



CENTRAL ELECTRIC POWER ASSOCIATION

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Important Notice to all Central Electric Power Association Members

Due to COVID-19, the Board of Directors has determined that Central Electric Power Association will not hold its annual membership meeting in March. During that meeting we would have held an election for our board of directors.

As pursuant to Central Electric Power Association's bylaws, Section 4.02 (b) and in order to provide each Central Electric member an opportunity to vote in a director election, we will offer a vote by mail process. An information sheet with "how-to-vote" details and the official ballot will be mailed to all Central Electric

members the week of February 22, 2021. Also enclosed will be a self-addressed, postage paid envelope for members to return their ballot. Your official ballot must be received via mail no later than March 16, 2021. The election results will be published in the April issue of *Today in Mississippi*.

The board, management and staff of Central Electric appreciate the patience and understanding of our membership during these challenging times and remind each of you to be safe.

SUBSTATIONS UPDATED IN 2020

The upgrades to Longino substation and building of the new Sandtown substation are now complete. Both the Longino and Sandtown Substations serve members in northern Neshoba County. These improvements will increase the reliability and service quality to the members they serve.

Longino Substation was built in 1978. On August 11, 2020,

the substation was energized at 161 kV. On December 8th, 2020, upgrades were completed. The new Sandtown Substation was completed and energized on December 11, 2020.

These new 161/25 kV substations have the capacity to serve many years of residential, commercial and industrial growth.



The new Sandtown Substation was energized on December 11, 2020.



Upgrades to Longino Substation were completed December 8, 2020.

PLEASE MOVE OVER FOR ROADSIDE CREWS

If you see police, firefighters, utility crews or other emergency personnel on the side of the road, please slow down and move over when possible. **Together, we can keep your crews safe.**



Youth Leadership 2020

Central Electric sponsors local high school students annually as part of the Electric Cooperatives of Mississippi Youth Leadership program. The students are selected through a rigorous selection process and the winners participate in two trips — one three-day leadership conference in Jackson in February, and one seven-day trip to Washington, D.C., in June.

This year, due to the novel coronavirus pandemic, the 2020 students were only able to attend the trip to Jackson before the virus was widely spread. With the cancelation of the D.C. trip, co-op employees decided to instead honor Youth Leadership delegates with scholarships to help aid with college expenses. Each student participant will receive a \$2,500 check.

We recently caught up with our youth students and here is how their senior year is going:



MALLORY LONG
Leake Academy

Briefly describe your experience at the Youthship Workshop.

The Youth Leadership Workshop has given me not only new friends, but it has also taught me what it means to be a leader. The workshop was an amazing place to allow myself to open up about what I believe a leader should be, and I was also able to get other students perspectives on the qualities a leader should have.

What are you involved in this year at school?

I am one of the yearbook editors at my school. I am grateful to be the person to capture our senior moments because today, these special moments can be rare. I hope that for the rest of the school year I can continue to capture these beautiful moments.

Which college and college major is in your future?

I plan to attend East Central Community College and then continue my college education at Mississippi State University. I am looking to pursue a major in pre-law with a minor in business administration.

How has the pandemic changed you this year or affected your current and/or future plans?

I do not feel as though the pandemic has changed me personally, but it has created a few obstacles in my life. I have not been able to do some of the activities seniors are able to do such as prom, formal dances and senior gatherings; however, I do feel as though the pandemic has made me realize what is actually important to me. Having to stay away from family and friends is one of the most difficult things I have had to do this year. I know people are trying their hardest to make everything feel the same, and I believe that the pandemic is just an obstacle that we will have to work together to try and overcome.



The students attended the Youth Leadership Workshop in Jackson in February 2020.



ORLANDO BROWN
Leake Central High School

Briefly describe your experience at the Youth Leadership Workshop.

My experience at the youth leadership workshop was truly one of a kind, I met a lot of like-minded and humble individuals. The workshop itself was really fun and it taught me a lot about teamwork and trust, and the people only made it better. I truly enjoyed myself during the workshop and I highly recommend others to step out of their comfort zone and apply for this program.

What are you involved in this year at school?

I'm currently not involved in anything this school year due to COVID-19.

Which college and college major is in your future?

I plan to attend Alcorn University and major in veterinary science

How has the pandemic changed you this year or affected your current and/or future plans?

The pandemic has caused me to be more cautious and cleaner while doing everyday activities. COVID-19 caused my senior football season to come to a halt and also caused me to stop going out and being social. COVID-19 has yet to affect any of my future plans and hopefully it does not.



MEGAN MCMINN

Hartfield Academy

Briefly describe your experience at the Youth Leadership Workshop.

The Youth Leadership Workshop was one of the best experiences I have had in a while. I was opened to new people and was able to interact with people all over the state. I made new friends who inspired me to make my community a more positive experience and an even more enjoyable place to live.

What are you involved in this year at school?

This year has been hard to get involved in clubs due to COVID-19, but my school has fought for this year to be as inclusive as possible. I started this school year by doing cheer and playing volleyball for my school. I am involved in various clubs such as Youth Legislature, Spanish Club, Diamond Girls and other fun and easy ways to be involved in my school.

Which college and college major is in your future?

At the beginning of the school year, I thought I would be attending the University of Massachusetts Boston. I was accepted into the school, but unfortunately with COVID-19, I decided not to move out-of-state because of the possibility of only doing school online, instead of in person, so I will now be attending Mississippi State University. Also, a big change that occurred in my life in the past year is the change in my future major. The Youth Leadership Program encouraged me to follow what I truly love and to not see my job and major as just a career, but also a hobby that I enjoy doing every day. Because of this I decided to change my major to focus on fashion design and merchandise.

How has the pandemic changed you this year or affected your current and/or future plans?

The pandemic has not been a time for me to be sad and long for the time for me to be back with people. Since the beginnin-

g of the pandemic, I challenged myself with seeing the positive aspects of this time of isolation and focus on making myself a better influencer during my time alone. I learned to appreciate being with people and to see the positives in being alone.

My grandmother got really sick with COVID-19 during the month of July and was in the ICU for close to four weeks. This time opened my eyes to closer options for school so that I can be near my family in case something was to happen. I am now getting the opportunity to room with my best friend for college and continue to be a positive influence on my state and community.



MARY KATE MORAN

Neshoba Central High School

Briefly describe your experience at the Youth Leadership Workshop.

The Youth Leadership Program (YLP) was an experience that allowed me to meet new people and learn new things. My favorite part was the Thursday morning breakfast with the local senators and representatives. I also enjoyed hearing from Gov. Tate Reeves, Lt. Gov. Delbert Hosemann and Secretary of State Michael Watson. I am thankful for the support and time that went into developing this amazing experience for 87 of Mississippi's brightest teenagers. Not only did I learn about the importance of leadership, but I also made memories that I will cherish forever.

What are you involved in this year at school?

I have been involved with the Neshoba Central High School dance team, Beta Club, Future Business Leaders of America, Historian of Mu Alpha Theta, National Honors Society, Technology Student Association and the robotics team. I am the Secretary of the Senior class on the student council, a member of NCHS Superintendent's Student Advisory Board and a member

of the Mississippi Superintendent's Student Advisory Council.

Which college and college major is in your future?

I plan to major in biological sciences at Mississippi State University next fall. I hope to attend medical school in the future.

How has the pandemic changed you this year or affected your current and/or future plans?

2020 was quite the whirlwind. I was blessed with the opportunity to attend the YLP in February. However, the YLP was just the calm before the storm. I have missed out on the Washington D.C. trip with my YLP friends, Girls State, a normal Distinguished Young Woman local and state program, a typical senior year, the last football game, my senior night and much more. However, I have learned it is more important to focus on the positive aspects. My high school was on a hybrid schedule for most of the first semester, and I found myself enjoying going to school only two days a week. I am also thankful we did not go completely virtual. I have enjoyed the less busy lifestyle. This pandemic has certainly slowed things down, and I have loved having more time to spend with my family.



GEORGIA CLAIRE RUDOLPH

Leake Academy

Briefly describe your experience at the Youth Leadership Workshop.

I had so much fun at the Youth Leadership Workshop in Jackson, and that was almost entirely due to the many young leaders from all over Mississippi that I met there. We had so much in common, so it was easy to make long-lasting friends. Being able to hear from amazing speakers like Gov. Tate Reeves, Lt. Gov. Delbert Hosemann and Secretary of State Michael Watson also make the workshop more exciting. I always knew that I needed to know more about our elected state officials, and the workshop was the perfect opportunity for me to learn more about who runs our state and represents me as a citizen of Mississippi.

What are you involved in this year at school?

This year is especially different than any other school year, but no one is surprised. Due to COVID-19, my school does not allow for large gatherings of clubs. This means that I cannot be an active member in as many organizations as I normally like to. Some of these clubs include Senior Students Against Destructive Decisions (S.A.D.D.), Senior Beta Club and Senior Christian Club. Thankfully, my dance team was able to meet, practice and perform at most of the football games last fall. I am also ecstatic to announce that my archery team will be able to go to meets to compete this spring — something that we were unable to do last year. Lastly, I was chosen as an editor of the yearbook staff and we are working nonstop to make sure that our school has an amazing yearbook despite the rough start to the school year.

Which college and college major is in your future?

I plan to attend Jones County Community College as an

honors student after graduating from Leake Academy. After graduating from Jones, I plan to pursue a master's degree in speech pathology and audiology from The University of Southern Mississippi (USM). Following graduation from USM, I hope to travel the nation as a speech pathologist and visit those who need my help most.

How has the pandemic changed you this year or affected your current and/or future plans?

The pandemic has changed numerous different plans that I made for the summer, and it changed everything that I believed my senior year would be. I had planned to go to so many different leadership conferences this summer so that I could grow as a leader. I had hoped that my senior year would be full of fun times with all of my friends, but everything is different because of COVID-19. I think the worst part of all of this is the uncertainty. I cannot say whether or not something will happen because no one knows when all of this will be over. I just hope that it is soon.



EMMA GRACE DILLARD

St. Andrews Episcopal School

Briefly describe your experience at the Youth Leadership Workshop.

My experience at the Youth Leadership Workshop was absolutely incredible. I have never felt so welcomed by that many people. I know that everyone there had each other's best interest at heart. The outpouring of love was indescribable, and I am truly honored and humbled to have been a part of it.

What are you involved in this year at school?

Obviously, this year has been insane so I have not been able to participate in as many things as I typically would. I am a part of the yearbook staff, a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes club and I also play on the softball team.

Which college and college major are in your future?

I plan on attending Samford University where I will major in health sciences in hopes of later going to medical school to be a Physician's Assistant.

How has the pandemic changed you this year or affected your current and/or future plans?

The pandemic has definitely affected my senior year in so many ways. We are not able to carry on the senior traditions that we have looked forward to, but I guess we are making the most of it! Fortunately, it has not affected my future plans (college) yet, and I pray that it stays that way!

**Congratulations to each of these students.
We know the spirit of leadership and
cooperation will serve them well in the future.**



The students were able to visit with their legislators at the Youth Leadership workshop. From left: Mary Kate Moran, Rep. Scott Bounds, Megan McMinn, Georgia Claire Rudolph, Rep. Kenneth Walker, Orlando Brown, Mallory Long, Rep. Lee Yancy, Sen. Jenifer Branning, Emma Grace Dillard.