

# CONNECTION

## FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER



**Phillip Chaney**  
SEPB General Manager

As the seasons change and another year begins to wind down, I would like to thank the citizens of Scottsboro for your support over the last 28 years. I will be retiring as General Manager of Scottsboro Electric Power Board at the end of this year.

I started work

at SEPB in April 1998, and I have been blessed with the opportunity to serve as telecommunications superintendent for 17 years and general manager for the past 11 years.

I have also been very fortunate to work with so many wonderful people who are passionate about the jobs they perform dedicated to representing SEPB in a positive way. They are helping customers who call in with questions, to pay bills or to begin new services. And when storms arrive and

local citizens take shelter, it is our crews who routinely brave the elements and work to restore services as soon as possible.

The utility business never stops. Our office personnel and the people in the field work 24 hours a day to answer the phones and provide quality customer service. Many of them have sacrificed time with their families late at night, on weekends and holidays and other special occasions to make sure services continue.

Through the years, we have constructed a hybrid fiber coaxial cable system, and we recently rebuilt that system with a state-of-the-art fiber to the home system capable of speeds up to 10 gigabits. Meanwhile, we have continued to provide cable TV, telephone and internet services that rival those available in cities much larger than Scottsboro.

The upgrade of five substations and the complete rebuild of the TVA and Roseberry substations have improved the electric system. We have also installed motor-operated switches, field breakers and AMI metering to enable our customers to participate in prepaid electric service and

remote disconnects to reduce costs.

All of these upgrades have been installed and commissioned by SEPB personnel. I will always be thankful for their efforts and knowledge, which have been crucial in completing these valuable projects. I am also grateful to have worked for a board of directors that has supported all of the SEPB staff in their efforts to continually upgrade and improve the system. The SEPB Board truly cares about our community and its citizens.

Stacy Radon will replace me as General Manager in January 2026, and I know he will do a great job. Stacy has worked for SEPB for five years and has a good understanding of the entire system. He has served as both finance manager and assistant manager for the past seven months.

In closing, I want to thank the Scottsboro community again for the support you have consistently shown over the past 28 years. To the mayors, city council, SEPB Board of Directors, employees and citizens: Thank you for your care and encouragement.

May God bless you in the coming new year.

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# Employee Spotlight



## MISTY VENABLE

Misty Venable became a customer service representative at SEPB in February 2023 after hearing about the role from a friend. Her curiosity about the way infrastructure supports everyday life inspired her career in the utility industry. She says SEPB's focus on sustainable energy and community service sets the organization apart.

Misty, who began her role with SEPB while attending Northeast Alabama Community College for business management and graduated in spring of 2025, says being hired at SEPB felt like "winning the job lottery."

Her role as a CSR allows her to serve her neighbors, with teamwork and collaboration playing a critical part in scheduling installations and resolving outages. She said working together to improve public services is the highlight of her job, and she enjoys the challenge of learning more about each department. As CSRs are often the first point of contact for customers, Misty takes pride in representing the company and is deeply committed to providing strong customer service day or night.

Outside of work, faith and family are the most important parts of her life. She has three children, a son-in-law, a 1-year-old grandson and two standard

poodles. She enjoys traveling, theater, ballet and, of course, Alabama football, "Roll Tide!"

Misty is part of what makes Scottsboro Electric unique. "We are not a corporate internet or phone provider—we are local people, who live in and are part of Scottsboro," she said. "We are invested in making sure we make our community better."



## BARCLAY BUTLER

Barclay Butler's days as an apprentice lineman generally involve an array of hands-on tasks: line construction, secondary services, system reliability, outage response, safety training and equipment use. He's currently completing his final year of a four-year apprenticeship program.

Barclay joined SEPB three years ago, when he was in high school and working part time on inventory in the utility's warehouse. Upon graduation, he was officially hired on as part of the right-of-way crew.

Teamwork is a big part of why he enjoys working at SEPB.

"Everyone is like family, you depend on each other, and someone is always watching your back," he says.

Barclay also enjoys the variety of the work and seeing it impact the community.

"No two days are the same," he says. "You see right away how your work helps neighbors, businesses and the whole town keeps running. The hands-on work is really the best part of this line of work. It might include climbing poles and working in bucket trucks. There's a sense of pride when the lights come back on after working an all-night storm."

Born and raised in Scottsboro, Barclay knew exactly what he wanted to do for a living after seeing his dad work in the utility business. Family is a big part of his life. The appreciation and encouragement his family gives him helps him succeed and find meaning in his work.

Outside work, he enjoys watching football, going to church, fishing, hanging out on the lake and going on hunting trips with coworkers. In the next five years, he plans to complete his apprenticeship program, earn his journeyman certification and continue as a dependable member of the SEPB team.

"Along the way, I want to experience as much as I can in the overhead and underground distribution, safety procedures and outage restoration so I can work confidently on my own and help train the new apprentices behind me," he says.





## JACOB MANNING

Telcom technician Jacob Manning works mainly in fiber optics, coax cable and in underground and overhead construction. Camaraderie is important to him on the job, and the running joke is that he was awarded “journeyman shovel man” before he became a technician, owing to his prowess in digging.

He’s worked at SEPB for four years.

“It’s a fun job. I like the guys I work with, and I enjoy doing new construction projects, overhead and underground,” he says. “I was born and raised in Scottsboro. I started here at 18 years old—straight out of high school.”

Outside work, Jacob enjoys spending time with his wife, Libby, and hunting and fishing. The two were high school sweethearts and have been together since they were 15. Libby is a registered nurse. They married a few months ago and would love to have kids one day. Striking it rich is also on his bucket list, and in the meantime, he plans to maintain his positive and happy attitude.



## CARTER GILLIAM

Carter Gilliam, a telecom technician at SEPB, works on cable TV, fiber and telephone projects. He’s been with the power board for almost three years. Before coming to SEPB, he worked for a couple of different contractors, building fiber optic lines in Alabama, Florida and Tennessee.

“The part about working at SEPB that I enjoy the most is being able to work in Scottsboro and being close to home every day,” he says.

Carter was born and raised in Scottsboro, and he entered the utilities industry because he had friends in this line of work and wanted to try it out for himself. He ended up liking it, and the rest is history.

Outside work, he enjoys hunting and watching sports. Among his five-year goals are to continue working at the power board and possibly to add another child to his family.



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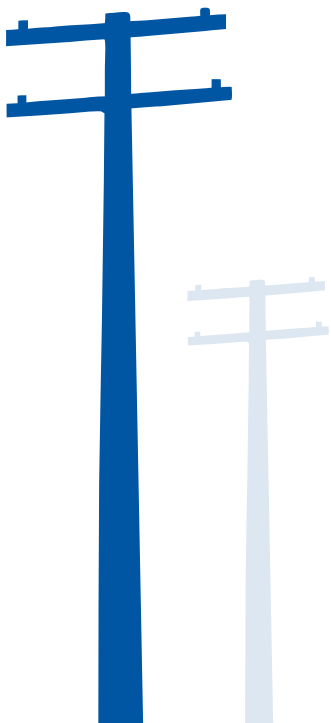
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## THINKING ABOUT POSTING A SIGN ON A POWER POLE?

**Why nailing or stapling  
to power poles is  
dangerous.**

Nails, staples and other objects attached to utility poles can pose serious hazards to lineworkers, potentially causing falls, electrocution or other serious injuries.

These objects can snag safety gear, puncture gloves and damage protective equipment, making it unsafe for workers to climb and work on the poles.