

SHELBY News

A Shelby Electric Cooperative publication • www.shelbyelectric.coop



BETTER TOGETHER FRIDAY, JUNE 9, 2023

Cooperative annual meeting just around the corner

You do not want to miss your cooperative's 84th Annual Meeting of Members to be held Friday, June 9, 2023 at the Shelby County 4-H Fairgrounds. In addition to the Hood Family Band returning to entertain the crowd, Live Line Demo will also be back to perform electrical safety demonstrations in the 4-H Show Arena. Look for your annual meeting notice to arrive in the mail later this month providing more information and details about this year's meeting.

The notice will contain information about the cooperative, a meeting agenda, and important registration information. Members who register at the meeting will receive a \$15 bill credit.

Free blood pressure checks, bucket truck rides, a bounce house, the Shelbyville Fire Department smoke house, AirEvac Lifeteam helicopter, and much more will be available. Sunshyne the Clown, Tim the Twister, and Paddi's Air Filled Fun will be

making return appearances to entertain our younger members.

A barbecue pork chop dinner, prepared by the Shelby County Pork Producers, will be served between 10:30 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. Registration begins at 10:30 a.m., and the business meeting starts at 1 p.m. in the 4-H Center.

See you Friday, June 9 at the Shelby County 4-H Fairgrounds in Shelbyville for your cooperative's 84th Annual Meeting.



**SHELBY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
COLORING CONTEST**

WINNERS WILL RECEIVE A PRIZE

**RULES
CRAYONS OR COLORED PENCILS ONLY**

ONE SUBMISSION PER CHILD

FILL OUT ENTRY FORM ON BACK OF COLOR PAGE

AGE GROUPS
4-6
7-9
10-12

**ENTRY DEADLINE
JULY 21**

**SHELBY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
1355 STATE HWY
128 SHELBYVILLE,
IL 62565**

SHELBY News

**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.**



It is time again for the Shelby Electric Cooperative (SEC) annual coloring contest! This year, we are featuring a page from the Mr. Lineman Electric Safety coloring book. Not only will it be a great picture to color, it also contains a safety message.

All children ages 4-12 are invited to decorate the safety scene and submit an entry. Every participant will receive a gift. All you need is a box of crayons or colored pencils, your imagination, and the coloring page, which you can download from the cooperative's website, shelbyelectric.coop. You can also pick up a coloring page and official rules at the cooperative's headquarters in Shelbyville. Entry forms and coloring pages can also be found at many of the local libraries.

Check out the cooperative's website for a library near you. The full coloring book can be found on the cooperative's website under the "Community" tab within the Youth Program's section.

Be sure to turn in your finished artwork to SEC by July 21 for a chance to be one of our three winners. One winner from each age group (4-6, 7-9, and 10-12) will receive a special prize. If you have any questions, give us a call at 217-774-3986 or send an email to jgeorge@shelbyelectric.coop.

We cannot wait to see your submissions! Drop them off at the SEC office located at 1355 State Hwy 128, Shelbyville, or mail them to SEC Coloring Contest, P.O. Box 560, Shelbyville, IL 62565.

Leaders of tomorrow represent their co-op on Youth Day

For the first time since 2019, the Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives Youth Day returned following a three-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Nearly 200 students representing 22 Illinois electric and telephone cooperatives had the opportunity to visit the State Capitol, view state government in action and question their legislators on key issues.

“Youth Day is designed to introduce young rural leaders to state government,” said Faith Wheeler, who coordinates youth programs at Shelby Electric Cooperative (SEC). “Not only do these students interact with their elected officials, they learn more about their electric or telephone cooperative’s role in their own community.”

State Senators Doris Turner (D-48) and Chapin Rose (R-51) and Representative Brad Halbrook (R-107) met with eight students representing SEC during Youth Day on Wednesday, March 29 in Springfield. These students included: Henry Vonderheide, Kristin Partlow, Briar Smith, Aubrie Reid, Aydan Fisher,

Andrew Sample, Connor Ryan and Tara Reynolds.

During lunch, Illinois State Treasurer Michael Frerichs addressed the students. He discussed how he got into politics and encouraged them to follow their passions in life. In addition, students learned more about the cooperative program.

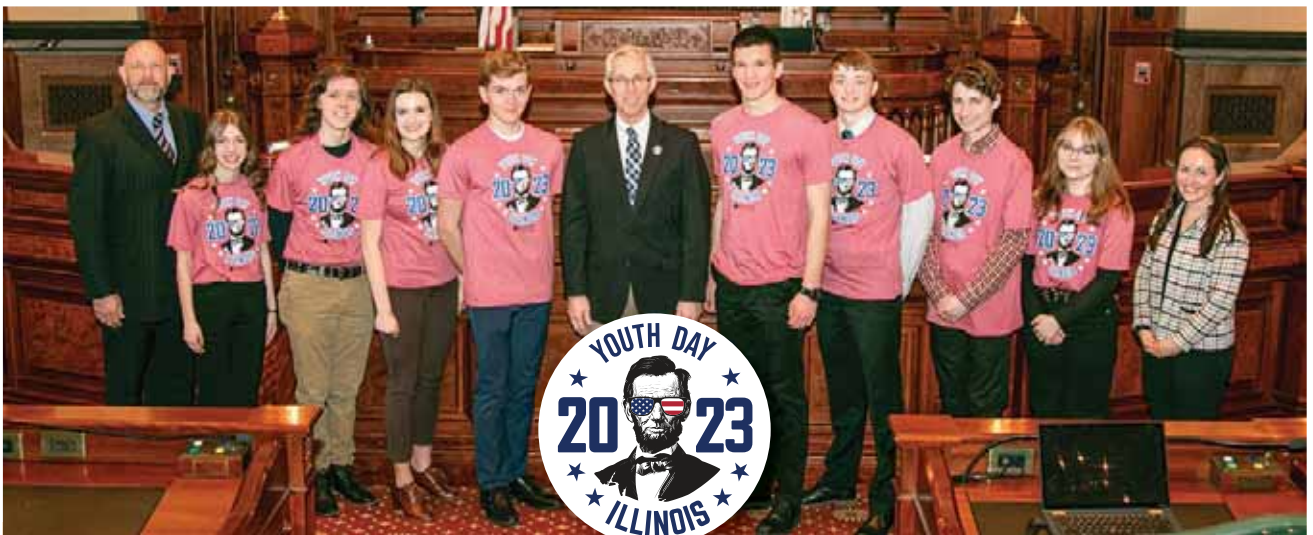
Participants also met and heard from Abigail Meyer, the 2022-23 Illinois Youth Leadership Council Representative from Tri-County Electric Cooperative. She spoke about her experiences on the Youth to Washington Tour and challenged attendees to maintain an interest in their cooperatives and the political process. She also reflected on the past year and the opportunities to represent Illinois at various meetings. In the afternoon, the students visited the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum and Lincoln Home National Historic Site.

Afterwards, students were interviewed for the chance to participate in the Youth to Washington Tour, to be held June 16-23, 2023. Kristin Partlow and Briar

Smith will represent SEC on the weeklong trip to meet their elected officials, see historic sites, learn firsthand how cooperatives work and gain valuable leadership skills. Alternates selected were Tara Reynolds and Andrew Sample. To learn more about the Youth to Washington Tour, visit shelbyelectric.coop and click on the “Community” tab then select “Youth Tour.”



Briar Smith (Stewardson-Strasburg HS) and Kristin Partlow (Neoga HS) were selected to represent Shelby Electric Cooperative on the 2023 Youth to Washington Tour in June.



Pictured with Representative Brad Halbrook are area high school (HS) students from left to right: Shelby Electric Cooperative (SEC) chaperone Dustin Theiss, Kristin Partlow (Neoga HS), Connor Ryan (Meridian HS), Aubrie Reid (Shelbyville HS), Henry Vonderheide (Stewardson-Strasburg HS), Representative Halbrook, Aydan Fisher (Shelbyville HS), Briar Smith (Stewardson-Strasburg HS), Andrew Sample (Edinburg HS), Tara Reynolds (Meridian HS), and SEC chaperone Faith Wheeler.

REAL LIFE  REAL POWER

Getting Real with Marla and Electrical Safety Month

May is National Electrical Safety Month. With nice weather, kids playing outside, the school year coming to a close, and an increase in outdoor activities, it is also the perfect time to review outdoor electrical safety precautions. We all need a reminder to stay vigilant, and children need to be taught how to remain safe around electricity.

Before beginning any outdoor activity, take time to look for and point out overhead power lines and other electrical equipment. Children should be instructed to never attempt climbing a power pole or play around padmount transformers and other electrical equipment.

May is often full of outdoor celebrations that include balloons. Metallic balloons can be hazardous, because their metallic coating conducts electricity. Metallic balloons should be well-secured to remain in a safe location. Never tie a metallic balloon onto a child! If the balloon comes in contact with electricity, it will travel through the balloon and into the child. Once finished with the balloons, deflate them and throw them in the garbage. Do not release them as they may create outages if they get caught in electrical wires and equipment.

When constructing outdoor recreation areas, plan carefully with safety in mind. Do not install playground equipment or swimming pools underneath or near power lines. Install ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) for outdoor



outlets and in interior areas where water is present. A GFCI shuts off power instantly if it detects a problem. Portable GFCIs should be used for outdoor outlets that do not have them.

Teach children to never touch an electric appliance while in a pool or hot tub, and to keep all electrical appliances at least 10 feet away from pools, ponds, and wet surfaces. Electric Shock Drowning (ESD) severely injures and kills people every year. ESD occurs when faulty wiring sends electric current into water, which then passes through the body and causes paralysis.

Remember that docks and boats can have sources of electricity. Faulty wiring or the use of damaged electrical cords and other devices can cause the surrounding water to

become energized. NEVER swim near a marina or near a boat while it is running. Energized water has no visible warning. As little as 10 milliamps, 1/50th the amount used by a 60-watt light bulb, can cause ESD.

What to do if you see electric shock drowning taking place:

- Turn off power.
- Throw a life ring.
- Call 911.
- NEVER enter the water — you could also become a victim.

Taking just a few minutes to look around and follow precautions can mean the difference between life and death. Let National Electrical Safety Month remind you to follow and teach safe outdoor practices all summer!

~Marla Foor

Sources: Safeelectricity.org, esfi.org

