



## Youth To Washington

**S**amantha Degenhardt of Findlay and Brayton Wooters of Shelbyville represented Shelby Electric Cooperative in Washington, D.C., during the annual “Youth to Washington” Tour, June 12-19, 2015. This event, sponsored by the electric and telephone cooperatives of Illinois since the late 1950s, is an introduction for rural youth to our democratic form of government and the cooperative business model.

The students met with Congressman John Shimkus and were among 65 rural Illinois youth leaders selected for the trip. The Illinois students joined more than 1,660 young leaders from across the country from 44 states. In addition

to the Capitol, they also visited Gettysburg, Arlington National Cemetery, the Washington National Cathedral, several Smithsonian Museums, The U.S. Supreme Court, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, the World War II Memorial, memorials to Presidents Lincoln, Jefferson, Washington and Roosevelt, the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia, the Newseum and a number of other historical sites.

“What an exciting trip to experience, I can’t thank the cooperative enough for the opportunity to take this trip of a lifetime. This trip will be one I’ll cherish for a long time,” said Degenhardt.

“I’ve made so many memories

and friends on this trip. To see all the monuments and experience all the things I did, I truly appreciate the cooperative for their support of area youth and providing this opportunity to go on the “Youth to Washington” Tour,” said Wooters.

Juniors in high schools that are within the service area of Shelby Electric Cooperative are eligible to participate in the annual program. To learn more about the “Youth to Washington” Tour go to [www.youthtour.coop](http://www.youthtour.coop) or [www.facebook.com/ILYouthtoWashington](http://www.facebook.com/ILYouthtoWashington).



*Students representing Shelby Electric Cooperative were Brayton Wooters and Samantha Degenhardt. Pictured left to right, Wooters, Congressman John Shimkus and Degenhardt.*



## Come see us at the Farm Progress Show in Decatur

Visit the Touchstone Energy exhibit in the Varied Industries Tent at this year's Farm Progress Show, September 1-3, 2015, in Decatur to learn about energy efficiency measures that will save you money each month on your energy bill.

Stop by and check out the "Energy Efficiency Wall" and other energy efficiency displays. See what is new in LED lighting with security lights and spin the wheel to win a free gift. Cooperative members who present their Co-op Connections Card will receive a special gift. If you do not have a Connections Card, contact your cooperative's office.

Illinois Touchstone Energy Cooperatives will also be sponsoring the Live Line Safety Demo, an electric safety



demonstration featuring 7,200 volts of electricity! It is great for kids and adults and an experience you will not want to miss. It will be presented outside the Varied Industries Tent on Junior

Lot #549. To learn more about Live Line Demo check out their website [www.liveline-demo.com](http://www.liveline-demo.com).

The Varied Industries Tent runs the length of Fifth and Fourth Progress Street and is between West Progress and Central Progress Avenue. The Touchstone Energy Cooperative's exhibit will be on the end cap just inside the entrance across from the food court.

Weather permitting, the Touchstone Energy Hot Air Balloon will be flying the American Flag each morning and the balloon will do a late afternoon flight as well.

Look for more information in Prairie Farmer Magazine or visit the website

[www.farmprogressshow.com](http://www.farmprogressshow.com) to learn more about the 2015 Farm Progress Show.

Hope to see you there.

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



## Thank You

Shelby Electric Cooperative would like to say thank you for participating in director elections via mail. Members who returned ballots were entered into a drawing for 10 \$25 bill credits. The following members were randomly drawn and received a credit on their June bill: Ralph Flesner and Phillip Strohl both from Shelbyville, Brenda Young from Taylorville, Jeffrey Sander from Macon, Donald Hubner from Tower Hill, Mac Figgins from Strasburg, Charles Cox from Cowden, James Ade from Pana, Mark Tucker from Windsor and Ronald Hogan from Moweaqua.



## Members attend annual meeting despite the rain

It was a soggy day but that didn't stop the members of Shelby Electric Cooperative from attending their 77th Annual Meeting on Friday, June 19th at the Shelby County 4-H Fairgrounds in Shelbyville. Members were served a pork chop dinner and enjoyed a variety of entertainment for young and old alike.

New President/CEO Josh Shallenberger addressed members regarding the economic condition of their cooperative and explained how risk management is a key driver in major decisions regarding electrical system design and securing power supply. "Risk management plays a critical role because reliability and a culture of safety are within our mission."

Shallenberger also explained how Shelby Electric is diversified through its power supplier, Prairie Power, Inc. (PPI), and PPI's investment in the Pioneer Trail Wind Farm. PPI is also part of the Prairie State Energy Campus (PSEC), a 1,600-megawatt base load coal-fired power plant. PSEC is one of the cleanest major coal-fueled power plants in the country. In addition, PPI plans to build a 500 kW solar project just east of Shelbyville and a similar plant in Canton later this summer.

John Scott, Board Chairman, explained Shelby Electric's debt retirement plan and that in the next five years, more than \$8.5 million or 25 percent of the current debt is scheduled to be retired. He pointed out to members how debt can be a good tool when properly used.

Scott told members that \$105,000 in capital credits were retired in May and checks or credits to electric bills were made on May 22. "In the past 10 years, close to \$6 million has been retired to members in the form of capital credits."

During the meeting it was

announced that Benjamin Curtin of Stonington, Benjamin Houska of Shelbyville and Joshua Harmon of Moweaqua were the three scholarship winners. Each student will receive a \$1,000 scholarship from Shelby Electric Cooperative.

Following the meeting, the board reorganized and elected Brent Lively as Chairman, Brian Halbrook as Vice Chairman, Bennie Clawson as Secretary and Mark Lash as Treasurer.



*President/CEO Josh Shallenberger presents Marion McVey (in hat) of Moweaqua with this year's annual meeting grand prize, \$250 Shelby Electric Dollars. Thank you to all who attended this year's annual meeting.*



*During the Shelby Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting it was announced that members had re-elected to a 3-year term Brent Lively of Taylorville from District 7. Newly elected to the board were Bennie Clawson of Tower Hill from District 2 and Robert Holthaus of Stonington from District 1. Both men were elected to 3-year terms. Pictured left to right: Holthaus, Lively and Clawson.*



*Vice Chairman Richard Boggs presented the treasurer's report in absence of Treasurer Mark Lash who could not attend the meeting. Boggs reported the cooperative is in good financial health and the two subsidiaries are seeing positive growth as well. Shelby Energy, the cooperative's LP gas subsidiary, has over 2,000 customers and total sales of \$3.5 million in 2014. PWR-net, the cooperative's Internet business, is approaching 1,500 subscribers and has installed equipment on a tower in Oreana that will expand its service into a new area just outside of the cooperative's footprint.*

# 2015 Scholarship recipients announced

Three area youths were recognized and awarded \$1,000 scholarships during Shelby Electric Cooperative's 77th Annual Meeting of members on Friday, June 19th.

This year's winners were Benjamin Curtin of Stonington, Joshua Harmon of Moweaqua and Benjamin Houska of Shelbyville.

Curtin is a recent graduate of Taylorville High School and plans to attend Purdue University and pursue a degree in agricultural engineering. He would like to develop innovative mechanical systems and make adjustments to existing equipment that will increase agricultural productivity. He is the son of Steve and Susan Curtin.

Harmon is a recent graduate of Central A & M High School and also plans to attend Purdue University and study civil engineering. He aspires to design structures such as bridges, roads and buildings so they are safer, last longer and pollute the environment less. He is the son of Randy and Lisa Harmon.

Houska is a recent graduate



*Shelby Electric Cooperative announced the winners of the 2015 scholarships at its 77th Annual Meeting of members. This year's winners pictured from left are Benjamin Curtin of Stonington, Joshua Harmon of Moweaqua and Benjamin Houska of Shelbyville. Chairman John Scott presented the certificates.*

of Shelbyville High School and plans to attend Southern Illinois University in Carbondale where he

will study medicine. He hopes to receive his doctorate and specialize in treating diseases such as diabetes, multiple sclerosis and Addison's disease. He is the son of Jeff and Lacy Houska.

"As a cooperative we always look for ways to give back to the communities we serve and are excited to provide these scholarships to outstanding students each year," noted Board Chairman John Scott.

Heidi Hall, who coordinates this program for the cooperative, will begin notifying the schools within the cooperative's service territory in January about the 2016 scholarships.

You can learn more about this and other scholarships on the cooperative's website, [www.shelbyelectric.coop](http://www.shelbyelectric.coop) under the "Our Community" menu tab. Like our Facebook page by going to [www.facebook.com/YourCoop](http://www.facebook.com/YourCoop) or search Shelby Electric Cooperative.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month



Periodically inspect your dryer vent to ensure it is not blocked. This will save energy and may prevent fire. Manufacturers recommend using a rigid venting material - not plastic vents that may collapse and cause blockages

Source: Energy.gov