



## A MESSAGE FROM YOUR CEO

# The power of education

I'm sure many of you have children or grandchildren eager to begin the new school year. Thoughts likely include the anticipation of meeting new teachers, seeing old friends, making new friends, and even buying new school supplies. For some of us, it may be the anxiety of sending a child off to college or to the final year of high school.

Local teachers and administrators have been working for weeks preparing for the big day. These special individuals play a critical role in the development of our children and grandchildren and need the community's support. We all play a role in our local schools' success. It's more than slowing down in the school zones; it's about being involved in the schools and communities we love.

Singing River Electric understands this and is committed to the schools in our communities. We contribute to local chambers of commerce scholarship programs for those entering college,

sponsor a youth leadership program for high school juniors, and participate in the Pathways2Possibilities Career Fair to help local middle school students explore job fields and potential careers. Our engineers and linemen visit elementary classrooms across the service territory demonstrating the importance of safety.

The real impact is interaction. Whether our employees are coaching a sports team, working with the school PTA, or purchasing items during the holidays to support a classroom, Singing River Electric wants our local students and teachers to know we care.

Education is vital to the economic growth and well-being of the communities where we live and work. I ask you to join us in supporting our schools and teachers through volunteering or helping in some way. Our students deserve nothing less than the best education we can provide them.



*by Brian Hughey*

General Manager and CEO



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

## Keep your HVAC system running efficiently

It's August, and the heat of summer is here. Not only is the heat uncomfortable but it also causes our air conditioners to work harder. With the A/C being the largest contributor to your electric bill during the summer months, operating efficiency plays a large role in keeping your electric bill down. **These three things can help you reach maximum HVAC operation efficiency:**

- **Service your unit** – If you have not recently had a licensed HVAC employee service your unit, it's time to do this. Cleaning coils and checking freon levels will assure that your unit is working to the best of its ability. For instance, if the freon levels are a ½ pound low, your unit could operate 30% more or longer to do the same job.
- **Change your filter** – Replacing air filters keeps our HVAC system working properly and keeps energy bills lower. Neglecting to do so can increase your energy use and potentially contribute to other maintenance issues later.
- **Keep your outside condensing unit clear** – Be sure your outside unit is free of vines and any type of debris that could obstruct air flow to the unit. The condensing unit relies on proper air flow to ensure maximum efficiency of your HVAC system. Any wood or tin structures designed to keep the unit out of the weather may also be obstructing air flow.

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





# POWER in MEMBERSHIP

## 2023 Annual Meeting held June 29



Singing River Electric (SRE) held its 2023 Annual Membership Meeting on Thursday, June 29.

During the meeting, General Manager and CEO Brian Hughey reviewed the highlights from the previous year and shared some accomplishments and goals for 2023.

One of the most important accomplishments from 2022 was successfully renewing our Electric Cooperatives of Mississippi Safety Certification with a score of 95.9%. While SRE employees have always kept safety as a primary focus, participating in the audit requires employees and management to take a deeper dive into work practices and work areas.

SRE retired more than \$2 million to members in capital credits, representing the year 1996. Cooperative Energy, SRE's generation partner, retired \$1.5 million in capital credits to SRE members for the year 1992 and partial returns for the years 2007, 2008, and 2009.

From a reliability standpoint, the co-op energized the new Cumbeast Bluff substation in Jackson County, upgraded numerous copper lines to more durable aluminum wiring in George and Greene counties, and converted single-phase to three-phase line across the entire service territory.

Fiber internet construction expanded. SRE now owns and operates nearly 2,000 miles of fiber that is leased to our fiber subsidiary, Singing River Connect (SRC). To date, SRC has more than 4,000 high-speed internet subscribers located within all three geographical SRE districts. It was reported that the affiliate is seeing an average rate of 50% for those that take the fiber service, and subscriber

feedback is extremely positive with many stating the service exceeds their expectations in quality product, service, and pricing.

Fiber construction crews are building more than 30 miles of fiber each week. SRC now has fiber internet service open in 10 of SRE's substation areas covering seven Mississippi counties and one Alabama county served by the electric co-op. As crews work to complete Phase 2 of fiber construction and enter Phase 3, another 1,800 miles of fiber construction will begin and pass more than 16,000 potential fiber internet subscribers in Greene, Wayne, George, and Jackson counties.

Meeting attendees participated in board elections online, by SmartHub mobile app, and mailed proxies. Three Singing River Electric members were re-elected at the meeting to serve three-year terms on the cooperative's board of directors.

- James (Robert) Steele, District 1
- Roy C. Grafe, District 2
- Kristal K. Sisson, District 3

**For a full list of board members, visit [singingriver.com/my-coop/#board](https://singingriver.com/my-coop/#board).**

Singing River Electric members Linda Eckford, Philip Busby, Obie Wells and Richard Fleming served on the 2023 Credential and Election Committee. The committee reviews and approves board candidates, oversees elections, and sees first-hand the efforts made to be transparent when conducting business of the electric cooperative.

**To view the 2022 SRE Annual Report, visit [singingriver.com/my-coop](https://singingriver.com/my-coop).**

## SRE 2022 HIGHLIGHTS

- Energized the Cumbeast Bluff substation in Jackson County.
- Continued construction of a SCADA system connecting all SRE substations and offices to provide real-time data and minimize outage response times and give engineers greater control of the electrical distribution system.
- Retired more than \$2 million in capital credits to SRE members for the year 1996; Cooperative Energy retired \$1.5 million in capital credits to SRE members for the year 1992 and partial returns for the years 2007, 2008, and 2009.
- Assisted other Mississippi electric co-ops following storms.
- Commissioned 39 solar home installations.
- Awarded more than \$15,000 in NHN Community Grants to local nonprofits.
- Re-cleared 1,022 right-of-way miles to ensure reliable electric service to members.
- Awarded 222 heat pump rebates.
- Certified 76 Comfort Advantage homes.
- Awarded scholarships to local students through chamber of commerce programs.
- Hosted Cooperative University and sent three local high school juniors for the 2022 ECM Youth Leadership Workshop and Youth Tour of Washington, D.C.
- Helped clean up the Pascagoula River by participating in Renew Our Rivers, clear invasive species of plants at Moss Point's Sawmill Landing, painted bleachers and scoreboard at the Leakesville tennis courts and beautified boat launch areas at George County's Wilkerson Ferry West and Jackson County's Bennett Bayou Preserve.
- MSRs answered more than 122,000 calls in 2022.



## SRC 2022 HIGHLIGHTS

- Completed fiber construction of a total of more than 2,100 miles of fiber lines and moved into Phase 3 of construction.
- Provided high-speed internet to nearly 2,000 subscribers in 10 of SRE's substation areas covering seven Mississippi counties and one Alabama county.



## 2023 Annual Membership Meeting Prize Winners

**\$500 winner:** Jackie Taylor of Ocean Springs.

**\$250 winners:** Melissa Clark of Leakesville, Marshall Havard of Lucedale, Harry McDonald of Richton, Jesse Pettus of Escatawpa, Marcia Pierce of Lucedale, and Michelle Sabree of Ocean Springs.

# Electric Cooperatives of Mississippi's 36th YOUTH TOUR



A group of 81 rising high school seniors from all over Mississippi traveled to Washington, D.C. in June to attend the 2023 NRECA Youth Tour.

The trip was the culmination of the students' participation in the Electric Cooperatives of Mississippi's youth leadership program.

Kameryn Bardwell of East Central High School, Kevin McLain of Wayne County High School, and Daniel Pickens of Resurrection High School were Singing River Electric's youth representatives.

The program instills leadership skills, inspires creative thinking, encourages community service, and introduces students to lawmakers that represent their communities.

During the March workshop in Jackson, the students had the opportunity to meet and hear from state legislators. During the trip to Washington, D.C., the students met and spoke with their U.S. senators — Roger Wicker and Cindy Hyde-Smith — and two of their U.S. representatives, Mike Ezell and Michael Guest.

While in Washington, D.C., the students and adult chaperones visited historic sites, monuments, museums, explored Capitol Hill, and had an opportunity to learn about the impact electric cooperatives have on their communities.

The Cooperatives Youth Leaders program is fully funded — including the trip to D.C. — by the local electric co-ops as a commitment to molding future leaders for Mississippi so they can impact the state and local communities.

**Pictured right: Top:** Singing River Electric Youth Tour students Kevin McLain, Kameryn Bardwell, and Daniel Pickens stand in front of the White House. **Bottom:** Daniel Pickens, Kameryn Bardwell, and Kevin McLain on the Potomac River.



## LEARN. GROW. EXPERIENCE.





## Want to know what happens #BehindTheBroadband?

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

*Examine. Design.*

Vancleave substation



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

*Planning the most efficient approach to fiber deployment.*

Lucedale North, Leakesville, and Joe Batt substations



### **STEP 3:** Construction

*Building a network from the ground up.*

Big Point, Frank Snell, McLain, and Sand Hill substations



### **STEP 4:** Splicing

*Connecting the dots.*

Kittrell and State Line substations



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

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

Sawmill substation and any previously opened fiber areas



### **STEP 6:** Installation

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

Sawmill substation and any previously opened fiber 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).

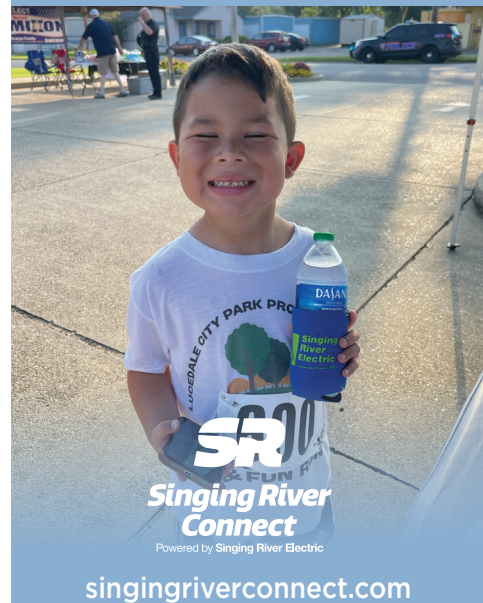
To find out which SRE substation and feeder serves your home, text SRE MSR during business hours at 228-591-9166.

**Scan here!**



### **SR CONNECT FIBER** *sponsors City of Lucedale* *5K Park Fundraiser*

SRC sponsored the water table for participants at a recent City of Lucedale Park 5K and Fun Run event. The event was held to raise money to rebuild the Lucedale Municipal Park facilities and playground. The playground was installed in 1995 and the redesign includes purchasing new playground equipment and building a retaining wall to fix an erosion issue.



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