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Students gather in Jackson for the 2020 Youth Leadership Workshop



2020 YOUTH LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP

Encouraging and challenging students to be active leaders at home, school and in their communities

Students from around the state once again assembled in Jackson, Miss., for a leadership conference sponsored by 19 of Mississippi's electric cooperatives. Organized by the Electric Cooperatives of Mississippi, this year marks the 34th year for the Youth Leadership Program. The 2020 class is the largest group to date, with 88 students in attendance.

This respected program instills leadership skills, inspires creative thinking, encourages community service and introduces students to the elected officials who are leaders in Mississippi.

The conference was held at the Marriott in downtown Jackson from Wednesday, Feb. 26, through Friday, Feb. 28. Orlando Brown from Leake County High School, Emma Grace Dillard from St. Andrews, Mallory Long and Georgia Claire Rudolph from Leake Academy, Megan McMinn from Hartfield Academy and Mary Kate Moran from Neshoba Central High School were selected among the schools in Central Electric's service area to represent the electric cooperative at this event.

When the students arrived on Wednesday, they instantly began networking with their peers through a "get acquainted" session led by Eddie Tanner of Madison County where they were asked to participate in a Town Hall meeting. The exercises presented by Tanner encouraged them to talk about obstacles they face in their everyday lives. They were also challenged with developing solutions to these issues to take back to their schools and positively impact the lives of their classmates and community members.

Thursday morning, the students shared breakfast with senators and representatives from their districts, who are always very supportive of this program. This year, approximately 35 legislators were in attendance. Before visiting the Mississippi



(From left) Mary Kate Moran, Rep. Scott Bounds, Megan McMinn, Georgia Claire Rudolph, Rep. Kenneth Walker, Orlando Brown, Rep. Lee Yancy, Mallory Long, Sen. Jenifer Branning and Emma Grace Dillard.

State Capitol, Lt. Gov. Delbert Hosemann and Secretary of State Michael Watson spoke to the students about the importance of leadership and working hard to achieve goals.

The students also learned about the legislative process from Paul Purnell, vice president of government relations for Electric Cooperatives of Mississippi. After visiting the Senate and House galleries, many students were able to have group visits with their legislators, and some had the opportunity to sit in on committee meetings and visit the House Floor. The program coordinators continue to be grateful for the commitment and hands-on education from state legislators.

Gov. Tate Reeves also continues to proudly support this program. This year, during a luncheon hosted at the Old Capitol Inn, Gov. Reeves spoke to the students on leadership, reminding them that anyone can reach their goals, despite obstacles. The students were once again encouraged to "dream big" and to go back and make a difference in their schools and communities.

“
We are proud to have these outstanding students represent Central Electric.
”
Brian Long,
General Manager

Thursday afternoon, the students participated in team-building exercises led by Elyon Outreach Ministries that were designed to sharpen leadership and teamwork abilities as necessary components to successfully completing a set of challenging activities. Afterwards, the students enjoyed an exciting evening with local magician and comedian Dorian LaChance, who thrilled them with his illusions.

Concluding the event Friday morning, the students attended a recognition and awards ceremony, which was followed by a motivational speech from Bro. Terry Rhodes of Van Vleet, Miss., who shared with them his extraordinary story of courage and determination.

Central Electric is a proud supporter of the program. "We are proud to have these outstanding students represent Central Electric," said Brian Long, general manager. "They are our future leaders, and our hope is to prepare these young people for a bright future through the Youth Leadership Program."



From left: Megan McMinn, Georgia Claire Rudolph, Emma Grace Dillard, Mallory Long, Orlando Brown and Mary Kate Moran.



Gov. Tate Reeves spoke to the students at the Old Capitol Inn.



Lt. Gov. Delbert Hoseman (left photo) and Secretary of State Michael Watson (right photo) also addressed the students.



WEATHERING THE STORM

Due to substantial rain fall, thunderstorms and damaging winds on Mar. 4, Central Electric Power Association experienced sustained power outages throughout its seven-county service area. CEPA promptly mobilized their field operations staff to restore power.

Central Electric Power Association had more than 5,000 members without electric service and approximately 30 broken poles along with numerous breakdowns due to the severe storms. Additional personnel arrived to aid

in power restoration. Central Electric would like to thank East Mississippi Electric Power Association (EMEPA) for their assistance.

As of 8:30 p.m. Thursday, Mar. 5, 2020, all power was restored to all members that could receive power.

Manager Brian Long praised CEPA employees along with the employees from EMEPA.

Central Electric Power Association wants to thank the membership for their patience and support during this time.



Central Electric Power Association will reschedule March 17 Annual Meeting

Based on recent information provided by the Mississippi State Department of Health regarding the Coronavirus (COVID-19) epidemic, the Central Electric Power Association Board of Directors has decided to reschedule their Annual Meeting, originally scheduled for Tuesday, March 17, at the Carthage Coliseum. The meeting will be rescheduled for a later date.

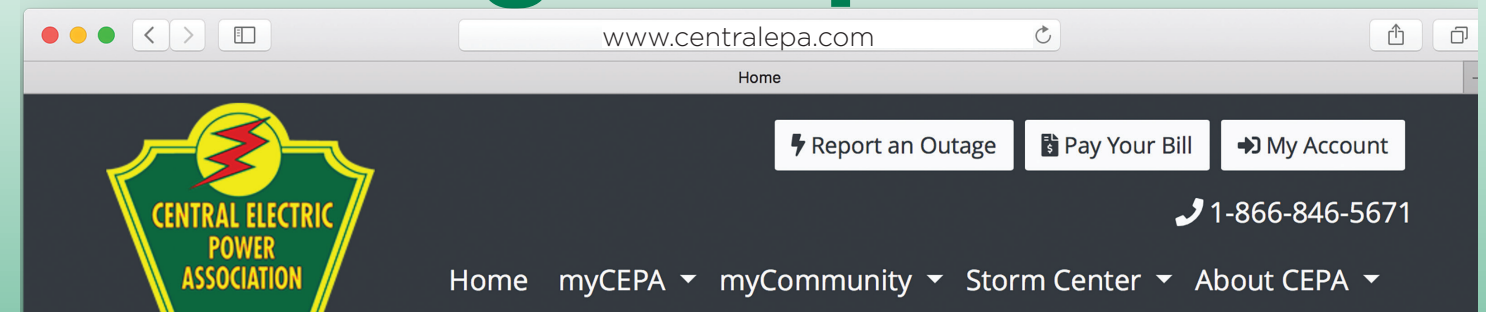
CORONAVIRUS PRECAUTIONS

The health and safety of our members and employees is our top priority. Central Electric urges all of its members and employees to be aware of the need to increase hygiene measures by washing your hands often and sanitizing your homes. Also, be advised to not travel to known cities or counties that have identified infected individuals. Please do not go to places that require groups of people to be in close proximity to each other.

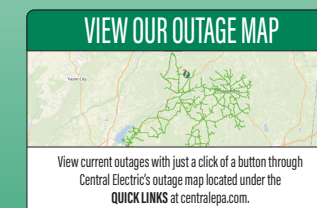
We encourage all members to pay bills online and by phone. Thank you for your support and understanding.

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