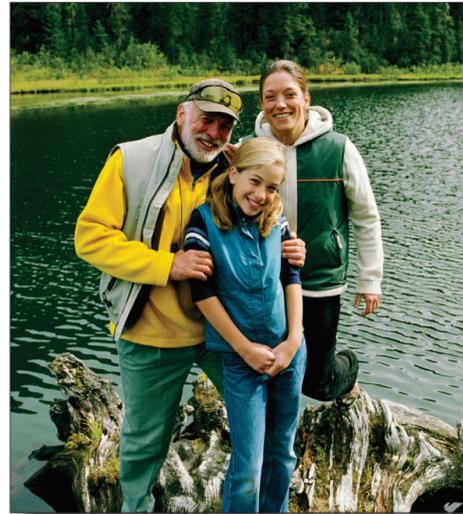
- Unplug some of your household appliances. Your house has many items that always use electricity when they're plugged in, even when they're turned off. Unplugging these items not only saves energy but also can prevent fires during your absence. Some of the more common items are:

Televisions, DVD players, cable TV boxes, microwave ovens, toasters and other small kitchen appliances.

- Adjust the refrigerator control to a warmer setting. The fridge can be set as high as 40 degrees without spoiling food; the freezer can be set at 5 degrees.

On these settings, you can conserve up to 40 percent of the refrigerator's electric usage.

If you are going on an extended trip, consider emptying the fridge and turning it off entirely. Remember to leave the door open to prevent mildew.



- Set the thermostat higher (or lower) than the typical comfort level. You should consider lowering your ther-

mostat but to no lower than 55 degrees. Typically, you can save 10-30 percent on heating costs by doing this.

In warmer weather, you can shut off the air conditioner during your absence, or at least consider setting it to a higher-than-normal temperature, 80 degrees or above.

A programmable thermostat can make these adjustments for you automatically.

- Turn down the water heater. A large percentage of the cost of running a water heater comes from just keeping the water at the selected temperature.

If you are going on a lengthy trip, turn down the temperature to the lowest setting. This can save you up to \$10 a month. (Acct. No. 621500)

Consider using timers to turn lights on and off every night. Timers can save energy and also give an appearance that someone is home.

For the lights that will be on the longest—inside and outside—use CFL or LED bulbs.

These use at least 75 percent less power than traditional bulbs and last longer.

Follow these tips while you're away for spring break and put your mind at ease about electric bills. Then you can enjoy that vacation even more!



Pointe Coupee Electric will soon be implementing a new system to keep you our members better informed. It's called One Call Now! This system will allow us to notify you about large power outages, scheduled outages and other important notifications from the Coop via phone call, text and/or email.

You should have received a card in your March billing requesting your updated contact information. Please be sure to fill out this card and return it with your monthly electric bill. Or you can drop it off at our office at 2506 False River Drive in New Roads. If you prefer to submit your information electronically, visit our website at www.PCEMC.org and click on the "We Need Your Info" icon on the home page.

Please provide us with your updated information as soon as possible.

3-Phase Motor Notice

Protection of three-phase motors against single-phasing shall be the responsibility of the Co-op consumer-member. Also, the member shall be responsible for providing over- and under-current protection of all motors.

The Cooperative has installed equipment on its system to prevent major catastrophes, but isolated problems caused by lightning will occasionally occur. (Acct. No. 1684700)

It is the responsibility of the consumer to protect his motors and equipment from these isolated over- and under-current situations with electrical protection devices available on the market.

Whether You're a Homeowner or Excavator,

ALWAYS CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

It's the law!



Louisiana One Call is a free service to help you dig safely. They will notify Pointe Coupee Electric so that we can mark nearby underground facilities and help protect you from injury and expense.

Pointe Coupee Electric reminds you that the next time you are planning to landscape, make an addition to an existing building or building a new structure, **dial 811 before you dig!** You can also visit **call811.com** for more information.

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From the Manager



By Myron A. Lambert

Copper crooks threaten lives and cost everyone money

Would you risk being hit by lightning for \$100?

The notion is a bit ludicrous, but that's about what metal theft amounts to.

It's hard to understand why anyone would put their life on the line for a few dollars - to take such a huge risk for such a small return - but it definitely happens all over the country.

Thefts of copper (and sometimes aluminum and bronze) are still an unfortunate fact at abandoned commercial buildings, empty homes and - most dangerously - power substations near neighborhoods.

We really need your help to keep our equipment safe, prevent outages and save lives.

Your cooperative uses copper to ground equipment, protecting it from electrical surges and lightning by giving electricity a safe path to ground.

We use a lot of copper wire in our substations, where we step down high-voltage electricity arriving from distant power plants before it travels to your neighborhood.

Then another transformer near your home—either mounted on a utility pole or in a big box on the ground—lowers the voltage again so you can use the power at home. Copper is an essential component every step of the way.

Metal thieves can collect a couple hundred dollars' worth of wire from a substation, but they leave behind a repair bill in the hundreds of thousands—or even millions, if the theft

causes a fire. Fire in a substation can destroy regulators, switches, transformers and other expensive equipment. Thousands of co-op members are temporarily left in the dark after these incidents, even though we move very quickly to reroute power to affected areas. (Acct. No. 1780001)

Even without the damage done to co-op systems, the toll packs a big punch, since other equipment can be ruined without the protection that copper wires provide. There's also the potential for loss of life. Our linemen are highly trained professionals who understand the dangers of working with electricity and take proper safety precautions. To protect the public, we surround our substations with secure fencing and post warning signs. But some thieves will not be deterred.

Please help us prevent these thefts. If you notice anything unusual, such as an open substation gate, unprotected equipment or hanging wire, call us immediately. If you see anyone other than our utility personnel or contractors around substations or other electric facilities, call the police.

Metal thieves can leave behind a repair bill in the hundreds of thousands - or even millions.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Dishwasher Efficiency Tip:

Air dry clean dishes to save energy. If your dishwasher does not have an automatic air-dry switch, turn off the dishwasher after the final rinse and prop the door open slightly so the dishes will dry faster.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy

YOUR COOPERATIVE CONNECTION

LOUISIANA

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COUNTRY

Outlining the
value of your
PCEMC membership

