

SLEMCO

POWER

HURRICANE IDA

SPARED AT HOME,
SLEMCO SENDS HELP



EMPLOYEE
HONORS

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TAKE NOTE

SLEMCO HONORS EMPLOYEE MILESTONES



SLEMCO IS HONORING 41 SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS FOR 2021 who have a combined total of 883 years of service to the company. Eight employees retired during 2021.

Retirees include Bonita Byrom of Opelousas, member services office assistant with 31 years of service; Clint Comeaux of New Iberia, senior substation foreman with 20 years of service; Dennis Desormeaux of Lafayette, district superintendent with 35 years of service; Timond Faulk of Kaplan, meter reader with 31 years of service; James Fontenot of Lafayette, an underground specialist with 39 years of service; Ted Guilbeaux of Duson, a line foreman with 40 years of service; Lita Mills of Cecilia, member services supervisor with 23 years of service; and Kenneth Primeaux of Kaplan, dispatcher with 34 years of service.

Dwayne Doxey of Rayne, meter shop foreman and Wayne Phillips of Lafayette, marketing and governmental affairs supervisor each marked 40 years of service with the company. *Lucky Number: 4504492305.*

Thirty-five year award recipients included Gerald Larriviere of Lafayette, service clerk; Mary Laurent of Lafayette, communications coordinator; and CEO & General Manager Glenn Tamporello of Breaux Bridge.

Celebrating 30 years each with SLEMCO were Brian Latiolais of Church Point, warehouse & inventory clerk; Chad Miller of Church Point, serviceman; and Christopher Smith of Lafayette, senior IT specialist.

Corey Courville of Breaux Bridge, meter shop technician, marked 25 years with the company.

Twenty-year award recipients included Joshua Boudreaux of Morse, line foreman; Michelle Courvelle of Opelousas, capital credit representative; and Wade Lacombe of Basile, Class A lineman.

Twelve employees celebrated 15 years of service each. They included Bryan "Blake" Andrepont of Church Point, senior substation foreman; Brent Bergeron of Scott, project field engineer; Stacy Bragg of Opelousas, staff secretary; Joseph "Andy" Fontenot of Port Barre, mechanic; Kevin Guidry of Cankton, line foreman; Gentry Laper of Carencro, right-of-way supervisor; Gregory "Ty" Lavergne of Rayne, Class A lineman; Hunter Peltier of Breaux Bridge, line foreman; William Quirk of Washington, Class A lineman; Karen Rutland of Lafayette, engineering supervisor; Damon Vincent of Scott, line foreman; and Nicholas Vincent of Crowley, line foreman. *Lucky Number: 4506234601.*

Ten-year award recipients included Keith Blanchard of Scott, AMT supervisor; Randy Bolde of Lafayette, IT supervisor; Sean Cormier of Carencro, Class A lineman; Chance Lavergne of Arnaudville, serviceman; Ryan Mayon Jr. of Opelousas, Class B lineman; Torey Quebedeaux of Arnaudville, Class A lineman; Paul Richard of Carencro, underground crew foreman; Charles Sonnier of Abbeville, director; and Merlin Young of Church Point, director. 📍

season's greetings

2022 SLEMCO HOLIDAYS

ALL SLEMCO OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED FOR HOLIDAYS ON THE FOLLOWING DATES

DECEMBER 31, 2021 – *New Year's Day Observed*

MARCH 1 – *Mardi Gras*

APRIL 15 – *Good Friday*

MAY 30 – *Memorial Day*

JULY 4 – *Independence Day*

SEPTEMBER 5 – *Labor Day*

NOVEMBER 24 & 25 – *Thanksgiving*

DECEMBER 23 – *Christmas Eve Observed*

DECEMBER 26 – *Christmas Day Observed*

JANUARY 2, 2023 *New Year's Day Observed*





— PROPERTY SOLUTIONS —

IMPROVE YOUR HOME'S DRAINAGE

Massive amounts of rain this summer have likely shown you the depth of drainage issues in your yard. Now that we've dried out and cooled off some, it's time to assess—and then tackle—issues before they get worse.

Do you have standing pools of water in certain areas of your yard? Is runoff causing erosion? Make notes now of the problem areas while it's fresh in your mind. You could stake and flag those areas, or create a rough drawing of your house along with vegetation and other key structures known as a base map. Experts suggest you draw it to scale, but a simple sketch that notes how the water flows away from your house and where the flooding and/or erosion occurs will be helpful.

Solving poor drainage may seem like a daunting task, but the homeowner has many options to minimize, divert, and infiltrate runoff water. *Lucky Number: 4516375102.*

Let's start with some solutions to **MINIMIZE** the impact of hard surfaces, which channels water quickly over the ground surface instead of soaking into the soil:

NATIVE LAWNS. Traditional cultivated lawn grasses have shallow root systems. Planting deep-rooted natives, as a lawn replacement or in areas where you need to slow runoff, can be very helpful. It also has the added benefit of holding soil in place and filtering pollutants.



Some flooding issues require more in-depth solutions to **DIVERT** rainwater away from your house and/or low areas.

GRAVEL OR STEPPINGSTONES.

Use for pathways instead of concrete; to avoid fines and clay material that compact into a hard surface over time, use 3/4-inch rock or pea gravel.

OPEN BRICKWORK OR POROUS PAVING MATERIALS.



This includes open block pavers that can be filled with gravel, sand, soil or planted with vegetation for large areas like a driveway. Porous, poured concrete is also available from some contractors.

DRAINAGE DITCH OR SWALE.

According to LSU AgCenter's Heather Kirk-Ballard, a drainage swale is a shallow trench that slopes downward to an appropriate drainage point, so the water drains away from the area where water is pooling. A grass-planted swale kept free of clippings and debris

is also effective where the downhill slope does not exceed four percent and the area that drains to the channel does not exceed 2 acres (90,000 sq. ft.). Otherwise, the swale should be lined with rock to prevent erosion. *Lucky Number: 3115490000.*

Some flooding issues require more in-depth solutions to **DIVERT** rainwater away from your house and/or low areas.

GUTTERS. Properly installed and maintained gutters can help channel rainwater to appropriate drainage points.



You can even install extenders and/or spreaders to make sure water doesn't stand around the foundation and water is directed to areas like a swale or rain garden.

FRENCH DRAIN. A sloped trench filled with gravel and a drainage pipe enclosed in landscape cloth is covered with soil or stone at grade level. This diverts standing water or runoff below ground to a ditch, bayou or a dry well.

RAIN BARRELS. Used in tandem with gutters, rain barrels are an excellent way to collect and store water from your roof; keeping it out of your yard.



This water can be used in times of low rainfall to water your garden or lawn and save on your water bill. Pro tip: utilize a top with fine mesh to keep the mosquitos out.

GRADING. If water tends to collect near the house, first check the contour of the ground to make sure your yard slopes down from the foundation and out towards the edges of the yard. If your property drains poorly and has little to no sloping, then major groundwork may be the only solution to correct the problem.

Implementing good drainage is important to protect the foundation of your home, and is also environmentally friendly. But before grabbing a shovel or hiring a backhoe crew, dial 811, which notifies utilities, including SLEMCO, that you will be digging in the area. 📍

Don't despair quite yet.

There are a few **INFILTRATION** options that work with standing water rather than against it.

DRY WELL. A large, deep container or hole filled with rocks, where the water collects and slowly percolates into the soil far from your foundation. Ballard suggests a combination of the above options: connect a French drain to a downspout and lead the water away from the house to collect into a dry well. However, if your soil does not drain well, a dry well will not be very helpful. *Lucky Number: 4502341700.*

ROCK INFILTRATION TRENCH. Long, relatively shallow excavated areas, lined with filter fabric, then filled with rock, capture runoff from a parking area or the roof of a building without a foundation like a shed. Be sure to leave at least six inches between the edge of a poured concrete or asphalt driveway to prevent undermining.

RAIN GARDEN. A shallow depression in the ground planted with native vegetation that captures runoff and allows it to soak into the ground, reducing flooding. Plant rain gardens with drought and flood-tolerant native plants, then add mulch. Situate the garden in a low area that holds standing water, at least 10 feet away from the house and 50 feet from septic tanks. In addition to improving drainage and filtering pollutants, rain gardens provide valuable habitats for birds, butterflies, and many beneficial insects. *Lucky Number: 2410804003.*



TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO NOTE THE LOW AREAS THAT HOLD WATER IN YOUR YARD AND MAKE A PLAN TO HELP IMPROVE DRAINAGE

Photo by Heather Kirk-Ballard/LSU AgCenter (Rain, Rain, Go Away; 5/21/21)

HURRICANE IDA

GETTING
THE POWER
BACK ON AND
LIVES BACK
TO NORMAL

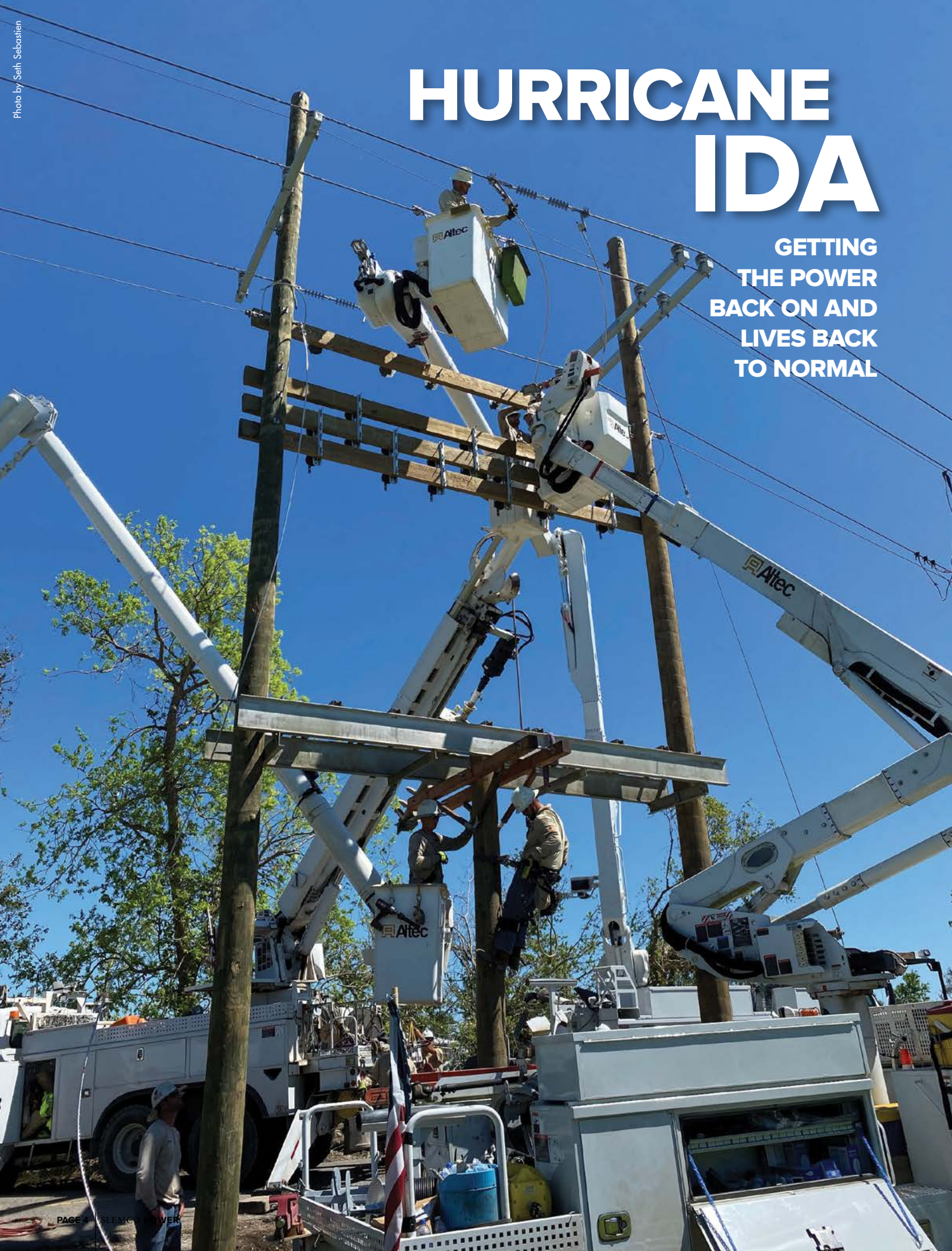




Photo by Mary Laurent

SLEMCO's service area was blessedly spared a direct hit from Hurricane Ida. The Category 4 storm made landfall August 29 near Port Fourchon, about 10 miles southwest of Grand Isle, with winds up to 150 mph.



Photo by Mary Laurent

The storm's hurricane-force winds extended 50 miles from the center on the 16th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina. More than 189,000 customers remained without power for weeks.



Photo by Blake Bourgeois



Photo by Kimberly Ann Photography



Photo by Kimberly Ann Photography

SLEMCO responded with 75 line workers and support staff over a four-week timeframe to help restore power in SLECA's service area. 📍

— PROTECT YOUR UTILITIES —

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

BEFORE YOU DIG THAT NEW FLOWERBED 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.

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: 3412089501.*

The program used to be called “DOTIE” (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 two lucky SLEMCO members, **Dolores Mills** of Cecilia and **Paul Baudoin** of Milton, who called in to claim their \$100 prize after reading the September/October issue of *SLEMCO Power*. Those missing out on a \$100 SLEMCO credit include **Marvin Jordan** of Opelousas, **Dawn Dupuy** of Broussard, **Stanford Brasseaux** of Scott, **Randy Fontenot** of Carencro, **David Gatte** of Iota, **Taryn Ransom** of Carencro, **Courtney Bell** of Kaplan, **Erica Thibodeaux** of Crowley and **Gerry Stelly** of Kaplan. *Lucky Number: 4516593900.*

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 \$100 to your SLEMCO account. ☎

WINNERS RECEIVE \$100 CREDITS!

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PS Form 3526, July 2014

let's get COOKING



Utilities line workers came from Colorado to Maine, Texas to North Carolina and from up north to help restore power after Hurricane Ida hit our state.

They were thanked the most important way Cajuns know how: with food. Although many were sent care packages, of nonperishable items, when they returned home, they missed what many said “was the best food of their lives.” Here we share a few of the linemen favorites requested by them, their wives, mothers and other family members. You can find more on Facebook at Storm Recipes and *Val's Cajun Cooking Advisory Group*.

Brown Sugar, Sweet Potato Cornbread

Great with chili!

- 1 ¼ cup self-rising cornmeal
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 cup mashed sweet potato
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- ½ tsp. baking soda
- ¾ tsp. salt
- 1 cup whole milk
- ½ cup butter, melted
- 2 eggs, lightly beaten
- ½ cup brown sugar
- 1 tsp. vanilla

Molasses Butter

- ½ cup salted butter
- 1 tbs. molasses

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. In a large bowl, combine the cornmeal, flour, brown sugar, baking powder, baking soda and salt. In a separate bowl, beat together mashed sweet potato, eggs, melted butter (cooled) and vanilla.

Pour the sweet potato mixture into the flour mixture. Stir in most of the way, then whisk in the milk. Beat until smooth but don't over mix. Heat a skillet (preferably cast iron) with a tablespoon of butter and once hot, pour in batter. Bake for 25 minutes or until a toothpick comes out clean when put in the center. Slather on molasses butter.

Molasses Butter: Whip the salted butter with the molasses until creamy.

Crab Puppies

- 1 lb. crabmeat
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1 cup crushed Ritz crackers
- 1 tsp. yellow mustard
- 2 tbs. fresh lemon juice
- 2 tbs. parsley, chopped
- 1 tsp. Old Bay seasoning
- 1 tbs. Worcestershire Sauce

Place crabmeat in a mixing bowl, picking out any shell pieces. Add crushed crackers, Old Bay seasoning and parsley to the crab. In a separate bowl, combine egg, mustard, lemon juice and Worcestershire sauce. Whisk until smooth. Pour egg mixture over the crabmeat and crackers and gently mix careful not to break up large lumps of crabmeat. Mold into golf ball-size balls and place on a parchment-lined cookie sheet. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes. Drizzle with melted butter and allow to cool.

Meatball Fricassee

- 2 lbs. ground beef
- White onion, finely chopped
- ½ bell pepper, finely chopped
- ½ cup Worcestershire sauce
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- ½ cup Ritz crackers, crushed
- 3 tbs. minced garlic
- ½ stick butter, unsalted
- Jar of dark roux

In a bowl, combine ground beef, Worcestershire sauce, salt, pepper and cracker crumbs. Roll meatballs about 2" round.

Melt butter in a Magnalite (or stock) pot and add the onions and bell pepper. Sauté for about 5 minutes on medium heat or until softened. Add the garlic and sauté for two more minutes, careful not to let it brown. (Brown garlic is bitter.)

Add the meatballs to the pot. Keep the temperature to medium heat and cover the pot. Cook for about 10 minutes, then turn the meatballs in the pot and cook for another 10 minutes. When the meatballs are brown, add some roux and water, per instructions on the jar. Should be enough liquid to reach 1/2 - 3/4 up to the meatballs. The consistency of the roux should be like turkey gravy: thick, but not too thick. Not watery! (As the roux cooks, it becomes thicker.) Simmer for about 10 minutes. Once roux is the right consistency, cover and let it simmer for about 30-45 minutes to blend flavors. Serve over rice.

Pecan Puddles (aka pralines)

One lineman who wanted this recipe said these are “worse than crack.”

- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup light brown sugar, packed in measuring cup
- ¾ cup heavy whipping cream
- 4 tbs. unsalted butter, cut into cubes
- ⅛ tsp. baking soda
- 2¼ cups pecan halves
- ½ tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract

Set out parchment or wax paper to spoon the pralines onto later and have a tablespoon-size scoop and candy thermometer on hand.

Add everything but the pecans, salt and vanilla extract to a medium pot and heat over medium heat. Stir regularly until it begins to foam and boil then stir constantly until it reaches 236 degrees. Remove pot from heat and add the pecans, salt and vanilla extract.

Stir vigorously with a rubber spatula for 3 1/2 minutes, or until the mixture begins to thicken. The longer you stir, the thicker the mixture gets. You don't want it to get too thick, or it'll be hard to scoop the pralines and they'll dry more firm.

Quickly drop heaping tablespoons of the mixture onto parchment or wax paper and allow them to cool and firm. If the mixture is too thin and spreads more than you want, stir a little bit more. If the pot mixture starts to thicken too soon, place it back on the warm burner (but don't turn on the heat) and let it keep the mixture warmer. It helps to stir the mixture after every few scoops. When pralines are cool and firm, store in an airtight container.



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

— GIVING THANKS FOR —

ACTS OF KINDNESS



SLEMCO POWER RESTORATION CREWS

were among thousands who hustled to restore power after Hurricane Ida left entire communities in the dark. Some of those utility crews were left sleeping in tougher situations than those they were helping. Thanks to communities and businesses like Kristy Gant and her staff at the Clarion Inn in Morgan City, SLEMCO responders were well taken care of, leaving lasting impressions of comfort and kindness on both sides. *Lucky Number:* 2035467544. 📞



Photo by Mary Laurent

“Y’all should be incredibly proud of the men and their character. It’s absolutely way above and beyond the normal southern gentlemen standard. I’ll forever be a part of the SLEMCO family as long as I’m concerned.”

—Kristy Gant, General Manager



SLEMCO serviced some of the hardest hit areas, such as, Houma, Theriot, Bayou Dularge, Grand Caillou, Bayou Black and Ashland. Little ones were curious about our workers and our tools. *Lucky Number:* 1126130000.

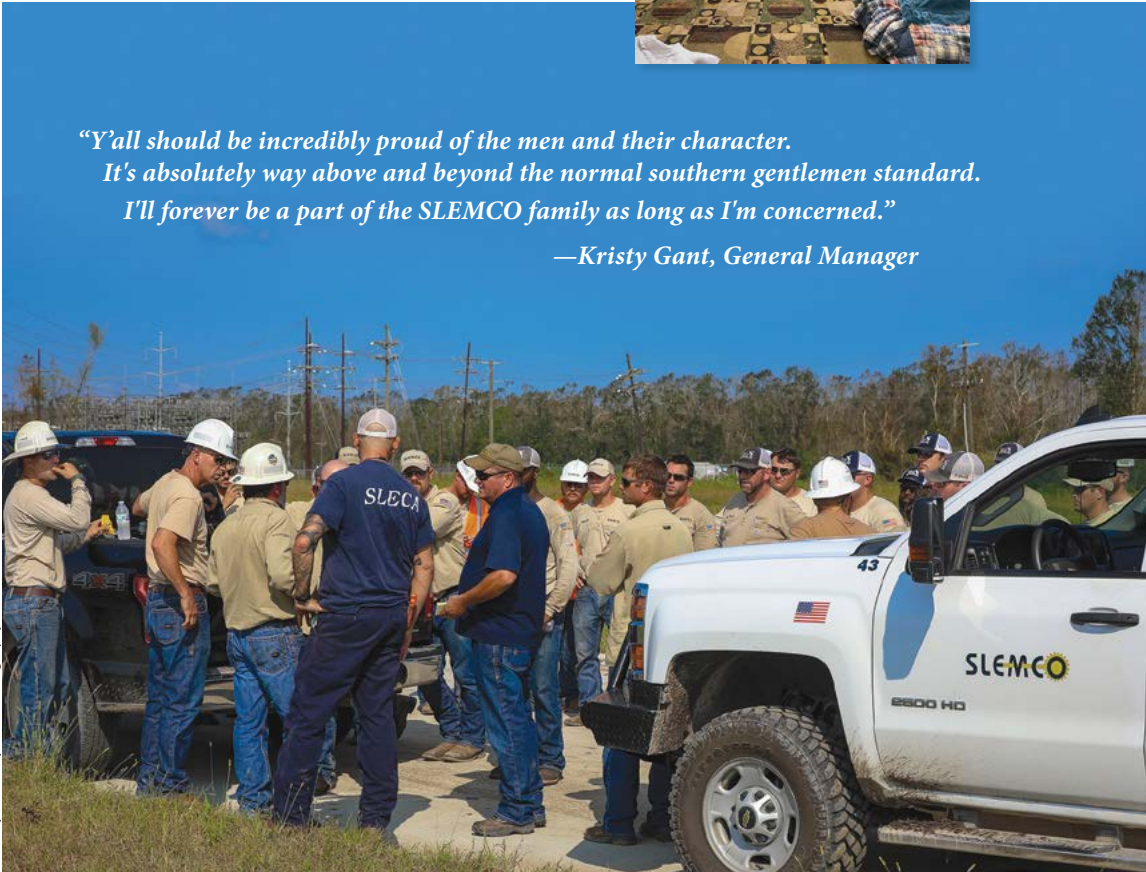


Photo by Kimberly Ann Photography