

POWERLINE

A monthly newsletter for co-op members of Corn Belt Energy

January 2012

2012: Year of the Cooperative



Last year, the U.S. Senate—building off similar action by the United Nations General Assembly—designated 2012 as International Year of Cooperatives. As a result, cooperatives everywhere are celebrating our unique not-for-profit, member-owned and -controlled business model.

If you read the POWERLINE regularly, then you know Corn Belt Energy is an electric cooperative; you and the 33,000+ households and businesses who receive electric service from us are member-owners, not just customers.

Because you and your fellow members govern how Corn Belt operates, our top priority remains providing safe and reliable service and keeping your electric bills affordable. Local control also means we're in the business of improving the quality of life in the communities we serve, from offering classroom grants to advice on how you can make your home or business more energy efficient.

Started in the 1930's and 40's to bring electricity to rural areas, electric co-ops are just one type of cooperative operating in America. Dairy cooperatives produce nearly 90% of our nations' milk. Credit unions are cooperatives, too, with more than 8,000 across the country serving 91 million consumers. You can also find housing, hardware, and even funeral

co-ops throughout the U.S. Some agricultural marketing cooperatives have become household names, including Sunkist, Ocean Spray, and Blue Diamond Almonds.

Together, all of us are a key part of our local economy. We provide good jobs to folks who live right here—your neighbors and friends. We deliver goods and services that keep our communities humming. We're happy to lend a hand when we're able, and we enjoy being involved with local schools and community organizations.



At Corn Belt, we return any excess profits, called margins, to you in the form of capital credits. That money then gets reinvested locally—perhaps at a grocery store or other retail outlet, which in turn allows the owners to hire more people. To date, more than \$11 million has been returned to member-owners, including over \$4 million that was returned in 2010.

While not a new concept—Benjamin Franklin started the first cooperative called the Philadelphia Contributionship for the Insurance of Houses from Loss by Fire in 1752, which still operates today—the cooperative form of business continues as an integral part of our lives each day.

Safety Demonstrations

Live Line Demo recently presented several safety demonstrations to kids and first responders in Corn Belt territory.



On November 16th, Live Line owner Kyle Finley presented at Putnam County Grade School, then held a more detailed evening demonstration for 40 area first responders and emergency personnel.

The next day, Kyle promoted electric safety to Tri-Valley middle school students and then gave a more detailed presentation to 50 emergency workers at the Downs Fire Department.

Water Heater REBATES

If you're purchasing a new electric water heater, Corn Belt can help defray the cost.

Buy an electric 40-gallon water heater and you'll receive a \$100 rebate; purchase a 50-gallon or larger unit and we'll give you a \$125 rebate. You can purchase your water heater from any retailer, and we encourage you to buy an energy efficient model with good insulation.

To claim your rebate check, send a copy of your receipt to:

Corn Belt Energy
Attn: Justin Stuva
1 Energy Way
Bloomington, IL 61705-6356

Make sure the receipt indicates the size of the water heater and include your Corn Belt account number.

The Card with **EVEN MORE** Savings!



The free Co-op Connections Card you rely on for prescription discounts and offers at over 180 local businesses just got even better! Check out these additional FREE benefits:

Prescription and Healthy Savings Discounts

Our highly successful prescription discount offer is now joined by discounts on dental, vision, hearing, lab work and chiropractic care. Best of all, you get all these great benefits for FREE as a valued co-op member!

Visit our website at www.connections.coop/cornbeltenergy to learn more about each of the discounts, locate participating providers and to print a temporary card. Please note the first time you use it, you must set up an account using the member number on your card back to access the provider locator site. Corn Belt Energy's member number is 142407524.

Don't forget to use your free Co-op Connections card to save 10% to 60% on prescriptions not covered by insurance at participating pharmacies including CVS, Walgreens, Wal-Mart, Target and many more! Simply present your card with your prescription at any participating pharmacy and pay the discounted price; no additional forms or paperwork are needed. Visit www.connections.coop to search for participating pharmacies and compare drug prices.



myVIPsavings.com

MyVIPsavings.com is an amazing Internet Mall where you can enjoy convenient shopping and exciting savings at over 1,000 of your favorite online stores including Walmart, Macys, Best Buy and Target just to name a few! Plus, you'll receive

CashBack dollars on every qualifying purchase! Look for special deals of the day on your VIP homepage and specials like double cash back. You can even print out in-store coupons! All of these savings are made possible by your local electric cooperative.

Learn more by clicking the orange "My VIP Savings" button on the left at www.connections.coop/cornbeltenergy.

Need a card? Call us at 1-800-879-0339 or email your address to marketing@cornbeltenergy.com.



education GRANTS program

Corn Belt Energy is now accepting applications for our 2012 Education Grants Program. Four schools that serve children of Corn Belt electric members will each be awarded \$1,000 to fund innovative programs that enrich students' education.

Teachers and administrators of public or private K-12 schools may apply; the facility does not need to receive electricity from Corn Belt Energy, but must serve children of our members. Multiple projects within the same school can be combined to a total of \$1,000. Applications and further details can be found online at www.cornbeltenergy.com under "Community."

An impartial panel of judges will review the grant applications and preference will be given to projects and programs that enhance learning and are not currently being funded through the school's budget.

The application deadline is March 31 and the grants will be awarded in late spring.



Youth to Washington Tour

Your child or grandchild could go on the trip of a lifetime!

High school sophomores and juniors with a passion for leadership and government are encouraged to apply for an all-expenses-paid trip to Washington D.C. in June!

Corn Belt Energy cooperative members (*anyone who currently receives electricity from Corn Belt Energy*) are welcome to nominate a child or grandchild to attend the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. Up to 10 applicants will be selected by an impartial panel of judges to attend Illinois Cooperative Youth Day in Springfield on Wednesday, March 28, 2012.

From that group, two students will be chosen to represent Corn Belt Energy by attending the Youth to Washington Tour, an all-expense-paid trip to

Washington D.C. from June 15 - 22, with other statewide winners.

The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour has been bringing high school students to Washington D.C. for over 50 years. On the tour, students will learn about electric cooperatives, American history and U.S. government and walk away with a greater understanding of their role as an American citizen. They participate in National Youth Day, visit with their representative and senators, and explore the sights around the nation's capital.

Applications can be found on our website at www.cornbeltenergy.com under "Community." Applications must be received by February 17.



Contact Us

1-800-879-0339

Call this number to report an outage and call from a phone associated with your account if possible.

LOCATION

1 Energy Way
Bloomington, IL 61705

OFFICE HOURS

8:00 AM - 4:30 PM
Monday - Friday

cbec@cornbeltenergy.com
www.cornbeltenergy.com



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Committee Accepting Board Nominations

The Nominating Committee will meet at the Corn Belt Energy office on Monday, January 30, 2012. Any cooperative member who is interested in being nominated to the Board of Directors should contact a committee member below prior to the meeting:

- Owen Arvin, 96 County Rd 1830 E, Carlock 61725
- Peter Borowski, 3017 Thornwood Lane, Bloomington 61704
- Gary Golden, 27143 US Hwy 150, Le Roy 61752
- Robert D. Haas, 3173 Hilltop Drive, Clinton 61727
- R.D. Henry, 315 County Road 2600 E., Hudson 61748
- Gene Hoffman, 1202 Middle Creek Road, Clinton 61727
- Brad Johnson, 1499 N 2550th Road, Ottawa 61350
- Kim Kannaday, 2106 Longwood Lane, Bloomington 61704
- Terry Longman, 1478 County Road 2600 East, El Paso 61738
- Gary Moncelle, 20401 PJ Keller Highway, Lexington 61753
- Alan Peters, 3316 E. 3rd Road, LaSalle 61301
- Charles Read, 17243 1600 East Street, Princeton, 61356
- Arlis Springer, 25349 Litwiller Road, Delavan 61734
- Kenneth West, 2244 Knox Road 2250 E., Victoria 61485

The committee can nominate no more than two individuals for each expired Directorship. The terms of the following Corn Belt Energy Directors will expire at the 2012 Annual Meeting on June 22:

- James E. Adams – District 1
- Janice Reimer – District 1
- Charles Meisenheimer – District 7
- Gary Archey – District 4

As an alternative, any active cooperative member may also be nominated for election by petition. Any fifty active members of the Cooperative, by their petition, may propose the name of any qualified member as an additional nominee. The nominated person must have active service in the Board district of the vacancy, and no other Directors can live in the same township. Petitions to nominate Directors must be filed at Corn Belt Energy's office no later than April 22, 2012.

The election to fill the Director seats will occur at the Annual Meeting, scheduled for Friday, June 22, 2012, at Central Catholic High School in Bloomington. The detailed procedure for choosing a Director is stated in our corporation bylaws, which can be found at www.cornbeltenergy.com under "About Us."

75 Years of Co-op Service

Dan Beard



Recently, Corn Belt celebrated the enduring careers of two linemen, who collectively have served the cooperative for $\frac{3}{4}$ of a century.

Underground Foreman Dan Beard officially retired in October after 34+ years of service.

In November, Maintenance Foreman Jim Dustin retired after more than 40 years of dedication to the co-op.

We are grateful for their commitment and loyalty displayed throughout the decades. We wish Dan and Jim all the best as they enjoy their retirement years!



Jim Dustin