

Cooperative's annual meeting is just around the corner

Mark your calendars now for Shelby Electric Cooperative's 77th annual meeting of members to be held on Friday, June 19, 2015. This year's meeting will again be held at the Shelby County 4-H Fairgrounds with the business portion of the meeting to be held in the 4-H Center.

Look for your annual meeting notice that will be arriving in the mail this month. The notice will contain information about the cooperative, a meeting agenda and important registration information. All registered members who come to the meeting will receive a \$10 bill credit. If you bring your registration card with you and present it at the time of registration, you will receive an \$11 bill credit.

The "Energy Efficiency Wall" will be set up in the registration area again this year so members can learn about energy efficiency tips. There will also be free blood pressure checks, bucket truck rides, a bounce house, and crowd favorite Gene Trimble Band will provide pre-meeting music and much more. Sunshyne the Clown and Tim the Twister will be making a return appearance as well.

As in previous years, a barbecue



The business meeting will once again be held inside the Shelby County 4-H Center at the fairgrounds off of Route 128 North in Shelbyville.



Kid favorites Sunshyne the Clown and Tim the Twister will be back again this year.

pork chop dinner will be served between 11 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. prepared by the Pork Producers of Shelby County. Registration begins at 10:30 a.m. with the business meeting scheduled for 1 p.m.

Hope to see you Friday, June 19, 2015 at the 4-H Fairgrounds in Shelbyville for your Cooperative's Annual Meeting.

Pay-By-Phone reminder

May is the month we would like all our members who pay their bill by phone to start using the new, secure, automated Pay-By-Phone system. We encourage all electric and PWR-net Internet customers who normally pay their bill by phone to call toll free 1-855-385-9981 and follow the prompts. Payments made through the Pay-By-Phone system can be done 24/7, with no fees associated with this service. Members can still pay their bills by using the SmartHub app, paying online, stopping by the office or mailing it in.



Cooperative offices will be closed on Monday, May 25th in observance of Memorial Day.

Illinois electric cooperative announces utility scale solar project

Prairie Power, Inc. (PPI) an electric generation and transmission cooperative headquartered in Springfield, Illinois, recently announced plans to build, own and operate two 500 kW solar electric production facilities. When completed the two solar farms will produce enough electricity to supply 1,500 families every day.

“Our consumers own us,” said Prairie Power’s President and CEO Jay Bartlett. “These consumer members are best served by us having a diverse electric resource supply portfolio. Our consumer members have expressed an interest in renewable resources such as wind and solar generation. We are working to fulfill their desire.”

PPI is the supplier of bulk electricity supply and electric highline transmission services to 10 member-owned electric distribution cooperatives in Central Illinois. PPI already owns wind generation at a facility located just east of Paxton, Illinois. Electric cooperatives in Illinois are self-governed, member-owned enterprises with the members sitting on each board of directors of the cooperatives.



Prairie Power, Inc., a generation and transmission cooperative headquartered in Springfield, Illinois, plans to begin building solar farms in Illinois sometime later this summer. The project will include two 500 kW solar installations similar to this one built by one of its distribution cooperative owners, Illinois Rural Electric Cooperative in Winchester, Illinois.

One of the solar farms will be built near Shelby Electric Cooperative (SEC) headquartered in Shelbyville, Illinois. President and CEO Jim Coleman said, “We hear directly the desires of our members because they govern us and speak to us through our board of directors. That’s exactly why this solar generation project is being done.” SEC provides electric distribution services to nearly 10,000 members. The cooperative currently has two smaller solar arrays located on two of their south facing rooflines. You can monitor the progress of these solar arrays by clicking on a link off the cooperative’s website www.shelbyelectric.coop.

The solar plant will be located on property currently owned by the cooperative which houses Shelby Energy Company’s two bulk LP gas storage tanks and will be leased to PPI.

The other 500 kW solar facility will be located near Canton, Illinois, where Spoon River Electric Cooperative provides electric distribution services to nearly 5,000 members.

“Anyone wanting to take a look at our solar electric generation facilities

is more than welcome to. We believe these solar facilities will be a fine addition to the PPI power supply portfolio,” said Coleman.

This project is fully funded by PPI and construction will conclude later this summer. After that, all of the nearly 80,000 consumer members of the 10 PPI member cooperatives will be able to sign up to purchase electricity from these solar projects. There will also be a website where anyone can go to see how much electricity these solar and wind generation projects are producing. Visit the PPI website at www.ppi.coop.

In addition to Shelby Electric Cooperative and Spoon River Electric Cooperative, PPI provides wholesale electricity to Adams Electric Cooperative, Camp Point; Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative, Mattoon; Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative, Paxton; Illinois Rural Electric Cooperative, Winchester; Jo-Carroll Energy, Elizabeth; McDonough Power Cooperative, Macomb; Menard Electric Cooperative, Petersburg; and Western Illinois Electrical Coop., Carthage.




Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

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A man with two families

Lineman Larry Nohren retires from one to spend time with the other

Most parents brag about their children and grandparents go on and on about their grandkids, that is just something normal parents and grandparents do. Over the course of Larry's 24 years at Shelby Electric Cooperative, there have been many occasions when he would share some stories about his children and, in Larry's case, his grandkids as well.

Visiting with Larry, it is easy to tell that he and his wife Robin are proud of their three daughters and what they have accomplished in their lives but most of the conversations revolve around his three grandkids and one great granddaughter. What grandpa wouldn't be proud? His oldest granddaughter is becoming an amazing mother to his two-year-old great granddaughter. His oldest grandson, a sophomore in high school, is already a top track and cross country runner not only in this area but in the state and his youngest granddaughter, finishing up her eighth grade year, looks to be emerging as a decent basketball and volleyball player with running skills of her own. On top of that they both are doing well academically. Who wouldn't be proud? Larry is a very proud, yet humble, father and grandfather.

One other family Larry is pretty proud to be a part of is the group of people he works with at Shelby Electric Cooperative. "I love the people I've worked with over the years and to some extent I've probably spent more time working with some of these folks than I have around my own family and that is going to be one of the things I'll miss most in retirement," says Larry. He will officially retire soon as a lineman from Shelby Electric Cooperative,



Lineman Larry Nohren retires after 24 years of service to Shelby Electric Cooperative.

a job he has had for 24 years.

Larry started as a groundman at the cooperative in October of 1991 after working 15 plus years at the Cowden Grain Elevator. He eventually became a lineman and for many years held the position of Foreman. "I could not have been happier about my decision to go work for the co-op. I learned a lot and saw a lot. This job exceeded my expectations," he says.

When he said he saw a lot, Larry was referring to damage of cooperative systems following winter and summer storms. He was part of a crew that helped Eastern Illini Electric Cooperative out of Paxton, Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative out of Mattoon and also Norris Electric Cooperative out of Newton, with restoring power after winter and summer storms hit their areas.

Larry and some fellow Shelby linemen really got a taste for storm damage when they went down to help cooperatives hit by destructive Hurricane Rita. "I saw things down there that you just can't imagine; you would have to see it first hand to fully grasp the scope of what we saw. Fence lines with cars and boats lying up against it, houses liter-

ally lying in the middle of the road, and other places looked like a war zone," Larry said.

Retirement is just around the corner for Larry. When asked "what will you do in retirement?" he answers, "I'll do some fishing, hunting and traveling." Larry will stay busy with that and helping his brother-in-law on his farm. He might even go to a few stock car races. "I have five brothers and one sister who will probably see me a bit more than they might like. Robin and I will do some traveling and enjoy spending

time with our children and their families while we still have our health," he added. He is looking at his retirement with mixed emotions but Larry already has a family trip planned this summer near Gatlinburg, Tennessee that he is looking forward to.

"I hate to hang'em up and it will be real tough leaving here. I'm going to miss the employees and helping the cooperative members keeping their lights on. It will be very emotional for me, but it is time to start the next chapter of my life," Larry says.

As he retires from his cooperative family, one thing we know for sure, expect to see Larry watching more of his grandkids sporting events and cheering them on.

Your family, friends and co-workers wish you and Robin good luck, good health and best wishes in your retirement.

Have a Super Energy Saver Summer

It is that dreaded time of year for any parent — school's out for summer.

Soon your kids and their friends, and their friend's friends, will be tromping in and out of your 'revolving' front door. Every light in the house will be on. Your poor refrigerator will open every five minutes while the words "I'M HUNGRY" come piercing through the kitchen. And your electric meter will begin to spin faster than the tilt-a-whirl at a county fair.

Parents: It's time for a pep talk! And those of us at Shelby Electric have your back!

This past spring we enlisted the help of CFL Charlie and took to the local elementary schools to teach our "mini members" about saving energy. With each classroom we discussed electricity, how it gets to our homes, how we use it and how it is made. We taught that natural resources are precious and need to be protected, and since electricity is

made with these, we learn how to conserve. After all, we all live here on earth and we need to do our part taking care of it.

At the conclusion of the program, students were given a check-list to take home which includes items like:

- Turn off all the lights every time you leave the room.
- Shut down the computer when you are done using it.
- Unplug electronics like cell phones, video games and televisions when not in use.
- Don't hold the refrigerator door open for long periods of time.

When the students bring their lists back, CFL Charlie awards them with a certificate naming them a "SUPER ENERGY SAVER".

So parents, we've prepped them. Now it's your turn to put it into action. Talk with your kids about

how your family uses electricity. You can even turn it into a game. Discover what your home's "base use" is and work to lower those bills. You can find this information and much more on our secure web portal "SmartHub" or by calling the office and speaking with a representative. Resources on energy efficiency are available through our website (shelbyelectric.coop) and in our office. Reward your family by using the savings for a special treat!

Our choices and behaviors have a direct relationship with our electric bill – the more ways we can work together to make changes, the more enjoyable this summer will be.

~ Member Services Representative, Heidi Hall, works closely with area schools on various programs. If you would like someone from the cooperative to come out and visit your school, give Heidi a call at 1-800-677-2612.



2014 Bond Primary 3rd graders showing off their Super Energy Saver certificates! Participating elementary schools in 2015 included: Central A&M, Cowden-Herrick, Meridian, Edinburg and Windsor, just to name a few.