



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR CEO

Members like you, representing SRE's membership across southeast Mississippi



Brian Hughey
General Manager & CEO

Over the last three months in this publication, we have introduced you to Singing River Electric's board of directors. This diverse group of individuals is elected by our membership to serve a three-year term as defined by the cooperative's bylaws. Our 10-member board is made up of **SRE members, just like you**, residing in one of three geographic districts within our service area. In order to assure equitable representation of the geographical areas of the cooperative, three of the directors are residents of District 1 which consists of Greene, Perry and Wayne counties in Mississippi and Washington County in Alabama; three of the directors are residents of District 2 which consists of George and Stone counties in Mississippi and Mobile County in Alabama; and four of the directors are residents of District 3 which consists of Jackson and Harrison counties in Mississippi.

Because they are tasked with **representing the entire membership**, SRE directors take this responsibility

very seriously. Your board members continue to emphasize the cooperative's mission as its primary focus: to provide safe, reliable and affordable electric service to the membership. Reports on safety, reliability, financials and other items are discussed monthly at board meetings.

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 continuing education. Directors are required to attend monthly meetings and participate in training provided by our statewide and nationally-affiliated organizations. This group of member representatives stays up-to-date on cooperative subjects including accounting, technology and innovation, renewable energy and more.

Taking time to listen to members, focus on the issues, understand their responsibilities, and make decisions based on what is in the best interests of the membership, has allowed your cooperative directors to serve the membership equitably and effectively.

For more information, visit www.singingriver.com/my-coop.



Gabe Robbins
Energy Services Representative
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Staying cool in summer heat

As temperatures climb, we are all looking for ways to stay cool.

A ceiling fan is an inexpensive way to do so. The fan will not actually lower the temperature, but creates a cooling effect that makes you feel cooler by moving air across your skin. Operate ceiling fans only when rooms are occupied. Turn them off when you leave the room. Ensure fans are running counterclockwise so air is pushed down toward you.



Also, have your air conditioning unit checked to ensure it is working at peak performance. This annual maintenance will help you use less energy and can save money by avoiding more costly repairs. Check Freon levels, and change the air filter regularly to help the unit stay clean. Avoid setting lamps and heat-producing electronics near the thermostat as it will register the heat produced by these items and cause your unit to run longer.

For more summer tips, visit singingriver.com/ways-to-save.

POWER in MEMBERSHIP

2021 Annual Meeting held June 24

Singing River Electric held its 2021 Annual Membership Meeting on Thursday, June 24.

During the meeting, General Manager and CEO Brian Hughey reviewed the highlights from 2020 and shared some of the cooperative's plans for 2021. Attendees were introduced to the electric co-op's new fiber affiliate, Singing River Connect, and learned about the three fiber pilot projects in the Brewer, Vestry and Agricola communities. Nearly 2,000 residents of Jackson, George, Greene, Perry and Wayne counties will be eligible to sign up for high-speed fiber in this initial pilot project phase. Singing River Connect is currently taking expressions of interest for fiber service and pre-registering those in the pilot project areas. For more information, visit www.singingriverconnect.com.

Four Singing River Electric members were elected to serve three-year terms on the cooperative's board. One board member was elected to represent District 1, one was elected to represent District 2, and two were elected to represent District

3. There are traditionally three directors up for election each year, one from each district. However every third year, two directors are elected for District 3. This is the district with the most members and is represented by two directors to ensure adequate representation.

- Cary Williams, District 1
- Travis Baxter, District 2
- Eddie Thornton, District 3
- Mark LaSalle, District 3

Singing River Electric members Milton Driskell, Linda Eckford, Philip Busby, Obie Wells and Richard Fleming served on the 2021 Credentials and Election Committee. This committee reviews and approves board candidates, oversees elections and sees first-hand the efforts made to be transparent when conducting the business of the electric cooperative.

Singing River Electric meeting attendees participated in board elections online, by SmartHub app, by mailed-in proxies or in person at the annual meeting.

2020 highlights discussed at the membership meeting:

- Restored power to 82% of SRE members, 38,000 in the first 48 hours, following category 3 Hurricane Zeta.
- Kept drive through open at all three offices and safely worked through a year-long, world-wide pandemic.
- Retired more than \$4.2 million in capital credits to SRE members. This was a return of member investments in the co-op from the years 1993-1994.
- Retired an additional \$700,622 of other capital credits was returned to members for the year 1990.
- Ventured into fiber service by creating a fiber affiliate, Singing River Connect.
- Worked with SRE members to install 13 new residential solar projects commissioned by Cooperative Energy.
- Gave back in the community by cleaning school yards, volunteering at a food shelter, giving away hard-wood seedlings, supporting STEM and helping Habitat for Humanity.
- Served electric service to 76,474 meters across seven counties in Mississippi and two in Alabama.
- Donated a total of \$304,708.15 in Neighbors Helping Neighbors grants locally since the program began.
- Contributed to local communities and economies by hiring 13 full-time employees in 2020.
- Maintained a total of 7,543 miles of power lines, including 1,511 underground power lines and 6,032 miles of overhead power lines.
- Sold \$1.36 billion in kilowatt sales to power our local communities.
- Returned \$68,800 in Comfort Advantage and heat pump rebates to members.
- Employed 192 full-time employees at three district offices.
- Sponsored four high school youth leaders for the Mississippi Youth Leadership Program. They attended the trip to the state capital but were prevented from attending the trip to Washington, D.C., due to the pandemic.
- Assisted Alabama and Louisiana co-ops following Hurricanes Sally and Laura.
- Answered 103,187 calls from members.

2021 Annual Meeting Proxy/Online Voting winners include: Cynthia Mizell of Leakesville, Dale Daughdrill of Neely, Colton Krohn of D'Iberville, Robert Zittleman, Sr. of Ocean Springs, Jerry Broadus of Pascagoula, Johnny Harvison of Beaumont and Amy Richardson of Lucedale.

Lightning-fast, fiber-to-the-home internet is coming!

High-speed internet service is not readily available throughout the communities we serve. We want to help all our members and local businesses cross the digital divide and receive the same opportunities as those who live in more populated areas. With that goal in mind, we are proud to introduce our new brand, Singing River Connect.

Introducing three pilot areas

Covering five of our Mississippi counties served

SR Connect is bringing lightning-fast, fiber-to-the-home service locally to three pilot project areas:

- SRE's Brewer substation area
- Parts of SRE's Aleco substation area in the Vestry community
- Parts of SRE's Agricola substation area

The three pilot project areas represent Singing River Electric's three geographic districts and will reach select households in George, Greene, Jackson, Perry and Wayne counties.

Save the date

We are excited to get members connected, but building a fiber-to-the-home network takes time. We expect service to become available in our pilot areas as follows, though all dates are subject to change.

SR Singing River Connect
Powered by Singing River Electric

- SRE Brewer substation is scheduled to receive fiber service in **late September or early October 2021**.
- Parts of SRE's Aleco substation in the Vestry community is scheduled to receive fiber service in **mid-to-late November 2021**.
- Parts of SRE's Agricola substation is scheduled to receive fiber service in **late December 2021 or early January 2022**.

Help us make this project a success!

Visit our new website at singingriverconnect.com and click "Search Your Address."

If you're in a pilot area, sign up for services and don't renew your contract with your existing internet service provider.

If you're outside of a pilot area, express your interest. Your response will help us plan future broadband expansion, dependent on the success of the pilot. So search your address – and spread the word!

Connect with us

Join the conversations and regular updates on our project.

- Facebook: @SingingRiverConnect
- Instagram: @SingingRiverConnect
- Twitter: @SRConnectMS
- Website: singingriverconnect.com

DON'T RENEW THAT CONTRACT!

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Boat launch cleanup in George County

Electric co-ops, including Singing River Electric, are built by our local communities. Our employees live and work here and that is why they have a passion and investment in community service.

Recently, SRE employees helped clean up the Wilkerson Ferry boat launch and artesian well area in George County. The local boat launches are maintained by our counties and Mississippi Wildlife Fisheries and Parks conservation officers. They have many boat launch locations and resources are limited.

Employees cut grass, weeded and cleared the boat launch and surrounding area of fallen tree limbs. The artesian well was scrubbed and cleaned for future use. A similar community service act was completed by SRE employees at the Chickasawhay River Leakesville Landing boat launch in Greene County this past January. Employees are planning to cleanup a Jackson County boat launch area in July 2021.



SRE employees Stephanie Chisholm and Katie Hinton work to clear debris.



SRE co-op student Micah Fairley works to clean the artesian well located at the boat launch site.

For information about the community service projects and other community service partnerships, visit singingriver.com/my-community or join the conversation on Facebook/Instagram (SingingRiverElectric) or Twitter (SRECooperative).

Get prepared. Stay ready.

Download our newest storm preparedness document or pick up a copy at any SRE office, and stay ready for severe weather.



Staying Connected

www.singingriver.com
 Mobile app: SmartHub
 @singingriverelectric on Instagram
 @SRECooperative on Twitter
 @SingingRiverElectric on Facebook



Supporting community services

SRE NHN Grant benefits United Way for Jackson & George Counties

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, \$312,178.15 has been awarded to local non-profits in local communities.

United Way for Jackson & George Counties received a \$2,500 Neighbors Helping Neighbors Community Grant to purchase a monument sign. This new, larger sign will make it easier for community members to find the United Way office. According to Tee McCovey, CPM, United Way for Jackson & George Counties president and CEO, in addition to location, the goal is to bring attention to United Way's services and the impact those services make on the community.

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

Replenish your storm supplies

Now is the time, on a pretty day, to replenish your storm supplies. Purchase fresh batteries, canned goods and water to keep in the event of a storm. Ready.gov and the Red Cross are great resources for building a basic disaster supply kit.

- singingriver.com/storm-and-outage
- ready.gov
- redcross.org

What is the fastest way to report an outage?

Using the SmartHub mobile app can speed restoration time by directly entering your outage information into our system. Dispatch is then able to assign your power outage for faster repairs. Download the SmartHub app at singingriver.com/smarthub.

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:

- **Basin Substation** - Highway 63, Barton-Agricola Road, River Road and surrounding areas.
- **Forts Lake Substation** - Independence Road, Forts Lake Road and surrounding areas.
- **Lucedale South Substation** - Highway 26, Twin Creek Road, Highway 63 and surrounding areas.
- **Escatawpa South Substation** - Highway 613, Saracennia Road, Coda Road and surrounding areas.