

POWER



SLEMCO'S 85TH
**ANNUAL
MEETING**

YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS IT!

JUNE 11
2022



ANNUAL MEETING
WELCOME BACK

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PARK

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The Official Publication of the Southwest Louisiana Electric Membership Corporation

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We remember photographer P.C. Piazza for his many photographic contributions to SLEMCO over the years.

Peter Charles Piazza Jr. (1951–2022)



ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

The 85th annual meeting of the members of the Southwest Louisiana Electric Membership Corporation (SLEMCO) will be held in Lafayette's Cajundome on Saturday, June 11, 2022. The business meeting begins at 10 a.m. Voting for the Contested Director's Seat shall be held during the official business meeting.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Report of quorum of members present.
2. Reading of Notice of Annual Meeting mailed on May 27, 2022.
3. Report of Nominating Committee and opening of Director election by General Counsel.
4. Presentation of Minutes of the previous Annual Meeting and action thereon.
5. Reports of Officers, CEO and Attorney and action thereon as needed.
6. Unfinished business, if any.
7. Adjournment.

This notice was mailed to each SLEMCO member, postage prepaid, on May 27, 2022 in accordance with SLEMCO's bylaws.

Bryan Leonards Sr., *Secretary-Treasurer*

—WE'RE BACK AND LIVE—

JOIN US JUNE 11 FOR OUR 85TH ANNUAL MEETING

SLEMCO MEMBERS attending our 85th Annual Meeting on Saturday, June 11 will have more grand prizes, more prize choices, more chances to win big — all in all, even more reasons to attend!

First, there will be not one but three grand prizes, with the first grand-prize winner choosing between \$25,000 cash or a new car, truck, camper, bass boat or tractor.

The second grand-prize winner will go home with \$5,000 cash, and \$2,500 will go to the lucky member whose name is drawn for the third grand prize.

Doors to the Cajundome in Lafayette will open at 6 a.m. and, starting at 6:30, you can enjoy music from **Geno Delafosse & French Rockin' Boogie**.

Plan on getting to the Cajundome before 8 a.m., because you'll want your prize stub in the barrel when we draw for two early bird prizes: \$5,000 and \$1,000 in cash!



Photos by P.C. Piazza

We will also be giving away 14 other valuable prizes throughout the morning.
Lucky Number: 1034190241.

Vitalant, formerly United Blood Services, will be present for our annual blood drive.

At 10 a.m., things get down to business with presentation of the minutes of the 2019 annual meeting, introduction of directors and guests, plus reports on SLEMCO's operations.

You will be asked to elect four members to the SLEMCO board. The slate of officers nominated in April by the 2022 nominating committee is Acadia Parish — Bryan "Buck" Leonards, Sr., 304 W. 17th Street, Crowley, LA 70526; Lafayette Parish — Carl Comeaux, 209 Burning Oaks Drive, Carencro, LA 70520; St. Landry Parish — Gary Smith, 1866 Highway 356, Sunset, LA 70584; and St. Martin Parish — Jeremy Melancon, 1061 Camille Drive, St. Martinville, LA 70582. **Lucky Number: 1008335905.**



The SLEMCO by-laws provide that a member can become an official candidate for the board by petition. Qualifying by petition this year is: St. Landry Parish, Clifton Dale Sittig, 3594 Highway 190, Eunice, LA 70535. The election will be held during the official business meeting which begins at 10 am. After the conclusion of our business meeting, we'll draw for 20 \$2,000 college scholarships and the grand prizes.

This could be a Saturday you won't forget. You can't win unless you attend — and you don't want to miss your chance to win one of these great prizes. So join us at the Cajundome on Saturday, June 11, and good luck when you drop your prize stub in the barrel! ☺

THIS YEAR'S PRIZES*

18 CHANCES TO WIN!

FIRST GRAND PRIZE

CHOICE OF ONE OF THE FOLLOWING



2022 GMC TERRAIN SLE



OR 2022 ELEVATION CANYON *provided by Courtesy Automotive Group*



\$25,000 CASH



TRACKER BASS BOAT

provided by Henderson Implement & Marine



2022 PASSPORT 221BH

provided by Primeaux RV



KUBOTA 3901 TRACTOR

with implements provided by Henderson Implement & Marine

**SECOND
GRAND PRIZE**
\$5,000 CASH

**THIRD
GRAND PRIZE**
\$2,500 CASH

**8AM EARLY
BIRD PRIZES**
**\$5,000 CASH AND
\$1,000 CASH**

PLUS ADDITIONAL PRIZES



\$500 CASH



**\$500
SLEMCO
CREDITS**



**APPLE
MACBOOK PRO
LAPTOP 13"**



**APPLE IPAD
PRO WITH WIFI
12.9 Inch**

*Actual models may vary depending on supply chain availability



OPEN WITH MORE TO COME

Lafayette's Moncus Park is full of activity.
It's also just plain beautiful.

story and photos by JAMES EDMUNDS

WHEN YOU'RE WATCHING YOUR EIGHT-YEAR OLD ROLL SQUEALING with delight down the grassy hill, or when you're tossing a ball to your romping labradoodle, or when you're slicing along smooth and expansive cement paths in your brand-new roller blades, or when you're selecting fresh produce while musicians serenade you and your fellow shoppers, or when you're snaking along a leafy trail that cuts through nearly-untouched wilderness, or when you're simply sitting and relaxing and taking in the beauty of the lake or the greenery or the skies or the giant sheltering oaks; when you're doing any of these things, you might not be thinking about what kind of process is involved in creating a richly appointed new park from beautiful raw acreage and carrying it forward for your enjoyment. *Lucky Number: 1419234706.*

"Communities are increasingly turning to public-private partnerships for the operation of parks," explains JP MacFadyen, Executive Director of Moncus Park. "When government entities face budget struggles, parks can become vulnerable to cuts. Alternative ways of funding can be more stable and reliable."

Public-private park arrangements have existed for decades, MacFadyen notes, including in some of the nation's most prominent and treasured parks. New York's Central Park, and, closer to Acadiana, City Park in New Orleans, have turned to varieties of this management system to ensure continued and stable funding.



Moncus Park may be a bit more unique in that it has had that approach from its conception.

In 2012 the property was sold from the University of Louisiana Lafayette to the City of Lafayette, which in turn leased it to a private nonprofit that had been stewards of a master development plan. A major philanthropic gift was recognized with the name Moncus Park, and

in the spring of 2018 construction began in earnest. Enough was completed by January 1, 2022, for the park to officially open, even as ambitious Phase II construction continues apace, including a pavilion for the ongoing farmer's market that has been the biggest public connection



to the property during the planning and construction. *Lucky Number: 1431120000.*

"We just can't wait to get the next phase completed," says Elizabeth Brooks, who was a key community proponent of making the property a park, served as its first executive director, and now continues in the role of Founder. "Meanwhile, after all those years of planning, it is so exciting to see the park full of people enjoying the things that are there now." *Lucky Number: 3237142502.*

Major gifts and sponsorship have propelled construction, and meanwhile, the maintenance and operations of the park are largely supported by community donations and memberships. "The story of this park is strong community support," says MacFadyen. "Now that we're open to the public, we're seeing a boom in membership



“After all those years of planning, it is so exciting to see the park full of people enjoying the things that are there now.”



and volunteerism. That’s what pays for the fertilizer and gets the weeds pulled.”

For many of the most engaged and active supporters, Moncus Park amounts to a big, beautiful shared garden and forest, where the natural beauty of the property is honored and preserved.

“Much of that space is planted in native plants,” notes Grounds Manager Mark



Hernandez. “These plants are ones that have their origins here and are better

acclimated to our climate.”

And then, of course, there are the trees. The next phase will include an environmentally sensitive and accessible tree house in one of the most robust of the oaks. *Lucky Number: 4518094500.*

“The tree house will be so much fun,” MacFadyen says, “But for the most part, our approach to the trees here is to take care of them and otherwise do as little as possible, because they are magnificent. In everything we do, we work to preserve the natural beauty of this beautiful site.” 🌱

NOTICE TO MEMBERS OF ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

The members of this year's Nominating Committee, as provided for in the by-laws of the Southwest Louisiana Electric Membership Corporation, have nominated four people to serve three-year terms on the SLEMCO Board of Directors. The nominees are:

ACADIA PARISH

Buck Leonards
304 W. 17th, Crowley, LA 70526

LAFAYETTE PARISH

Carl Comeaux
209 Burning Oaks Drive, Carencro, LA 70520

ST. LANDRY PARISH

Gary Smith
1866 Highway 356, Sunset, LA 70584

ST. MARTIN PARISH

Jeremy Melancon
1061 Camille Drive, St. Martinville, LA 70582

Members of the Nominating Committee are: Fern Hebert, 2739 N Cherokee Drive, Crowley, LA 70526; Dwayne Sonnier, 1000 Rue Des Etoiles, Carencro, LA 70520; Glenn Weber, 454 Wyman, Scott, LA 70583; Patricia Broussard, 3667-B Catahoula Highway, St. Martinville, LA 70582; Ken Hensgens, 33902 Highway 132, Gueydan, LA 70542.

Buck Leonards, Carl Comeaux and Jeremy Melancon are unopposed and they will, therefore, stand re-elected at the Annual Meeting.

The SLEMCO by-laws provide that a member can become an official candidate for the board by petition. Qualifying by petition this year is:

ST. LANDRY PARISH

Clifton Dale Sittig
3594 Highway 190, Eunice, LA 70535

Any member may vote, but they must be present at the annual meeting. Rules concerning who can vote are the same as the rules that spell out who can win prizes with the following exceptions:

- SLEMCO employees and board members cannot win prizes, but they can vote and a duly authorized officer of any firm, corporation, partnership, association or body politic may, upon proper proof of authority, cast the vote of such organization.

- If husband and wife are both at the meeting, only one vote may be cast, and that vote must be cast by the one of them whose name is on the membership.

- If the membership is in the husband's name and he is not present, the wife can cast their one vote. The reverse is also true.

There shall be no speakers or campaigning or distribution of handouts inside the arena of the Cajundome. Once the voting polls have opened, there will be no solicitation for member votes.

Voting stations will be set up in convenient locations in the Cajundome, and the following procedure will be followed:

- Following the declaration of a quorum, Glenn Weber will read the nominating committee's report. SLEMCO's attorney will then conduct the election.

- SLEMCO employees will be stationed at each of the polling places to conduct the election. The nominees in this year's election—Gary Smith of Sunset and Clifton Dale Sittig of Eunice are each entitled to have a commissioner at each of the polling places to observe the voting and the tabulation of the ballots.

- The prospective voter will present himself or herself to a SLEMCO employee at one of the polling places, identify himself or herself and present to the employee his or her registration membership card stub. A photo ID and the member's signature will be required before voting. The stub will be placed in a box and the member will be able to vote.

- Members who are unable to read can receive assistance from the person of their choosing.

- When all members have had an opportunity to vote, the votes will be tabulated by a state official assigned to that job. During the counting, the meeting will continue. Upon the vote tabulation being complete, the winner will be announced.

The drawing for the scholarships and grand prize will not take place until after the meeting is adjourned. ☎

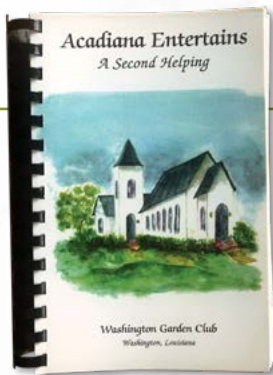
KEEP YOUR FAMILY SAFER WITH A LOW-COST SECURITY LIGHT

Safeguard your loved ones and property for around 27 cents a day* with a new security light from SLEMCO.

CALL US TODAY AT 337-896-5551 AND LIGHT UP THE DARK!

* on an existing SLEMCO pole





let's get COOKING

Whether for a new bride or an aspiring young cook, few cookbooks are as diverse as *Acadiana Entertains*, put out by the Washington (LA) Garden Club. From a caviar cream cheese spread to chicken piccata with artichokes and homemade Kahlua to a crawfish omelet, the short, uncomplicated recipes will make you think, "I got this." There's even a recipe for a cough remedy and a homemade lip salve. At the front of each section is a page of brilliant food and cooking tips. The book, which sells for \$15, can be purchased by texting (337) 349-2901 or (337) 692-1828.

Toasted Mushroom Sandwiches

- ½ lb. fresh mushrooms, chopped
- 2 tbsp. butter or margarine, melted
- 1 (3 oz.) pkg. cream cheese, softened
- 1 (10 ¾ oz.) can cream of mushroom soup, undiluted
- 1 ½ tsp. Worcestershire sauce
- 1 ½ tsp. prepared horseradish
- Dash of garlic powder
- ⅓ cup slivered almonds, toasted
- 32 slices, thin sandwich bread
- Melted butter

Sauté mushrooms in 2 tablespoons butter, drain and set aside. Combine cream cheese and mushroom soup in a small bowl; beat with an electric mixer until smooth. Add sautéed mushroom, Worcestershire sauce horseradish, garlic powder and almonds; stir until blended. Set aside. Trim crust from bread slices; roll each slice with a rolling pin to flatten. Place 1 tablespoon of filling diagonally across each slice; fold opposite corners of bread to overlap in the center, securing with a wooden toothpick. Place sandwich on an ungreased baking sheet. Brush top of each sandwich lightly with melted butter. Bake at 450 degrees for 7 minutes or until lightly browned. Makes 32 sandwich. Sandwiches can be refrigerated up to 24 hours before baking.

Pear Salad

- 4 ripe pears
- ⅛ lb. blue cheese (softened)
- 1 tbsp. butter (room temperature)
- ¼ cup milk
- ¼ lb. cream cheese (softened)
- Salt and pepper
- 2 tsp. chopped parsley
- Lettuce leaves
- Paprika

Peel pears, cut in half and core. Cream blue cheese with butter. Fill pears with blue cheese mixture. Blend milk and cream cheese. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Add parsley and mix well. Place pears

on lettuce leaves. Pour the cream cheese mixture over top and garnish with paprika.

Shrimp Creole

It's worth the drive to Delcambre for fresh shrimp to make this dish. The season starts mid-May.

- ⅓ cup flour
- ⅓ cup oil
- ½ cup medium onion, chopped
- ½ bell pepper, chopped
- ½ cup tomato sauce
- 1 tbsp. Tabasco
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 lbs. raw shrimp, deveined
- ½ cup parsley, chopped
- ½ cup green onion, chopped
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- ½ to 1 cup water

In a Dutch oven or small Magnolite pot, combine oil and flour, stirring until light brown. Add onion, bell pepper, garlic and sauté until tender. Add tomato sauce, ½ cup water, pepper and salt. Simmer for 15 minutes. (Add up to ½ cup more water if too thick for your liking.) Add shrimp, cook until pink. Add green onion and parsley and simmer for about 10 -15 minutes. Serves 4-6.

Eggplant Dressing

- 1 ½ lbs. ground beef
- 1 tbsp. cooking oil
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- ½ bell pepper, chopped
- 1 tbsp. salt
- 1 tsp. black pepper
- 1 tsp. red pepper
- 2 medium-size eggplants, peeled and cut in chunks
- 2 ½ cups cooked rice

Heat oil in large skillet and then brown meat. Add onions, bell pepper, salt, black pepper and red pepper. Cook for 20 minutes, then add eggplants to meat. Add a little water as needed and cook until eggplant

is cooked down. Gently stir in rice and thoroughly combine. Serve.

Oreo Cheesecake Bites

- 20 oz. pkg. Oreo cookies (divided)
- ¼ cup salted butter, melted
- 3-8 oz. pkgs. cream cheese, softened
- ¼ cup granulated sugar
- ¾ cup sour cream, room temperature
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- ½ tsp. salt
- 3 large eggs, room temperature

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Line 9 x 13" pan with aluminum foil, leaving a 2" overhang on both sides. Spray with cooking spray and set aside. Place 28 Oreos (reserve the rest for later) in a food processor and pulse until finely ground. Add the melted butter to the Oreos and stir until the crumbs are completely coated. Evenly press the cookie mixture into the prepared pan. Bake for 10 minutes and transfer to a wire cooking rack. Coarsely chop the remaining Oreo cookies in food processor or by hand. In a large bowl, use a mixer to beat the cream cheese on medium speed. Once smooth and creamy, add the sugar and blend well (about 2 minutes). Scrape down the sides as needed. Beat in the sour cream, vanilla and salt. Scrape bowl and beat again. Add the eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Scrape down the sides and beat again making sure the mixture is fully combined. Gently fold in the Oreos and mix well. Pour the cream cheese mixture over the crust and smooth out on top. Bake for 40 minutes until filling is slightly wobbly in the middle and set on the outside. Move to a wire rack and let cool completely (about an hour).

Once cooled, chill in the refrigerator for at least 3 hours. Once completely cooled, lift from the pan using the foil as handles. Cut into small pieces.



For extra copies of these recipes or to e-mail a copy to a friend, visit SLEMCO POWER magazine at www.slemco.com.

HOW TO WIN PRIZES



WINNING PRIZES AT THE ANNUAL MEETING COULDN'T BE EASIER.

Arrive at the Lafayette Cajundome on Saturday, June 11, before 8 a.m., put your stub in the prize barrel and listen for your name when the prize drawings are announced.

Between 8 and 10 a.m., we'll give away every prize except the scholarships and grand prizes. Winners of any grand prize will not be eligible to win another grand prize at this meeting.

You should receive your invitation card in the mail during the first week of June. Bring that card with you to the Cajundome on June 11. Half of the card will go in the prize barrel; you'll keep the remaining half to claim your prize if your name is drawn. *Lucky Number: 1022225005.*

You or your spouse must be present to claim a prize. No one else can claim a prize for you — not a neighbor, relative or by power of attorney. If you have a commercial account and wish to participate in the drawings, bring a letter to SLEMCO's office by Friday, June 10 stating that you will be your company's authorized representative.

If you misplace your invitation card, come to the meeting anyway. We'll be happy to make you a new one. ☎



LUCKY NUMBER WINNERS!



There were no SLEMCO members who called in to claim their \$100 prize after reading the March/April issue of SLEMCO Power. Those missing out are **Linda Malicoat** of Youngsville, **Patrick Smoak** of Church Point, **Gene Stelly** of Carencro, **Amanda Thibodeaux** of Carencro, **Lucretia Porter** of Carencro, **Nicole Arceneaux** of St Martinville, **Jonathon Johnson** of Ville Platte, **Rebecca Landry** of Broussard, **Crystal Evans** of Parks and **Brittany Landry** of Youngsville. *Lucky Number: 1401894500.*

We've hidden 10 more SLEMCO account numbers in this issue of the magazine. Look to see if you find your SLEMCO account number. If you do, call Michelle Courvelle at 896-2504. Once she verifies you as a winner, she'll credit \$100 to your SLEMCO account. ☎

**WINNERS RECEIVE
\$100 CREDITS!**

Win A 2022 SLEMCO SCHOLARSHIP



YES, YOU CAN WIN A SCHOLARSHIP if you applied before the deadline of May 12. Scholarships will be awarded immediately after the business portion of our meeting, which begins at 10 a.m. Once the barrel is brought to the stage, no more entry cards will be allowed, so please don't be late.

The SLEMCO member who sponsored each applicant must attend the annual meeting and be prepared to claim the scholarship with his or her driver's license. We do not need the student's driver's license. The student isn't required to attend the meeting, but is encouraged to attend and join in the excitement. *Lucky Number: 1011589203.*

In cases where SLEMCO members sponsor themselves or a spouse, either can attend to claim a scholarship, but one must be present to win. *Lucky Number: 3029569501.*

Winners will need to provide SLEMCO with an official transcript from either their university or high school, whichever is applicable, within 30 days of the June 11 Annual Meeting.

If you have questions, call SLEMCO at 896-5384. ☎

