Josh Shallenberger, President/CEO of Shelby Electric Cooperative, has announced that the Illinois electric cooperatives will award academic scholarships 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 2020 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 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.

“We hope to assist 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 an 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, 2019.

For more information regarding scholarships, contact Heidi Hall at 800-677-2612 or email scholarship@shelbyelectric.coop.
Employee News

Tyler Urbanski joins Taylorville outpost

Tyler Urbanski is the cooperative’s new journeyman lineman working out of the Taylorville outpost. He comes to us from the Village of Freeburg where he worked for the municipal utility in the same capacity. He previously worked for an Indiana municipal utility. Tyler attended the Lincoln Land Lineworker’s training administered by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives before working for the municipals.

He likes working with his hands and being outside. He looks forward to serving the members of the cooperative by doing what needs to be done with work orders, and keeping the lights on by helping restore power during outage situations. Tyler likes to hunt and fish in his spare time and is an avid sports fan. He and his wife Allyson have an eight-year-old son named Dylan.

Samantha Hatfield

Sami, as she likes to be called, is the cooperative’s new receptionist/cashier. She was previously at Nutrien Ag Solutions in Shelbyville. After graduating from Shelbyville High School in 2017, she attended Lake Land College in Mattoon and received an associate degree in applied science-agriculture business and supply, as well as a certificate in agriculture business and supply. Sami is excited to be working for the cooperative as it gives her an opportunity to be involved with the community. She looks forward to meeting and helping members when they stop by the office or call in. In her spare time she likes riding side-by-sides, hunting, being on the river, and hanging with her family and friends.

Jami Boehm moves to the operations department

Jami recently accepted the operations assistant position. She initially came to the cooperative as the receptionist/cashier before transitioning to the operations department following the departure of Katie Stuckey. Jami and her husband Nathan live on their 100-acre farm near Cowden. She is excited for the new challenges and learning opportunities this position affords her. In her spare time, she enjoys playing the piano, traveling, and when time allows, she can be found scuba diving.

Noah Sandiford joins the PWR-net team

PWR-net welcomes Noah Sandiford to the team part time. He will assist with installs and service issues. Noah currently lives in Shelbyville and was a 2017 graduate of Cowden-Herrick High School.

Noah previously worked as a mechanic before joining PWR-net, and is looking forward to working in the field with internet customers. In his spare time, Noah likes to play softball, fish, and enjoys being outdoors.
Time to fall back

Daylight saving time ends at 2 a.m. on Sunday, November 3. Remember to set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed on Saturday evening.

Energy Efficiency
Tip of the Month

Trim your holiday energy costs by choosing energy efficient LED lights! LED holiday lights use less energy and can last up to 40 seasons. They are also easier to install – you can connect up to 25 LED strings without overloading a wall socket!

Source: energy.gov

Propane safety tips

- Handle any propane-powered equipment cautiously and always follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Cylinder tanks for equipment such as stoves and ovens must be located outside of the home.
- Never store or use propane gas cylinders larger than one pound inside the home.
- Never operate a propane-powered gas grill inside the home.
- Have propane gas equipment inspected periodically by a professional for possible leaks or malfunctioning parts.
- Carefully follow the manufacturer's instructions when igniting a pilot light.
- If you smell a strong odor of gas, leave the area immediately, call 911 from outside the home, and then call your propane provider.

Shelby Energy Company is an LP gas subsidiary of Shelby Electric Cooperative. You can reach them by calling 217-774-2311, visit their website at shelbyenergyco.coop, or like them on Facebook @ShelbyEnergyCo.

Local fire officials also recommend changing the batteries in your smoke detector(s) at this time.
Daylight saving time will end on Sunday, November 3. Darkness will settle in earlier and earlier through December 21, which will be the shortest period of daylight for the year. Colder temperatures will also be felt. These factors alone usually lead to us spending more time in the house. Add in the approaching holiday season, and we definitely have a recipe for spending more time and energy in the heart of our homes, the kitchen.

According to the National Fire Protection Association, Thanksgiving is the peak day for home cooking fires, followed by Christmas Day and Christmas Eve. Cooking equipment is the leading cause of home fires with ranges or cooktops accounting for almost two-thirds of home cooking fire incidents. With the ingredients of electricity, water, flames, gas, and people, it can be a challenge to make the kitchen a safe and efficient place.

To enforce the message of safety, consider establishing a “kid-free” zone of at least three feet in areas where hot foods and beverages are being prepared. Children under five years old are more likely to be injured by touching hot cooking equipment or being scalded by hot liquids than by a fire. Keep toys off the floor in all kitchen areas and walkways.

Additionally, designate areas away from the stovetop to place flammable items such as oven mitts and wooden utensils, and quickly throw away empty food packaging materials. Have a working, Class B fire extinguisher nearby. Clean up drips and spills as soon as possible.

Before the holiday season increases your cooking and baking needs, inspect appliance cords to make sure they are in good repair. Never plug more than one high-wattage appliance into a single outlet, such as a microwave and toaster oven. Kitchen outlets, especially those near sinks, should be ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) outlets.

When shopping for yourself or those on your Christmas list, look for appliances that are Energy Star® approved. Remember that every appliance in the home has two price tags: the purchase price and the cost of operating the appliance.

Most electric ovens cost approximately 29 cents per hour to operate. Try to coordinate baking binges when possible to eliminate energy waste. Smack the hand of the person opening the oven door just to see what is cooking. Half the oven’s heat can be lost while peeking!

Slow cookers are also great for efficiency. Even though a slow cooker may be on for several hours, it uses much less electricity. A slow cooker can be on for eight hours and cost about half the amount as using an electric oven for an hour.

Hopefully, following these tips will help you whip up a recipe for a safe and efficient kitchen as we prepare for the holidays and winter.

~Marla Pruemer, Communication Specialist

Sources: SafeElectricity.org, EnergyEdCouncil.org