

SHELBY News

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

A Shelby Electric Cooperative publication • www.shelbyelectric.coop

POWER for generations

Annual meeting notices were mailed out in mid-May. This notice contains information about the cooperative, registration information, and the meeting agenda.

As a consumer-member of your cooperative, you have a voice. Plan to attend this year's annual meeting on Friday, June 7. Registration will begin at 10:30 a.m. Each registered member will receive a \$10 bill credit – **\$11 if you bring your registration card from the annual meeting notice.**

The Shelby County Pork Producers will serve a barbecue pork chop dinner between 10:30 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. The business meeting will begin at 1:00 p.m.

The festivities will be held at the Shelby County 4-H Fairgrounds located behind the Shelby County Farm Bureau and Shelby Electric Cooperative offices in Shelbyville. The business meeting will be held in the 4-H Center.

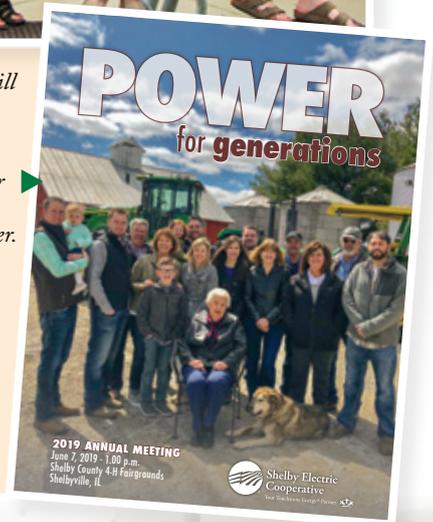
If you didn't receive your annual meeting notice or misplaced it call the cooperative at 217-774-3986.



▲ *The Hood Family Band will once again be providing entertainment.*

▶ *Learn more about the Furr family featured on the annual meeting notice cover. The story can be found on page 12 of the notice.*

▼ *Live Line Demo, Inc. returns to the Show Arena. Show times are listed in the annual meeting notice.*



 **Live Line Demo, Inc.**

Shedding some light on lightning

According to the National Severe Storms Laboratory, lightning can strike in the same place twice (or pretty darn close), contrary to folk wisdom.

Also, according to the Storms Laboratory and the National Weather Service:

⚡ It is not possible to have thunder without lightning; thunder is a direct result of lightning. However, it IS possible you might see lightning and not hear the thunder because it was too far away. Some people call this phenomenon “heat lightning” because it occurs most often in the summer.

⚡ Lightning can occur within the thunderstorm cloud (intra-cloud lightning) or between the cloud and the ground (cloud-to-ground lightning).

⚡ Lightning can have 100 million to 1 billion volts and contains billions of watts.

⚡ When lightning travels down a tree trunk, its heat turns water to steam. If it gets under the bark into the

surface moisture of the wood, the rapidly expanding steam can blast pieces of bark from the tree and the wood along the path is often killed.

⚡ Lightning is hotter than the surface of the sun, and it can reach temperatures around 50,000 degrees F.

⚡ People are struck by lightning in one of five ways: a direct strike, side flash, streamer, ground current, or conduction (metal). Metal does not attract lightning, but provides a path for the lightning to follow.

A thunderstorm is considered severe if it produces hail at least one inch in diameter or has wind gusts of at least 58 miles per hour, according to the American Red Cross. Heavy rain from thunderstorms can cause flash flooding and high winds can damage homes and blow down trees and utility poles, causing widespread power outages. When thunder roars, go indoors! Avoid open fields and hilltops, stay away from tall isolated trees, and spread out if in a group of people. Stay safe this summer!

Shocking Facts About Lightning

⚡ There are 25 million cloud-to-ground lightning flashes annually in the U.S.

⚡ Every year, 300 Americans are struck by lightning.

⚡ Of those struck, 30 are killed and others suffer lifelong disabilities.

#StormSafety



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1-855-385-9981
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**Office Hours:
7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**



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Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Want to light up your outdoor space without increasing your energy use? Try outdoor solar lights! They're easy to install and virtually maintenance free. Remember, solar lights work best when the solar cells receive the manufacturer's recommended hours of sunlight.

Source: energy.gov



Area students meet with local legislators

State Senators Andy Manar and Chapin Rose and Representatives Avery Bourne, Dan Caulkins, and Brad Halbrook met with 15 students representing Shelby Electric Cooperative (SEC) during the Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperatives Youth Day in Springfield on Wednesday, April 3. Youth Day is designed to introduce young rural leaders to state government. More than 235 students representing 23 co-ops from across the state attended the event.

Students had the opportunity to visit the State Capitol, view state government in action from the Senate floor, and question their legislators on key issues. They were also invited into the office of Secretary of State Jesse White.

During lunch, State Treasurer Michael W. Frerichs addressed students and chaperones and encouraged them to find where their passion lies. Frerichs said, "It doesn't

matter what you do if you love what you are doing. Find your own path. There may be times when you start down a path and diverge from it but listen to your heart. Sometimes you have to immerse yourself in something and possibly fail. Even when we don't win, we learn from the experience."

Collin Moseley, the 2018-19 Illinois Youth Leadership Council representative from Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc., reflected on the past year and the experiences he had on the Youth to Washington Tour and his opportunity to represent Illinois at various meetings. He encouraged everyone going on the 2019 Youth to Washington Tour to apply to represent Illinois as the YLC and not be afraid to connect with others on the trip.

After lunch, the students visited the Old State Capitol and Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum.

At the end of the day, the students were interviewed for the chance to participate in the Youth to

Washington Tour, June 14-21, 2019. Participants selected to represent SEC in Washington, D.C. were Kelsey Partlow and Jacob Beyers. Alternates selected were Kaitlin Arthur and Sheila Williams. To learn more about the Youth to Washington Tour, visit shelbyelectric.coop and click on the "Community" tab then select "Youth Tour."



Kelsey Partlow (Neoga HS) and Jacob Beyers (Pana HS) were selected to represent Shelby Electric Cooperative on the 2019 Youth to Washington Tour in June.



Pictured with Senators Andy Manar and Chapin Rose and Representatives Avery Bourne and Dan Caulkins are area high school (HS) students: Front row, left to right: Luke Jesgarz (Shelbyville HS), Jacob Beyers (Pana HS), Quinton Perry (Pana HS), Senator Manar, Senator Rose, Griffin Brown (Central A&M HS), Samuel Hal-Dean Baker (Central A&M HS), and Shelby Electric Cooperative (SEC) chaperone Heidi Hall. Back row, left to right: SEC chaperone Dustin Theiss, Sheila Williams (Shelbyville HS), Kaitlin Arthur (Stew-Stras HS), Claire Moomaw (Stew-Stras HS), Michela Porrello (Stew-Stras HS), Hunter Thompson (Cowden-Herrick HS), Representative Bourne, Representative Caulkins, Morgan Nobren (Cowden-Herrick HS), Savannah Mendenhall (Meridian HS), Kelsey Partlow (Neoga HS), Alexa Cassidy (Nokomis HS), and Sophia Keller (Nokomis HS).

REAL LIFE  REAL POWER

Getting Real with Marla and HVAC vents

When discussing electricity and other energy use with members, they will often mention they shut off the vents to unused rooms in their homes. It seems logical that shutting off the vent would save energy. However, the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) system is specifically designed to heat and cool the whole home. Adjusting how the air flows in part of the system will have an effect on the rest of the system.

Picture for a moment a garden hose. When the water flow is restricted in any way, pressure increases on the hose. A tiny crack or hole may now leak a much larger amount of water. The same is true for your much more intricate and expensive HVAC system.

Pressure on the duct system is increased when vents are closed in unused rooms. The more vents that are closed, the higher the pressure in the duct system. The Environmental Protection Agency has estimated that most homes already lose approximately 20 percent of conditioned air through leaky or poorly connected ducts. Now, unsealed ducts will begin to



leak even more heated/cooled air into unwanted areas. Heating/cooling the attic or crawlspace is not usually the intention but may be the unwanted consequence.

Additionally, this increased pressure on the system may make the HVAC unit work harder, resulting in more energy use. A study conducted at the Berkeley National Laboratory concluded that closing vents actually led to increased energy use.

Restricting the designed amount of airflow for the HVAC system can also lead to costly mechanical issues such as

a failed compressor or cracked heat exchanger. If the heat exchanger cracks, it can allow deadly carbon monoxide into the home!

For safety and savings, the best approach is to keep the HVAC vents open and have a carbon monoxide detector installed. Always consult with your HVAC expert to learn more about the proper care of your specific system and to have it serviced regularly.

*~Marla Pruemer,
Communication Specialist*



ONLINE BILL PAY

Pay your bills online and monitor usage with the **smarthub** app!



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