



**Coast Electric**  
POWER ASSOCIATION

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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For *Today in Mississippi* information,  
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**Where our members have the power**

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

**CEO's message**

## Volunteering exhibits pride in our communities



**Ron Barnes**  
President and CEO

In the month we celebrate our nation's independence, I often reflect on what it means to be an American – the rights and the responsibilities that come with being a citizen of our great nation. While we are free to do as we choose, I believe it is our duty as citizens to engage in the communities where we live and work. Being an active part of our communities can bring fulfillment that few other things can. I am proud to be part of your local cooperative, a company that was founded and led by local people.

One of the seven cooperative principles that drive our co-op is showing concern for the communities we serve. I am proud to say that our employees are actively engaged in our communities both personally and as representatives of Coast Electric. In the past month, employees spent the day volunteering on our behalf at local charities for the United Way Day of Action, our Accounting Department completed their monthly day of service at Loaves and Fishes and we partnered with our friends at Infinity Science Center for an environmental project. Our community is thriving but there is always work we can do to make life better for our friends and neighbors. Volunteerism is part of what makes this country great. I hope you will consider seeing the good you can do for our community and for our nation by pitching in and volunteering.

## Day of Action



*Last month, the United Way of South Mississippi organized a Day of Action for our communities. Coast Electric employees were eager to participate in this day of community service and spent the day volunteering at the Humane Society of South Mississippi and at Manna Ministries in Picayune.*



# I AM A MEMBER

**WE ARE A COOPERATIVE**

Cooperatives are different from other businesses. Coast Electric is a locally-owned company that is led by those we serve. As someone who receives service from Coast Electric, you are more than a customer, you are a member of your cooperative. For the co-op to function effectively, it takes everyone doing their part – employees, board members and you – to work toward a common goal. Although the tasks in each department may differ, the goal is the same – to provide superior service to the people of south Mississippi.

Our engineers design the electrical distribution system that powers your homes and businesses. Their research determines when we need to make system upgrades and improvements and when new infrastructure – like substations – is needed. Our engineers work to ensure Coast Electric's system uses advanced technology to make the system reliable for the members we serve.



*Steven Broussard is part of Coast Electric's engineering team. Steven is responsible for the company's substation construction, maintenance and protection.*

## Coast Electric, Infinity Science Center Partnership gives raptors a safe place to nest

Ospreys and other raptors now have a safe place to nest on the grounds of Infinity Science Center thanks to a partnership between Coast Electric Power Association and Infinity.

The partnership began when Joe Pettigrew, a volunteer at Infinity and a master naturalist, saw the opportunity for a nesting platform near the science center's opossum walk. Coast Electric was asked to become a partner not only because of the cooperative's commitment to environmental efforts, but because of the tools and manpower needed to build and place the platform.

Coast Electric staff built the platform to meet national standards and crews used equipment that typically digs holes for and sets power poles to place the nesting platform near a



retaining pond on Infinity property.

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, ospreys often nest in the tops of dead trees and on power poles. Nesting on the tops of power poles can create hazardous conditions for the birds and for the public. Coast Electric has an avian protection plan that includes covering poles in locations ospreys tend to nest to protect the birds and the electrical system.

"Ospreys can nest in the same spot for many years so this gives the birds a safe alternative," said Coast Electric Vice President of Engineering Scott Brown, who implemented the cooperative's avian protection plan. "We are often working to cover our equipment to keep the birds away from danger, so it was great for us to be involved in a project that gives these animals a safe place to nest."

Infinity Science Center Executive Director John Wilson said the nesting area will help Infinity guests, "understand the complexity and diversity of our ecosystem." Wilson said, "We help people understand this planet and how precious it is and how everything works together. To go into space, you have to understand this planet first."



*Coast Electric employees built and installed an osprey nest on the grounds of Infinity Science Center, giving the birds a safe place to nest.*

### Tip of the Month

*Here's a cool tip for your fridge! Cover liquids and wrap foods stored in your refrigerator. Uncovered foods release moisture, causing the compressor to work harder.*

*Source: energy.gov*


