


## Annual Meeting reminders:



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

**The 73rd Annual Meeting of members is**

**Friday, June 10, 2011**

**and will be held in the Chautauqua building in Forest Park. See map, this page, for directions and GPS coordinates.**

**Cooperative offices will be closed from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. due to meeting being held at Forest Park.**

**- You should have received your Annual Meeting notice in the mail. This notice contains information about the cooperative, a meeting agenda and registration information. Please refer to it for further details.**

**We are looking forward to seeing you at the Chautauqua building on Friday, June 10.**



GPS coordinates for Chautauqua building N30 25.089 / W088 47.452



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PWR-net combines the highest quality of service with excellent customer care to give you an affordable and reliable Internet that far exceeds its competition.

Want to know more? Call our local office at 1-877-994-2323 or 217-774-2323, or visit [www.pwr-net.coop](http://www.pwr-net.coop). Office hours are 7:30am-noon and 1:00-4:30pm. We look forward to hearing from you!

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- 24/7 monitoring of our equipment and your service
- The addition of equipment when necessary to maintain advertised speeds
- A redundant network designed to create backup paths to minimize outage time

**Current Subscribers – Refer a friend to receive one month of free service!**

*Contact our local office for details*



Does your home have a window air conditioner? Make sure that your window unit is properly weather stripped and clean the filter monthly. Keep “fresh air” vents on window A/C units closed.

*Source: Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives*



**P.O. BOX 560**  
**Shelbyville, IL 62565**  
**Phone: 217-774-3986**  
**Fax: 217-774-3330**  
**[www.shelbyelectric.coop](http://www.shelbyelectric.coop)**  
**[twitter.com/YourCoop](https://twitter.com/YourCoop)**  
**[facebook.com/YourCoop](https://facebook.com/YourCoop)**

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



**Youth to Washington tour**

**June 10 - 17, 2011**

**M**axwell Fransen from Decatur and Mikayla Mendenhall of Blue Mound were selected to represent Shelby Electric Cooperative in Washington, D.C., June 10 through 17, as part of the Illinois Electric and Telephone cooperative’s “Youth to Washington” tour. Fransen & Mendenhall were selected out of 15 students who attended the Illinois Electric and Telephone cooperative’s “Youth Day” in Springfield in April. Two alternates were also chosen, Kristina Weeden of Strasburg and Tyler Quick from Lakewood.



*Pictured left to right – Alternates: Kristina Weeden, Strasburg; Tyler Quick, Lakewood and Youth to Washington Delegates: Maxwell Fransen, Decatur; Mikayla Mendenhall, Blue Mound.*

The “Youth to Washington” tour gives a few lucky students the chance to get out of their houses and into the White House. Even if they don’t get a chance to see the President, they’ll still have a

chance to meet with other key Congressional legislators. Students will spend the week visiting historically significant national sites, touring some of the nation’s most moving memorials and browsing the campus of our nation’s capital. During their time in D.C., they will also ride a riverboat down the Potomac, tour the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia and visit the Supreme Court.

## A tribute to my Dad on Father's Day

The third Sunday in June has always been a special day for dads all across the world. The day is, of course, Father's Day and this year it falls on Sunday, June 19. Being a dad, daddy, myself, I'd like to take this moment to extend a warm thank you to all the fathers out there, or anyone who has mentored, raised or loved someone like a father would.

I hope you don't mind but I'd like to dedicate this story to my father, Elmer Bernson. I'm sure we all have similar fond stories about our fathers and some we'd probably rather forget; but I think those ups and downs belong to every good relationship between a father and son.

My dad was born Elmer Rudolph Bernson on June 11, 1925 to Mildred Ulriea Carlson and Sven Algot Berndtson in Denver, Colorado. As you might have guessed, his parents moved to the United States from Sweden and became U.S. citizens. As a matter of fact, my grandfather scored a perfect score on his citizen's exam and back then that was an accomplishment. Shortly after becoming an American citizen, Sven Berndtson changed his name to Swan Bernson. He said it made it easier for people to call him by that name ☺.

My dad also has three sisters; two older who are still living and one younger who recently passed away. They were raised on a small farm outside of Denver where they raised their own table food until his parents were able to afford moving into town for work.

As many other men and women have done, my father served our country fighting in World War II and in the Korean War. I was probably an adult before I realized that he was part of the Normandy Beach Invasion and was wounded when his ship, the USS Osage landing craft, was struck by artillery shells.

I do not know what his rank was in the Navy but I do know he was decorated. Not only did he receive the Purple Heart for taking a shell fragment in his arm, he also received the Silver Star for saving his ship and crew during the Normandy Beach invasion. To this day, I'm still not 100% sure what happened to my father during that invasion.

Dad married my mom, Ethel Delores Root on June 10, 1950 and they had six children with me being second to the youngest, a whole seven minutes older than my twin sister Karen. As with most big families, my parents have a large number of grandchildren and great-grandchildren. My dad did all the things most fathers do; helped with sports teams, took us fishing, went to Major League baseball games, etc. Until becoming a father myself, I didn't realize all the sacrifices one makes for his family in addition to working 40 plus hours a week. He was fortunate enough to work and retire after 30 years of service as an Engineer for Caterpillar, working most his career at the Mossville, Illinois plant just north of Peoria.

I hope you enjoyed learning just a bit about my dad and appreciate you allowing me to write this tribute to my father. The main reason for writing this piece with Father's Day a few weeks away is that my father was diagnosed with a terminal illness. Unfortunately, the doctors can't pin point the cause, but it centers on his body not producing the proper amount of blood from his bone marrow. As of this writing he is still with us, which is a blessing since he has out lived the time the doctors had given him on how much time he had left here on earth.



Happy Father's Day Dad – Rick, Bill, Joyce, Ed, Karen, Mom, your entire extended family and I want to tell you we love you!

— Kevin Bernson  
Vice President, Media  
and Public Relations



# REAL LIFE REAL POWER

## 2011 Youth Day

This month I am taking a break from the scary subjects I often write about such as dust bunnies, refrigerator coil cleaning brushes and high energy bills. Instead, I am going to write about a recent experience I had with what some would consider an equally scary topic - teenagers!

On April 6, 2011, I attended the annual Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives' Youth Day in Springfield with 15 teenagers from high schools in Shelby Electric Cooperative's (SEC) service territory. Mrs. Shawn Beck from Cowden-Herrick High School also attended as a chaperone.

Youth Day is always a full day, from the time the bus leaves SEC at 6:45 a.m. until we return at 7:00 p.m. I have noticed the adults on the bus are more talkative during the morning drive and the students are more talkative on the evening drive. We have the opportunity throughout the day to meet with personnel from the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, various elected officials, students from other cooperatives, learn about government and also take in some sightseeing.

This year, our SEC group was part of more than 300 students representing 26 cooperatives across the state. Local schools represented were Beecher City, Shelbyville, Cowden-Herrick, Okaw Valley, Stewardson-Strasburg, Central A & M, Meridian and Nokomis.

We met Senators Dale Righter and Kyle McCarter, heard from Lieutenant Governor Sheila Simon and Secretary of State Jesse White brought all 300-plus students into his office! The dynamic Secretary of State White hopped onto his desk



*Sen. Kyle McCarter visits with students from Shelby Electric Cooperative during the Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives Youth Day on Wednesday, April 6, in Springfield. Pictured, l-r, row 1 are: Amanda Evans, Lexie Mabaffey, Courtney Lawrence, Kristina Weeden, McCarter, Mikayla Mendenhall, Marie Beasley, Stine Eskesen and Shawn Beck. Row 2: Shelby employee Marla Eversole and students Tyler Quick, Tanner Bowers, Raymond Cummins, Dylan Reed, Timothy Petty, Eli Simmons, Andrew Mathis and Maxwell Fransen.*

to address the crowd and answered many questions. Before leaving his office, Secretary of State White made sure each student received a souvenir from his cache of treats. After visiting the Capitol and Supreme Court buildings, we were treated to lunch and a program at the President Abraham Lincoln Hotel. State Rep. Adam Brown, Decatur, addressed the teen leaders and also answered their questions. Our group then went for a tour and presentation at the Old State Capitol and some sightseeing at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum. Maxwell Fransen and Mikayla Mendenhall, both from Meridian High School, were chosen as the SEC delegates for the "Youth to Washington" tour.

Throughout the day, I am mindful that, as a Touchstone Energy Cooperative, we are committed to the communities we serve. I enjoyed meeting these teenagers and watching them take interest in our cooperative and their state government. "My" kids humor me while I make



*Secretary of State Jesse White meets with "Youth Day" students in his office.*

them number off in a head count at strategic points throughout the day. It is a feeling of accomplishment when I return home with the same number of students I left with! These students are not "just kids." They are our future leaders within our communities, businesses and government. I feel our future is bright.

— Marla Eversole  
Member Services Representative