

## Students representing cooperative attend the Youth to Washington Tour

What do you get when 34 students from 16 Illinois electric and telephone cooperatives join 1,000 of their peers across the United States? You get the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Youth to Washington Tour!

Two students from the Shelby Electric Cooperative (SEC) service territory were selected from a diverse group of applicants to represent their cooperative and enjoy an all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. from June 17-24 as part of the annual Youth Tour.

The 2022 Youth Tour delegates from SEC included: Emilee Rae'Lynn Boyd from Edinburg and Samuel Moore from Moweaqua. On the bus ride out to the nation's capital, the students formed their own cooperative called Chip-n-Pop, where they sold

chips, soda, and other snacks. They also reviewed bylaws, elected a board of directors, and held their own annual meeting. One of SEC's participants, Samuel Moore, was elected to serve as a director on the Chip-n-Pop cooperative board.

The students visited Capitol Hill and met with U.S. Senator Dick Durbin and U.S. Representative Rodney Davis. They also visited historical and cultural sites including Arlington National Cemetery, the Supreme Court, the White House, a variety of memorials, and the U.S. Capitol. Among fun activities the students enjoyed was an assembly of more than 1,000 Youth Tour participants from across the nation.

"Youth Tour is a great opportunity that changes these students' lives," said Josh Shallenberger, President/CEO of

Shelby Electric. "This experience helps prepare them for their futures. After touring our nation's capital, meeting congressional representatives and learning firsthand how our government works, they return home with valuable knowledge, memories, and friendships that will last a lifetime."

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.



*Pictured from left – Congressman Rodney Davis, Samuel Moore and Emilee Rae'Lynn Boyd*



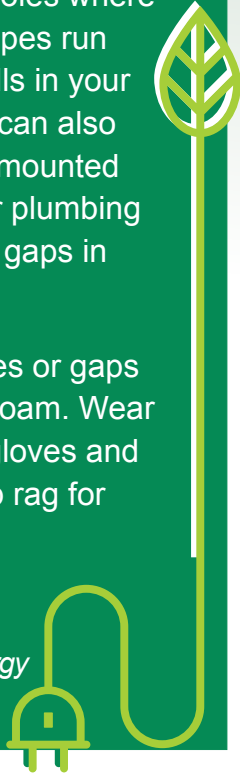
*Thirty-four students from Illinois pose for a picture in front of this colorful cherry tree. Their shirts coincidentally match the color of the tree.*

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

An easy way to save energy is to seal air leaks and holes where plumbing pipes run through walls in your home. You can also check wall-mounted cabinets for plumbing holes or air gaps in the back.

Fill any holes or gaps with spray foam. Wear protective gloves and use a damp rag for cleanup.

Source:  
Dept. of Energy



## SHELBY News

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## Do you smart hub?

**S**martHub is the Swiss Army knife of apps that can be utilized from your personal computer and smart devices. Visit [shelbyelectric.coop](http://shelbyelectric.coop) or download it from your app store to check out all of the handy resources it offers.

From the app's home screen, you may choose to read notifications from Shelby Electric Cooperative, view and pay your bill, or analyze your electricity use. You can also report an outage, view the co-op's outage map, or link to the co-op's website and social media pages all with a few taps from your fingertips.

**Notifications** on the SmartHub website link will allow you to choose the items you wish to be notified about, such as when your bill is available, if an outage is planned for your location, and even when the power has been restored! Some members choose to be notified when their credit card used for automatic payment is due to expire and also receive payment confirmation. Just sign in, click on the **Notifications** tab, and select **Manage Contacts**. After determining whether to receive notifications via email, text, or both, go to **Manage Notifications** and choose to receive outage alerts, as well as any other messages. If you have not set up an account yet, you can do this from the same SmartHub web link.

The **My Usage** button will allow you to explore the kilowatt hours used each week, current and previous billing periods, or annually. For added convenience, you can select the **Contact Us** button, choose a topic, enter the required information, and a cooperative representative will contact you.

If you have any questions about SmartHub, contact the cooperative by calling 1-800-677-2612.

So, how do *you* SmartHub?



## Annual meeting highlights

Shelby Electric Cooperative (SEC) consumer members gathered at the Shelby County 4-H Fairgrounds on Friday, June 10 for their co-op's Annual Meeting of Members. Prior to the meeting, SEC members were treated to a pork chop dinner served by the Shelby County Pork Producers, music by the Hood Family Band, and activities for children and adults alike.

The business meeting began at 1 p.m. in the open-air fairgrounds show arena 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.

SEC President/CEO Josh Shallenberger provided an update on the co-op. He discussed SEC's focus on safety pointing out that the co-op has had five years with no lost time accidents. He also shared information on capital credits, ongoing substation improvements, the upcoming cost of service study, supply chain issues,

affordability, and reliability. "We want to provide you with a stable source of power," Shallenberger said. He also announced that the co-op will be installing fiber optic cable throughout the service territory.

Board Treasurer Katie Ohmes provided the treasurer's report saying that SEC is in good financial condition. She explained in 2021, the co-op had \$33 million in sales of electric service and spent \$20 million on electric service. "That means for every dollar the co-op spent, 64 cents were spent to purchase electricity," Ohmes explained. After all expenses of running the co-op were paid, the total margins for 2021 were \$3,368,716.

During the meeting, results of the election for seats on the board were announced. David Keown of Findlay was re-elected to a three-year term in District 3. Scott Ohmes of Pana was elected to a three-year term for District 6.

In addition, two new seats were added to the board, which was the

result of a strategic planning session in 2018. A bylaw change was made to add the two at-large seats in 2021. "Before this change, Shelby Electric was only one of three distribution co-ops in the state with seven directors. Everyone else had at least nine," Holthaus said. He explained the reason these board seats were added was to help with board succession, prevent large turnover at one time, and to help stagger board seat elections.

Rob Bullock of Shelbyville was elected for a three-year term on the board of directors to represent At-Large A. James Gardner of Taylorville was elected to a one-year term to represent At-Large B. Gardner's seat will be up for election for a three-year term next year.

Following the meeting, the board reorganized and elected the following officer positions effective June 10, 2022; Chairman Robert Holthaus, Vice Chairman Brent Lively, Secretary David Keown, and Treasurer John "Greg" Mackling.



*During Shelby Electric's Annual Meeting, three local men were introduced as newly elected board members. From left, Rob Bullock of Shelbyville was elected to represent At-Large A, Scott Ohmes of Pana was elected to District 6, and James Gardner of Taylorville was elected to represent At-Large B.*



*At the conclusion of the meeting, prizes were drawn and Thomas Graham from Stonington was the grand prize winner of \$250 "Shelby Electric Dollars." Pictured left to right, Board Chairman Robert Holthaus and Graham.*

**REAL LIFE  REAL POWER**

# Getting Real with Marla and Dehumidifiers

Imagine pushing a button and suddenly \*poof\* the humidity is gone and you can enjoy the warmth of summer without the mugginess! That is exactly what a dehumidifier can do for your home.

Humidity affects the “feels like” temperature and your comfort level; but that is not all. Moisture and high humidity may induce mold and mildew. Not only will they create that musty smell, mold and mildew can aggravate allergies and cause damage to building and household materials. Certain insects and pests such as silverfish, cockroaches, camel crickets, and spiders prefer to live in a damp environment, too.

A dehumidifier draws the moisture from the air and collects it in a removable tank or allows it to drain away through a hose. The recommended relative humidity level is 30 to 50 percent in summer months. During the heating season, 30 to 40 percent is recommended.

Will using a dehumidifier cost much? A 50-pint unit will cost about seven cents per hour to operate. How often the unit runs will depend upon how humid the air is, and the size of the space being dehumidified. A larger unit will not need to run as long as a smaller unit, so be sure to purchase a unit that is rated for the area it will be placed. Dehumidifier size is usually measured in pints per 24 hours. Look for the Energy Star label,



which units have earned by using less energy due to being equipped with more efficient refrigeration coils, compressors, and fans.

To help with efficiency, place the unit so there is adequate space for air movement around it. Remember to routinely check on the unit. If not using a hose to drain the water, the tank will need to be emptied. Most units have an indicator light and will shut off when full. Clean the tank, filter, and grill regularly. Follow the owner’s manual for specifications on use and care.

It is also helpful to reduce or eliminate excess moisture in and around your home. Run an exhaust fan when cooking and showering, make

sure your clothes dryer is properly vented outside, repair plumbing leaks promptly, and ensure that rainwater drains away from the house through gutters and landscape design.

Maintaining the recommended relative humidity levels in your home can help with comfort, allergies, fresher smelling air, air conditioning efficiency, and reduce or eliminate mold and mildew damage. It may even help with hair frizzies, at least until you walk outside.

To learn more, check out [energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov) and [dehumidifierbuyersguide.com](http://dehumidifierbuyersguide.com).

~Marla Foor,  
Communication Specialist



## Answers for the electronics word scramble on page 6:

- 1) PHONE CHARGER
- 2) GAME CONSOLE
- 3) CABLE BOX
- 4) POWER STRIP
- 5) TELEVISION