

Employee of the Month - July 2017

Chad Nichols

Each month Pointe Coupee Electric highlights one of its valued employees. 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 Chad Nichols to its member owners. The cooperative



is very fortunate to have Chad as part of its. Chad joined the coop team in 2011 as a meter reader and moved to the Operations Department in June 2015.

Chad presently holds the position of Lineman. His responsibilities include new construction of lines and maintaining the current system. You will also find Chad answering trouble calls and providing service work, keeping power lines free of limbs, vines and other obstructions. What Chad enjoys most about his job is working with people and his cooperative co-workers. (Acct. No. 1247101)



Pointe Coupee Electric News

Myron A. Lambert, Manager
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Pointe Coupee Electric adds position looking to grow co-op
Desiree Lemoine joins PCEMC as Director of Governmental and External Affairs

Pointe Coupee Electric General Manager Myron Lambert and the local cooperative's Board of Directors recently announced that Desiree Lemoine has joined the organization as the new Director of Governmental and External Affairs.



Desiree Lemoine

A long-time resident of Pointe Coupee Parish, Lemoine joins Pointe Coupee Electric with over 20 years of experience in the public sector and private industry, with extensive knowledge in strategic communications, issues management and public relations.

"Desiree's experience and relationships with our community and industry leaders on the West Bank of the Mis-

issippi River will play a key role in Pointe Coupee Electric's strategic plan for expansion, growth, and development," said Lambert. Lemoine's primary role will be to

serve as a liaison between Pointe Coupee Electric and local, state and federal officials, as well as industry leaders, in an effort to maintain and grow business relationships. She will also represent Pointe Coupee Electric at trade associations and various chambers of commerce throughout the state.

In this role, Lemoine will continue to serve on the civil justice reform committee and energy committee for the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry, as well as the governmental affairs committee for the Louisiana Chemical Association/Louisiana Chemical Industry Alliance.

Prior to her new role with Pointe

Coupee Electric, Lemoine served as vice president of Government and Community Relations with The TJC Group, a public and governmental affairs firm in Baton Rouge.

Additional professional experience includes director of communications and public affairs for the Louisiana Chemical Association, as well as service on the communications committee for the Lake Area Industry Alliance and the Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association.

Lemoine will also continue to serve in her current role as the chairman of the board for the Capital Area Red Cross. (Acct. No. 1858200)

From the Manager



By Myron A. Lambert

Tragedies are reminders that water and electricity don't mix

By all accounts, Madison Coe was a shining star.

The bubbly 14-year-old girl from Lubbock, Texas, was a talented athlete and a member of the marching band. She was preparing for her family's move to Houston where she would begin her first year of high school. (Acct. No. 1860600)

Sadly and tragically, the teenager's young life came to an end when she was electrocuted while taking a bath. According to police investigators on the scene, while she was in the bathtub, Madison either plugged in her phone or grabbed the phone while it was charging in a nearby electrical outlet.

In remembering Madison's life and untimely demise, her grandmother Donna O'Guinn said she wants to do whatever she can to prevent any other family from feeling the gut-wrenching loss of a beloved child.

That includes conveying the message that water and electricity don't mix and to be cautious when using mobile electric devices and appliances around any source of water.

"This is such a tragedy that doesn't need to happen to anyone else," O'Guinn said. "And we want something good to come out of this as awareness for not using your cell phone in the bathroom while it is plugged in and charging."

Madison's mom is also using social media channels to encourage parents to educate their children about the dangers of electrocution.

Unfortunately, Madison is not the first person to die in this manner. Just a few months ago, a man in London was electrocuted when his phone's charger made contact with his bath water. He was found with burn marks on his chest, arms and hand.

Every year hundreds of people across the country die from accidents involving water and electricity. This is especially

true during the summertime here in south Louisiana when families are out on the water enjoying the great outdoors.

It only takes a blink of an eye for a tragic accident to happen.

As general manager of Pointe Coupee Electric, I would like to echo Madison's family and remind everyone that electricity and water are a deadly combination, not only around the home

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but also outdoors.

Many may not know of a phenomenon called electric shock drowning. This occurs when outdated wiring and a lack of proper safety equipment and routine maintenance on docks and boats can cause situations where electricity "leaks" into the water and can cause a person to drown.

This is a particular hazard in fresh water environments such rivers, ponds and lakes such as False River.

There are things you can do to make sure you and your family are free from harm. (Acct. No. 2383700)

Keep electric appliances and tools at least 10 feet away from wet surfaces, and don't use electric tools if it's raining or the ground is wet.

Be sure to use a portable ground fault circuit interrupter if your outdoor outlet is not equipped with one.

Visit www.safeelectricity.org to learn more about electric safety around your home. And learn more about electric shock drowning by visiting www.electricschockdrowning.org.

Celebrate Life. Join us for Relay for Life!
Paint Pointe Coupee Purple Day

Wouldn't this world be a better place if everything was purple? We think so!

The American Cancer Society Relay for Life of Pointe Coupee invites you to participate in **Paint Pointe Coupee Purple Day** set for Friday, September 22, 2017.

Pointe Coupee Electric is sponsoring this special day and is currently selling specially designed purple tee shirts and bows for businesses, schools, and individuals to purchase in order to Paint Pointe Coupee Purple. **Orders are currently being taken. Please stop by or call Pointe Coupee Electric at (225) 638-3751 and ask for Joanie or Jill to order your tee shirts and bows. Items must be paid for in advance.** On September 22, wear your purple tee shirts and display your purple bows both inside and outside your workplace, schools and homes throughout the parish.

By wearing purple, you will be showing your support and rallying with us in the fight against cancer!



DEADLINE TO ORDER SHIRTS AND BOWS WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 23!
SHIRTS AND BOWS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PICKUP: SEPTEMBER 14 - 15.
PAINT POINTE COUPEE PURPLE DAY: SEPTEMBER 22, 2017

Order forms are available at Pointe Coupee Electric and on our Facebook page as well as the City of New Roads, Town of Livonia, Village of Morganza and Town of Fordoche.

Are You Prepared?

Are you prepared to protect your family and property if a hurricane strikes? We encourage you to follow the checklist below to create your hurricane survival kit:

- Battery operated clock, radio and TV
- Bottled water (7 gallons per person)
- Flashlights (one for each family member)
- Extra batteries
- Blankets and pillows
- Canned and dry food
- Can opener
- Butane lighter
- Cell phone
- Camp stove and lamp, with fuel
- Fire extinguisher
- First Aid kit
- Propane for stove or grill
- Wired telephone

Energy Efficiency
Tip of the Month

Setting your thermostat to a colder setting than normal when you turn on your air conditioner will not cool your home any faster and could result in excessive cooling and unnecessary expense.



Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy

HAPPY LABOR DAY

Pointe Coupee Electric will be closed **Monday, September 4** in observance of Labor Day. A dispatcher will be on duty in case of an emergency or power outage

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

Have a Safe and Happy Labor Day!

Pointe Coupee Electric is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

What you need to know about the LOUISIANA OVERHEAD POWER LINE SAFETY ACT

To further promote worker and public safety, the Louisiana legislature has adopted new rules to be followed by those who work near overhead power lines.

- Louisiana law (LRS 45:141-146) prohibits unauthorized persons from working, including moving equipment, within ten feet of any high voltage overhead electric utility line.
- If any unauthorized person intends to work within ten feet of any high voltage overhead electric utility line, the person responsible for the work to be done must notify the owner or operator of the high voltage overhead electric utility line not less than forty-eight hours prior to commencing work.
- Work shall be performed only after satisfactory mutual arrangements have been completed between the owner or operator of the high voltage overhead electric utility line and the person responsible for the work to be done.

To notify **Pointe Coupee Electric** that you intend to work within ten feet of a high voltage overhead electric utility line owned or operated by it, please call (225) 638-3751 or 800-738-7232.

Connecting People...Impacting Lives!

Social Media Buzz!

Follow Pointe Coupee Electric on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/pcemc> or become a Facebook Fan by searching for Pointe Coupee Electric!

YOUR COOPERATIVE CONNECTION

LOUISIANA

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COUNTRY

**Louisiana atop
the good list
when it comes
to electric rates**

