



# Members elect directors at 78th annual meeting

At the Annual Membership Meeting held on Nov. 10, 2016, Southern Pine Electric members elected four members to the cooperative's board of directors.

- Those elected for a three-year term were:
- Billy R. Parish, Jefferson Davis County
  - Mims W. Berry, Lawrence County
  - Marcus E. Martin, Rankin County
  - Charles E. Waldrup, Smith County.

Members also voted to change the name of the co-op from Southern Pine Electric Power Association to Southern Pine Electric Cooperative. The change of name and accompanying state outline logo will strengthen our identity and foster pride among our employees, members and neighbors throughout the state.

"One of the benefits of belonging to an electric cooperative is that our members have a voice in electing the leadership of Southern Pine and are able to meet each year to discuss issues that affect the co-op," said General Manager Donald L. Jordan.

The membership meeting was significantly different this year in that Southern Pine was able to utilize its new warehouse facility on Highway 28 to accommodate more members and for all employees to attend. The old auditorium had a weight-bearing limit and was

limited by a stairwell that restricted the type agenda that could be offered.

Taylorville Clinic (Magee General) hosted a health fair for the membership immediately prior to the meeting. Members received free flu shots and blood pressure and glucose screenings. Blue Cross Blue Shield provided literature on diet, cholesterol, blood pressure and other health concerns for the benefit of members.

Southern Pine employees hosted social media, energy-use and savings demonstrations as well as provided information on capital credits and bank drafts. Members enrolling in a valid bank draft received a \$25 credit on their account.

During the meeting, information was provided on the solar site located near the warehouse building, and tours were offered of the site and the new buildings on the campus. 2016 brought numerous upgrades to the infrastructure, software, monitoring equipment and real-time capabilities that will ultimately ensure better service, fewer outages and improve response time to members.

Jim Compton, general manager of Cooperative Energy (formerly South Mississippi Electric Power Association), provided the membership with an update on the state of the generation and transmission cooper-

ative that provides Southern Pine with wholesale power. Mr. Compton pointed out the lower power costs were a result of lower fuel costs and a milder climate. His good news was that the coming year's power costs were projected to remain stable.

Through sound management and good stewardship of the co-op's resources, the board was able to report that Southern Pine is financially strong and well prepared for a bright future.

Employees prepared food for members. The co-op offered prizes of electricity ranging from \$1,000 to \$250 and a grand prize of a Ford F-150 pickup retired from the Southern Pine fleet.

Southern Pine's board of directors, management, staff and employees remain committed to providing excellent service to its members and look forward to 2017. "Bringing the Power" is more than electricity—it is working to preserve a way of life, of developing and keeping jobs in the area and protecting the assets of Southern Pine so that we can protect our members in time of need.

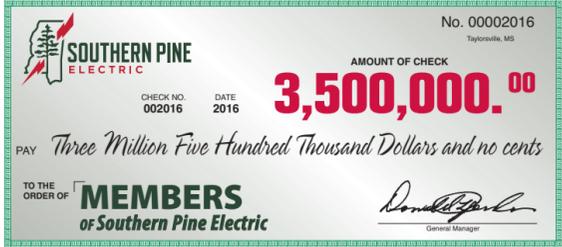
We welcome feedback and comments from our members. Please contact us at [info@southernpine.coop](mailto:info@southernpine.coop) or contact your local Southern Pine office.

# Co-op returns \$3.5 million to members

Southern Pine members will receive \$3.5 million in general capital credits for fiscal 2015, the board of directors announced at the 78th annual meeting.

The capital credits will be applied to each member's account in December. The amount is based on the amount of electricity each member used in 2015. Checks will be mailed to former members who no longer have active accounts.

Electric cooperatives like Southern Pine are



form of capital credits.

"Capital credits are one of the advantages that our members have over investor-owned utility companies," said General Manager Donald L. Jordan.

To date, Southern Pine has returned more than \$74.8 million in capital credits to its members.

not-for-profit companies. Revenue remaining after all operating, maintenance and general expenses are paid is allocated to each member based on their electricity use and returned in the

# Annual meeting winners

Congratulations to these members who won prizes in drawings at Southern Pine's 78th Annual Membership Meeting:

- Grand Prize winner**  
**Ford F-150 truck – Keith Harvey, Monticello**
- Proxy winners**  
**\$1,000 of electricity – Charlotte Davis, Pelahatchie**  
**\$750 of electricity – Delores Cole Shields, Mount Olive**  
**\$500 of electricity – Joe Agee, Bay Springs**  
**\$250 of electricity – William Batte, Forest**
- Door prize winners**  
**\$1,000 of electricity – Mitchell Maddox Sr., Magee**  
**\$750 of electricity – New Hope Water Association, Mount Olive**  
**\$500 of electricity – Mary Stella Harrison, Smith County**  
**\$250 of electricity – Peggy Jean Thornton, Magee**

# Know what's below; call 811 before you dig

Spring is an optimal time of year to dream up and achieve your landscaping masterpiece, but in many parts of the country, planting shrubs in the fall gives the plants a head start at establishing roots in the season's cool, moist soil.

Perhaps you're planning to build a new deck to enjoy those cool autumn evenings.

If any of your fall projects require digging, such as planting trees or shrubs, or setting posts, remember to dial 811 first. Underground utilities, such as buried gas, water and electric lines, can be a shovel thrust away from turning a fall project into a disaster.

Play it safe by dialing 811 to find out

where utility lines run on your property. Your call will be routed to a local "one call" center. Tell the operator where you're planning to dig and what type of work you will be doing, and affected local utilities will be notified.

In a few days, a locator will arrive to designate the approximate location of any underground lines, pipes and cables. These areas will be marked with flags or paint so you'll know what's below. Then

the safe digging can begin.

Although many homeowners tackling do-it-yourself digging projects are aware of "Call Before You Dig" services, many don't take advantage of the service. A national survey showed that only 50 percent of homeowners called to have their lines

marked before starting digging projects, according to the Common Ground Alliance (CGA), a federally-mandated group of underground utility and damage

prevention industry professionals.

CGA data also shows that an underground utility line is damaged every six minutes in the U.S. because someone decided to dig without first dialing 811.

Even simple tasks like installing a new mailbox post can damage utility lines, which can disrupt service to an entire neighborhood, harm diggers and potentially result in fines and repair costs.

Never assume the location or depth of underground utility lines. There's no need; the 811 service is free, prevents the inconvenience of having utilities interrupted and can help you avoid serious injury.

For more information about local services, visit [www.call811.com](http://www.call811.com)

*Data shows that an underground utility line is damaged every six minutes in the U.S. because someone decided to dig without first dialing 811.*

## HOLIDAY LIGHTING SAFETY TIPS

-  Consider purchasing LED holiday lights; they are cool to the touch and more energy efficient than incandescent bulbs.
-  Test holiday lights by connecting each strand before hanging them.
-  Make sure there are no broken bulbs or damaged or frayed cords. Discard any defective strands.
-  Use holiday lights that include the Underwriter's Laboratories (UL) label.
-  Avoid resting bulbs on tree needles and branches. Try using a clip to keep the bulbs upright.
-  Do not overload electrical outlets or extension cords.
-  Turn off all indoor and outdoor holiday lighting before leaving the house or going to bed.

## ALWAYS CALL BEFORE YOU DIG



One free, easy call gets your utility lines marked AND helps protect you from injury and expense.

**Safe Digging Is No Accident: Always Call 811 Before You Dig**

Know what's below. Always call 811 before you dig. Visit [call811.com](http://call811.com) for more information.



## SOUTHERN PINE ELECTRIC

will observe the following holidays:  
**Thanksgiving, Nov. 24 and 25**  
**Christmas, Dec. 23 and 26**  
**New Year's Day, Jan. 2**

Our offices will be closed on these days. Dispatchers will be on duty 24/7. Call 1-800-231-5240 to report outages.

