



# Shelby Energy Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

September 2017

## 2017 Washington Youth Tour



Eighty-three of Kentucky's best and brightest rising high school seniors descended upon the nation's capital in June, representing electric cooperatives on the annual Washington Youth Tour.

Shelby Energy sponsored three delegates on the week-long experience: Hannah Cleary, Zack Graas, and Mathew Munsterman.

The journey began with visits to the homes of Thomas Jefferson and George Washington, followed by more than 40 miles of walking to monuments and museums in Washington, D.C.

Kentucky's delegation joined a record crowd of 1,800 students at the NRECA Youth Day, where they heard from speakers who motivate and honor the spirit of electric cooperatives' commitment to community and the important role of being politically aware and politically active.

"Traveling to D.C. for the very first time with this group of rural electric cooperative students was exactly the way I would've wanted to do it," says Cleary. "Touring Washington D.C. was an utterly amazing experience, from the Lincoln



*Dr. John Baird Foree, a veterinarian in Henry County, sent us this photo of the Shelby RECC Washington Youth Tour participants 50 years ago in 1967. From left are David J. Foster, John Baird Foree, and Jerry Martin.*

Memorial to the Sunset Parade to Ford's Theatre and the Washington National Cathedral."

The students visited Capitol Hill on the same day as the shooting of Louisiana Congressman Steve Scalise and four others at a baseball practice. Despite the incident, Kentucky's congressional delegation kept their commitment to meet with the students, candidly talking about security concerns and answering a wide variety of questions from the students.

After his discussion with the students, U.S. Representative Thomas Massie, who holds 29 patents, talked privately with Shelby Energy student Munsterman about their shared love of inventing.

"It allowed me to have a one-on-one experience with him, let me talk with him, and really got to know what my options are," Munsterman says, "because I didn't know that an inventor could go into politics."

"This tour was an experience that I wouldn't trade for the world," says Graas. "I want to thank Shelby Energy for sponsoring me and allowing me to have the time of my life."

Coordinated by the Kentucky Association of Electric Cooperatives, the tour was led by KAEC's Mary Beth Dennis and 13 chaperones.

"I just want to say a 'ginormous' thank you to Shelby Energy for providing me with this experience of a lifetime." Cleary says.

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ashley Chilton • Chairman  
Roger Taylor Jr. • Secretary-Treasurer  
R. Wayne Stratton • Diana Arnold  
Pat Hargadon  
Debra J. Martin • President & CEO  
Donald T. Prather • Attorney

### Shelbyville Office Hours

Monday – Friday:

7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Mailing Address: 620 Old Finchville Road  
Shelbyville, KY 40065-1714  
(502) 633-4420

### Bedford Office Hours

Office closing 9/15/17

Monday – Friday: 7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

closed for lunch from 11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.  
(502) 255-3001

### Remote Payment Centers

Henry County Supply

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Tuesday, Thursday: 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Saturday: 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Riverside

Smoker's Friendly

Monday - Thursday: 8:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Friday and Saturday: 8:00 a.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Sunday: 9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Poppy's General Store

Location Opening 9/15/17

24 Equity Drive, Bedford, KY 40006  
(502) 663-6028

Mon. – Sat. 5:30 a.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Sunday 12:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

For information or to report an outage

**1-800-292-6585**

Visit our website at:

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



Email: [shelbyenergy@shelbyenergy.com](mailto:shelbyenergy@shelbyenergy.com)

### Online Bill Pay:

Access your Shelby Energy account  
through our website at  
[www.shelbyenergy.com](http://www.shelbyenergy.com).

Click on "Online Bill Pay" to view your  
electric bill and make payments by debit  
card, e-check, Visa, or MasterCard.

All members signing up for new service  
with Shelby Energy receive a short survey.  
Members who return the completed survey  
to Shelby Energy are automatically eligible  
to win a one-time \$20 credit on their electric  
bill. Each month, one name is drawn and a  
lucky Shelby Energy member receives a bill  
credit on their next statement.

The new connect survey winner for June 2017 is  
James Rennitt of Bedford, KY.

# A Fantastic Story:

## *The birth of rural electrification*

It's given little thought these days but, there was a time when rural America, as well as Kentucky and our own community, was dark. There was no electricity to light the barn, the house, or even the schools not to

mention charge your cell phone. Try to imagine that.

On May 11, 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt established the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) which made it possible for rural areas to obtain loans to build electric lines at a time when only 10.9 percent of the nation's farms had central station electric service. It was farmer-based cooperatives that applied for the loans, not investor-owned utilities that had been lighting the cities for years. REA realized electric cooperatives would be the entities to make rural electrification a reality.

Kentucky's first electric cooperative was the Henderson County Rural Electrification Association in western Kentucky. It was such an important day on May 19, 1937, that the Governor of Kentucky, A.B. "Happy" Chandler, threw the switch that electrified the lights on a utility pole during a highly attended ceremony where they also buried the coal oil lamp.

Once that first switch was thrown, life for us changed dramatically.

The six men, Alex B. Veech, Howard Pearce, G.T. Kent, Ralph Scarce, Guthrie Jesse, and William C. Dale, that founded what was once called Shelby RECC, now Shelby Energy Cooperative, were also very much a part of that dramatic change. When Shelby Energy was incorporated on June 23, 1937, the pioneers of our electric co-op went door to door and into the far reaches of the service area to sign folks up for this wondrous electric service. They also worked diligently to obtain



rights-of-way so electric lines could be strung. Even though it was expensive for many, a \$5 membership brought the electric lines to the home. In January 1938, the first pole was set on the George Demaree farm on Burks Branch Road. Then, in May 1938, the first section of line (58 miles in the northwest corner of Shelby County) was energized.

Quality of life grew exponentially with access to electricity. Electric appliances for the home and machinery for farms and businesses allowed our families and neighbors to establish permanent homes. Our communities grew and Shelby Energy is still proud to this day to be able to provide safe, reliable, and affordable electric service to over 12,000 members.

As we celebrate our 80th anniversary this year, we share our appreciation for those who had the vision and foresight to establish the cooperative so many years ago. We, also, share our appreciation for the members and the communities we serve. Thank you for the opportunity and the privilege to be Your Energy Family!

Debra J. Martin  
President & CEO  
Shelby Energy  
Cooperative



# Rate increase granted for Shelby Energy

On July 31, the Kentucky Public Service Commission (PSC) approved a rate increase for Shelby Energy Cooperative.

Based on the average residential usage of 1,340 kWh per month, the average bill for residential members will increase \$7.90 from \$128.90 to \$136.80 per month, or 6.1 percent. The rate increase took effect July 31, 2017.

The last rate increase for Shelby Energy Cooperative took place over

seven years ago. Increased cost of materials and construction, a more aggressive approach to maintaining the right-of-way to improve reliability, and the increase in interest expense on long-term debt are some of the factors contributing to the requested increase.

Within the application filed in February this year, Shelby Energy asked for rates to increase gradually in three phases over a three-year period, but the PSC ruling found that the increase should take place “in one step”.

“The PSC agreed we needed to improve finances to meet loan obligations and operational needs,” says Debra Martin, president and CEO of Shelby Energy. “We’ve taken steps to control costs by reviewing our operations and working to be more efficient and effective for the benefit of our members. We continue to be dedicated to our mission of providing our members with safe, reliable, and cost-effective energy.”

## Look up during the fall harvest

While harvesting soybeans on a fall afternoon, a young Kansas farmer named Zachary Short drove an auger boom that accidentally came into direct contact with power lines.

Miraculously, he survived the 7,200 volts of electricity that jolted his body and a mistake that changed his life forever. At the time, he was 24 with a wife and baby girl.

Zach’s safety journey included losing his legs, months of physical therapy, and time spent in a hyperbaric chamber to heal wounds from skin grafting. Today, he is thankful to be alive.

Farming is one of the nation’s most hazardous occupations and many farm hazards are related to electricity. Nationally, about 35

farmers are electrocuted each year.

That’s why it’s so important to always be aware of your surroundings when operating any equipment that could come in contact with overhead lines.

To be safe during harvest, look up and keep equipment at least 10 feet away from power lines and utility structures. If you are harvesting corn or soybeans this fall, be especially careful that the grain spout stays well below and clear of any overhead lines.

Before moving farm machinery, walk around the entire vehicle and look for hazards. Be aware of



guy wires, transformers, and meter sockets.

Being aware of farm safety can prevent injuries, save a life, and eliminate pain and suffering. Shelby Energy cares about your safety. Be alert. Be safe.



**Shelby Energy offices will be closed Monday, September 4th in observance of the Labor Day holiday. We hope you have a safe and happy holiday weekend.**

# Shelby Energy Cooperative Closing Bedford Office 9/15/17

After an extensive evaluation based on safety, efficiency, and cost effectiveness, the decision has been made to close Shelby Energy Cooperative's district office in Bedford, Kentucky on Friday, September 15, 2017. This was not an easy decision by the board and management, but the safety of our employees is our top priority. Although, Shelby Energy will no longer have a physical office in Trimble County, we will continue

to provide local payment services through a new remote payment center being installed at Poppy's General Store, 24 Equity Drive in Bedford, Kentucky.

The office, located in Shelbyville, Kentucky, will continue to be available Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The 24-hour answering service will remain available to all members, when needed. Members may also take advantage of other payment options we offer

including bank-draft service, payment by telephone, on line payment ([www.shelbyenergy.com](http://www.shelbyenergy.com)) or mailing your payment to P.O. Box 309, Shelbyville, KY 40066.

During this transition and afterwards, it is Shelby Energy's goal to continue that same quality customer service to those affected and to all members. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to call our office at (800) 292-6585 and we will be glad to assist you.

## Shelby Energy Remote Payment Locations



### Henry County Supply

1497 Campbellsburg Road  
New Castle, KY 40050  
(502) 845-5620

Mon., Wed. & Fri. 8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.  
Tues. & Thurs. 8:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.  
Saturday 8:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.  
Sunday–closed



### Poppy's General Store

24 Equity Drive  
Bedford, KY 40006  
(502) 663-6028

Mon.–Sat. 5:30 a.m.–9:00 p.m.  
Sunday 12:00 p.m.–9:00 p.m.



### Riverside Smoker Friendly

18 Coopers Bottom Road  
Milton, KY 40045  
(502) 268-3120

Mon.–Sat. 8:00 a.m.–8:00 p.m.  
Sunday 9:30 a.m.–6:00 p.m.

## The Hole Truth

A leak here... A crack there... No big deal, right?

**Wrong.** Add up all the leaks in your home – around windows and doors – and it can equal a three-inch hole in the wall. That's your hard-earned heating and cooling dollars slipping outside.

You can find and seal those leaks by asking us about the Button-Up program. You'll save energy, money, and be more comfortable by making the suggested improvements. Plus, you may qualify for a rebate through participation.

Call us or visit [www.shelbyenergy.com](http://www.shelbyenergy.com) to find out more.



A Touchstone Energy<sup>®</sup> Cooperative

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

