

Tough Choices Call for Strong Voices

In a 1951 play, French philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre jotted down a line that seems tailor-made for the energy challenges facing our nation and electric co-ops: "We are our choices." Indeed, who we are is reflected in how we choose to live and the decisions we make each and every day.

Our leaders in Congress are tackling tough energy choices this year, choices we, as a nation, should make together. Will we choose for electricity to remain affordable, or will we choose for it to be a luxury? Are we ready for brownouts if enough power is not available, or will we choose a diverse energy mix to provide safe, reliable and affordable electricity in an environmentally responsible fashion? Will we choose to move forward or will we find ourselves, despite good intentions, moving backwards?

The climate change debate in Congress is coming down to the wire. Now, more than ever before, is the time to make sure your voice—and your choice—is heard. At South Alabama Electric our choice is clear. We've always been committed to providing affordable, reliable energy in a responsible manner. This choice reflects who we are, and why we were founded by members like you in an effort to move our community forward into a brighter future.

Tough choices call for strong voices, and no voice is stronger than the combined force of 42 million electric cooperative consumers across the nation. Together we can choose to speak up for affordability. We can choose to

invest in technology to lower energy costs, and we can pave the way for adding energy to the grid. Most importantly,

we can choose to work together, calling on Congress to work with electric co-ops in a combined effort to address climate change responsibly with affordability in mind.

The choice is clear. More than 370,000 electric co-op members have decided to join a national conversation, making their voices heard through the Our Energy, Our Future™ grassroots awareness campaign. Make sure your voice—and your choice—counts. Visit www.ourenergy.coop and choose to be heard today.



Our Energy, Our Future™
A Dialogue With America

www.ourenergy.coop

South Alabama Electric Monthly Operating Report

KWH Sold	29,989,316
Avg. Utility Bill	\$229.07
Average Use	1,829
Total Accounts Billed	16,398
Total Miles of Line	2,594
Consumers per mile of line	6.3

Information from June 2009



South Alabama Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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Max Davis is General Manager of South Alabama Electric Cooperative

2009 Annual Meeting Entertainment Selected

South Alabama Electric Cooperative will hold its 2009 Annual Membership Meeting on October 27th, at the Pike County Cattle-men's Complex on Highway 231 South in Troy. This year's main entertainment will be Brian Free and Assurance.

Brian Free is undeniably the most recognizable southern gospel tenor of our generation. Since 1982, he has been at the forefront of southern gospel music since first joining Gold City Quartet, then moving on to form his own group, Assurance.

Brian has enjoyed tremendous success in his musical career, but his first priority has and always will be his family. They say that behind every good man is a great woman, and Pam Free certainly confirms that saying. Pam is responsible for much of the business behind the ministry and keeps things running smoothly.

Pam and Brian are blessed with two sons, Ricky and Bryce. Ricky is a talented drummer and tours with Assurance while Bryce is still in school. This family unit is the foundation for Brian and offers a welcome calm in the middle of a busy career.

Southern Gospel music has always been Brian's first love, and fans have responded to his music by honoring him as Favorite Male Singer in 1987



QUICK FACTS

Brian Free and Assurance have recently won awards at the First Annual US Gospel News SGM Fanfair. They were, Favorite Quartet, Favorite Tenor (Brian Free) and Favorite Video - Live In New York City.

and voting him Favorite Tenor a record eight times throughout the years. He was also named Favorite Young Artist in 1989 and 1991. Brian Free and Assurance was voted Horizon Group in 1994, and their album 4 God So Loved was named Favorite Album in 1998.

Today, Brian Free and Assurance continue making music that touches people and changes lives. Traveling with Brian is a talented group of singers and musicians. Lead singer Bill Shivers, baritone singer Derrick Selph, bass singer Jeremy Lile and drummer Ricky Free round out Assurance.

Whether singing at a rural church, city auditorium, large arenas with the Gaither Homecoming Tour or on national television, Brian Free and Assurance have one purpose - to share the love of Jesus through music.

Make sure you go ahead and mark your calendars for this special event. Special mailings will be arriving in October which contain your registration and voting information. A schedule of events and new activities will be listed in next month's *Alabama Living*.

Co-op Boot Camp a Hit This Summer



38 students from across Alabama spent three days at the 4-H Center located in Columbiana, learning about the cooperative form of business. Along with educational activities, students also heard from motivational speakers and enjoyed the recreational activities the facilities offered.

Thirty-eight of the best and brightest students from across Alabama attended the 27th Annual Cooperative Youth Conference held at the Alabama 4-H Center in Columbiana. This year's theme was "Co-op Boot Camp."

This three-day conference is sponsored each year by the Alabama Council of Cooperatives and provides an opportunity for students to study about the cooperative form of business and its economic impact on society.

"Students aren't taught the cooperative form of business in school anymore," Chellie Phillips, co-chair for the event said. "They really have to be on the college level before they are even exposed to this type of business structure."

Dr. John Adrian, chair of the Auburn University Department of Agriculture Economics, provided the students with a basic history of the cooperatives and how they operate.

"The cooperative form of business is the only form that is created by the people for the people," Dr. Adrian told the students. "When you are part of a cooperative, it is your responsibility to get involved, attend annual meetings and have a voice in how your cooperative is run."

Participants were broken into four groups, and asked to create their own co-op. They were encouraged to describe their co-op's principles, structure, history and leadership. After developing each of these qualities, they completed an interview with a potential employee.

"It takes time, dedication, participation, and cooperation to run any co-op," said camper Danielle LaPlatt. "We need an individual who is going to give us 150 percent of themselves. Anyone can learn how to do a job but that's not what we want. We want a person who has the qualities listed once before. To us a job is like a piece of clothing. They come in a variety of different sizes and styles and you buy them to fit. That's how we want our jobs to be. They need to fit a person as well as the company like their favorite jeans. As I said before anybody can learn how to do a job but when you possess those outstanding



Heidi Collier (sponsored by SAEC) works with her group on their cooperative message.

qualities that set you apart from any other ordinary Jane Doe, then that's when you, as well as I, know that this job fits you."

In addition to learning the cooperative business basics, students also spent time developing their decision making skills.

Dr. Marc Clark an accomplished author, writer, speaker and entrepreneur presented "When Opportunity Knocks," a program geared towards high school seniors in preparing them for what comes after graduations. The content focused on the basic skills, thinking skills and personal qualities needed to succeed as one moves forwards in their life.

Mike Chirico with South Alabama Electric Cooperative, encouraged students to "Never Give Up." He encourage them to not let the opinions of others discourage them as they move forward in life.

"I hope the students leave with the understanding that the only limitations they have on their achievements are the ones they put on themselves," Chirico said.

Students were given a dose of reality through a program provided by the Alabama Cooperative Extension Service. Reality Check offers students a chance to move from station to station in Realville, USA where they are faced with real life decisions including: purchasing a car, providing day care for children, purchasing a home, buying groceries, clothing and insurance; and even acquiring a loan. Students receive a fictitious career, family and salary to base these decisions on.

Students ended the conference with a visit from Auburn University's Advisor to the Ag Ambassadors Deborah Solie. Solie provided students with information on the School of Agriculture as well as answered questions concerning college applications and financial aide. The information provided was beneficial to students no matter which college they might choose to attend.

In addition, the students received a visit from several co-op representatives:

Alabama Farmers Cooperative's Grace Smith who highlighted the diversity of products offered by the farm cooperative; Jerry Adams, with Alabama Dairy Farmers, explained how dairy cooperatives function and the diversity of products dairy farmers now produce; Alabama Rural Electric Association of Cooperatives' Mike Temple shared the rural electrification story with students; and Kelley Miller with First South Farm Credit encouraged students to make wise credit decision and informed them on banking services provided by his organization.

Sponsors of this year's conference included: Alabama Farmers Cooperative, Federal Land Bank Association, First South Farm Credit Association, Southern States, Alabama Rural Electric Association, Dairy Farmers of America, Alabama Cooperative Extension Service and Auburn University. For more information about this conference, contact Chellie Phillips at 1-800-556-2060 or Laura Thornton at 1-800-264-7732.



Dr. Marc Clark

Just A Reminder!

Cooperative members are reminded to make sure your membership is in voting order. In order for a husband or wife to be eligible to vote at the annual meeting and be eligible to win prizes, the membership needs to be listed as Mr. and Mrs.. You must come to the cooperative office and sign a form to change on your membership.

All changes must be made prior to September 30, 2009, to be effective for this year's annual meeting.

Remember only the person or persons listed on the membership are eligible to vote and win prizes at the annual meeting.

If you have questions contact our office at 1-800-556-2060.



Customer Service - Just a Click Away

Did you know that you can now view and pay your electric bill online using your credit or debit card? With this great new tool, you can manage your electric account with just the click of a button.

Whether you want to view your bill, make a payment, or learn ways to control energy use in your home, our Web site is available 24/7 to help you with a wide variety of customer service options.



Visit us today at www.southaec.com to access our online billing system, then select the Pay Bill button on the home page. You'll be asked for your e-mail address, account number and statement ID number, so make sure you have your current month's bill handy. Once you enter the information, you'll receive an e-mail with a link you'll follow to finish the registration process. Then simply follow the directions on the screen.

Once you have registered, in the future you'll only have to click the Pay Bill button and enter your user name and password.

We hope you enjoy this valuable new tool.

Brundidge



Good Luck
to our Miss Brundidge Candice Harvey
& Little Miss Brundidge
Sarah Elizabeth Calhoun
as they compete in the
National Miss Peanut Pageants.