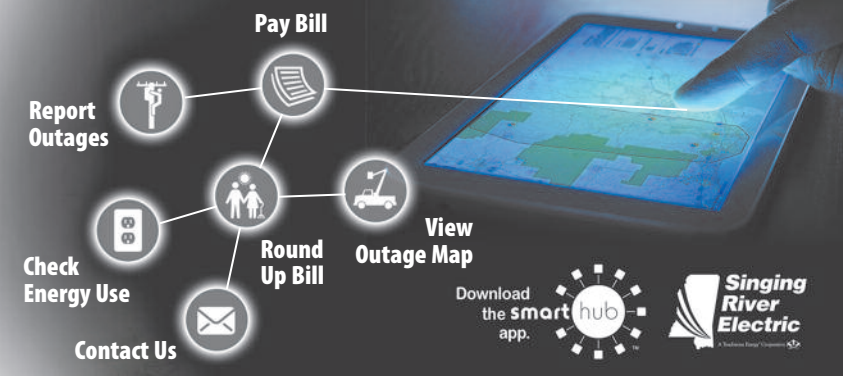


# Singing River Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Brian Hughey, 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 or visit our website at [singingriver.com](http://singingriver.com). SRE is an equal opportunity employer and provider.



## CEO's Message



**Brian Hughey**  
General Manager and CEO  
Singing River Electric

## POWER in MEMBERSHIP

At our recent Annual Meeting, we celebrated Singing River Electric Cooperative's 80-year heritage of service to our members. I want to take this opportunity to thank all who participated in person, online, or by proxy. Two new board members were elected to represent the membership's interests in Districts 2 and 3, along with the re-election of three sitting board members from each of the districts. It is the responsibility of these directors to establish policies and review operational procedures to promote a progressive, financially-sound cooperative. As manager, I appreciate all the time and hard work each of our directors put into steering our cooperative and safeguarding

the best interest of our membership.

Each year, we take the opportunity to report on the work and progress achieved by Singing River Electric the previous year. This year, the report included our response to natural disasters at home and away as we brought aid to three other electric cooperatives during the year. Also discussed were our wholesale power provider's focus on more renewable energy options, our infrastructure improvements, the electric cooperative's involvement in numerous community projects, and the return of capital credits.

As we reflected back on the past year at this Annual Meeting, we were reminded of the cooperative difference and what makes us unique. Singing River Electric is proud to be an electric cooperative built by the communities we serve and led by consumer-members like you.

**Built by the communities  
we serve.**

**80** Year heritage  
of serving our members



We are an electric cooperative - led by members like you.

**Singing River  
Electric Cooperative**  
A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

## Keep the heat out



**Jeff Gray**  
Member Services Representative  
BPI certified professional  
[gray@singingriver.com](mailto:gray@singingriver.com)

If your home is facing east or west, you may have extra heat coming in through your windows in the summer months. This is because more windows are usually found on the front and back of your home.



To control this problem, we recommend:

- Installing blinds or room darkening curtains.
- Closing blinds and curtains in the morning and opening them in the afternoon, if your home is facing east.
- Trying window film, if blinds or curtains are not an option.
- Choosing low-e windows, if installing new windows.

For more information, visit [www.singingriver.com](http://www.singingriver.com), or visit [www.energystar.gov/campaign/WaysToSave](http://www.energystar.gov/campaign/WaysToSave).

# POWER in MEMBERSHIP

## 2018 Annual Meeting held June 28

Singing River Electric held the 2018 Annual Membership Meeting on Thursday, June 28. As part of the membership meeting, the electric cooperative also held a free Energy Fair for participants and celebrated its 80-year heritage. During the meeting, General Manager and CEO Brian Hughey reviewed the highlights from 2017 and shared some of the cooperative's plans for 2018.

Five Singing River Electric members were elected to serve on the cooperative's board. Two new board members were elected to represent the membership's interests in Districts 2 and 3, along with the re-election of three sitting board members from each of the three geographic districts.

- **Cary Williams, District 1 – Post 3**  
(3-year term)

- **Travis Baxter, District 2 – Post 3**  
(3-year term)
- **Ron Wilson, District 2 – Post 1**  
(1-year unexpired term)
- **Edward Thornton – District 3 – Post 3**  
(3-year term)
- **Mark LaSalle – District 3 – Post 4**  
(3-year term)

Singing River Electric members Milton Driskell, Marvin Blankinchip, Linda Eckford, Philip Busby, Obie Wells, Richard Fleming and Daniel Seymour served on the Credentials and Election Committee. This committee reviews the election process and applicants.

Singing River Electric consumer-members participated in the board elections online, by SmartHub app, by mailed proxy or in-person at the annual meeting.



Top Left: Fleet Coordinator Fred McCann delivers an attendance prize to a member.



Top Right: A hot air balloon bearing the Touchstone Energy brand name greeted meeting participants.

Left: Members cast their ballots for the board of directors at the Annual Meeting.

**Singing River  
Electric Cooperative**  
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**2018 Annual Meeting Proxy/Online Ballot Prize Winners Included:**  
 Caitlin Catchot, Mary Hawkins, Charles Prevost, Pam Taylor, Thomas Nichols, Regina Dickerson and Kevin Bradley.

## 2017 highlights discussed at the membership meeting:

- ◆ Retirement of more than \$2.4 million in capital credits to members. This was a return of member investments in the cooperative. The credits were for the year 1986.
- ◆ Retirement of more than \$760,000 of additional capital credits for the years 1984-1986. These credits were refunded to Singing River Electric members from Cooperative Energy, our power provider.
- ◆ Increase in the amount of solar energy included in Cooperative Energy's generation resource mix. Specifically, the 52-megawatt solar facility near Sumrall in Lamar County. This 540-acre site contains over 200,000 photovoltaic solar panels and was energized in late 2017.
- ◆ Planning for the conversion of Cooperative Energy's R.D. Morrow coal-fired generating plant to become a more efficient natural gas plant.
- ◆ Unusual weather associated with this past year, including many instances where Singing River Electric helped other cooperatives including Dixie Electric and Southern Pine in Mississippi and Clay Electric in Florida. Tropical Storm Cindy, Hurricane Nate and Winter Storms Grayson and Inga affected our area.
- ◆ Electric power was restored to all Singing River Electric members who could receive power within 36 hours following Hurricane Nate.
- ◆ Completed construction of a new Hintonville substation and voltage conversion of the Hintonville substation area, located in Perry County.
- ◆ Construction of a new Helena Industrial Park substation in Jackson County. It was built to provide ample energy for future economic development in the park. It is one of Cooperative Energy's largest readily-available sites, which will help create local jobs.
- ◆ Community involvement of both the electric cooperative and its employees. Last year, Singing River Electric built an osprey nest in Gautier and sponsored or participated in Pathways2Possibilities 8th-grade Job Fair, Coastal Cleanup, and Hazardous Waste Collection in Jackson County. The cooperative held three Energy Fairs across the areas served, donated nearly \$20,000 in Neighbors Helping Neighbors community grants, and presented the safety message to more than 11,000 adults and students locally.
- ◆ \$73,900 was awarded in efficiency rebates to Singing River Electric consumer-members.



# Visit to nation's capital inspires Youth Tour students



Micah, Zikeya, Cari and Eli visited with Rep. Steven Palazzo at his Washington, D.C., office during Youth Tour.

Each year, Singing River Electric sponsors high school juniors on a tour of our nation's capital. The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour has brought high school students to Washington, D.C. every June since the late 1950s, and more than 50,000 students from across America have experienced this unique opportunity. The Electric Cooperatives of Mississippi (ECM) has participated in the program for 32 years.

The tour gives the students an up-close view of the political process on a national level and connects them with like-minded students from across the state and nation. The relationships made on Youth Tour have proven to be beneficial throughout their lives. The Youth Tour is supported locally by Singing River Electric, organized statewide by ECM and nationally by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA). More than 1,800 students from 42 states participate annually.

This year, Zikeya Byrd,

**"A new experience can bring a new change, and a new change can bring a new opportunity. I thank this tour for the opportunities it has given me. Seeing this historic place has opened my mind and showed me I can be and do anything."**

**- Zikeya Byrd**

Micah Pickering, Eli Ramirez, and Cari Sims represented Singing River Electric. They joined 71 of Mississippi's brightest juniors on the tour. They were chosen through an application and interview process. Zikeya is the daughter of Najena Byrd and Zickeyous Byrd of State Line. She will be a senior at Fruitdale High School. Micah will be a senior at Perry Central High School and is the son of Ondria Pickering of Beaumont. Eli is the brother of Jose Ramirez of Pascagoula and will be a senior at Pascagoula High School. Cari will be a senior at Vancleave High School and is the daughter of Angela and Loyd Sims of Vancleave.

On the week-long trip, the students visited historical and cultural sites and a variety of monuments and memorials, such as the World War II Memorial, Korean War Memorial, FDR Memorial, Lincoln Memorial, Air Force Memorial, Jefferson Memorial and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

"The Youth Tour has inspired me to get involved more in my community. Seeing officials from my state working in D.C., inspired me to think outside of my comfort zone – with a sense of – if he can do it, I can do it," said Eli Ramirez.

One of the first stops on the tour was the Marine Corps War Memorial, informally known as the Iwo Jima, followed by visits to other monuments and memorials.

The students visited numerous museums, such as the Newseum, a seven floor, interactive museum dedicated to the first amendment rights and journalism throughout American history. A new addition to the tour this year, was a visit to the Holocaust Museum. The museum is a somber reflection of those who were lost during the Nazi regime. They also spent a day touring the Smithsonian Museums of Air and Space, American History, Natural History and the National Gallery of Art.

Another popular event of the tour was a Major League Baseball

Below: Micah, Zikeya, Cari and Eli stopped for a photo in front of the White House on Pennsylvania Avenue.



game at Nationals Park. The students watched as the Washington Nationals took on the San Francisco Giants.

After a drive down Massachusetts Avenue, unofficially known as Embassy Row, the students were taken on a guided tour of the Washington National Cathedral, the second largest cathedral in the U.S.

In addition to sightseeing, the students also spent a day on Capitol Hill, which began with a special tour of the U.S. House Floor graciously hosted by Rep. Gregg Harper. While in the Capitol building, the students enjoyed a panoramic view of Washington, D.C., from the speaker's balcony. Many of the students were able to meet House Speaker Paul Ryan, and Rep. Kevin McCarthy (CA). McCarthy spoke to the group after a news interview in the Capitol Rotunda. After the tour, Keya, Micah, Eli and Cari joined a smaller group to visit with Rep. Steven Palazzo in his D.C. office. During the visit to Capitol Hill, students also had the opportunity to meet with Sen. Roger Wicker and Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith.

"How many people are given the opportunity to stand in our nation's capital and meet our nation's leaders amongst the the future leaders of America? This program is truly life-changing. This week I was able to be a part of our great nation's history. I will cherish these memories, and the friendships I gained, forever," said Cari Sims.

"It is an honor for Singing River Electric to annually participate in the Washington, D.C.

**"This has been the experience of a lifetime and a true blessing. I have probably the best friends I'll ever have."**

**- Micah Pickering**



Left: Micah, Eli, Cari and Zikeya enjoyed a stop at the Air Force Memorial near the Pentagon.



Above: The National Cathedral was one of the sites Micah, Eli, Cari and Zikeya were able to visit while on the Youth Tour.

Left: The students visited the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall where they saw The Three Soldiers bronze statue that represent the soldiers that fought in the Vietnam War.



Youth Tour program," said General Manager and CEO Brian Hughey. "This educational program provides an opportunity for local students to learn about history and government while building their leadership skills. We are proud to make this investment in these young leaders."



# Hurricane Prep

## What To Do During The Storm



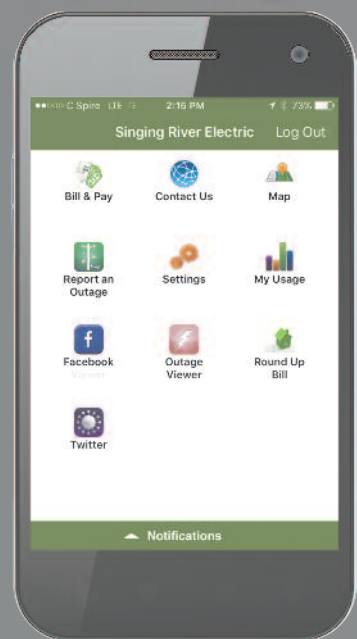
Safety is the utmost concern before, during and after a storm. Here are some tips when it comes to generator safety.

### Generator Safety Tips:

- Connect appliances directly to the generator. Never connect a generator directly to your home's wiring. (This can energize power lines and endanger the lives of SRE linemen as well as visiting crews.)
- Ensure the generator you choose has ample capacity for the load.
- Consult a licensed electrician to help with installation.
- Always read the manufacturer's instructions carefully before use.
- Be careful to use generators outdoors in well-ventilated areas.

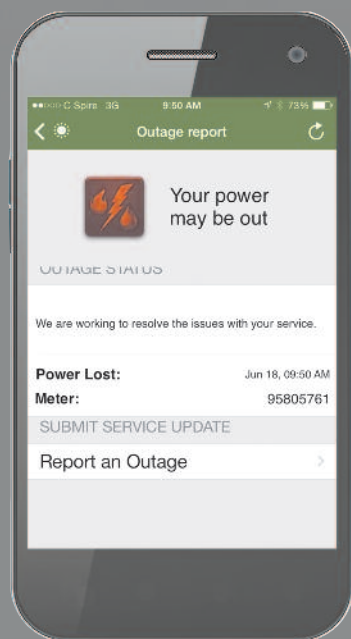
## Report a power outage WITH THE TOUCH OF A SCREEN

**Step One:** Download SmartHub app.



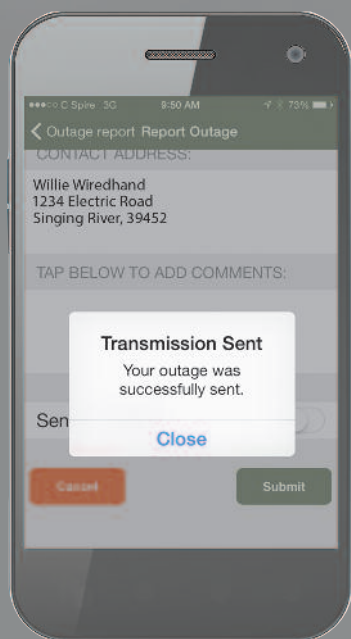
**Step Two:**

Select "Report an Outage" icon.



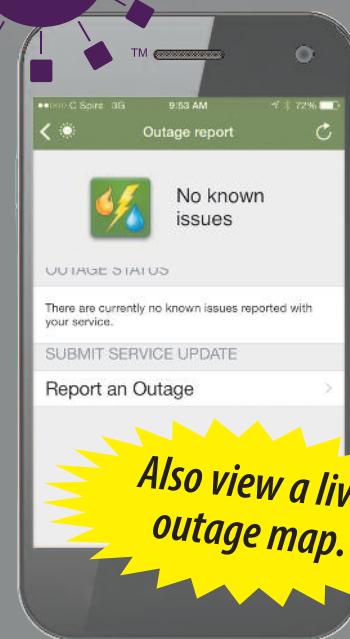
**Step Three:**

Select "Report an Outage."



**Step Four:**

Type in comments and Select "Submit."



**Step Five:**

Recheck app later to verify power has been restored.

**Keep your contact information updated to increase speed of outage restoration.**

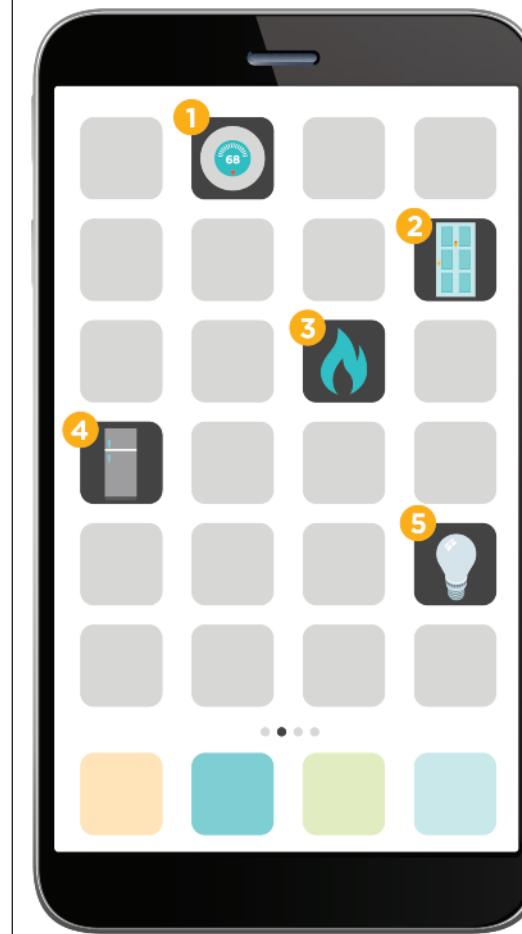
## Increasing solar energy as we power south Mississippi



Cooperative Energy's newest solar venture is a 52MW solar energy facility in Lamar County. The site covers 540 acres and is home to approximately 208,000 photovoltaic solar panels. Oris Energy constructed and operates the electric generation site. Cooperative Energy purchases all power produced at the location. This greatly increases the solar energy in the generation mix, which is also made up of nuclear, hydroelectricity, natural gas and coal.

## SMART HOME TECH APPS

Smart home technologies are continuously improving, but their companion mobile apps are taking convenience to a whole new level. Let's take a look at some of the latest app functionalities.



- 1 Smart Thermostat Apps:** Geofencing is great enhancement for smart thermostat apps. Set a boundary with your smartphone and when you leave the boundary, the thermostat switches to away or return mode.
- 2 Smart Security Apps:** Video doorbells are becoming increasingly popular, allowing consumers to keep a watchful eye from anywhere. Smart security apps send alerts to signal activity outside your home, giving you peace of mind.
- 3 Smart Smoke and CO Sensor Apps:** These apps have the ability to send alerts, conduct status checks and silence alarms – even when you're away.
- 4 Smart Appliance Apps:** App functionality depends on the appliance. Refrigerator cameras allow you to see what needs to be stocked (while grocery shopping!), and smart dryers can sense when electric use is high and turn off.
- 5 Smart Lighting Apps:** Control lighting options for individual rooms, adjust brightness and color, create lighting scenes based on mood – all from the convenience of your smartphone.

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## 5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working on an outdoor project? Always call 8-1-1 first, because you never know what's below. Here are five easy steps for safe digging:

Source: call811.com

### 1. NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before you start.



### 2. WAIT

Wait two to three days for a response to your request. Affected utilities will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.



### 3. CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utilities have responded by comparing the markers to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.



### 4. RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. They are your guide for the duration of your project.



### 5. DIG CAREFULLY

If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project.

