



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR CEO

Preparing for storm season

As we enter the month of June, we begin yet another hurricane season with storm names ranging from Alex to Walter. While many are eager to enter the warmer spring and summer months, we all know the weather threats that affect Gulf Coast residents this time of year. I will leave explanations of climate phenomena such as La Nina and El Nino to the weather experts, but I will share that an above-average number of storms is possible in the Atlantic this hurricane season.

In the coming weeks, you will surely hear messages encouraging you to begin preparations for hurricane season by storing non-perishable food, water, fuel, and batteries. You may also be encouraged to have storm evacuation routes picked out ahead of time, depending on the magnitude of the storm. While this is not a topic any of us enjoy discussing, it is of utmost importance we take storm preparations seriously.

Singing River Electric recently concluded the annual review of our Emergency Preparedness Plan. Should a hurricane or tropical storm approach our area, our plan contains detailed steps to take once the storm enters the Gulf of Mexico. Employees are pre-assigned specific tasks, such as securing supplies, food, fuel, and housing, while line crews, service personnel, and their supervisors are assigned certain areas of our system to report to once the storm has passed. This ever-evolving plan has been activated and successfully implemented numerous times in past years.



by **Brian Hughey**
General Manager and CEO

Being a part of the national network of electric cooperatives and our partnerships with fiber construction companies give Singing River Electric access to cooperative and contract line personnel who will assist us in repairing our electric and fiber infrastructures following a disaster. Through the years, cooperative linemen from across the country have provided restoration assistance, and we have no doubt fellow cooperatives will again respond when needed. This is an immeasurable asset allowing us to speed restoration and help our communities.

I encourage each of you to be proactive by making your preparations for this hurricane season - it's not too early. Be assured, in the event of a disaster, your electric cooperative is prepared to restore electric service to our members as quickly and safely as possible.



Energy Tips



Jeff Gray
Energy Services Representative
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Use ceiling fans wisely

Ceiling fans do not cool the air. They circulate air in the room and make you feel cooler. This is why fans should only run when the room is occupied. Because you feel cooler, the thermostat can be set a degree or two higher, which saves money. Each degree you adjust your thermostat can save you around 5% on your energy costs.



When using ceiling fans in the summer months, check the fan to ensure air is moving in a downward direction. The fan speed can be set to your personal preference. ENERGY STAR-certified ceiling fans are 60% more efficient than conventional fan/light combinations. So, it might be time to update your fixture to compound these energy savings. For more information, visit singingriver.com/ways-to-save and energystar.gov.

YOU'RE INVITED!

Learn more about how your cooperative works and participate by voting in person in SRE's board of directors election. Our 84th Annual Membership Meeting will be held at SRE's Lucedale office located at 11187 Old 63 South. The doors open for registration at 5 p.m. and the meeting begins at 6 p.m.

The meeting will include an annual update on business of the cooperative, a report outlining 2021 financials, the board election, and more. All three districts will have an election for a Post 1 seat. Any Singing River Electric member may vote in person at the June 30th meeting. All SRE members may vote for one candidate in each of the three districts. Members can also vote online or return their

proxy by mail. Each member is entitled to one vote regardless of the number of accounts in the person's name. A proxy may be assigned to the board as a whole, or a member can vote up to 200 assigned proxies at the membership meeting. The presence of a member at the meeting or an online vote, or in the case of joint membership, the presence of a spouse, shall revoke the proxy. All proxies must be received by SRE's Lucedale office by close of business on June 21.

Members returning their proxy or voting online will qualify for a drawing of \$500 cash. Those attending the annual meeting will be eligible for attendance prizes.

Join us in person in Lucedale -
Singing River Electric's 84th Annual Membership Meeting is June 30th



Here are the ways to vote:

- To vote online**, simply open the SmartHub app or visit www.singingriver.com and click on the "Vote Here" icon. By entering your membership ID and zip code, you can view candidate biographies and cast your vote by the Tuesday, June 21, deadline.
- To vote by proxy**, simply complete the mailed proxy and return using the enclosed self-addressed envelope by the Tuesday, June 21, deadline. You may still attend the meeting; your presence will rescind the proxy allowing you to vote in person.
- Vote in person** by attending the Annual Membership Meeting on Thursday, June 30, at the SRE Lucedale office located at 11187 Old 63 South.

*Deadline to vote by SmartHub app/online or return your proxy is June 21.

Singing River Electric 2022 Director Election

Candidates for one 3-year term by district:

District I, Post 1

- **Stanley R. Busby**, Representing Greene, Perry and Wayne counties in Miss., and Washington County, Ala.
- **Bernie Dearman**, Representing Greene, Perry and Wayne counties in Miss., and Washington County, Ala.
- **Joseph "Ladd" Pulliam**, Representing Greene, Perry and Wayne counties in Miss., and Washington County, Ala.

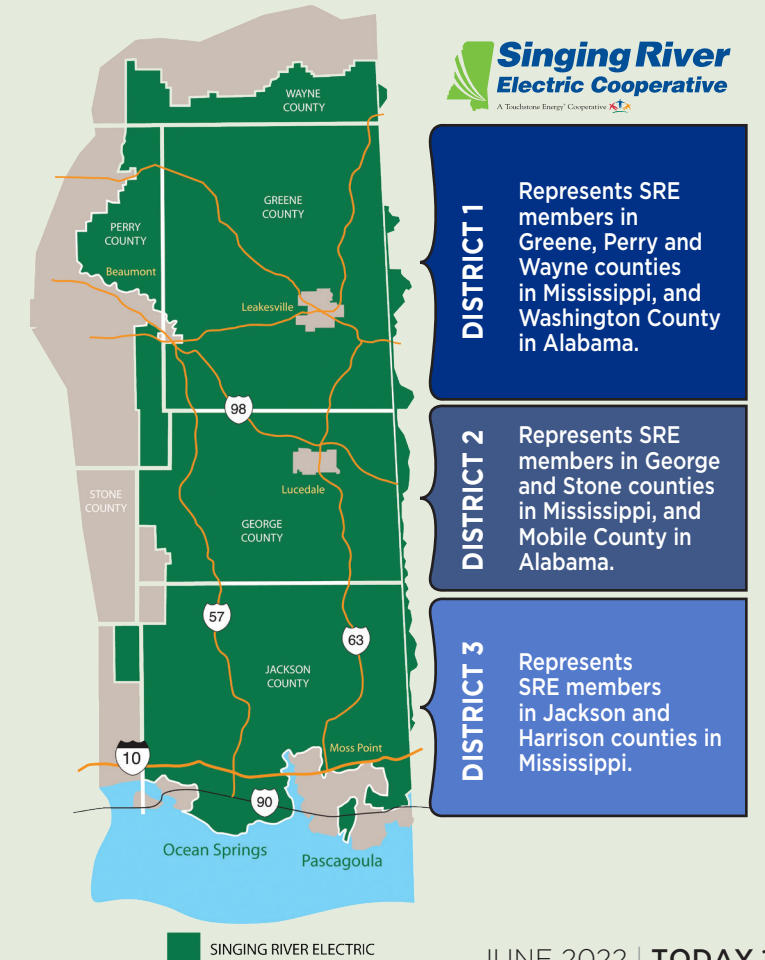
District II, Post 1

- **Ronald R. Wilson**, Representing George and Stone counties in Miss., and Mobile County, Ala.

District III, Post 1

- **Olin "Howard" Davis**, Representing Jackson and Harrison counties in Miss.

* All SRE members can vote for one candidate in each district.





Pictured are SRE servicemen Troy Collins (right) and his son Trey. Trey is a graduate of the 2020 Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Apprentice Lineman Program. He followed his dad's path and is employed as a lineman with MDR Construction in Mississippi.

The Co-op Family

Commitment to service goes beyond Singing River Electric employees

Our culture is one of mutual support. At Singing River Electric, family includes both immediate and work families. Especially in cases of severe weather, the support and understanding of both are necessary.

Generations of service

Serviceman Troy Collins and his wife, Deanna, have been living the lineman life for 21 years.

"It's a good life. Holidays are sometimes tough, but our family is accustomed to my schedule, and we make the best of it," describes

Troy. "Hurricane season can be rough—most of the time I'm leaving my own family in the dark while I go work to get the power on for our community."

Following in his father's footsteps, Troy's son, Trey, completed MGCCC's apprentice lineman program over a year ago.

"Trey thought he wanted to pursue a job in the medical field, but being able to complete the lineman program in just a few months and start his career debt-free was the best decision he made."

Troy and his family live in the Hurley community. His daughter, Ava, is a junior at East Central High School.



Sand Hill Member Service Supervisor Kelsey Hillman with her husband Caleb and daughters Kalen, Karlyn, and Chloe. Inset: Kelsey with co-workers Jeff Catlett, Sand Hill District Manager, and Tonia McLain, Member Service Representative.

Coworkers are family

The mother of three girls, with a fourth baby on the way, Sand Hill Member Service Supervisor Kelsey Hillman helps with the power restoration process by dispatching crews and assisting members, work she's done for the past nine years.

Having young children (Kalen, age 8; Karlyn, age 6; and Chloe, age 2), working full time, and arranging life with her husband, Caleb, who often works away from home can be challenging. Kelsey credits her work family with making life a little easier.

"My co-workers are definitely family," expresses Hillman. "I rely so much on Tonia McLain (fellow MSR) and Michael Pitts (warehouse supervisor). If my husband or my daddy isn't around to help me, I can always rely on Michael to step up—even if it's simply putting air in my tires."

When a storm hits, home life is also impacted. After Hurricane Zeta in 2020, Kelsey worked long hours, often coming home late at night.

"My daughter's birthday was one of those nights. I had a small family party planned, but we made do with cake and ice cream at 10:00 at night!"

Singing River family

After Hurricane Zeta, Serviceman Gary Allgood's crew was working near the Mississippi/Alabama state line. Supper sometimes wouldn't reach them until after dark in this remote area. Gary's wife, Cheryl Ann, and other linemen wives made homecooked meals and delivered supper to the crew nightly.

"They were working so hard, and they were hungry!" laughs Cheryl Ann. "We came together to feed our crew and the linemen who were helping them from a neighboring co-op too."

A lineman for 19 years, Gary knows he will be away from home after hurricanes and severe storms, and so do his children Grace (19) and Cale (13). Sacrifice and service to SRE members for linemen families is something learned early on. One Christmas morning when Grace was two, Gary was called out to work at 4:30 a.m.

"We couldn't have Christmas without her daddy!" recalls Cheryl Ann. "While Gary was working to get the lights back on for someone else's Christmas morning, I had to occupy Grace until Gary could make it back home to begin our Christmas."

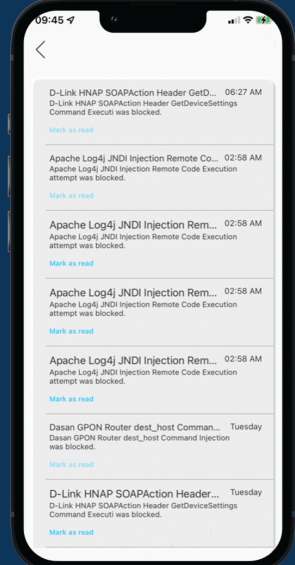
No matter the situation, SRE employees and their families lean on each other. They understand the importance of what they do to restore power and normalcy in their communities.

Grace and Cale are happy to see their daddy, Serviceman Gary Allgood, following a long day restoring power after Hurricane Isaac ripped through in August 2012. Inset: Gary (in the bucket) and fellow serviceman, Ty Evans, restore power after Hurricane Zeta.





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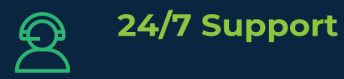
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SRE employees assist the Pascagoula River Audubon Center by removing invasive vegetation from Moss Point's Sawmill Landing, a nature-based tourism area.



Beautifying our community

SRE employees volunteer at Moss Point's Sawmill Landing

Concern for Community

As electric cooperatives, we belong to the communities we serve.

We adhere to a set of seven cooperative principles, and the seventh is concern for community. It is a part of all that we do.

Employees recently spent a day clearing Moss Point's Sawmill Landing area of invasive vegetation.

Once covered in overgrown shrubs and vines, the property at the corner of Dantzler and Main Streets now highlights 100-year-old moss-draped oaks and a clear river view. Through a partnership between the City of Moss Point and the Pascagoula River Audubon Center (PRAC), the area is slated to become a nature-based tourism area.

"We are still working to rid the area of invasive species like Chinese tallow (also known as popcorn trees), Lantana, Sesbania, Wisteria, and Camphor," explains PRAC volunteer David Minkler, who is an ISA-certified arborist. "I am so thankful for the volunteers at Singing River Electric. We are making good progress in the removal of non-native plants, but it's continuous hard work."

Invasive plants can quickly overtake native vegetation, damaging wildlife habitats and destroying nature's balance. Removing these allows native plants like wax myrtle, yaupon holly, and live oaks to flourish.

Generator Safety

As hurricane season begins, generator safety becomes a top priority for our linemen. Never connect generators to your home's wiring - this can energize power lines, which could endanger workers and you. For tips on how to operate a generator properly, visit beawareeverywhere.com and view the severe weather safety area.



This month we say thank you to all the dads, grandfathers, and those who step up to fill this role in our lives.

Singing River Electric is member-driven and built by the communities we serve. For more information on how we partner with our communities, visit singingriver.com/my-community or join the conversation on Facebook/Instagram (SingingRiverElectric) and Twitter (SRECooperative).