

Members Encouraged to Contact Legislators During 71st Annual Meeting

During Shelby Electric Cooperative's 71st annual meeting held in Shelbyville on Friday, June 12, co-op members were encouraged to contact Congress to voice their concerns about legislation that could create a "tax" on carbon dioxide emissions (CO₂). Members were warned that the legislation would be a new tax that could increase the cost of electricity by 101 to 129 percent by 2030.

President/CEO James Coleman said, "The majority party in Congress is attempting to tax the electric industry and other CO₂ emitters through a scheme called cap and trade. It should be called cap and tax."

Coleman said this new tax, despite the talk about new green jobs, would hit the economy hard with a loss of 3 to 7 million jobs as well as drastic cost increases for all fossil fuel energy sources including gasoline, diesel, natural gas and coal. Especially hard hit would be consumers who receive electricity generated by coal. Coal is used to generate 50 percent of the nation's electricity, but the percentage is closer to 100 percent in the Midwest.

"The Energy Committee, headed by California's own Congressman Henry Waxman and Edward Markey from Massachusetts, drafted and recently got approval of legislation that will impose cap and tax

measures on the release of CO₂," said Coleman. "There would likely be a cost applied per ton of CO₂ generated and the emitters would be forced to use or buy credits priced and based on a Wall Street trading scheme.

The cost would ultimately be passed on to you, the consumer, through all sorts of price increases in the products and services you buy."

Coleman said the Obama Administration's budget estimates that \$700 billion will be raised through the cap and trade legislation. However, just 20 percent of that revenue is currently budgeted for solving energy and climate issues.

"We all want a clean environment and a booming economy with plenty of good jobs; but if the climate is in true peril, why isn't all of the money and power of the federal government going to fix the problem?" asked Coleman.

He said 1.6 million rural electric cooperative members from across the country have already urged their elected officials to support changes



During the meeting, Lawrence Oller of Taylorville, James McCoy of Blue Mound and Richard Boggs of Macon were re-elected to three-year terms on the board. Shown above from left are President/CEO James Coleman, Oller, McCoy and Boggs.

in the legislation that would invest in the nation's ability to deliver affordable, reliable electricity with a diversified energy portfolio.

Coleman said, "If you want to have a say in how Congress spends the tax dollars they take you need to act now. You can go to our Web site at: www.shelbyelectric.coop and click on the "Our Energy, Our Future" icon, or you can come to the office and we will help you send an e-mail message. Tell everyone you know, whether they are a member or not. Please let your voice be heard."

Board President Darrell Shumard of Stewardson urged younger members to become in-



volved in the electric cooperative. He said his father, who recently passed away, was involved in the early days of creating the co-op and helped wire many homes in the early days. Shumard said his father would urge him to come to the co-op meetings saying, "You should go because your generation is going to be in charge someday and you need to learn all you can about it."

"And now 20-plus years later I find myself with the same concerns that my dad had back then. And that is getting the next generation to understand the importance of learning all you can to possibly be a good board member someday."

Shumard's uncle Gene Boldt encouraged him to run for the board of directors after Boldt had served for 33 years. "Uncle Gene told me two things that I should know. He said you will meet a lot of really good people, and never forget who you are working for."

Shumard said he can still remember the days of outhouses and party line phones. Now, the co-op is providing high-speed wireless Internet services as well as electricity.

"There are so many things on the horizon for the next generation to face. It will be our job to find those people who can keep Shelby



Chief Operating Officer Josh Shallenberger, left, presents Carolyn Gruen of Pana, \$250 in Shelby Electric Dollars as the grand prize winner at the 71st Annual Meeting of members.

Electric the strong co-op that it is today," he said.

Coleman reported, that although the co-op's investment in DirecTV service had been successful and the revenue from the business helped keep electric rates down for members, the co-op will no longer have control over the service and would be severing its relationship with DirecTV effective July 15. He said the transition would be as smooth as possible and current customers should not notice the change. Co-op employees from the DirecTV business will have a new mission in growing the co-op's Internet service called PWR-net.coop (www.pwr-net.coop).

Coleman said the co-op employees are adding more than 30 wireless Internet customers each month. "This high-speed, very affordable service will in time be available everywhere in our service area." The wireless Internet service will also be used to connect the co-op's line trucks to office data and mapping systems helping improve efficiency and service.

The co-op, along with other electric cooperatives and municipal utilities, has also invested in Prairie State Power Station at Lively Grove, Ill. Coleman said construc-

tion is on schedule and the first unit should be online in 2011. The 800-megawatt plant will use coal mined at the site and use state of the art emissions technology.

Treasurer Richard Boggs of Macon reported electric sales for 2008 totaled \$22.5 million. Total margins for the year were \$2.16 million. Boggs added that at the end of 2008 the cooperative's assets totaled \$54.4 million, liabilities were \$36.3 million and the net value was \$18.1 million.

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Shelby Electric Cooperative is a member of Touchstone Energy® — an alliance of more than 685 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 9,805 members over 2,233 miles of line in parts of Christian, Cumberland, Effingham, Fayette, Macon, Montgomery, Moultrie, Sangamon and Shelby counties. For more information visit www.shelbyelectric.coop.

SHELBY News

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Due to excessive storm damage there is not an outage report in this issue. If you would like to see the outage report for June please stop by the office.

Students Meet Congressman Shimkus

Annon Mahaffey of Beecher City, Katie Pieper of Stewardson and Zach Letizia of Neoga represented Shelby Electric Cooperative in Washington, D.C., during the annual "Youth to Washington" Tour, June 12-19. This event, sponsored by the electric and telephone cooperatives of Illinois, began 50 years ago to introduce rural youths to our democratic form of government and cooperatives.

The students met with Congressman John Shimkus and were among 65 rural Illinois youth leaders selected for the trip. The Illinois students joined 1,532 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 area youth with these opportunities and these three students represented the cooperative well," said Member Services Representative Marla Eversole who oversees the program for the cooperative.

Mahaffey went on the trip as part of the Willy Wirehand program after being selected as an alternate to the trip following Youth Day in Spring-

field in April. Pieper and Letizia were selected winners of the trip that same day.



From left are Annon Mahaffey, Katie Pieper, Congressman John Shimkus and Zach Letizia posing on the Capital steps during the Youth to Washington Tour.

Scholarship Winners Announced

Three area students were each awarded \$1,000 scholarships and recognized during the Shelby Electric Cooperative 71st annual meeting of members on Friday, June 12.

This year's winners were Christopher Waddell and Emily Raab both from Taylorville and Kaitlyn Robinson of Shelbyville.

Christopher is a graduate of Taylorville High School and will be attending the University of Illinois to study crop sciences. He is the son of Kenneth and Linda Waddell.

Emily is also a graduate of Taylorville High School and will be attending the University of Illinois under their honors program for the School of Business in Accounting. She is the daughter of Daniel Raab.

Kaitlyn graduated from Shelbyville High School and will attend

Butler University School of Pharmacy. She is the daughter of William and Ronda Robinson.

"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 notify schools within the cooperative's service territory in January about the 2010 scholarships. You can also learn more about the scholarships on the cooperative's website www.shelbyelectric.coop under the "Our Community" menu tab.



Clockwise from top, Christopher Waddell with Chairman Darrell Shumard, Emily Raab and Kaitlyn Robinson with Shumard.

Important News to Shelby DIRECTV Subscribers

Since the inception of DIRECTV, Shelby Electric Cooperative has been proud to be your local provider. We have worked hard to offer you the best value in television service and the highest level of customer care. Over the years, we have supported new programming packages and popular channels based on customer feedback. As technology came of age, advanced products such as high-definition programming and DVR services to enhance your television viewing experience were added.

As a result of many business factors, Shelby Electric Cooperative has made a decision to exit the DIRECTV business. Beginning August 15, 2009, DIRECTV's national office will provide your programming services and customer care. The Cooperative's Board made this decision after serious consideration with our

membership's best interest in mind. Shelby Electric is confident that our customers will continue to enjoy their DIRECTV service in this new environment and will receive excellent customer care from DIRECTV.

Here is what this means for you:

Within the next month, your DIRECTV services will automatically be switched to DIRECTV's national office. Your DIRECTV programming will remain unaffected during the transition.

You will receive your next programming bill from DIRECTV. Future programming bills will also come from DIRECTV.

After August 15, you should contact DIRECTV at (800) 531-5000 for all of your customer service needs, including required equipment upgrades. Servicing support will be dispatched by the national office,

not Shelby Electric Cooperative.

Since your future DIRECTV invoices will come from DIRECTV directly, please review your new invoice, as this will contain the new remittance address. If you currently use an electronic check or a debit card to remit payment, you will want to update your bank with the new address.

Shelby Electric Cooperative will no longer accept payments after August 31, 2009.

As always, contractual obligations with DIRECTV due to equipment installation will need to be addressed by contacting DIRECTV at 1-800-531-5000.

It has been a pleasure to have been your DIRECTV service provider. We continue to remain a part of the community and hope to have the opportunity to serve you in the future.

REAL LIFE REAL POWER

Save Money as You Keep Cool

Nearly two-thirds of American homeowners use air conditioners to beat summer's heat. Both central systems and window units operate by removing heat and moisture from air by blowing it across a coil filled with a liquid called a refrigerant.

There are several things that you can do to improve the efficiency of central air conditioning. Have it cleaned and checked by a technician every year to ensure that it's operating efficiently. Clean or replace the filter monthly or according to the manufacturer's recommendations, and make sure the outside unit is free of dust and debris.

Set the thermostat at 76 degrees when you're at home, and higher when you're away. Close drapes and

blinds to keep sunlight out. Don't use the dryer, dishwasher, stove or oven during the hottest part of the day. Finally, turn off any electronic devices that you aren't using, because they generate heat.

To improve efficiency with room air conditioners, choose a unit with a variety of fan speeds, so you can select the amount of cooling that you need for the situation. If your air conditioner has a timer, use it to turn the air conditioner before you come home. In addition, be sure that your air conditioner is properly sealed into the window opening.

To see more energy efficient tips visit www.shelbyelectric.coop and click on the "Touchstone Energy Home Savers" home icon.

Now is the Time to SEAL

Shelby Electric Cooperative will help you Seal an air leak in your home.

Stop by the main office on North Route 128 and ask for your **FREE** package of Frost King Poly foam weather seal. One package should fit an average window or door.