Members of Shelby Electric Cooperative voted on by-law changes, re-elected two board directors and heard how contacting their national and state elected leaders could impact electric rates during the organization’s 72nd Annual Meeting of members held Friday, June 11 at the Shelby County 4-H Fairgrounds.

Board Chairman Darrell Shumard reminded members to rally again and participate in the latest “Our Energy, Our Future” campaign sponsored by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. The original campaign garnered a 300,000-card response from Illinois co-op members, which pushed for congressional leaders to vote for more co-op friendly climate change bills. The concern now is that without congressional oversight the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) could use the Clean Air Act as a tool for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, which could substantially increase electric rates, especially in the Midwest.

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Shumard also updated the crowd on the progress of the Prairie State Energy Campus in Southern Illinois. He said, “The Unit 1 plant is due to go online in 2011 followed by Unit 2 in 2012. These two units will be the cleanest coal plants in the U.S. and will burn Illinois coal mined by Illinois miners at the mouth of the plant.” The energy campus is just one of two coal-fired electric generating facilities currently under construction in the U.S.

During the meeting the following by-law changes were approved:

■ They included the elimination of the nominating committee and that all nominations to serve as director would be based upon the submission of nominating petitions.
■ That the cooperative could use mail or electronic voting at its discretion for director elections.
■ That a director who missed three consecutive board meetings without a reasonable excuse would be removed from the Board of Directors.

Treasurer Richard Boggs of Maco reported that revenue for 2009 totaled $29,793,610 resulting in margins for the year of $2,434,798. During the meeting Mark Lash of Findlay and John Scott of Pana were re-elected to the Board of Directors for three-year terms.

Shelby Electric Cooperative serves 9,850 members with 2,236 miles of energized line in the counties of Christian, Cumberland, Effingham, Fayette, Macon, Montgomery, Moultrie, Sangamon and Shelby. The cooperative is a member of Touchstone Energy® — an alliance of more than 700 local, consumer-owned electric cooperatives around the country, committed to providing superior service based on four core principles: integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community. For more information about Shelby Electric Cooperative visit them online at www.shelbyelectric.coop.
Discover the Power of Green with Shelby Electric Cooperative

Shelby Electric Cooperative is proud to announce the launch of a new recycling program for Shelbyville and its surrounding areas! In March, Shelby Electric received notice that it was awarded a grant through the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity. This money helped to purchase two brand new recycling trailers, fencing and security cameras with night vision and license plate recognition.

The collection site is located at Shelby Electric’s building on East Route 16 (currently home to PWR-net & WildBlue Internet) in Shelbyville. Everyone is welcome to use it, but it will only be available three days per week. Approved items can be dropped off on Tuesdays and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to noon and on Thursdays from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

“This is a learning process for us but we are ecstatic to offer this great service to our community and we wanted to at least start the program out in a controlled environment,” said Monica Tomblin, project coordinator. “Upon doing research for the grant application, we learned that collection sites can be and often are abused. We want to do our best to ensure this does not happen and this recycling program can be a vital effort in helping reduce waste by recycling approved items,” added Tomblin. “We saw a need and are filling it,” said Josh Shallenberger COO at Shelby Electric Cooperative.

“We are doing this for the community – one of the core principles of a cooperative is “Commitment to Community” – we saw a need and wanted to work toward a solution,” continued Shallenberger.

The recycling trailers will accommodate the following items in separate bins:

- Newspapers and magazines
- Office paper
- Steel and tin cans
- Aluminum cans
- Plastics #1 & #2
- Corrugated cardboard

All of these commodities need to be sorted separately. You can bring them together, but they must go into their allotted bins for processing. “In the near future, you will see marketing details on the program – what we accept, in what condition the commodities should be brought, etc.,” said Tomblin.

The Power of Green recycling program officially kicked off on July 10. If you have questions, feel free to contact Monica Tomblin at Shelby Electric at 1-800-677-2612 extension 238. You can also stay updated on the cooperatives activities by becoming a fan of its Facebook page or visiting the website www.shelbyelectric.coop.

Students meet Congressman Shimkus

Alyssa Casner from Tower Hill and Ryan Gant from Moweaqua represented Shelby Electric Cooperative in Washington, D.C., during the annual “Youth to Washington” Tour, June 11-18. This event, sponsored by the electric and telephone cooperatives of Illinois, began 51 years ago to introduce rural youths to our democratic form of government and cooperatives.

The students met with Rep. John Shimkus and were among 66 rural Illinois youth leaders selected for the trip. The Illinois students joined 1,496 young leaders from across the country. In addition to the Capitol, they also visited Arlington National Cemetery, the Washington National Cathedral, several Smithsonian Museums, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, the World War II Memorial, the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia, the National Archives, the Newseum and a number of other historical sites.

“The cooperative is pleased to be able to provide our outstanding youth with these opportunities and these two students represented the cooperative well,” said Member Service Representative Marla Eversole, who also coordinates this program for the cooperative.

Casner and Gant went on the trip after being selected following Youth Day in Springfield which was held in April.
Scholarship winners announced

Three area youths were each awarded $1,000 scholarships and recognized during the Shelby Electric Cooperative’s 72nd Annual Meeting of members on Friday, June 11.

This year’s winners were Tamar Adcock of Assumption and Lauren Adcock and Ethan Simmons both from Moweaqua.

Tamar is a graduate of Central A & M High School and will be attending Kansas State University studying Animal Sciences & Industry. She is the daughter of Jim and Jan Adcock.

Lauren is also a graduate of Central A & M High School and will be attending the University of Illinois. She will have a dual major in Ag Finance and Actuarial Sciences. She is the daughter of Bob and Sherry Adcock.

Ethan, also a Central A & M High School graduate, will attend Eastern Illinois University and he plans to study Pre-Physical Therapy and Athletic Training. He is the son of Michael and Dotty Simmons.

“We are always pleased to be able to provide our scholarships each year to these outstanding students as a way to give back to the communities we serve,” noted Cooperative Board Chairman Darrell Shumard.

Marla Eversole, who coordinates this program for the cooperative, will begin notifying schools within the cooperative’s service territory in January about the 2011 scholarships. You can also learn more about the scholarships on the cooperative’s website www.shelbyelectric.coop under the “Our Community” menu tab. Become a fan of the cooperative’s Facebook page by searching Shelby Electric Cooperative.

Summer cooking

A slow cooker is a great summer resource. A 200 watt slow cooker only costs about 17 cents in electricity when used for eight hours. Plus, you have the added benefit of not heating up your kitchen from the excess heat given off by your stove or oven.

### Slow Cooker Rosemary Potatoes

- 8 medium sized, red potatoes, quartered
- 1 sweet or yellow onion, cut into chunks
- 2 cups baby carrots
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 tablespoon finely chopped, fresh rosemary
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon pepper

• In a large bowl, combine potato wedges, onions, carrots, olive oil, rosemary, salt and pepper until vegetables are evenly coated with oil and seasonings. Coat inside of slow cooker with olive oil cooking spray. Put vegetables in slow cooker, drizzling any oil or seasoning in bottom of the bowl over the top.
• Cook on HIGH for 3-4 hours or LOW 6-8 hours

Source: webmd.com