

# SHELBY News

A Shelby Electric Cooperative publication • [www.shelbyelectric.coop](http://www.shelbyelectric.coop)

## Season's Greetings

From the Directors and Employees of  
Shelby Electric Cooperative,  
Shelby Energy Company,  
PWR-net Internet,  
and Shelby Fiber Broadband

### Offices Closed

Your cooperative offices will be closed on December 24 and 25 to celebrate Christmas and on January 1, 2025 to celebrate New Year's Day.



For food safety questions, contact the USDA Meat and Poultry Hotline.

- Call 1-888-MPHotline (1-888-674-6854)
- Visit [www.fsis.usda.gov](http://www.fsis.usda.gov) or [foodsafety.gov](http://foodsafety.gov)

Turkey cooking questions? Butterball® Turkey Talk-Line® is there to help!

- Call 1-800-BUTTERBALL (1-800-288-8372)
- Text 844-877-3456
- Live Chat at [butterball.com](http://butterball.com)

### Deck the Halls SAFELY:

*Use only lights, cords, animated displays, and decorations rated for outdoor use. When hanging lights, look up and around for power lines, and never throw lights, or other decorations into trees near power lines.*

# \$2,500 IEC Memorial Scholarships available

Josh Shallenberger, Shelby Electric Cooperative (SEC) President/CEO, would like to remind co-op members that the Illinois electric cooperatives are once again awarding academic scholarships to high school seniors through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program. Applications are now available.

The following 17 scholarships of \$2,500 each will be awarded in 2025:

**Ten scholarships** will be awarded to high school seniors who are the children of an Illinois electric cooperative member receiving service from their cooperative.

**Five scholarships** are reserved for high school seniors enrolling full-time at a two-year Illinois community college and are the children of Illinois electric cooperative members, employees, or directors.

**The Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship** will be awarded to a high school senior who is the child of an Illinois electric cooperative employee or director.

**The LaVern and Nola McEntire Memorial Lineworker's Scholarship** will help pay for costs to attend the



John Berns of Pana was presented the IEC Memorial Scholarship during the 2024 Pana High School awards night in May. Pictured with John is Shelby Electric Cooperative COO Jim Matlock.

lineworker's school conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield, Illinois. 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.

Over the years, SEC has been fortunate to have several IEC Memorial Scholarship winners, and in June 2024, John Berns was recognized for receiving

one of these scholarships at the cooperative's annual meeting.

Information has been sent to area high school guidance counselors and is available on the cooperative's website, shelbyelectric.coop, under the "Community" menu tab. The deadline to apply online for the IEC Memorial Scholarships is **December 31, 2024**. The lineworker scholarship deadline is **April 30, 2025**.

For more information regarding scholarships, contact Faith Wheeler at 217-774-3986 or email scholarship@shelbyelectric.coop.



**P.O. BOX 560  
Shelbyville, IL 62565**

**Phone: 217-774-3986  
or 1-800-677-2612**

**Pay-by-Phone:  
1-844-963-2859**

**www.shelbyelectric.coop**

**X @YourCoop**

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**@yourcoop\_sec**

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



## Cost of service and rate study completed

Like your homes and businesses, Shelby Electric Cooperative (SEC) has also been impacted by inflation, world events, new legislation, and efforts to transition to a cleaner energy. Due to these factors, a third-party engineering firm conducted a cost of service and rate study for the cooperative. The final results and management recommendations stemming from this study were reviewed at the end of November. "Based on the results of this study, in order to meet revenue requirements for the coming years, a rate adjustment will be necessary," explained SEC President/CEO Josh Shallenberger. "Preliminary results indicate that, on average, **residential "Class A" members can expect a 16.4 percent increase with the January bills**. Operating and maintaining the electric distribution system, along with procuring wholesale power and transmission services over the past few years have become more expensive than ever. While a dollar today is only worth 2/3 of what it was 10 years ago, based on Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation, the electric industry has realized unusually high increases in the costs of necessary improvements to ensure reliability remains a focus. "These cost pressures coupled with low load growth have resulted in the need to implement this rate increase," noted Shallenberger.

More detailed information will be presented in the January issue of the Shelby News insert in the *Illinois Country Living* magazine.



*Pictured left to right: Mayor Debbie Allen, Gene Thompson, Cooperative COO Jim Matlock, Megan Miller, Associate Vice President of CoBank Molly Bohlander, Herrick Fire Protection District Treasurer Linda McBee and President Amy Black, Herrick Fire Chief Paul Adams, Cooperative Member Services Specialist Faith Wheeler, Scott Adams, and J.C. Allsop.*

## Turning a dream into a reality

Commitment to Community is one of the core principles of being a cooperative. Shelby Electric Cooperative, along with CoBank, acted out this principle by donating \$20,000 to the Herrick Fire Protection District.

The donation was announced during a symbolic check presentation held at the Herrick Fire Department on September 25. Part of that donation was used to purchase and install a backup generator.

According to Herrick Fire Chief Paul Adams, “The generator will help keep the fire department’s essential equipment working and vehicles running during extended outages. We can now use this facility as a warming or cooling center for the surrounding community during these extended outages.” Any leftover funds will be used to purchase radios and other items to outfit the volunteer firefighters.

“This was a dream of my father’s when he was active with the fire department, so I’m glad his dream will become a reality,” stated Megan Miller, whose father passed away a few years ago. “We often need financial support from the community to purchase larger items. This donation from Shelby Electric Cooperative helps us acquire things we need to be able to provide our community with essential services as we continue to grow.”

Miller, who sought out these funds for the Herrick Fire Protection District, said, “This is an important step, and it

all came together because of the 2021 tornado that caused a town-wide outage that lasted over 24 hours. We are very appreciative that the cooperative donated these funds in conjunction with CoBank’s Sharing Success Program.”

Associate Vice President of CoBank Molly Bohlander said, “We have been doing this program since 2012. We set aside \$3 million every year and receive applications from April 1 to October 1, and match dollar for dollar for our members up to \$10,000 each. It all goes to improving the quality of life for rural America, and we are proud to be a part of that.”

“This exemplifies what the CoBank Sharing Success Program is all about,” said Faith Wheeler, who coordinates the program. “We were happy to be able to provide these funds to the Herrick Fire Protection District.”

Since the inception of CoBank’s Sharing Success program, the cooperative has received matching dollars for donations to the following organizations: Shelbyville Fire Department, Roxy Theatre, Shelby County Veteran’s Fund, Shelby County CEO program, Taylorville Development Association, Shelby County Dive Team, Meridian Ag Foundation, Pana Sacred Heart School, Village of Strasburg, and the Autism Movement Project and Therapy in Pana, just to name a few. Including the CoBank match, SEC has donated over \$175,000 in philanthropic donations through the Sharing Success program.

# Cost of doing business

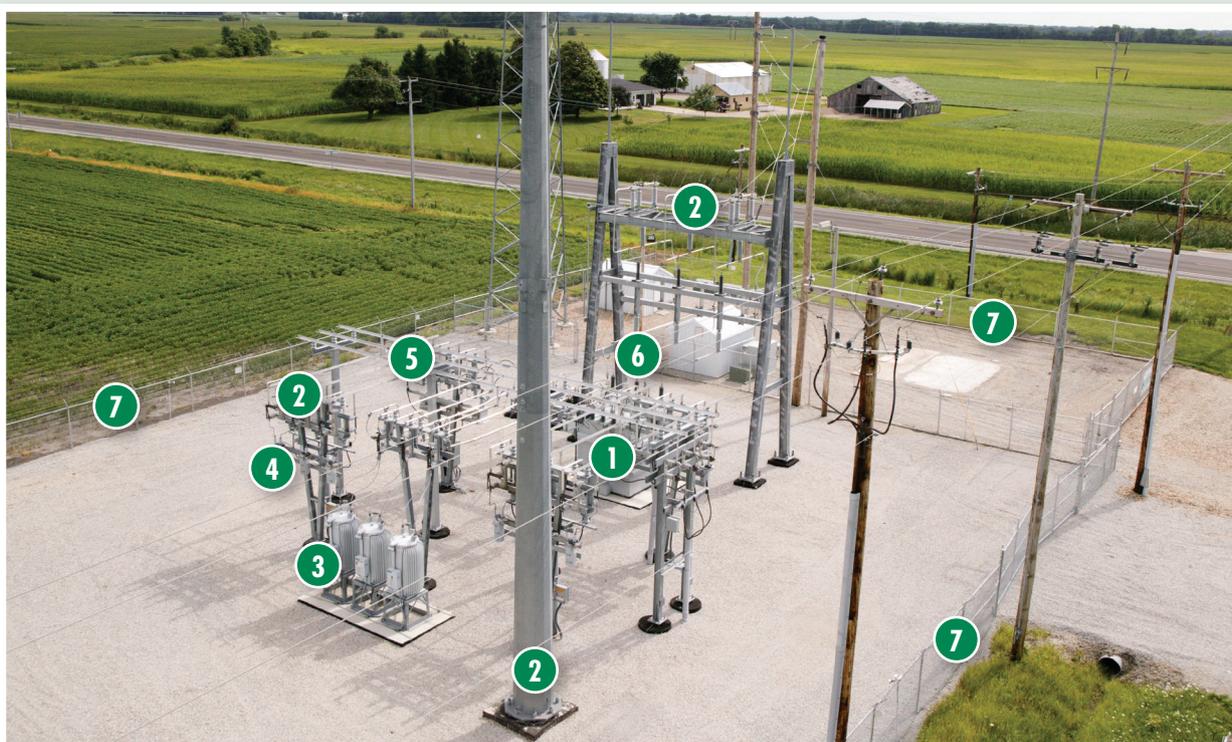
In October, we gave you a breakdown on the rising costs of our distribution infrastructure, and in November, we broke down the rising costs of a new digger derrick truck. In this article we will show some of the costs associated with building a substation, which is the heart of our system and provides the lifeblood of bringing power to our member's homes, farms, and businesses.

"Building a substation can easily reach \$2 million once you factor in all

the material and labor costs," said Chief Operating Officer Jim Matlock. "Over the past several years, costs for materials have doubled, and unfortunately, we do not foresee these increases slowing down anytime soon," continued Matlock. Potential load growth, demand, and age of older substations dictates upgrades to or building additional substations.

When Shelby Electric Cooperative energized its first lines in 1939, the co-op had two substations, and today we

have 20. While the cooperative does not have any immediate plans to upgrade or rebuild a substation, there are four that are currently being monitored for possible upgrades in the next few years. It is hard to break down the specific costs of building a substation because each one is built to the specifications needed for that particular load. Pictured below is the Neoga substation, which shows some of the larger costs associated with building or upgrading a substation.



- 1 Substation Transformer:** \$560,000 (7,500 KvA transformer lowers transmission voltage to a distribution voltage)
  - 2 High Side & Low Side Structure:** \$200,000 (Includes all the metal components and the lightning rod structure)
  - 3 Substation Regulators:** \$101,000 total for three regulators (Keeps voltage at proper levels for distribution of electricity)
  - 4 Oil Circuit Reclosers:** \$55,000 total for 12 of them (OCRs or breakers for short)
  - 5 Electronic Reclosers:** \$36,000 (These devices protect the equipment in the substation and the linemen)
  - 6 SCADA Building:** \$100,000 (The building contains all the SCADA equipment which allows communications between the cooperative and the substation and also allows the co-op to check equipment remotely)
  - 7 Fencing:** \$40,000
- Other:** Estimated \$65,000 (Metering equipment)
- Associated Extras:** (Concrete, rock, other supplies, materials, wire, and labor)