



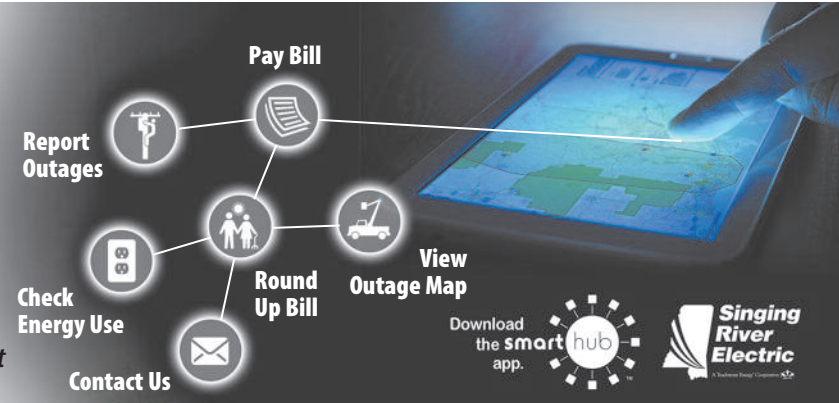
Singing River Electric

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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



CEO's Message



Mike Smith
 General Manager and CEO
 Singing River Electric

There's **POWER** in Co-op Voting

of Singing River Electric cooperative. Simply complete, tear off and return the proxy postcard that was mailed to you, or use your SmartHub app or visit singingriver.com to vote online. All online voting must be complete and proxies received by close of business on Friday, June 16. Members who return proxies or vote online will be entered in a drawing for one of six \$250 prizes and one grand prize of \$500.

Members will vote for one director candidate in each of three geographic districts. These Singing River Electric members live in your community and have been certified as qualified candidates by Singing River Electric members serving on the Election and

Credentials Committee.

You will also vote on two proposed bylaw changes this year. The first is a name change to Singing River Electric Cooperative from Singing River Electric Power Association. We feel the name change more clearly defines who we are, which is an electric cooperative. The second bylaw change will create an additional director position for District 3 including Jackson and Harrison counties due to member growth in this area.

For candidate biographies and more information on the bylaw changes, please see your mailed proxy notice or see the official ballot listed on the SmartHub app and the cooperative's website located at singingriver.com.

POWER in MEMBERSHIP
2017 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

THURSDAY, JUNE 29
 LUCEDALE — 11187 OLD 63 SOUTH
 REGISTRATION OPENS: 4:30 P.M.
 MEETING BEGINS: 6 P.M.
 ENERGY FAIR: 9 A.M. — 6 P.M.

YOU COULD WIN \$500 CASH!

2017 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

CAST YOUR VOTE BY PROXY MAILER

MAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- DETACH proxy mailer at perforation.
- NO ENVELOPE needed.
- NO STAMP needed - postage paid.
- MUST be received by JUNE 16.



VOTE ONLINE OR USE THE SMARTHUB APP

VOTING INSTRUCTIONS

- Vote by 5 P.M. FRIDAY, JUNE 16.
- Visit SINGINGRIVER.COM on your computer, or go to our SMARTHUB APP on your mobile device.
- Click "VOTE HERE" button.
- Enter Membership ID and zip code.
- Cast your vote.

IT ONLY TAKES A MINUTE AND IT'S AN OFFICIAL 2017 VOTE

National Weather Service
 provides critical information to members during severe weather

By **Elissa Fulton**

"One of the critical messages we want to get out to the public is that it doesn't take a major hurricane to produce major impacts," said Jason Beaman, warning coordination meteorologist for the National Weather Service (NWS) in Mobile. "Looking at the category number is a very dangerous approach. The category is only talking about wind speed, but that's not what's killing the most people in hurricanes. Winds account for 5-8 percent of fatalities in tropical storms and hurricanes. Storm surge and inland flooding – 75 percent!"

Growing up in south Alabama in the Gulf Shores area, Beaman is no stranger to severe weather and tropical storms. As a child he was fascinated by severe weather, particularly memories of Hurricane Elena that impacted the Gulf in 1985. That curiosity has continued through his life. Since earning a

military, local law enforcement and local media outlets to keep the public safe during severe weather events. Not only is the NWS monitoring weather events on land, but they are also constantly monitoring miles of marine landscape in the Gulf of Mexico. "A weather radio is one of the best ways to receive information," said Beaman. "It's going to wake you up in the middle of the night and let you know something is coming your way. It can be that critical a tool, especially overnight."

Cell phones have also become a great tool for receiving information, and according to Beaman, have been a game changer. The new cell phones have built-in wireless emergency alerts that automatically receive tornado warnings and flash flood warnings. The NWS issues a warning box to the cell phone providers of the threatened areas, and all phones within that cell tower will sound alarms in emergency situations.

Beaman also suggests downloading apps on the cell phones, such as the Red Cross and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Television broadcast is also critical to warning information, but it's important to not just rely on one source of information. Having multiple tools is imperative because if one source of information fails, there's something to fall back on.

The forecasters are constantly monitoring the weather, but if a hurricane were to approach the Gulf of Mexico, obviously the activity will ramp up in Mobile. If the area gets inside the forecast cone, then operations go to the next level. Preparing for a

hurricane is the most intensive operation that the office can do. The meteorologists and staff go to 12-hour shifts, and each person is assigned a task to continuously provide a stream of information to the public, the NWS partners and emergency management teams.

Planning for a hurricane and having an evacuation plan is crucial to Singing River Electric members living in coastal areas, and you should know that

Staying up to date with the weather in your area and having a plan for a severe weather outbreak is very important during hurricane season. Follow the NWS on Facebook at www.facebook.com/NWSMobile and Twitter @NWSMobile, or visit www.weather.gov/mob to receive forecast information and preparedness tips.

today – on a normal day. If you live in a surge zone, it's important to know where you are in relation to the surge zone – and if you are in an evacuation zone, what zone are you in? Knowing where you are going to go in case of evacuation can be essential during a crisis situation.

"If the family has a game plan ahead of time, it's going to be a lot less stressful. There will be enough stresses with the storm itself," said Beaman. "If you've got everything lined out and know what you are going to do, it's just going to help you and your family make better decisions."

Get weather warnings first!

- Purchase weather radio.
- Allow wireless emergency alerts.
- Download weather alert apps. (Red Cross, FEMA)

degree in Meteorology from the University of South Alabama, he has worked in the industry for 15 years. He is responsible for reaching out to the public and keeping the external lines of communication open. Beaman encourages the public to have multiple ways of receiving information during a severe weather outbreak – specifically warning information.

The NWS in Mobile serves three states across the southeast. Five Mississippi counties including George, Greene, Stone, Perry and Wayne counties receive their weather information and severe weather alerts from the office. These counties also fall in Singing River Electric's service area.

The NWS is a part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) branch of the Department of Commerce, and is the government agency tasked with providing weather-related information and safety alerts to the public. The Mobile office has a total of 22 team members, including forecasters and support staff that provide weather services 24-hours per day, seven days per week.

In addition to providing the public with safety information, the NWS office in Mobile provides the aviation forecast, serves the Coast Guard, Emergency Operation Centers (EOC), Gulf Islands National Seashore and the Port of Mobile, one of the largest ports in the nation. They also partner with the



Jeff Medlin, head meteorologist in charge (left) and Jason Beaman, warning coordination meteorologist, along with the NWS staff monitor the weather conditions continuously to keep the public informed of severe threats in the area.