

Mark your calendars now for your cooperative's 75th annual meeting

Please note the change in location this year



Plan on attending Shelby Electric Cooperative's (SEC) 75th annual meeting of members to be held on Friday, June 14, 2013. This year's meeting activities will once again be held on the Shelby County 4-H Fairgrounds with the business portion of the meeting to be held in the 4-H Center.

"The Chautauqua Building at Forest Park served us well but when the cooperative learned there might be an issue with getting insurance on the building, and there has been debate on the future of the Chautauqua due to safety concerns, we thought it best to move the meeting back to the fairgrounds," said meeting organizer Christy Biddle.

The 75-year history behind SEC dates back to 1937 when the Shelby County Farm Bureau and Extension Service sponsored informational meetings on a rural electrification project. Your cooperative was formed on January 18, 1938 with assistance from Shelby County farm adviser W.S. Batson and longtime SEC director LeRue Tice.

This could not have happened without the Rural Electric Administration Act that was signed into law by Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1935, nor could it have happened without local pioneers from Christian, Macon and Shelby Counties.

These local pioneers wouldn't believe their eyes today. The coop-



The business session will be held inside the 4-H Center at the fairgrounds off of Route 128 North.

erative they helped to start and nurture in 1938, Shelby Electric Cooperative, has developed into a complex business entity, providing electricity, propane gas, broadband Internet and a host of other products and services through the cooperative and its subsidiary organizations.

With the first energized lines serving 481 member-owners in Christian, Macon and Shelby Counties, the Cooperative now serves more than 9,800 member-owners in all or parts of Christian, Cumberland, Effingham, Fayette, Macon, Montgomery, Moultrie,

Sangamon and Shelby Counties.

The Cooperative's first board was comprised of President Verl Shutt, Secretary LeRue Tice and Treasurer Irvin McBride all of Shelbyville. Also on the first board were Paul Welsh of Bethany, George Lumppp and H.M. Yantis, both from Findlay and Roy Hockaday from Tower Hill. The first SEC attorney was Robert Dove from Shelbyville who was also a farmer. Lester Boys, a young farmer in the area was named project superintendent and eventually became the first manager for the Cooperative.

Continued on 16b ▶

“Annual meeting” continued from 16a



This photo was taken at the Cooperative’s first annual meeting in Shelbyville in 1938. The meeting was held in the Shelby County Courthouse.

One of the most memorable remarks made at that time was from a Tennessee farmer giving witness at his rural church, “Brothers and sisters, I want to tell you this. The greatest thing on earth is to have the love of God in your heart, and the next greatest thing is to have electricity in your house.”

Shelby Electric Cooperative is proud to be part of the communities they serve and hopes to continue improving the quality of life for our members for many years to come.

Be on the lookout for your annual meeting notice, which will be arriving in the mail this month. The notice will contain information about Shelby Electric Cooperative, a meeting agenda and important registration information.

As in previous years, a barbecue pork chop dinner will be served by the Pork Producers of Shelby County between 10:30 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. Registration begins at 10:30 a.m. with the business meeting scheduled for 1:00 p.m.



Cooperative offices will be closed on Monday, May 27th in observance of Memorial Day.



Power of Green recycling will be closed Saturday, May 25th in observance of Memorial Day weekend.

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

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Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Properly installed shades can be one of the most effective ways to improve windows’ energy efficiency. Lower them during summer; in winter, raise during the day and lower at night on south-facing windows. Dual shades, with reflective white coating on one side and a heat-absorbing dark color on the other, can be reversed with the seasons and save even more energy. Learn more at EnergySavers.gov.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Smart Hub brings easy account management to your fingertips

Great news! An easy-to-use online payment system is on the horizon

Members of Shelby Electric Cooperative (SEC) will soon be able to access their accounts with a user-friendly technology called SmartHub. SmartHub will replace our current online e-bill solution with the added bonus of a smart phone app as well.

SmartHub provides convenient account access and two-way communication with SEC online or via your mobile device. Manage payments, notify customer service of account and service issues, check your electric use and receive special messaging from SEC all at the touch of a button. SmartHub is available on Android and iOS smartphones and tablets as well as on the Web.

“Our goal is to make it convenient and quick for members to get information, from when your next bill is due to how much electricity you used yesterday,” said Kevin Bernson, vice president of media and public relations for SEC.

Some of the initial features include:

- View your hourly, daily and monthly electric use
- Safe and secure access to information
- Quickly pay your bill



SmartHub brings your account information to your smartphone, tablet or computer screen

- Get outage information
- Connect with social media

“Have you ever wondered how much electricity you used in a day? SmartHub comes with an app for that. Now you will be able to make a payment or check how much electricity you used on any given day from your smart phone or tablet,

wherever you may be,” said Bernson.

“People already use their web-enabled devices to engage and interact with each other, SmartHub will now allow member engagement with their utility,” added Bernson.

The app is free. You can download it from iTunes or the Android app store beginning in June.

Thank You!

We would like to thank the local farmers and members who helped get our crews into areas and that plowed the roads. Also, a BIG THANK YOU to Township Commissioners and County Highway Departments that helped clear roads and assisted our linemen following the heavy snow fall and outages from the March 24th winter storm. To our members who lost power during this winter storm, thank you for your patience as we restored your power.

REAL LIFE  REAL POWER

Getting real with Marla

I have to admit that I laughed when I started writing this article. I knew that it was time to help our members start preparing for summer but the snow from the late-March storm is still outside my window! That is Illinois weather for you; it can change quickly and drastically. We seldom get more than a few weeks between heating and cooling seasons.

Now is the time to prepare for summer. Did you notice places where the cold air leaked into your home this winter? Those are the places that need to be sealed up now. Make sure your air-conditioning equipment is ready to roll. Clear away weeds, leaves and other debris from around the outside unit. Call your HVAC contractor

for a professional tune-up. Dust your ceiling fans and make sure they are circulating in the correct direction. For summer, they should rotate counter-clockwise. Turn off fans when no one is in the room.

Fans cool people, not rooms.

As the temperature outside increases, help the interior of your home stay cool. Shut blinds and window treatments on windows that face the sun. Use the microwave, slow cooker and grill for preparing food instead of the stovetop or oven. Use a clothesline instead of the dryer. Consider what the second refrigerator in the garage is worth to you. Refrigerators have to work harder, using more energy,




Looking out Marla's office window.

to keep those beverages cold when it gets hot outside. Remind (nag) your kids to turn off their game-systems, televisions and computers when they are not in use. Everyone should unplug chargers once the electronic device is charged and removed from the charger.

Now, turn off the lights, go outside and enjoy summer!

*~ Marla Eversole,
Member Services Representative*

At first glance,
looks like the perfect
climbing tree...



take a second look.

Each year, children are killed climbing trees that come into contact with power lines. Teach children to never climb trees near power lines. Even if the branches aren't touching the lines, they could make contact when weight is added to the branches. Help them understand the potential danger. Keep them safe.

