

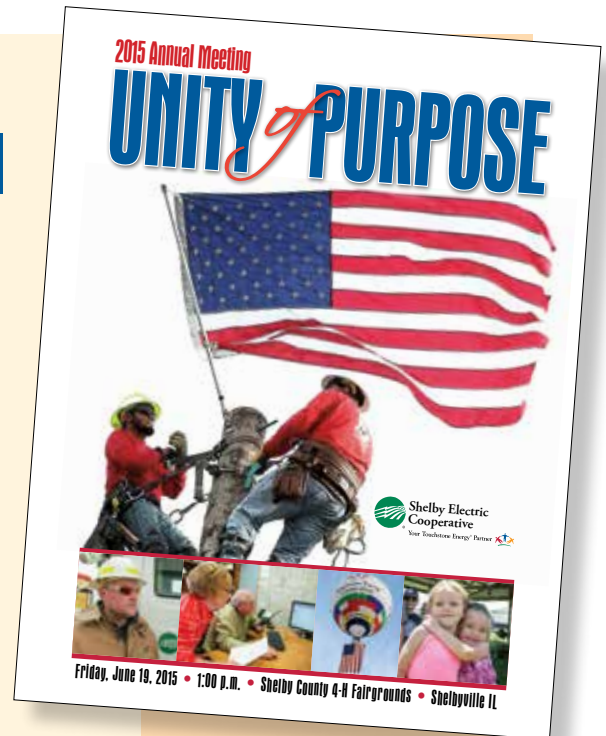
## Plan to attend your Cooperative's 77th annual meeting on June 19th

You have a voice in how your cooperative is run and by attending the annual meeting you can learn more about how your cooperative operates. Plan to attend this year's annual meeting on Friday, June 19, 2015.

The business portion of the meeting will be held inside the 4-H Center at the fairgrounds located off North Route 128, just behind the Shelby County Farm Bureau office. You should have already received your annual meeting notice in the mail. This notice contains information about the cooperative, a meeting agenda and

registration information. As in previous years, a barbecue pork chop dinner will be served by the Shelby County Pork Producers between 10:30 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. Registration will begin at 10:30 a.m. with the business-meeting at 1:00 p.m.

Bring the whole family and we will see you on June 19th for your cooperative's 77th annual meeting.



Your annual meeting notice was mailed in mid-May. ▲

## Making the digital switch

Upgrade your lights from "analog" to digital with LED bulbs.

Just as you upgraded your TV/cable and phone from an analog system to digital for better sound and picture quality, the lighting industry has been modernizing its options and products in order

to offer consumers greater energy efficiency. For the past several years, traditional incandescent bulbs have been phased out in favor of halogen and compact fluorescent (CFL) lights that offer greater efficiency.

Even more recent innovations in technology have focused on Light Emitting Diode light sources, or LED bulbs, which are essentially digital light.

### Longevity and efficiency in one

Known for their longevity and efficiency, LED lights have an estimated operational life span of up to 50,000 hours. This equates to 17 years of continuous operation, or 34 years of 50 percent operation. So if you were to use an LED fixture for

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Photo by Geoffrey A. Landis

“Digital switch” continued from 16a





eight hours per day, it would take approximately 17 years before it would need to be replaced.

LED lights are different from fluorescent and incandescent light sources, as LEDs do not contain a gas or filament of any kind. Instead, the entire LED is made up of a semiconductor, which is solid in nature and makes LEDs more durable. LED lights are small, packed electronic chip devices where two conductive materials are placed together on a chip (a diode). Electricity passes through the diode, releasing energy in the form of light. Unlike fluorescent lights that require a few minutes to warm up before reaching their full level of brightness, LEDs achieve full illumination immediately.

**The cost of “analog” lights**

If you are still hanging on to your traditional or “analog” era lighting, your light bulb is operating at only 20 percent energy efficiency. Eighty percent of the electricity from the “analog” bulb is lost as heat. To illustrate how this inefficiency impacts your wallet, consider this: if you have

**LED Lifetime Characteristics**  
Compare and contrast the lifespan and power consumption for the available light bulb options.  
*\*Source: energy.gov*

	 Incandescent	 LED	 CFL	 Halogen
<b>Lifespan (hours)</b>	750-2,000	35,000-50,000	8,000-10,000	3,000-4,000
<b>Power Consumption</b>	100 W	16-20 W	23-26 W	70-72 W
	75 W	9-13 W	18-20 W	53 W
	60 W	12 W	13-15 W	43 W
	40 W	8-9 W	10-11 W	28-29 W

traditional lighting and your electric bill is \$100, then you are spending \$80 to heat the room instead of lighting it. Using LED illumination with 80 percent efficiency, your electricity cost would be approximately \$20, saving you about \$80.

**Ideal for outdoor use**

LEDs are ideal for outdoor use because of their durability. LED lights are resistant to vibrations, shock and external impacts such as exposure to weather, wind and rain. In addition, they are temperature resistant and operate in colder outdoor temperatures. In contrast, colder temperatures may affect operation of fluorescent lamps. LEDs can also be dimmed, allowing maximum flexibility in use.

**Smart choice for emergency use**

In the event of a power outage or weather emergency, LED lights are a smart complement to your portable generator or battery-back-up. Because they draw so little power, using LED lights instead of CFL or traditional bulbs will allow you to illuminate more areas or channel the “saved” energy to other needed applications.

**Don't be fooled**

When purchasing an LED light, look for the Energy Star label to ensure you have a genuine product, as there are poor quality LED products in the marketplace. Some of these products are manufactured outside of the U.S. with components that produce low light levels, don't stand up on long service life, or have exaggerated energy saving claims. So like any other purchase, research before you buy! Visit [energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov) for more information about Energy Star LED lights.

While it is true that LEDs generally cost more to purchase than fluorescent and incandescent lights, they are much less expensive to operate over time. LEDs are energy efficient so the replacement and maintenance requirements are dramatically lower. In addition, as with other electronics, prices are expected to come down as more products enter the market. Make the switch from analog to digital, and you will see an increase in your home energy efficiency and a decrease in your energy costs. To learn more about other energy efficient things you can do around your house visit [togetherwesave.com](http://togetherwesave.com).



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

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**[twitter.com/YourCoop](https://twitter.com/YourCoop)**  
**[facebook.com/YourCoop](https://facebook.com/YourCoop)**

**Office Hours:**  
**7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**

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 **Shelby Electric Cooperative**  
 Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

## Cost of doing business

We will periodically be putting in the Shelby News items of interest to our members regarding costs associated with providing you safe reliable electric service. This month we will be showing you the costs associated with our newest Digger Derrick truck. The final bill of sale on the 2015 truck was \$207,257. This new truck replaces a

1999 truck, which originally cost the cooperative \$105,603. Ninety-five percent of cost increases have come from government mandates with the greatest occurring in 2007-08 as a result of mandated emission controls.

According to our fleet manager, in an effort to better manage costs, SEC often uses trucks past the

manufactured recommendations when it comes to service life. The largest expense to this type of service truck is the boom and bed which generally wears out first. This type of vehicle and added equipment allow the linemen to work as safely and efficiently as possible to maintain the reliability of the system every day, even during weather related outages.



- 1 **Boom/Auger/Bed:** \$115,500 (Bed includes two hot shot boxes [storage bins that hold tools and hardware] one on each side)
- 2 **Cab/Frame/Chassis:** \$67,475 (Frame includes the tires)
- 3 **Front Bumper Wench:** \$12,200
- 4 **Hydraulic Hose Reel:** \$1,200
- 5 **Hot Stick Box:** \$800 (Tools to work on energized line are stored here)

**Associated Extras:** \$10,082 (Front spot lights, strobe lights on rear and front of vehicle, extended front bumper with front bumper markers, DOT required back step bumper and OSHA mandated bucket lining required for hot line work.)

# Area students participate in Youth Day

Senator Andy Manar and newly appointed Representative Avery Bourne met with students representing Shelby Electric Cooperative (SEC) during the Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives Youth Day on Wednesday, March 25 in Springfield. More than 250 students from around Illinois had an opportunity to visit the State Capitol, view state government in action and question their legislators on key issues. They also were invited into the office of Secretary of State Jesse White and had the opportunity to meet David Nance, an Abraham Lincoln Presenter.

“Elected officials always enjoy the opportunity to meet with students and learn first-hand some of their concerns. Many of the issues debated in the General Assembly personally affect their future,” said Duane Noland, President and CEO of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC).

During lunch, Lieutenant Governor Evelyn Sanguinetti addressed students and chaperones and challenged them to take an interest in the political process and encouraged them to talk to their state senators and representatives about issues that interest them. Wyatt Reid, the 2014-15 Illinois Youth Leadership Council Representative from Rock Energy Cooperative, spoke about his experiences on the Youth to Washington tour and challenged attendees to maintain an interest in their cooperatives and the political process. While in Springfield, the students also visited the Old State Capitol, and Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum. Several of the SEC students were also able to meet Governor Bruce Rauner as he came out of his office to say hello.

Following the full day of activities, all of the students representing SEC were interviewed for a chance to go on the Youth to Washington Tour,



*Pictured (L-R) are: Front Row: Victoria Hudson of Cowden-Herrick High School, Samantha Degenhardt of Okaw Valley High School, James Hortenstine of Windsor High School, Juliana Mendenhall of Meridian High School, Morgan Powers of Shelbyville High School, Clint Dozier of Morrisonville High School, and Taylor Davidson of Morrisonville High School.*

*Back Row: Dalton Rueff of Cowden-Herrick High School, Andrew Althoff of Neoga High School, Mitchell Haddock of Windsor High School, Matt Buescher of Neoga High School, Senator Andy Manar, Jacob Gaugh of Stewardson-Strasburg High School, Brayton Wooters of Shelbyville High School, and Zach Bryson of Shelbyville High School.*

which takes place June 12-19, 2015. Of the 14 students, two were chosen as alternates and two were selected to represent the cooperative in Washington D.C. Brayton Wooters from Shelbyville High School and Samantha Degenhardt from Okaw Valley High School were selected as winners of the trip. Victoria Hudson from Cowden-Herrick High School and Jacob Gaugh from Stew-Stras High School were chosen as alternates. This marks the 56th year students have participated from Illinois and SEC has been sending students on the Youth to Washington Tour since 1967.

Youth Day was sponsored by the AIEC and is designed to introduce young rural leaders to state government. There were 26 co-ops from across the state represented at the event.



*Two students were chosen to go on the Youth to Washington D.C. trip in June. Pictured left to right: Alternate Jacob Gaugh from Stew-Stras High School, Winner Samantha Degenhardt from Okaw Valley High School, Winner Brayton Wooters, Shelbyville High School and Alternate Victoria Hudson, Cowden-Herrick High School.*

For more information visit [www.shelbyelectric.coop](http://www.shelbyelectric.coop) or visit the cooperative on Facebook: [facebook.com/YourCoop](https://facebook.com/YourCoop) or search Shelby Electric Cooperative.