

# POWERLINE

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

November 2013

## New Leadership at Corn Belt Energy

*Don Taylor will become the co-op's 4<sup>th</sup> President/CEO*

Corn Belt Energy's Board of Directors is pleased to announce that Don Taylor will assume the role as the cooperative's fourth President/CEO upon the retirement of Jeff Reeves later this year. Taylor currently serves as Vice President of Utility Services and he has worked at the cooperative since 2008.



The Board of Directors conducted a thorough, nationwide search for Reeves' replacement, interviewing several talented executives from both inside and outside the organization. Chairman of the Board Rae Payne remarked that the Board was

particularly impressed with Taylor's past job performance and management at the cooperative and that he has a very solid understanding of the unique challenges and opportunities facing Corn Belt Energy.

An Illinois native, Don has almost 20 years of experience in the electric cooperative field, including 14 years at Adams Electric in Camp Point, IL. Don and his wife Terri are the proud parents of two grown children.

Jeff Reeves will retire at the end of 2013 having served 40 years at Corn Belt Energy, 34 of those as the cooperative's third President/CEO.



**TED HAFER**  
General Manager  
from 1938-1967

1



**GERRY BEER**  
General Manager/President  
from 1967-1979

2



**JEFF REEVES**  
President/CEO  
from 1979-2013

3

# New and Improved Online Accounts

## *New SmartHub technology displays hourly usage data*

You'll notice a more powerful, efficient, and streamlined experience when you log in to your online Corn Belt account. Utilizing SmartHub technology, co-op members can now track their electric usage down to the hour and view average temperature data to see how the weather impacts cooling and heating usage.

As always, members can view their account history along with current and past statements, and you still have the ability to pay your bill electronically. Free SmartHub mobile apps are also available for Apple and Android devices, making it even easier to keep track of your electric usage, 24/7. You can even report outages through your updated online account!



Check out our short, easy-to-follow SmartHub video tutorial at [www.youtube.com/cornbeltenergy](http://www.youtube.com/cornbeltenergy) to get started and learn more about these great features:

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

To download the free mobile apps for Apple or Android devices, search for "smarthub" in your app store.



To access SmartHub from your desktop, simply click "Account Log-in" at [www.cornbeltenergy.com](http://www.cornbeltenergy.com) and log in with your same email address and password.



## 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.

## Documentary

We're celebrating 75 years as your electric cooperative and we invite you to learn more about our early days by viewing our 22-minute documentary at [www.youtube.com/cornbeltenergy](http://www.youtube.com/cornbeltenergy). Find out how farmers banded together to bring electricity to their families and communities.

## New Northern Region Manager

Mike Nelson was recently promoted as Corn Belt Energy's Northern Region Manager following the departure of Patrick Griggs, who is now President/CEO of Lewis County Rural Electric Cooperative in Missouri. Nelson has been with Corn Belt since 1994, most recently as North Region Manager of Construction and Maintenance in Princeton.



## Scholarships for High School Seniors

In spring 2014, eight scholarships of \$1,500 each will be awarded to eligible high school seniors through the Illinois Electric Cooperative (IEC) Memorial Scholarship Program.

Four scholarships will be awarded to students who are children of an Illinois electric cooperative member, including Corn Belt Energy members. A fifth scholarship, the Earl W. Struck Memorial Scholarship, is awarded to a student who is the child of an Illinois electric cooperative employee.

The sixth and seventh 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.

An eighth 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. Applications will be posted at [www.cornbeltenergy.com](http://www.cornbeltenergy.com) under "Community" and must be submitted online by 12/31/13.

## Portable Generator Safety

Portable electric generators come in handy during prolonged outages, but things could turn deadly if they're not used properly. Follow these tips to stay safe:

- Follow manufacturers' directions for installation and operation.
- To prevent electric shock, make sure your generator is properly grounded.
- Operate electric generators or other fuel-powered machines outside where deadly carbon monoxide fumes cannot enter the home.
- Do not overload the generator by operating more appliances and equipment than it can handle.
- Individual appliances should be plugged directly into the receptacle outlet of the generator using appropriately sized extension cords to carry the electric load. Never connect generators directly to your home's wiring or household outlet.
- Do not refuel a generator while it is running. Store fuel outside of living areas and away from heat sources like water heater pilot lights.
- Turn off all equipment powered by the generator before shutting it down.





## 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



## What you need to know about SPACE HEATERS

Each winter, we receive a lot of calls asking about space heaters. If properly used, they *can* keep your heating costs down. Space heaters are intended for zone heating, which may be impractical for most households; they're not meant to replace your whole-house heating system. You can save significantly if you use space heaters this way: turn the thermostat down considerably, then place the space heater in a room occupied by your family and close off the rest of the home.

Only use a space heater when you are in the room with it; never leave



a space heater on with unsupervised children or pets or when you are sleeping.

Don't be fooled by the misleading claims of some brands; all 1,500 watt space heaters use the same amount of electricity.

## ELECTRIC HEAT RATE

If your home utilizes an electric heat source - including geothermal - you can take advantage of Corn Belt's Electric Heat Rate of 4.45 cents/ kWh (*plus any additional current cost of power as indicated by the Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment on your monthly statement*).

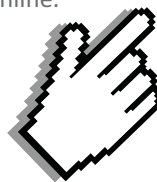
All electric heat is sub-metered through equipment supplied by Corn Belt Energy and the Electric Heat Rate

is applied to your sub-metered usage from Oct. 1 through April 30.

This rate is applicable when a home is heated electrically from a hardwired 240 volt electric heat source. To see if you're already receiving this rate, check for a Rate 10 or Rate 19 line item charge on your monthly statement. For more information contact Justin Stuva, Energy Advisor, at 1-800-879-0339 x235.

## Connect with your Co-op

Keep in touch with Corn Belt 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.



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