

# SHELBY News

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## Annual Meeting set for June 9!

Mark your calendars now for Shelby Electric Cooperative's 79th Annual Meeting of Members to be held on Friday, June 9, 2017. This year's meeting will again be held at the Shelby County 4-H Fairgrounds.

Look for your Annual Meeting notice arriving in the mail later this month. The notice will contain information about the Cooperative, a meeting agenda and important registration information. All registered members who come to the meeting will receive a \$10 bill credit. **If you bring your registration card with you and present it at the time of registration, you will receive an \$11 bill credit.**

There will be free blood pressure checks, bucket truck rides, a bounce house, Shelbyville Fire Department smoke house and much more. Sunshyne the Clown and Tim the Twister will be making a return appearance as well. New this year, The Hood Family Band will provide pre-meeting musical entertainment.

As in previous years, a barbecue pork chop dinner, prepared by the Shelby County Pork Producers, will be served between 10:30 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. Registration also begins at 10:30 a.m. with the business meeting scheduled for 1:00 p.m.

See you Friday, June 9, at the Shelby County 4-H Fairgrounds in Shelbyville for your Cooperative's 79th Annual Meeting!



**Shelby Electric Cooperative**  
1-800-677-2612  
1-217-774-3986  
24-hours-a-day

**Shelby Energy Company**  
1-217-774-2311  
24-hours-a-day

**PWR-net Broadband Internet**  
1-877-994-2323  
7:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Please leave a message after hours

# Doug Hall retires after 33 years!

## Hard void to fill

When Doug Hall retired in April from his 33-year career working in the cooperative world, he was Purchasing Agent and Warehouse Manager at Shelby Electric Cooperative (SEC). Doug started his employment with Clay Electric Co-operative, Inc. (CECI) located in Flora, before coming to Shelbyville. Through those years, Doug had worked many positions.

“Whether it was at CECI or SEC, you did what you had to do to help out and get the job done no matter what. It was always ‘put the members first’ and ‘do what you had to do’ for the benefit of the members,” explained Hall.

Doug began his cooperative career at CECI in 1984. Even though his primary responsibilities were working in the warehouse as Purchasing Agent, he also could be found doing yard maintenance, janitorial work and even filling in answering the phones from time to time.

After eight years working at CECI, an opportunity to work for SEC as a Staking Engineer became available. Doug decided to make the move and spent the next 25 years at SEC. “I worked with some great



people at Clay, and it was a tough decision to make. But, I decided to go work for Shelby with [former CECI colleague] Jim Coleman, who had been hired by Shelby to be their CEO,” noted Hall.

Not only did Doug continue his ‘put the members first’ mantra at SEC, he was instrumental in the early stages of bringing DirecTV to the membership. Doug eventually became the Purchasing Agent and Warehouse Manager in 2000. Even with a few different roles at SEC, Doug could still be found working in the mailroom, doing yard maintenance and filling in where needed. “Doug has always been the kind of guy you could count on if the need arose and his contributions to the cooperative will be missed,” said SEC President/CEO Josh Shallenberger.

Over the course of 33 years working in a member-oriented field, one thing that has changed not only for the cooperative but also for its members is technology. “Technology and automation has really changed the landscape for how we do our jobs and continue to meet the needs of the cooperative members,” said Hall. “Not only for the tools to get the job done at the co-op, but also tools members can use to give them control over how they use electricity and communicate with the cooperative,” added Hall.

Commitment to Community is one of the core principles of a cooperative and Doug can be found assisting not only with the cooperative’s community projects but also with other organizations. He assisted with Cookies for the Troops, Balloonfest and many other fundraisers. Additionally, he is a member of the Shelby Sports Club and helps out at the VFW in Shelbyville.

Doug grew up in Flora and is a 1975 Flora High School Alumnus. Doug and his wife of 40 years, Brenda, have one daughter, five sons and nine grandchildren. Family alone could keep Doug busy in retirement but he still plans to find time to play golf, fish, hunt and do some traveling.

Doug and Brenda are also avid NASCAR fans as well as Illini, St. Louis Cardinals and Dallas Cowboy fans. Well, Doug is anyway; Brenda is a Denver Broncos fan.

Doug has many ways to fill his days in retirement; however, he will leave a void that will be hard to fill here at Shelby Electric Cooperative.

*Your cooperative family and friends wish you good health and best wishes. Congratulations on your retirement Doug!*



**Cooperative offices will be closed on Monday, May 29 in observance of Memorial Day**



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



REAL LIFE  REAL POWER

## Getting Real "Smart" with Marla

Technology has introduced us to smartphones, smart meters and now, smart thermostats. Not being so savvy and smart, I thought I would research smart thermostats and share my findings with you in this article. I quickly learned that even more smart technology is being developed and introduced into our homes and lives. Additionally, I learned that there is an acronym for almost everything. A connected person might use their EUD (Energy Use Display) to track their CT (Connected Thermostat) on their HEN (Home Energy Network) in order to consolidate their HEM (Home Energy Management) made possible through the IoT (Internet of Things). Seriously, I did not make up even one of those. Homes may have their own ecosystem of products that communicate with each other and you.

Smart thermostats allow us to wirelessly monitor and control our home's heating and cooling systems. Did you forget to adjust the thermostat in the morning after everyone left for school and work? Maybe you would like to turn the heat up or the air conditioning down before you return home from a vacation. No problem, just adjust it from your smartphone. These connected thermostats may give feedback



regarding energy use, maintenance needs, and track through the user's smartphone when no one is home to make adjustments based upon learned behavior patterns.

Not ones to be left in the dark, LEDs are the most efficient lightbulbs on the market and also the smartest. It is possible to change the color of the light or dim smart bulbs remotely. Through smartphone tracking, they can be programmed to turn off as the user leaves the premises. Smart lightbulbs may provide security by being scheduled to turn on, giving the home an occupied-look and providing safer navigation – no need to stumble through a dark house.

All this smart technology needs an outlet! How about a smart plug? Plug your lights, appliances or devices into the smart plug and control them from your smartphone.

Some will even work with the voice-command devices – “Alexa, turn on the lights/stereo/television/coffee-maker/etc.”

Many of these smart devices provide energy tracking and reporting. If you learn just how much energy you could save with a few adjustments, the return on your investment might come a little sooner.

Keep in mind, smarter isn't always safer. Network security should be seriously considered. Change any default passwords that come with the item(s) and operate any smart devices on a secured wireless network.

All this smart technology makes my head SMART (Smart Minds Are Really Tech-y). Okay, I made up that one.

~Marla Eversole  
Member Services

Mother <sup>of the</sup> Year

Assistant Editor of the Illinois Country Living magazine Valerie Cheatham (far left) poses with Shelby Electric Cooperative member Nancy Agney. Agney, of rural Shelbyville, was recently announced the winner of the 2017

Illinois Country Living magazine's Mother of the Year award. For additional pictures and to learn more about Nancy, see the full story starting on page 22 of this issue. Her daughter-in-law, Kathleen Agney, submitted the winning essay.

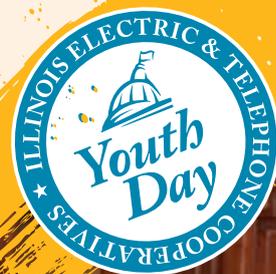
# 18 area students participate in Youth Day

Senator Chapin Rose, Representative Brad Halbrook and Representative Avery Bourne met with 18 students representing Shelby Electric Cooperative (SEC) during the Illinois Electric and Telephone Cooperative's Youth Day on Wednesday, March 29, in Springfield. More than 240 high school students from across Illinois had an opportunity to visit the State Capitol, view state government in action and question their legislators on key issues. "Elected officials always enjoy the opportunity to meet with students and learn first-hand some of their concerns, especially in this current political climate. Many of the issues debated in the Illinois General Assembly affect their future," said Duane Noland, President and CEO of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC). During lunch, Comptroller Susana Mendoza addressed students and chaperones and challenged them to take an interest in the political process and

encouraged them to use their voice and reach out to their representatives and senators. Sophia Marcolla, the 2016-17 Illinois Youth Leadership Council Representative from Adams Electric Cooperative, spoke about her experience on the Youth to Washington Tour and the importance of leadership. While in Springfield, the students also visited the Old State Capitol and Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum. Students were interviewed for the chance to participate in the Youth to Washington Tour, which takes place from June 9 - 16, 2017. Out of the 18 students, two were selected to represent SEC in Washington D.C. Youth Day is sponsored by the AIEC and is designed to introduce young rural leaders to state government. There were 25 co-ops from across the state represented at the event. For more information about the Youth to Washington Tour visit [www.shelbyelectric.coop](http://www.shelbyelectric.coop) and click on the "Community" tab then select "Youth Tour".



*Selected to attend the Youth to Washington D.C. Tour were Natalie Kirkbride of Pana High School and Morgan Braden of Stew-Stras High School. Alternates were Wyatt Henschen of Pana High School and Chase Thies of Stew-Stras High School. Pictured L to R: Henschen, Kirkbride, Braden and Thies.*



*Pictured (L-R) are: Front Row, Abigail Bresnan of Central A & M High School, Natalie Kirkbride of Pana High School, Kyra Jackson of Okaw Valley High School, Sara Stephens of Cowden-Herrick High School, Braxton Vice of Shelbyville High School, Morgan Braden of Stew-Stras High School, Ian Cornahan of Meridian High School, Chase Thies of Stew-Stras High School, McKenna Sanders of Nokomis High School, Lauren Bowers of Shelbyville High School and Senator Chapin Rose. Back Row, Representative Brad Halbrook, Jackson Clark of Neoga High School, Tyler McLain of Central A & M High School, Wyatt Henschen of Pana High School, Colby May of Meridian High School, Garrett Fritz of Okaw Valley High School, Ben Althoff of Neoga High School, Marshall Nohren of Cowden-Herrick High School, Zachary Wieland of Nokomis High School and Representative Avery Bourne.*