

## Ten 2017 IEC Memorial Scholarships Available

Josh Shallenberger, President/CEO of Shelby Electric Cooperative, has announced that the Illinois electric cooperatives will award ten academic scholarships in 2017 to high school seniors through a memorial scholarship fund designed to financially assist deserving students in the “electric cooperative family.” The eight scholarships of \$2,000 each, will be awarded in 2017 through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.



College, Springfield, Ill. Sons and daughters of co-op members, relatives of co-op employees or directors, individuals enrolled in the Lincoln Land Lineworker’s School, and individuals who have served or are serving in the armed forces or National Guard are all eligible for the lineworker’s scholarship.

“We hope to assist electric cooperative youth while honoring past rural electric leaders with these scholarships,” said Manager of Member Services Heidi Hall. “Shelby Electric Cooperative and the other Illinois electric cooperatives are always seeking ways to make a difference in our communities. One of the best ways we can do that is by helping our youth through programs like this.”

Six scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors who are the sons or daughters of an Illinois electric cooperative member receiving service from their cooperative. A seventh scholarship, the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship, will be awarded to a student who is the son or daughter of an Illinois electric cooperative employee. The eighth and ninth scholarships are reserved for students enrolling full-time at a two-year Illinois community college and are the sons or daughters of Illinois electric cooperative members, employees or directors.

The tenth annual scholarship, the LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker’s Scholarship, will help pay for costs to attend the lineworker’s school conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community

“We’ve been fortunate to have two scholarship winners in recent years. In 2012, Derrick Knearem received the LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker’s Scholarship and in 2011, Matthew Durbin was a recipient of the IEC Memorial Scholarship,” said Shallenberger.

All necessary paperwork will be sent to area high school guidance counselors and is available for download at the cooperative’s website at [www.shelbyelectric.coop](http://www.shelbyelectric.coop) under the “Our Community” tab. For more information regarding the scholarships, contact Heidi Hall at 800-677-2612 or [hhall@shelbyelectric.coop](mailto:hhall@shelbyelectric.coop).



*Derrick Knearem, son of Diane Bunton of Lakewood and Rory Knearem of Cowden, was the 2012 recipient of the LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker’s Scholarship.*



*Matthew Durbin, son of Shelby Electric Cooperative members Larry and the late Ginger Durbin of Shelbyville, was a recipient of the 2011 IEC Memorial Scholarship.*

**Shelby Energy Company**

**1-217-774-2311**

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

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**1-800-677-2612**

**1-217-774-3986**

24-hours-a-day

# Trees + power lines (often) = power blinks

**B**links are those annoying, brief interruptions in power that lose unsaved data on your computer, mess with your clocks and blank out your television screen just as the game-winning play is in motion. Although annoying, blinks occur when the electrical system is working correctly.

A breaker or switch may open because of a large surge in electrical current. A relay senses the fault and causes the breaker to open which allows the fault to clear (taking less than two seconds). The fault may occur for a variety of reasons, including animal or bird interference, lightning strikes, a broken wire or, most commonly, when a tree connects with a line. If the fault clears (such as the tree limb breaks free), every home and business along that power line experienced a blink instead of a prolonged outage.

One of the most efficient ways that Shelby Electric Cooperative (SEC) can provide reliable electricity to our members is through right-of-way (ROW) clearing and tree-trimming. ROW refers to the



portion of land under or around power lines and equipment, such as transformers, that SEC has the right and responsibility to clear and maintain. “Approximately 70 percent of SEC’s power interruptions occur due to trees interfering with the power lines,” according to Terry Oldham, SEC’s Operations Superintendent.

ROW maintenance helps eliminate future problems from trees and vegetation. The weight from even a light amount of rain, ice or snow can cause tree limbs to sag onto lines. The most reliable option is to keep trees from the proximity of lines and poles.

Most importantly, ROW clearing helps keep our members safe by keeping trees from becoming energized. An energized tree can be deadly! SEC’s power lines can carry up to 69,000 volts of electricity through them. Always look for power lines before trimming trees,

putting up decorations and allowing kids to climb or play near them. Always assume power lines are energized.

To help ease the inconvenience that brief power blinks may cause, you might consider putting an uninterruptible power supply (UPS) on your Christmas list. A UPS is a device that provides emergency power to a load when the main power fails. A UPS differs from an emergency power system or standby generator in that it will provide near-instantaneous protection from input power interruptions by supplying energy stored in batteries. The on-battery runtime of most UPS sources is relatively short (only a few minutes) but sufficient to start a standby power source, save computer work and/or properly shut down the protected equipment. These can be found online or at stores where electronics are sold.



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

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



Your cooperative offices will be closed Friday, November 11 for Veterans Day and Thursday, November 24 and Friday, November 25 for Thanksgiving.

## Stuckey joins cooperative

**K**atie Stuckey joined the cooperative as a broadband/member engagement specialist in July. Stuckey, who is from Brazil, Ind., moved to the area with her husband Michael. Michael is employed by Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative, based in Mattoon, Ill., as a lineman.

Before coming to work for Shelby Electric Cooperative, Stuckey worked at Duke Energy as a work management specialist. Having worked in the utility business for five years, she was hoping to find a job to not only cut down on the commute to Indiana, but also stay in an industry she enjoys.

She loves her role at the cooperative and enjoys meeting members and helping PWR-net customers with their needs. "I appreciate the opportunity to work



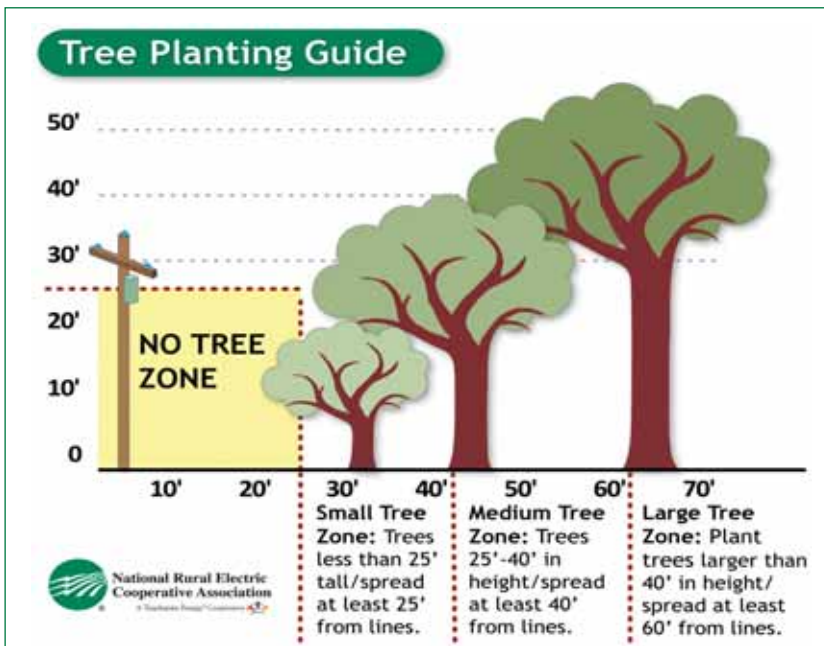
for the cooperative and everyone has been very welcoming," said Stuckey.

When she isn't working, Stuckey enjoys being with her family and friends, boating, fishing and anything outdoors. She attended Northview High School and also Ivy Tech Community College. She and her husband live in Sullivan, Ill.

## Daylight saving time again

**D**aylight saving time ends at 2 a.m. on Sunday, November 6. This will give you an extra hour of rest when you turn your clock back one hour before you go to bed Saturday night.

Local fire officials also recommend changing the batteries in your smoke detector(s) at this time.



**CO-OPS**

**VOTE**

REMEMBER TO VOTE ON NOVEMBER 8

WWW.VOTE.COOP



**THANK YOU VETERANS FOR YOUR SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY**  
From the members, employees and directors of Shelby Electric Cooperative, Shelby Energy Company and PWR-net Broadband Internet.  
Remember to Thank a Veteran on November 11!

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We know that our members are busy and we continue to work to make your life easier. Would you like to report a power outage from your mobile device? Would you find it convenient to pay your bill from your smart phone or tablet? Perhaps you would like to know if your electricity use is on the increase or decrease due to weather or other circumstances. Yes, Shelby Electric Cooperative (SEC) has an app for that!

SmartHub is the Swiss Army knife of apps that can be utilized from your personal computer and smart devices. Visit [shelbyelectric.coop](http://shelbyelectric.coop) and click on the SmartHub icon or download it from your app store to get started checking out all of the handy resources it offers.

“Notifications” on the SmartHub website link will



allow you to choose the items you wish to be notified about, such as when your new bill is available, if an outage is planned for your location and even when the power has been restored! Some members choose to be notified when their credit card that is used for automatic payment is due to expire and to receive payment confirmation.

From the app’s home page, you may choose to read notifications from SEC, view or pay your bill, analyze your account’s electricity

use, report an outage and view SEC’s outage map with a few taps from your fingertips.

The “My Usage” tab will allow you to explore the kilowatt hours consumed by billing period, while also reviewing the high, low and average temperatures. The “Unbilled” hyperlink will allow you to keep an eye on daily use so you know what to expect for your next bill.

For added convenience, check out the “Contact Us” submission form. From the drop-down menu, select the reason most applicable and enter the required contact information. A cooperative representative will contact you as soon as possible.

SmartHub is just one more way that SEC is working to help make our members’ lives more convenient. Check it out!

~ Marla Eversole, Member Services

