BECI claims Statewide Safety Trophy for second straight year

Above, BECI General Manager Kevin Turner receives a certificate recognizing the co-op’s contribution to the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association’s RESAP program. Turner is pictured with Mike Bergeaux, left, and Margaretta Mayes, of the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives in Baton Rouge.

When it’s hot outside, appliances and lighting can actually heat up our homes more than we think. To save energy, minimize the activities that generate additional heat, such as burning open flames, continuously running a computer, or using hot-hair devices like curling irons. This will ultimately keep your house cooler.

BECI is proud to be Partners in Education with schools in our service territory. We partner with South Beauregard High School, South Beauregard Elementary, Pikul High School, and Moss Bluff Elementary. As Partners in Education we provide safety and vocational presentations, present ribbons to students for high grades and good citizen’s awards, provide funding for the school newspaper, donate money for student folders and academic planners and display students’ work in our office. Throughout the year we dedicate our efforts to supporting student athletes and academic programs.

Here are some tips for all of our members on staying healthy this school year.

You are what you eat.
Packing a lunch ensures that you control what fast foods you eat. The National Institutes of Health recommends making lunch a family activity—kids usually want to eat what they’ve helped prepare. Let your child choose fruits and veggies, crackers or pack snacks, like cheese sticks, whole fruits, and crackers. And if your morning rush takes you away from packing lunch in the evening before bedtime. (Accn. No. 25154001)

But sometimes packing isn’t always practical, and school-provided lunch can be very tempting. In January 2012, the federal government upped standards for school meals—the first revision in 15 years—that will make them healthier. Among the requirements are an offering of fruits and veggies every day, along with more whole-grain foods, and reducing the amount of saturated fat, trans fats, and sodium in the food.

All the preparation in the world, though, won’t be enough if your child gets to school and eats his or her lunch packed for someone else.

Wash, wash, wash your hands.
Schools are breeding grounds for germs, thanks to myriad shared surfaces and hygiene habits that are still a work in progress. Hand washing remains the first line of defense in preventing the spread of germs. Warm running water and soap are the preferred tools to clean hands. But in a pinch, alcohol-based hand sanitizers work, too (unless hands are grubby—then soap is the only way to go), according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control.

Teach your child good washing techniques, which include scrubbing the backs of hands, between fingers, under nails, and washing for at least 20 seconds.

Hand washing is necessary around meals (both for preparing and eating food) and after using the bathroom, touching animals, or handling trash.

Also, instill in your child the necessity of using a tissue when sneezing or coughing by using a paper handkerchief or a tissue (or a shirt sleeve if tissues aren’t handy), and washing hands after.

Stay safe.
Before the start of each school year, have a chat with your kids about safety—from walking or driving to school to how to handle a bully. Encourage them to take safety drills seriously. Emergency preparations are in place to protect your children. Usher them to memory evacuation routes and lockdown procedures, and obey teachers when these plans are enacted.

For more resources on school safety, visit www.cdc.gov/Features/safeschools.

BECI News

BECI continues support of local United Way

BECI is a strong supporter of the communities it serves. One of the programs supported by BECI employees is United Way. The United Way is a program that envisions a better tomorrow for its local community and takes action to achieve that vision by assisting in improving education, helping people find financial stability and promoting a health lifestyle.

In 2013, BECI employees donated $12,150.36, which averaged $97.21 from each employee. To find out more about United Way, visit www.unitedway.org.

In the photo above, Kevin Turner, Kay Fox, and Margaretta Mayes present a check to the United Way for the 2013 campaign year.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When it’s hot outside, appliances and lighting can actually heat up our homes more than we think. To save energy, minimize the activities that generate additional heat, such as burning open flames, continuously running a computer, or using hot-hair devices like curling irons. This will ultimately keep your house cooler.

You could win $50!!

Beauregard Electric is offering members an opportunity to win the Co-op’s Lucky Account Number Contest by publishing four account numbers somewhere on pages 6-7 of Louisiana Country. Look for your account number hidden somewhere on these pages... To win, you must locate your account number (listed on your electric bill) on these pages and then complete the Lucky Account Number contest form. We’ll call the lucky winner of this contest.

Raise your voice to the EPA

Six hundred pages, plus another 1,000 pages of supporting documents. That’s the length of the latest proposal from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). It would amend the Clean Air Act (only 465 pages) to limit carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions from the power plants that we rely upon today.

Besides reading the actual rule, lots also have been written about its legality, feasibility and complexity. Lost in the shuffle of thousands of pages is the impact on people like you and me. How much will electric bills increase? Will manufacturers relocate? How many jobs will be lost? Which power plants will be forced to shut down? These are difficult questions. But they’re important questions.

At Beauregard Electric, we work hard to keep your electricity affordable and reliable. That’s why we’re asking the EPA for answers to these and many other questions.

We don’t want you to get lost in the shuffle.

We present our members first. We advocate for you because we share your community. We see you every month paying your electric bill. We want to talk to you about topics that matter to you, and we meet with your members. We know when times are tough. We often live right next door to you.

After all, you govern us. Our board members and community leaders are one and the same. We’re not so local as an organization and we like it that way.

That’s why we keep reminding the bureaucrats in Washington, D.C., that the rules they write have an impact in the real world right here in southwestern Louisiana where we live, work and play. That’s why we’re encouraging everyone to take 30 seconds to sign up at www.Action.coop and tell the EPA we cannot afford these crumbling rules.

Let us know your thoughts. We always value a good conversation. Please raise your voice. Don’t get lost in the shuffle.

We can tell the EPA that support for the environment and a true all-of-the-above energy policy are not mutually exclusive. Together, we can talk about our energy efficiency programs.

(Accn. No. 1863401)

Together, we can talk about how we accomplished our goals without any federal mandates. We can talk about how we did this because it’s the right thing to do.

Together we’ll remind legislators and lawmakers that the impact new rules and laws have on people should be their first thought, not their last.

And we have a big family, with the number of 900 electric cooperatives throughout the country backing us up.

We have a great and positive story to tell, but we can’t do it alone. It’ll take winning the debate.

It won’t even take 1.600 pages.
Beauregard Electric claims another statewide safety trophy

BEC once again claimed the Louisiana Electric Cooperative Statewide Safety Award at the recent annual meeting of the Association of Louisiana Electric Cooperatives (ALEC) in Baton Rouge. Shown above are BECI board members J.R. Hickman, Peto Sellers and Terry Bachhaus, ALEC representative Mike Bergeaux, BECI Vice President of Marketing and Member Services Kay Fox, BECI Safety Director Eddie Hanks, BECI Executive Assistant Darlene Collins, BECI Vice President of Operations and Construction Services Mark Royer, BECI General Manager Kevin Turner, ALEC representative Aarron Graham and BECI board members Teddy Welch and Donald Bush. Below, Turner and Hanks accept the Statewide Lineman Statue from Bergeaux and Graham.