

# POWERLINE

NEWSLETTER FOR CO-OP MEMBERS OF CORN BELT ENERGY



EDITION: JANUARY 2019

## Looking for the next generation of leaders

*High school sophomores or juniors could go on the trip of a lifetime!*

What do 1,500 high school students, our nation's capital and electric cooperatives have in common? The Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, of course!

Youth Tour was established with one thought in mind – to inspire our next generation of leaders. Since 1964, more than 50,000 young Americans have taken advantage of this special opportunity offered by their electric cooperative.

It all starts here locally with the Illinois Cooperative Youth Day in April. Corn Belt Energy will sponsor sophomore or junior students from high schools in our service area on an all-expense paid trip to Springfield, Illinois, on Wednesday, April 3, 2019. During the day your students and their counterparts from other Illinois high schools will meet their elected senators and representatives at the Capitol and learn first-hand about the workings of state government.

Then, two "Youth to Washington" representatives will be selected from the contingent that tours Springfield on April 3. The two selected representatives will also receive a weeklong, all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C. on June 14-21, 2019, when hundreds of electric co-ops across the country send



participants to Washington, D.C., for a chance to learn about the cooperative business model and a full week of sightseeing.

On the tour, students will learn about electric cooperatives, American history and U.S. government. They participate in National Youth Day, visit with their representatives and senators, and explore the sights around the nation's capital. Youth Tour is so much more

than a sightseeing trip. Students have repeatedly shared that this experience has helped them grow into successful professionals. It has also benefited our local communities. Youth Tour participants return home with a deeper understanding and skillset of what it takes to be leader, and as a result, they put these skills to use right here in our community.

In February, Corn Belt Energy will begin the application review process

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## Looking for the next generation of leaders

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to select local students to attend Youth Tour 2019. Those who currently receive 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 April 3. 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 14-21, with other statewide and national winners. Applications are available on our website at [www.cornbeltenergy.com](http://www.cornbeltenergy.com).

**Help us find the next generation of leaders by sharing the Youth Tour experience with a promising student!** For more information, please contact Hillary Cherry at [hillary.cherry@cornbeltenergy.com](mailto:hillary.cherry@cornbeltenergy.com) or call 800-879-0339 x250.



## When temperatures drop, energy costs rise

You don't need to be a meteorologist to know that winter can be blustery and fierce. This winter sub-zero temperatures and wind chills have become the norm. Many of us will feel an extra chill when we receive our winter energy bills since most of a home's energy use is related to heating during the winter.

The extremely cold weather means our heating systems have been running a lot harder to keep us warm.

Chances are you've been at home more often than usual, too. Staying

home using lights, TV's, and appliances will also add to your electric bill.

To view your own electric usage compared to previous months, log in to your SmartHub account at [www.cornbeltenergy.com](http://www.cornbeltenergy.com). You can also overlay temperature data with your usage to see how the weather plays a significant role in your energy use.

For questions about SmartHub or your winter bill, contact us at 800-879-0339.



## 2019 Nominating Committee meeting scheduled

The Nominating Committee will meet at the Corn Belt Energy office in Bloomington at 11:00 AM on Wednesday, January 23, 2019.

Any cooperative member who is interested in being nominated to the Board of Directors should contact a committee member prior to the meeting. The committee can nominate no more than two individuals for each expired Directorship.

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 Monday, April 22, 2019. The election to fill the Director seats will occur at the Annual Meeting, scheduled for Friday, June 21, 2019, at Central Catholic High School in Bloomington.

The Board of Directors is comprised of 13 active members who represent the membership in the operation of the Cooperative. The detailed procedure for choosing a Director is stated in our cooperative bylaws, which can be found at [www.cornbeltenergy.com](http://www.cornbeltenergy.com).

## Now accepting Director nominations

The terms of the following Corn Belt Energy Directors will expire at the 2019 Annual Meeting on June 21:

- Pete Borowski, District 1
- Jesse Slager, District 2
- Terry Longman, District 3
- Laverne Malone, District 5
- Rob Angus, District 9

The Board of Directors has appointed the following persons to the Nominating Committee. If you are interested in running for one of the Board's vacant seats, contact one of these persons or an existing Director with your credentials by January 22:

- Brad Johnson, 1499 N 2550th Rd., Ottawa 61350
- Scott Baum, 7277 Sawmill Rd., Clinton 61727
- Bruce Thomas, 3011 Clearwater Ave., Bloomington 61704
- Kenneth West, 2244 Knox Rd. 2250 E., Victoria 61485
- Alan Peters, 3316 E. 3rd Rd., LaSalle 61301
- Steve Schertz, 2853 County Rd 1400 N, El Paso 61738
- Gene Hoffman, 12202 Middle Creek Rd, Clinton 61727
- Tom Moews, 9283 N. 1540 E. Rd. Bloomington 61705
- Charles Read, 17243 1600 East St., Princeton 61356
- Bart Bittner, 19754 E 1300 North Rd., Bloomington 61705
- Stanley Otto, 6938 E 1700 North Rd., Danvers 61732
- Mark Young, 27126 Golden Acres Drive, LeRoy 61752
- Wayne Cremeens, 26863 Wildfire Dr., Hopedale 61747

## SAVE THE DATE: JUNE 21, 2019 CORN BELT ENERGY 81<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL MEETING





## Providing more to our members and community

As a cooperative, we have a different “bottom line.” While our priority is always to provide reliable and safe energy, there is another equally important part of this equation. Your well-being and that of the larger community that we serve are of paramount concern.

To us, you are not just a customer; you are a member of our co-op and without you, we would not exist. In 1938, Corn Belt Energy was founded to fulfill a vital need in our community that would not have otherwise been met. Concerned local leaders came together to build this co-op and bring electricity where there was none.

At that time, members of the community understood we were different because they likely knew someone who helped to create Corn Belt Energy. For most people, our founding and its circumstances

have been long forgotten. Over time, people in the community may have come to think of us as simply another energy provider. But we are not. We are a co-op that is constantly evolving to meet the needs of the communities we serve, and we are able to do this because of members like you.

Since our inception, we have sought feedback and engagement from you and that of the larger community to guide our long-term decisions. This is why we hold annual meetings and other events, such as regional member meetings throughout the year. We host events like this to engage with you and obtain your feedback.

We strive to find new ways to help you use energy more efficiently. We’re always looking to explore more tools that will help you manage your energy use such as the SmartHub app. In short, we are always seeking to

keep pace with the changing energy environment, evolving technology and shifting consumer expectations.

Corn Belt Energy members help guide important co-op decisions that improve and enrich the community. We value the perspective of our board members, who are members of the co-op and community – just like you. As a local business, we have a stake in the community. That’s why we support local charitable organizations such as United Way. When you support these efforts, you are supporting the community and making it a better place for everyone.

While the times may have changed, our mission and outlook have not. We view our role as a catalyst for good. Working together, we can accomplish great things for our community now and in the future.

### CONTACT US

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