



## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR CEO

# Preparing for storm season

As we enter the month of June, we begin yet another hurricane season, with 2023 storm names ranging from Arlene to Whitney. While many are eager for the warmer summer months, we know all about the weather threats that occur living along the Gulf Coast this time of year. I will leave explanations of climate phenomenon's such as La Nina or El Nino to the weather experts, who recently predicted a near average number of storms in the Atlantic this hurricane season.

In the coming weeks, you will hear messages encouraging you to prepare for hurricane season by storing non-perishable food, water, fuel and batteries, and have storm evacuation routes picked out ahead of time. While this is not a topic any of us enjoy discussing, taking storm preparations seriously is of utmost importance.

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 for employees 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 areas of our system to report to once the storm has passed. This ever-evolving plan has been activated and successfully implemented countless times.

Being part of the national electric cooperative network provides Singing River Electric access to cooperative line personnel who will assist us with restoring your electric service 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 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.



*by Brian Hughey*

General Manager and CEO



**Gabe Robbins**  
Energy Services Representative  
[robbs@singingriver.com](mailto:robbs@singingriver.com)

## Keep cooling costs in check this summer

Temperatures are heating up in south Mississippi, and extreme heat causes air conditioners to work overtime to maintain your desired thermostat setting. Since cooling is one of the largest contributors to your electric bill, keep these things in mind.

- If your unit has not been serviced in the last few years, it's time. Cleaning the coils and checking freon levels will keep your unit operating efficiently. If freon levels are a ½ pound low, your unit could operate 30% longer to do the same job, causing your electric bill to increase.
- Your outside unit needs proper ventilation to work at maximum efficiency. While in the field, I've seen tin and wood awning-type structures built over the outside unit – this is not a good idea as the awning can obstruct air flow.
- Changing the air filter each month will cut down on costs. A dirty filter will cause your unit to work harder to push air through to cool your home. If a dirty filter collapses, unfiltered air can clog evaporator coils and damage the unit.
- Ceiling fans should only be used when a room is occupied because they do not cool the air – they circulate air across your skin to create a cooling sensation. While feeling cooler, you can move your thermostat a degree or two higher, which saves energy and money. The recommended thermostat setting in summer is 78 degrees; each degree higher you adjust your thermostat can save 5% on energy costs. During summer, make sure the ceiling fan is moving air in a downward direction.

Visit [singingriver.com/ways-to-save](http://singingriver.com/ways-to-save) for more energy-saving tips.

# YOU'RE INVITED!

## Join us in person in Lucedale – Singing River Electric's 85<sup>th</sup> Annual Membership Meeting is June 29th

Learn more about how your cooperative works and participate by voting in person in SRE's board of directors election. Our 85th 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 2022 financials, the board election, and more. All three districts will have an election for a Post 2 seat. Any Singing River Electric member may vote in person at the June 29th meeting. According to by-laws, SRE members should 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 20.

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.



### Three ways to vote:

- 1. Vote early and online** by simply opening the SmartHub app or visiting [www.singingriver.com](http://www.singingriver.com) and clicking 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 20, deadline.
- 2. Vote by mailed proxy** by simply completing the mailed proxy and returning using the enclosed self-addressed envelope by the Tuesday, June 20, deadline. You may still attend the meeting; your presence will rescind the proxy allowing you to vote in person.
- 3. Vote in person** at the Annual Membership Meeting on Thursday, June 29, at the SRE Lucedale office located at 11187 Old 63 South.

\*Deadline to vote by SmartHub app/online or return your proxy is June 20.

# As a member of SRE's board, It's an honor to serve *you*

Our core job is keeping the lights on, but our passion is serving our members. Because we're a cooperative, our purpose is to enrich the lives of our members and serve the long-term interests of our community. This service focus is at the heart of who we are.

We were built and are led by the members we serve. Whether tested by severe weather events or a pandemic, our co-op puts people first – not just during tough times, but all the time. Over the years, our charitable efforts, staff volunteer service hours, and other locally-focused projects have served civic organizations, supported area schools and young people, planted trees, cleaned local parks, assisted families in need to keep the lights on, and much more.

Here are a few reasons why our 10-member board of directors is honored to serve you, the members of Singing River Electric Cooperative.



**Kristal Sisson**

President,  
SRE Board  
of Directors

**1** *Members of our co-op serve on the board of directors.*

I'm privileged to work with a well-informed, dedicated 10-member board of directors who provide

guidance for setting co-op priorities and helping make big decisions. Because our board members live in SRE's service area, they're able to serve as the pulse of the larger community and identify immediate and long-term needs. The broader co-op membership provides helpful input through their vote on director elections and by weighing in on co-op and community issues.

**2** *You enable us to complete our mission by supporting our efforts to give back.*

A major part of SRE's mission and vision is to serve our community and look after the greater good. With

your assistance, we're able to help members of our community through our Cooperative Days of Service, Neighbors Helping Neighbors

**3** *We enjoy serving our members because without you, the co-op wouldn't exist.*

Our purpose is to provide you with reliable, responsible and safe electricity. Simply put, SRE exists

to serve you. That's why we were formed in 1938 – to bring power to our local area when for-profit utilities would not.

**4** *Your input gives us guidance.*

As a board, we responded to your vote in 2020 to amend SRE's certificate of incorporation to

also provide fiber internet. Today, SRConnect, our fiber affiliate, has more than 3,300 subscribers and has built more than 1,600 miles of fiber lines.

**5** *You and other SRE members make up the community we serve – and for us, it's all about community.*

Our employees live and work here too and care about our community the same way you do. We're invested and work to help it prosper.

That's why SRE participates in community celebrations, supports local schools and provides NHN Community Grants. It's also why we invest in economic development, and why you'll see our employees volunteering for youth sporting organizations, schools, churches, and other charitable and community endeavors.

As a co-op, it is important to enhance the quality of life in our community and look after its long-term interests. We truly enjoy serving our members and our local community, and just like you, want everyone to thrive.

Cooperatively yours,  
Kristal Sisson

*Kristal Sisson*



### Our Mission

To provide safe and reliable electric service at the lowest possible cost while enhancing the lives of the members and communities we serve.

[singingriver.com/my-coop](http://singingriver.com/my-coop)

### Singing River Electric 2023 Director Election

Candidates for one 3-year term by district:

**District I, Post 2**

○ **James (Robert) Steele**, Representing Greene, Perry and Wayne counties in Miss., and Washington County, Ala.

**District II, Post 2**

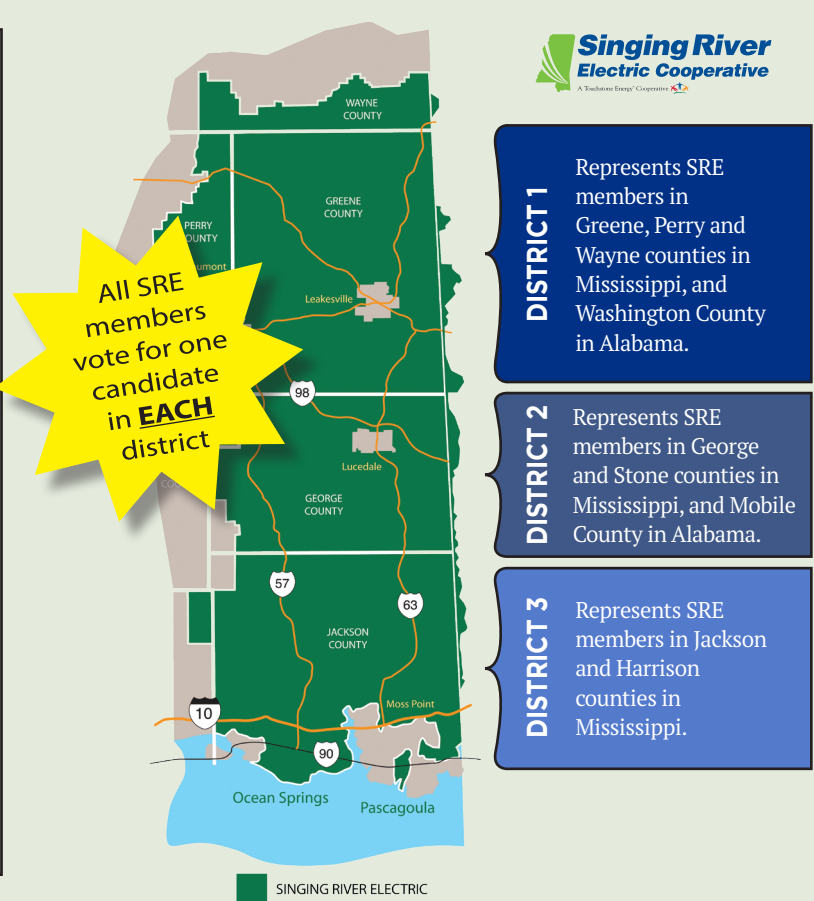
○ **Roy C. Grafe**, Representing George and Stone counties in Miss., and Mobile County, Ala.

**District III, Post 2**

○ **Kristal K. Sisson**, Representing Jackson and Harrison counties in Miss.

Deadline for nominations to be placed on the ballot was Feb. 28, 2023. This deadline and a notice for nominations was included in the Jan. and Feb. 2023 Today in Mississippi magazine issues.

**You can win up to \$500 by early, online voting or returning your completed proxy by mail.**





## Want to know what happens #BehindTheBroadband?

### **STEP 1:** Make-ready engineering

*Examine. Design.*

Leakesville substation



### **STEP 2:** Make-ready construction

*Planning the most efficient approach to fiber deployment.*

Big Point, Joe Batt, Sand Hill and Lucedale North substations



### **STEP 3:** Construction

*Building a network from the ground up.*

McLain, Kittrell, State Line and Sawmill substations



### **STEP 4:** Splicing

*Connecting the dots.*

Basin substation (Cedar Creek and Basin Refuge feeders)



### **STEP 5:** Service drop & drop splicing

*The last outdoor step. Almost there...*

Basin substation (Highway 63 and Central feeders) and any previously opened areas



### **STEP 6:** Installation

*The speed of light, right to your home.*

Basin substation (Highway 63 and Central feeders) and any previously opened areas



**SR Connect is delivering lightning-fast, fiber internet.**

New fiber areas are announced by electric substation and feeder. You can search open fiber areas and your address for service at [singingriverconnect.com/signup](https://singingriverconnect.com/signup).

To find out which SRE substation and feeder serves your home, text a SRE MSR during business hours at 228-591-9166.

**Scan here!**



## Dads, did you stop getting hugs?

We're bringing back hugs for dads. With the My SR Connect app, dads (moms and grandparents included) can temporarily turn off internet access remotely from the app on their mobile device. This can be done during mealtimes, homework times, bedtimes, or whenever you think your teens need a break. You can also turn on the Wi-Fi access right from your device. This will likely result in lots of thanks and hugs from your family.

**Download the My SR Connect app today at [singingriverconnect.com](https://singingriverconnect.com).**

Happy Father's Day from your SR Connect family.



**SR**

**Singing River  
Connect**

Powered by Singing River Electric

[singingriverconnect.com](https://singingriverconnect.com)

## Congratulations to our 3,000th fiber subscriber!

We've hit a new milestone! Congratulations to George County's Dusty Dixon on being our 3,000th SR Connect fiber subscriber. Mr. Dixon was presented with an Amazon Echo Show 10 that will allow for home monitoring, video calls, and streaming movies and videos at break-neck speeds with Singing River Connect's fiber internet.

Thank you to everyone who has signed up thus far. We are grateful to provide you with lightning-fast internet. To our Singing River Electric members patiently waiting, we thank you for your continued patience as we build our network.

We look forward to recognizing more subscriber milestones soon!

Singing River Electric/SRC Project Engineer Supervisor Brandon Welford presents Dusty Dixon with an Amazon Echo device for being the 3,000 fiber subscriber.

