



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR CEO

Member participation matters



In the next two weeks, you will receive a notice for Singing River Electric's Annual Membership Meeting. Online voting and proxy returns for our board of directors election will begin on Monday, May 13. I encourage you to participate in early voting options by voting online or returning your proxy. Voting establishes our cooperative's local leadership. Singing River Electric is required to reach a quorum, between attendance and early voting participation, to conduct business at the annual meeting.

Simply complete, tear off, and return the mailed proxy, or vote online using your SmartHub app or by visiting singingriver.com. Members who vote online or return proxies will be eligible to win one of six \$250 prizes or one grand prize of \$500.

Members will vote for director candidates in each of three geographic districts. These Singing River Electric members live in our

local communities, have been nominated by the membership, and are certified as qualified candidates by the Credentials and Election Committee, also made up of Singing River Electric members. Candidate biographies are available on Singing River Electric's election website. Visit singingriver.com and click on the "Vote Here" button at the top of the page to view director election information and to vote. See page 16 in this issue of Today in Mississippi for more information on the voting process.

Electric co-ops are led by members just like you who understand our local communities. We encourage you to attend our 2024 Annual Membership Meeting on Thursday, June 27, at Singing River Electric's Lucedale office. If you are unable to attend, please take advantage of early voting by voting online or returning your proxy. As a Singing River Electric member, your vote matters. We appreciate your efforts as we continue to provide safe, reliable, and affordable electric service for our members.



by **Brian Hughey**

General Manager and CEO

Energy Tips



Gabe Robbins
Energy Services Representative
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Buying a heat pump

When the time comes to replace your HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning) system, I recommend replacing your unit with an electric heat pump. The most important thing to understand about heat pumps is the SEER Rating (Seasonal Energy Efficiency Ratio.) Think of SEER as miles per gallon for an automobile – the higher the SEER, the more efficient the equipment will run. The Department of Energy efficiency standards for our southern region require a minimum 14 SEER; a 14 SEER or greater is required to qualify for our Comfort Advantage energy-efficient home rebate program.



When purchasing a new heat pump, ask these questions:

- What size do I need? Properly sizing a unit for your home is important.
- What efficiency rating should I look for? This is the SEER rating.
- Which type of HVAC system is best for my home? A heat pump or mini split are two options.
- Is my existing duct work adequate for a new heat pump? Making sure your duct work is sufficient to support your newer HVAC is vital.
- What is the life expectancy of the new HVAC system? On average, the lifespan of today's HVAC systems is 15-20 years.
- Which thermostat will work best for my new HVAC system? Programmable thermostats can aid in lowering monthly energy use.

To see if you qualify for an energy-efficiency rebate for your new heat pump, visit our Comfort Advantage page at www.singingriver.com.



2024 Annual Membership Meeting Notice

Thursday, June 27

11187 Old 63 South, Lucedale

Registration opens at 5 p.m.

Meeting begins at 6 p.m.

Singing River Electric's 2024 Annual Membership Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 27. The meeting will be held at our headquarters office located at 11187 Old 63 South in Lucedale. Registration will open at 5 p.m., and the meeting will begin at 6 p.m. The meeting's business section will include the cooperative's financial, management, and board reports, as well as the board of directors election. SRE has a 10-person board of directors elected from the membership in three geographic districts. Each year, one director post from each district is up for election. Every three years, District 3 has two director posts open. Directors are elected for a three-year period.

Participating in the election

To conduct business at the annual meeting, a quorum of at least 10% of the membership is necessary. The quorum is derived by adding the number of members present at the meeting, the number of valid online votes, and the number of valid proxies received.

Annual meeting notices and proxies will be mailed on Monday, May 13, to all members. The deadline for voting online and returning proxies is Tuesday, June 18, at the close of business. Your participation in the director election is important because it counts toward the quorum needed to hold and conduct business at the meeting.

Any member may vote in person at the June 27 membership meeting. Members can also vote online or by proxy. Each member is entitled to one vote regardless of the number of accounts in the member's name. A proxy may be assigned to the board as a whole. 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.

Members who vote online or return their proxy will qualify to win up to \$500 cash. Those attending the annual meeting will be eligible for attendance prizes.



THERE ARE THREE WAYS TO PARTICIPATE: IN PERSON, BY PROXY, & ONLINE

Six members who vote online or return their proxies by the June 18 deadline will be selected to receive a \$250 CASH prize.

One member who votes online or returns the proxy by the deadline will receive a special grand prize of \$500 CASH!

Board Nominations

Nominations for election to the board of directors are made by petition. Interested members must acquire signatures of 25 SRE members on a form provided by the cooperative. Applicants must complete and return a director candidate packet to the Lucedale office and be certified by the Credentials and Election Committee before being placed on the ballot. The deadline for nomination by petition to be placed on the 2024 Annual Meeting Notice was February 29, 2024. This deadline and a notice for nominations was placed in the January and February 2024 issues of the Today in Mississippi magazine.

This year's slate of nominees was approved by SRE members serving on the Credentials and Election Committee. According to the cooperative by-laws, the candidates' names will be placed in the nomination for election to a three-year term beginning June 27, 2024, at the annual meeting.

DISTRICT 1 – POST 3 – To represent Greene, Perry and Wayne counties in Miss., and Washington County, Ala.
Cary E. Williams

DISTRICT 2 – POST 3 – To represent George and Stone counties in Miss., and Mobile County in Ala.
Travis Baxter
Rickey E. Breland
Sherwin Ray

DISTRICT 3 – POST 3 – To represent Jackson and Harrison counties in Miss.
Edward H. Thornton

DISTRICT 3 – POST 4 – To represent Jackson and Harrison counties in Miss.
Jared M. Case
Mark W. LaSalle

Free SmartTown Community Wi-Fi available at Hurley's Lum Cumbest Park

Singing River Connect officially announced its partnership with Jackson County to provide free Wi-Fi service at Lum Cumbest Park in Hurley. At East Central Civic Association's Old Fashion Day event on March 23, SR Connect representatives visited with attendees to promote the park's SmartTown Community Wi-Fi along with the speed and local customer service SR Connect provides to its fiber internet subscribers.

SmartTown offers community-wide Wi-Fi coverage made possible by a high-speed fiber connection and is secure, safe, and simple to use. Signs bearing QR codes are strategically placed throughout Lum Cumbest Park, allowing visitors to download Passpoint and access SR Connect SmartTown Wi-Fi for free. Visitors can roam freely and stay connected while attending sporting events and other activities at the park.

"The Lum Cumbest Park SmartTown Wi-Fi project extends the Concern for Community cooperative principle to the fiber internet side of our business and lets all park visitors experience what true high-speed fiber internet is," said Singing River Electric/Connect Manager of Business Operations Nick DeAngelo. "We entered the fiber internet business on behalf of Singing River Electric members and our local communities so they could have the best internet service available."

"We are proud to partner with Singing River Electric in providing this service to our citizens," said Jackson County District 1 Supervisor Barry Cumbest. "We feel this is another opportunity to enhance the experience our visitors will have at Lum Cumbest Park."



SR Singing River Connect Fiber Construction Timeline - May 2024

Step 1: Make-ready engineering

Examine. Design.
Fort Bayou substation area



Step 4: Splicing

Connecting the dots.
Leakesville substation area



Step 2: Make-ready construction

Planning the most efficient approach to fiber deployment.
Martin Bluff and St. Martin substation areas



Step 5: Service drop & drop splicing

The last outdoor step. Almost there...
Lucedale North, Vancleave, Joe Batt, Sand Hill, Big Point, parts of Cumbest Bluff, Frank Snell, and all previously opened fiber internet areas



Step 3: Construction

Building a network from the ground up.
Tucker Road, Forts Lake, Helena, Helena Industrial, Escatawpa South, Rocky Creek, Benndale, and Wade substation areas



Step 6: Installation

The speed of light, right to your home.
Lucedale North, Vancleave, Joe Batt, Sand Hill, Big Point, parts of Cumbest Bluff, Frank Snell, State Line, Kittrell, and all previously opened fiber internet areas



On May 13, annual meeting notices will mail and online voting will begin.
WE NEED YOUR PARTICIPATION!

SR Connect is delivering lightning-fast fiber internet to 18 substation areas! New areas are announced by electric substation and feeder; text a SRE member service rep. at 228-591-9166 to find out which one serves you. Visit singingriverconnect.com/signup to apply for service and to see all areas where SR Connect fiber internet is available.

Scan here! →



NHN Grant helps Sand Hill Attendance Center offer Little Free Library Program



Children in the Sand Hill community now have access to free books at any time thanks to the Little Free Library Program initiated by teacher Ashley Roberts. The program aligns with the school's educational values, as it offers accessible and free reading materials to people of all ages.

"Our nearest public library is a 20-minute drive, so the convenience of free books in our community is a great advantage," said Roberts.

A \$1,277.56 Neighbors Helping Neighbors Community Grant from Singing River Electric purchased two Little Free Libraries which are housed on the Sand Hill Attendance Center campus. There's also a counter for each library to keep track of how many times the libraries are used.

"For the last three years, we've successfully run a Book of the Month program. The Little Free Library Program will allow us to not only promote literacy but also community involvement," explains Roberts.

For more information on Singing River Electric's Neighbors Helping Neighbors Community Grant program, visit www.singingriver.com/my-community. The next application deadline is Friday, May 10, 2024.

PHONE PAYMENTS REQUIRE A PIN FOR GREATER SECURITY

Making payments and accessing your account through Singing River Electric's automated phone system is even more

secure. Members now need a personal identification number (PIN) to gain access to their account by phone. To set your PIN, follow the prompts while using the IVR system or call our office to speak to a member service representative.

Thanks to the added security of the PIN, we can now accept checks by phone and set up recurring payments with a checking account. Note: a PIN is not required to report a power outage.

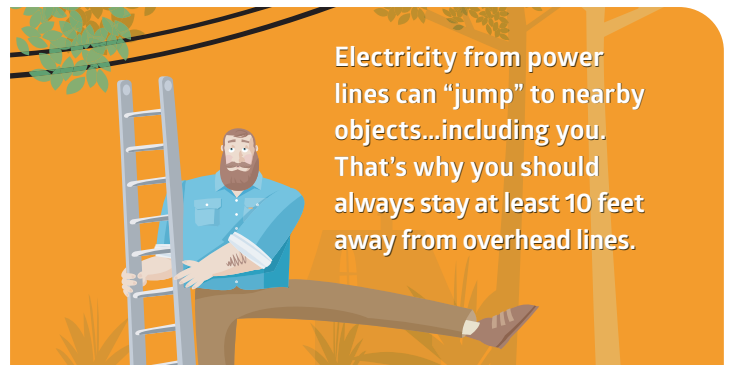
To be SAFE, be AWARE EVERYWHERE.

Electrical safety starts with being aware of electrical hazards. Think safety first and use these tips to stay safe at home, on the job and on the go.

Attention DIYers: There are live wires behind those walls. Use an electrical cable detector to locate them before your drill bit does.



Electricity from power lines can "jump" to nearby objects...including you. That's why you should always stay at least 10 feet away from overhead lines.



Before you dig that flowerbed, remember there may be underground lines where you're about to dig. Call 811 to locate them and your project will turn out just rosey.



Want more electrical safety tips? Sure you do. Just visit BeAwareEverywhere.com.