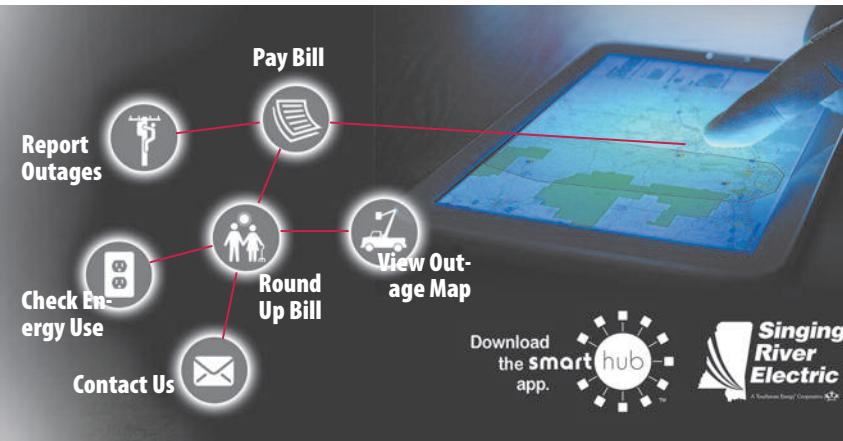


Singing River Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Brian Hughey, General Manager & CEO
 Lorri Freeman, APR, Manager of Public Relations
 Amanda Parker, Public Relations Specialist
 For more information, call 601-947-4211, 228-497-1313 or visit our website at singingriver.com. SRE is an equal opportunity employer and provider.



CEO's Message

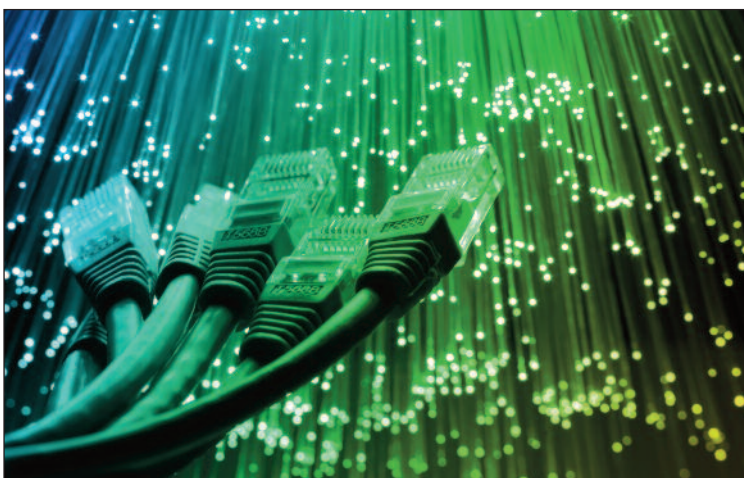
Taking a closer look at broadband

As you are probably aware, Governor Phil Bryant recently signed the Mississippi Broadband Enabling Act into law, allowing Mississippi's 25 electric cooperatives, including Singing River Electric, the ability to provide high-speed internet service to the members. We have received several questions about what this means for Singing River Electric, so I wanted to explain a few things for you, our members.



Brian Hughey
 General Manager & CEO
 Singing River Electric

We recognize that broadband connectivity is vital to the residents and communities of rural Mississippi and their future. Education and remote healthcare are just a couple of the areas that could benefit from an expansion of this service. So, when can Singing River Electric members connect to the internet highway via fiber optics? Next week? Next month? That seems to be the expectation of some members within our state and our service area. However, sometimes expectations and reality are miles apart. Let's take a closer look.



There are obstacles, namely cost. If it were easy and inexpensive to do, the telecommunications companies would have already provided broadband service to rural areas, and the electric cooperatives would not need to get involved. But it's not easy, nor is it inexpensive. Along with cost, Singing River Electric must also look at other questions such as: How many households would take the service, and at what monthly fee? What type of business structure do we form? Do we create a subsidiary or form a partnership? Will we need to hire additional employees and how many? Are there people available to hire with the necessary technical skills? These are just a few questions that will need to be addressed as we consider moving forward with broadband. Over the next several months or longer, electric cooperatives around the state will begin to

conduct studies to answer these questions to determine if this venture makes economic sense for the cooperative and its members. Not every electric cooperative in the state will be able to offer broadband; they simply will not have enough households or businesses who will take the service for it to be feasible.

What exactly does the new law do? It requires electric cooperatives to do at least one feasibility study to determine if broadband can be done without putting the electric cooperative at significant risk. It allows cooperatives to provide the service through several options. They may form subsidiaries, enter partnerships, or form other types of affiliates to provide broadband service. The law prohibits an electric cooperative from providing the service through the cooperative itself; it must be done through a separate company, maintaining separate books. A cooperative cannot use electric revenue to provide broadband service, again limiting the risk to the electric cooperative and its members. The law requires the cooperative, if it decides to provide broadband service, to commit to a plan making broadband available to all its members at some point. It does not require any electric cooperative to offer broadband, and it prevents cooperatives from requiring a member to take the service.

What lies ahead for Singing River Electric and its members? We have conducted an initial feasibility study, and cost estimates are staggering. A survey of the membership will be conducted soon and depending on the outcome, a more detailed feasibility study may be performed. We will continue to closely research the possibility of providing broadband service as it may be one of the most important decisions the cooperative has ever made.

Singing River Electric's first responsibility as an electric cooperative is to continue to provide quality electric service to the membership. Any decision we make will come after very careful consideration as we work to ensure that we do the right thing for our members and Singing River Electric.



Jeff Gray
 Energy Services Representative
gray@singingriver.com

Save the date for upcoming Energy Fairs

Spring is the time when many of us make energy-efficiency improvements around the home. Singing River Electric can help inspire those improvements at our upcoming Energy Fairs. We will host four fairs in Helena, Fontainebleau, Greene County and Lucedale.

- Energy Fairs:**
- Helena Community Center
 April 10, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
 - Fontainebleau Community Center
 April 24, 3 - 6 p.m.
 - District 4 Community Center
 May 15, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
 - SRE Lucedale Office
 June 27, 3 - 6 p.m.

We will have demonstration stations discussing insulation, lighting, heating and cooling, and many more efficient building techniques. Members can speak with energy consultants to discuss their homes or businesses and receive advice customized for their life and comfort level. Save the date and join us! We are bringing these Energy Fairs to you.

NATIONAL LINEMAN APPRECIATION DAY

Singing River Electric Cooperative joins the country as we #ThankALineman and more specifically our local linemen during the month of April. Linework is highly specialized and difficult work that often must be done in severe weather or difficult conditions. Safety is paramount. Our linemen not only have our backs here at home, but they also travel across neighboring states to restore power in times of disaster.

We also want to thank the families of our linemen. They are the backbone of support our linemen need to get the job done, and their sacrifice of family time does not go unappreciated.



We salute our local linemen and all Singing River Electric employees. Thank you for a job well done. **#ThankALineman**

FREE LED BULBS, CUSTOM ADVICE, EXPERT KNOWLEDGE



FREE ENERGY FAIR

- April 10** – Helena Community Center, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
 10500 Saracennia Road, Moss Point
- April 24** – Fontainebleau Community Center, 3 - 6 p.m.
 Highway 57 South, Ocean Springs
- May 15** – District 4 Community Center, 10 a.m - 2 p.m.
 8232 Old 63 North, Greene County
- June 27** – SRE Lucedale Office, 3 - 6 p.m.
 11187 Old 63 South, Lucedale





YOUTH LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP 2019



WORKSHOP SPEAKERS



The Electric Cooperatives of Mississippi recently held the 33rd Youth Leadership Workshop in Jackson. This annual youth event brought students from across Mississippi to the state capital to meet their legislators and to participate in activities designed to enhance their already-present leadership abilities.

The workshop began on Wednesday, Feb. 27, and continued through Friday, March 1. Electric cooperatives from all areas of Mississippi participate in the program each year.

Sarah Hults of Resurrection High School, Carly Jones of East Central High School, Madisyn Peterson of St. Martin High School and Jeb Wells of Vancleave High School were selected to represent Singing River Electric at this event.

"The program was developed to help young leaders determine their strengths and weaknesses while showing them ways to become better leaders. We then encourage them to return home and make a difference in the lives of others, exemplifying true leadership," said Ron Stewart, Electric

Cooperatives of Mississippi senior vice president.

This year, 87 students attended the workshop, which was held at the Marriott in downtown Jackson. When the students arrived on Wednesday, the workshop began with a "get acquainted" session and they were put into situations where they had to learn about others. They were then asked to participate in a Town Hall meeting, which encouraged them to discuss issues they are facing as young people. Together with their groups, they developed possible solutions to these issues and were encouraged by group leaders to take the skills they learned back to their schools where they could make a real difference in the lives of their peers.

On Thursday morning, the students enjoyed breakfast with senators and representatives who serve in state government in the districts where the students reside. The breakfast was well-attended with more than 50 legislators in attendance. Before visiting the Mississippi State Capitol, Lt. Gov. Tate Reeves spoke to the students and encouraged them to work hard for their dreams. He gave the students three guidelines for success: dream big, make a plan and work hard. "If you do these three things, you can accomplish anything you set your mind to," he said.

Gov. Phil Bryant continues to support this program by speaking to the students each year during a luncheon at the Old Capitol Inn. During his speech, he encouraged the students to pursue their dreams and hold on to their Mississippi values. He discussed the positive economic factors happening in Mississippi and told them that they don't have to go far from home to become successful.

"There are so many opportunities for you in Mississippi to take on leadership roles here. Whether you go on to college or choose a technical trade, there are many advantages to staying right here at home," Bryant said.

The students also heard from other motivational speakers and participated in a fun evening with local magician, Dorian LaChance, who wowed them with his illusions. When the workshop came to a close, the students had made many new friends and memories that will last a lifetime.

Through this program, Singing River Electric hopes to prepare these young people for a bright future. The program has proven to encourage students to reach their goals year after year, and the students take away lifelong relationships.

"These four students are already leaders in

their schools and can use this opportunity to further develop their leadership skills while interacting with students from all over Mississippi," said Singing River Electric General Manager and CEO Brian Hughey.

In June, Sarah, Carly, Madisyn and Jeb will travel with the youth group to Washington, D.C. The seven-day trip will include visits to many of the popular monuments and memorials, as well as meetings with Mississippi's congressional delegation during a visit to Capitol Hill.

"These four students are already leaders in their schools and can use this opportunity to further develop their leadership skills."
 – Brian Hughey
 General Manager/CEO



SRE's students were front and center when Gov. Phil Bryant spoke at lunch.



Carly, Madisyn, Sarah and Jeb had a front row seat to hear Lt. Gov. Tate Reeves.



Sarah, Madisyn, Jeb and Carly were proud to represent SRE at the Youth Leadership Workshop.



Above: Rep. Roun McNeal invited Jeb, Madisyn, Sarah and Carly to visit the House floor. Right: Thanks to Rep. Manly Barton, Sen. Brice Wiggins, Rep. John Read, Sen. Michael Watson, Sen. Mike Seymour and Rep. Doug McLeod for joining SRE's students at the legislative breakfast.



SRE's students used their problem-solving and leadership skills while interacting with fellow workshop attendees.



MEET YOUR BOARD

Members of your community

Singing River Electric is led by member-consumers like you who understand and listen to the community. Our board of directors are elected by the membership to serve a three-year term.

The members who serve on our board are also involved in their communities. Director Kristal Sisson assists with South Mississippi Special Needs Organization's summer camp in Ocean Springs where she teaches a theatre workshop for camp participants. Director Mark LaSalle works hard to conserve our local natural resources including water, plants and wetlands.



Singing River Electric board members Mark LaSalle (left) and Kristal Sisson (right)

Part One of a four-part series. See page 11 to meet board members who own local businesses.

Community



MY HOME | MY BUSINESS | MY MEMBERSHIP | MY COMMUNITY | MY CO-OP

www.singingriver.com

Check out new website

DID YOU KNOW?

The Storm and Outage section under My Home links directly to a LIVE weather outage map. You can access this using the SmartHub app too!

Live Weather Outage Map

Download Our SmartHub App

Info on Capital Credits

Access Bylaws

Your Board of Directors

EARTH DAY

Our community partnership extends to environmental stewardship. Our employees clean up and strive to leave our beautiful community even better than they found it.



The 2018 Renew Our Rivers clean-up event at Gautier City Park collected six tons of debris, which was the year's most successful Mississippi Renew Our Rivers event.

Join us for the 2019 Jackson County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event

Saturday, April 13
8:30 a.m. - Noon
Singing River Mall in Gautier



MEET YOUR BOARD

Members of your community

As an electric co-op, we belong to the communities we serve. We are led by member-consumers like you who understand and listen to our community.

Members who serve on our board are your neighbors, and some own local small businesses. Director Cary Williams' CPA office has been a part of Leakesville since 1989. Director Eddie Thornton's family has owned their local restaurant for 50 years.

Part Two of a four-part series. May's issue will feature Parts Three & Four with directors who've earned the credentialed co-op director certification and those with careers varying from farming and business to large industry.



Singing River Electric board members Cary Williams (left) and Eddie Thornton (right)

Small business