



PC Electric

CONNECTIONS

January/February 2026
Member Newsletter
www.pcemc.org

HAPPY
new
year

Connections Magazine is the official publication of PC Electric

2506 False River Drive
P.O. Box 160
New Roads, LA 70760
225.638.3751 Phone
800.738.7232 Toll Free
www.pcemc.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DISTRICT 1
Al Ewing

DISTRICT 2
Jimmy Ewing, Jr.

DISTRICT 3
George G. LaCour, Jr., Vice President

DISTRICT 4
Ralph B. Chustz, Sr., President

DISTRICT 5
Brenda Hurst, Secretary/Treasurer

DISTRICT 6
Eric Elliott

DISTRICT 7
Chris Settoon

EXECUTIVE STAFF

Craig Magruder
General Manager

Deron McLin
Operations Manager

Amanda McDuff
Chief Financial Officer

Lisanne Labatut
Executive Administrative Assistant & H.R. Manager

Chad Nichols
Safety Training & Projects Coordinator

Jill Copeland
Manager of Member Services and Communications

LaCour and Hurst elected to board of directors

George LaCour, Jr. of District 3 and Brenda Hurst of District 5 were recently elected without opposition to serve on the PC Electric Board of Directors.

They will begin new three-year terms (292101) in accordance with cooperative procedures.

The directors are elected by members from the seven districts comprising the service area of PC Electric. Directors must be PC Electric members who reside in the district they represent.

The seven directors comprising the PC Electric Board are responsible for (466100) managing the business and affairs of the electric cooperative. They exercise all of the powers of the cooperative except such as are by law, the Articles of Incorporation or the cooperative by-laws conferred upon or reserved to the members.




George LaCour
District 3



Brenda Hurst
District 5





New Year's resolutions are typically to lose weight or get in shape, but have you ever thought to have a New Year's resolution to stay safe around electricity and save money?

As we usher in a new year, it's common to set goals for personal improvement. While health and fitness often top the list, why not extend that commitment to the safety and efficiency of your home? Making electrical safety and (1859509) energy savings a New Year's resolution can lead to a more secure home and a fatter wallet.

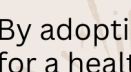
Electrical Safety Resolutions for a Secure Home

- **Inspect Cords and Outlets:** Make it a habit to regularly check electrical cords for fraying, cracks, or damage. Replace any damaged cords immediately. Ensure outlets aren't overloaded and that plugs fit snugly. Loose-fitting plugs can indicate a worn outlet that needs replacing.
- **Test GFCI Outlets:** Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs) are crucial for areas near water, like kitchens, bathrooms, and outdoors. Resolve to test these outlets monthly to ensure they are functioning correctly and providing vital protection against electric shock.
- **Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors:** While not strictly electrical, these devices often rely on your home's electrical system or batteries. Make a resolution to test them monthly and replace batteries twice a year, or as recommended by the manufacturer. Consider upgrading to smart detectors that alert you via your phone.
- **Proper Use of Extension Cords:** Extension cords are for temporary use only. Resolve not to use them as a permanent wiring solution. Ensure they are rated for the power requirements of the appliances they serve and never run them under rugs or through doorways where they can be damaged.
- **Educate Your Family:** Make a resolution to teach everyone in your household about electrical safety, especially children. Show them how to safely plug and unplug devices and the dangers of playing with outlets or electrical appliances.

Energy Saving Resolutions for a Greener Wallet

- **Unplug "Vampire" Electronics:** Many electronics continue to draw power even when turned off or in standby mode. This "vampire drain" can quietly add to your electricity bill. Resolve to unplug chargers, TVs, computers, and other devices when not in use, or connect them to power strips that can be easily switched off.
- **Optimize Your Lighting:** Replace old incandescent bulbs with energy-efficient LED alternatives. LEDs use significantly less energy and last much longer. Resolve to switch off lights when leaving a room and take advantage of natural light whenever possible.
- **Smart Thermostat Usage:** If you don't already have one, consider installing a smart thermostat. Resolve to program your thermostat to adjust temperatures when you're away or asleep, saving a considerable amount on heating and cooling costs.
- **Seal Drafts and Insulate:** Air leaks around windows and doors can lead to significant energy loss. Resolve to seal these drafts with caulk or weatherstripping. Check your attic insulation; adequate insulation is key to maintaining a comfortable temperature without overworking your HVAC system.
- **Efficient Appliance Use:** Make a resolution to use large appliances like washing machines, dishwashers, and dryers during off-peak hours if your utility offers time-of-use rates. Also, ensure your refrigerator and freezer seals are tight and coils are clean for optimal efficiency.

By adopting these electrical safety and (1925504) energy-saving resolutions, you're not just making promises for a healthier home and bank account; you're actively working towards a safer, more sustainable, and cost-effective living environment for the entire year and beyond. Here's to a bright and safe New Year!





Enter the
**2026 Youth Tour
Essay Contest**

High School Juniors

PC Electric is sponsoring a contest to select students for an all-expense-paid trip to Washington D.C. to attend the NRECA “Government-in-Action” Youth Tour Conference to be held June 13 through June 20, 2026.

**All High School Juniors (11th grade) who are members of PC Electric are eligible to enter AND high school juniors who attend the following schools:
Iberville Parish: Plaquemine High, St. John High (144800) and Math, Science and Arts Academy-West**

Pointe Coupee Parish: Livonia High, False River Academy, Catholic High of Pointe Coupee

West Baton Rouge Parish: Port Allen High School

Official Rules and Guidelines

All rules and guidelines can be found on our website at www.pcemc.org under educational programs.

PC ELECTRIC PROVIDES

2025

EDUCATIONAL MINI GRANTS TO LOCAL SCHOOLS

PC Electric Educational Grant Program
PC Electric sponsors an educational grant program for teachers at schools within our service area (Iberville, Pointe Coupee, and West Baton Rouge Parishes).

Eligibility: Teachers qualify if their school is served by (1281006) PC Electric, and their students' homes or parents' businesses receive our service.

Focus: Grants are awarded for academic programs only. Schools must submit a plan outlining the program they will implement or expand.

As Jill Copeland, Manager of Member Services and Communications, notes: "One of our seven cooperative principals is Concern for Community. Our youth and their education are a top priority of the Co-op." The funds were presented (1410600) to the school principals and/or school representatives to the following schools:

Upper Pointe Coupee
Valverda Elementary
Caneview K-8 School
STEM Academy
Holy Family
Crescent
Port Allen High School
Livonia High School
Rougon Elementary
False River Academy
St. John High School

More information about all of our educational programs can be found at www.pcemc.org.



(L to R) PCEMC Board President, Ralph Chustz, Sr., PCEMC Member Services and Communications Manager, and Iberville Parish School representatives.



(L to R) PCEMC Board President, Ralph Chustz, Sr., PCEMC Member Services and Communications Manager, Jill Copeland, and Pointe Coupee Parish School representatives.



(L to R) PCEMC Member Services and Communications Manager, Jill Copeland, PCEMC Board President, Ralph Chustz, Sr., and West Baton Rouge Parish School representatives.

FEELING LUCKY?

LOOK FOR YOUR ACCOUNT
NUMBER TO WIN A BILL CREDIT

If you see your account number published inside this issue, call PC Electric by February 28, 2026, to receive a \$25.00 credit on your bill. Your account number can be found on your billing statement.

GOOD LUCK!



Scammers are always working to steal our hard earned money. Follow these guidelines to avoid being a victim of a scam.



Scammers will tell you the clock is ticking and you must pay immediately or you will be disconnected. PC Electric will never call you and demand payment over the phone.



Options are limited. You may be asked for a specific form of payment, such as a prepaid debit card or cash.



It gets personal. They may ask for your social security number or banking information. Never give this information to a caller unless you initiated the call.

SAVE THE DATE

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
FOR THE



Annual Membership Meeting
March 25, 2026

Scott Civic Center
New Roads, LA 70760

Health Fair
Lunch
Prizes and more!

Notices and registration cards
will be mailed to (2621400)
members the first week of
March, 2026