

SLEMCO

# POWER

MARCH/APRIL  
2014

## LAOTIAN NEW YEAR!

**Songkran festival  
enlivens Acadiana's  
Easter weekend**  
PAGE 4



The Official Publication of the Southwest  
Louisiana Electric Membership Corporation  
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On the cover: March Boutvonnoan of Baton Rouge, *Nang Songkran* (Miss New Year) 2013.  
Photo by James Edmunds

# TakeNote



Photos by P.C. Piazza

**S**LEMCO's 77th Annual Membership Meeting will be held on Saturday, June 7, at Lafayette's Cajundome. Attendees have a chance to win one of 27 prizes, including a new 2014 car or truck. Drawings will also determine who will receive \$40,000 in college scholarships.

Our day begins early. Doors open at 6 a.m., with plenty of hot Community coffee as you visit with your friends and neighbors. Coffee is free and the Cajundome will have other refreshments available for purchase (Lucky Account Number 1016967201).

Music by Roddie Romero & the Hub City All Stars will start at 6:30 a.m., so wear your dancing shoes. United Blood Services will hold its 12th annual blood drive at our meeting. Your continued generosity is appreciated because of increased demand for blood and reduced donations during summer.

Prize drawings begin at 8 a.m., and winning names will be drawn until our business meeting begins at 10 a.m. Brief reports from the company's officers and legal counsel will bring members up to date on SLEMCO operations.

When the business portion concludes, our scholarship drawing will award college funds of \$2,000 each to 20 lucky students. Then, to end our meeting on a high note, our grand prize drawing will allow one lucky winner a choice from among five new vehicles.



## COMMERCIAL CUSTOMERS CAN ENTER PRIZE AND SCHOLARSHIP DRAWINGS

**S**LEMCO commercial customers wishing to participate in the prize drawings should drop off a letter naming their company's authorized representative to SLEMCO's main office by June 6.

After presenting ID on the day of the meeting, that representative will receive a card for the prize drawing.

Owners of commercial establishments

who are SLEMCO customers may also sponsor their children, themselves or a spouse for the scholarship drawing, but only if they own more than 50 percent of the company, corporation or partnership.

Proof of ownership is required whenever a commercial business sponsors a scholarship applicant (Lucky Account Number 2219200000).

# APPLY NOW FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A SCHOLARSHIP

A total of \$40,000 in college scholarships will be given away at our 77th annual meeting on Saturday, June 7. Twenty students will each win \$2,000 to help pay for college. The process is easy, but you must apply before the meeting.

Members connected to SLEMCO for one contiguous year prior to the May 8 entry deadline can sponsor themselves, a spouse, dependent children or legal wards. Grandchildren are eligible only if they are the legal dependents or wards of members.

Applications for the 2014 SLEMCO scholarship program will be included with all February and March SLEMCO bills.

You can also download the application from our website, [www.slemco.com](http://www.slemco.com). This electronic version of the application is in PDF format. After filling it out, follow the directions on our website to e-mail it to SLEMCO or print a copy and submit it by mail.

Read the application carefully and follow all instructions (Lucky Account Number 2414130000).

Applications for the scholarships will be accepted until Thursday, May 8. Delivered entries and electronically submitted entries must be received by 4:30 p.m., May 8, and mailed entries must

be postmarked by that day. Entries can be mailed to the SLEMCO Scholarship Program, P.O. Box 90866, Lafayette, LA 70509.

These funds can be used to attend any Louisiana public university to pursue an undergraduate degree beginning this fall. Winners must have at least a 2.0 cumulative grade point average and plan to attend on a full-time basis (at least 12 hours) this fall. Technical colleges or private universities do not qualify and students must be at least high school seniors to enter.

IRS guidelines allow a parent to claim their college student child until the year he or she turns 24. We follow the same guidelines for awarding these scholarships. In order to sponsor a child, parents must still claim the applicant on their income tax return and the applicant must be under 24 years of age. Proof will be required.

Only one family member can win per year, but any eligible family member can enter every year. Winners aren't eligible

to receive the scholarship again (Lucky Account Number 2123419000).

Even though the entry deadline is not until May, get your application in early so you don't forget. We've already received several hundred entries. If you have any questions, call SLEMCO at 896-5384. ●



Illustration by Anne Darrah

## APPLY FOR COLLEGE ASSISTANCE EARLY

SLEMCO scholarships are just one opportunity to help pay for your college education. High school seniors can often begin applying for many forms of college assistance as early as January of their senior year (Lucky Account Number 1054570000). Check with your high school guidance counselor to see what grants, loans or scholarships are available. ●



### LANDSCAPING FOR SHADE

Trees, vines, and shrubs that shade a home can lower cooling costs in warm climates like ours, according to [www.energy.gov](http://www.energy.gov).

Trees are available in all sorts of sizes, densities and shapes for almost any shade application. Want to block solar heat in the summer but gain heat during the winter? Plant deciduous trees, which drop their leaves in the fall. Want continuous shade or to block heavy winds? Select dense evergreens or shrubs.

Deciduous trees with high, spreading crowns of leaves and branches should be planted to the south for maximum roof shade in summer. Trees with lower crowns are better to the west, to offer shade from lower afternoon sun.

A slow-growing tree may require years before it shades your roof, but will normally live longer. Its deeper roots and stronger branches make it less prone to wind breakage and more drought resistant.

Plant trees far enough away from the home so that, when mature, their root systems do not damage the foundation and branches do not damage the roof. Trees, shrubs, and groundcover can also shade the ground and pavement around your home, reducing heat radiation.

However, avoid dense foliage right next to a home if wetness and humidity are a concern. Landscaping should allow winds to flow around the home, to keep the home and soil reasonably dry.

For more information, visit <http://www.energy.gov/energysaver/articles/landscaping-energy-efficient-homes>. ●



The ordination hall



# SONGKRAN

EXPLORE A WEEKEND OF LAOTIAN CELEBRATION

STORY & PHOTOS BY JAMES EDMUNDS



Takraw, an energetic kickball game

Each Easter weekend, Lane Xang Village, a Laotian community located in northwestern Iberia Parish, opens its arms to all and celebrates *Songkran*, a three-day New Year festival that features religious ceremonies, sporting events, music and dance, a wide variety of foods, colorful costumes and a paraded pageant queen.

As refugees from southeast Asia came to America after the end of the Vietnam War in 1975, a Laotian community began coalescing in Iberia Parish. In the manner of most refugee immigrant enclaves, initial settlers welcomed family members and old world neighbors into their rapidly growing community, which soon included several hundred families.

But unlike the more typical path of immigrants—struggling financially in the beginning while hoping for entry-level jobs in urban areas—these new arrivals were set down in a sizzling Louisiana energy economy that was thriving even as the rest of the nation was faltering. There were textile jobs, light manufacturing jobs and even lucrative jobs in energy industry fabrication which created training programs in their native language. And because it was a relatively rural area, farmland was affordable enough for a group to create Lane Xang Village, a subdivision with a very distinctive twist—a large parcel set aside for the creation of a Buddhist temple, Wat Thammarattanam.

A temple was constructed in the late 1980s, and its annual Songkran celebration quickly attracted southeast Asians from surrounding states because no other community in the region so



Entrance gate to the community's temple





(Clockwise from left) Traditional dance is featured at Friday evening's pageant; a statue of Buddha; a vendor grills *khao larm*, a sticky rice in bamboo; visitors feast inside the temple; a monk takes a souvenir photo of newly crowned pageant royalty; children cover each other in shaving cream, representing a spiritual cleansing.



richly evoked the temple-centered village life of Laos. Organizers decided that rather than its traditional mid-April dates, Songkran would be observed at Easter, making Lane Xang Village a three-day weekend destination for southeast Asians from the entire multi-state region (Lucky Account Number 3434512100).

"As a little girl, I remember my mom bringing home traditional costumes from the trips she made to Thailand to buy things for the store our family ran," recalled Amonelath Xanamane, who came to Iberia Parish as a child from an Asian refugee camp. "The adult women of the Laotian community taught the children the hand movements and the dances for the pageant and the parade."

A new, larger temple was built a few years ago, along with an ordination hall for Buddhist monks. On the weekend of the celebration, visitors dine with the monks in the temple; meanwhile, food and other vendors line the festival grounds. On Friday evening a pageant queen is selected; she is honored in a parade on Saturday. The underlying theme of Songkran is cleansing and renewal. For youngsters this is jubilantly expressed by shooting water pistols and slathering one another in shaving cream.

Even with traditional roots half a world away, the Songkran weekend fits snugly within south Louisiana's craze for festivals and has attracted an increasing number of Lane Xang Village's Acadiana neighbors to experience Laotian culture firsthand.

*Lane Xang Village is located on Iberia Parish Road 503 (Melancon Road) just south of Parish Road 502 (Captain Cade Road). This year's celebration will be held April 18–20.*







# THE HOME OF THEIR DREAMS

Sometimes dreams can become reality. Tanya Istre first met her future husband, Dexter, when she was 15. Even back then, she remembers, his dream was to build his “forever” home with his dad and brothers.

Now, after two years of planning, the result is this beautiful and spacious four-bedroom country home near Kaplan.

Although now in the oilfield, Dexter worked alongside his dad and brothers building homes with Rodney Istre & Sons Construction as soon as he was old enough to swing a hammer. His dad devoted nearly a year to help make his son’s childhood dream come true.

Rodney Istre Sr.’s cabinetry had been featured in a previous SLEMCO Design One home, so he told them about the program. Dexter and Tanya will be grateful every time they pay their SLEMCO bill. Although they now enjoy 4,270 square feet of living area (6,000 square feet under roof), their electric bills are similar to those in their previous 30-year-old brick home, which was less



Photos by Curtis Darrach

Dexter and Tanya Istre pictured in their kitchen, which includes conveniences (below) such as an appliance garage, pot filler and a pull-out spice rack.

than a third the size.

“After nine months of continuous late nights and weekends, and with the help of family and friends, our dream home is a reality,” Tanya said.

Family gatherings were obviously in the forefront of their minds as Dexter drafted the house plans. The rich and elegant kitchen anchors an open floor plan that flows from a cozy dining room to an expansive living area with cypress-plank cathedral ceilings. A door from the dining area leads to a game room.

The living area focuses on a dramatic stone fireplace. Comfy leather armchairs—enough for a small crowd—invite everyone to relax with a football game or country music broadcast through the integrated audio/visual system.

“Our house is a mixture of favorite things about our childhood homes, things we wished we had in our first home, and my dreams come true from loving to be the hostess and knowing exactly how I wanted to ‘play house’ in my adult life,” Tanya explained (Lucky Account Number 1425412500).







This large whirlpool tub with glass block window highlights a spacious master bathroom.

The couple is especially grateful to Caldonia and Rodney Istre Sr., Cyndi and Jeff LeMaire, and Lana and Shannon Menard for their nine-month contribution of time and effort to give birth to this beautiful Design One home (Lucky Account Number 3014290400).



## THIS HOME'S FEATURED SUPPLIERS

- **BUILDER:** Tony Istre Construction (Dexter Istre, Rodney Istre Sr. and Tony Istre)
- **LUMBER:** Hardee Home Center, Gueydan
- **HEATING/COOLING:** Libby A/C, Crowley, installed three central units with heat pump.
- **ELECTRICIAN:** Istre and DuBois family and friends
- **PLUMBING:** Tony Istre Construction
- **WINDOWS:** Acadiana Doors and Windows, Youngsville, installed vinyl Ply Gem Low E, double pane with argon gas windows.
- **DOORS:** Acadiana Doors and Windows, Youngsville, installed wood and fiberglass, Low E, double pane with argon gas.
- **FLOORING:** Doug Ashy, Lafayette
- **APPLIANCES:** Sears, Lafayette
- **PAINTERS:** Istre and DuBois family and friends
- **BRICK:** Mike Baker Brick, Mergentau
- **CONCRETE:** Port Aggregate, Mergentau
- **CABINETS:** Rodney Istre Sr.
- **INSULATION:** Installed by Istre and DuBois family and friends, R38 ceiling, R15 4" and R19 6" walls
- **PLANS:** Dexter Istre
- **AUDIO/VIDEO/ENTIRE HOUSE SURROUND SOUND:** AVI, Lafayette
- **MIRRORS:** Kirklands, Lafayette
- **GARAGE DOORS:** Overhead Door Company, Lafayette
- **ALARM:** ADT



Planning a new home on SLEMCO power? Call Robert Mitchell at 896-2524 or e-mail [robert.mitchell@slemco.com](mailto:robert.mitchell@slemco.com) for information on our latest Design One guidelines.



Building the house themselves with the help of family and friends, an extensive "must have" list was achievable. This included a cathedral ceiling in the living room, with 12x12-inch red cedar beams and columns separating it from the kitchen. The Istres love music so volume-controlled speakers were installed throughout the house.



# PARTICIPATING IN SLEMCO'S

The 77th annual meeting of the SLEMCO membership will be held on Saturday, June 7, 2014, at 10 a.m. at the Lafayette Cajundome. The following, taken from the co-op's By-Laws, details the reason for annual meetings and shows how board members are selected for the organization.

## ARTICLE III

### Meeting of Members

#### Section 1. Annual and Special Meetings.

- (a) The Annual Meetings of the members shall be held on the first Saturday of June of each year for the purpose of electing directors, passing upon reports covering the previous fiscal year and transacting such other business as may come before the meeting. If such Annual Meeting is omitted on the date herein provided therefore, a special meeting may be held in place thereof, and any business transacted or elections held at such special meeting shall have the same effect as if transacted or held at the Annual Meeting. Failure to hold the Annual Meeting at the designated time shall not work a forfeiture or dissolution of the Corporation.
- (b) Special meeting of the members may be called by the President; by Resolution of the Board of Directors; upon written request signed by any three Directors; or by a Petition signed by not less than ten percent (10%) of the Members of the Corporation. It shall thereupon be the duty of the Secretary to cause a notice of such meeting to be given as hereinafter provided.

#### Section 2. Place and Purposes of Member's Meetings.

- (a) Meetings of the members shall be held at the principal office of the Corporation in the City of Lafayette, Louisiana, or at such other place in the State of Louisiana as may be designated in the call of the meeting.
- (b) The purposes for which meetings of the members are to be held, in addition to those purposes prescribed by law, include Amendments to the Articles of Incorporation, or By-Laws, and in the case of a Special Meeting, the purpose or purposes for which the meeting is called shall be specified in writing. Special Meetings shall be called by the President, Board of Directors, a written request signed by any three (3) Directors, or by a Petition signed by not less than ten percent (10%) of the members of the Corporation.

#### Section 3. Notice of Meetings.

- (a) Written or printed notice of the time and place and purposes as set out in Section 2 of all meetings shall be either mailed or delivered personally to each member not less than ten (10) days nor more than twenty-five (25) days before the date for such meeting, directed to his address as it appears on the Corporation's books, postage prepaid. If mailed, with postage thereon prepaid, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered when deposited in the United States mail, addressed to the member at his address as it appears on the records of the Cooperative. The failure of any member to receive notice of an annual or special meeting of the members shall not invalidate any action which may be taken by the members of any such meeting.

**Section 4. Quorum.** Five percent of all members, present in person, shall constitute a quorum. At any meeting of members at which a quorum is determined not to be present, a majority of those present in person may adjourn the meeting from time to time without further notice.

#### Section 5. Voting.

- (a) At every meeting of the members, each member present shall be entitled to only one vote. Where the membership stands in the name of the husband, the vote may be cast by the wife in the event the husband is not in attendance, and where the member-

ship stands in the name of the wife, the vote may be cast by the husband if the wife is not in attendance. A duly authorized officer of any firm, corporation, partnership, association, business trust, federal agency, state or political subdivision or agency thereof or any body politic, may, upon proper proof of his authority, cast the vote of such organization. Except as otherwise provided herein, at all such meetings of the members at which a quorum is present, all questions shall be decided by a vote of a majority of the members voting on the particular question.

- (b) There shall be no voting by proxy.

**Section 6. Order of Business.** The order of business at the Annual Meetings of the members, and so far as possible at all other meetings of the members shall be as follows:

1. Report as to which members are present in person in order to determine the existence of a quorum.
2. Reading of the notice of the meeting together with proof of the due mailing thereof or of the waiver or waivers of notice of such meeting.
3. Presentation and reading of unapproved minutes of previous meetings of the members and the taking of necessary action thereon.
4. Presentation and consideration of, and acting upon, report of officers, directors and committees.
5. Election of directors.
6. Unfinished Business.
7. New business.
8. Adjournment.

## ARTICLE IV

### Board of Directors

**Section 1. General Powers.** The business and affairs of the Corporation shall be managed by a Board of Directors which shall exercise all of the powers of the Corporation except such as are by law or by the Articles of Incorporation or by these By-Laws conferred upon or reserved to the members.

#### Section 2. Number and Qualifications and Election.

- (a) The number of Directors of the Corporation shall be ten (10). Each Director must be a member of the Corporation and shall be elected by the members at the Annual Meeting of Members or at the special meeting held in lieu thereof, for the term and as provided by these By-Laws. There shall be two (2) Directors from each of the following Parishes: Acadia, St. Landry, Lafayette, St. Martin, and Vermilion. Each Director shall have resided in one of the aforesaid parishes for the preceding two (2) years, and shall have been actively domiciled for the preceding year in the parish he represents.
- (b) No person may hold the office of Director who is in any way employed by, or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the Cooperative, or a business primarily engaged in selling electrical or plumbing appliances, fixtures or supplies to the members of the Cooperative.
- (b-1) No person may hold the office of Director who is in any way employed by the corporation.
- (b-2) No person may hold the office of a Director if he and/or an immediate family member is financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the Corporation, or a business primarily engaged in selling electrical or plumbing appliances, fixtures, or supplies to the members of the Corporation. An immediate family member, for the purposes of this subsection (b-2) is defined as the Director's spouse, parent, child, grandchild, brother, sister,



# ANNUAL MEETING IS EASY

and/or spouses thereof, including any in-laws of the aforesaid persons. A financial interest for the purposes of this subsection (b-2) is defined as an ownership interest in excess of 10% in an enterprise or business above referenced, and which ownership interest produces an income in excess of \$500.00 per annum.

- (c) No person may be eligible to serve as a director who is the incumbent of or a candidate for an elective public office in connection with which a salary in excess of \$500.00 per annum is paid.
- (c-1) No person shall be allowed to hold the office of a Director of the Corporation who is physically and/or mentally incapable of performing all of the duties required of a Director. Such a determination, pursuant to a charge of incapacity, shall first be made by a physician selected by a majority of the Board of Directors and who after performing his evaluation renders a report certifying the incapacity, either physically or mentally, of the Director. Upon such certification, a majority of the Board of Directors shall be allowed to declare said party mentally and/or physically incapable of performing all of his duties as a Board Member. A refusal to submit to the examination subjects the Director charged to immediate removal by majority vote of the Board of Directors.
- (c-2) No person may hold the office of a Director of the Corporation who has been convicted of any felony or a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude.
- (c-3) No person may be eligible to serve as a Director who has an immediate family member (immediate means within the third degree) serving on the Board of Directors of the corporation.
- (c-4) No person holding the position of a Director of this corporation shall be allowed to solicit or otherwise request that the corporation and/or its employees conduct business with said Director.
- (c-5) No person shall be eligible to serve as a Director until two (2) years has elapsed since he was an employee of the Corporation.
- (d) When a Director reaches the age of eighty (80), said Director shall no longer be eligible to continue to serve as a Director of the Corporation. If a Director of this Corporation is 80 years of age or older on June 4, 2011, he shall only be eligible to continue to serve as a Director of the Corporation for an additional six (6) month period of time.

Any person and/or Director who violates any of the requirements of Art. IV, Sec. 2, paragraphs a, b, c, c subparts and/or d, after due notice, at least five (5) days prior to the meeting at which the charges are to be considered, shall have the right to be heard in person or by counsel and to present evidence in respect to the charges and the Board of Directors shall have the same opportunity.

At the next regularly or specifically scheduled meeting, the Board of Directors of the Corporation, by a majority vote of said Board, may remove and the same are hereby authorized to remove the Director who has violated and/or who is found not to have fulfilled the qualifications of serving on the Board of Directors of the Corporation. Said vacancy shall be filled as provided for in Art. IV, Sec. 4 of these By-Laws.

- (e) Nomination. It shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to appoint, not less than forty-five (45) days nor more than one hundred (100) days before the date of the meeting of members at which Directors are to be elected, a committee on nominations consisting of not less than five (5) nor more than eleven (11) members, who shall be selected from different sections of the project area so as to ensure equitable representations. No member of the Board of Directors may serve on such committee. The date, time and place of the meeting of the nominating committee for

the Board of Directors shall be published in the monthly issue of the membership publication in the month immediately preceding that meeting. The committee shall prepare and post at the principal office of this Cooperative, at least forty-five (45) days before the membership meeting, a list of nominations of Directors, selecting the same number of persons as nominees as the number whose terms expire at the next Annual Meeting; selecting at least one (1) nominee from each Parish which is the address and domicile of the member whose term will expire at the Annual Meeting, so as to ensure two (2) Board Members at all times from each of the five (5) Parishes named in Section 2 (1), Article IV of the By-Laws.

- (e-1) Any fifteen (15) or more members acting together may make other nominations by Petition and file the Petition with the Secretary at the headquarters office of the Cooperative, not less than twenty-five (25) days prior to the meeting of the members. The Secretary shall thereupon immediately post such nominations at the headquarters office of the Cooperative, at which place the list of nominations made by the Nominating Committee has been posted. When nominations are made by Petition in addition to those made by the Nominating Committee as aforesaid, the Secretary shall immediately mail with the notice of the meeting, or separately, but at least ten (10) days prior to the date of the meeting of members, to each member a statement of the number of Directors to be elected and the names and addresses of all of the candidates, specifying separately the nominations made by the Committee on Nominations and also the nominations made by Petition. All nominations of members as candidate for the Board of Directors shall specify the Parish which the said candidate is to represent. All members present at the Annual Meeting at which Directors are to be elected, shall be entitled to vote on the Directors to be elected, regardless of the Parish which such Directors are to represent. Notwithstanding anything contained in this Section, failure to comply with any of the provisions of this Section shall not in any manner whatsoever affect the validity of any election for Directors.

**Section 3. Tenure.** The Board of Directors shall be divided into three (3) classes at the Annual Meeting of members to be held on June 2, 1979, the first class to be composed of four (4) members with the term of office to expire at the next succeeding Annual Meeting in 1980; the second class to be composed of three (3) members with the term of the Directors of the second class to expire at the second succeeding Annual Meeting in 1981, and the third class to be composed of three (3) members, and the term of office to expire of the third succeeding Annual Meeting in 1982. As nearly as possible, no two members shall be elected from the same parish in the same year. The implementation of this provision of the By-Laws shall not be such as to reduce the term of office of any Director serving at the time of its implementation. At each Annual Meeting following the classification herein provided, a number of Directors equal to the number of the class whose term expired at the time for such meeting shall be elected to hold office for a term of three (3) years, or until the third succeeding Annual Meeting after such election.

**Section 4. Vacancies.** Vacancies occurring in the Board of Directors shall be filled by a majority vote of the remaining Directors. Directors thus elected by the Board of Directors to fill vacancies shall serve until the expiration of the term of the Director whose office the said member has been elected to fill or until his successor has been duly elected and qualified, provided, however, that any member elected by the Board of

Continued on page 12



*These recipes come from The Gathering of Friends, Volume Five: Come Gather at my Table. It is available for \$32.50 at [www.thegatheringoffriends.com](http://www.thegatheringoffriends.com) or local and online bookstores and shops.*

## Cashew Ginger Salad

4 large carrots  
3 cups vegetable oil, for frying  
6 egg roll wraps  
1/4 head purple cabbage  
8 green onions  
1/2 cup pickled ginger, sliced  
2 bunches cilantro  
10 oz. pkg. spring mix  
10 oz. pkg. arugula  
1 1/2 cups whole, salted cashews

Peel outer skin of carrots and discard. Using a potato peeler, slice carrots into thin pieces. Place carrots in a bowl of ice water to curl. Heat oil in heavy skillet on medium-high. Cut egg roll wraps into skinny strips. Drop strips into hot oil and cook until golden brown, turning twice; remove and drain on paper towel. Chop purple cabbage into small pieces. Cut green onions into 1-inch pieces. Cut pickled ginger into smaller pieces. Clean, rise and chop cilantro; discard the ends. When ready to serve, toss all ingredients together and serve with Asian Ginger Dressing (below).

## Asian Ginger Dressing

1 tsp. ground ginger  
1 tsp. dry mustard  
1 cup rice vinegar  
1/2 cup vegetable oil  
1/2 cup water  
1 tsp. kosher salt  
2/3 cup sugar

Place all ingredients in blender and mix well. Chill before serving.

## Steak & Swiss Sliders

4 rib eye steaks  
2 3/4 tsp. Worcestershire sauce, divided  
1 1/2 tsp. kosher salt

1 tsp. coarse black pepper  
1/4 tsp. crushed red chili flakes  
1/4 tsp. cayenne pepper  
1/2 tsp. onion salt  
24 dinner rolls  
3/4 lb. sliced Swiss cheese  
3/4 cup butter  
5 tsp. honey mustard, divided  
2 tbsp. minced onion  
2 green onions

Spread out steaks on a jelly roll pan. Poke holes in meat with a fork; season evenly with 2 tsp. Worcestershire sauce, salt, pepper, crushed red chili flakes, cayenne pepper and onion salt. Grill for 3 to 4 minutes on each side. Remove from grill and slice steak diagonally into long strips.

Preheat oven to 350°. Melt butter in small mixing bowl. Fold in 2 1/2 tsp. honey mustard, minced onion and 3/4 tbsp. Worcestershire sauce. Cut each roll in half; stack strips of rib eye steak topped with slices of Swiss cheese on bottom half. Spread remaining honey mustard inside top half of each roll and place sliders tightly together on jelly roll pan. Pour honey mustard mixture on the tops of the sliders and cover with foil. Bake for 20 to 25 minutes. When ready to serve, garnish with diced green onions.

## Rosemary Flatbread Crackers

1 tbsp. dried rosemary, crushed  
1 tbsp. flax seed  
1 tbsp. sesame seeds  
1/4 cup dried Parmesan cheese  
3 tsp. kosher salt, divided  
1 1/2 cup flour  
1/2 cup whole wheat flour  
3 tbsp. olive oil  
1/2 cup water

Combine rosemary, flax seeds, sesame seeds, Parmesan cheese and 2 tsp. salt; stir together and set aside. Preheat oven to 450°. In a large bowl, whisk flour, whole wheat flour and 1 tsp. salt together. Add olive oil and water; stir with spatula

until dough forms a crumbly ball.

Set dough on a lightly floured surface and divide into 3 portions. Roll each portion into very thin circles and place on a jelly roll pan. Using a pastry brush, lightly brush the dough with water and evenly sprinkle surface with rosemary mix.

Cut dough into triangles like pizza slices. Slightly separate each dough triangle. Bake for 7 to 10 minute or until browned. Remove from oven; let cool on wire rack.

## Apricot Stuffed Pork Roast

2–3 lbs. boneless pork loin roast, butterflied  
1 tsp. kosher salt  
1/2 tsp. coarse black pepper  
4 apples, divided  
20 dried apricots, divided  
2 tbsp. olive oil  
1 cup chicken broth  
1/2 tsp. dried mustard  
1/4 tsp. garlic salt  
1 tsp. ground coriander  
1 tsp. dried parsley  
1 tsp. garlic pepper

Preheat oven to 375°. Open roast and place flat on a jelly roll pan. Season with salt and pepper. Remove cores of the apples and dice. Chop dried apricots. Fill middle of roast with 2/3 apples and apricots. Roll up roast and tie each end and the middle with butcher's twine. Place the stuffed roast in a baking dish. Generously rub with olive oil. Pour broth over roast and sprinkle remaining spices over entire roast. Cover tightly with foil.

Roast in oven for 45 to 50 minutes or until meat thermometer inserted after 3 minutes reads 145°. When ready to serve, garnish roast with remaining apples and apricots.

## Hearts of Palm Salad

14.5 oz. jar hearts of palm  
2 cups cherry tomatoes  
16 oz. pkg. spring mix  
2 cups pimiento stuffed olives



2 cups pitted black olives

Drain hearts of palm and cut into 1/4-inch chunks. Slice tomatoes in half. Toss hearts of palm, tomatoes, spring mix and whole olives together and chill. Toss with Peppered Feta Dressing (below) and serve.



Hearts of Palm Salad

## Peppered Feta Dressing

1/2 cup white wine vinegar  
1/2 cup vegetable oil  
1/4 cup sugar  
1/4 tsp. onion salt  
1/2 cup peppered feta cheese, crumbled

Combine all ingredients in a small mixing bowl and whisk together. Chill and serve with Hearts of Palm Salad.

## Frozen Blueberry Lemon Cream

1 cup frozen lemonade concentrate  
1 cup heavy whipping cream  
1 cup powdered sugar  
2 lemons, for zest  
2 cups frozen whipped topping  
1 cup fresh blueberries

In a mixing bowl, combine lemonade concentrate, cream and powdered sugar; whip until creamy. Clean lemons and zest, about 1 tbsp. Fold zest into mixture. Add frozen whipped topping and blend well. Fold in blueberries; cover the lemon cream and place in freezer for at least 4 hours or until solid. Serve with Buttermilk Lemon Cakes.

## Buttermilk Lemon Cakes

3 cups flour  
1 tsp. baking powder  
1/2 tsp. baking soda  
3/4 tsp. kosher salt  
1 1/2 cup sugar  
1/2 cup butter, melted  
2 tbsp. vegetable oil

and sugar; set aside. In a separate mixing bowl, combine melted butter, vegetable oil and lemon oil; beat with electric mixer and add eggs one at a time. Beat until thoroughly mixed and then add dry ingredients a cup at a time, alternating with buttermilk, beating at a low speed.

Remove zest from 2 lemons. Add zest and juice of both lemons to batter; fold together. Spoon batter into mini muffin bundt pans and bake for 18 to 20 minutes or until center is set. Depending on size of bundt pans used, cooking time will vary. Remove from oven. Immediately remove cake from pan and cover with plastic wrap to retain moisture.

### LEMON GLAZE:

1 cup powdered sugar  
1 tbsp. lemon zest  
2 tbsp. lemon juice

In a small mixing bowl, whisk together the powdered sugar, lemon zest and juice until it forms a thick glaze. Add more lemon juice if needed. Drizzle glaze over cake after it has completely cooled. Glaze will set and harden. Serve with Frozen Blueberry Lemon Cream.

For extra copies of these recipes or to e-mail a copy to a friend, visit *SLEMCO Power* magazine online at [www.slemco.com](http://www.slemco.com).

## LUCKY NUMBER WINNERS

Three SLEMCO members found their account numbers hidden in the last issue of *SLEMCO Power* and called in to claim a \$10 credit to their accounts. Those members were **Hilton J. Gallien** of Leonville, **Larry S. Fairchild** of Church Point and **James R. High** of Carencro.

Seven others missed out on their prizes: **Greg Benhard** of Palmetto, **Raymond Kaufmann** of Breaux Bridge, **Tobias I. Idhammar**

of Lafayette, **Michael Crain** of St. Martinville, **Charlene G. Eason** of Branch, **Elise W. Journet** of Arnaudville and **Ivory Disotell** of Krotz Springs.

Ten more numbers are hidden in this issue (Lucky Account Number 1016962602). If you find your account number, call Mrs. Gayle Babin at SLEMCO at 896-2504 to verify if you are a winner. If you are, she'll credit \$10 to your SLEMCO account.





Continued from page 9

Directors to fill a vacancy on the said Board must be a resident of the same Parish as the director causing the said vacancy.

**Section 5. Compensation.** Directors shall not receive any salary for their services, but by Resolution of the Board of Directors a fixed fee and expenses of attendance may be allowed for attendance at each meeting of the Board of Directors, provided that the Directors and Officers of the Corporation, except in emergencies, shall not receive compensation from the Corporation for their services except after approval by the members at the regular or special meeting.

**Section 6. Rules and Regulations.** The Board of Directors shall have power to make and adopt such rules and regulations, not inconsistent with the Articles of Incorporation or the By-Laws of the Corporation or the laws of the State of Louisiana as it may deem advisable for the management, administration and regulation of the business and affairs of the Corporation.

**Section 7. Accounting System and Reports.** The Board of Directors shall cause to be established and maintained a complete accounting system, which shall conform to such system of accounts as may from time to time be designated by the Rural Electrification Administration of the United States of America. All accounts of the Corporation shall be examined by the Board of Directors at least four times a year at regular meetings of the Board. The Board of Directors may also after the close of each fiscal year cause to be made a full and complete audit of the accounts, books and financial condition of the Corporation as of the end of such fiscal year. Such audit reports shall be submitted to the members at the following Annual Meeting.

**Section 8. Removal of Directors by Members.** Any mem-

ber may bring charges against a Director by filing such charges in writing with the Secretary, together with a Petition signed by at least ten percent (10%) of the members and request the removal of such Director by reason thereof. The Director, against whom such charges have been brought, shall be informed in writing of the charges at least five (5) days prior to the meeting at which the charges are to be considered and shall have an opportunity at the meeting to be heard in person or by counsel and to present evidence in respect to the charges and the person or persons bringing the charges against him shall have the same opportunity. The question of the removal of such Director shall be considered and voted upon at the next regular or special meeting of the members, as provided for in Louisiana R.S. 12:418, and any vacancy created by such removal shall be filled by vote of the members in accordance with the general nomination and election procedure provided for herein. ●

#### **SLEMCO 2014 NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

**Acadia Parish**—Mr. Donald Higginbotham, P.O. Box 643, Church Point, LA 70525

**Lafayette Parish**—Mr. Ralph Miller, 2318 Ridge Road, Duson, LA 70529

**St. Martin Parish**—Mr. Ivy Perieux, P.O. Box 64, St. Martinville, LA 70582

**St. Landry Parish**—Mr. James Soileau, P.O. Box 234, Krotz Springs, LA 70750

**Vermilion Parish**—Mr. Luther “Buster” Hardy, 9902 Hannah Road, Kaplan, LA 70548

The committee will meet April 1, 2014, at 8:00 a.m. at the SLEMCO office, 3420 NE Evangeline Thruway, Lafayette, LA.

(s) Bryan G. Leonards, Sr., *Board Secretary*



**SPEEDY REPAIR IN THE COLD—** Linemen Greg Wade (left) and Luke Bourgeois make short work of a repair to restore power during a recent subfreezing cold spell. Thanks to continual work to keep our distribution infrastructure in top condition, SLEMCO had very few outages during the severe winter weather (Lucky Account Number 4503767800).