

# POWERLINE

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

June 2013

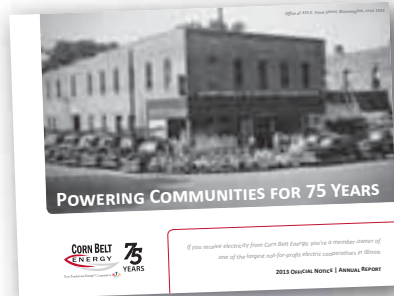
## Attend Our 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting!

**Central Catholic High School, Bloomington  
Friday, June 21**

Save the date for Corn Belt Energy's 75<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of co-op members! Join us at Central Catholic High School in east Bloomington on the afternoon of Friday, June 21. Bring the whole family and enjoy an afternoon of great entertainment and prizes! If you receive electricity from Corn Belt, you're a member-owner of the cooperative and invited to attend.

Complimentary lunch from Famous Dave's and activities for all ages will be provided from Noon to 3:00, including an informative electric safety presentation from Live Line Demo at 1:30.

An Annual Report book will be mailed to every co-op member by early June with a complete agenda and RSVP postcard for lunch. Simply mail back the prepaid postcard to pre-register!



### Free Gift for Attendees

Each co-op household that registers by 3:00 PM will receive a stainless steel ice cream scoop with wood handle and an insulated grocery bag, just in time for summer!



### Grand Prize Drawing

Attend the business meeting at 3:00 for your chance to win \$750! You could also win one of several other door prizes, including credits toward your Corn Belt account. Winner must be present to win.

**\$750**

### Convenient Shopping

Back by popular demand, consultants representing these businesses will be on site with samples, prizes, and merchandise for cash & carry sales:

Origami Owl

thirtyone

MARY KAY

STAMPIN' UP!

The Pampered Chef

USBORNE BOOKS & MORE

Tupperware

close to heart

stella & dot

MICHE

TASTEFULLY SIMPLE

Longaberger

lia sophia

VOMMA



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

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

To avoid personal injury and damage to underground lines, state law requires you to contact Joint Utility Locating Information for Excavators (JULIE) before any digging project, regardless of the project size or depth. The call is free, and so are the services.

According to state law, the person doing the digging is required to call JULIE with the locate request information at least 48 hours (*two working days, excluding weekends and holidays*) in advance of the start of excavation. You must begin your project within 14 days from the time you call and if you want to start your project over the weekend, remember to contact JULIE by Wednesday at 4:00 PM.

In order to help the utility locator properly identify your project area, JULIE recommends that you mark the area where you will be digging with white paint and/or flags.

Each JULIE utility member is responsible to mark their own underground facilities with paint or flags within the two working day period required by law (*excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays*).

Visit [www.illinois1call.com](http://www.illinois1call.com) to learn more about the process.

## Illinois Cooperative Youth Day

Four local high school students from Corn Belt's service territory traveled to Springfield on April 17 for Illinois Electric Cooperative Youth Day.



*Senator Chapin Rose, Tanmay Shah, Kaelan Smith, Nicole Aldridge, Lauren Parks and Senator Jason Barickman*

Students met with elected officials on the Senate Floor and toured the Supreme Court, Lincoln's Tomb, the Old State Capitol, and the Lincoln Presidential Museum. Sponsored by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives, the day is designed to introduce student leaders to government. Participating students:

- Nicole Aldridge, Bloomington
- Lauren Parks, Bloomington
- Tanmay Shah, Bloomington
- Kaelan Smith, Clinton

Lauren and Tanmay have been selected to attend the Youth to Washington Tour from June 14-21 this summer. They will join other students from across the nation and learn more about government and the electric cooperative system in addition to touring national sites and monuments.

## Celebrating Arbor Day



Each year on Arbor Day, Corn Belt Energy partners with a local school to plant a tree on their grounds and to educate students on the importance of trees and safety.

In April, Corn Belt employees met with 6th grade students from Evans Junior High, just down the road from our office on Highway 150 southeast of Bloomington. The students helped plant a white oak tree in front of the school and learned

about electrical safety and the importance of having underground utilities flagged before starting a digging project.

# Supporting Innovation in Local Schools

Local educators receive \$1,500 Education Grants for their classrooms

Your electric co-op is pleased to announce the five recipients of our 2013 Education Grants program, which aims to support innovation in the classroom. We received 29 applications from schools throughout our service area this spring.

The applications were reviewed and ranked by three impartial judges and each of these schools received a \$1,500 grant to fund their program.

Teachers and administrators of public and private schools can apply for a 2014 Education Grant by downloading the application at [cornbeltenergy.com](http://cornbeltenergy.com) starting in January.



### Fieldcrest South Elementary (Minonk)

**APPLICANT:** Michael Brown, K-4 Music Teacher

**REQUEST:** To purchase an interactive whiteboard for the school's music classroom



### GCMS High School (Gibson City)

**APPLICANT:** Susan Riley (center), with Julie Briney and Mark Ward

**REQUEST:** To purchase a PASCO sensor bundle and software for biology classes

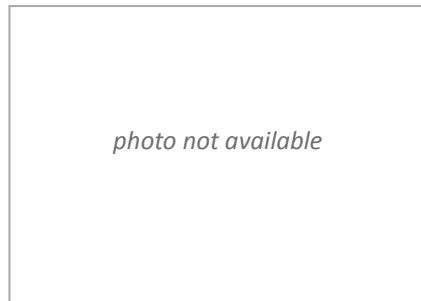


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### Normal West High School

**APPLICANT:** Barb Bush, Family & Consumer Sciences Chair

**REQUEST:** To purchase pedometers, heart rate monitors and body fat analyzers



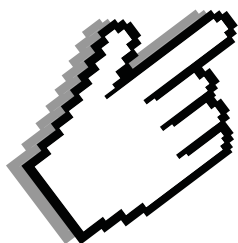
### DeLand-Weldon High School

**APPLICANT:** Margaret Bultman, Family & Consumer Sciences Teacher

**REQUEST:** To purchase two kitchen stoves and eight sewing machines

## CONNECT WITH YOUR CO-OP!

Keep in touch with your electric cooperative throughout the year for safety information, energy efficiency tips, outage updates and more! If you have a Quick Response Code app on your smartphone, simply scan these QR codes to connect with us online.



Find us on Facebook  
[/CornBeltEnergy](https://www.facebook.com/CornBeltEnergy)



Follow us on Twitter  
[@CornBeltEnergy](https://twitter.com/CornBeltEnergy)



Watch us on YouTube  
[/CornBeltEnergy](https://www.youtube.com/CornBeltEnergy)

# 75 Years of Cooperative Values

Corn Belt Energy proudly celebrates 75 years of serving co-op member-owners in 2013, and we'll feature chapters of our history throughout the year. Previous chapters of our history appeared in earlier issues of Illinois Country Living.



## 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 

## CHAPTER 6: A CHANGING MEMBERSHIP



In the late 1970's, Corn Belt started to serve more city and suburban subdivisions in McLean County as a result of economic growth in the region. CEO Gerry Beer leaves the cooperative in 1979 to work for a national cooperative financial

institution in Washington D.C. and Jeff Reeves assumes the role of CEO, ushering in an era of unprecedented growth throughout the 1980s.

In order to best serve a growing membership, the co-op made major investments in technology throughout the 70s and 80s.



Jeff Reeves and Gerry Beer, 1979

The improvements in technology didn't come just to the line operations; enhancements were being made in the office as well. Corn Belt made the transition from billing machines to the computer age in 1976 when it switched its billing operations to Central Area Data Processing. Billing soon switching to a monthly schedule with the assistance of hired meter readers, eliminating self-read metering. But technology wasn't the only thing causing change; the co-op members were changing, too.

As subdivisions around Bloomington-Normal begin to grow into rural areas, Corn Belt starts installing underground conductor. The demands and needs of farmers also grow during this time with grain drying and handling systems, prompting the co-op to invest in three-phase facilities in many areas. The local cooperative becomes a more sophisticated utility in order to manage growth and greater demand.

## Pay by Text

Corn Belt co-op members can now opt to pay their bills via text! To register your cell phone and payment information, go to <http://bit.ly/153RS5H> to get started. Questions? Call us during business hours at 1-800-879-0339 and we'll walk you through the process!

## Outage Map

Visit [www.cornbeltenergy.com](http://www.cornbeltenergy.com) from your computer or mobile device to view a live outage map of Corn Belt's service territory. To protect the privacy of our co-op members, outages are displayed by county or zip code only.