

# POWERLINE

NEWSLETTER FOR CO-OP MEMBERS OF CORN BELT ENERGY



EDITION: FEBRUARY 2021

## Committed to a cooperative culture

Over the years, you've heard us expound on why and how Corn Belt Energy is different – because we're a cooperative. Our business model sets us apart from other utilities because we adhere to seven guiding cooperative principles that reflect core values of honesty, transparency, equity, inclusiveness and service to the greater good of the community.

Electric cooperatives, including Corn Belt Energy, have a unique and storied place in our country's history. We democratized the American dream by bringing electricity to rural areas when for-profit electric companies determined the effort too costly. Back then, cities were electrified, and rural areas were not. Newly established electric lines helped power economic opportunity in rural areas. Today, that spirit of equity and inclusion is a vital part of our cooperative DNA.

### Equal access for all

When our electric cooperative was founded, each member contributed an equal share in order to gain access to electricity that benefited individual families as well as the larger local community. Each member had an equal vote in cooperative matters. That sense of equity and inclusion is still how we operate today. Corn Belt Energy was built by and belongs to the

diverse communities and consumer-members we serve. Membership is open to everyone in our service territory, regardless of race, religion, age, disability, gender identity, language, political perspective or socioeconomic status.

By virtue of paying your electric bill each month, you're a member of the cooperative, and every member has an equal voice and vote when it comes to cooperative governance. This ties back to our guiding principles of equitable economic participation and democratic control of the cooperative.

We invite all members to participate in cooperative annual meetings to weigh in on discussions that set cooperative policies and priorities.

We know members of our community have different needs and perspectives, and we welcome diverse views on all issues under consideration by the cooperative. The more viewpoints we hear, the better we are able to reflect the needs of all corners of our community.

### Inclusion

While our top priority is providing safe, reliable and affordable energy, we also want to be a catalyst for good in our community. Because we are your local electric cooperative, cooperative revenues stay right



here in our community. In turn, we invest in our diverse community base through scholarship programs, charitable giving, educational programs and more. We strive to make long-term decisions that improve and enrich the communities we serve.

While today's world is radically different than it was when Corn Belt Energy was founded, our cooperative values have stood the test of time and remain just as relevant today.

## 2021 Nominating Committee meeting scheduled

The Nominating Committee will meet at 10 am on Tuesday, February 9, 2021, via video/conference call.

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

## How do air source heat pumps work?

Air source heat pumps transfer heat between a house and the outside air.

The unit is connected by refrigerant-filled tubing to an indoor component. The indoor unit contains a fan, indoor coil, and a supplemental resistance or propane/natural gas heating backup.

Depending on whether the heat pump is in a cooling or heating mode, the refrigerant moving through the system makes the indoor coils either hot or cold. A blower draws room air in through a filter and pulls it across the indoor coil.

As the air passes by the coils, it either gathers or gives off heat—depending on whether the coils are hot or cold. Warm or cool air travels through ductwork and registers into the house's rooms.

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 19, 2021. The election to fill the Director seats will occur at the Annual Meeting, scheduled for Friday, June 18, 2021, 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).

### What are the advantages of air source heat pumps?

Cost. Heat pumps give off less heat at one time than do conventional gas furnaces, which means that they don't turn off and on with the same frequency as a gas furnace, and therefore circulate more air throughout the house.

Air source heat pumps are controlled by the same type of thermostat used for forced-air systems and trim electricity use by as much as 30-40% in moderate climates.

### Are rebates available for the purchase of air source heat pumps?

Corn Belt Energy offers rebates for air source heat pumps. To find out more information, contact Jeremy Myers, Energy Advisor, at 800-879-0339.

## Now accepting Director nominations

The terms of the following Corn Belt Energy Directors will expire at the 2021 Annual Meeting on June 18:

- Denise Mayes, District 1
- Jan Reimer, District 1
- Kay Werts, District 4
- Charles Meisenheimer, District 7

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 February 8:

- Brad Johnson, 1499 N 2550th Rd., Ottawa 61350
- Bruce Thomas, 3011 Clearwater Ave., Bloomington 61704
- Todd West, 2273 Knox Rd. 2250 E., Victoria 61485
- Albert Hagenbuch, 3438 E. 11th Rd., Utica 61373
- Kevin Remmers, 1427 County Rd. 2250 E, Roanoke 61561
- Cheryl Sample, 10630 Greenswitch Rd., Maroa 61756
- Ken Schertz, 14025 Lara Trace, 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
- Rachel Torbert, 13325 Autumn Rd., Wapella 61777

# PAYMENT OPTIONS FOR MEMBERS



## WAYS TO PAY

<p><b>AutoPay</b></p>	<p><b>Dropbox</b></p>	<p><b>Send via mail</b></p>	<p><b>MoneyGram</b></p>
 <p><b>SmartHub</b></p>			
<p><b>Phone Payment</b></p>			

## PAYMENT RECOGNITION

<p>Payment posted immediately after payment is made</p>	<p>Payment posted immediately after payment is made  (may be next business day for dropbox payments)</p>	<p>Payment posted within 7-10 business days depending on mail delivery</p>	<p>Payment posted immediately after payment is made</p>
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## TRANSACTION COST

None	None	None	\$1.50 fee
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## FORMS OF PAYMENT ACCEPTED

<p>AutoPay: account number &amp; bank routing number, debit card, VISA, Mastercard &amp; Discover</p> <p>SmartHub and Phone Payment: Checking account number &amp; bank routing number, debit card, VISA, Mastercard &amp; Discover</p>	<p>Dropbox payments: Check or money order only</p> <p>Please note that due to the COVID-19 pandemic cash is currently not accepted.</p>	<p>Check or money order</p>	
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## OTHER DETAILS

<p>Set up AutoPay through SmartHub online or over the phone.</p> <p>Sign up online for SmartHub. SmartHub is offered online or as the SmartHub app on your Apple or Android phone. With SmartHub, you can check usage, receive notifications.</p> <p>Phone Payments are offered 24/7/365 and can be made by calling 800-879-0339.</p>	<p>Pay using our dropbox at our office location: Corn Belt Energy 1 Energy Way, Bloomington, IL 61705</p>	<p>Member is responsible for the cost of postage.</p> <p>Mail payments to: Corn Belt Energy 1 Energy Way, Bloomington, IL 61705</p>	<p>Make your payment at a location near your home or work. No bank account needed. Many locations are available throughout the Corn Belt Energy service territory.</p> <p>Visit our website to find MoneyGram locations.</p>
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**CORN BELT ENERGY LETS YOU CHOOSE THE BEST PAYMENT OPTION FOR YOU**

## Meet our employees



**Karlie Punke**  
Accounting Specialist

*How long have you worked at Corn Belt Energy?*  
**less than 1 year**

*What is your role at Corn Belt Energy?*  
**I pay the vendors, deal with the credit cards, NSF's, bank reconciliations and northern region fleet.**

*What aspect of your role do you enjoy the most?*  
**I enjoy the entire role. I play with numbers all day so it is like a numbers game for me.**

*If there is one piece of advice that you could share with our members, what would it be?*  
**Don't sweat the small stuff.**

*Corn Belt Energy puts SAFETY FIRST. What safety tip would you share with our members?*  
**Always have a plan in place. In any aspect of life, if you have a plan in place, you are more likely to have success in your goals.**

*What are your hobbies and outside interests?*  
**I enjoy working out, spending time with my girlfriend/family and playing with my cats.**

*Who or what inspires you?*  
**I am inspired by my Grandmother. She is the reason I have such a great work ethic. She always pushed and supported me through college which has now benefited me in my career at Corn Belt Energy.**

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

*Is there anything else that you would like to share with our members?*  
**I got my Bachelor of Accounting and Finance from Illinois State University.**



## Stay safe with these generator safety tips

Generators can come in handy during prolonged outages, but things could turn deadly if they're not used properly.

Follow these tips to stay safe:

- Always 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.
- If you are installing a permanent generator, it must have a transfer switch. The transfer switch prevents energy from leaving your generator and going back onto the utility electrical equipment. Have a qualified electrician install your generator and transfer switch.



Generators, if not used properly, could not only be dangerous to you and your family but also to a lineman or others near downed power lines.

**Visit [cornbeltenergy.com](http://cornbeltenergy.com) for generator specifications and safety info.**

### CONTACT US

1-800-879-0339 | [cbec@cornbeltenergy.com](mailto:cbec@cornbeltenergy.com) | [www.cornbeltenergy.com](http://www.cornbeltenergy.com) |    
1 Energy Way, Bloomington IL 61705 | Office hours: Monday - Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM

