

# POWERLINE

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

April 2016

## *Teaming up to bring you safe, reliable electricity*

National Lineman Appreciation Day is Monday, April 11, 2016. Corn Belt Energy would like to recognize the people who often work in inclement weather conditions to ensure our members have safe, reliable power. Line crews are often first responders during storms and other catastrophic events, working to make the scene safe for other public safety officers. While linemen perform their job functions out in the open – whether it is restoring power after a storm, maintaining the lines or building new service – there is a lot more work taking place behind the scenes.

### **The power behind your power**

Linemen out in the field work with thousands of volts of electricity high atop power lines 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, to keep electricity flowing and maintaining the energy infrastructure. Another “powerful” figure in the co-op is Don Taylor, President / CEO. Similar to the head coach of a team, he ensures that all the players (employees) know their roles and perform them at a high level. Corn Belt Energy also has two Vice Presidents that serve as the team captains leading the employees.

### **Promoting a culture of safety**

The operations and engineering departments ensure that the overall system is well maintained. This team is responsible for planning ahead for future needs and continually monitoring existing equipment and resources. An equally important area of focus is safety. Working with electricity is an inherently dangerous task, and helping to foster a culture of safety for all workers is a major priority.

### **Scoring with energy efficiency and other programs**

The member service team utilizes programs and services to help you win with energy efficiency. When you call Corn

Belt Energy, member account representatives answer calls and questions about billing and energy use. The member services department works with you to identify high use periods and discuss ways to save on the monthly bill by utilizing our programs and services. Corn Belt Energy employees also coordinate the co-op’s annual meeting, provide communications such as this newsletter, and interact with community organizations, including schools. Examples of community centric programs offered by Corn Belt Energy include education grants, youth scholarships and an educational trip to Washington, D.C. as part of the co-op’s Youth Tour program each summer.

### **Delivering savings**

The accounting and finance department is responsible for the financial well-being of Corn Belt Energy. It includes billing, collections and overseeing any loans the co-op has received. As you know, the co-op generates an electric bill that we send to you either electronically or through regular mail.

While we are a member-owned cooperative and operate differently than investor-owned utilities, we are still a business. As such, the accounting department ensures that revenue collected from the membership exceeds our expenses. Typical expenses include the money we pay for electric power, equipment, new technology, upgrades to the infrastructure, employees and other expenditures.

### **Training and recruiting to better serve you, our members**

The human resources department is responsible for all personnel associated with our co-op. They handle the recruiting, hiring, retiring, benefits and initial orientation as well as training for all employees. Continual learning and training for co-op employees is crucial to having a

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## *Teaming up to bring you safe, reliable electricity*

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skilled workforce that helps keep the co-op operating at an optimal level. This learning element is also one of the Seven Cooperative Principles and extends to our members.

### **Working cooperatively**

Many different people and departments work closely together to serve you because you, the member, are at the heart of

everything we do. Unlike other types of businesses, as a cooperative, our concern for community is one principle that sets us apart from other businesses. From supporting charities such as United Way to supporting new jobs and industry through our economic development efforts, we stand as a driving force in our community. The electricity we provide literally powers our

communities. And it takes every person in the co-op, to deliver on this promise. Across the country, Corn Belt Energy, together with 900 other electric cooperatives, provide safe, reliable and technologically advanced service to 40 million Americans while maintaining a unique consumer-focused approach to business.

## Energy efficiency rebates

Find energy efficient rebates and incentives that may apply to your home, business, farm or school. Rebates include lighting, HVAC, geothermal, heat pump water heaters, commercial and industrial. These savings are available through Corn Belt Energy's power supplier, Wabash Valley Power Association. Learn more about the rebates at [www.powermoves.com](http://www.powermoves.com) or by calling us at 800-879-0339.

## Protecting your home from power surges

Bad weather can really change our plans, even causing schools and businesses to close. It used to be that when Mother Nature gave us a storm, you'd be rushing around the house, unplugging the television and the computer. As you know, when Mother Nature gets a little wild, she can cause damaging power surges over your electric lines, phone lines and even TV cable.

Corn Belt Energy can help protect your home from the threat of power surges which could damage your valuable electronics and appliances.

For more information, please visit our website at [www.cornbeltenergy.com](http://www.cornbeltenergy.com) or call us at 800-879-0339.



**Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.**

**Always call JULIE at 8-1-1 to  
have underground utilities  
located before you dig.**



## LIVE LINE DEMO ELECTRICAL SAFETY EDUCATION

Have you ever wondered how a bird can sit on a power line and not get electrocuted? How do tree limbs that fall on the power lines impact service? What do you do if you encounter a downed power line? Live Line Demo answers these questions and many more about electrical safety.

By utilizing live electricity and real life scenarios, presenters teach the audience about electrical safety. Live Line Demo, Inc., provides electrical safety demonstrations to help educate businesses, schools, first responders, as well as many others.

For more information about the Live Line Demo safety demonstration and how you can bring it to your event, please contact Corn Belt Energy at 800-879-0339.





## 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](mailto:cbec@cornbeltenergy.com)  
[www.cornbeltenergy.com](http://www.cornbeltenergy.com)



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## GEOCENTS MAKES GEOTHERMAL AFFORDABLE FOR MEMBERS

Corn Belt Energy's GeoCents program will pay to have the geothermal loops (the outside loops that go into a member's yard) installed at a member's home. In turn the member will pay a monthly fee to be able to utilize the loops.

Corn Belt Energy will do an initial face-to-face meeting explaining all of the program details and a review of the interested participant's current heating and cooling system. All participants must utilize a certified HVAC contractor and geothermal looper for installation. Both new construction or retrofits qualify for the program.

Corn Belt Energy will provide the following as a part of this program:

- \$1100/vertical ton & the member will pay \$7/ton/month on their electric bill
- \$900/horizontal ton & the member will pay \$6/ton/month on their electric bill
- Corn Belt also has a \$1500 rebate for the installation of a geothermal that utilizes electric as the backup

For additional information and a complete list of certified HVAC contractors, please contact Justin Stuva, Marketing & Member Services Coordinator at 309-664-9235.



## Save the Date!

Mark your calendar for Corn Belt Energy's 78<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting! Join us at Central Catholic High School off of Airport Road in Bloomington on the afternoon of Friday, June 17<sup>th</sup>.

Complimentary lunch and activities for kids will be provided, as well as other entertainment. Make sure to stop by the booths, and stay for the co-op member meeting!

More details will appear in next month's issue and an Annual Report book will be mailed to co-op members in late May with a complete agenda.

If you receive electricity from Corn Belt Energy, you're a member-owner of the cooperative and invited to attend.



## Connect with your co-op

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