

Employee of the Month - August 2017 Keith Derozan

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 Keith Derozan to



its member owners.

Keith is just one of the many valued employees who continuously strive to give our members the best possible service.

Keith has been employed at the cooperative since September 8, 2008 and he currently holds the position of right of way worker. His primary job responsibility is to keep the power lines free and clear of tree limbs and other obstructions. (Acct. No. 1436500)

What Keith enjoys most about his job is working with his fellow co-workers on a daily basis.

Paint Pointe Coupee Purple event set for September 22!

The American Cancer Society Relay for Life of Pointe Coupee invites you to participate in the Paint Pointe Coupee Purple rally day set for Friday, September 22.

Pointe Coupee Electric is sponsoring the rally day and recently sold specially designed purple tee shirts and purple bows for businesses, schools, and individuals to purchase in order to Paint Pointe Coupee Purple.

On September 22, we ask that everyone wear their purple tee shirts and display their purple bows both outside and inside their workplace, schools and homes throughout the parish.

If you did not order any of the tee shirts, you are invited to wear something purple that you may already have at home.

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

The color purple is the signature color of the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life events, and signifies the

passion that cancer survivors and their families and loved ones feel for the eradication of this disease.

The goal of Paint Pointe Coupee Purple is to visually depict how Relay for Life brings hope to a community. Paint Pointe Coupee Purple is about demonstrating your passion and resolve to end this disease.

A simple activity that captures the essence of the Relay for Life spirit will make a powerful statement about the commitment to end cancer. Whatever you do, be sure to take photos and share them online on our Relay Facebook page so others can witness the Power of Purple in action.

You can also email your photos to Joanie Bishop at jbishop@pcemc.org or Jill Copeland at jcopeland@pcemc.org so that we can share them with our community the night of Relay.

You have the power to spread hope in your community by painting the towns, parish, schools, home or workplace purple.

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.
P.O. Box 160, New Roads, LA 70760 (638-3751)
www.pcemc.org

PCEMC advises caution when harvesting around power lines

Pointe Coupee Electric would like to remind farmworkers that preparation and awareness are the keys to a safe harvest.

Harvest season is one of the busiest times of the year for farmers—and among the most dangerous. We encourage farm managers to share the following information before taking to the fields to keep themselves, other farmworkers and their families safe from farm-related electrical accidents.

- Start every morning by planning your day's work. Know what jobs will be near power lines and devise a plan to keep the assigned workers safe.
- Keep yourself and equipment at least 10 feet away from power lines in all directions at all times.



- As in any outdoor work, be careful not to raise any equipment, such as ladders, poles or rods, into power lines. Remember, nonmetallic materials such as lumber, tree limbs, tires, ropes and hay can conduct electricity.
- Use care when raising augers or

the beds of grain trucks. It can be difficult to estimate distance—especially in a mirror—and sometimes a power line is closer than it looks. Use a spotter to make certain you stay far away from power lines. (Acct. No. 1946700)

- Always lower portable augers or elevators to their lowest possible level, under 14 feet, before moving or transporting them.

- Be aware of increased height when loading and transporting modern tractors, which are larger with higher antennas.

- Never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path. If power lines near your property have sagged over time, call the cooperative to repair them.

- Don't use metal poles when breaking up bridged grain inside and around bins.

- Use qualified electricians to make repairs on any electrical systems.

- If you are on equipment that makes contact with a power line, do not exit the equipment. When you step off, you could become the electricity's path to ground and receive a fatal shock. Wait until cooperative workers have de-energized the line and confirmed that it is safe for you to exit.

- If the vehicle is on fire and you must exit, jump clear of it with both feet together. Hop as far from the vehicle as you can with your feet together. Keeping your feet together can help prevent you from getting shocked.

WARNING! Do not tamper with electronic meters

Some consumers from Pointe Coupee Electric have electronic meters. Sometimes the electronic meters will malfunction and the screen will be blank.

Please contact us and treat the meter as if it is energized. Just because a meter does not show any readings, does not indicate that there is no electricity flowing through the meter. Tampering with a meter is against the law, and may cause shock or electrocution.

To report a malfunctioning meter, please call Pointe Coupee Electric at (225) 638-3751 or 1-800-738-7232. (Acct. No. 2080700)



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!



Pointe Coupee Electric has a new and more convenient way to report power outages!



Simply go to our website at www.pcemc.org and click on the **Report an Outage** button at the top of the page. You can also access this feature on your smartphone. You will be prompted to fill out a form with your outage information which is sent directly to our dispatcher.

You can still report an outage by calling our office at 225-638-3751 or 800-738-7232.

If you have a downed power line or another hazardous situation, please call our office and notify the dispatcher.

Pointe Coupee Electric is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Cooler temps will be here soon! No matter what kind of heating system you have in your home, you can save money and increase your comfort by properly maintaining and upgrading your equipment. Contact a licensed professional to inspect your system before the winter chill arrives.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy



From the Manager



By Myron A. Lambert

PCEMC guided by co-op principles

Sometimes it seems these days that standing on principle is a quaint, outdated notion from a bygone era.

This is definitely not the case when it comes to your local electric cooperative. Pointe Coupee Electric was founded nearly 80 years ago on the following principles that still guide us today.

1. Voluntary and Open Membership: Cooperatives are voluntary organizations, open to all persons able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without gender, social, racial, political or religious discrimination.

2. Democratic Member Control: Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions.

3. Members' Economic Participation: Members contribute equitably to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative.

4. Autonomy and Independence: Cooperatives are autonomous self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other organizations, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their

members and maintain their autonomy.

5. Education, Training and Information: Cooperatives provide education and training for members, representatives, managers and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of their cooperative. They inform the public, young people and opinion leaders about the benefits of cooperation.

6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives: Cooperatives serve members and strengthen the co-op movement by working together through local, national, regional and international structures. (Acct. No. 2278800)

7. Concern for Community: Cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies and activities accepted by their members.

On behalf of all the employees, management and board members at Pointe Coupee Electric, it's an honor for us to have the privilege of running your co-op each and every day based on these principles.

These are the principles that have led us to where we are today and they will continue to guide us well into the future.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative
The power of human connections®

Stay Clear!

A downed power line may not be a dead line.



Follow these tips from Pointe Coupee Electric to stay safe:

- **Assume all power lines are ENERGIZED and dangerous.** Even lines that are de-energized could become energized at any time.
- **Never touch a downed power line!** And never touch a person or object that is touching a power line.
- **If someone is injured as a result of contact with electric current, do not try and assist him or her.** You could be injured or killed. Call 911.
- **If a power line falls across your vehicle while you are in it, stay inside until help arrives.**
- **Call 911 immediately to report a downed power line.** Then call Pointe Coupee Electric @ 225-638-3751.

YOUR COOPERATIVE CONNECTION

LOUISIANA

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COUNTRY

*Beware of the
energy vampires
lurking in your home*

