

## Scholarship application time!

It is that time of year again when high school seniors start their final semester, begin thinking about where they want to attend college, and how they are going to pay for it. Scholarships are one way to help relieve some of the financial burden of achieving that next step.

Shelby Electric Cooperative (SEC) will once again award three academic scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each. Eligible students are sons or daughters of any current SEC member who is receiving electric service from the cooperative at the time the scholarship application is submitted. Students must be high school seniors pursuing a college education in the United States.

These \$1,000 scholarships may be used for educational costs at any two-year or four-year accredited college or university, including vocational/technical schools.



Candidates are chosen based on academic and community accomplishments, character, and financial need as demonstrated in the application and essay. Friday, March 6 is the deadline for receipt of the completed applications for 2020 graduates. The three scholarship winners will be notified in June and announced at the cooperative's 82nd Annual Meeting of Members on Friday, June 5.

In 2019, the winners were Ashlyn Finley of Pana, McKenna Kull of Shelbyville, and Elizabeth Curtin of Stonington. "Offering these scholarships allows us to give back to the communities we serve and gives us an opportunity to acknowledge the outstanding youth in our service territory," commented Heidi Hall, who coordinates the program for the cooperative.

Applications can be obtained by visiting SEC's website,

[shelbyelectric.coop](http://shelbyelectric.coop) and clicking on the "Community" tab. They are also available from area high school guidance counselors. Please call the cooperative at 217-774-3986 or 1-800-677-2612 if you would like additional information about this scholarship opportunity.

Previous winners provided these tips for filling out scholarship applications: list all of your accomplishments, always have someone proofread your essay, and make sure you accurately and effectively communicate who you are. For more advice, refer back to the February 2017 issue of Shelby News or look under the "News" tab on [shelbyelectric.coop](http://shelbyelectric.coop) and select the "Member Newsletter" link.

If you have not started filling out scholarship applications, now is the time!



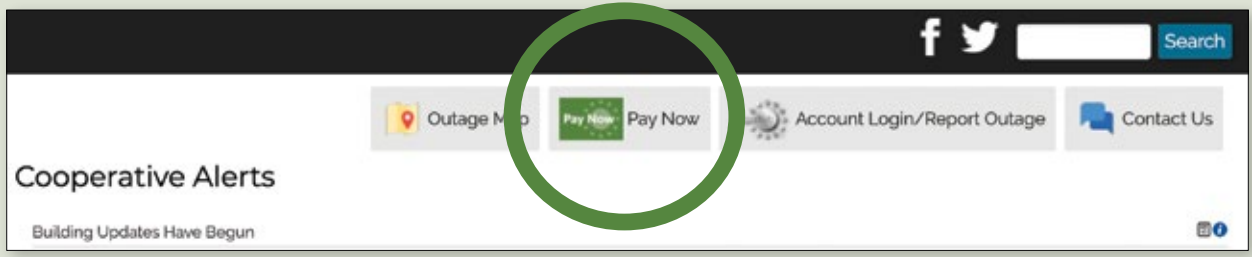
*The 2019 recipients were, pictured from left, Ashlyn Finley of Pana, McKenna Kull of Shelbyville, and Elizabeth Curtin of Stonington.*

# Pay Now feature added to shelbyelectric.coop

Many of you already pay your electric and PWR-net bill from your device via the SmartHub app or through the cooperative's website. However, you do have to sign up for a SmartHub username and password to login.

Now, using a new feature added to the cooperative's website, you can pay without creating a login identity. All you need is the account number and the last name or business name of the account holder. This new feature is called Pay Now, and there is a button found in the upper right hand corner of the home page at shelbyelectric.coop. Click on the Pay Now button, and it will take you to a screen to enter the account number and last name or business name. There is no registration required. It is that easy!

Pay Now is another secure way to pay your electric or PWR-net bill from Shelby Electric Cooperative.



Stay up to date on cooperative news, outages, events, and more!




**SHELBY** News  
Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

**P.O. BOX 560**  
**Shelbyville, IL 62565**  
**Phone: 217-774-3986**  
**or 1-800-677-2612**  
**Pay-by-Phone:**  
**1-855-385-9981**  
**www.shelbyelectric.coop**  
**twitter.com/YourCoop**  
**facebook.com/YourCoop**

**Office Hours:**  
**7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

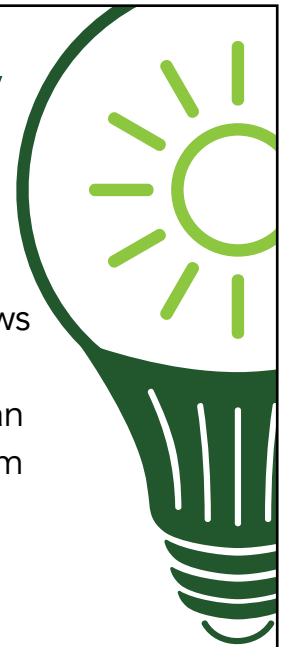


Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Let the sunshine in! For additional warmth, open drapes over windows that receive sunlight during the day. Close them at night, which can reduce heat loss from a warm room up to 10%.

Source: energy.gov



# New Look. New Experience. Same SmartHub.

The SmartHub mobile app now has a refreshed and enhanced look!

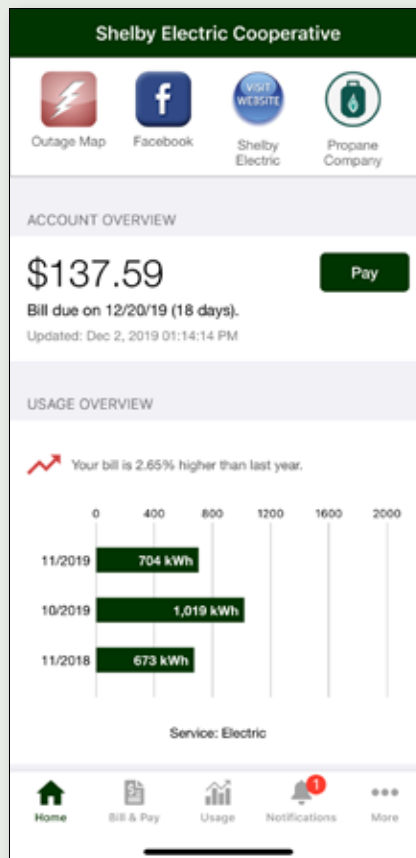
As a co-op member, you know the value of SmartHub. Whether you go online or use the mobile app, there are a lot of features that help you manage your account, from billing and payment info to detailed usage analysis. It is a great tool to help you access your account information on the go or online.

SmartHub recently rolled out a new upgrade for the mobile application, which will help you get to the features you need quickly and efficiently.

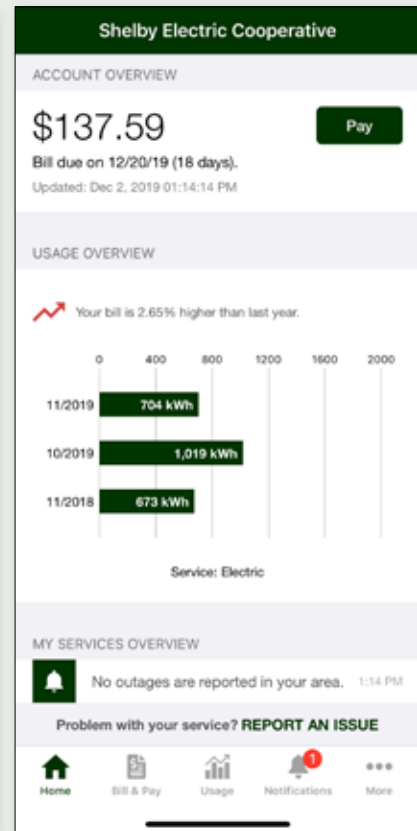
First, you will notice the app has a fresh, new look. When you open the app, you will be able to see your usage analysis right up front, or you can contact the cooperative with the click of a button from the home screen.

Outage and billing alerts will also be displayed on the home screen, making it easy for us to communicate important information with you. Billing, payment, and other features will be available with one click of a button in the new condensed menu.

We hope these app updates will help provide a more user-friendly and



Home Screen



Scroll up to see "My Services Overview."

efficient experience. All of the features you love about SmartHub will still be

available, just with a refreshed look and an enhanced user experience.

## How to read your propane gauge

Shelby Energy Company, the cooperative's LP gas subsidiary, recommends that you learn how to read your tank gauge and develop a habit of checking it on a regular basis.

Look at the gauge attached to the tank with numbers from 5 to 95. Numbers indicate the percentage of gas remaining in the tank. If your tank gauge reads 25 percent or less, call Shelby Energy for a refill at 217-774-2311.



**Shelby Energy Company**  
Serving your LP gas needs since 1994



IF GAUGE READS	NUMBER OF GALLONS REMAINING			
	120 Gal. Tank	250 Gal. Tank	500 Gal. Tank	1000 Gal. Tank
80%	96	200	400	800
70%	84	175	350	700
60%	72	150	300	600
50%	60	125	250	500
40%	48	100	200	400
30%	36	75	150	300
<b>IF GAUGE READS LESS THAN 25% ORDER GAS NOW!</b>				
20%	24	50	100	200

**REAL LIFE REAL POWER**

**Getting Real with Marla and Attic Accesses**

**Things we notice:**

- ⇒ Cold rooms
- ⇒ Drafts
- ⇒ Cold noses and toes
- ⇒ High winter heating bills

**Things we do not notice:**

- ⇒ Holes in our ceilings (attic accesses)



**When was the last time you really noticed your attic hatch, door, or stairs?**

If it was when you brought down your Christmas decorations, that is good! It means you have the opportunity to insulate that access before you stuff the decorations back up there. Otherwise, most of us tend to walk past our attic entrances without ever noticing them or giving them a second thought.

Now that you are curious, take a close look at how tight the attic access door is to its frame when closed. The space between the attic access door and its frame is the most obvious path of air between the attic and the rest of the home. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, a 1/4-inch gap around the perimeter of an attic access can leak the same amount of air as supplied by a room's heating duct. Inspect this area from outside the attic and inside the attic. Depending on

your home's lighting, one view may illuminate a gap that you cannot see from the other side.

If the attic access insulation is determined to be inadequate, you will want to seal or add weather-stripping around the access trim and frame. Next, determine if you want to buy an insulating cover or make your own. Knee-wall doors will benefit from attaching rigid insulation until the recommended R-value is achieved. R-value is a term for measuring a material's resistance to heat flow. A higher R-value equals greater effectiveness.

ENERGY STAR recommends homeowners in northern Illinois insulate their attics to a minimum R-value of R-49 and homeowners in

southern Illinois should insulate to a minimum R-value of R-38. The Energy Code for the state of Illinois requires all new homes to have R-49 attic insulation.

Once you have completed this project, sit down for a long winter's nap and go back to ignoring your attic entrance. Spring will be here ... soon?

⇒ Marla Foor  
Communication Specialist



Sources: [Illinoishomeperformance.org](http://Illinoishomeperformance.org),  
[Energy.gov](http://Energy.gov)

**Shelby Electric Cooperative**

**1-800-677-2612**

**1-217-774-3986**


24-hours-a-day

  @YourCoop

**Shelby Energy Company**

**1-217-774-2311**

24-hours-a-day

 @ShelbyEnergyCo

**PWR-net High Speed Internet**

**1-877-994-2323**

7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Please leave a message after hours

 @PWRnetFast