



Singing River Electric Power Association

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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Informative South Mississippi Electric insert in this issue!



Lee Hedegaard, General Manager and CEO Singing River Electric

In this issue of *Today in Mississippi*, you'll see an insert highlighting information about our power provider, South Mississippi Electric Power Association. This is the first of a series of inserts that will appear every other month in your *Today in Mississippi* publication.

Power supply costs make up 75 per-

cent of the rates you pay, so it is vitally important that you understand this fact. The process of generating and delivering the bulk power we purchase is critical to how we provide service to you, and we think it's important that you have an understanding of the many issues surrounding this part of our industry.

South Mississippi Electric is actually your cooperative too, as it serves not only our members but those of ten other distribution co-ops. We hope the inserts will be helpful to you in learning more about the trends and developments that affect us all.



SREPA at a Glance

Mission Statement
Singing River Electric exists to enhance the lives of our members and communities by providing safe and reliable electric service at the lowest possible cost while promoting energy conservation.

- Electric distribution co-op formed in 1938.
- Serves 68,027 members in seven counties in Miss. and two counties in Ala.
- Maintains 6,709 miles of line.
- Serves 97 percent of land mass in Jackson, George and Greene counties.

2007 Statistics

Year	Number of Members
1997	53,688
1998	55,566
1999	57,312
2000	59,062
2001	60,156
2002	61,138
2003	62,412
2004	63,629
2005	63,202
2006	66,272
2007	68,027

Year	KWH Sales
1997	1,002,045,718
1998	1,096,059,099
1999	1,120,798,404
2000	1,193,669,909
2001	1,183,532,433
2002	1,257,906,770
2003	1,251,289,380
2004	1,298,627,779
2005	1,253,098,862
2006	1,326,321,071
2007	1,391,351,144

Singing River Electric works to keep power costs low in southeast Mississippi

Singing River Electric along with electricity providers across the United States has seen energy costs continually creep upward due to increases in natural gas prices, coal and higher costs involved with railroads transporting coal.

"To keep overall costs and member bills as low as possible, Singing River Electric works with South Mississippi Electric Power Association (SMEPA), our generation and transmission cooperative, to utilize a diversified fuel mix of coal, natural gas, nuclear and hydropower in order to supply power to our members," explained Singing River Electric general manager and CEO Lee Hedegaard.

Electric coal-fired plants were

singled out in 2007 for emitting carbon, thought to contribute to climate change or warming of the Earth. Although the science behind this claim is not conclusive, many environmental groups and members of Congress want carbon emissions controlled and coal plants held accountable.

According to the National Center for Policy Analysis, less than four percent of the carbon dioxide (CO₂) produced on Earth is created by humans; 95 percent is attributed to water vapor. Despite this low number, multiple bills are making their way through Congress, setting standards to reduce or slow the effects of climate change by cutting carbon emissions.

There is no definitive evidence that carbon emissions contribute to climate change, and in turn, no proof that curbing emissions will have any effect at all.

Fifty percent of the United States' electricity supply comes from coal, a very economical and readily available fuel source.

So where does this leave Singing River Electric, its members and the millions of Americans dependent on electricity?

Increased costs associated with regulations and new technology to reduce carbon emissions will be passed along to those who produce the electricity, distribute the electricity and ultimately those who use the electricity.

An even greater issue could be not having enough power to meet demand. The North American Electric Reliability Corporation foresees electricity demand in the U.S. increasing by nearly 18 percent over the next 10 years, yet there are restrictions on building clean-coal plants and nuclear plants, both producing little to no CO₂.

Renewable forms of energy or "green power" are virtually non-existent in the southeastern United States and where available, they are very costly and do not reliably generate a great deal of power.

We need to balance affordable power and environmental goals. Stay informed and let your voice be heard.

Students represent Singing River Electric at the Youth Leadership Workshop

Youth learn leadership skills that will last for years to come.

By Robin Haney

Singing River Electric Power Association afforded three high school juniors to participate in a three-day workshop designed to

acquaint the future leaders of our communities with a cooperative philosophy and to provide them the opportunity to learn more about leadership.

The Youth Leadership Program is an event sponsored by the Electric Power Associations of Mississippi to offer junior students from all over the state an opportunity to learn about how and why cooperatives operate, how electricity is distributed, a look at state government, in addition to sharpening their leadership skills.

The program focuses on developing the leadership skills of students who have demonstrated a desire to be quality leaders among today's young people. It is the desire of the program to enhance these talents and provide

advanced skills to help them as they prepare to be tomorrow's leaders.

The students are always excited to learn new skills that will help them for years to come. Heavy emphasis is placed on working together and why this approach works so effectively.

As a group, the students participated in a Town Hall Meeting, a visit to the Capitol, team-building exercises and they learned about the cooperative form of business.

Lt. Gov. Phil Bryant spoke with the students on the steps of the Capitol.

Philip Bridges, Laura Polk and Robert Wineski joined 62 other juniors from across the state for the 22nd annual Youth Leadership Workshop held March 5-7 in Jackson.

Singing River Electric Power Association sponsors three students from its service area each year to participate in the program. Students must have a 3.0 GPA, be involved in extracurricular activities and participate in an interview process.



From left are Sen. Michael Watson, Rep. Frank Hamilton, Laura Polk, Robert Wineski, Philip Bridges and Rep. Shaun Walley.

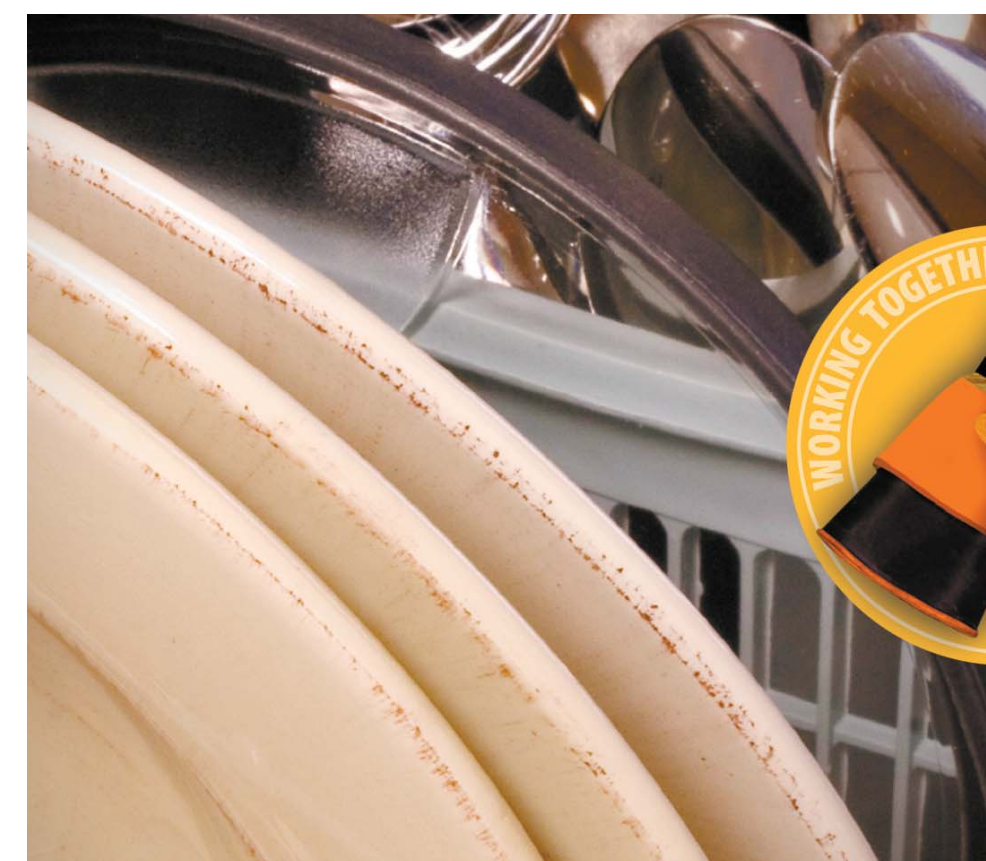
The Youth Leadership Program offers young people the tools and knowledge that will encourage their leadership skills in the classroom, community, church and family. Students have competed in the unique leadership program since 1986. It's an educational and fun experience that will make a lasting impact on them.

Philip Bridges is the son of Jeff and DeAnna Bridges. He is a junior at Perry Central High School.

Laura Polk is the daughter of Mike and Carla Polk and is a junior at East Central High School.

Robert Wineski is the son of Bobby and Dana Wineski and is a junior at Ocean Springs High School.

Perhaps the biggest reward of the program is the Washington, D.C. Youth Tour, which the students will attend in June. The trip highlights our nation's capital with a week-long tour of everything imaginable.



Save Time and Conserve Energy.

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