

POWERLINE

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

October 2014

Clinton Teen Wins Nationwide Grant

Corn Belt Energy CEO Don Taylor is pleased to announce that Kaelan Smith from Clinton won a nationwide student service project grant contest. With the \$500 grant, Smith will organize and host an autism awareness fair. The grant program was coordinated in partnership with generationOn, a global youth service organization.

“Students are our beacon of hope for the future,” Don Taylor said. “For 55 years, Illinois’ electric cooperatives have invested in our students by hosting an annual youth tour in Washington, D.C. – allowing some of our best and brightest students to gain first-hand insight. This grant program builds on that investment, and gives our students the tools to expand their resume while applying what they’ve learned to directly benefit their community.

“Kaelan Smith’s project will allow him to give back to the community and learn valuable hands-on leadership skills at the same time. We’re honored to be able to help Kaelan give back, and look forward to watching him grow into a future leader.”

The autism awareness fair will have a focus on bullying and self-esteem issues that students living with autism face at school. The fair will also address how a student living with autism is labeled by others



Kaelan Smith, nationwide grant recipient

and themselves. Smith hopes to work with the Clinton Rotary Club and the Clinton Community High School Interact Club to host the fair in the spring of 2015.

Grant winners were chosen from a pool of applicants, all of whom participated in the 2014 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.

Power of Co-op Membership

Ask yourself this—What does it mean to be a member of Corn Belt Energy, a Touchstone Energy electric cooperative?

As a member of Corn Belt Energy, you have the power, a voice and control in how your electric co-op is run; in what's best for the community; in the decisions that allow us to provide affordable electricity for your home. This October, we're celebrating National Co-op Month, and we're recognizing the most important part of our co-op – you, our members.

Membership represents a vested interest—everyone is more engaged and attentive to something they feel a responsibility for. Touchstone Energy co-ops work to engage their members in all the issues surrounding the co-op. When members are engaged and informed they become advocates for their co-ops, not just consumers.

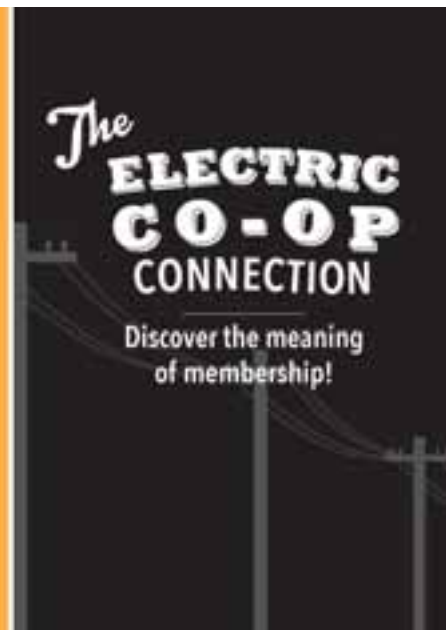
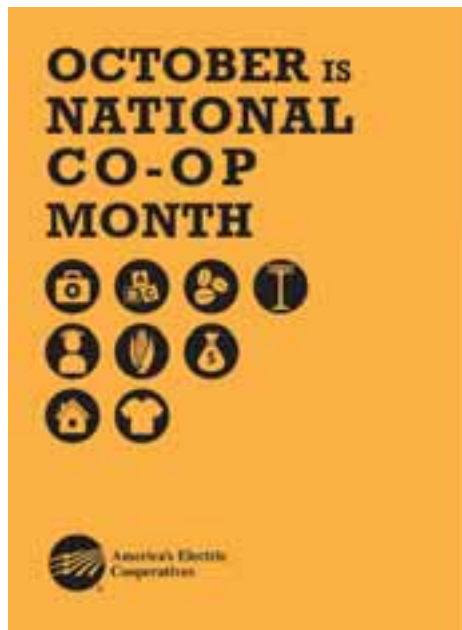
In today's world, electric co-ops are doing more than just saving money for their members. Touchstone Energy cooperatives make being a member of an electric cooperative a truly unique experience.

Members are the reason cooperatives exist. When members embrace the idea that they have more than a passing interest in their co-op, and that they actually are the owners, with an ability to help guide it, that is the power of co-op membership.

The power of co-op membership is the cooperative difference, and our business 'bottom line' is the

empowerment of you, our member-owners. Corn Belt Energy actively engages with the communities we serve.

The best part about being a member of a Touchstone Energy cooperative: It's your Touchstone Energy cooperative. Power to the people, for the people, from the people.



Scholarships for High School Seniors

In spring 2015, ten scholarships of \$1,500 each will be awarded to eligible high school seniors through the Illinois Electric Cooperative (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

Five scholarships will be awarded to students who are children of an Illinois electric cooperative member receiving service from the cooperative, including Corn Belt Energy members. A sixth scholarship, the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship, is awarded to a student who is the child of an Illinois electric cooperative employee. The remaining three scholarships are reserved

for students enrolling full-time at a two-year Illinois community college who are children of Illinois electric cooperative members, employees or directors.

The tenth scholarship, the LaVern and Nola McEntire Lineworker's Scholarship, will be awarded to help pay for costs associated with lineworker's school conducted by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives in conjunction with Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield. Military veterans and relatives of cooperative

members, employees and directors are eligible to apply.

Candidates are judged on the basis of grade point average, college entrance exam scores, work and volunteer experience, school and civic activities, and a short essay that demonstrates

their knowledge of electric cooperatives. Applications will be posted at www.cornbeltenergy.com under "Community" and must be submitted online by 12/31/14.



Report Outages

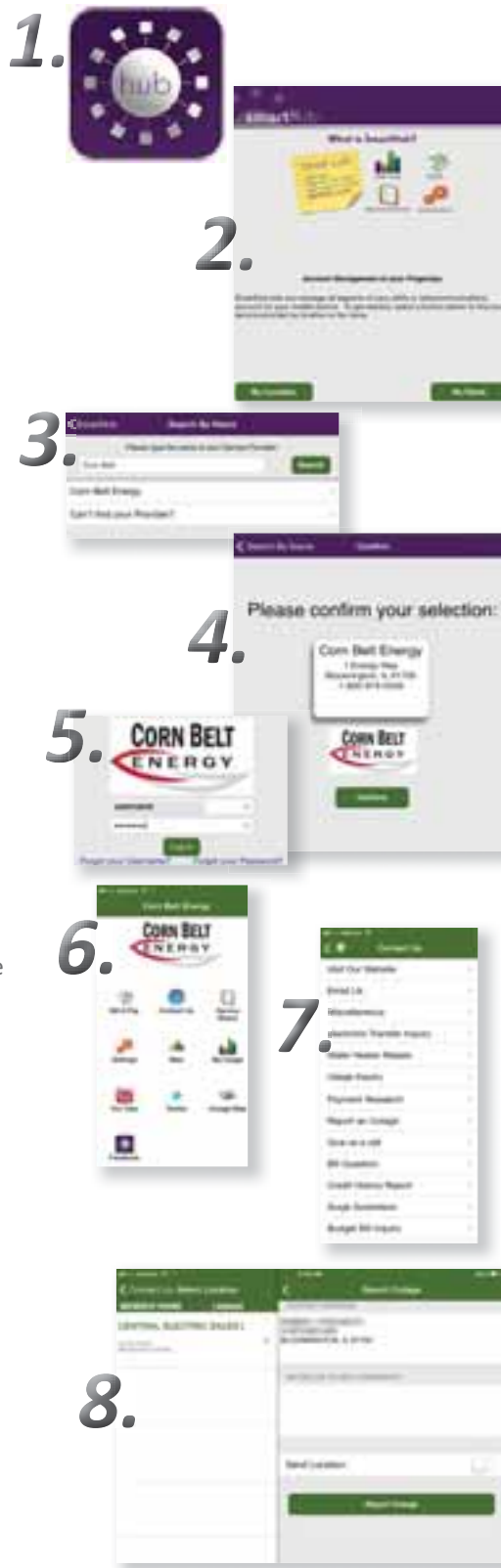
Conveniently from your mobile device!



Every day the employees of Corn Belt Energy work hard to prevent and minimize the interruptions in power to our members. Unfortunately, unforeseen events such as storms can often cause power outages. Corn Belt understands how inconvenient it is to be without electricity. We strive to make the process for reporting outages as easy as possible including from your mobile device.

Instructions

1. Download the free mobile app for your Apple or Android device by searching for "SmartHub" in your app store.
2. Select the "By Name" button in the lower right section of the screen.
3. Type in "Corn Belt Energy" and click on the "Search" button, and select "Corn Belt Energy".
4. Make sure that "Corn Belt Energy" appears on the next screen and select "Confirm".
5. Enter your username and password. Then, select the "Login" button.
6. Click on the "Contact Us" icon on the left side of the screen.
7. Click on "Report an Outage".
8. Confirm that the address listed is correct for the outage location, and type a comment (optional). Then, select the "Report Outage" button.



More SmartHub Information

In addition to reporting outages from SmartHub, you also have the ability to:

- View hourly, daily and monthly usage data
- Compare usage between hours, days, months or years
- Set usage thresholds and alerts
- Receive bill reminders
- Pay your bill quickly
- View Corn Belt's social media feeds



For more information, check out our short, easy-to-follow SmartHub video tutorial at www.youtube.com/cornbeltenergy.



To access SmartHub from your desktop, simply click "Account Log-in" at www.cornbeltenergy.com and log in with your same email address and password.

Outage Map

Visit www.cornbeltenergy.com from your computer or mobile device to view a new and improved 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.



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 

Is Your Home Protected?

Seasonal storms can bring an increased threat of power surges, which are defined as sudden, short-lived increases in voltage.

Whole-house protection is recommended for more severe surges, including lightning strikes. Corn Belt can install a surge protector on your exterior electric meter for \$6.95/month (200 amp meter) and a \$25 installation fee. 400 amp meter protection is available for \$8.95/month with a \$25 installation fee.

Sign up in October and we'll waive the \$25 installation fee AND give you a complimentary surge kit valued at over \$35!

Inside your home, a panel-mounted circuit panel or service entrance suppression device (TVSS) forms a second layer of defense by greatly reducing harmful surges entering your home. A qualified electrician can ensure proper installation.

For more information, contact Justin Stuva, Energy Advisor, at 1-800-879-0339 x235 or email him at: justin.stuva@cornbeltenergy.com



Call 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.

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 to learn more about the process.

According to state law, the person doing the digging is required to call JULIE at 8-1-1 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.



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

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.