



SOUTHERN PINE CONNECTION

News & Notes from Southern Pine Electric

The cooperative difference

If you are a member of Southern Pine Electric, you probably have heard us talk about the cooperative difference. Depending on your vantage point, the term most likely carries many different meanings. The cooperative difference may be demonstrated by the way one of our employees serves your church, civic club or youth recreation league. For one of our employees, it may be the sense of pride felt in taking care of anything and everything that comes his or her way whether it is a part of the normal job or not. I want to tell you about



Jason S. Siegfried
President/CEO

a couple recent events that will give you a better idea of what I mean by that. Colby Ezell and Tyler White, both linemen in our Newton District, were returning to the office after a long, hot July day of power line construction. While enjoying a little time in the air-conditioned cab of their truck and looking forward to getting home, they notice someone off the side of the road who seemed to be struggling. It was a situation that could have easily been shrugged off, but they took the time to make sure this person was alright. After pulling their bucket truck over and running to the man's side, they quickly realized he was indeed struggling and that he was showing signs and symptoms of having a seizure. Their supervisor, Jimmy Arender, soon arrived and joined in the effort to care for this person while they awaited an ambulance. As it turned out, this man is a Southern Pine member. "Had Southern Pine not shown up, I'm afraid he

wouldn't be here today," his mother said.

During one of our many July thunderstorms, another life-threatening event occurred where our employees rose to the occasion. As usual, the storm resulted in fallen trees and downed power lines in the Pelahatchie community. Greg Meadows, Trey Serio, Brett Dew, Parker Vincent and Rodney Buckelew from our Brandon District arrived on the scene to restore power. After assessing the damage and planning the needed repairs, the young linemen began setting up their trucks and getting into position to perform their work. At the same time, the men heard the scream of a nearby member using a chainsaw to cut and remove debris from his property. They immediately ran to help and found him with severe trauma to his arm from the chainsaw. Without fear or hesitation, our guys jumped to action. Rodney called for help, Brett retrieved first aid supplies and the others applied a tourniquet to slow the bleeding. Soon thereafter, emergency medical personnel arrived and had the man airlifted to a hospital. An EMT/firefighter made it a point to contact

Jason Siegfried visited the Newton District office to thank Tyler White, left, and Colby Ezell, center, for their service to the community.



Jason Siegfried, right, President and CEO of Southern Pine Electric, stands with, from left, Rodney Buckelew, Greg Meadows, Brett Dew, Trey Serio and Parker Vincent from the Brandon District office.

my office to tell us about the tremendous job our crew did in helping to stabilize the victim, and he requested they be honored for their quick action in what most certainly saved a life.

I want to take this opportunity to thank our linemen for their quick action and selfless acts of service. I am very proud of our employees and appreciate their desire to help people however and whenever needed. Why is being part of the cooperative family different? Our members mean more to us than just customers or ratepayers. Our employees mean more to us than just cogs in the wheel of construction and maintenance. Our communities mean more too because it's where both groups of people, members and employees, come together and invest in one another as a family does. That is what the cooperative difference means to us.

Youth Leadership Program Application Update

Applications for the 2018 Youth Leadership program will be mailed to local high schools in October. High school juniors living in Southern Pine's service area are eligible for selection by their school counselor. Interested students should contact their counselor for an application. Details at www.southernpine.coop.

Member Information

SPE is updating member information, including phone numbers and email addresses. Update your information and you may win an Apple iPad or Apple Watch. Visit www.southernpine.coop and click on the rotating giveaway banner for instructions and your chance to win!

Photos Needed

Submit your old and new photographs of members, homes and businesses within Southern Pine's service area for a chance to get your name and photos published in our upcoming limited edition book from 1938-2017.

To request a photo entry form, please email us at info@southernpine.coop.

Member Spotlight:

Ford Farms

It's that time of the year. The leaves change and the nights become cooler, meaning fall is here. Along with fall arises the celebration better known as Halloween. The centerpiece for generations of families celebrating Halloween is the pumpkin. So, where does the hunt for the perfect pumpkin start? The answer is easy, Ford Farms.

Kevin Ford operates the farm along with his wife, Rhonda, and two daughters, Kaiti and Mattie. Five years ago Kevin started the Ford Farms Pumpkin Patch, which allows families and groups to visit during the month of October and enjoy the fun festivities that they offer, including picking the perfect pumpkin for Halloween. Kevin is not only a member of Southern Pine Electric, he's also an employee. Recently we sat down with Kevin to find out more about the Ford Farms Pumpkin Patch and why he loves being a part of the Southern Pine family.

What is the story of Ford Farms?

My grandfather started farming in the early 1900's near Taylorsville, Mississippi and my father, James Ford, continued the tradition. It was a big part of my life growing up, so it was only natural that I followed in their footsteps. Over the years we've increased our produce selection greatly to include things like watermelons and pumpkins.

How did the Ford Farms Pumpkin Patch start?

It really started with our customers. They're the real reason we started the Pumpkin Patch. People



The Ford family has been welcoming visitors to the Ford Farms Pumpkin Patch for over five years. Standing by their welcome sign, from left, are Rhonda, Mattie, Kaiti and Kevin Ford.



Children love the Ford Farms Pumpkin Patch. The Pumpkin Patch has plenty of fun rides and activities for the entire family to enjoy.

would come out each fall to purchase pumpkins and they'd ask about renting the farm or comment about how great it was to bring their families out. So, we started the Pumpkin Patch as something small and for the last five years we've been amazed by its growth and the support we receive from our customers.

Who can visit the Ford Farms Pumpkin Patch?

We welcome everyone. Families can visit on the weekend. We also have plenty of church groups that visit. During the week we have a lot of schools that bring their kids out and we're always excited to host them. Each child gets to pick a small pumpkin to take with them and there is nothing better than seeing a child's face when they pick their very own pumpkin.

What can someone expect while visiting?

We have something for everyone. We have plenty of fun rides, slides and activities that the kids love. The entire family can go through our obstacle course that leads into our corn maze. We also take everyone on a ride through the farm, so they get to see the corn, sunflower, cotton and sugar cane fields. There is a petting zoo and a playground area as well. We're excited for this year and encourage everyone to come out.

In addition to being a member, you're also an employee at Southern Pine Electric. What makes Southern Pine special to you?

It's the people that make Southern Pine special. We have some of the best people. It's a family and we care about each other. Southern Pine has been a part of my life for a long time. I started with the right-of-way crew 33 years ago and am now a Transformer OCB Repairman. I'm proud to be a member and employee at Southern Pine.

Southern Pine Electric adds electronic voting option

Southern Pine members now have the option to vote online for the upcoming director election to be held at the annual membership meeting on Thursday, Nov. 9, 2017.

Traditional paper notice of annual meeting and proxy ballots will be mailed on Oct. 11, 2017. Follow the simple voting instructions to cast your vote by mail or online by using the Southern Pine

website, www.southernpine.coop.

This is an additional option for the convenience of our members but you can still vote by mail if you prefer.

Voting is easy and fast. Cast your vote by mail or electronically and be entered for a chance to win several prizes, including a retired pickup truck from the Southern Pine fleet. You do not have to be

present to win!

Mark your calendar now to cast your vote and to attend the membership meeting where we will have booths, great door prizes, hot dogs and safety demonstrations beginning at noon, with the business meeting at 2 p.m.

Please call 800-231-5240 or email your questions to info@southernpine.coop.