

Young leaders represent Shelby Electric in D.C.

Fifty-three young leaders representing 24 Illinois electric and telephone cooperatives boarded buses and departed for Washington, D.C. on June 16 for the annual National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA's) *Youth to Washington Tour*. They joined more than 1,800 youth delegates from across the nation for this annual tradition that has spanned nearly 60 years.

Kristin Partlow of Neoga and Briar Smith of Stewardson represented Shelby Electric Cooperative during the all-expense-paid trip to D.C. from June 16-23, 2023. During *Youth Tour*, they had the opportunity to witness the government in action, meet their elected officials, and see the sights of the capital city.

"*Youth Tour* is impactful in many ways," said Faith Wheeler, youth program coordinator at Shelby Electric Cooperative (SEC). "While these future leaders may have thought it was going to simply be a sightseeing trip to our nation's capital, they returned home with valuable knowledge and memories that will last a lifetime."

The students visited Capitol Hill and met with Congresswoman Nikki Budzinski (D-13) and Congresswoman Mary Miller (R-15). They also visited historical and cultural sites including Gettysburg, Arlington National Cemetery, the Supreme Court, the White House, the National Mall, the Smithsonian Institution, the Holocaust Memorial Museum, Ford's Theatre, and many more memorials and historic sites.

The tour's bus ride to D.C. also allowed plenty of time for co-op education. The students formed a Chip 'N Pop Co-op and ran for seats on the board. The board then interviewed candidates and selected a manager. Traditionally, money made during the trip is returned to the students as capital credits. This year, the Chip 'N Pop Co-op members voted to donate the profits of more than \$200 back to the Youth Tour program.

In addition, students are encouraged to apply to become Illinois' Youth Leadership Council (YLC) representative. The YLC is a yearlong appointment, and Paris Van Dyke of Wabash Communications Co-op was

voted by her peers to represent Illinois' cooperatives at national and state meetings as well as other events in the year ahead.

High school students who live within the service area of SEC are eligible to participate in the annual program. To learn more about *Youth Tour*, go to youthtour.coop or [Facebook.com/ILYouthtoWashington](https://www.facebook.com/ILYouthtoWashington). To see all youth programs offered by SEC, go to shelbyelectric.coop, click on the "Community Tab," then select "Youth Programs."

Since 1964, the nation's cooperative electric utilities have sponsored more than 60,000 high school students to visit Washington, D.C., talk one-on-one with their U.S. congressional delegations and learn from energy and grassroots government education sessions. NRECA is the national service organization representing the nation's more than 900 consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives, which provide service to 42 million consumer-members in 47 states. To see more pictures of this year's trip, go to page 6.



Shelby Electric Cooperative chaperone Faith Wheeler, Kristin Partlow, and Briar Smith visit with Congresswoman Mary Miller.



Youth Tour participants Kristin Partlow and Briar Smith tour the National Mall.



Kristin Partlow, Briar Smith, and Shelby Electric Cooperative chaperone Faith Wheeler visit with Congresswoman Nikki Budzinski.

Farm Progress Show returns to Decatur August 29-31

The Farm Progress Show is back in Illinois this year, and we want to invite you there! The nation's largest outdoor farm event will once again be held at Progress City in Decatur August 29-31. Look for the Illinois Touchstone Energy® Cooperative's exhibit located at Lot 217 on Second Street, between Central Progress and East Progress Avenue, near Gates 7 and 8.

Representatives from Shelby Electric Cooperative and several other Illinois electric cooperatives will be on hand to share information about cooperatives, safety, energy efficiency, and much more. Be sure to catch the Live Line Safety Demo and learn from an expert about electricity and how to stay safe around electrical equipment. There will also be pole-climbing demonstrations on a 60-foot pole.

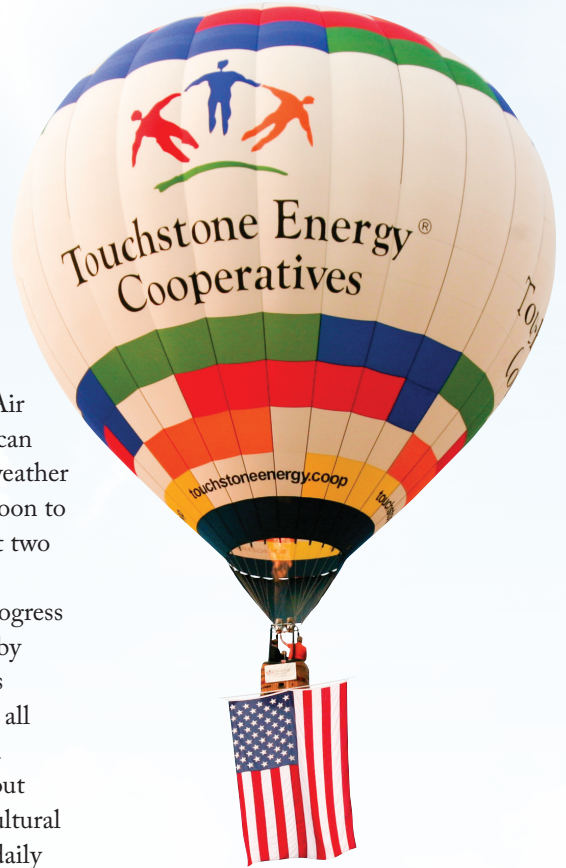
Stop by the booth to check out a couple electric vehicles or climb in a bucket for a photo op. Cooperative

members who present their Co-op Connections Card or show the Co-op Connections app on their device will receive a special gift.

The Touchstone Energy Hot Air Balloon will be flying the American flag each morning of the show, weather permitting. Plans are for the balloon to also fly late afternoon on the first two days of the show.

For over 70 years, the Farm Progress Show has celebrated agriculture by bringing tradition and businesses together. It is where people from all over gather to meet, observe, and learn. Major manufacturers roll out their newest offerings, and agricultural families take a break from their daily routines to immerse themselves in the wider ag community. The show rotates annually between Decatur, Illinois and Boone, Iowa.

Check out Prairie Farmer Magazine or visit farmprogressshow.com to learn more about the 2023 Farm Progress Show. See you soon!



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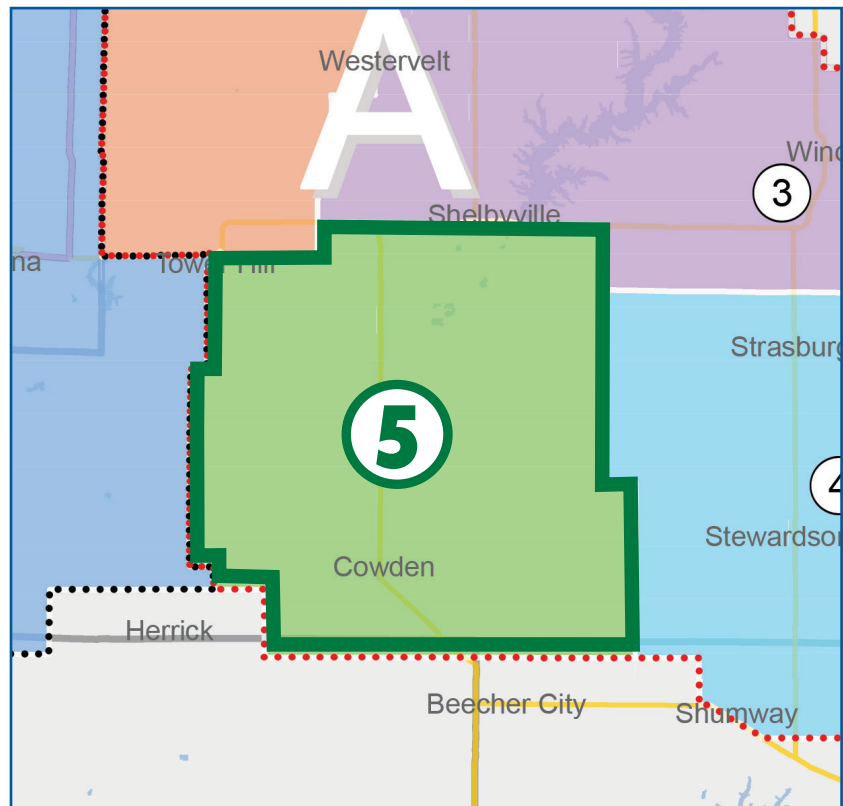


Seeking a Director for District 5

The Shelby Electric Cooperative Board of Directors is announcing a vacancy in District 5. Pursuant to the cooperative's bylaws, the board intends to fill the vacancy and is seeking a Statement of Qualifications from any eligible member residing in District 5. The term to be filled is a three-year term from 2023-2026. Those interested should contact the cooperative's legal counsel, Amy Jackson, by phone at 217-245-6177 or by e-mail at ajackson@rblawyers.net. While there is no deadline for submitting a Statement of Qualifications, the board intends to proceed expeditiously. Interested members are encouraged to respond quickly.

District 5

includes parts of Effingham, Fayette, and Shelby Counties



Trainor awarded Thomas H. Moore Memorial Scholarship

Shelby Electric Cooperative is proud to announce that Sophie Trainor, a 2023 graduate of Shelbyville High School, is one of 15 winners of this year's Thomas H. Moore Illinois Electric Cooperatives (IEC) Memorial Scholarships. She is the daughter of Ellen and Chuck Trainor from Tower Hill. Trainor competed for the scholarship with 292 other students from across the state. The \$2,000 awards are given each year to 14 children of electric co-op members, employees, or directors. A 15th scholarship is reserved

for a student interested in lineworker's college and will be announced at a later date.

Trainor will be recognized during the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives' annual meeting on Aug. 2, 2023 in Springfield.

Candidates were judged on grade-point average, college entrance exam scores, work and volunteer experience, school and civic activities, and a short essay demonstrating their knowledge of electric cooperatives.

Trainor will attend Lakeland Community College this fall.



Sophie Trainor was recognized during the cooperative's annual meeting in June for receiving the Thomas H. Moore Memorial Scholarship.

Annual meeting highlights

Shelby Electric Cooperative (SEC) members gathered at the Shelby County 4-H Fairgrounds on Friday, June 9 for their co-op's Annual Meeting of members. Prior to the business meeting, SEC members were treated to a pork chop dinner served by the Shelby County Pork Producers, music by the Hood Family Band, interactive safety demonstrations by Live Line Demo, and other activities for the children and adults alike.

The business meeting began at 1 p.m. in the Shelby County 4-H Center, where members heard updates from the co-op's leadership. Board



Chairman Robert Holthaus welcomed the members to the meeting and thanked the SEC employees for their hard work over the past year. In honor of Holthaus' late mother, he read an entry from her journal that emphasized the day lights came on in their home, thanks to SEC.

"It was hard going into town for photos and getting five kids ready without electricity. We set up a tub next to a fire to heat up water. You had to hurry to bathe so the next in line could get hot water, too," Mrs. Holthaus wrote. "Thankfully, having electricity made hot water readily available."

SEC President/CEO Josh Shallenberger provided an update on the co-op and emphasized SEC's future. He stated the co-op was created 85 years ago because electricity was

needed in the rural community. Today, rural communities are seeing the same need with fiber. He noted the cooperative is working on funding to build out fiber across its service territory.

Shallenberger commented that in March 2022, SEC and Macon County entered into an agreement to build, operate, and maintain fiber optic broadband on the premises. New subscribers should start being connected in early 2024.

"Over 200 electric cooperatives across the nation are actively building fiber networks for their members. The critical element that enables electric cooperatives to satisfy this need for ubiquitous high-speed internet service in the rural areas is a high degree of organizational alignment," Shallenberger stated.

During the meeting, an election was held for seats on the board of directors. Tim Lenz of Strasburg was elected to a three-year term in District 4. John Gardner of Taylorville was elected to a three-year term for the At-Large B Director. Outgoing



Tim Lenz, Strasburg, newly elected director from District 4 was introduced during the meeting.

directors Brian Halbrook and Larry Durbin were recognized for their years of service to the cooperative and mentoring new board members.

After the meeting, the board reorganized and elected the following officer positions effective June 9, 2023: Chairman, Robert Holthaus; Vice Chairman, Brent Lively; Secretary, David Keown; and Treasurer, Greg Mackling.



At the conclusion of the meeting, prizes were drawn, and Harold Adams from Moweauqua was the grand prize winner of \$250 "Shelby Electric Dollars."