

Employee of the Month - January 2017

Jacob Rice



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 Jacob Rice to its member



owners. The cooperative is very fortunate to have Jacob as part of their Meter Reading Department.

Jacob joined the co-op team as a meter reader in March 2015. (Acct. No. 123701)

In a typical week, Jacob can be found anywhere on our system from the northern part of Pointe Coupee Parish around Lettsworth to the southern part of Iberville Parish near Bayou Pigeon reading meters, fulfilling member requests, connecting or disconnecting service, and installing or removing meters.

**POINTE COUPEE ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION
STATEMENT OF ASSETS & LIABILITIES
AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2016**

ASSETS:	
Net Utility Plant	\$33,983,276
Non-Utility Plant	1,111
Investments in Associated Organizations and Special Funds	2,108,865
Cash	497,657
Accounts Receivable	1,651,281
Material and Supplies	431,016
Other Current and Accrued Assets	2,270,567
Deferred Debits	1,855,517
TOTAL ASSETS	\$42,799,290
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY:	
Memberships	\$ 39,235
Patronage Capital	16,376,729
Operating Deficit - Prior Years	(2,434,394)
Operating Deficit - Current Year	(356,189)
Other Margins & Equity	4,212,851
Long Term Debt	21,099,141
Other Non-Current Liabilities	191,856
Notes Payable	1,600,000
Accounts Payable	1,223,475
Consumer Deposits	458,155
Other Current Liabilities	388,431
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$42,799,290

NUMBER OF ACCOUNTS BILLED AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2016	10,492
TOTAL KWH PURCHASED DURING 2016	236,604,641
TOTAL KWH SOLD DURING 2016	220,601,415
TOTAL MILES OF LINE:	
TRANSMISSION	51
DISTRIBUTION	1,050
NUMBER OF FULL TIME EMPLOYEES AS OF 12/31/16	40

**STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS
FOR THE PERIOD ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2016**

OPERATING REVENUE		\$21,820,690
OPERATING EXPENSE:		
Cost of Purchased Power	\$13,628,931	
Transmission Expense	14,430	
Distribution Expense	3,260,155	
Consumer Expense	937,620	
Administrative Expense	1,630,213	
Depreciation Expense	1,289,396	
Tax Expense	440,070	
Interest Expense	907,282	
Miscellaneous Expense	68,782	
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSE	\$22,176,879	
Operating Margin (Deficit)	\$ (356,189)	
Non-Operating Margin	107,073	
NET MARGIN (DEFICIT)	\$ (249,116)	

Pointe Coupee Electric News



Myron A. Lambert, Manager
Jimmy Ewing, President
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PCEMC officials look back on turbulent 2016

In his first Annual Meeting report to members, Pointe Coupee Electric General Manager Myron Lambert said he was ready to leave 2016 behind and look to the future.

Lambert, who took his post six months ago, said both the cooperative and the community faced many challenges in 2016 but emerged stronger and more prepared to achieve success in the years ahead.

"We had a 1,000-year flood, a drought, an industry going through a transitional period and a tumultuous political and regulatory environment," Lambert said. "But through it all, we minimized outages, restored power in record time and improved our system."

Lambert said the cooperative's continued success is due to the managers and employees that have come before to establish the tradition of service carried out by today's board, management and employees.

"We stand on the shoulders of those who have set the standard of excellence and who have contributed to our success over the past 78 years. We owe a tremendous debt of gratitude to these folks," said Lambert, who is just the third general manager the co-op has had in nearly eight decades.

PCEMC's 78th Annual Meeting held at the Scott Civic Center on Jan. 25 was attended by an official count of 396 registered members, enough for Board Secretary/Treasurer Ralph Chustz to declare a quorum.

During the business session, CPA John Morrison announced the results of the first board election for the co-op in 25 years. The independently certified results indicated incumbent District 3 Director George LaCour defeated challenger Albert "Dewey" Dukes.

Lambert congratulated LaCour on his re-election and also congratulated Dukes for making the effort to participate in the democratic process that governs the member-owned electric cooperative. Incumbent Director Peter Rumfola also ran unopposed in District 5.

The difficulties of 2016 were mentioned by West Baton Rouge County Agent Steve Borel, who noted that 90 inches of rain fell in Baton Rouge during the year. The historic flood event in August was followed by a record drought in October, he said. (Acct. No. 1957201)

"This made it a very interesting year for farmers. Things were up and down. Some crops came out okay, some didn't. For the sugar cane farmers, the drought ended up working to their advantage. But, overall, it could have been a lot worse than it was with this unpredictable weather," he said.

Chustz returned to the podium later to deliver the co-op's financial report. Chustz said the organization ended the year with a negative margin of \$250,000, which he said was not



unusual for a non-profit electric cooperative. He said power sales declined while fixed costs stayed the same.

"It's been the weather, the economy, the energy efficient appliances people use, just a combination of all of these things," he said.

Chustz said the cooperative has appealed to the Louisiana Public Service Commission (LPSC) for what is known as a Formula Rate Plan. This allows the cooperative to adjust its rates higher or lower depending on its financial position without having to put together costly and inefficient rate cases to submit to the LPSC for approval.

"This allows us to make enough money to meet our obligations. If we have a year where we don't cover our expenses, we can automatically adjust our rates upward. If we end with a positive margin, we would adjust our rates downward. Our finances would continue to be audited independently to make sure we're doing what we should be doing and maintaining the trust of the members we are here to serve," Chustz said.

Scott Angelle, District 2 representative on the LPSC and chairman of the state regulatory body, confirmed that Pointe Coupee Electric is one of the best-run electric cooperatives in the state.

"I know your employees work hard and your board works

hard to watch every penny. There are never any scandals or anything of that nature at your cooperative," Angelle said. "I just want to thank all the men and women at the co-op who serve their members with tremendous pride and professionalism day in and day out."

Angelle said that while many people take affordable, reliable electricity for granted, it requires a competent organization from the top to the bottom to keep the lights on for cooperative members.

Addressing the co-op's financial shortfall for the previous year, Board President Jimmy Ewing said Lambert and co-op staff have been tasked with identifying new industrial and commercial customers that would increase the economies of scale throughout the power distribution system and help to stabilize rates.

"We have a new bridge that has expanded our infrastructure and we feel like there are opportunities to grow our system along with the community," Ewing said. "Overall, your co-op is in good shape, and that's thanks to the management and employees who do all the heavy lifting and your board members who are keeping on top of things happening in the industry and in the political arena."

Lambert introduced New Roads Mayor Robert Myer by noting that he and Myer have worked together during emergency restoration projects and economic development programs and initiatives. He said Myer has been personally committed to helping the co-op respond to major power outages during emergencies while improving economic opportunities for local citizens.

Myer told members the city government has an outstanding working relationship with the co-op through its franchise agreement and also maintains a positive partnership with the city's wholesale power supplier, Louisiana Generating.

"We have a new hotel and new businesses along our main boulevard. We're committed to continuing growth and sustainability," Myer said.

In other matters, Lambert recognized co-op employees who reached significant milestones in 2016 and also honored two Employees of the Year for 2016, Johnny Plauche and Tracy McLin. (Acct. No. 2167400)

Lambert presented a safety award to Safety Coordinator Joe Langlois on behalf of the PCEMC employees. Lambert said PCEMC workers have accumulated 888,058 accident-free work hours from August of 2006 to December of 2016.

A random drawing was held for three \$1,000 scholarships. Winners were Sydney Neal of Iberville Parish; Alexandra Jarreau of Pointe Coupee Parish; and Gabrielle Mitchell of West Baton Rouge Parish.

From the Manager



By Myron A. Lambert

What you can do during an outage

Power outages are a fact of life—a disruptive one for co-op employees and members alike. So, what should you do when an outage occurs?

Here are the answers to some of your most frequently asked questions.

Q: Does the cooperative automatically know when I have lost electric service?

A: Advanced meters can send outage information to the cooperative; however, we ask that you call when you have a power outage to report it.

Q: What can I do to help get my power back on quickly?

A: First, check your fuses or circuit breakers, making sure they have not blown or tripped. Next, call the co-op office and have your account number ready. Let us know if you saw or heard anything, such as sparks, loud noises, or limbs on the lines. This will help our field crews find the problem more quickly. (Acct. No. 2089800)

Q: How do you decide whose power to restore first?

A: The outage restoration process begins at the substation. After these repairs have been made, crews work on the lines serving the greatest number of members until electricity is restored to all main lines. Then crews begin repairing lines to individual members.

Q: Why can't you tell me how long it will take to restore my power?

A: Each outage is a result of different circumstances that can make restoration times difficult to predict. During the restoration process, crews encounter factors that affect the time it takes to find the problem and make the necessary repairs.

Q: Why would a crew pass by my house without restoring power?

A: Our No. 1 goal is restoring power to as many members as quickly, safely and efficiently as possible. If you see a crew pass by, it could be because crews are working to restore main lines; responding to an emergency; or going past your location to access lines and substations serving your area.

Q: Why does my neighbor have power, but I do not?

A: Who is effected by an outage depends upon the cause and location of the problem. If your neighbor has electricity, but you do not, it's likely you're on separate lines.

Q: Is a generator safe to use?

A: A generator can be a great tool, but it can be dangerous if used improperly. Without a transfer switch, a generator is a fire hazard if it's on line when electricity is restored. Improper connection also endangers service crews. If used without ventilation, generators can cause deadly carbon monoxide poisoning.

Celebrate Black History Month in February!

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.

Statement of Nondiscrimination

Pointe Coupee Electric Membership Corp. is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or by email at program.intake@usda.gov.

Happy Mardi Gras

Pointe Coupee Electric will be closed on Tuesday, February 28 for the Mardi Gras holiday. A dispatcher will be on duty if there is an emergency or power outage.

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

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YOUR COOPERATIVE CONNECTION

LOUISIANA COUNTRY

POINTE COUPEE ELECTRIC NEWS
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Pointe Coupee Electric officials reflect on turbulent 2016 at Annual Meeting

