

POWERLINE

NEWSLETTER FOR CO-OP MEMBERS OF CORN BELT ENERGY



EDITION: NOVEMBER 2019

THANKFUL FOR OUR SISTER COOPERATIVES

When you think about Corn Belt Energy you probably associate us with the local community. And you would be right. Our leadership team, board of directors and employees all live and work right here in the communities we serve. But you may not realize that Corn Belt Energy is part of a much larger cooperative network that brings additional value, tools and knowledge that benefit you, the members of the cooperative.

Cooperation Among Cooperatives

When a severe weather event impacts our region, we call on our sister electric cooperatives in areas unaffected by the storm. Through this system of mutual aid, we coordinate with other cooperatives to bring additional trucks, equipment and manpower to our area. We work together and share resources in order to restore power to our community.

And Corn Belt Energy reciprocates by assisting other electric cooperatives when they request

help. Corn Belt Energy's assistance was recently requested by Peace River Electric Cooperative to be onsite when Hurricane Dorian hit Florida. The hurricane took an alternative trajectory and Corn Belt Energy crews were realigned to assist South River EMC in Dunn, North Carolina. Corn Belt Energy was one of 13 Illinois electric cooperatives that sent mutual aid crews to assist in rebuilding shattered electric systems in the wake of Hurricane Dorian.

A defining characteristic of a cooperative is "cooperation among cooperatives". This is a way that cooperatives work together to meet bigger challenges such as power restoration after a severe weather event.

Corn Belt Energy's ability to tap into the larger electric cooperative network and access tools, products, resources and leading practices from across the nation ultimately makes our cooperative and our community stronger.

International impact

Communities across the globe have benefitted from the lessons learned and experience of cooperatives in electrification of rural areas in the United States.

NRECA International has provided access to reliable and affordable electricity to 120 million people in 43 countries. This effort is made possible through the support of electric cooperatives including Corn Belt Energy in this state and across the country.

Hundreds of lineworkers, engineers and other cooperative employees have served as volunteers in building electrical infrastructure and training local partners to help utilities be sustainable in their own communities. Several linemen from Corn Belt Energy have assisted countries such as Haiti, Bolivia and Guatemala by bringing access to electricity to rural areas in these countries for the first-time.

November is a time of year for reflection and giving thanks. We are grateful for our sister electric cooperatives and other local utilities who enable us to better serve you and our broader community. When electric cooperatives collaborate, we strengthen each other and the communities we serve – and that is something in which to be truly thankful. Happy Thanksgiving, everyone.



Corn Belt Energy Linemen (Jack Ross, Mitch Behrends, Shane Bollhorst, Joe Law, Gerald Henning, Adam Knudsen, Tim Baker, Steve Sanders, Bret Richards and Adam Brendsel) preparing to assist our sister electric cooperatives in the wake of Hurricane Dorian.



Corn Belt Energy linemen excel at the Lineman's Safety Rodeo

Linemen from Corn Belt Energy participated in the 22nd annual Lineman's Safety Rodeo sponsored by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) on Friday, September 27, 2019.

The Lineman's Safety Rodeo is held on the Chuck West Lineman Training Grounds at Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield. Each year at the rodeo, teams of linemen from Illinois electric cooperatives participate in competitive events using skills that focus on agility, speed and accuracy. While these skills are part of the judging, above all the linemen are judged on safe work practices. This year 10 cooperatives participated in the competition. The rodeo gives linemen the opportunity to showcase their skills in front of families, friends and fellow linemen.



Line personnel competed in five team events and three individual events. Team events included Hurt Man Rescue, Egg Climb (linemen climb a 30-foot pole with a raw egg in their mouth), H-Structure and Crossarm Change Out. Individual linemen and apprentices competed in the Egg Climb, Hurt Man Rescue, H-Structure and Climbing

Challenge. Scores for each event use a 100-point scale and are based upon completion time and proper execution of the task including safe work practices. Deductions were made to a team or individual's overall performance score due to such things as slipping when climbing poles, dropping tools or executing inappropriate procedures or methods.

This competition allows Corn Belt Energy's linemen to demonstrate the skills and expertise required to keep our lights on while ensuring they return home safely after a long day or night of work.

Corn Belt Energy's Team #2 (Cooper, Dodd and Schindel) took first runner-up in Best Overall, first place in H-Structure and second place in Hurt Man Rescue. Corn Belt Energy's Team #1 (Behrends, Brendsel and Ross) took first place in Hurt Man Rescue and third place in H-Structure.

In addition, the following individual awards were won by Corn Belt Energy employees: Mitch Behrends won Individual Best Overall, with Jack Ross placing second runner-up in the same category. Grant Cooper placed first runner-up in the Best Overall Individual Apprentice, and Austin Schindel was second runner-up in the same category. Adam Brendsel placed first in the Individual Hurt Man Rescue, with Mitch Behrends placing second. Grant Cooper placed first in the Individual Apprentice Hurt Man Rescue. Mitch Behrends placed first in the Individual H-Structure, with Zach Ross taking second place. Austin Schindel placed first Individual Apprentice in the same category. Grant Cooper placed second in the Climbing Challenge, with Austin Schindel placing third.

Competing in the rodeo allows our linemen to continue to demonstrate their knowledge, athleticism and commitment to safety. Congratulations to our linemen on



Chris Brandenburg
Engineering & Operations
Coordinator

How long have you worked at Corn Belt Energy?
1 1/2 years

What is your role at Corn Belt Energy?
Everyday brings something different. There are days when I am in my office to prepare construction drawings, easements, and material lists for upcoming jobs. Other days I am out in the field staking larger work plan jobs, meeting with members about new services and alterations to their existing service, performing energy audits, and final inspections of solar installments.

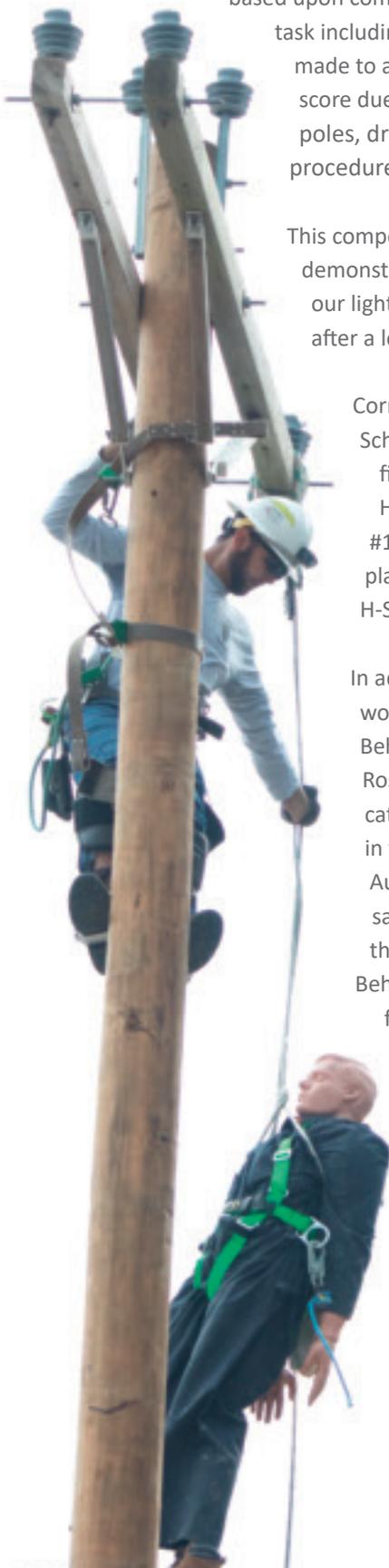
What aspect of your role do you enjoy the most?
I like getting out into the field and meeting with our members and staking out jobs. I also enjoy the sense of accomplishment that comes from seeing a project come to fruition.

Corn Belt Energy puts SAFETY FIRST. What safety tip would you share with our members?
Please always stay away from downed or damaged electric lines.

What are your hobbies and outside interests?
I am an avid golfer and fisherman. I also am a participant in USPSA shooting competitions.

Who or what inspires you?
I am influenced heavily by my late father. He was a self-employed electrician in the Ottawa area for many years and took great pride in his work. He has instilled in me a passion for a job well done. I run into many folks who still compliment a job my father may have done 30+ years ago, and I hope that my work can leave the same lasting impression.

If you had to select a hashtag to describe yourself, what would it be?
#CoopSpirit





Tips to stay warm during cooler months

Heating your home uses a lot of energy, so making a few changes can add up to noticeable savings on your energy bills. Corn Belt Energy is here to help by providing you with these money-saving tips:

Take advantage of sunny days

Take advantage of the sun's radiant heat energy and open your blinds and shades during sunny days. Let your home make use of those rays!

Adjust your thermostat

Program or adjust your thermostat to no higher than 68 degrees during the winter months for maximum cost savings. And make sure to turn down

the temperature a few more degrees when you're sleeping and when you leave the house.

Utilize ceiling fans

Hot air travels upward. If you have high ceilings, use your ceiling fans on a low, clockwise setting to circulate that heat back down.

Close off unoccupied rooms

Close the heat registers and doors of unoccupied rooms during the winter months.

Close fireplace damper

Make sure to close your fireplace damper when not in use; you don't

want your warm air leaking out through the chimney!

Prevent drafts

Check around your windows and doors for drafts. A tube of caulk and some weather stripping can go a long way to seal your home from blustery winds.

For more information about energy efficiency, visit our website at cornbeltenergy.com or contact Jeremy Myers, Energy Advisor at jeremy.myers@cornbeltenergy.com or at 800-879-0339 x221.

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