

POWERLINE

NEWSLETTER FOR CO-OP MEMBERS OF CORN BELT ENERGY



EDITION: JULY 2026

The Power of Us: Corn Belt Energy Annual Meeting

On June 5, 2026, Corn Belt Energy Corporation held the 88th Annual Meeting for its cooperative members. Approximately 583 cooperative members, along with their families, attended the event.

The meeting was held at Normal Community Highschool in Normal, IL. This year's theme for the meeting was "Power of Us," signifying the importance of community and collaboration within the cooperative through its members and employees.

Annual Meeting Recap

Chairman Rae F. Payne discussed how the cooperative will face the challenges in the electric industry in a way that still provides safe and reliable electricity to members.

Payne also mentioned the return of \$15 million in capital credits to the members later this summer, one of many benefits that members get to experience as part of a member-owned cooperative.

President/CEO Don Taylor discussed the cooperative's upcoming transition to a Time of Use rate structure designed to align with wholesale power costs and help members better manage energy use and ideally lower monthly bills.

Taylor also told the members about his decision to retire at some point this year and that he will be working to find a new CEO who aligns with the cooperatives' mission and goals. He assured the members that they are in very good hands with a dedicated Board of Directors and an extremely capable team of employees who are proud to serve them.

During the business meeting four directors were elected to serve three-year terms:

- Rae F. Payne - District 1
- Jerry Starkey - District 1
- Dennis Fredrickson - District 5
- Frank Kobilsek - District 7

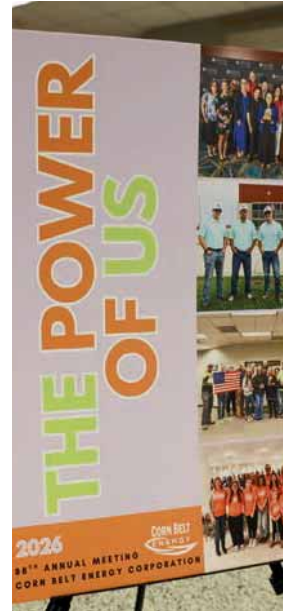
After the business meeting was over, the Directors held a reorganizational meeting where they elected officials into 4 positions:

- Rae F. Payne, Chairman
- Dennis Fredrickson, Vice Chairman
- Pete Borowski, Secretary-Treasurer
- Jerry Starkey, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer

Every year, Corn Belt Energy strives to serve their members proudly and safely. The 88th Annual Meeting exemplifies how much our members mean to us and value of cooperative membership.



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Dorm Safety: Electrical safety before moving in

It's that time of the year when parents and their college students will start to buy items for the dorm and prepare what to bring. While this is an exciting time for students, it can be a nerve-racking time for parents.

Back to School

Today's college student uses many electronics for school, work, and play. When used improperly, these helpful gadgets can become electric hazards.

Along with this comes with parents worrying about their child's new responsibilities, academic success, new friends, and about their child's safety.

What to Look Out For

Power strips & extension cords:

- Use power strips with *over current protectors*. This will shut off the power if there is too much power being drawn.

- *Do not overload* extension cords, power strips, or outlets.
- *Do not staple extension cords.*
- *Extension cords are only for temporary use.* Unplug gadgets when not in use.

Lights

- *Use lightbulbs with the correct wattage* for lamps. If no indication on the fixture, do not use a bulb with more than 60 watts.
- If your lights flicker, electronics shut off, or circuits trip, be sure to *notify campus staff*.
- *Make sure all halogen lamps meet the updated requirements*, All halogen lamps must be designed with a mesh guard that forbids contact with the bulb and an automatic tip-over switch.

Electrical appliances

- *Keep all electrical appliances and cords safely away* from bedding, curtains, papers, and other flammable material.

- *Unplug small appliances when not in use* and all electronics when away for extended periods.

Pack Lightly

When planning to move into a shared space like a dorm or university housing, Bob Wilczynski, assistant director of housing at the University of Illinois says, "Communicate with your roommates before shopping for items for the room. Often times when there is no communication, room's end up with multiple refrigerators and microwaves, which can lead to a circuit overload in a small space."

Be sure to also check with the university housing's department on their specific housing laws, to check if they do or do not allow cooking appliances.

For more safety tips visit SafeElectricity.org.



BLEND UP *Summer* REFRESHMENT

Nothing beats a refreshing *smoothie* on a hot summer day! Before you *blend*, keep electrical safety in mind:

- Dry your hands completely before plugging in or operating your blender.
- Plug your blender (and other high-wattage appliances) directly into an outlet instead of power strips to prevent overheating.
- Make sure kitchen outlets, and any outlets near a water source, have Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) protection to help prevent shock.
- Replace appliances with broken plugs or cords that look frayed, worn or cracked.
- Unplug your blender before removing stuck ingredients or cleaning it.
- Never submerge the blender base in water.



TROPICAL SUMMER SMOOTHIE

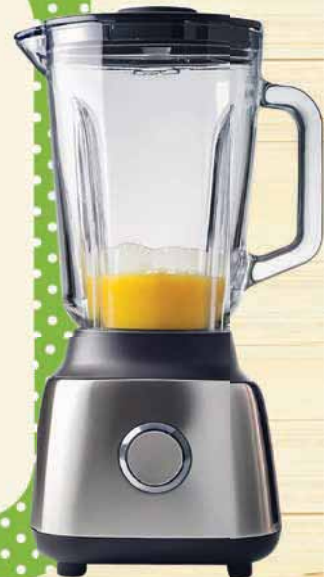
INGREDIENTS:

- 1 cup frozen mango
- 1 banana
- ½ cup coconut water
- ½ cup Greek yogurt
- ½ cup pineapple chunks
- Ice as needed for desired consistency




DIRECTIONS:

1. Add the mango, banana, coconut water, yogurt and pineapple to blender.
2. Blend until smooth.
3. Add ice and blend until smooth.
4. Pour into glasses, enjoy!

(makes 2 servings)



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