

# POWER

## Mom, Dad, and the Kids, too

SLEMCO, A CULTURE  
OF FAMILY SUPPORT

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2727 SE Evangeline Thruway  
P.O. Box 90866  
Lafayette, Louisiana 70509  
Phone 337-896-5384  
www.slemco.com

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## TAKE NOTE

### PLAN NOW TO APPLY FOR SLEMCO'S SCHOLARSHIP DRAWING

# SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

TO BE  
MAILED IN  
FEBRUARY  
BILLS

#### TWENTY SCHOLARSHIPS VALUED

at \$2,000 each will be awarded at our annual meeting on June 11th. Applications for the 2022 scholarship drawing will be mailed with every SLEMCO bill in February. The entry deadline is Thursday, May 12, at 4:30 p.m. in the Lafayette SLEMCO office; mailed entries must be postmarked by May 12.

When you receive the form, fill out the application if you, your spouse, your dependent child or legal ward plan to attend an accredited university or trade school in Louisiana this fall.

Due to Internal Revenue Service rules, applicants who are dependent children must not turn 24 during 2022. The IRS prohibits parents from claiming children as dependents during the year they turn 24, even if they are full-time students.

Any applicants turning 24 during 2022 must have their own SLEMCO account. They can't be sponsored by a parent or guardian, but they may be sponsored by a spouse, since all SLEMCO accounts are considered community property under state law. *Lucky Number: 4516584103.*

If you need more than one application, photocopy both sides of the one you receive in your February bill or download one from [www.slemco.com](http://www.slemco.com). Only one application per student will be accepted so everyone has the same chance to win. Duplicate entries will be voided. Make sure to fill out the application **completely** and sign the form where indicated.

Eligibility requirements are listed on each form, so please read them carefully.

Here's a quick overview:

◆ Only SLEMCO customers, their spouses, children or legal wards are eligible to win a scholarship. A member cannot sponsor grandchildren, nephews, nieces or friends except as their legal guardian. Children cannot be considered a dependent if they will turn 24 years of age anytime during 2022.

◆ The scholarship monies can be used by undergraduate students to attend, on a full-time basis, any public or private Louisiana university or trade school as accredited by the University of Louisiana System; Louisiana State University System, Southern University System, Louisiana Community and Technical College System, Louisiana Board of Regents Proprietary School System, Louisiana Association of Independent Colleges and Universities or the US Department of Education.

◆ All applicants must have graduated from high school with at least a "C" average. Continuing college or trade school students must have at least a 2.0 cumulative grade point average (on a 4.0 scale). Graduate or doctoral students do not qualify. *Lucky Number: 3118165002.*

◆ The sponsoring SLEMCO member must have been a member for the past 12 consecutive months, as of May 12, 2022.

◆ The applicant is not required to attend the annual meeting on June 11, but the sponsoring member or member's spouse must attend to claim a scholarship. If a member or spouse is applying, either spouse may attend the meeting to claim the scholarship.

Questions about SLEMCO scholarships should be directed to Tonya Chenier at 896-5384. Completed applications should be mailed to the SLEMCO Scholarship Program, P.O. Box 90866, Lafayette, LA 70509-0866.

Any entry received after the May 12 deadline will be ineligible. Ⓡ

ENTRY  
DEADLINE

MAY 12  
2022



— KNOW YOUR OPTIONS —

# WAYS TO PAY YOUR ENERGY BILL

WHETHER YOU CHOOSE TO PAY YOUR BILL IN PERSON, BY MAIL OR AUTOMATICALLY EVERY MONTH, SLEMCO MAKES PAYMENT AS EASY AND CONVENIENT AS POSSIBLE, WITH OPTIONS TO FIT EVERY LIFESTYLE.



## GO PAPERLESS WITH SMART HUB

If paperless is your preference, saying goodbye to paper is easy once you've signed up for SmartHub. With SLEMCO's SmartHub account management tool, you can view and pay your electric bills anytime online, safely and conveniently. When you log on to SmartHub, click the "MyProfile" tab, then the "Update My Paperless Billing Settings." New user? Sign up for SmartHub now at <https://slemco.smarthub.coop> to register your SLEMCO accounts, select your password and begin paying bills online. *Lucky Number: 4500245401.*

## MAKE AUTOMATED CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS ANYTIME

SLEMCO residential customers can pay their bill with a credit or debit card through our automated system by calling 1-844-859-5978. Payments post within 15 minutes to your account, but any payment made after 4:30 p.m. will post the next business day. The fee for phone payments by credit or debit card is \$4.

## PAY BY BANK DRAFT OR CREDIT/DEBIT CARD

Paying your bill by bank draft (available for all customers) or credit/debit card (for residential customers only) is fast, easy and convenient. SLEMCO's A.P.O. (Automatic Payment Options) Program saves you time by automatically paying your SLEMCO bill. You may sign up at any time. Visit <https://slemco.smarthub.coop>. Once you sign in to your SmartHub account, click on Billings and Payments, then Automatic Payment Options and fill out the required information for the bank or credit/debit card account that you wish to use. Once the authorized payment option begins, you will receive a regular bill as before that will show the net bill but will have a zero balance. It will show "BANK DRAFT" for the automatic bank draft option and the date the bill will be drafted, or "CREDIT/DEBIT CARD CHG" for the automatic credit/debit card charge option and the date the bill will be charged. Your account won't be drafted or your credit/ debit card charged until your due date, giving you ample time to call us with any questions regarding your bill.

## DRIVE UP TO OUR KIOSK

Visit one of two 24-hour kiosks in our Lafayette office drive-thru to pay your bill with a credit card, cash or electronic checks. *Lucky Number: 1011579801.* ☎



## LUCKY NUMBER WINNERS!

**T**here were no SLEMCO members who called in to claim their \$100 prize after reading the November/December issue of SLEMCO Power. Those missing out are **Ariel Broussard** of Youngsville, **James Floyd Jr.** of Youngsville, **Robert Foret** of Broussard, **Trevor Bergeron** of Breaux Bridge, **John Heinen Jr.** of Rayne, **Laurie Satterley** of Melville, **Hunter Rushing** of Opelousas, **Raven Lain** of Scott, **Damarks Brooks** of Lafayette and **Randall Pousson** of Iota. *Lucky Number: 1443502500.*

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!**



# All In The Family

Service at SLEMCO goes deeper than the person on the truck repairing your power line

Raynette, Kevin, Tucker and Candace Guidry once had a 2 a.m. Christmas when that was as early as Line Foreman Kevin Guidry could get home after an outage call.

STORY BY JAMES EDMUNDS

**W**HO IN THE WORLD with small children stays up until 2 a.m. to open Christmas presents?

When the father in the household took until that ungainly hour to finish a service call, that's exactly what the Guidry family did a few years back.

"I told them there was no way we were not waiting for their daddy," recalls Raynette Guidry, wife of SLEMCO Line Foreman Kevin Guidry. "He was out on call fixing the situation so that some other family could have their Christmas with the lights on."

"We didn't want to wait," daughter Candace, now 22, chuckles, "but we did, we waited for Daddy. And now it's one of our favorite family stories."

Within the heart of this story is a kernel of truth that is quite familiar to Kevin and his co-workers and those who share their lives: When you work for SLEMCO, your family is a SLEMCO family. And that can extend to parents, grandparents, cousins and even neighbors.

"I am one of those people whose job shifts gears into a repair-coordinating role when storms threaten or cause damage

and who isn't likely to be home during or immediately after destructive weather," says Cortney Boutte Breaux, wife of 12-year SLEMCO veteran Shannon Breaux, who currently serves as a Meter Reader Supervisor but whose job shifts gears into other roles when storms threaten or cause damage, so, guess what, isn't likely to be at home during storm situations. "We have neighbors with a large house and a whole-house generator who take us in during that kind of weather," she says. "We bring over board games and food and we cook and play UNO until the storm passes and everything gets back to normal. They are very generous to us, and because they invite us, are directly affected by Shannon's job duties."

## MORE THAN ONE SLEMCO

These tales illustrate a basic fact of the world of utility providers: each job, whether climbing poles or not, has at least two modes: everyday normal and major storm emergencies, with additional flavor in-between for the front line workers who are on-call to deal with weather or other incidents that cause temporary service outages. For SLEMCO, located squarely in



Photo by Kori Barcque

Cortney and Shannon Breaux with daughter Mae Leigh. When storms threaten, Plan B goes into effect.

Hurricane Alley, large emergencies are part of the fabric of the work culture. This is true even when the damage is not immediately in SLEMCO's service area: SLEMCO crews, for instance, did substantial repair and restoration work in aid of their neighbor utilities beginning immediately after the destructive path of Hurricane Ida through southeast Louisiana last fall.

For families of SLEMCO employees, when a storm hits town, not only are impacts felt at home, SLEMCO may even become home.



Photo by James Edmunds

Callie Laurent at home with her mother, SLEMCO employee Mary Laurent. Sometimes the office is home, too.

Callie Laurent, whose mother is the 35-year SLEMCO Communications Coordinator Mary Laurent, grew up knowing that mom would be away at the office during hurricane events, not only tending to her main job of keeping information flowing to the media and all with a need to know, but also providing additional support to

the line workers and everyone else involved in getting power restored to customers as quickly as possible. That was fine when her older brother was there to be with her. But when he moved on to school and then his own career (also in the utility field), neither she nor her mother relished the idea of Callie being home alone. So, for storms, she moved in with her mother – at the office.

“When I went to meet her during Hurricane Barry,” Callie recalls, “I volunteered to pick up pizza on the way there for the guys. The order turned out to be for 80 pizzas. The pizza parlor thought it was a joke. It was definitely no joke.”

Callie has slept on the floor of her mother's office with her during storms; and during Hurricane Barry jumped in to help track sign-ins so that FEMA regulations could be properly followed. “When you're raised in a culture of people who are working as hard as they can,” she says, “you just naturally try to do your part.” Now a senior at the University of Louisiana and working on a degree that will put her on a Human Resources career track, she values that connection to a strong work ethic and

camaraderie amongst the workforce. “I wouldn't be surprised to wind up working for a utility one day.” *Lucky Number: 2055020502.*

### THERE IS FAMILY, AND THERE IS FAMILY

“It takes seven years to really learn this job,” says Kevin Guidry, a 15-year employee of SLEMCO who is now a Line Foreman. “Part of my responsibility with the newer people coming up is to make sure they get the training and experience they need.” This is a mix of the formal training that all employees receive, and the attentive manner in which the veterans take the younger linemen under their wings, he explains.

Robbie Devillier, who works as a Meter Shop Technician, came to SLEMCO mid-career, after 20 years in the oilfield, when the right opportunity to join the power utility presented itself. “I've worked in a few different departments in the five years I've been with SLEMCO,” he recounts. “Even though I came here as an experienced worker, I had a lot to learn about the specifics, and everyone made sure that I had the training and support I needed to be a successful asset to the company.”



Photo by James Edmunds

Meter Shop Technician Robbie Devillier with wife Monica.

That culture of mutual support is important for people who share tough jobs. As first responders, a crew rushing to restore a power outage might find anything from a squirrel that took one last fatal misstep to a grisly accident with victims still at the scene. *Lucky Number: 2309012000.*

That really came forcefully to the Guidry family when Raynette received a diagnosis of breast cancer. “Everyone at SLEMCO was there for us,” recalls Raynette. “There were immediately any number of Kevin's co-workers who volunteered to take his call shift so that he could be with me. And anything anyone could do to help



Kevin Guidry and Adam Williber working together on power lines. Support comes from each other as well as their families.

us, they did.” Raynette is thankful to have emerged as a cancer survivor. She continues to be grateful for the support her SLEMCO family gave in a time of need, and Kevin can still be occasionally seen in a pink hardhat to keep us all mindful.

### IT TAKES A VILLAGE

This spring, seven-year SLEMCO lineman Adam Williber and his wife Katelyn ran into a patch of good house-hunting luck, made a successful transaction, but looked forward to their first night together in their new home – and around dinner time the call came for Adam to rush out to repair an outage. He got free about 5 am, pretty much missing the entire first night at the new place.

“You learn to take it as it is,” laughs Katelyn, who is herself a first responder, an EMT with her own duty roster. “We always remind ourselves that some other family out there, maybe a whole neighborhood, is anxiously waiting for the lights to come back on. The work can be dangerous, but it's important. We're lucky that we live near parents and grandparents who can take our six year-old.”

“I think everybody who works for SLEMCO has some kind of plan for being on call and for storms,” Katelyn says. “It really does take a village!”



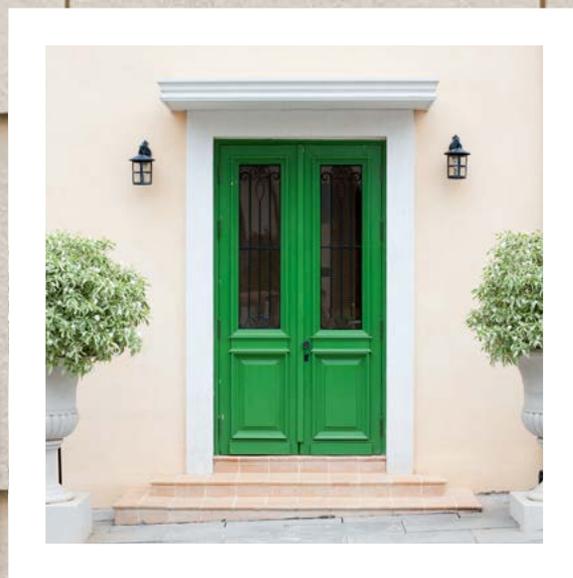
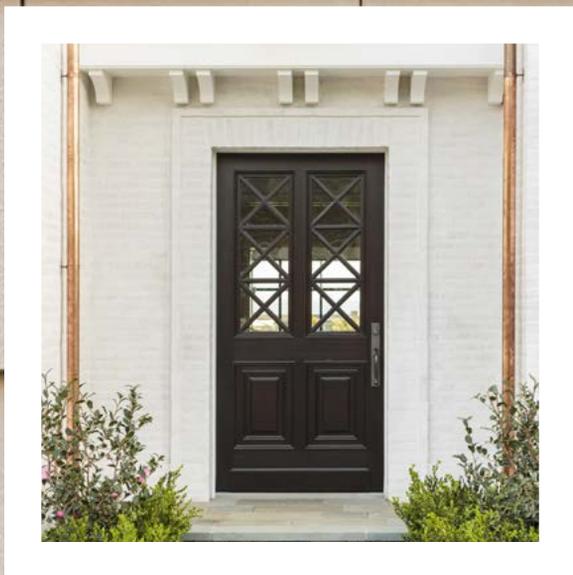
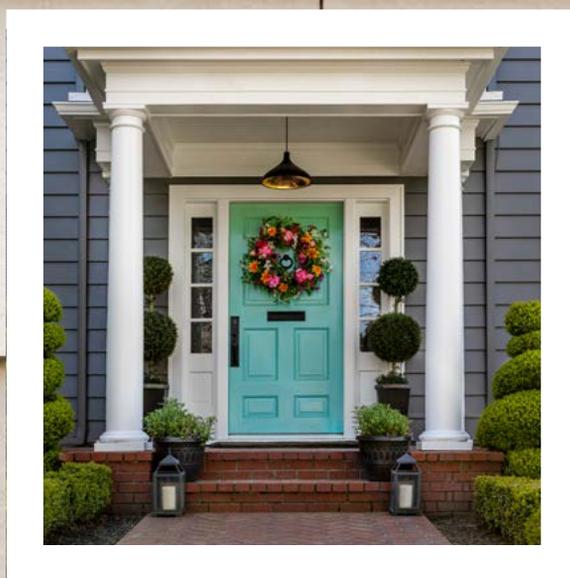
Photo by James Edmunds

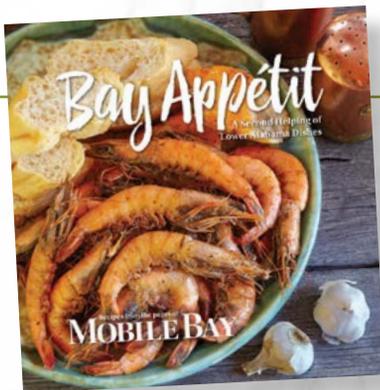
Katelyn and Adam Williber's first night in their new home was interrupted by a demanding service call.

# Add Personality to Your Home

BOOST YOUR CURB APPEAL WITH THESE INVITING PAINT SHADES

**AN EASY WAY TO MAKE A DYNAMITE FIRST IMPRESSION** on visitors (and buyers!) is to give your front door an update. A white or warm neutral exterior provides the perfect palate for vibrant bright colors that reflect your personality. Complement more moody, darker hues with deep blues, grays and super trendy greens. For tried-and-true classic elegance, black, charcoal or red can't be beat, and have excellent resale value. The key is to stay in harmony with the style of your home, and the color scheme inside the front door. The transition from outside to in should feel thoughtful and balanced. The possibilities are endless, so get inspired! 🏡





Winter is all about comfort foods and **Bay Appétit** offers unique twists on comforting dishes from lower Alabama, in a second edition of selected favorite recipes previously printed in Mobile Bay magazine. The cookbook can be purchased at the [MobileBayMag.com](http://MobileBayMag.com) “shop” for \$24.95 plus tax and shipping.

### Fried Wontons with Ground Turkey and Kale

*A great appetizer – or meal*

- 1 lb. ground turkey, finely chopped
  - 1 tbs. grated fresh ginger
  - 1 tsp. garlic, peeled and minced
  - 2-3 green onions, finely chopped
  - 1 tbs. soy sauce
  - 2 tbs. oyster sauce
  - 2 cups kale, finely chopped
  - 50 wonton wrappers (keep covered until ready to fill so they don't dry out)
- Egg wash (1 egg whisked with ½ cup water)  
Soy sauce or sweet chili sauce for dipping

In a bowl, combine the first 7 ingredients. Mix well. Add 1 tsp. of mixture to center of each wonton wrapper, brush the edges with egg wash and fold the wonton from corner to corner, to form a triangle. Press the edges together to seal tightly. Set filled wontons aside and cover so they don't dry out while you prepare the rest. Heat 3 inches of oil in a pot until it reaches 360 degrees. Fry wontons for 1½ minutes or until golden brown. Serve with soy sauce or sweet chili sauce.

### Fontina and Blackberry Basil Grilled Cheese Sandwiches

*Delicious snack for the kids or adults. You could substitute fresh berries with blackberry preserve. Serves 4*

- 12 ozs. fresh blackberries
- 12-15 fresh basil leaves, chopped
- 8 thick slices multigrain bread
- 2 tbs. olive oil
- 6-8 oz. fontina cheese, sliced

# let's get COOKING

In a large bowl, mash blackberries and stir in chopped basil. Heat a large skillet or electric griddle over medium-low heat. Brush each piece of bread with olive oil. On the skillet, place 4 pieces of bread.

Lay a piece of cheese on each slice of bread, then top with a few spoonfuls of smashed blackberries (or preserve.) Brush the remaining pieces of bread with olive oil and place on top of the others. Once bottom of the bread is golden, flip and cook until other side is golden.

### Crawfish Cornbread

*Makes 12 muffins*

- 2 eggs
- 1 cup silver queen corn (or other sweet corn)
- 1 cup Bechamel Sauce (see below)
- ⅓ cup canola oil
- 1 cup cornmeal
- ½ tsp. baking soda
- 1 ½ tsp. salt
- 1 ½ cup crawfish
- ¼ cup green onions, finely chopped
- ¼ cup green bell peppers, finely diced
- ¼ cup red bell peppers, finely diced
- ½ cup grated cheddar cheese
- 5 dashes of hot sauce (or to taste)

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Mix eggs, corn, Bechamel sauce and oil. Stir in cornmeal, baking soda, salt, crawfish, green onions, bell peppers and cheese. Add hot sauce. Pour into greased muffin tins and bake for 25 minutes.

### Bechamel Sauce (Makes 2 ½ cups)

- 2 cup whole milk
- 2 sticks salted butter
- ½ cup all-purpose flour

In a medium saucepan, heat milk until simmering. In a separate medium sauté pan, melt butter. Slowly incorporate flour into butter, whisking constantly over low heat to make a blond roux. Slowly incorporate 1 cup of heated milk into roux. Whisk constantly. Cook on low for 10 minutes. Slowly incorporate remaining milk and whisk until smooth.

### Risotto Primavera

*A meal in itself. Serves 6-8*

- 3 ½ cups chicken stock
- 2 tbs. julienned lemon peel
- ¼ cup butter
- 1 small onion, chopped
- 1 clove garlic, peeled and minced

- 2 ozs. prosciutto (Italian ham) thinly sliced
- 1 cup plus 2 tbs. arborio rice (don't substitute another rice)
- ½ cup white wine
- ½ cup frozen English peas, thawed
- ½ cup Parmesan cheese, grated

Simmer chicken stock in a saucepan. Meanwhile, in another small saucepan, blanch the lemon peel in hot water for 30 seconds, then drain. Repeat the process two more times using fresh hot water. In a separate large saucepan, melt the butter. Add onion and garlic. Sauté until the onion is translucent, 3-5 minutes. Add prosciutto and sauté for another minute. Stir in the rice and sauté for one minute. Add the wine. Cook on medium-high heat until almost all the liquid is absorbed. Add ½ cup of hot chicken stock, stirring constantly. Cook until the liquid is almost absorbed, stirring constantly. Repeat with the remaining stock until all of the stock has been absorbed. Stir in the peas just before the last bit of stock is absorbed. Add Parmesan cheese and lemon peel. Serve immediately. Top with a little more Parmesan.

### Banana Pudding Pie

*What could be a better combination than the classic pudding served up pie style?*

- ⅓ cup all-purpose flour
- Dash of salt
- 2 ½ cups whole milk
- 2 egg yolks (keep the whites)
- 1 can sweetened condensed milk
- 2 tsp. vanilla extract
- 45 vanilla wafer cookies
- 3 cups sliced banana rounds
- 4 egg whites
- ¼ cup sugar

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. In a medium saucepan, make custard by combining flour, salt, milk, egg yolks and condensed milk. Cook on medium-high heat, stirring constantly for 8-10 minutes. Remove from heat and add vanilla. In an oven-safe glass pie dish, layer cookies, custard and bananas.

To make meringue: In a bowl, whip egg whites and add sugar slowly until peaks form. Spread on top of pie. Bake for 25 minutes. Cool at room temperature.



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

# DEFERRED BILLING DURING ENERGY EMERGENCIES

## WHAT IT IS

SLEMCO has a deferred billing program for pre-qualified customers in the event of an “energy emergency,” as declared by the Louisiana Public Service Commission (LPSC).

Under such an emergency, a prequalified customer would be able to defer partial payment of their utility bill over a three-month period. *Lucky Number: 4518015100.*

## WHEN IT APPLIES

An “energy emergency” is characterized by inordinately high utility bills which are the product of one of the following factors: high gas or other fuel costs, unusually inclement weather necessitating extensive use of utilities, or any other circumstances as determined by the LPSC. The LPSC has the authority to determine what constitutes “inordinately high bills,” “high fuel costs” and “unusually inclement weather.”

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE

Only specific groups of customers can pre-qualify for the deferral and pre-qualification is mandatory. Once an “energy emergency” has been declared, new applicants will not be eligible for bill deferral until the next energy emergency.

## ELIGIBLE GROUPS

### (PLUS REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION):

■ **Customers who are at least 65 years old and whose incomes do not exceed 150 percent of the poverty level established by the federal government.** A copy of your tax returns from the previous year will be required. *Lucky Number: 2216106305.*

■ **Customers of any age who receive food stamps or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).** You must show a copy of government documents including, but not limited to, a Letter of Certification Issued by the Parish Office of Family Support or some other proof that you are receiving Food Stamps or TANF. *Lucky Number: 2330441201.*

■ **Customers whose sole income consists of Social Security benefits.** Provide a copy of your previous year’s tax returns and governmental documents including, but not limited to, a letter from the Social Security Administration office stating the benefits that are being received.

■ **Governmental entities as identified by the LPSC who provide vital services, the absence of which could result in “imminent peril” to public health, safety and/or welfare.** Documents that confirm that the customer is a governmental entity and identifying the services it provides must be shown.

■ **Those customers who need life-sustaining, electrically operated equipment or life-sustaining medical treatment that requires electricity.** You must provide a letter signed by a licensed physician which states the diagnosis and prognosis of the patient and also states that “electricity is necessary in sustaining the life of his/her patient.”

## HOW TO APPLY

Enrollment in the program is simple. If you qualify, call SLEMCO’s Customer Services department at 896-5200 weekdays (except holidays) from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and an application will be mailed to you. The application must be filed in the name of the person who is listed on the SLEMCO account; a copy of your current driver’s license or valid, pictured identification card is required for residential customers in addition to the requirements detailed above. 📞

