

## Highlights of the 74th Annual Meeting of members

Shelby Electric Cooperative held its 74th Annual Meeting of members on Friday, June 15 at the Chautauqua Building in Forest Park, Shelbyville, where members were served a pork chop lunch, heard reports and elected members to the board of directors.

During the meeting members re-elected Richard Boggs of Macon and James McCoy of Blue Mound. In a contested election Brent Lively of Taylorville defeated Lawrence Oller also of Taylorville. Oller had served on the board of directors since 1976.

In his report Board Chairman Darrell Shumard of Stewardson outlined the different costs that make up each dollar in the members' bills. He said that wholesale purchased power equals 61¢, operations and maintenance expenses are 13¢, depreciation is 7¢, administration and general expenses are 6¢, consumer billing and information expenses are 5¢, interest expense is 5¢ and taxes equal 3¢ of every dollar in the electric bill. Although rates have increased along with these expenses Shumard said the board's goal is to have stable rates and reliable power.

"The bottom line is that we have little control over most of these expenses without affecting reliability," said Shumard. "We only have discretionary control of less than 2¢ out of every dollar. This isn't a lot of money out of the total, but the board looks carefully at every dollar spent on your



Re-elected directors (l-r) Richard Boggs of Macon and James McCoy of Blue Mound, joined newly elected board member Brent Lively of Taylorville and President/CEO Jim Coleman of Shelbyville after Shelby Electric Cooperative's 74th Annual Meeting held Friday, June 15 in the Chautauqua Building at Forest Park.

behalf. Your directors are members too and everybody at the cooperative works very hard at using every dollar you pay to get the most value."

"We are seeing dramatic pressure on one of our most abundant energy resources — coal," said Duane Noland, President/CEO of the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives. "The way the U.S. EPA is heading they will eliminate coal as an alternative for new power production in the United States. If you want to make your voice heard on this issue you can go to a website called

www.ourenergy.coop and send a message to the EPA. Let them know that you think coal should be a part of our energy future and it is good for downstate Illinois."

Jay Bartlett, president/CEO of Prairie Power, Inc., the generation and transmission cooperative providing wholesale power to Shelby Electric, said that Illinois alone has coal reserves equal to the oil energy in Saudi Arabia and that the projected market for Illinois coal will double in the next decade.

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## “Annual Meeting” continued from 16a

However, most of that coal will be shipped down the Mississippi River and overseas. “Our current government has taken the stance that we don’t want any more coal plants,” said Bartlett. “That is not what is happening in other countries.”

Bartlett said despite the regulatory challenges, there is good news for energy consumers in the United States that could lead to an increase in jobs from industries that depend on natural gas. “Between affordable coal and natural gas we have some tremendous advantages in the United States. We are really blessed and our cost of energy is going to be very stable.”

Bartlett said the new Prairie State coal-fired generating plant, located near Lively Grove, Illinois and owned

by several Midwest consumer-owned electric cooperatives and municipal utilities, will help keep rates stable. “Unit one came online two weeks ago,” said Bartlett. “This is the cleanest and most efficient coal plant in the world. This plant generates about 40 percent less greenhouse gases than the older coal plant we had to shut down earlier this year. We have a long-term coal supply being mined on the same site so we will not be subjected to market-based rates for coal or have transportation costs. We also, along with two other electric cooperatives, bought 40 megawatts of wind power from a wind farm near Paxton, Illinois. This will also help with our power supply diversification.”

Bartlett said that natural gas has been the biggest game changer in the energy market. “We are now basically the Middle East of the natural gas market. U.S. natural gas is at about \$2, while in Europe it is about \$9.”

He said for comparison if we could run our cars on natural gas it would be like paying 88¢ for a gallon of gasoline. “If you made the same type of comparison for the cost of coal power from the new Prairie State plant it would be half of that,” said Bartlett.

President/CEO of Shelby Electric Jim Coleman said that new regulations are forcing the closure of older coal fired generating plants forcing a decline in the supply of generation. However, the decline in natural gas prices is keeping the short-term market prices for electricity low. Based on past market history Coleman said he didn’t think the low price of natural gas was sustainable and that the attractive rates offered by power marketers today would likely go up in the future.

On a local level Coleman said the co-op’s rate change in January was implemented after conducting two independent cost of service studies by outside consultants. He said, “One unfortunate result of that study highlighted one class of accounts that was significantly out of alignment with the other rate classes. These accounts were for geothermal heating and cooling systems that are separately metered.



Chief Operating Officer Josh Shallenberger, pictured left, presents cooperative member James Vits, of Tower Hill \$250 Shelby Electric dollars as this year’s Annual Meeting grand prize winner.

This class still enjoys a lower price per kWh than the standard residential rate because the compressor can be controlled on peak. While it’s regrettable this class saw a higher percentage increase than average, it was necessary to prevent cross subsidization.”

On the positive side Coleman said the not-for-profit cooperative has paid back over \$5.8 million in capital credits to members. He said, “We only have a little over \$2 million on the books to repay in the future. I believe no other co-op in Illinois has a more aggressive plan to give the members back their money.”

Treasurer Richard Boggs of Macon reported that revenue for 2011 totaled \$30,941,640. However, expenses were also up and the co-op ended the year with a negative margin of \$1,191,292.

Shelby Electric Cooperative is a member of Touchstone Energy — an alliance of more than 735 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 9,927 meters over 2,182 miles of line in parts of Christian, Cumberland, Effingham, Fayette, Macon, Montgomery, Moultrie, Sangamon and Shelby counties. For more information visit [www.shelbyelectric.coop](http://www.shelbyelectric.coop). “Like” our facebook page by visiting [www.facebook.com/YourCoop](http://www.facebook.com/YourCoop).



Chairman of the Board, Darrell Shumard of Stewardson, addresses the members during the business portion of the meeting.

## Cooperative sends two area youths to Washington, D.C.

A.J. Hahn, Jr. of Decatur and Molly Holthaus of Pana represented Shelby Electric Cooperative in Washington, D.C., during the annual "Youth to Washington" Tour, June 15-22. This event, sponsored by the electric and telephone cooperatives of Illinois since the late 1950s, is an introduction to our democratic form of government and how cooperatives operate for rural youth.

"The cooperative is pleased to be able to provide our outstanding area youth with these opportunities and both A.J. and Molly represented the cooperative well," said Member Services Representative Marla Eversole who coordinates this program for the cooperative.

The students met with Congressman Bobby Schilling and were among 75 rural Illinois youth leaders selected for the trip. The Illinois students joined more than 1,500 young leaders from across the country. In addition to the Capitol, they also visited



Students representing Shelby Electric Cooperative were Molly Holthaus and A.J. Hahn, pictured with Congressman Schilling.

Arlington National Cemetery, the Washington National Cathedral, several Smithsonian Museums, the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, the World War II Memorial, memorials to Presidents Lincoln, Jefferson,

Washington and Roosevelt, the National Archives, the Newseum and a number of other historical sites.

To find out more about the tour go to [www.youthtour.coop](http://www.youthtour.coop) or [www.facebook.com/ILYouthtoWashington](http://www.facebook.com/ILYouthtoWashington).

## Shelby Electric Cooperative announces scholarship winners

Three area youths were recognized and awarded \$1,000 scholarships during Shelby Electric Cooperative's 74th Annual Meeting of members, Friday, June 15.

This year's winners were Jana Randolph of Decatur, Karli Robinson of Shelbyville and Max Fransen of Decatur.

Jana is a graduate of Meridian High School and will be attending Ohio Northern University as part of their Pharmacy program. She is the daughter of David and Karen Randolph.

Karli is a graduate of Shelbyville High School and will be attending the University of Illinois to study Animal Science. She is the daughter of William and Ronda Robinson.

Max is a graduate of Meridian High School and will be attending Illinois State University where he will be studying Mathematics. He is the son of Randal and Beth Fransen.



Shelby Electric Cooperative announced the winners of their 2012 scholarships at their 74th Annual Meeting of members. This year's winners, pictured from left, are Jana Randolph of Decatur, Karli Robinson of Shelbyville and Max Fransen of Decatur

"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 begin notifying schools within the coop-

erative's service territory in January about the 2013 scholarships. You can also learn more about the scholarships on the cooperative's website, [www.shelbyelectric.coop](http://www.shelbyelectric.coop) under the "Our Community" menu tab. Like our Facebook page by going to [www.facebook.com/YourCoop](http://www.facebook.com/YourCoop) and clicking on "Like".

REAL LIFE  REAL POWER

# Getting real with Marla

In my ongoing quest to find energy saving ideas for this article, I often look to my own home for inspiration. According to energystar.gov, washing dishes with a new Energy Star dishwasher instead of hand washing can save more than \$40 per year on your utility bills. I am really excited about my research because my dishwasher quit working in late 2011 and has yet

to be replaced.

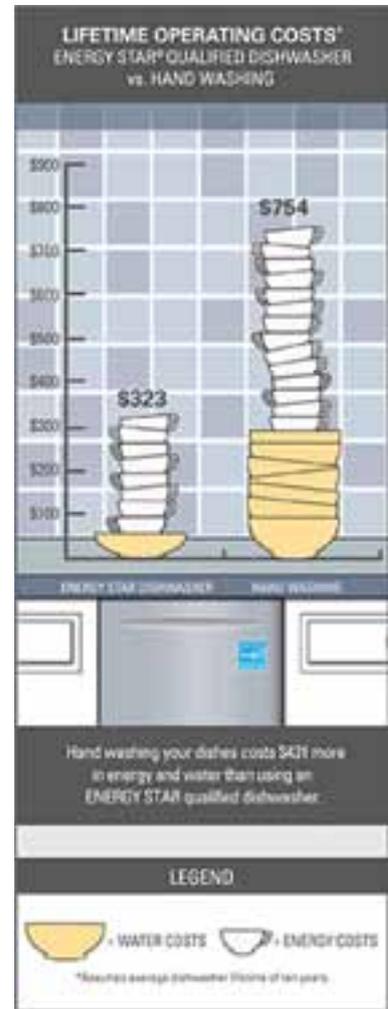
I also learned that by eliminating scrubbing, rinsing and drying each dish, it is estimated that using an Energy Star dishwasher can save over 230 hours of time each year! These dishwashers can also boost the water temperature to 140 degrees which improves disinfection over hand washing.

**To get the most energy savings, follow these tips:**

- **Scrape, don't rinse.** Rinsing can waste up to 20 gallons of water. Energy Star dishwashers are designed to do the cleaning. If dirty dishes sit overnight, use the dishwasher's rinse feature. This feature uses much less water than rinsing by hand.
- **Fill 'er up.** The amount of water and energy used per cycle is about the same regardless of the number of dishes inside the washer.
- **Choose no-heat drying.** Using the heat-drying selection uses more electricity than the fan or air-dry selection.

Can't you just feel my case for the purchase of a new dishwasher sudsing up?

– Marla Eversole,  
Member Services Representative



## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Look to your windows for energy savings. Use weather stripping on old windows, and, if you can, add storm windows. In hot climates, add solar film screening to west-facing windows to catch heat. For new units, consider double-glazed panes; in cold climates, "low-e" coatings on glass can help reduce heat loss. Find more ways to save at TogetherWeSave.com.

Source: Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives

## Dishwasher Trivia

Shelbyville, Illinois is home to the first mechanical dishwasher.

In 1886, Josephine Cochrane said, "If nobody else is going to invent a dishwashing machine, I'll do it myself!"

*Thank you Josephine!*

