



Singing River Electric is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

**Mike Smith, General Manager & CEO**  
**Lorri Freeman, APR,**  
**Manager of Public Relations**  
**Amanda Parker,**  
**Public Relations Specialist**

For more information, call  
 601-947-4211/228-497-1313 x 2251 or visit  
 our website at [www.singingriver.com](http://www.singingriver.com)



## CEO's Message



**Mike Smith**  
 General Manager and CEO  
 Singing River Electric

## Heroes on the line *Lineman Appreciation Month*

assisted Dixie Electric following the tornadoes that ripped through Lamar, Forrest and Perry counties. The tornadoes touched down in the early morning hours on a Saturday, and our crews were on the job in Perry County within hours of receiving the initial call for help. Similar situations happen here in our communities on a daily basis. Servicemen and linemen receive calls in the late night or early morning hours and quickly leave their families and homes in order to respond and restore service. This is their job, and they do it well.

Singing River Electric linemen are knowledgeable when it comes to skill and safety measures. They go through hundreds of hours of safety training during their careers and are required to

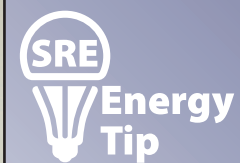
wear many different pieces of protective equipment on a daily basis. Their training doesn't stop at safety. Line work is tedious and physically demanding. It takes a skilled craftsman to learn the trade. Our linemen specialize in underground and overhead line work, as well as substation construction.

One thing you may not know about our linemen, however, is their strength of character and their love of family, community and country. During this Lineman Appreciation Month, we want to share some stories that highlight this character. Please take time to read the Heroes on the line article in this issue. In April and every other month of the year, we are grateful for our employees at Singing River Electric and their families that support them.

## Spring cleaning for your HVAC unit



**Josh Havard**  
 Member Services Representative  
[joshhavard@singingriver.com](mailto:joshhavard@singingriver.com)



Spring is in the air, and it's time to think about your HVAC system. It is always a good idea to have your system serviced biannually.

If you are considering a new HVAC unit, you will want to think about a few things. First, consider efficiency. Heat pumps can reduce your energy use by 30-60% and help control humidity, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

Second, consider the size of the new unit. An improperly sized HVAC unit can wreak havoc on your home. An oversized unit can cause your system to "short cycle" – constantly turning off and on. An undersized unit will run continuously to keep up with demand.

Home orientation can also affect your choice. How sunlight hits your home or office during different times of the day can impact the load capacity required to properly heat or cool the space.

For more information visit [singingriver.com/save-energy-and-money](http://singingriver.com/save-energy-and-money) or engage us in social media conversations on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.



**TRUST. ANOTHER PRECIOUS RESOURCE WE'RE COMMITTED TO PRESERVING.**

Helping you keep the lights on. Helping you keep informed. To your local Touchstone Energy cooperative, that's trust. Learn more at [singingriver.com](http://singingriver.com).

**YOUR SOURCE OF POWER. AND INFORMATION.**

## National Lineman Appreciation Day - April 18, 2017

# Heroes on the Line

Tuesday, April 18, is nationally recognized as Lineman Appreciation Day. A day to recognize and say thank you to a hardworking, selfless crew that go above and beyond every day to ensure members have reliable electric service. You

know the efforts they make all hours of the day and through the night to construct power lines and make restorations when Mother Nature takes down a line, but here are a few more ways our linemen show their pride for country and our

local communities.

All of these acts were brought to Singing River Electric's attention by appreciative members of the community or fellow employees.



While replacing an outdoor light at Sand Hill Attendance Center during a thunderstorm, Serviceman Brent Brewer noticed the American flag was wrapped around its pole. Brewer moved his truck next to the pole and took a few moments to untangle the flag so it could fly freely.



A SRE Lucedale crew heading to a job site in the Shipman community saw a lone cow lying in the road. Knowing they couldn't leave it there, the linemen got out of their trucks and herded the cow into the nearby field. As they were leaving, the cow's owner flagged them down to thank them. Crew members included: (front row) Apprentice Lineman IV Andrew Brown, Lineman Steven Smith, Construction Foreman I James Hill, Construction Foreman II Jimmy Glen Croom, (back row) Journeyman Garen Ferguson and Journeyman Gary Allgood.



Serviceman Mike Perry was en route to an outage call in Gautier's Hickory Hills area when traffic came to a stop. Because of the stormy conditions, a woman missed her turn into the parking lot of Martin Bluff Baptist Church and drove her vehicle into a nearby ditch. Perry offered his help and used the winch on his truck to pull the vehicle out of the ditch without causing further damage. He then continued on to his outage call.

# #ThankALineman



**SAVE THE DATE** to attend SRE's FREE Energy Fairs:

April 20 – Knobtown Community Center – 115 Knobtown Rd., State Line

June 29 – SRE Lucedale office – 11187 Old 63 South





# Building a strong FUTURE

through Mississippi's brightest students

## Singing River Electric sends local students to Youth Leadership Workshop

The Electric Cooperatives of Mississippi held its 31st Annual Youth Leadership Workshop Feb. 22-24 in downtown Jackson. Each year, approximately 1,000 of Mississippi's brightest students vie for the opportunity to attend the three-day workshop in the state capital through their local electric cooperative. This year was the largest group to date with 83 students in attendance.

Austin Baldwin of St. Martin High School, Kenley Cochran of Perry Central High School, Noah Moran of Ocean Springs High School and Morgan Rich of East Central High School were selected to represent Singing River Electric in this program.

Leadership and team building are the theme of the workshop. The students heard speeches from a variety of motivational speakers, had a photo session and breakfast with their state legislators, and toured the state Capitol. This hands-on learning experience is designed to provide the students a first-hand look at leadership and state government.

Gov. Phil Bryant has been a strong supporter of the program since he has been in office. He spoke to the group during a luncheon at the Old Capitol Inn. Bryant said, "The No. 1 responsibility of government is public safety, and I encourage you to stay in Mississippi and work with

us in maintaining a quality place to live and work."

During the legislative breakfast, students visited with their state senators and representatives and discussed important issues that affect their local communities. The breakfast is highly supported by the state legislature as exhibited by the attendance.

Before they toured the state Capitol, Lt. Gov. Tate Reeves spoke to the students. Reeves encouraged the students to "dream big, make a plan to achieve that dream and then work hard to achieve it."

While visiting the Capitol, the group was able to watch their legislators at work from the galleries of the House and Senate, and were once again able to talk one-on-one with their senators and representatives.

At the workshop, the students participated in a range of leadership development activities aimed at motivating students for the future, with an emphasis on teamwork and good communication. They were divided into smaller groups in order to problem-solve and achieve common goals.

Singing River Electric is a proud sponsor of the program. "We are proud to have these four outstanding students represent Singing River Electric," said Mike Smith, general manager and CEO. "They are our future leaders, and we look forward to seeing all that they accomplish."

In June, Austin, Kenley, Noah and Morgan will travel with the group to Washington, D.C. The seven-day trip will include visits to all of the popular monuments and memorials, as well as meetings with Mississippi's congressional delegation during a visit to Capitol Hill.



Above: Kenley is all smiles as her group figures out how to complete the task at hand.



Right: Kenley, Morgan, Austin and Noah at the Capitol building in Jackson.



Morgan, Kenley, Austin and Noah were presented certificates at an awards ceremony following the workshop.



Top left: Noah leads his group in an activity requiring memorization and team work. Top center: Morgan listens to her team's advice as she navigates through a grid. Top right: While wearing a blindfold, Austin trusts his friends to get him to safety during a teambuilding exercise. Above left: Rep. Manly Barton, Austin, Noah, Sen. Dennis DeBar Jr., Kenley, Morgan and Sen. Michael Watson met before the legislative breakfast. Above right: SRE's youth leadership students were able to meet with Rep. Roun McNeal (right) while visiting the Capitol.



Noah, Austin, Morgan and Kenley admire the azaleas at the foot of the Capitol steps before visiting the Senate and House galleries.

## WORKSHOP SPEAKERS



Gov. Phil Bryant



Lt. Gov. Tate Reeves



Terry Rhodes



# POWER in MEMBERSHIP

## YOU ARE A MEMBER.

**NOT JUST A CUSTOMER.**

### WHY DOES MEMBERSHIP MATTER?

You have a vote, a say, returned capital credits and more. We were organized nearly 80 years ago by neighbors in southeast Mississippi and still represent those same communities today. That is the cooperative difference and what makes us unique.

You are a member of one of the fastest growing electric cooperatives in the state and nation. Singing River Electric is the 45th largest out of more than 900 electric distribution co-ops nationwide and is one of more than 673 Touchstone Energy cooperatives in the United States.

**WE ARE COMMITTED TO PROVIDING  
ABOVE AND BEYOND, FRIENDLY,  
PROFESSIONAL & EXPERT SERVICE  
TO EACH AND EVERY MEMBER.**

### 7 COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES

- 1 VOLUNTARY AND OPEN MEMBERSHIP
- 2 DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL
- 3 MEMBERS' ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION
- 4 AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE
- 5 TRAINING AND INFORMATION
- 6 COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES
- 7 CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY

COUNTIES SERVED  
**7 MS AND 2 AL**

MEMBERS SERVED  
**> 73,000**

MEMBERS ON THE BOARD  
**9 NEIGHBORS**

2016 RETIRED CAPITAL CREDITS  
**> \$8 MILLION**

TOTAL RETIRED CAPITAL CREDITS  
**> \$21.7 MILLION**



**SINGINGRIVER.COM/MYMEMBERSHIP**

POWER IN MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION. ACCESS OUR SMARTHUB APP.

**April 22 is**

# EARTH DAY

Our community partnership doesn't end with our NHN Community Grants, Energy Assistance, scholarships and support of our local schools. Singing River Electric also supplies COMMUNITY POWER on EARTH DAY and all year. Our employees go above and beyond to help clean up and make improvements to leave our beautiful community the way we found it – or even better.

## COMMUNITY POWER:



SRE employees donate their time at the Mississippi Coastal Cleanup at Gautier City Park and Pier (October 2016)



SRE crew installs Osprey Nest at Indian Point in Gautier (March 2017)



SRE employees volunteered at the 2016 Jackson County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day, Gautier (April 2016)

### How you can go green this Earth Day:

- Bring your spent household CFL bulbs to any SRE office for FREE recycling.
- Choose paperless billing and download our SmartHub app to pay your bill and report power outages.

Join us at the Jackson County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day on Saturday, April 22, from 8 a.m. to noon at Singing River Mall, Highway 90, Gautier.