



Singing River Electric Power Association

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Annual Meeting slated for April 18

Singing River Electric Power Association's 2009 Annual Meeting is set for Sat., April 18, in the George County High School Cafetorium located at 9284 Old 63 South in Lucedale.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. with the meeting to follow at 10 a.m. Business to be transacted at this year's annual meeting includes the election of three directors.

Singing River Electric has a nine-person board of directors elected from three districts. Each district is represented by three directors. Each year one director from each district is up for election.

To conduct business at the annual meeting, a quorum of at least 10 percent of the membership is necessary. The quorum is derived by adding the number of members present at the meeting to the total number of valid proxies received.

Each member is entitled to one vote regardless of the number of accounts in the member's name. Any member may vote in person or by proxy. A proxy may be assigned to either the board of directors of the association or to another member.

A member can vote up to 200 proxies at any meeting of the members. The presence of a member at the meeting, or in the case of a joint membership, the presence of either a husband or wife, shall revoke a proxy. The person holding the proxy must file the executed proxy at Singing River Electric's

Lucedale office by April 14.

Nominations for election to the board of directors are made by petition or from the floor at the meeting. Nominations by petition may be made by a member acquiring signatures of 25 members on a form furnished by the association.

The deadline for a nomination by petition to be placed on the notice of the annual meeting is March 13.

However, the deadline for nominations by petition to be placed on the ballot is April 3, prior to the annual meeting.

Notices for this year's annual meeting will be mailed toward the end of March. The official notice will also include a mail proxy for those who will be unable to attend the meeting.

Singing River Electric bylaws are available upon request.



Mail proxies by April 14 to be eligible for CASH prizes!



AT SINGING RIVER YOU ARE A MEMBER. YOUR VOTE COUNTS!



... WATCH FOR ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE IN MAIL!



Singing River Electric will mail annual meeting notices and proxy cards on March 27. If your card is one of the first 500 proxies received, you will be registered for a special drawing. Following the special drawing, three regular drawings will be held from all proxies returned by the April 14 deadline. The first 500 registered for the early drawing also will be registered for the three regular drawings.

If you send in your proxy, you can still attend the annual meeting. Your proxy will be revoked and you will be able to vote in person instead. The same applies in the case of joint membership where either a husband or wife executes the proxy and rescinds it if one or the other attends the meeting in person.

You may designate either the board of directors, as a body, or another member who will be present at the annual meeting to cast your proxy. If you'd like the board to vote your proxy, simply sign the proxy and return it in the mail. If you designate another member to cast your vote at the meeting, be sure to write the member's name and account number in the appropriate place on the proxy before returning it.

Free energy-efficiency demonstrations and CFL light bulbs!

ANNUAL MEETING - APRIL 18, 2009

Singing River Electric crews work to restore power in Kentucky

Twelve Singing River Electric crew members left on Jan. 28 to help Kentucky's Salt River Electric restore power after a severe ice and snow storm caused power outages for nearly all of the cooperative's 46,000 members.

"It is our way to help cooperative members in need, our crews gain valuable experience and the co-ops we help are often the first to volunteer when south Mississippi needs help," said Lee Hedegaard, SRE general manager and CEO. Salt River Electric crews assisted Mississippi cooperatives following Hurricane Katrina.

During winter storms, power lines often fall because of the weight of the

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snow and ice that cover them. Falling tree limbs, also covered in the icy coating, are the biggest cause of power outages in winter weather.

Randy Burba, vice president of customer service for Salt River Electric, commented, "It was a terrible situation but the restoration efforts were inspiring to see. Our crews really appreciated the tremendous help given by the hard working Singing River Electric crews from south Mississippi."

Singing River Electric crews returned home safely on Feb. 9.

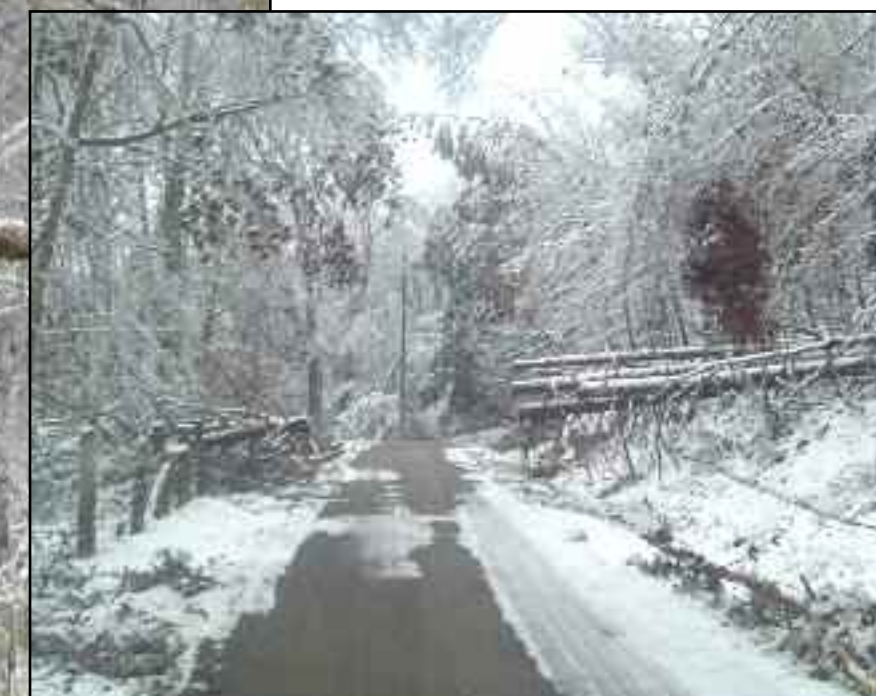
Salt River Electric

- Headquarters in Bardstown, Ken.
- Serves 46,000 members in 10 counties
- 38,000 members without power after storm
- 250 crew members from seven different states helped restore power including Miss.
- Took 13 days to completely restore power
- Kentucky PSC calls it the worst storm on record.



Clockwise, icy trees twist into broken power lines in southern Kentucky. Singing River Electric crew members Garen Ferguson, Ronnie Cooley, Sam Jones and Chris Guillotte work to restore a main power line for Salt River Electric. It's off to work for our SRE crew in a winter wonderland along Hwy. 62 in Kentucky. Troy Collins and Gary Allgood restring wire on a snow covered pole. (Photos by Kentucky Standard)

Opposite page, Singing River Electric crews encounter various weather and challenges as they make their way around Salt River Electric's service territory to restore power.



Separate crew sent to Ark. on Feb. 12

In response to the same severe winter weather experienced in Kentucky, Singing River Electric sent 13 crew members to assist with power restoration at Clay County Electric in Pocahontas, Ark. Visit www.singingriver.com for more information and photos of restoration efforts. At press time, SRE crews had not yet returned.

Fuel cost increases lead to power cost adjustment

Singing River Electric announced a power cost adjustment (PCA) increase of 4 mills or \$0.004 per kilowatt-hour beginning Mar. 6, 2009. As a result, a member bill for 1,000 kilowatt-hours will increase \$4.00 or 3.6 percent.

“Of this 4 mill power cost adjustment increase, 75 percent is due to fuel increases and 25 percent toward South Mississippi Electric’s compliance with the Environmental Protection Agency’s Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR),” said Singing River Electric general manager and CEO Lee Hedegaard. South Mississippi Electric is Singing River Electric’s generation and transmission provider.

The wholesale power increase was implemented in January by our power supplier. However, Singing River Electric’s board of directors elected not to put the increase into effect on member power bills until March.

“We wanted to help our members through the high use winter months of January and February,” said Hedegaard. Instead, the cooperative enacted internal cuts and savings in order to postpone the increase for the two-month period. These actions saved Singing River members over \$800,000.

Rising fuel costs are the root source of the wholesale power increases and directly affect electricity bills because they are a pass-through expense. The PCA is an increase or decrease, depending on the cost of generating and purchasing electricity. Power costs

are managed by working with South Mississippi Electric to purchase a diversified mix of fuel sources.

Several fuel sources increased or were unreliable recently. Hydro-power which is normally a very efficient and reliable fuel source proved not to be

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this past year due to the overall lack of rainfall in the southeast. To fill this void, natural gas was burned, which is not as efficient. On top of this, the price of coal, used for more than 50 percent of the electricity generated nationwide, has more than doubled in the past 12 months.

“Together with South Mississippi Electric, we are working hard to maintain a mixture of wholesale power sources and keep those costs as low as possible,” explained Hedegaard. “Singing River Electric also remains committed to partner with our members and provide energy-efficient education and tools to help lower usage and power costs at home.”

www.singingriver.com/electricservicerates.html

Expert energy tip for members



Member Services Rep., Stan Mills
mills@singingriver.com

As we enter into spring, warmer weather is just around the corner. It is the time of year when we start gearing up to make home improvements before summer temperatures are here.

One way to do so is to reduce the air infiltration into your home. Outside air can come into your home

Back to the Basics: Conserve101

A great new “spin” on saving energy...

Clothes dryers take the conditioned air inside your home, heat it to dry your clothes and then pump it outside. This makes your air conditioner or heat pump work overtime. Avoid using your dryer during the hottest or coldest part of the day. You can make a real difference on your electricity bill.

Fact: Cleaning your dryer’s lint filter after every load will help your dryer run more efficiently and dry your clothes faster.

Singing River Electric Power Association
A Public Service Energy Cooperative

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through unsealed areas around windows and doors. Air leakage accounts for between 25 and 40 percent of the energy used to heat and cool a home.

There are several inexpensive ways to seal your home, for example, caulking around the inside and outside of your windows and adding or replacing

the weather stripping around doors.

Making these changes will reduce the amount of hot, humid air that can leak into your home and reduce the time your air conditioner or heat pump needs to run.



Watts Happening

MARCH 7 3RD ANNUAL D’IBERVILLE BBQ THROWDOWN AND FESTIVAL

Enjoy a day of BBQ cookoffs, arts and crafts, childrens activities, live entertainment and more. Sponsored by the City of D’Iberville and the City’s Parks and Recreation Board. Free admission for spectators.
Time: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Location: Bobby Eleuterius Recreational Complex, Brodie Rd. in D’Iberville
Contact: 228-669-5539, mmullins@diberville.ms.us or <http://diberville.ms.us/>

MARCH 13-15 BILOXI BOAT AND RV SHOW

Visit with 100+ exhibitors dealing with boating products. Admission is charged.
Time: Friday, Noon - 9 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Location: Mississippi Coast Coliseum, 2350 Beach Blvd. in Biloxi
Contact: 251-478-7469 or www.gulfcoastshows.com

MARCH 14 14TH ANNUAL HURLEY OLD FASHION DAY

The East Central Civic Association’s event includes down-home food, country and bluegrass music, auction, arts and crafts, antique cars and more. Free admission.
Time: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Location: Lum Cumbest Family Park on Highway 613 in Hurley
Contact: 228-588-0136, 228-588-0511 or karenecca@yahoo.com

MARCH 21 9TH ANNUAL GULF COAST BLESSING OF THE BIKES

A day filled with people, motorcycles, bicycles, music, food and more. Children are encouraged to bring their bike for a special blessing. Sponsored by the Christian Motorcyclists Association Chapter. Free admission.
Time: Registration begins at 9 a.m.; Bike games begin at 9:30 a.m.
Location: First United Methodist Church grounds, 2717 Highway 90 in Gautier
Contact: 228-217-1139

MARCH 25-29 FESTIVAL OF FLOWERS

This event offers life-sized gardens by regional landscape architects and garden designers, a featured artist showcase, exhibits, demonstrations, seminars and more. Admission is charged.
Times: Wednesday - Saturday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Location: Providence Hospital Campus, 6801 Airport Blvd. in Mobile
Contact: 251-639-2050, 1-877-777-0529 or www.festivalofflowers.com

MARCH 27-28 8TH ANNUAL JACKSON COUNTY OLE TIME FESTIVAL AND MULE PULL

Enjoy the South Mississippi Mule and Horse Association’s event with arts and crafts, food, live music, petting zoo and various contests. Admission is charged.
Time: Gates open both days at 9 a.m.; Rodeo starts each night at 7:30 p.m.
Location: Vancleave Multipurpose Arena, 5400 Ballpark Road in Vancleave
Contact: 228-826-3019, 228-826-3179 or www.smmha.com

MARCH 28 16TH ANNUAL HERB AND GARDEN FEST

Spring’s finest plants and herbs for gardening, lectures and demonstrations, floral and landscape design, garden art, childrens activities and more.
Time: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Location: Depot Parking Lot and Marshall Park, Ocean Springs
Contact: 228-875-4424 or www.oceanspringschamber.com

APRIL 3-4 GULF COAST MILITARY COLLECTOR’S SHOW

View military antiques and war souvenirs, various types of weapons and uniforms and other gear. Admission is charged.
Times: Friday, Noon - 6 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Location: D’Iberville Civic Center, 10395 Automall Parkway in D’Iberville
Contact: 228-832-7894, 228-875-0802 or www.gulfcoastmilitaryshow.com

APRIL 4-5 22ND ANNUAL HOME AND GARDEN SHOW

Hosted by the Home Builders Association of the Mississippi Gulf Coast, come view exhibits offering a wide range of the newest products and services to the building industry. Door prizes awarded. Admission is charged. Free parking.
Times: Saturday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Sunday, Noon - 5 p.m.
Location: Mississippi Coast Coliseum, 2350 Beach Blvd. in Biloxi
Contact: 228-896-7646 or www.hbamscoast.com

APRIL 7-11 TWO RIVERS BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL

This Greene County event features national and Mississippi bluegrass artists, workshops, a forestry expo, arts and crafts, childrens activities and more.
Times: Tuesday and Wednesday, shows start at 6:30 p.m.; Thursday-Saturday, shows start at Noon
Location: Greene County Rural Events Center, High School Ave. off Highway 57
Contact: 601-394-2394, 601-758-4976 or http://two_rivers_festival.tripod.com

APRIL 18-23 7TH ANNUAL PASCAGOULA RIVER NATURE FESTIVAL

Learn more about the habitats and wildlife that can be found along the Pascagoula River, the last free-flowing river in the contiguous United States.
Location: At various locations along the river.
Contact: 228-475-0825 or www.pascagoularivernaturefestival.com

APRIL 26 LANDING OF D’IBERVILLE REENACTMENT

Watch a live reenactment of the establishment of the first French colony on the Coast hosted by the 1699 Historical Committee. Free for spectators.
Time: To be determined
Location: The former Fort Maurepas location on Front Beach in Ocean Springs
Contact: 228-875-6271

MAY 2 4TH ANNUAL CLASSIC CAR SHOW BY THE SHORE

Join the Magnolia Classic Cruisers as they host a car show with proceeds benefiting the Gulf Coast Down Syndrome Society. Free admission for spectators.
Time: 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Location: Pascagoula Beach Park
Contact: 228-341-0614, 228-935-4417 or www.magnoliaclassiccruisers.com

MAY 2-3 8TH ANNUAL OCEAN SPRINGS RENAISSANCE FAIRE

Learn about medieval times with jousting, music, period food, sword fighting, dancing and more. Admission is charged.
Times: Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Location: Ocean Springs Freedom Field at the corner of Porter Ave. and General Pershing Ave. in downtown Ocean Springs
Contact: 228-875-4454 or www.stjohnsoceansprings.org