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# A MESSAGE FROM YOUR CEO FOCUSED ON SAFETY

It's easy to get distracted during our daily routines. In this fast-paced world we live in, our minds can wander while trying to complete a task. Sometimes we take shortcuts that could possibly result in unintended risks to our safety or the safety of others.

Linemen do not have the luxury of these distractions. They must be focused at all times – their lives and the lives of their coworkers depend on it. Linemen must know the overall objective of their current job, as well as where their coworkers are and what they are doing at all times. For this reason, there is nothing more important to our electric cooperative than safety education and training. During May – Electric Safety Month – and every month of the year, Singing River Electric employees participate in safety meetings to review and discuss safety topics and how our safety rules address these topics. We have employees who serve on safety committees, a dedicated safety department, and a safety manual that is kept updated and is distributed to all employees.

Safety is a concern for all, and this month, we ask you to take time to discuss safety with your family. Consider electrical safety and all hazards around your home or business.

Singing River Electric is your source for power and information. We partner with our local schools for safety education and provide online resources for you and your family. Take advantage of all the safety resources on our website at singingriver.com/electric-safety.



#### by Brian Hughey

General Manager and CEO



Singing River Electric employees recently attended George County Middle School's Farm Safety Day and demonstrated the do's and don'ts of electrical and fiber safety.

**Energy Tips** 

(O)



Gabe Robbins Energy Services Representative robbins@singingriver.com

### Maintaining your appliances

Routine maintenance on electrical appliances in your home can result in considerable energy savings.

Appliances like refrigerators, air conditioning/heating units, clothes dryers, and dishwashers all need some sort of maintenance throughout the year. Neglecting to do so can lead to a drop in efficiency and effectiveness in your appliances.

- **Refrigerator** Clean lint and dirt from refrigerator coils every six months to a year, or more often if pets are in the home.
- **Dishwasher** Clean the filter, spray arm, and door seal regularly; load dishes properly to optimize cleaning; use the correct detergent and rinse aid for your model.
- Air conditioning/heating unit Change the air filter regularly; clean the outdoor unit; check/clean the condensation drain line; schedule professional maintenance annually.
- Clothes dryer Clean the lint screen after each use; check and clean the vent system every 6-12 months; wipe down the drum periodically.

Use appliances that create unwanted heat, like your dishwasher and clothes dryer, during the evening hours when there are cooler temperatures outside.

#### singingriver.com/ways-to-save



# 2025 Annual Membership Meeting Notice

# Thursday, June 26

11187 Old 63 South, Lucedale

Registration opens at 5 p.m. Meeting begins at 6 p.m.



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

Six members who vote online or return their proxies by the June 17 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!** 

## **Participating in Board Election**

The annual membership 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.

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 with online voting instructions and proxies will be mailed on Monday, May 12, to all members. **The deadline for voting online and returning proxies is Tuesday, June 17, 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 26 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.

# **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 2025 Annual Meeting Notice was Feb. 28, 2025. This deadline and a notice for nominations was placed in the January and February 2025 issues of *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 bylaws, the candidates' names will be placed in the nomination for election to a three-year term beginning June 26, 2025, at the annual meeting.

**DISTRICT 1 – POST 1** – To represent Greene, Perry and Wayne counties in Mississippi, and Washington County in Alabama. **Stanley R. Busby** 

**DISTRICT 2 – POST 1** – To represent George and Stone counties in Mississippi, and Mobile County in Alabama. **Ronald Wilson** 

DISTRICT 3 – POST 1 – To represent Jackson and Harrison counties in Mississippi. Olin Howard Davis Ryan Earley

On May 12, annual meeting notices will mail and online voting will begin. WE NEED YOUR PARTICIPATION!

# Don't let technology destroy

#### Let ExperienceIQ in the My SR Connect app help

"Let me check Facebook one more time before bed." "I'll send that final email, then I'll go to sleep." "Let's watch just one more episode."

Sound familiar? Whether it's you, your spouse, or your kids, too often technology is getting in the way of a good night's sleep. A 2018 study

showed that **70% of adults use social media in bed,** which had consequences including insomnia, daytime sleepiness, bad moods, and shorter sleep times.

Better and longer sleep is possible – ExperiencelQ is here to help. See who is on a device when they shouldn't be. Use the "Set schedule" feature to determine when individual devices can or can't be used. Each family member can have a different device bedtime, if needed, and you can help your family instill better sleep habits by establishing technology quiet times in your home.

Included in Speed Fanatic (2 Gig) and Entertainment Enthusiast (1 Gig) packages. Only \$5/month with the Everyday Scroller (300 mbps) package.

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STEP 2 Make-Ready

**MILESTONE MADE** 

Construction is

All identified poles have been replaced and upgraded to allow space for fiber internet lines.

The other four fiber construction steps are still in progress for several of our substation areas. Singing River Connect is one step closer to completing our build-out and providing lightning-fast fiber internet to Singing River Electric members!

#### MAY 2025



#### Singing River Connect

# FIBER CONSTRUCTION TIMELINE

Get blazing-fast fiber internet from local people you trust.

#### **Step 3: Fiber Construction**

Running fiber lines on poles and burying lines underground

• Hamill Farm

• Sunplex

Ocean Springs

Gulf Park Estates

• Bayou Cassotte

- Kreole
- Monaco Lake
- Singing River Mall
- Fountainbleu
- Foundationed

#### Step 4: Splicing

Connecting fiber lines to the network

#### • Fort Bayou

#### Step 5: Service Drop & Drop Splicing & Step 6: Installation

Bringing mainline fiber to the exterior of your home and connecting your home to blazing-fast fiber internet

- Tucker Road
- Forts Lake
- Helena
- Helena Industrial
- Escatawpa South
- St. Martin
- Martin Bluff
- Hickory Hills
- All previously opened areas
- SINGINGRIVERCONNECT.COM/SIGNUP

Mending extensive damage with Magnolia Electric Power

# peration AMONG COOPERATIVES

After working long hours restoring power in our service area on March 15 during the extreme wind event, a 15-man Singing River Electric crew traveled on March 17 to Magnolia Electric Power where tornadoes caused extensive damage. Magnolia Electric first reported having 270 broken poles, but that number grew to 321 as assessment continued. The areas around Tylertown, Progress, and Salem are in Magnolia's service area. Thank you to these linemen for living out the 6th Cooperative Principle – Cooperation Among Cooperatives.



# **Neighbors Helping Neighbors Community Grants awarded**



**McLain Attendance Center** received a \$2,500 NHN Grant to purchase robotics kits to support the school's robotics education enhancement program. The students built a farm and had a scenario where severe weather damaged fencing and trees; they used the robots to rebuild the fence, corral the animals, and stack the toppled trees.



A \$2,500 NHN Grant from Singing River Electric purchased lumber and tin to construct an awning for the **George County High School Rebel Baseball** team's fieldhouse.

Visit singingriver.com/my-community for information on how to apply for Singing River Electric's Neighbors Helping Neighbors Community Grant program. Grants for up to \$2,500 are awarded to non-profits in SRE's service area three times a year in January, May, and September.