

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR CEO

Drive safely this school year



As the 2026/2027 school year begins with young drivers and school buses back on the road, I thought it would be a good time to remind our members and employees, myself included, of the dangers of distracted driving.

The reality is that using a phone while driving creates enormous potential for injuries and fatalities. Distractions take a motorist's attention off driving, which can make a driver miss critical events, objects, and cues, potentially leading to a crash.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, one of every 10 fatal crashes in the U.S. involves distracted driving, resulting in more than 3,000 deaths annually. I find this statistic heartbreaking considering so many of these accidents could easily be avoided if we'd simply put down our phones while driving.

Distracted driving is considered any activity that diverts our attention, including texting or talking on the phone, and adjusting the

navigation or entertainment system. Texting is by far one of the most dangerous distractions. Sending or reading one text takes your eyes off the road for an average of five seconds. At 55 mph, that's like driving the length of an entire football field with your eyes closed.

In addition to refraining from texting while driving, we can help keep the roads safe by moving over for first responders and other emergency vehicles. If you see utility crews conducting work near the roadside, I encourage you to move over when possible and give them extra space to perform their work safely.

At Singing River Electric, safety is foremost in everything we do — for our employees and the members of the communities we serve. We routinely remind our linemen of the dangers of distracted driving, and I hope you'll have similar conversations with your family members, especially teens who may be new to the roadways and are especially susceptible to the lure of technology.

Let's work together to keep everyone safe on the roads. Remember: that text can wait, and waiting just might save a life.

Energy Tips



Gabe Robbins
Field Services Representative
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Air conditioning in August

Driven by our high air conditioner use, August brings some of the highest electricity bills of the year. Because **HVAC run time impacts your electric bill more than any other appliance**, achieving maximum efficiency this month is all about minimizing how hard your system has to work.

Here are three ways to optimize your air conditioning system and keep your bill in check:

- **Track and control your temperature:** Keep your thermostat at **78°F** (or as high as comfortably possible) and use **ceiling fans** to bridge the comfort gap. For effortless savings, upgrade to a **smart thermostat** that will automatically adapt to your routine. By tracking your energy use through our SmartHub app and smart thermostat apps, you can **monitor your system's daily run time** and easily see if adjusting your temperature up a few degrees will save you money.
- **Maximize airflow:** Check your **air filters** monthly and replace them when dirty to keep air flowing freely. Outside, clear away any vines, debris, or structures around your **condensing unit**, so it can breathe.
- **Schedule a tune-up:** If you haven't recently done so, have an HVAC professional service your unit. Cleaning the coils and fixing low freon levels (which can force your unit to run 30% longer) will instantly boost efficiency and prevent costly wear and tear.

singingriver.com/ways-to-save



by Brian Hughey

General Manager and CEO

2026 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Singing River Electric held its 2026 Annual Membership Meeting on Thursday, June 25, at the Lucedale office.

General Manager and CEO Brian Hughey and Board President Kristal Sisson reviewed accomplishments from 2025 for Singing River Electric and Singing River Connect, and an audit firm representative presented the financial report.

Attendees also heard Addison Breland from Richton High School and Cade Parker from Vancleave High School share their experiences in Washington, D.C. as Singing River Electric's Cooperative Youth Leadership delegates.

Thank you to our members who participated in the board of directors election by voting online, mailing in proxies, and voting at the annual meeting. Four Singing River Electric members were elected to serve on the cooperative's board.

DISTRICT 1, POST 2: JAMES ROBERT STEELE

To represent Greene, Perry, and Wayne counties in Miss., and Washington County in Ala. for a three-year term.

DISTRICT 2, POST 2: ROY C. GRAFE JR.

To represent George and Stone counties in Miss., and Mobile County in Ala. for a three-year term.

DISTRICT 2, POST 3: PHILLIP EUBANKS

To represent George and Stone counties in Miss., and Mobile County in Ala. for a one-year term.

DISTRICT 3, POST 2: KRISTAL K. SISSON

To represent Jackson and Harrison counties in Miss. for a three-year term

For a full list of board members, visit singingriver.com/my-coop/#board.



Scan the QR code above to view our 2025 annual report.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING PRIZE WINNERS

Congratulations to our prize drawing winners who either voted online or returned their proxy to participate in the board of directors election!

\$500 WINNERS

H.H. Holland of Moss Point
Sharon Swope of Lucedale

\$250 WINNERS

Linda Hoisington of Pascagoula
Joseph Novota of Vancleave
Kevin Patterson of Ocean Springs
Mary Robbins of Gautier
Davie Taulbee Jr. of Moss Point
Julius H. Waller of Richton



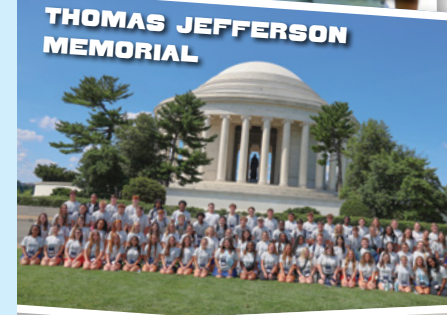
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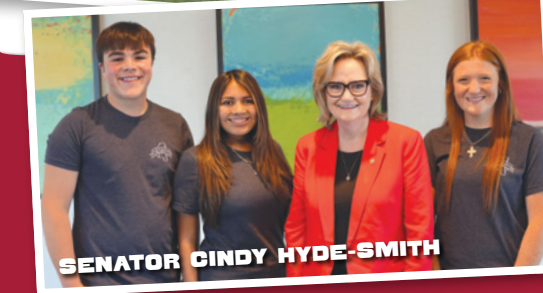
EINSTEIN MEMORIAL



NATIONAL CATHEDRAL



THOMAS JEFFERSON MEMORIAL



SENATOR CINDY HYDE-SMITH

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES OF MISSISSIPPI'S

Youth Tour of D.C.

LEARN. GROW. EXPERIENCE.

Addison Breland from Richton High School, Emily Frazier from St. Martin High School, and Cade Parker from Vancleave High School were part of a group of 83 rising high school seniors from Mississippi who traveled to Washington, D.C. in June for the 2026 National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Youth Tour.

While in Washington, D.C., the delegates and adult advisors visited historic sites, monuments, museums, and learned about the impact electric cooperatives have on their communities. The delegates met with U.S. Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith of Mississippi who shared her experiences serving in the U.S. Congress and her path to holding this office. They also toured Capitol Hill with former U.S. Congressman Gregg Harper which included a rare visit to the chamber of the U.S. House of Representatives. Other trip highlights included attending a Washington Nationals pro baseball game and taking an evening dinner cruise on the Potomac River.

This trip was the culmination of Addison, Emily, and Cade's participation in the Electric Cooperatives of Mississippi's Cooperative Youth Leaders program. Their journey began when chosen by their schools to participate in this program and progressed to being selected by judges at Singing River Electric's Cooperative University event, attending the Cooperative Leaders Workshop held in Jackson in February, and taking the trip of a lifetime to our nation's capital.

ADDISON BRELAND • RICHTON HIGH SCHOOL

EMILY FRAZIER • ST. MARTIN HIGH SCHOOL

CADE PARKER • VANCELEAVE HIGH SCHOOL



US MARINE CORPS WAR MEMORIAL



PEOPLE'S HOUSE



CAPITOL STEPS

"The D.C. trip gave me the opportunity to see our nation's capital and those who work in it from a new perspective. It humanized the positions of our country's leaders to see them not only as decision makers, but also as fellow citizens."

Addison Breland



TROPICAL STORM ARTHUR

Singing River Electric linemen restored power to members throughout our service area as Tropical Storm Arthur poured heavy rain and brought lightning, strong winds, and flooding on June 18. They worked through the night to get power to those who could safely receive it.

Our operators/dispatchers kept crews moving from outage to outage. Right-of-way contractors helped with trees on lines, and contract line crews assisted our linemen with power restoration.



Thank you to Kayla Hallman for posting this on Facebook.





FIBER INTERNET BUILD-OUT IS COMPLETE!

Step 5 - Service Drop/Drop Splicing and Step 6 - Home Installation have taken place in all Singing River Electric substation areas! These steps will be ongoing as we bring fast, reliable fiber internet to new subscribers across Singing River Electric's service territory.

This milestone was achieved thanks to the hard work of our employees and contractors over the past five years.

Thank you to our Singing River Connect subscribers for allowing us to provide this important service for you!

Thank You

Singing River Connect appreciates our subscribers who completed our recent survey! We are reviewing the feedback and using it to shape how we continue bringing the best fiber internet service and customer service possible. Congratulations to these survey drawing winners!

RESIDENTIAL WINNERS:

Ronnie Tompkins – *free month of service*
Kim Gautreaux – *free month of service*
Sandra Neal – *free month of service*
Dashon Wells – *\$100 Amazon card*
Alevia Solomon – *\$100 Amazon card*
Ryan Havener – *\$100 Amazon card*

BUSINESS WINNERS:

Donald Bunch – *free month of service*
Holy Spirit Catholic Church – *free month of service*
Rocky Creek Church of Christ – *free month of service*



INTERNET SAFETY PROGRAM WINS SPOTLIGHT AWARD

Singing River Electric's public relations and marketing team won the silver distinction for its internet safety education program in the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Spotlight on Excellence Awards, which recognizes exceptional work produced by electric cooperative communication and marketing professionals across the country.

The program, featuring Webby the Internet Safety Cat, was first introduced at local library programs during the summer of 2025 and then presented at elementary schools across our service area during the 2025/2026 school year. The team met several goals while researching, planning, and then creating and designing the curriculum, games, and graphics.



We're excited to bring Webby and our internet safety program to more classrooms during the upcoming school year! To schedule a presentation, visit singingriverconnect.com/webby-the-cat.

