



PC Electric

CONNECTIONS

September/October 2026
Member Newsletter
www.pcemc.org



Meet Abigail Martin
PC Electric Youth Tour Essay
Contest Winner and YLC for
Louisiana



PC Electric

Connections
Member Newsletter

September/October 2026

Connections Member Newsletter is the official publication of PC Electric

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ACCESS THIS POWERFUL TOOL FOR MANAGING YOUR ELECTRICITY USAGE



Manage your PC Electric account anytime, anywhere with SmartHub—our free online account management tool.

With SmartHub, you can:

- View and pay your bill
- Track your energy usage
- Access billing and payment history
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Getting started is easy! Download the SmartHub app from the Apple App Store or Google Play, search for PC Electric, and follow the prompts to register. You can also access SmartHub through our website by clicking the SmartHub button at www.pcemc.org. Your login information works for both the website and mobile app. Take advantage of the convenience of SmartHub and stay connected to your PC Electric account wherever you are.

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 October 31, 2026, to receive a \$25.00 credit on your bill. Your account number can be found on your billing statement.

GOOD LUCK!

ENERGY EFFICIENCY PAYS OFF *ON THE FARM*

Running a farm or agricultural business takes a lot of energy. From irrigation pumps and grain dryers to barns, workshops, and refrigeration, electricity is a necessary part (1689900) of daily operations. While energy costs are a normal expense, making a few simple changes can help lower your electric bill without affecting productivity.

One of the best places to start is with regular equipment maintenance. Motors, pumps, fans, and compressors work more efficiently when they are clean and properly serviced. Replacing worn belts, lubricating moving parts, and cleaning air filters (69101) can help equipment run more smoothly while using less electricity. Lighting is another easy way to save. Replacing older bulbs with LED lighting in barns, shops, and storage buildings can significantly reduce energy use. LEDs use much less electricity than traditional bulbs and last much longer, reducing both energy and maintenance costs.

If your operation uses irrigation, pay close attention to your pumping system. Regularly inspecting pumps for leaks, repairing damaged pipes, and ensuring pumps are correctly sized for the job can prevent wasted energy. Even small leaks can add up to higher operating costs over time.

Heating and cooling systems also deserve attention. Make sure buildings are properly insulated, seal gaps around doors and windows, and keep (1806901) ventilation systems clean. These simple improvements help maintain comfortable temperatures while reducing the amount of energy needed to heat or cool your facilities.

Finally, consider when you use electricity. If possible, schedule energy-intensive tasks during off-peak hours when demand on the electric grid is lower. Spreading out large electrical loads can also improve efficiency and reduce stress on your equipment.

Energy efficiency isn't about making major changes overnight. Small improvements made throughout the year can lead to meaningful savings while helping your equipment last longer and operate more reliably. By taking a proactive approach to energy management, agricultural businesses can reduce operating costs and keep more money invested where it matters most—on the farm.





Meet Abigail Martin, the PC Electric Youth Tour Delegate and YLC. In her own words, a speech given at the ALEC Annual Meeting, Abigail recounts her reasons why she entered the PC Electric Youth Tour Essay Contest and her experience on the trip.

Abigail Martin is a seventeen year old student at St. John in Plaquemine, Louisiana. After graduation, she plans to major in secondary education with a concentration in math, and then later on obtain her masters degree. Her goal is to teach all over the country, and maybe even do a few years (1975103) teaching abroad. She want to fully understand how schools work now in her community, how they work compared to schools and other communities, and how to bring that knowledge back home for the best school system possible.

Finding my "Why"

Good evening Louisiana electrical cooperative employees, board members, general managers, and CEOs. My name is Abigail Martin and I am honored to be representing Louisiana on NRECA's Youth Leadership Council. Not only am I honored, but I am also incredibly grateful. I am grateful for the friendships I have made, the places I have been able to see, and the history I have been able to experience. I am also deeply grateful to PC Electric for providing me with this opportunity and Ms. Jill Copeland for all of her support.

Before going on the Youth Tour, I carried shame. I felt so small. I come from a traditional small town that not many people have heard of and I go to a small school. I struggled to picture myself getting out of that. I didn't believe I could move away from it. I felt limited and stuck. I felt so much envy for kids with different opportunities and extracurriculars, who didn't have to work so hard to make things happen, and who felt more support from their communities. I wanted to have more active clubs, more performative arts, service organizations, and community involvement in general. In my head I found myself begging for a change, I just didn't know what it would be.

Then one day an email popped up in my inbox inviting me to apply for Youth Tour. So I did. I wrote my essay, turned it in, and waited. Then, a month or so later, in the midst of all the stress from school, stress from sports, stress from friends, I was accepted. Sitting at my desk, at my small school, in my small town, I was accepted. Accepted to go travel all the way to Washington D.C., to learn about who I am as a leader, to meet people who (1001501) accomplished great things, to see monuments and landmarks, history in action, and to be in the rooms where change happens.

I vividly remember sitting in Congressman Cleo Fields office with his staffers. Me and my fellow delegates sat in awe as they told their inspiring stories. They talked about coming from small towns, getting an education, growing, changing, and impacting. One quote that stuck out to me the most was to "Stay Curious". They said to imagine more, never be scared, and to take every chance. I learned how many opportunities are out there, how many causes there are to support, and how much left I have to learn.

At one point one of my fellow delegates asked them what their "Why" was. What made them get out of bed every morning? Leave their homes and their families to live in D.C. and work in the Hill? What was their "why"? They talked about how they want to help people. Instead (2231500) of the phrase "I have to listen to people's problems all day" they said "I get to listen". They believed in good. They wanted to be the change and advocate for others. They were a "voice for the voiceless". They made me wonder what my "Why" was and at that moment I didn't have an answer.

These young adults only five or so years older than me came from backgrounds similar to mine, and yet they came so far. What amazed me the most was that getting out didn't make them despise where they came (1645401) from or hide it, but instead be prideful. It was a part of who they were and the morals that they lived by. It was their culture, their character, and their selfhood. I realized that coming from rurality didn't mean that I was less. It meant that I could be more. I may come from a small town, but that small town is still a meaningful part of a big world.

Since then, I have seen that I am not alone. Ninety-Seven percent of our country's land mass is rural. One in five Americans live in rural America, and that is equivalent to sixty million people. My rurality is not a downfall, it is not a disadvantage, and it is not something to be ashamed of. It is a part of my strive, my motivation, and my identity. My rurality is my "Why." It is why I am constantly faced with challenges that students in more urban areas simply aren't, why I find myself having to work harder than students in more populated areas with more opportunities and feel like I only get half as far. It is why I have less classes available to take, I have less clubs to join, and I have less people to know and with that less friends to make. It is why I feel stuck and small, but it is also why I have learned to never give up. It is why I have struggled, but grown, and it is why I have failed, but learned. Rurality has taught me that having good comes with bad, and that that "bad" that feels incredibly overwhelming at times, is what makes life more interactive. It leaves room for development and it allows me to take on challenges that I wouldn't otherwise have to face head on. I have learned that if I see a problem then it is my responsibility to find a solution and then actually figure out how to make it come to life. My rurality has taught me to use my voice, to be a change-maker, and to never let circumstance limit me. It has taught me that I have as much power as I am willing to yield, to persevere when I lose hope, and to always push forward to a brighter future.

When I applied for Youth Leadership Council, I really didn't think that I would win. I didn't fully understand what it was or what the purpose of it was, but now, knowing a lot more, I am so happy that I had the courage to try. While writing my first speech was a little nervewracking, and actually presenting it to my fellow delegates and chaperones was extremely nerveracking, I had never been more proud of myself. Even more proud when I was actually elected. I have already had so much fun and made so many memories with my fellow YLCs. I am so excited to plan October's service project and participate in PowerXChange in San Diego.

I will forever be thankful for my experiences at Youth Tour and the way my perspective has changed because of it. I now have bigger dreams and bigger goals. I want to travel more and make an impact wherever I can. I want to know more and to take advantage of every opportunity that comes my way. I want to be truly educated (2484500) and know why things are the way they are, what they've been before, and how to improve them in the future. I want to be a voice for the voiceless and I want to get to hear people's problems and find solutions. I want to embrace change and solve problems in a moral and effective way.

I will never forget my fellow delegates who showed me so much support. They truly are the most encouraging group of people I have ever met and I miss them everyday. My favorite video ever is the one of them cheering me on when I was on stage for Youth Day. If I could do Youth Tour all over again, I would and I wouldn't change a single person there.

I would like to say thank you to PC Electric and Ms. Copeland for providing me with this amazing opportunity that has truly changed my life, thank you to my amazing chaperones who kept everyone safe and organized in D.C., and to Ms. Chanon Martin for all of her support and hard work. I am very excited to see what this next year has in store for me. Thank you.

If you would like more information on the Youth Tour Essay Contest, visit our website at www.pcemc.org.





P.O. Box 160
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Notice of Nominating Committees

Districts 1 and 7

The Pointe Coupee Electric Membership Corporation (PCEMC) nominating committees for Districts 1 and 7 will meet, October 19, 2026 at the Pointe Coupee Electric Office at 2506 False River Drive in New Roads.

The purpose of these committee meetings is to nominate candidates from PCEMC Districts 1 and 7 to run for seats on the Board of Directors of the cooperative.

The following PCEMC members appointed by the PCEMC Board at the regular meeting on August 26, 2026, have agreed to serve on the nominating committees (Committees will meet on October 19, 2026 at the times shown below):

District 1—9:00 a.m.	District 7—9:00 a.m.
Mr. James Curtis	Mrs. Patty Phillips
17966 LA Hwy 417	38815 Hwy 75
Batchelor, LA 70715	Plaquemine, LA 70764
Mrs. Lynn Gaspard	Mrs. Roberta LaPrairie
8170 LA Hwy 418	63335 Rose Drive
Batchelor, LA 70715	Plaquemine, LA 70764
Mrs. Dale Ryland	Ms. Teresa Dove
2352 LA Hwy 971	3742 Hwy 75
Lettsworth, LA	Plaquemine, LA 70764
70753	