

SLEMCO

POWER



NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2020

RESTORATION AFTER THE STORM

HURRICANE LAURA
ONE OF THE STRONGEST
STORMS EVER TO HIT
LOUISIANA

PAGE 4

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TakeNote

SLEMCO HONORS EMPLOYEE MILESTONES

SLEMCO is honoring 40 service award recipients for 2020 who have a combined total of 897 years of service to the company. Five employees retired during 2020 and the remaining 35 are marking major milestones with the company.

Retirees include Cliff Broussard Jr, inventory control supervisor of Lafayette with 20 years of service; Randy Noel, right-of-way tree trimmer foreman from Grand Coteau with 24 years of service; Donald St. Amand, engineering aide II of Opelousas with 36 years of service; Mona Stout, member services representative of Carencro with 26 years of service; and Boyd Vincent, field utility person from Lafayette with 31 years of service *Lucky Number: 4516664301.*

Marking 40 years with SLEMCO is Ted Guilbeau, line foreman of Duson.

Thirty-five year award winners include Vickie Albert, accounting supervisor from Youngsville; Lisa Hebert, member services specialist from Breaux Bridge; Stephanie Holder, administrative assistant from Youngsville; Brian Primeaux, substation operations superintendent from Youngsville; and Tommy Rogers Jr, senior field engineer from Lafayette.

Celebrating 30 years of service each to SLEMCO are Bryon Brice, assistant supervisor of distribution engineering from Duson; Bunny Byrom, member services office assistant of Opelousas; Don Comeaux, serviceman from Lafayette; Jimmy Davidson III, attorney from Maurice; Timond Faulk, meter reader from Kaplan; and Dwayne Latiolais, line

foreman from Washington.

Marking 20 years each with the company are Brady Abshire, lineman class A from Kaplan; Neil Arnaud, safety and training coordinator from Carencro; Shad Babineaux, line foreman from Opelousas; Derek Baker, right-of-way tree trimmer foreman of Kaplan; Michelle Broussard, senior accounting clerk of Breaux Bridge; Robbie Calais, underground crewman

class B from Breaux Bridge; Clint

Comeaux, senior substation foreman from New Iberia; Shane Joubert, engineering information technician from Opelousas; Brian Lavergne, underground crewman class A from Carencro;

Brady Prejean, mechanic shop supervisor of Lafayette; and Paul Saizan, lineman class A from Opelousas.

Fifteen-year award recipients include Nicole Clements, controller from Breaux Bridge; Bret Dore, serviceman from St. Martinville; Tim Guidry, line foreman from St. Martinville; Pam Meaux, engineering aide II of Lafayette; and Justin Young, lineman class A of Church Point.

Seven employees are marking ten years of service each with SLEMCO. They include Caleb Barousse, meter reader from Church Point; Brady Bernard, underground crewman class B of Breaux Bridge; Hunter Broussard, lineman class A from Kaplan; Heather Doucet, assistant accounting supervisor from Lafayette; Jonathan Hebert, lineman class A from Opelousas; Ross Johnson, underground crewman apprentice from Washington; and Byron Smith, warehouse clerk from Carencro *Lucky Number: 134194223.* ☎



2021 SLEMCO HOLIDAYS

All SLEMCO offices will be closed for holidays on the following dates:

JANUARY 1 - New Year's Day

FEBRUARY 16 - Mardi Gras

APRIL 2 - Good Friday

MAY 31 - Memorial Day

JULY 5 - Observed Independence Day

SEPTEMBER 6 - Labor Day

NOVEMBER 25 & 26 - Thanksgiving

DECEMBER 23 - Christmas Eve

DECEMBER 24 - Christmas Day

JANUARY 1 - New Year's Day

CAREFUL TREE PLANTING AND PRUNING HELP PROTECT YOUR ELECTRICAL SERVICE



No one wants to be without power after a storm. But when trees are planted too close to power lines, major problems can arise in the wake of high winds and severe weather.

Some thoughtful planning before you grab your shovel will protect your investment in your trees while ensuring uninterrupted electrical service for you and your neighbors.

Keep two things in mind when planting and maintaining the trees on your property: allow for full growth and eliminate potential problem branches before severe weather.

ALLOW FOR FULL GROWTH

Before planting, make sure that the height of your tree at maturity won't interfere with nearby power lines. Looking at a skinny sapling, it's easy to underestimate how much space it will claim in 20 or 30 years as a majestic live oak.

According to Jim Foret, a local licensed consulting arborist, the key to avoiding problems is knowing the characteristics of the tree you're planting and understanding how trees grow.

Before purchasing a tree, know what to expect, he said. It's easy to find the width and height each species of tree is capable of reaching.

"The International Society of Arboriculture has great information on everything from tree selection and planting, to care and pruning, at the website www.treesaregood.com," Foret noted.

ELIMINATE PROBLEM BRANCHES

It's easiest to avoid planting a new tree in the wrong spot. But over the years, many pre-existing trees may have grown close to power lines.

If you see a potential problem with a tree near power lines on your property, call SLEMCO. It's better to remove a stray limb interfering with power lines now, before it causes an outage during a major storm. Trimming now is safer for the tree and for your neighborhood's electric service.

"Our trees evolved in woodlands," Foret explained. "When we try to grow trees in the open, with light on all sides, instead of growing up they tend to grow unnaturally to the side—either too wide or with double trunks—and therefore tend to fall apart when older."

"You should lightly trim your tree for the first time as soon as you plant it," Foret said, "because it came from the nursery with flaws and defects. This 'training' should continue for the life of the tree *Lucky Number: 4516121603*. As they grow, continue trimming to avoid growth of excessively wide side branches—the tree's structure can't handle the weight—so don't wait until they break; keep pruning as the tree continues to grow."

No one, including SLEMCO, wants to see a tree trimmed in an unattractive manner. Plant a proper distance from lines and keep stray limbs near lines carefully trimmed. If you see a potential problem with a tree near power lines on your property, call SLEMCO.

SOURCE OF POWER BLINKS

Stray branches that might touch power lines can cause other problems. Special devices are built into the electrical distribution system that cause power to temporarily go out whenever a power line comes into contact with a foreign object, such as a tree limb brushing against the line.

These devices offer increased safety in the event of accidents and help minimize damage to electric lines, reducing repair time.

[Caution: always assume any downed power line is dangerous! Report the problem to SLEMCO and keep well clear until it has been repaired.]

When a power line contacts a foreign object, these safety devices cause power to go off momentarily and then come back on. If the foreign object is still in contact with the line, power will again go off briefly. When the power comes back on, if the fault (the foreign object coming into contact with the line) has cleared, the power will stay on. If not, the power will go off again and stay off. This can cause power "blinks" you may notice occasionally at your home or business.

These blinks may be a minor nuisance because you might have to reset clocks or digital equipment.

Normally the culprit is a tree limb brushing the line.

No one, including SLEMCO, wants to see a tree trimmed in an unattractive manner. So the best alternative is to plant at a proper distance from lines and keep stray limbs near lines carefully trimmed.

To keep your trees healthy, never remove more than 15 to 20 percent of a tree's leaves at one pruning, Foret explained. And bumps from mowers and weed eaters are major causes of damage. Mulching an area around the tree avoids that problem, he said *Lucky Number: 1116588000*.

The result of your careful efforts will be a beautiful, healthy tree that will better withstand storms and be less likely to pose problems for your house or nearby power lines.

If you have any questions concerning proper locations for new trees and need assistance from SLEMCO, call Gentry Laper at 886-3371. ☎



Photo by Mike Hebert

HURRICANE LAURA

A STRONG ADVERSARY

Hurricane Laura was a deadly Category 4 hurricane that tied the 1856 “Last Island” hurricane as the strongest hurricane to strike Louisiana’s coastline in terms of wind speed. Early on August 27, Laura made landfall near peak intensity at Cameron, Louisiana.

Four parishes in SLEMCO’s service territory were declared federal disaster areas after Hurricane Laura: Acadia, Cameron, St. Landry and Vermilion. Other parishes declared as disaster areas are Allen, Beauregard, Caddo, Calcasieu, Grant, Jackson, Jefferson Davis, LaSalle, Lincoln, Morehouse, Natchitoches, Ouachita, Rapides, Sabine, Union, Winn, and Vernon.

► SLEMCO crews working with some of our out-of-state contractors to restore power after Hurricane Laura.



Photo by Mary Laurent

► Line workers felt the love and appreciation from the community wherever they went.

▼ SLEMCO line workers restore power in Acadia Parish.



Photo by Kimberly Ann Photography

Photo by Kevin Guidry



Photo by Kimberly Ann Photography

Photo by Kevin Guidry



Photo by Josh Brou

▲ Assessing the damage after Hurricane Laura made landfall.



Photo by Hollis McGrew

◀ Dispatchers, on call 24/7, tell field crews where they should go next.

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

PROTECT YOUR UTILITIES

Before you dig that new flower-bed or install the accompanying sprinkler system, call LA One Call to ensure that no water, sewer, phone, fiber optic, power lines or underground cables are just below the surface *Lucky Number: 1303456008*.

Not only could you be saving your life—as in the case of pressurized gas lines or underground electric lines—you will be following Louisiana law. Failure to comply with this law can result in civil penalties of up to \$25,000.

Since 1988, the law requires anyone who will be digging or excavating to

contact LA One Call by dialing 811 or 1-800-272-3020 at least 48 hours (excluding weekends and holidays) before digging is scheduled to begin *Lucky Number: 4517293800*.

The program used to be called “DOTTIE” (Dial One Time To Inform Everyone). You may be more familiar with that name, but the service and the requirements

are still the same. Once you call in to report your plans, LA One Call will use a computerized mapping system and notify potential utilities or pipeline owners that you will be working near their services. Those companies will come and mark their lines and equipment so you can avoid damage to their equipment or danger to yourself.

LA One Call recommends that you mark your proposed excavation area with white paint, flags or stakes so that utility representatives will know exactly where to search for potential lines or pipelines.

SLEMCO is a member of LA One Call. Since not all utilities are members, it is important to check the Louisiana Secretary of State’s website under Other Services for a list of utilities that have opted out of the program. To get those companies to mark their services in your area, you’ll need to contact them directly.

For more information, visit <http://www.laonecall.com> or <http://www.sos.louisiana.gov/tabid/669/Default.aspx>. ☎



LUCKY NUMBER WINNERS

There were no SLEMCO members who called in to claim their \$50 prize after reading the July/August issue of *SLEMCO Power*. Those missing out on a \$50 SLEMCO credit include **Sherell Dural** of

Broussard, **Jeanette McDaniel** of Ville Platte, **Dan Reed** of Church Point, **Shirley Thibodeaux** of Kaplan, **Rayel Babin** of Broussard, **Mitchell Fontenot** of Bunkie, **David Steele** of Morse, **Angela Acosta** of Broussard, **Christopher Herpin** of Kaplan and **Brandon Latham** of Broussard *Lucky Number: 3206139200*.

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 Courville at 896-2504. Once she verifies you as a winner, she’ll credit \$50 to your SLEMCO account. ☎



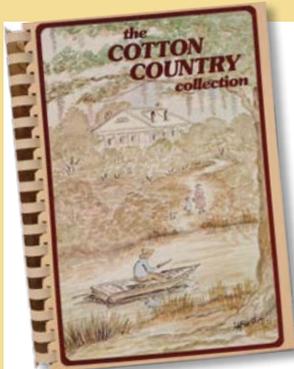
WINNERS RECEIVE \$50 CREDITS!

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PS Form 3526, July 2014



The Junior League ladies of Monroe have compiled a most diverse collection of Cajun, Italian, Greek, Mexican, Chinese, Indian and

Russian dishes in their cookbook *The Cotton Country Collection*. This book offers everything from an interesting take on pig in the blankets to the Russian hand pie piroshki and a wild turkey recipe (the bird). And, you've gotta love a cookbook that opens with a 13-pg. "Drinks" section. You can get it on Amazon for under \$17.

Potatoes Stuffed with Crabmeat

During the holidays, everything should be amped up a bit.

- 10 medium baking potatoes
- 1 stick butter
- 1 cup half-and-half
- 1-1/2 tsp. salt
- 1-1/2 tsp. white pepper
- 3/4 cup green onions and tops, finely chopped
- 6-1/2 ozs. canned or fresh crabmeat
- 1 cup grated Swiss or Havarti cheese

Scrub potatoes well and bake in a 450-degree oven until thoroughly done. Cut the potatoes lengthwise, scoop out the pulp, being cautious to leave the shell intact. Mash potatoes with butter, cream, salt and pepper and mix thoroughly. Gently fold in onions and crabmeat. Fill the potato shells with the mixture and top with the grated cheese. Bake at 350 for 15 to 20 minutes or until the cheese is melted. This may be made ahead of time and baked later. They also freeze very well. Serves 10.

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

Marie Louise's Turkey

The cookbook's editor says this is the juiciest and most flavorful turkey you'll ever cook!

- 1 whole turkey
- Dry mustard
- Worcestershire sauce
- Olive oil
- Salt and pepper to taste
- White vinegar
- 1 onion, unpeeled and cut in half
- 2 stalks celery
- Little parsley
- 2 strips bacon
- 1 stick butter
- 2 cups chicken stock

If you buy a frozen turkey, be sure that it is well thawed. (Check for bag of gizzards inside and remove). A few hours or a day before you plan to cook turkey, combine dry mustard, Worcestershire sauce, olive oil, salt, pepper and just a little vinegar enough to make a soft paste. Rub the paste inside and outside of the turkey. Preheat the oven to 300 degrees. Then, place two onion halves, celery stalks and parsley inside the turkey. Across the breast of the turkey, lay two pieces of bacon and in crevices between the drumsticks and the body of the turkey, stick chunks of butter. Soak a clean dish towel or cheesecloth in olive oil, lay it over the turkey and put in a roaster, uncovered. Add stock in the roaster. Use this gauge to determine cooking time:

- 7 - 10 lbs.- 30 minutes per lb.
- 10 -15 lbs.- 20 minutes per lb.
- 15-18 lbs.- 18 minutes per lb.
- 18-20 lbs.- 15 minutes per lb.

A Great Mornay Sauce

Delicious over broccoli or asparagus tips

- 2 tbs. butter
- 2 tbs. flour
- 2/3 cup chicken stock
- 1/3 cup vermouth
- 1/4 cup grated Swiss cheese
- Salt & pepper to taste

In a medium saucepan on medium heat, combine the flour and butter constantly

stirring until lightly golden. Combine chicken stock and vermouth. Slowly blend this mixture into the roux. Stir and cook until mixture thickens. Add cheese and continue stirring until completely melted. Season to taste.

NOTE: Don't leave out the vermouth; it makes a difference. Vermouth can also be used with shrimp and other shell fish dishes for a slightly sweet taste.

German Sweet Chocolate Pie

An easy, showstopper dessert for the holiday table.

Crust:

- 4 egg whites, room temperature
- 1/4 tsp. cream of tartar
- 1/8 tsp. salt
- 1 cup sugar
- 1/2 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1/2 cup finely chopped walnuts

Filling:

- (2) 8-oz. packages German's sweet chocolate
- 6 tbs. water
- 2 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1 tsp. instant coffee granules
- 2 cups heavy cream

Preheat oven to 275 degrees. Combine egg whites with cream of tartar and salt. Beat, in a chilled bowl, until foamy. Add sugar gradually while beating until meringue makes very stiff, glossy peaks. Gently fold in vanilla and nuts with rubber spatula. Spread over bottom and sides of a well-greased, 9-inch pie plate. Bake 50 minutes. Turn oven off and leave meringue shell in until oven is cooled.

Filling: Place chocolate and water in a saucepan over low heat. Stir until chocolate has melted. Add coffee granules. Cool and add vanilla. Beat the cream until whipped cream is formed. Gently fold chocolate mixture into whipped cream and pile into cooled meringue crust. Refrigerate at least two hours before serving.

NOTE: The coffee granules really enhance the chocolate.



HURRICANE LAURA REBUILDING ONE LINE AT A TIME

Hurricane Laura was a tough one. She cut a swath of destruction from the Gulf to the Arkansas state line. A few places along the coast were not only damaged by high winds, but we also had to wait for water to recede before we could restore power *Lucky Number: 1210084101.*

Many locations were accessed by specialized equipment on tracks that go where our large line trucks can't when the ground is saturated. Thanks to all our crews, staff and customers for your patience and understanding *Lucky Number: 2119252535.* We couldn't have accomplished what we did without your support. 🙏

#WhateverItTakes #InItTogether