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Area youth visit D.C.

Every June, as many as 1,500 high school students from across the country spend a week in the nation's capital as part of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. Cooperatives are committed to educating America's rural youth about this country and the role electric cooperatives play in developing strong rural communities. Electric and telephone cooperatives in Illinois have been participating in the Youth Tour since the late 1950s as an introduction to our democratic form of government and the cooperative way of life.

Morgan Braden of Strasburg and Natalie Kirkbride of Pana represented Shelby Electric Cooperative in Washington, D.C. during the

annual Youth Tour held June 9-16. Wyatt Henschen of Oconee also attended as a self-funded Willie Wiredhand participant.

"What a great trip and experience! I'm glad I was able to go as a Willie Wiredhand participant," said Henschen. Kirkbride and Braden agreed, saying that the whole experience was awesome, and they appreciated the opportunity of a lifetime the cooperative afforded them.

The 69 rural Illinois youth leaders met with Congressman Rodney Davis, Congressman John Shimkus, and U.S. Senator Dick Durbin. The Illinois students joined more than 1,730 young leaders from across the country, a record high for the Youth Tour. In addition to the Capitol, they also visited Arlington National

Cemetery, the Washington National Cathedral, several Smithsonian Museums, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, the World War II Memorial, memorials to former Presidents, the National Archives, the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia, the Newseum, and several other historical sites.

Juniors in high schools within Shelby Electric Cooperative's service area are eligible to participate in this annual program. To learn more about the Youth Tour go to youthtour.coop or facebook.com/ILYouthtoWashington. You can also find information on the cooperative's website under the "Community" tab.

Farm Progress Show: August 29-31

The nation's largest outdoor farm event is back at Progress City in Decatur, Ill. This is where people from all over gather to meet, observe, and learn. Major manufacturers roll out their newest offerings, and agricultural families take a break from their daily routines to immerse themselves in the wider ag community. For 64 years, we have celebrated agriculture by bringing tradition and business together.

Join fellow cooperative members and others from the ag community by visiting the Illinois Touchstone Energy Cooperative's exhibit in the Varied Industries Tent at this year's **Farm Progress Show, August 29-31, 2017**. You can learn more about cooperatives and how they help the communities they serve.

Stop by and charge up your phone at our charging station. While you are there, play one of our games for a chance to win a prize. Cooperative members who

present their Co-op Connections card will receive a special gift. If you don't have a Connections Card, please contact the office.

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

Make sure you check out the Live Line Demo, sponsored by Wabash Valley Power Association, Inc., located just outside the Varied Industries Tent on Junior Lot #549. This electrical safety demo features 7,200 volts of electricity. It is great for the whole family and an experience you won't want to miss. To learn more, check out their website at livedemo.com.

Weather permitting, the Touchstone Energy Hot Air Balloon will be flying the



American flag each morning of the show and also plans to fly late afternoon on the first two days of the show.

Check out *Prairie Farmer Magazine* or visit farmprogressshow.com to learn more about the 2017 Farm Progress Show.

Hope to see you there!



**P.O. BOX 560
Shelbyville, IL 62565**
Phone: 217-774-3986
or 1-800-677-2612
Pay-by-Phone:
1-855-385-9981
www.shelbyelectric.coop
twitter.com/YourCoop
facebook.com/YourCoop

Office Hours:
7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Setting your thermostat to a colder setting than normal when you turn on your air conditioner will not cool your home any faster and could result in excessive cooling and unnecessary expense.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy



Charged up for the future!



Shelby Electric Cooperative Board of Directors pictured left to right: President/CEO Josh Shallenberger, Secretary Bennie Clawson, Robert Holthaus, Chairman Brent Lively, Vice Chairman Brian Halbrook, Larry Durbin, John M. Scott, Treasurer J. Mark Lash, and Attorney Forrest G. Keaton.



Congratulations to Susan Chiovari from Lakewood, grand prize winner of \$250 Shelby Electric dollars. Susan is pictured with President/CEO Josh Shallenberger.

Sunshine and a cool breeze greeted members as they attended the Shelby Electric Cooperative 79th Annual Meeting of Members on Friday, June 9, at the Shelby County 4-H Fairgrounds. Members were served a pork chop dinner, serenaded by the Hood Family Band, and enjoyed a variety of entertainment for young and old alike including face painting, balloon animals, and bucket truck rides.

Shelby Electric member Nancy Agney was honored for being chosen as the 2017 Illinois Country Living Mother of the Year. The nomination letter was written by her daughter-in-law Kathleen Agney and read at the meeting. Nancy was presented with flowers and gifts from Shelby Electric Cooperative and the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives.

Shelby Electric Board Chairman Brent Lively welcomed members and explained the importance of the seven cooperative principles by which all cooperatives are governed: voluntary and open membership; democratic member control; members' economic participation;

autonomy and independence; education, training and information; cooperation among cooperatives; and concern for community.

Lively noted that Shelby Electric distributes electricity it purchases from Prairie Power, Inc. (PPI). Last year, the cooperative spent \$21 million on power for its members, which live in nine counties. That power comes from Prairie State Generating Campus in Marissa, of which PPI has an 8 percent interest. Additionally, there is solar and wind generation in the power mix. He pointed out that the average bill for members has not changed in the past three years.

"In the accounting world, we hear a lot about off-the-books liabilities and assets. I want you to know the greatest off-the-books asset of this cooperative is its employees," said Lively.

President/CEO Josh Shallenberger addressed members and explained how the cooperative operates at cost and returns capital credits to Shelby members. Shallenberger also noted the theme of "Charged Up for the Future" and the work being done to address the future including safety,

a new vegetation management rotation to help reduce the number of outages, and the new Shelby Electric website, shelbyelectric.coop, which will have increasing capabilities for members' use.

"If there's one thing I want you to put in your back pocket and take home with you today, it's the capacity factor at Prairie State Generating," said Shallenberger. "It had its highest net capacity factor month at 97.4 percent in 2016. It also had 100 percent compliance with environmental regulations and one year of no lost time accidents." During the meeting, members re-elected Larry Durbin and Brian Halbrook, both of Shelbyville, to new three-year terms on the board of directors.

Abby Forlines a graduate of Central A&M High School, Lawrence Curtin a graduate of Taylorville High School, and Dylan Moon a graduate of Pana High School were the recipients of the three \$1,000 scholarships from Shelby Electric Cooperative. See a full story about the scholarship winners in the next issue of Shelby News.

REAL LIFE REAL POWER

Getting Real with Marla and Comparisons

Occasionally we receive inquiries at Shelby Electric that sound similar to this, “My electric bill is so much higher than my neighbor’s bill, and their house is bigger.” Or maybe the neighbor has more kids, or an older house, or 10 televisions, etc. These are great questions and valid concerns!

Even identically appearing homes may have big differences in their energy performance. Look at the two houses pictured below. Can you figure out which one is losing heat through its attic? If you guessed the house on the left, you would be correct. Inadequate air-sealing and insulation is allowing warm air into the attic, warming the roof. Considering the largest portion of residential energy use is usually for heating and cooling, air-sealing and insulation provide a good return on investment.

Next, we find ourselves in hot water. Water heating is often the second largest energy expense in

a home. Is laundry being washed in hot or cold water? Are the same number of showers or baths being taken, for the same length of time, at the same temperature?

As with heating systems, consider the energy source. Are both homes using electric or propane/natural gas for heating? Have any propane/natural gas expenses been included in the total energy expense?

This same trend of questioning must follow for every aspect of a home’s electricity consumption, from lighting (number and types of bulbs to hours used) to electronics and appliances.

As you can see, we are not comparing apples to apples. The better option is to study your bills and consumption history to determine your home’s base load. This is often easiest to determine in the spring and fall months, when very little heating or cooling is being used. Base load will help you learn

what expense is involved with your home’s water heating, appliances, electronics, and lighting. The energy used over base load is often predominantly associated with heating and cooling, with allowances made for holiday extras, guests, and other items unique to your home and family, such as the use of a pool pump in summer and engine or livestock tank heaters in winter.

Shelby Electric offers an app, SmartHub, which allows our members to compare their daily and monthly use while also tracking the temperature. Download it from your app store or access SmartHub on our website shelbyelectric.coop. As always, if you need more information please call us at 800-677-2612.

~Marla Eversole,
Communication Specialist



<p>Shelby Energy Company 1-217-774-2311 24-hours-a-day</p>	<p>PWR-net Broadband Internet 1-877-994-2323 7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Please leave a message after hours</p>	<p>Shelby Electric Cooperative 1-800-677-2612 1-217-774-3986 24-hours-a-day</p>
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