

**SLEMCO**

# POWER

JULY/AUGUST 2019

## ACADIANA IN BLACK AND WHITE

The Official Publication of the Southwest  
Louisiana Electric Membership Corporation

3420 NE Evangeline Thruway  
P.O. Box 90866  
Lafayette, Louisiana 70509  
Phone 337-896-5384  
www.slemco.com

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Cover photo of bayou fence at Shadows on the Teche. Black and white is great for displaying the diaphonous light of Louisiana morning fog, by James Edmunds.

## TakeNote



Photo by Kimberly Ann Photography

## THOUSANDS SHARE IN FUN OF 82ND ANNUAL MEETING

The 82nd SLEMCO Annual Meeting attracted thousands of members to Lafayette's Cajundome on Saturday, each hoping to win one of several valuable prizes. The winner of the 1st Grand Prize, David Faber of Broussard chose the \$20,000 cash prize over all the other options available.

The 2nd Grand Prize winner, Carl Johnson of Gueydan, took home \$7,500, while the 3rd Grand Prize winner, Johnnie Thompson of Carencro, walked away with \$2,500. The early bird prize of \$5,000 was won by Todd R. Simon of Lafayette.

Earlier during the meeting, SLEMCO awarded \$40,000 in college scholarships to twenty students who will be attending college this fall. Winners included Victoria Broussard of Youngsville, Bradford Colligan of Cankton, Tanner Fontenot of Washington, Natalie Doucet of Ville Platte, Alexis Deville of Washington, Hunter Meche of Crowley, Sean Gillis of Breaux Bridge, Chloe Hebert of Carencro, Kamerin Ardoin of Rayne, Hunter Duhon of Rayne, Alex Cormier of Iota, Evan Keller of Duson, Alaina Doucet of Jennings, Rebecca Thomas of Washington, Christopher McClelland of Carencro, Taylor Clavier of Church Point, Catherine Hebert of Erath, Addison Richard of Eunice, Robert Allbritton of Crowley and Caroline Istre of Youngsville.



Photo by P.C. Piazza

During the official business portion of the meeting, Carl Comeaux of Lafayette Parish, Buck Leonards of Acadia Parish, Jeremy Melancon of St. Martin Parish, and Gary Smith of St. Landry Parish, were nominated and approved to serve three-year terms as Board Members.

Board President David Simon of



Photo by Kimberly Ann Photography



Photo by Kimberly Ann Photography



Photo by P.C. Piazza

Gueydan and Glenn Tamporello, chief executive officer and general manager, addressed the crowd, updating SLEMCO members on major projects the company has been focusing on since

the last meeting. In celebrating SLEMCO's 82nd year in business, both renewed their commitment to making sure the organization remained responsive to both opportunities and challenges facing the electric industry *Lucky Number: 4517330100.*

Vitalant Blood Services held their annual blood drive as part of the meeting. A record 411 units of blood products were drawn to help save the lives of people throughout Acadiana needing blood. SLEMCO members always turn out in a big way to ensure there is enough blood for patients needing it.

Our 83rd Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, June 6, 2020. *We hope to see you there.* ☎

## SAFETY AWARD

SLEMCO recently received the Louisiana Workers Compensation Corporation (LWCC) Safest 70 Award for 2018, our sixth since the recognition program began 11 years ago.



The top 70 companies were selected based on their safety efforts and program effectiveness in preventing injuries and controlling costs. The safety of our employees is our highest priority so we are very proud of this accomplishment. Shown here (from left) are Nathan Melancon, SLEMCO safety and training coordinator; Damian Simoneaux, CSP – LWCC lead safety services consultant; Greg Lavergne, SLEMCO safety, training and loss supervisor; and Neil Arnaud, SLEMCO safety and training coordinator *Lucky Account: 3422212502.* ☎

## LUCKY NUMBER WINNERS

Only one SLEMCO member called in to claim their \$50 prize after reading the May/June issue of SLEMCO Power.

**The Frederick Estate of Erath** received a credit of \$50 to their SLEMCO account.

Nine others missed out on their prize money. They included **Adam Landry** of St. Martinville, **Ty Latiolais** of Carencro, **Mary Johnson** of Sunset, **Anthony Dupre** of Sunset,



**Diane Segura** of Youngsville, **Vongdala Sidaboud** of Youngsville, **Joann John** of Crowley, **Velma Duhon** of Rayne and **Bernice Gautreaux** of Breaux Bridge *Lucky Account: 3306311600.*

We've hidden ten more SLEMCO account numbers in this issue of the magazine. Look now 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 NOW RECEIVE \$50 CREDITS!**

# ACADIANA IN BLACK AND WHITE

Story and Photos by James Edmunds

Old-School Photography Captures the  
Beauty and Mystery of Cajun Country

Waiting for the bus, New Iberia.

**A**cadiana is a beautiful part of the world, and it's been a great pleasure to share photography in SLEMCO Power magazine in numerous photo essays and stories over the course of the last few years.

The handsome graphic design and high quality of color reproduction in the magazine has provided a great showcase for images celebrating the wide variety of activities and settings that make southwest Louisiana such a special place.

Meanwhile, along the way, I've been squirrelling away another, slightly different set of images, both while on SLEMCO Power assignments and elsewhere. Like many photographers, I have grown fond of portraying our local beauty in black and white *Lucky Number: 3302035501*.

Advances in color digital photography have been an irresistible lure to photogra-

phers to a move toward ever richer imagery. In just a couple of decades, digital cameras have increased in clarity and resolution to the point that even a smartphone camera can deliver richly textured, beautiful images. Even professional photographers who

started in the trade a few decades ago, when much or even most of the workload was created in black and white — quite often in the photographer's own darkroom, where the artisan exercised precise control over the finished images — nowadays create most if



Stop wait 24 seconds. Black and white used to build a mood of railroad photography.



not all of their exposures with color digital cameras *Lucky Number: 1012462500.*

In more recent times, many photographers who remember those old darkroom days, or even those who have a brand new interest in recreating the look and feel of black and white photography that once dominated the field, have turned again to black and white. A select few still photograph with black and white film and go through a darkroom process, but most photographers creating black and white photos today are converting images they have taken in color (often, but not always, having been originally taken with the ultimate aim of creating a black and white image) and converting them to black and white through photo software editing programs.

Today's top-grade editing programs give the photographer a rich set of tools for rendering an image in black and white, sometimes simply by allowing the emphasis of different color components of the original exposure — which in essence has the same effect as using filters on a camera lens when making a black and white exposure; for instance, using the amount of green filtering to dial up or dial down the tonality of the foliage *Lucky Number: 3040538905.*



Migrating birds caught by the light are almost in complete silhouette in south Vermilion Parish.

Black and white showcases the texture of wood grain patterns and other details. Longfellow-Evangeline State Historic Site, St. Martinville.



Acadiana Cane Cutters in Youngsville. Black and white captures the stark heat of a summer evening.

**W**hat sort of scenes tempt a photographer to create a black and white image? Sometimes it's a richness in texture, sometimes a richness in contrast, sometimes a simplicity of the shapes. In each of these cases, a black and white image can be a more effective and pleasing way of emphasizing the attractive qualities of a scene being photographed. And sometimes

it just looks better!

We've gathered a selection of photographs taken over the last few years in southwest Louisiana, all converted from original digital color exposures into black and white images. Acadiana is a beautiful place, and we enjoy sharing this unique area in a manner that utilizes imaging that is old and yet new. [+](#)

# 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](http://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 *Lucky Number: 4500148401*.

"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: 4517960501*. 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.



Photo by Kimberly Ann Photography

## 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.

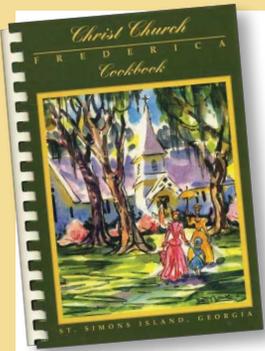
These blinks may be a minor nuisance because you might have to reset clocks or digital equipment. Normally the culprit is a tree limb brushing the line.

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 *Lucky Number: 4502070700*.

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.

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. ☎



Enjoy these recipes from the Christ Church, Frederica cookbook, which also includes dishes shared by chefs of notable hotels and restaurants from St. Simons and Jekyll Island, GA.

You can purchase a copy for \$20.00 on Amazon, or by sending a check to 6329 Frederica Rd., St. Simons Island, GA, 31522.

## Chianti Burgers

Serves 8

*This is a great burger to serve for a July 4th get-together; the glaze puts it over the top.*

### Burger:

- 2 lbs. ground chuck
- 1/2 – 1 tsp. salt (optional)
- 2 eggs
- 1/2 cup plain bread crumbs
- 1/2 cup chianti wine
- 1/2 tsp. oregano
- 1/2 tsp. basil

### Toppers:

- 8 thin slices red onion
- 8 small slices mozzarella cheese

### Glaze:

- 1 large garlic clove, minced
- 1/4 cup dark molasses
- 1/3 cup chianti wine

Mix all burger ingredients together well. Shape into 16 thin patties. (Don't over press the patties.)

On 8 patties, place the red onion and mozzarella. Place the other 8 patties on top of these. Pinch the edges to seal. Chill one hour. Broil on the grill 10 minutes on each side, brushing often with the glaze. Serve on either grilled buns or French or Italian bread, buttered and grilled.

## Shrimp De Jonghe

Serves 6

*This dish, served at The Cloister Hotel many years ago, can be served as an appetizer or an entrée.*

- 3 lbs. pan-seared shrimp
- 3/4 cup butter (softened)
- 1 large clove garlic
- 1 tsp. salt
- Chopped parsley
- Pinch of marjoram
- Pinch of tarragon
- 1 cup plain fine bread crumbs
- 1/2 cup dry sherry

Mash garlic, with the back of a wide knife, until it is almost a paste, then add softened butter, salt, tarragon, and marjoram. Cream well until blended. Add bread crumbs and sherry. Blend well. In a fairly large buttered baking dish, place alternate layers of shrimp and bread mixture. Sprinkle parsley over top of each. Bake at 400 degrees for 20-25 minutes and serve immediately.

## Chicken American

Serves 2

- 2 (8 oz.) boneless/skinless chicken breasts
- 6 tbsp. flour
- 6 tbsp. honey
- 4 tbsp. white wine
- 2 tbsp. chopped green onions
- 2 tbsp. sliced mushrooms
- 1/2 cup heavy cream
- 2 puff pastry sheets
- 1 1/2 tbsp. vegetable oil
- Salt and pepper to taste

Cut chicken into six even strips. Dust with flour and place in hot sauté pan with vegetable oil. Cook on one side until brown and turn. Add onions and mushrooms. Deglaze with white wine and add honey and cream. Reduce flame and let simmer until chicken finishes cooking. Roll puff pastry sheet to 1/8-inch thick, and score into 2 x 3-inch rectangles. Brush with egg wash.

Cook at 400 degrees until top becomes brown. Split the puff pastry rectangles and serves chicken strips, in sauce, in middle of each.

Note: You can substitute white wine with chicken broth.

## Chocolate-Angel Food Cake

Serves 10-12

*This dessert can be made several days ahead.*

- 1 small angel food cake, diced (about 3 cups)
- 2 (6 oz.) packages semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 4 eggs, separated
- 1 pt. whipping cream
- 1/2 cup pecans, broken pieces

Cut the cake into bite-sized cubes. Melt the chocolate chips in double boiler on very low heat. Don't let the chocolate get too hot. Set aside to cool. While chocolate softens, beat egg yolks until fluffy. Beat egg whites until they form peaks. Whip the cream until peaks form. Add egg yolks to melted chocolate, stirring constantly. Fold in whipped cream with chocolate mixture. Fold in egg whites and nuts, then the diced cake. Pour into a nice bowl and refrigerate overnight. Can serve with whipped cream.

## Border Buttermilk

Serves 4-6

*The name sounds awful, but it's good.*

- 1 (6 oz.) can frozen lemonade concentrate.

Fill that same empty lemonade can with tequila.

Put in blender. Fill with crushed ice and blend at high speed until smooth, froth and milky looking.

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).

# 2019 SLEMCO SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



Photo by P. C. Piazza

Winning \$2,000 each for college this fall, our scholarship winners include, from left, **Alex Cormier** of Iota; **Christopher McClelland** of Carencro; **Evan Keller** of Duson; **Addison Richard** of Church Point; **Hunter Meche** of Crowley; **Alaina Doucet** of Jennings; **Natalie Doucet** of Ville Platte (on truck); SLEMCO Communications Manager **Mary Laurent**; **Alexis Deville** of Port Barre; **Kamerin Ardoin** of Rayne; **Chloe Hebert** of Carencro; **Tanner Fontenot** of Grand Prairie; **Caroline Istre** of Lafayette and **Victoria Broussard** of Youngsville. Not shown but also winning are **Bradford Colligan** of Cankton; **Sean Gillis** of Breaux Bridge; **Hunter Duhon** of Rayne; **Rebecca Thomas** of Washington; **Taylor Clavier** of Church Point; **Catherine Hebert** of Erath and **Robert Allbritton** of Crowley. ☺

## ACADIANA Special Olympics

For 31 years, SLEMCO has assisted the Acadiana Special Olympics track meet, our signature volunteer effort *Lucky Number: 3240397200*. With these young athletes, this annual event is a long-time favorite every April.



**SLEMCO Volunteers at Special Olympics** – From left – Petrina Dourousseau, Byron Smith, Falyn Dugas, Bobbie Dugas, Nicholas Smith, Heather Doucet, Shane Dugas, Casey Carter, Cliff Broussard, Lacy Fontenot, Arisa Olinger, Pam Meaux, Adam Williber, Rachel Clark and Kelly Williber (seated).



Photos by P. C. Piazza