

## Shelby Electric Cooperative Offers Three Scholarships

Every year Shelby Electric Cooperative is pleased to award three academic scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each. Scholarships are awarded to a son or daughter of a current Shelby Electric Cooperative member who is receiving electric service from the cooperative at the time the scholarship application is submitted. In 2007 the winners were Stacey Solliday and Scott Nimmer of Taylorville High School and Anna Dowling of Rochester High School.

"We are pleased to be able to provide these outstanding students with an opportunity to be awarded a scholarship as a way to give back to the communities we serve," said Marla Eversole, coordinator of this program for the cooperative.

High school seniors pursuing a college education in the United States are eligible to participate in the program. Scholarships may be used for educational costs at any two-year or four-year accredited college or university, including vocational and technical schools. Candidates are judged on several criteria based on grade point average, college entrance test scores, work and volunteer experience, participation in school and community activities, a biographical statement and a short essay that dem-



2007 scholarship recipients pictured from left to right are Anna Dowling of Rochester, Scott Nimmer of Taylorville and Stacey Solliday of Stonington.

onstrates knowledge of the organization and services of Shelby Electric Cooperative.

March 15 is the deadline for receipt of completed applications for 2008. Scholarship winners will be notified in June.

Applications can be obtained by visiting the Shelby Electric Cooperative

website [www.shelbyelectric.coop](http://www.shelbyelectric.coop) and looking under the "Our Community" menu tab or by calling the cooperative. The telephone numbers for the cooperative are 774-3986 or toll free 800-677-2612. Applications can also be obtained from high school guidance counselors.



## Offices Closed

Monday, February 18 in  
observance of Presidents' Day



# Needs Your Help

The holidays are over and New Year's resolutions are probably an after thought by now; but there is still something new you can do in 2008. Shelby Electric Cooperative has a program that you can participate in that will help a community or a family in need. By participating in Operation Round-UP® you help provide funds to be used for charitable purposes that benefit our communities.

Participation in Operation Round-UP® is easy. On your next electric bill, just check the box in the lower right hand corner of the page, indicating you want to participate in the program. Once you do, the cooperative will round up your bill to the nearest dollar.

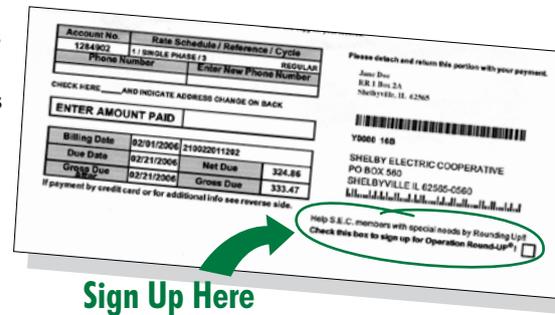
For example, if your bill is \$119.55, the bill would be rounded up to \$120.00, making the contribution 45 cents. Some months your contribution will be more and some months the contribution will be less but you'll never pay more than 99 cents on any one monthly electric bill.

More than two years ago Shelby Electric Cooperative announced its plans to implement Operation Round-UP®. "This is a voluntary program and since its inception participation isn't what we had anticipated," says James Coleman, President/CEO of the cooperative. "More participation is needed and that is why the cooperative is again asking for your help."

It is the intention of Shelby Electric Cooperative to use the funds raised by Operation Round-UP® to assist in purchasing worthwhile items which will provide a continuing benefit for many years. Organizations such as schools, fire departments, police departments, senior citizen centers, libraries, hospitals, the American Red Cross and others all

have needs that are not always attainable without the assistance of others in the community.

Everyone's few cents per month added together can make a big difference in helping others in important ways. Please consider helping out by putting a check mark in the Operation Round-UP® box in the lower right hand portion of your payment stub.



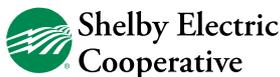
**Sign Up Here**



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

**P.O. BOX 560  
Shelbyville, IL 62565  
Phone: 217-774-3986  
Fax: 217-774-3330  
www.shelbyelectric.coop**

**Office Hours:  
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.**



Your Touchstone Energy® Partner 

## Shelby Energy Now Offering Financing on Generators

Shelby Energy has made the purchase of a Guardian whole house generator easier on the pocket book by offering various financing options. Call them today at 217-774-2311 for more details and to see if you qualify.

"Do you have financing available?" is one of the questions we get asked the most about our generators," said Steve Shoaff, Superintendent for Shelby Energy Co. "We are now pleased to be able to answer that question with a 'YES' when asked," added Shoaff.



**Don't be left in the dark again - get your generator today.**

If you purchase a generator and sign up for the cooperative's Residential Interruptible Rate plan you can save \$200 off the price of the generator and save 15 percent off the energy portion of your monthly electric bill. Call the cooperative for more information about the Residential Interruptible Rate.



PO Box, 560  
Shelbyville, IL 62565  
217-774-3986  
www.shelbyelectric.coop

## 59 Years on the Job - More Than Just a Career for Floyd Sphar

If you were asked what the number 59 meant to you, some might see it as just that a number, maybe to others it's someone's age or the year they graduated from high school or college but to Floyd "Sparky" Sphar, 59 is the number of years he was employed at Shelby Electric Cooperative.

Floyd, affectionately called Sparky by his colleagues and friends, began his career at Shelby Electric Cooperative in 1948.

He started out as part-time summer help putting up poles. "I was working in the gravel pit when a buddy of mine said the co-op is looking for some guys to help put up poles and thought that had to be better than working at the gravel pit," reflects Sphar.

"There would be two car loads of us that would come over from the Lakewood area to do the job and we would put in around 30 poles per day and it took four guys to "pike" the pole into position," he recalls. To pike a pole, linemen used a long stick-like tool to push the pole up into position then other linemen would come through and run the wire.

"We were always wondering how long the job would last as occasionally some of us were getting laid off. I remember someone asking if they would continue to be employed during the winter months and the reply was those that have a hatchet would get to stay. I had a hatchet that same day," laughs Sphar. The hatchets were put to good use as the men cleared right-of-way.

During Sparky's 59-year career he worked under three managers, Wallace "Lefty" Walker, Bill LeCrone and current President & CEO James Coleman.

"When I retired at the age of 62 I told Mr. Coleman I wasn't ready to retire and he said as long as I was physically able to work I would have a



*Operations Superintendent Bill Shoaff presents Floyd with a lineman trophy and congratulates him on his retirement just before he is interviewed for this article.*

job at Shelby Electric," said Sphar. "I had no idea when I quasi-retired I'd put in another 18 years of service."

"Normally you shake hands and give well wishes as someone retires but with Floyd it was almost like shaking his hand and welcoming him as you would a new employee as I was relatively new to the co-op myself when Sparky had the opportunity to retire at age 62," said President & CEO Jim Coleman. "On behalf of our members, directors and employees here at Shelby Electric Cooperative, we wish Floyd a happy retirement and will really miss him here at the office."

"Sparky was self-taught and learned from those before him, much as it was in the early REA days," says Bill Shoaff, Operations Superintendent for the co-op. "When I was hired Sparky trained me and he was a great teacher as well as lineman and friend to many of us, not only at Shelby Electric but also across the state as he helped instruct at linemen

schools put on by the statewide safety department," says Shoaff.

Sparky grew up in Shelby County, graduated from Lakewood High

School and married the late Irma Brownlee in 1947. They had four boys and three girls. When asked how many grandchildren he has, he just pauses for a moment, smiles and says, "a bunch of them."

For many people it is hard enough to leave a job at normal retirement age with all the fond memories and the friendships made; for Floyd "Sparky" Sphar, 59 years of service is more than just a career it is a lifetime of memories, friendships, challenges and successes. Sparky officially hung up his hooks and

retired after 59 years of service to the cooperative back in December.



*Floyd "Sparky" Sphar has no real plans in retirement but says he and his dog, Shelby, will take several walks and drives together. He officially retired in December with 59 years of service.*

# Vicki Blackwell and Laura Cutler Receive Community Leaders of the Month Award

One of the four core principles of a Touchstone Energy® Cooperative is Commitment to Community. Due to their efforts in giving back to the community as volunteers, Shelby Electric employees Vicki Blackwell and Laura Cutler each received the cooperative's Community Leader of the Month award. Both received their awards in separate employee meetings held in November and December.

Vicki received her award for her efforts with the Trick or Treat Safe Halloween project held at the cooperative. Laura Cutler received her award for her efforts with the employee Christmas caroling at two area nursing homes and for her role at a free Holiday concert with Joyful Noise. Both received a \$25 gift card to an area restaurant.

Josh Shallenberger, Vice Presi-



Vicki Blackwell



Laura Cutler

dent of Finance & Office Services for the Cooperative, began this initiative for the office employees back in October 2007.

To be eligible for the gift certificate, an employee must contribute a minimum of four hours of their time to the community each month.

## OUTAGE REPORT

DATE	HOURS	SUBSTATION	CAUSE	MEMBERS AFFECTED
12/3/07	3.00	Blue Mound	Equipment failure	230
12/12/07	2.20	Herrick	Unknown	83
12/16/07	0.13	Shelbyville	Snow storm	370
12/16/07	2.10	Richland	Snow storm	106
12/20/07	0.40	Velma	Miscellaneous	189
12/20/07	1.40	Yantisville	Broken conductor	69

<p><b>Shelby Electric Cooperative</b>                  1-800-677-2612                  1-217-774-3986                  24-hours-a-day</p>	<p><b>Shelby DirecTV</b>                  1-877-994-2323 weekdays                  1-877-241-6605 after-hours</p>	<p><b>Shelby Energy</b>                  1-217-774-2311                  24-hours-a-day</p>
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