

# SHELBY News

Your Touchstone Energy® Partner

A Shelby Electric Cooperative publication • [www.shelbyelectric.coop](http://www.shelbyelectric.coop)

## Season's Greetings

FROM THE DIRECTORS AND EMPLOYEES OF  
SHELBY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, SHELBY ENERGY COMPANY, AND PWR-NET HIGH SPEED INTERNET



### SHELBY COUNTY **CEO**<sup>®</sup> Visits Co-op


[www.shelbycountyceo.com](http://www.shelbycountyceo.com)

**S**helby Electric Cooperative (SEC) President and CEO Josh Shallenberger recently hosted the Shelby County CEO class at the cooperative's headquarters. Students learned about the history of SEC and how a member-owned cooperative works, and were given a tour of the facilities.

"CEO" stands for Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities. It is an experiential learning-based course that uses community relationships to provide an overview of business processes and development

for juniors and seniors in Shelby County high schools. Throughout the program, students visit local businesses, learn from guest speakers, participate in operating a class business, write a business plan, and, from concept to reality, build their own legal, functioning business.

*Pictured (l-r) Shallenberger, Jake Goralski, Kybe Wheeler, Abbi Hawes, Hannah Reed, Blake Schinzler, Zoe Nichols, Mackenzie Brown, Kaytlin Tucker, Jacob Allen, Jacob Nash, Hannah Hicks, Paig Rentfro, CEO Facilitator Marla Pruemmer, Sydney Sloan, Hannah Langston, and Kayla Stambaugh.*



**Offices Closed**  
 Your cooperative offices will be closed on December 24 and 25 to celebrate Christmas. Offices will also be closed on January 1 to celebrate New Year's Day.



**REMINDER:**  
 December 31, 2019 is the application deadline for the Thomas H. Moore IEC Memorial Scholarships.  
 The LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker's Scholarship deadline is April 30, 2020.  
 Visit [www.shelbyelectric.coop](http://www.shelbyelectric.coop) and click on the "Community" tab for more information or call us toll-free 1-800-677-2612.

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

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## Payment drop box has a new location

As renovations to the cooperative headquarters continue, we want to remind you that Shelby Electric Cooperative, PWR-net, and Shelby Energy Company are sharing the same lobby. To conduct business with any of these companies, please enter through the Shelby Energy entrance (north building).



The outside payment deposit box has also been moved north of the Shelby Energy Company entrance. Electric, internet, and propane customers may use this drop box to make payments. Please make sure to include your account number on the check.



## Promoted

Journeyman linemen Jerry Johnston and Andy McDonald were both recently promoted to foremen. Johnston was promoted to forestry foreman and McDonald was promoted to line foreman.

Johnston started as a groundman in November 2000. McDonald was hired in January 2004 as a DirecTV technician, and in April 2006, he moved to the operations department as a groundman. Both men advanced to journeyman linemen following required training, bookwork, and completed hours on specific jobs.

*Jerry Johnston      Andy McDonald*

*Congratulations Jerry and Andy!*

## Linemen compete in Lineman's Safety Rodeo

No cowboys, horses, bucking bulls, or clowns at this rodeo, just linemen from across the state. Eleven teams of linemen from 10 electric cooperatives and one municipal electric company participated in the 22nd annual Lineman's Safety Rodeo sponsored by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) on Friday, September 27. The rodeo gives linemen the opportunity to showcase their skills in a friendly competition with other lineworkers across the state.

Brian Chevalier, Jamie Sharp, Matt Clark, Dalton Brown, Lucas Morse, and Luke Brown represented Shelby Electric Cooperative at the event held on the Chuck West Lineman Training Grounds at Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield.

Each year, teams of linemen from Illinois electric co-ops and municipal utilities participate in competitive events using skills that focus on agility, speed, and accuracy. While these skills are part of the judging criteria, above all, the linemen are judged on safe work practices.

Line personnel competed in four team events, three individual events, and a head-to-head climbing challenge. Team and individual events included hurt man rescue, egg climb (linemen climb a 30-foot pole with a raw egg in their mouth), and an H-structure obstacle course. Additionally, teams competed in a crossarm change. At the end of the day, individuals competed in a head-to-head climbing challenge and were seeded in a bracket based on their scores from the egg climb.

Scores for each event use a 100-point scale and are based on completion time, proper execution of the task, and safety. Deductions were made to a team or individual's overall performance score due to mistakes such as slipping when climbing poles, dropping tools, or executing inappropriate procedures or methods.

***We would like to congratulate our linemen on their team and individual efforts!***



*Team SEC consisted of (l-r) Matt Clark, Brian Chevalier, and Jamie Sharp.*



*Representing Shelby Electric Cooperative at the 22nd Lineman's Safety Rodeo pictured (l-r) were Lineman Matt Clark, Apprentice Dalton Brown, Lineman Jamie Sharp, Groundman Lucas Morse, Lineman Luke Brown, and Construction Superintendent Brian Chevalier.*



*Construction Superintendent Brian Chevalier won the individual egg climb competition.*



*Apprentice Dalton Brown placed third in the individual apprentice H-structure event.*

REAL LIFE  REAL POWER

## Getting Real with Marla and the **Holidaze**

The pressure to deck the halls with dazzling decorations and perfect presents is gaining momentum like a snowball rolling downhill.

Surveys have found that more than 86 percent of Americans decorate their homes as part of their winter celebrations, spending an average of \$200 on decorations each Christmas season. Displays of holiday cheer can quickly turn into disaster if caution is not practiced. Approximately 14,000 injuries, an average of about 230 injuries per day, are treated in hospital emergency rooms nationwide due to holiday decorations.

Many accidents and injuries can be prevented by creating awareness and safe practices such as the following:

**Candles** – Candle fires peak in December. The top days for residential candle fires are Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve, and New Year's Day. LED lights are a much safer and energy efficient way to rock around the Christmas tree. Get in the habit of never leaving lighted candles unattended.

**Christmas Lights and Extension Cords** – An average of 150 homes are burned, with eight people killed and 14 people injured every year due to incorrect use of Christmas lights. Additionally, more than 3,000 home fires begin with extension cords each year. They are also to blame for about 4,000 injuries treated in hospital emergency rooms.

- Make sure your electricity comes from a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) outlet. This type of outlet will shut the circuit off if there is an overload.
- When decorating outside, only use lights and extension cords that are rated for outdoor use, water-resistant, and labeled with a certification, such as UL. These lights meet national industry standards with the American National Standards Institute.
- Before hanging Christmas lights, plug them in to make sure all the bulbs are working.
- Throw out any items with cracked, frayed or bare wires; loose connections; or damaged lights.
- Keep extension cord connections above ground and away from snow and water.
- Tape down cords where there might be potential walking hazards.

- Do not overload extension cords.
- Never pull the cord from electrical outlets. Pulling on the cord can damage the cord's wire and insulation and even lead to an electric fire.

**Electric Blankets** – Throw away old blankets. The majority of electric blanket and heating pad fires are caused by blankets and pads older than 10 years. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for laundering. Do not run cords under your mattress. Placing cords under the mattress can create friction that may damage the cord or trap excess heat. Keep pets off electric blankets. Cat or dog claws can cause rips and tears, which may expose the electric wiring of the blanket, creating shock and fire hazards.

**Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarms** – Protect your loved ones by giving the gift of combination smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. Almost two-thirds of home fire deaths resulted from fires in homes with no or non-working smoke alarms. Hard-wired smoke and carbon monoxide detectors tie into your home's wiring, which requires professional installation, and usually have backup batteries. Battery-only detectors are the simplest to install, and they work during a power failure. Some models use removable batteries that require annual replacement, while others use sealed lithium batteries that last the life of the detector. Plug-in detectors are also available, but electric outlets are typically located low on the wall, while the optimal placement for the detector is on or near the ceiling.

**Electric Space Heaters** – Baby, it may be cold outside, but before you give a gift of or use a space heater, know that any 1,500-watt space heater will cost approximately 18 cents per hour to operate. Space heaters should never be placed closer than three feet from flammable materials and should have a tip-over safety switch, which automatically shuts off the heater if the unit is tipped over.

The holidays are much jollier without fires, accidents, and injuries. We want to wish all our members a safe and energy efficient Christmas!

~Marla Pruemmer,  
Communication Specialist

Sources: Consumer Product Safety Commission,  
National Fire Protection Association,  
Electrical Safety Foundation International