



Bringing power and energy services to local communities

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR CEO

# Unwavering dedication

The last several weeks have certainly been challenging for all of us. As COVID-19



**Brian Hughey**  
General Manager & CEO

(Coronavirus) spreads across the country, Singing River Electric employees have worked hard to provide our members with continued exceptional service. We recognize electricity is a critical need, especially in times like these. We are committed to support our members and communities

and have suspended disconnections to not only ensure uninterrupted service, but also to support local families during these stressful times.

Members will not be disconnected for nonpayment during a 60-day period which began on March 15, 2020, in accordance with the Mississippi Public Service Commission. It is important to understand this does not eliminate your bill. Members should continue to pay current and past due bills, as well as services provided during the 60 days.

Singing River Electric is committed to work with all members to help find payment solutions. You can speak to a member service representative by calling any of our three offices. It is important to stay current on payments to avoid the accumulation of a larger balance at the end of the suspension.

Following the guidelines provided by our state and national leaders, Singing River Electric encourages members and employees to continue practicing good hygiene habits and social distancing to prevent the spread of this and other viruses. Drive-up windows remain open

while lobbies are closed, and we have communicated to members additional options for service including our SmartHub mobile app, phone and website at [singingriver.com](http://singingriver.com).

On a different note, April is National Lineman Appreciation Month and our linemen remain dedicated even during times like these. A day in the life of a lineman is not so easy to predict. A lineman's family plans are often altered due to unexpected power outages. SRE linemen receive calls all hours of the day and night, often requiring them to sacrifice precious family time in order to respond and restore electric service to our members. They do this willingly and without hesitation. During this Lineman Appreciation Month, we say thank you to our linemen who take pride in keeping our lights on. To the families of our linemen, we thank you as well and know you support our linemen and make similar time sacrifices.

SRE's team of linemen have built and continue to maintain over 7,500 miles of electric power lines throughout seven counties in southeast Mississippi, and two counties in southwest Alabama. While our linemen strive to provide excellent, around-the-clock service, they must always keep safety as their focus. Their lives and the safety of our members depend on it.

I hope each of you keep your own safety and wellness as your top priority this month and encourage you to take the advice from the CDC when protecting yourself from COVID-19 and other illnesses. During these unprecedented times, we are dedicated to serve our membership just as we have for over 80 years. We wish you and your family the best during the coming weeks and pray things get back to normal soon.

**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 [singingriver.com](http://singingriver.com).

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SRE is an equal opportunity employer and provider.



**Jeff Gray**  
Energy Services Representative  
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## Summertime means pool time

Now is the time to get your pool ready for the summer. An average in-ground pool pump can cost about \$4.50 per day for a 24-hour operation. Running the pump for 8 hours a day will minimize your cost and keep your pool clean, and a pool timer is recommended to achieve this. Timers have an override built into them in the event you want the pump running during off hours. The timer will return to your preset settings on the next time cycle. Always remember to clean your leaf filters to maintain a steady water flow to the pump.



If you have a cleaning system with a booster pump, I recommend running it only as needed. If the cleaning system is on a timer, then a dual timer is needed. The dual timer will turn the booster pump on after the pool pump starts and turn it off before the pool pump shuts off. Your water chemicals may have to be adjusted for shorter pump run times.

Visit [singingriver.com](http://singingriver.com) or [energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov) for more tips.

# Supporting first responders

## SRE donates lunch to Gautier Police Department



Singing River Electric Gautier District Manager Buck Williams (far right) and Serviceman Mike Perry recently delivered lunch to the Gautier Police Department, represented by Lt. Johnathan Allmand. We appreciate their dedication during the virus pandemic.

SRE linemen and employees know what it's like to weather a storm. We recognize local police departments and first responders, along with health care workers, who have stayed on the job to protect our communities during the recent virus outbreak. We thank you for your service and dedication.

At Singing River Electric, we know electricity is a critical need. We are working to ensure our members have dependable uninterrupted service by keeping drive throughs open and offering many ways to do business even after hours. In addition, we are taking measures to protect the community by closing our lobbies and the health of our employees by reinforcing proper hygiene, staggering work schedules and sanitizing the office nightly.

# Upcoming right-of-way projects

Singing River Electric clears trees, limbs and underbrush from the area around and below the power lines called the right-of-way. Right-of-way clearing helps decrease the number of outages and reduces the risk of

someone coming in contact with the power lines. Here are the substations and surrounding areas that are either currently being cleared or where clearing will begin soon:

- **Brewer Substation** – Highway 42, Cochran Road, Camp 8 Road and surrounding areas.
- **Leakesville Substation** – Knobtown Road, Highway 63, Highway 57, Hillman Crossing and surrounding areas.
- **Gulf Park Substation** – Beachview, Groveland Road, Gulf Park Estates and surrounding areas.
- **Hamill Farm Substation** – St. Andrews area, Pointe Aux Chenes Road, Fountainbleau Road and surrounding areas.



# Social Distancing?

Here's how to do business:



While social distancing during the virus outbreak, Singing River Electric has many ways to safely do business.

- Use the drive-up window. Our drive throughs are open during normal business hours.
- Download our SmartHub mobile app at [singingriver.com/SmartHub](http://singingriver.com/SmartHub). It's free and allows you to pay a bill, check billing history, report a power outage and more around the clock from anywhere.
- Call any SRE office and speak to our member service representatives. They are available during business hours to assist you.
- Visit our website at [singingriver.com](http://singingriver.com). The website has all the features of the mobile app plus energy calculators and information to help you conserve while you are at home.



Left to right: Sen. Mike Seymour, Rep. Doug McLeod, Sen. Brice Wiggins, Bethany Toche, Byron Swetman, Avarie Wells, Sen. Dennis DeBar, Laney Kate Hulbert and Rep. Manly Barton.

# Youth Leadership

Mississippi youth leaders converge in Jackson for 2020 Youth Leadership Workshop

Students from around the state assembled in Jackson, Miss., for a leadership conference sponsored by Mississippi's electric cooperatives. Organized by the Electric Cooperatives of Mississippi, this year marks the 34th year for the Youth Leadership Program. The 2020 class is the largest group to date, with 88 students in attendance.

This respected program instills leadership skills, inspires creative thinking, encourages community service and introduces students to Mississippi's elected officials.

The conference was held at the Marriott in downtown Jackson from Wednesday, Feb. 26, through Friday, Feb. 28. Laney Kate Hulbert from

George County High School, Byron Swetman from St. Martin High School, Bethany Toche from Ocean Springs High School and Avarie Wells from Resurrection High School represented Singing River Electric at this event.

When students arrived on Wednesday, they began networking with their peers through a "get acquainted" session led by Eddie Tanner and participated in a Town Hall meeting. The exercises encouraged them to talk about obstacles they face in their everyday lives and challenged them to develop solutions to take back to their schools and positively impact their classmates and communities.

Thursday morning, students shared breakfast with senators and



representatives from their districts, who are always supportive of this program. Before visiting the Mississippi State Capitol, Lt. Gov. Delbert Hosemann and Secretary of State Michael Watson spoke about the importance of leadership and working hard to achieve goals. The students learned about the legislative process from Paul Purnell, vice president of government relations for Electric Cooperatives of Mississippi.

While at the Capitol, Singing River Electric's students had the opportunity to visit the Senate and House floors with some hands-on education from state legislators.

During a luncheon at the Old Capitol Inn, Gov. Tate Reeves spoke about leadership and reminded the students that anyone can reach their goals, despite obstacles.

Thursday afternoon, team-building exercises led by Elyon Outreach Ministries helped sharpen the students' leadership and teamwork abilities, both necessary components to successfully completing the challenging activities. Afterwards, students enjoyed an exciting evening with local magician and comedian Dorian LaChance.

Concluding the event Friday morning, students attended a recognition and awards ceremony followed by a motivational speech from Bro. Terry Rhodes about his extraordinary story of courage and determination.

Congratulations to Byron Swetman who was chosen as a Top 10 finalist for Mississippi's Youth Leadership Council representative.

Singing River Electric hopes to prepare these young people for a bright future through the Youth Leadership Program.



Top photo: Byron Swetman, Avarie Wells, Secretary of State Michael Watson, Laney Kate Hulbert and Bethany Toche at the 2020 Youth Leadership Workshop in Jackson.

Center photo: Bethany and Laney Kate learn tricks from Magician Dorian LaChance.

Bottom photo: Bethany Toche, Byron Swetman, Avarie Wells and Laney Kate Hulbert outside of the Mississippi State Capitol Building.

To learn more about our Mississippi Youth Leadership Program, visit [singingriver.com/my-community](http://singingriver.com/my-community). Our next deadline for high school juniors will be fall of 2020. See your high school guidance counselor.



SRE Board Member and Principal at Resurrection Catholic School  
Kristal Sisson shown with her students.

### Geographic Districts

Singing River Electric board members are elected for a three-year term from three geographic districts. District 1 directors represent members in Greene, Perry and Wayne counties in Mississippi and Washington County in Alabama. Three District 2 directors represent members in George and Stone counties in Mississippi and Mobile County in Alabama. Four District 3 directors represent members in Jackson and Harrison counties in Mississippi. The number of board representatives is based on population in the area.



### Credentials and Election Committee

Six Singing River Electric members currently serve on the Credentials and Election Committee. These individuals serve the co-op by verifying board candidates prior to election. They also help oversee board elections, allowing for member oversight and ensuring transparency.

### Board Election

Each year, Singing River Electric holds a board election for three to four posts in the three different geographic districts. Board candidates must submit a candidate packet within the deadline and be approved by the Credentials and Election Committee. Elections are held beginning in May and run through June, just prior to the annual membership meeting. Notice of the meeting is mailed to all members prior to the election period. Directors are elected by the membership by online ballot, mail-in proxy and in-person ballots.



Singing River Electric board members (top) Cary Williams and Eddie Thornton, and (bottom) Mark LaSalle and Kristal Sisson.

## Board Leadership

More than just attending meetings, today's board values community and continued education.

What does it take to be a leader? If you're a member of an electric cooperative, you can lead by serving on the board of directors. Our 10-member board is made up of SRE members throughout the service area in three geographic districts.

Today's director is not only concerned with providing quality, reliable electric service, but also giving back to local communities, transparency through member communication and continued education. Directors must attend monthly meetings and take classes to stay up-to-date on everything from accounting issues, technology and innovation, renewable energy and more.

For more information, visit our website at [singingriver.com/my-coop](http://singingriver.com/my-coop).



## Supporting school technology

### SRE NHN Grant assists Sand Hill Attendance Center

#### NHN Community Grants

Neighbors Helping Neighbors (NHN) Community Grants help Singing River Electric merge efforts with the hard work of those within our communities. Since the program's inception in 2001, \$291,836 has been awarded to local non-profits in local communities.

Singing River Electric recently awarded a \$2,328 Neighbors Helping Neighbors Community Grant to Sand Hill Attendance Center. Grant funds purchased 12 Chromebook computers for students to use in the school library.

"I would like to thank Singing River Electric for their generous donation to our school," said Librarian Bridgette Stringer. "The students love the interactive games they can play, and they can also collaborate with others while working on group projects. The Chromebooks offer the students personalized learning while being easy to use."

Visit [singingriver.com/my-community](http://singingriver.com/my-community) for more information on SRE NHN Community Grants and how to apply. Grants for up to \$2,500 are awarded to nonprofits in SRE's service area three times a year in January, May and September.



## National Lineman Appreciation Month

April is National Lineman Appreciation Month. Singing River Electric appreciates our professionally-trained, hardworking linemen. It takes rigorous training, monthly safety meetings and periodic continued education to keep up with the job. It is physical labor that also requires quick thinking and high intelligence.

Thank you to all our linemen! We appreciate all you do for our members!

