



SOUTHERN PINE CONNECTION

News & Notes from Southern Pine Electric

Siegfried named Southern Pine President/CEO

Southern Pine Electric has named Jason S. Siegfried as president and chief executive officer.

Siegfried replaces Donald L. Jordan, who retired May 1. He becomes the fifth CEO in Southern Pine Electric's nearly 80 years of operation.

Siegfried has more than 15 years of experience with the cooperative working in engineering,

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—Jason Siegfried

operations, economic development and rate making. The last five years he has served Southern Pine as assistant general manager overseeing all day-to-day operations.

He graduated from Mississippi State University in 1998 with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering. He then completed the Robert Kabat Management Internship Program at the University of Wisconsin. In 2008, he received a master's degree in business administration from the Else School of Business at Millsaps College. Since graduating from college and throughout his career, Siegfried has focused his time and energy on the

electric utility industry.

Siegfried is a graduate of Mississippi Economic Council's Leadership Mississippi. He received the Business Leaders of Mississippi's Top 40 Under 40 award, and has been the recipient of the Paul Harris Fellow Recognition for his work as a Rotarian.

Additionally, Siegfried has served as a director for the Mississippi Burn Foundation, the president of the Rankin County Rotary Club and the president of the Engineering and Operations Division of Electric Cooperatives of Mississippi.

In his new role, Siegfried will serve on the board of directors for Cooperative Energy, the wholesale power supplier for 11 distribution cooperatives, including Southern Pine. Also, he will join the board of directors for Electric Cooperatives of Mississippi, the statewide service organization serving the state's 26 electric cooperatives.

Siegfried was born and raised in Jackson County and currently resides in Hattiesburg with his wife, Marie, and their children.

"The history of growth and resilience at Southern Pine Electric is a wonderfully inspiring story. It's truly a humbling honor to be entrusted

with this opportunity. I feel very blessed to be given such a powerful platform for helping people have a better quality of life," Siegfried said.

Siegfried said his vision for Southern Pine

Electric is to continue to be member-focused and raise the bar with higher standards for reliability and innovation.

"There will be a high level of focus on strengthening the connection we have with our members. Today's modern world does everything it can to undermine people-on-people connections. We will work hard to connect with our people," he said.

"Mr. Jordan and the others before me laid a foundation of leadership that is a tough act to follow. Southern Pine is well positioned to become the flagship cooperative in the

southeastern United States."

In 1938, Southern Pine received its charter to serve just under 500 homes and farms. Now with over 10,000 miles of electric distribution lines across an 11-county service territory, the cooperative serves over 66,000 members, making it one of the largest electric cooperatives in the nation.



Jason Siegfried

Southern Pine Electric offices to close May 16

All Southern Pine Electric offices will be closed on Tuesday, May 16, so our employees can participate in staff development.

Dispatchers will be on duty around the clock. To report an outage or other emergency, please call 1-800-231-5240.

Offices will reopen for normal business hours May 17.

Let's get social

Did you know you can keep up with outages and learn how to save energy by following us on social media?

Like us on Facebook at facebook.com/mysouthernpine or follow us on Twitter @SouthernPineEPA.

Social media is especially useful when storms hit our territory. When there are major outages, we try to keep our members up to date on what's happening with outages.

Efficiency Tip

Keep warm summer air outside where it belongs. Add caulk or weather-stripping to seal air leaks around leaky doors and windows.

It costs only a little but can save a lot!

Power line down? Stay away!

Imagine this: You are sitting at your home when severe weather strikes. As the lightning pops and the wind howls, suddenly your power goes out.

You ride the storm out into the night, and as day breaks there are trees and power lines down.

Like any homeowner, you want to begin the process of cleaning up your home and property. A tree has fallen across a power line on your property and you are getting ready to cut it. (I know nothing bothers me more than things being out of place.)

Your power is out so the line must be de-energized right? Wrong! Just because a power line is on the ground does not mean it is dead.

The above scenario is, sadly, a common situation in the United States. Most people don't understand the danger involved in touching or being near a downed power line.

Let's talk voltage for a second. In your home the voltage ranges from 120 to 240 volts for your major appliances. It stands to reason that same voltage is carried in the power lines right? Wrong!

Consumer interest driving co-op solar

Driven by increased interest among consumers as well as declining costs, electric cooperatives across the country are finding a multitude of ways to bring the benefits of solar to their members.

America's electric co-ops expect to double their current solar capacity by the end of 2017, adding more than 480 megawatts of solar this year for a total capacity of 872 megawatts nationwide, according to figures from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Southern Pine Electric and its wholesale supplier, Cooperative Energy, are part of the solar movement. Cooperative Energy in 2015 executed an agreement with Origo Energy USA to build a 52-megawatt solar energy facility near Sumrall in Lamar County. The project, when completed, will produce enough energy to power 10,000 homes in the first year.

In a recent nationwide survey, electric co-ops were asked why they offer or support solar options. More than two-thirds of respondents said they were motivated by a desire to increase

At Southern Pine Electric, our voltages range from 7,620 to 14,400 volts. Our linemen have the knowledge, skills and equipment to deal with these high voltages safely and efficiently. Our members do not.

May is National Electrical Safety Month. There are a few things to remember. Electricity, when used and treated with respect, is a phenomenal thing. Always be aware of your surroundings, especially after severe weather has come through the area.

Remember, just because a power line is on the ground does not mean it is de-energized.

If you have power outages or see a downed power line, please call your Southern Pine district office or 1-800-231-5240.

It is our pleasure to be your provider of electricity and we are here to serve you.

Wes Lee is manager of Safety and Compliance for Southern Pine Electric.

consumer-member satisfaction, and a majority cited member demand. Increased affordability also played a role, with nearly half of respondents citing the decline in the cost of renewable energy as a factor in enhancing their solar energy program.

As consumer-owned utilities, electric co-ops view solar as a consumer resource. That's why co-ops lead the utility sector in developing community solar or "shared solar," a program that enables co-op members to invest in solar farms built and operated by the co-op.

In 2016, cooperatives announced nine joint projects involving more than 200 local co-ops. Cost savings from the economies of scale in large projects make these projects more affordable.

Cooperatives are developing a variety of solar options, from huge arrays covering hundreds of acres to residential solar installations. Regardless of size, circumstances or geographic location, all electric co-ops want to help their members make energy choices that are right for them.



Wes Lee



The danger isn't always so obvious.

Be aware. Everywhere. Fortunately, power is everywhere in our everyday lives. Unfortunately, the risks may be out of sight or out of mind. Stay alert and stay clear of power lines. **Call 811 before you dig.** And learn more about electrical safety at BeAwareEverywhere.com.

