



Southern Pine Electric Power Association:

- is a member-owned cooperative governed by a board of directors elected by the membership.
- was organized in 1938.
- distributes electricity to more than 63,000 meters in 11 counties in central and south Mississippi.
- distributes electricity through more than 9,700 miles of lines.
- serves an average of 6.55 electric meters per mile of line.
- employs more than 255 Mississippians.
- serves members from district offices in Taylorsville, Newton, New Hebron, Brandon and a branch office near Hattiesburg.

THE ENERGY EXPERT

Digital thermostat improves accuracy

Consider installing a digital thermostat to better control your home's heating and cooling costs. These costs are the No. 1 driver of your power bill.



Mike Bryant
Southern Pine Marketing Representative

Digital thermostats are more accurate than analog or dial-type thermostats, which are harder to read and can vary from the desired settings.

The recommended setting is 68 degrees in the winter and 78 degrees in the summer.

For every degree higher in the winter and lower in the summer, you add about 5 percent to your heating and cooling cost.

For example: a thermostat set at 74 in the summer will add around 20 percent to your cooling cost.

Working together is the cooperative way

Southern Pine Electric Power Association is just one of over 40,000 cooperatives celebrating Co-Op Month in October.

Cooperatives are an integral part of American business. Owned by the people they serve, cooperatives have earned a high level of consumer trust amidst an array of corporate scandals in recent years. Results of a recently conducted national survey revealed that consumers believe cooperatives to be more trustworthy and accountable than publicly-traded corporations.

As a member of Southern Pine, you enjoy a number of benefits:

- You, your family and/or business enjoy electric service at a reasonable price, despite the fact that you live in a rural or fairly rural area of Mississippi.

- When you receive service from our electric cooperative, you are more than just a customer—you are a consumer-member-owner of our business. Southern Pine is accountable to you as a consumer-owner.

- Margins earned through electric sales are used to make improvements to the electrical systems and to help keep rates low. This benefits our local economy.

- As a member, you have a voice in the future of this cooperative. You may call at any time to voice questions or concerns; you may attend and participate in the Southern Pine's Annual Membership Meeting; and your thoughts and concerns are reflected through the board of directors, which is made of co-op members elected by the membership.

- From Southern Pine's inception, it has been a socially responsible organization dedicated to the well-being of the area it serves. Southern Pine sponsors safety programs; provides special services (see page 13); presents electrical safety programs free of charge to schools and other groups; and works diligently with economic development organizations in each of the 11 counties it serves.

- Southern Pine is a good employer, operating offices in five locations. The

money our employees earn and spend stays in the local communities.

- Southern Pine gives community members opportunities to develop their leadership skills through employee training initiatives as well as through programs sponsored through local chambers of commerce and economic development organizations. In addition, Southern Pine sponsors a Youth Leadership Program annually, which assists high school juniors in developing their skills. Many of our employees are truly active community

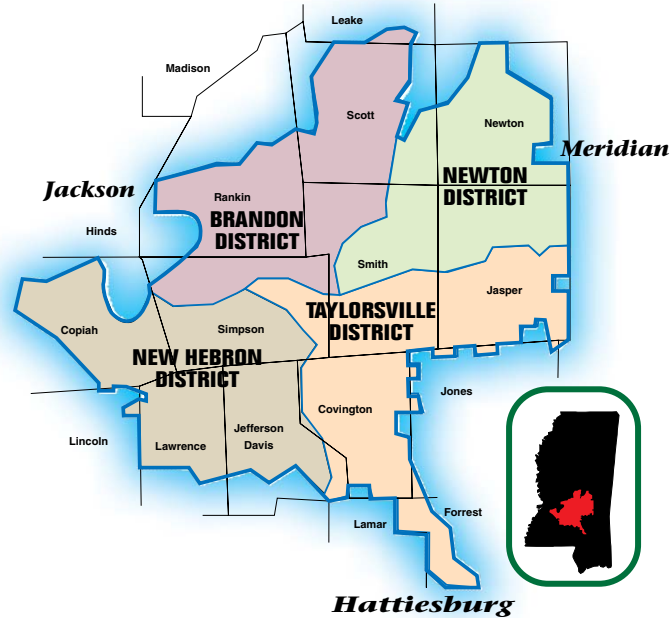


By Don Jordan
General Manager

leaders and use the leadership skills they've developed at work to benefit church and civic organizations.

- Southern Pine plays a major role in improving the quality of life for its members and strives to keep its mission of high-quality service at the forefront of all it does.

Southern Pine is a great organization and its employers are proud to provide reliable, affordable electric service to more than 63,000 meters. Thanks for allowing us the privilege of working for you.



Southern Pine services offer value, convenience

Southern Pine Electric Power Association was created in 1938 to provide electric service to members. As the association's membership has grown, so has the need for expanded services to meet growing needs.

Southern Pine members can choose from a variety of services designed with their convenience in mind. These services include:

- **Levelized Payment Plan.** This service for residential members allows bill payments of about the same amount each month. Under the plan, your monthly payment is based on an average of your actual monthly power consumption for a one-year period. To qualify, you must be a residential customer of tax-free status; your meter must have established at least 12 months of billing history at your current place of residence with no record of tampering, disconnects or returned checks during that period; and the meter for the account must be accessible to meter readers. Members dropped from the plan may reapply only after 12 months of good payment history.
- **Bank Draft.** Under Southern Pine's Bank Draft payment plan, your bank takes care of your payment transaction; you only have to adjust your checkbook. The plan eliminates the cost of stamps, helps to



A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

As the association's membership has grown, so has the need for expanded services to meet growing needs.

avoid the possibility of a late payment and saves you valuable time.

Paying your electric bill by Bank Draft is easier and more convenient for you. All you have to do is sign a bank authorization form granting Southern Pine the authority to send a draft to your bank each month in the amount of your electric bill. You will continue to receive a bill from Southern Pine, but it will have the words "Paid by Bank Draft" printed on it. Your bank account will be drafted on the due date shown on your bill.

To participate in Southern Pine's Bank Draft program, go by any Southern Pine district office and complete a Bank Draft

application.

- **Capital credits for deceased members.** In addition to Southern Pine's regular capital credit returns, we also refund the accumulated patronage capital to the estates of deceased members. This is a one-time payment.

- **Today in Mississippi.** Each month, Southern Pine members receive *Today in Mississippi*, which contains articles about people and places in Mississippi, electrical safety information, energy management tips and a calendar of events around the state. *Today in Mississippi* also provides news and information about your electric cooperative.

- **After-hours payment convenience.** All Southern Pine district and branch offices have a drop box to accept after-hours payments by check or money order. Please be sure to include your bill stub.

- **Additional services.** These include the Comfort Advantage program for new home owners, security lights, heat loss/heat gain calculations, economic development efforts, and youth and adult education.

For more information on these programs or any aspect of Southern Pine's service, contact the district office that serves you. (See map on page 12.) Or, visit our Web site at www.spepa.com.

From Southern Pine's

Rice in a Pumpkin

- 1 medium pumpkin (10-12 inches in diameter), with stem
- 1/8 cup honey
- 1/8 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 (16-oz.) pkg. long-grain and wild rice
- 1 lb. lean ground beef
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 1/2 tsp. black pepper
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 1/2 cup chopped bell pepper
- 3 stalks celery, chopped
- 1/4 cup soy sauce
- 1/2 cup orange juice
- 1 tsp. ginger
- 2 Tbsp. parsley flakes
- 1 (8-oz.) can mushrooms
- 2 Tbsp. soft margarine
- 1 (4-oz.) pkg. sliced almonds

Preheat oven to 300 degrees. Wash pumpkin exterior. Cut off top of pumpkin and lay aside. (This will be used later for the lid.) Remove and discard seeds and strings from pumpkin. Combine honey and brown sugar; use to coat interior of pumpkin. Prepare rice according to package instructions. Do not over cook. Brown ground beef in medium skillet; drain.

In small skillet, combine salt, black pepper, onion, bell pepper, celery, soy sauce, orange juice, ginger and parsley. Cook over medium heat until mixture boils. Add mushrooms and remove from heat. Combine meat, rice and vegetables in a large bowl. Toss lightly. Use margarine to coat pumpkin exterior. Place into a sturdy baking pan, 1 inch larger in diameter than the pumpkin. Fill pumpkin with mixture and sprinkle with almonds. Replace top on pumpkin. Bake for 1 hour. Remove from oven and let stand 10-15 minutes. Serve directly from pumpkin on platter decorated with fall flowers, decorative corn, unshelled pecans, acorns, fall fruit, etc.

Holiday Cake

- 3 cans sweetened condensed milk
- 3 cans coconut
- 1 lb. chopped dates
- 1 lb. candied pineapple, chopped
- 1 lb. candied cherries, chopped
- 2 qts. chopped pecans

Mix all ingredients well and pack into a greased tube or Bundt pan. Bake at 250 degrees for 2 1/2 hours. Cool about 10 minutes before trying to remove from pan.

Building a New Home? Remodeling?

Home Energy Improvements Don't Cost You Money, They MAKE You Money.

Doug Rye
America's Leading and Most Trusted Energy Expert

Doug Rye is a nationally recognized energy consultant helping people from New York to L.A. lower their utility bills by as much as 50 percent. He is commonly referred to as the "King of Caulk and Talk" and the "Roy Rogers of Energy" because he's an expert in the home energy conservation field.

Doug's humorous but straight-to-the-point fashion cuts to the core and leaves "no stone unturned" when talking about energy efficiency like no

You are invited to attend an **ENERGY EFFICIENT WORKSHOP** featuring **DOUG RYE**

Nov. 1 - 6:30 p.m.
Woodall Workforce Development Center - Hattiesburg

RSVP and for more information, contact Mike Bryant at Southern Pine, (601) 785-6511 ext. 372, or visit www.spepa.com.

Sponsored by Southern Pine Electric Power Association