From the members, employees and directors of Shelby Electric Cooperative, Shelby Energy Company, and PWR-net Broadband Internet …

THANK YOU VETERANS FOR YOUR SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY!

Remember to say THANK YOU to a Veteran on November 11.

Twelve IEC Memorial Scholarships Available

Josh Shallenberger, President/CEO of Shelby Electric Cooperative, has announced that the Illinois electric cooperatives will award 12 academic scholarships in 2019 to high school seniors through a memorial scholarship fund designed to financially assist deserving students in the electric cooperative family. The 12 scholarships of $2,000 each will be awarded in 2019 through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

Six scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors who are the sons or daughters of an Illinois electric cooperative member receiving service from their cooperative. Four scholarships are reserved for students enrolling full-time at a two-year Illinois community college and are the sons or daughters of Illinois electric cooperative members, employees, or directors. The Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship will be awarded to a student who is the son or daughter of an Illinois electric cooperative employee.

The LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker’s Scholarship will help pay for costs to attend the lineworker’s school conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College, 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.

“We hope to assist electric cooperative youth while honoring past rural electric leaders with these scholarships,” said Member Services Manager Heidi Hall. “Shelby Electric Cooperative and the other Illinois electric cooperatives are always seeking ways to make a difference in our communities. One of the best ways we can do that is by helping our youth through programs like this.”

“Shelby Electric Cooperative has been fortunate to have two scholarship winners. In 2012, Derrick Knearem received the LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker’s Scholarship and in 2011, Matthew Durbin was a recipient of the IEC Memorial Scholarship,” said Shallenberger.

All necessary paperwork has been sent to area high school guidance counselors and is available at the cooperative’s website, www.shelbyelectric.coop, under the “Community” menu tab. Deadline to apply is December 31, 2018.

For more information regarding scholarships, contact Heidi Hall at 800-677-2612 or email scholarships@shelbyelectric.coop.
Time to fall back

Daylight saving time ends at 2 a.m. on Sunday, November 4. Remember to set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed on Saturday evening.

Local fire officials also recommend changing the batteries in your smoke detector(s) at this time.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Got holiday leftovers? When possible, use the microwave to reheat food. Microwaves use as much as 80 percent less energy than a standard oven.

Source: energy.gov

Shelby Energy Company goes Live

Shelby Energy Company, the cooperative’s LP gas subsidiary, recently launched its new website. Be sure to check it out! shelbyenergyco.coop

Need a delivery?

Shelby Energy delivers propane to homes, farms, and businesses.
Ah, it has been a long day and now it is time to settle into your chair and watch television or search the internet. The room feels chilly, though. You notice an advertisement for a handy-dandy, energy-saving, portable space heater and become intrigued. Who wouldn’t want to save money on their energy bills and be more comfortable?

Consumer Reports conducted a poll of homeowners and found 60 percent thought a space heater would lower their energy bills. Too often, at Shelby Electric Cooperative, we see our members experience an increase in their electric bills due to space heater use. In fact, when a member is concerned about an increase in their winter months’ electricity use, one of the first questions we will ask is, “Do you use space heaters?”

A 1,500-watt space heater will cost approximately 18 cents an hour to use. If you use one for a couple of hours a day, it will add $10-11 to your monthly bill. Use one for eight hours a day per month, and your cost will be about $43. To use less energy while using a space heater, it is necessary to reduce the thermostat for the main heating system by many degrees and then use the space heater in the room you need it. If you are frequently moving from room to room or have multiple occupants in the home, this may not be feasible.

Additionally, safety precautions are extremely important when using space heaters. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates more than 25,000 residential fires are linked with space heater use, resulting in more than 300 deaths annually. Another 6,000 people receive hospital emergency room care for burn injuries from contacting the hot surfaces of space heaters.

Follow these safety measures when using space heaters:

- Establish a 3-foot safety zone around heaters. Children, pets, and flammable objects should not be within this area.
- Only use units with shut-off features. A sensor that shuts off the heater when it overheats or tips over is essential.
- Do not use near water. Many heaters do not come equipped with a ground fault circuit interrupter plug, which protects against electric shock.
- Inspect the space heater’s cord. Damaged cords are a major cause of fires, injuries, and deaths associated with space heaters.
- Never use an extension cord with an electric heater.
- Do not plug other items into the same outlet as heater.
- Do not use a heater near paint, gas, or other combustible items and containers.
- Only use units verified by qualified testing laboratories such as Underwriters Laboratory (UL) and Intertek (ETL).

After reading this information, you may decide to add more layers of clothing or blankets instead of investing in a space heater (and its operational cost). Either way, we want to encourage you to keep safety in mind as we head into the season of holidays and winter preparation.

~Marla Eversole, Communication Specialist
Before sunrise on September 13, four Shelby Electric Cooperative linemen with trucks and supplies headed to Dunn, North Carolina to aid South River Electric Membership Corporation (SREMC) with power restoration following Hurricane Florence.

SREMC had over 30,000 of their 44,000 members without service at the height of the storm. They had assistance from 25 electric cooperatives, three electrical contracting companies, and three tree companies.

“The cooperative spirit is alive and well following a natural disaster. It is an incredible sight to see when convoys of cooperative line trucks arrive like the cavalry to save the day,” noted SREMC Vice President of Member Services and Public Relations Catherine O’Dell. “Based on the extent of the damage our system incurred, along with the historic flooding and washed out roadways, the crews faced tremendous hurdles, but they worked together and had all 30,000 of our 44,000 meters restored within six days,” added O’Dell.

“I can’t express enough how much we appreciate the assistance from Shelby Electric Cooperative. THANK YOU to your linemen for professional, proficient, and dedicated service to the task of restoration!” exclaimed SREMC President/CEO Chris Spears.

Pictured from left to right: Lineman Jamie Sharp, Apprentice Lineman Nick Ray, Lineman Andy McDonald, and Construction Superintendent Brian Chevalier.