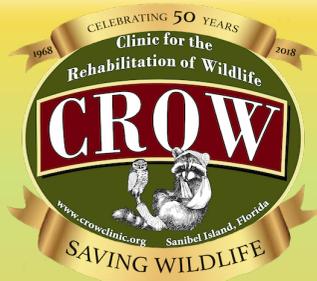


# FISHING FOR UNITED WAY

The LCEC United Way Fishing Tournament did not disappoint this year! Lots of fish were weighed in, and more than \$56,000 was raised to help fund more than 200 programs in Southwest Florida.



## Saving wildlife through care, education, and collaboration

LCEC continues its partnership with CROW through a new exhibit aimed at maintaining and preserving healthy waterways. "The Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife is greatly appreciative of LCEC's continuing support of efforts to maintain a healthy ecosystem that benefits our community – human and wildlife," said CROW Executive Director Linda Estep. In addition to treating and releasing wildlife in Southwest Florida, CROW educates the public on issues that encourage them to live harmoniously with wildlife, and LCEC is proud to play a role.

## Call before you dig

Sunshine 811 and LCEC remind Florida residents to always call 811 two full business days before any digging project. In addition to protecting you and underground lines you might encounter, homeowners are required by law to call 811 before digging in an easement, right-of-way, or permitted-use area.

After you call, information about where you will be digging is entered into a computer that compares that area to the location of underground utilities. The area either will be declared clear or will be appropriately marked for any underground lines. Only after you make the call will you be safe to dig.

Unsafe digging can cause much more than damage to things like underground wires. It can and does cause significant injuries and even deaths. Call 811 and be safe...not sorry!



# LCEC NEWS



JUNE 2018

## Lowest electric cooperative rates in Florida

There are 16 electric distribution cooperatives in Florida serving more than one million customers in 53 of 67 counties. LCEC electric rates are the lowest among all cooperatives.

There are 34 municipal electric utilities in the state serving approximately three million Floridians. The average municipal electric bill for 1,000 kWh is \$113.02. The average cost for LCEC customers using the same amount of electricity is \$102.50.

## 2018 Annual Meeting UPDATE

Last month LCEC held its 2018 Annual Meeting prior to the regular Board meeting. The official election results were announced, and two new Board of Trustees members were introduced: Craig Woodward, representing Marco Island; and Eleanor Flannery, representing Cape Coral. In addition to opening remarks from Board president Russell Priddy (pictured), attendees received a state-of-the-organization message from Chief Executive Officer Dennie Hamilton.



## How to change an LCEC account after losing a loved one

There are many things to address after losing a loved one. We want the call to LCEC during this difficult time to be easy. There are two things to take care of.

**1. ELECTRIC SERVICE:** If electric service is active in the name of the deceased person, call 239-656-2300 or visit [www.lcec.net](http://www.lcec.net) to start the service in someone else's name. This should be done as soon as possible. The new account holder does not need to be an heir.

**2. EQUITY:** There are two easy ways to let us know who the heir to the equity ownership is:

Call LCEC and will mail you a Deceased Affidavit.

Or visit [www.lcec.net](http://www.lcec.net), My Home, Equity Forms, and print the form.

Fill out the Affidavit, have it notarized, and return it to LCEC.

Following this simple process, you will begin receiving the retirements (when approved) from the equity your loved one built up over the years. You will also get other LCEC-initiated correspondence related to equity (such as the annual LCEC Trustee Election Ballot).

For more information, please call our Customer Care Center at 239-656-2300.

### CUSTOMER SURVEY WINNERS

If you receive an LCEC customer survey, return it for a chance to win \$100. Last month's winners were Christy Sessions of Cape Coral and Ralph Barton of Captiva.



[www.facebook.com/LCEC1](http://www.facebook.com/LCEC1)

LCEC is a nonprofit corporation. Established in 1940, LCEC delivers power to more than 216,400 customers. LCEC News is published monthly for customers by the Public Relations Department, P.O. Box 3455, N. Ft. Myers, FL 33918-3455 (800) 599-2356 or 239-656-2300 • [www.lcec.net](http://www.lcec.net)

# You asked for convenience, and we offer more this year!

LCEC continues to embrace new technology, which means we can offer additional, convenient options to our customers. Our connections with you will be stronger than ever. LCEC is in the process of implementing new billing and customer care software that puts customer data on the screens of computers and mobile devices. By year-end, customers can easily pay their bill, track usage, or report an outage through SmartHub.

## SmartHub



A little more than 450 LCEC customers have installed photovoltaic power systems at their home or business. The benefit of these systems is that panels convert solar energy into electric energy. Although users still rely on the electric grid during evening and less-sunny periods, they can reduce their electric bill.

There are safety considerations that should be examined when installing solar power systems. Prior to purchasing the system, contact a licensed, qualified electrician to ensure your electrical

system can support the technology and contact LCEC for the interconnection requirements. This keeps electric workers and neighbors safe and ensures proper credit for shared power.

Once installed, solar power systems may present unique challenges for first responders and firefighters, so it is important to notify local officials about the type of panels installed. This will help protect firefighters and minimize damage to the building if a fire occurs.

# Hurricane season is here. LCEC is ready; are you?

Since Hurricane Irma ripped through Southwest Florida, residents are well aware of what to expect if a severe storm comes this way. LCEC works year-round to maintain the system and improve upon restoration planning. All employees play a vital role in the restoration plan and are prepared to work long days and nights until all power is restored. Our business partners are ready when we need them. Now is the time to prepare your home and business plan too.



Visit [lcec.net](http://lcec.net) to read the hurricane guide.

- 1** Make an emergency plan and share with family.
- 2** Know your risk for wind, rain, flood.
- 3** Know your evacuation zone.
- 4** Put together a disaster supply kit.
- 5** Get your finances in order.
- 6** Strengthen your home. Trim vegetation.
- 7** Help family, neighbors, and co-workers plan.

Visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) for planning resources. Don't wait until it's too late!

## Remembering IRMA

Visit [www.lcec.net](http://www.lcec.net) and type "2017 Annual Report" in the search box to find a recap of the Hurricane Irma restoration efforts. Photos included in the report provide a glimpse of the type of damage that can result from a major storm. Customers are urged to include extended power loss into their own emergency plan.



## SPECIAL NEEDS? Pre-register for shelter now

A Special Needs Shelter provides more care and supervision than a general shelter to help meet special medical needs during an evacuation. This should be used only when there is no other sheltering option. A Special Needs Shelter does not provide the comfort or convenience of a home or hotel, nor does it provide the level of care found in a medical facility. You must register ahead of time to ensure you qualify.

For more information, contact your local Emergency Management Office or visit [www.floridadisaster.org/disability](http://www.floridadisaster.org/disability)

## Test your GenerLink before you need it

Generators are convenient when major storms cause widespread power outages. GenerLink, offered by LCEC, eliminates the use of extension cords and other hazards by providing a safe connection from the electric meter. It is recommended that you test your generator connection frequently.

