

POWERLINE

NEWSLETTER FOR CO-OP MEMBERS OF CORN BELT ENERGY



EDITION: NOVEMBER 2022

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

Corn Belt Energy linemen participated in the annual Lineworker's Safety Rodeo coordinated by the Association of Illinois Electric Cooperatives (AIEC) on Wednesday, September 28, 2022. Fourteen teams from 12 electric co-ops, one municipal electric utility, and one team of Lincoln Land Community College (LLCC) linework students participated in the friendly competition. The rodeo highlights the skills lineworkers use to work safely and efficiently.

Austin Schindel and Zach Dodd from Corn Belt Energy and Grant Cooper from Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative represented their respective co-ops at the rodeo, held at the LLCC Line School Yard in Springfield. They competed against teams from across Illinois in events using skills that focus on agility, speed and accuracy. While these skills are part of the judging criteria, above all, participants are judged on safe work practices.

Line personnel competed in four team and five individual events: a 40-foot climb, hurt man rescue, H-structure obstacle course, a



surprise written exam for the mystery event, and a head-to-head climbing challenge.

Scores for each event are based on completion time, proper execution of the task and safety. Deductions were made to a team or individual's overall performance score due to mistakes such as slipping when climbing poles, dropping tools or executing inappropriate procedures or methods.





At the end of the day, the Corn Belt Energy/Coles-Moultrie Electric Cooperative team won first place in both the 40-foot climb and H-structure

obstacle course events. In the individual competition, Schindel earned first place in the H-structure obstacle course and third place in the 40-foot climb.

Congratulations to our linemen on their team and individual efforts.

Data gathered through email survey will help us plan for the future

You may receive an email from us in November or December asking to participate in a survey of residential co-op members. Formerly, this survey was done via telephone but has now changed to an email survey. The survey helps our power supplier, Wabash Valley Power Alliance, determine how much power we'll need in the near future.

Please take the time to fill out this survey as it helps Corn Belt Energy. If you have any questions about the survey, please contact Corn Belt Energy at 309-662-5330. Thank you!



Help keep our crews safe

Orange road signs and cones are not just for highway construction zones; they also apply to utility work zones.

Slowing down before entering work zones helps save lives, including the lives of our crew members, who must often work roadside to maintain or restore power.

Cars or trucks that go too fast not only endanger workers on the ground. Driving too fast or not moving over can also put a lineworker who is working high up in a bucket in serious danger by causing it to move or sway into high-voltage lines.

Please, take extra care in work zones. Our crews and their families thank you.



Member shares recollection of receiving electricity as a teenager

Many of us take electricity for granted because we've always had it. However, Mary Joan Simon has a great appreciation for her electric service as she remembers when she first received electricity to her home at the age of 16.

Mary Joan grew up on a farm located in the Sheffield area. She recalls life before electricity included carrying water to the chickens, washing clothes on a washboard and kerosene heat in the house.

After receiving electricity, Mary Joan recalls going with her mother to pick out the first lights for the house and her mother being excited about being able to vacuum their home for the first time.



Mary Joan said, the most exciting part about having electricity was, "having ice cream every day," which was a treat her family did not experience prior to electricity.

Mary Joan, pictured above with her daughter Teresa Simon, attended the recent member meeting in Princeton and we thank her for sharing her recollection of first receiving electricity with us.



Jack Ross
Journeyman Lineman

How long have you worked at Corn Belt Energy?
7 years

What is your role at Corn Belt Energy?
I change poles and equipment to upgrade the Corn Belt Energy infrastructure. Also respond to outages and storms to help restore power to members and other Cooperatives.

What aspect of your role do you enjoy the most?
My favorite aspect is getting to work outside and working with energized conductor up to 7,200 volts.

If there is one piece of advice that you could share with our members, what would it be?
Live life to the fullest and always count your blessings!

Corn Belt Energy puts SAFETY FIRST. What safety tip would you share with our members?
Never walk up on downed wires, if your vehicle has made contact remain in the vehicle. Immediately contact 911 and wait until a lineman arrives too ensure the power has been properly turned off before exiting.

What are your hobbies and outside interests?
I love to hangout with my family, grill out, go to my daughter sporting events, and traveling!

Who or what inspires you?
I am very passionate about line work and also being a positive member to society, and providing the best life that I can to my family.

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



Corn Belt Energy hosts regional member meetings

Corn Belt Energy recently invited members to regional member meetings to learn more about their electric cooperative and hear how we're looking out for their long-term needs. Approximately 334 members and guests attended the meetings.

This summer, Corn Belt Energy hosted regional member meetings in the following areas: Argenta, Sheffield, Princeton, Norway, Lexington, Hopedale and LeRoy. Thank you to all who attended these meetings.

We plan to continue to reach out to our members by moving the regional member meeting locations throughout our service territory annually.

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