Shelby Electric Cooperative President/CEO, James E. Coleman, has announced that the Illinois electric cooperatives will award seven academic scholarships to high school seniors through a memorial scholarship fund designed to financially assist deserving students in the “electric cooperative family” in 2012. In addition, an eighth scholarship – to assist with costs in attending an electric line-worker school – will also be offered.

The eight scholarships of $1,250 each will be awarded through the Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

Four scholarships will be awarded to high school seniors who are the sons or daughters of an Illinois electric cooperative member receiving service from the cooperative. A fifth scholarship, 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 sixth and seventh scholarships are reserved for students enrolling full-time at a two-year Illinois community college who are the sons or daughters of Illinois electric cooperative members, employees or directors.

The eighth annual scholarship, the “LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker’s Scholarship” was awarded for the first time in 2011. This $1,250 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. LaVern McEntire was a lineman for McDonough Power Electric Cooperative from 1949 until 1991. He and his wife, Nola, endowed the scholarship to financially assist deserving individuals in becoming trained lineworkers. Sons and daughters of co-op members, relatives of co-op employees or directors 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,” says Coleman. “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 one. In addition, we are very pleased to offer the electric lineworker’s scholarship. It will benefit not only electric cooperative youth but also those fine men and women who have served their country through their military service and may now be wanting to become a trained lineworker.”

Candidates are judged on the basis of grade point average, college entrance exam scores, work and volunteer experience, school and civic activities, biographical statement and a short essay that demonstrates their knowledge of electric cooperatives. Deadline for applications to be returned to the cooperative is December 31, 2011.

For more information regarding the scholarships, contact Marla Eversole at 800-677-2612 or e-mail meversole@shelbyelectric.coop. All necessary paperwork will also be sent to area high school guidance counselors and is available for download at the cooperative’s website at www.shelbyelectric.coop under the “Our Community” tab. You can also contact us via e-mail at scholarship@shelbyelectric.coop.
What to do with that leftover Thanksgiving turkey

If you’re like most people, when you think about Thanksgiving dinner, you probably anticipate the leftovers as much as the meal itself. Take advantage of the seasonal sales and buy a turkey even if you have Thanksgiving dinner elsewhere, or buy an extra if you have the freezer space. Turkey can replace chicken in many recipes and it’s a wonderful addition to soups and casseroles. Freeze cooked, boned turkey in portions by wrapping in aluminum foil and sealing in a freezer bag, then thaw and chop what you need for a recipe.

Boiling the turkey bones is one of the secrets to an extra-tasty broth. Make the broth right away and freeze in one-cup portions for up to six months. Use it for cooking rice, making casseroles and sauces and as a base for soups.

There are so many great recipes for leftover turkey and the easiest way to find some, if you don’t already have a favorite, would be to Google “leftover turkey recipes” or you can try this one we’ve provided for you. Safe travels this holiday season and enjoy.

Serve these tasty sandwiches over toast or in puff pastry shells. Or, spoon over hot, boiled rice and serve with a tossed salad.

**Ingredients:**
- 6 c. diced turkey
- 3 cups Velveeta cheese (American cheese), diced or shredded
- 1 can (10 3/4 ounces) cream of mushroom soup
- 1 can (10 3/4 ounces) cream of chicken soup
- 1 onion, chopped
- 1/2 c. Miracle Whip

**Preparation:**

In slow cooker, mix together diced turkey, cheese, cream of mushroom soup, cream of chicken soup, onion and Miracle Whip. Cover and cook on low for 3 to 4 hours. Stir turkey mixture occasionally. Add a little water, if needed. Serve with split buns.

Yield: Serves 6 to 8

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Linemen from Shelby Electric Cooperative participated in the 14th annual Lineman’s Safety Rodeo sponsored by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. The Lineman’s Safety Rodeo, held on the Hot Line Training Grounds at Lincoln Land Community College (LLCC) in Springfield, coincided with a series of courses designed to help electric line personnel improve their work skills in safe and efficient ways. Each year at the rodeo, teams of linemen from Illinois electric cooperatives and municipalities participate in competitive events using skills that focus on agility, speed and accuracy. This year eight teams participated in the competition.

The Shelby Electric team of Matt Clark, Brian Chevalier and Jamie Sharp finished in second place in Conductor Repair and third place in the Egg Climb and Mystery events. The team finished in third place in the overall standings with 99.70 points on a 100-point scale. Brian Chevalier received first place in the individual Egg Climb and third place in the H Structure Obstacle Course.

Line personnel competed in five team events and three individual events. Team events included Hurt Man Rescue, Egg Climb (linemen climb a 30-foot pole with a raw egg in their mouth), H Structure Obstacle Course, Conductor Repair and a Mystery Event. Scores for each event use a 100-point scale and are based upon completion time and proper execution of the task including safe work practices. Deductions are made to a team or individual’s overall performance score due to such things as slipping when climbing poles, dropping tools or executing inappropriate procedures or methods.

Shelby Electric Cooperative is a member of Touchstone Energy® — an alliance of more than 720 local, consumer-owned electric utilities around the country. Shelby Electric is committed to providing superior service based on four core principles: integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community. The co-op serves more than 9,918 meters over 2,244 miles of line in parts of Christian, Cumberland, Effingham, Fayette, Macon, Montgomery, Moultrie, Sangamon and Shelby counties. For more information visit www.shelbyelectric.coop. Follow the cooperative on facebook.com/YourCoop.

Recycling fact:
About 80% of what Americans throw away is recyclable, yet our recycling rate is just 28%.

Power of Green recycling days and hours of operation:
Tuesday 8 a.m. – noon
Thursday 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.
Saturday 8 a.m. – noon

Shelby Electric’s recycling site will not be available for drop-off the following dates:
Saturday, November 12th
Thursday, November 24th
Saturday, November 26th
Saturday, December 24th
Saturday, December 31st

Recycling drop-off is located at the cooperative’s Internet subsidiary PWR-net building on East Route 16 in Shelbyville.
Let’s talk base load. Now is a great time to analyze the factors that contribute to your monthly base of energy use. These are the loads in your home that, to a large degree, you can control. Weather load is the energy use that can be attributed to heating and cooling your homes. Weather load is more at the mercy of Mother Nature and we tend to see our energy use increase during the extreme temperatures.

During the last days of August and beginning of September, the temperatures soared to the 100-degree F mark. If you visited the Farm Progress Show in Decatur, Illinois, you will remember how warm and dry it was during that time. Since then, the temperatures have given the energy use in our homes a much- appreciated break. We are in the season of minimal air conditioning and heating!

Shelby Electric Cooperative billing statements have a graph of that account’s use by month for the past year (see inset lower left). Typically, April/May and October/November are some of the lowest months of residential electricity use. This is the base load that will most likely be used every month, regardless of the weather (heating and cooling). The kilowatt-hours used these months are predominantly used on water heating, clothes drying, electronics, appliances, lighting and teenagers in your home.

Base load can be reduced in many ways. Set your water heater temperature no higher than 120 degrees. Not only will you save energy, you can help prevent scalding as well. At 130 degrees, it only takes 10 seconds to get a bad burn. Other suggestions are washing laundry in cold water, line-drying laundry, unplugging that second refrigerator in the garage, unplugging electronics that are not being used and of course, turning off lights or making the switch to CFLs or LED lights. Make sure you do that prior to November 6, 2011, when daylight saving time ends and many of us will be using our lights an hour earlier in the evenings.

Visit www.togetherwesave.com to get more ideas about saving energy and to calculate how changes can add up to savings!

— Marla Eversole,
Member Services Representative

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Use motion sensors on your lights to save on your electric bill. These sensors turn on lights automatically when someone enters a room and turns them off after a person leaves.

Source U.S. Department of Energy