



Corn Belt Power annual meeting highlights strength and member focus

Corn Belt Power Cooperative convened its 78th annual meeting, themed “Connected by Purpose,” on April 8 at the Briggs Woods Conference Center in Webster City. Nearly 130 attendees gathered for updates on the cooperative’s progress, director elections, and a keynote address from Eddie Slowikowski.

Dave Onken, board president, emphasized that the cooperative remains strong financially and operationally.

“We monitored wholesale markets, capital spending, and long-term obligations with one central question: How does this decision impact our members years down the road,” Onken said. “And, how can we advocate at the Basin level on behalf of those members at the end of the line.”

During the financial report, Treasurer Larry Rohach and Faith Warden, vice president, finance and administration, provided a detailed overview of Corn Belt Power’s 2025 financials.

“Since 2016, Corn Belt Power has returned just over \$54.4 million in quick roll payments to its members,” Warden said. “In addition to the quick roll, Corn Belt Power’s board has approved more than \$11.9 million in patronage payments over the same time period.”

This year, the board of directors approved a patronage retirement totaling \$1,236,664 from 2011 and 2012 net margins, along with an additional \$900,060 retirement from Basin’s 2009 allocation. The board also approved a \$6,440,000 quick roll retirement from the 2025 margin.

Jacob Olberding, executive vice president and general manager, reinforced the cooperative’s continued focus on serving members.

“Numbers aren’t the whole story. Corn



Corn Belt Power returns member patronage

Above | Dave Onken, president, board of directors, Corn Belt Power Cooperative, returns member patronage to Midland Power Cooperative’s delegate at Corn Belt Power’s annual meeting April 8.

Belt Power has never just been about steel in the ground or wires in the air,” he said. “It’s about the people, the purpose, and the communities those wires connect.”

Olberding noted the modernization taking place at Wisdom Station.

“Crews upgraded control systems, protective relays, and fuel systems — connecting operators, technology, and performance in ways that make the plant stronger, safer, and more reliable,” he said. “These upgrades aren’t flashy — unless you’re like me and your idea of excitement is control systems and fuel tuning — but these quiet upgrades make a big impact as new performance standards push us to be ready when the grid is under the most stress. Plants like Wisdom Station are part of what keeps the lights on during the hottest days in the summer and the coldest days in the winter.”

Todd Brickhouse, chief executive officer, Basin Electric and Jerry Beck, secretary,

Corn Belt Power, also gave reports.

Nationally renowned speaker and former champion distance runner, Eddie Slowikowski gave the keynote address. Combining music, sound effects and storytelling, Slowikowski focused on his 7-step, four-minute formula geared at taking charge and developing a successful path to the future.

Following the meeting, the board reorganized. Officers are as follows:

- President: Dave Onken, RVEC
- Vice President: Steve Boedecker, Calhoun County ECA (new)
- Secretary: Jerry Beck, ILEC
- Treasurer: Rick Thompson, Midland Power (new)
- Assistant Secretary/Treasurer: Gary Poppe, Butler County REC

Next year, Corn Belt Power will host its annual meeting on Wednesday, April 7, 2027 at the Briggs Woods Conference Center in Webster City. ■

Are you a volunteer?

Let us know and win a donation to your organization



Our Touchstone Energy Volunteer Challenge continues to build momentum across the Corn Belt Power service area—and we’re excited to recognize those making a difference.

The March 2026 \$100 winner is Madison

Alert of Franklin. Read more about Madison’s win on the back page.

Commitment to Community is one of our founding principles. This program is designed to celebrate the spirit of that commitment – one that strengthens our

local communities. Every hour given—whether it’s supporting a local nonprofit, helping with youth programs, or helping at community events—creates a lasting impact close to home. Whether it’s coaching a youth team, serving on a local board, helping at a school event, or lending a hand to a neighbor—volunteerism is what keeps our communities strong, connected, and resilient.

We encourage all member-cooperative staff and board members to participate in this effort.

- Record your volunteer hours online each month by the 10th to be eligible for that month’s drawing at: **bit.ly/TSEVolunteerChallenge**
- Employees and directors within the Corn Belt Power service area who log at least five hours of service will be entered into a monthly drawing.
- Each month, one participant is selected to direct a \$100 donation to the charity or organization of their choice.
- For more information please contact the Corporate Relations department at Corn Belt Power. ■

Corn Belt Power nears end of SCADA upgrade

Corn Belt Power’s supervisory control and data acquisition system serves as the eyes, ears and hands of our system operators — allowing them to monitor and manage the transmission system in real time.

Over the past several months, that system has undergone a significant upgrade to enhance performance, visibility and responsiveness.

“Older SCADA systems collect fewer data points and update more slowly,” said Larry Brusseau, compliance director, Corn Belt Power. “That’s like trying to drive at night with dim headlights. A modern system gives operators clearer, faster and more detailed visibility — especially important as the grid becomes more complex.”

With the upgrade, Corn Belt Power is introducing new capabilities, including:

■ **Ambient-Adjusted Ratings:**

Supports compliance with FERC Order 881 by adjusting transmission line ratings based on real-time weather conditions, improving efficiency and reliability. FERC Order 881 requires utilities and grid operators to use real-time, weather-based data—instead of conservative static assumptions—to determine how much electricity transmission lines can safely carry.

■ **Load Shed and Restoration:**

Enables faster, more precise load management, helping prevent widespread outages and stabilize the grid during emergencies.

■ **Automatic Vehicle Location:**

Provides real-time visibility of field crews and resources, allowing for quicker, more efficient response during outages and storm events.

■ **Weather Radar Integration:**

Enhances situational awareness by giving operators advanced insight into developing weather conditions, helping them prepare for and respond to potential threats to the system.

Together, these improvements strengthen Corn Belt Power’s ability to deliver safe, reliable and efficient service — even as the demands on the electric grid continue to evolve.

“Cooperative members expect the lights to stay on,” Brusseau said. “Newer SCADA platforms provide better alarms, automation and contingency analysis. That means operators can detect and respond to problems faster, reducing outage risk and duration.”

Corn Belt Power anticipates moving to the new, upgraded system this spring. ■

Help us Shine The Light on community volunteers in June

It's time to shine the light on our community volunteers!

Guided by our cooperative commitment to community, Corn Belt Power encourages electric cooperative members to participate in the statewide Shine the Light contest this summer by nominating local volunteers.

Sponsored by the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives of Iowa, the contest will accept nominations during the month of June and select three winners who will each receive a \$3,000 donation to their local charity or nonprofit.

"We've been truly inspired by the people



who have been nominated from across the state over the years," remarked

Erin Campbell, director of communications for the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives.

Member-consumers and employees of Iowa's electric cooperatives are eligible to nominate local volunteers from June 1 to June 30. **We invite you to nominate**

a friend, neighbor or relative who is making a positive impact in the community. The volunteer

being nominated does not need to be a co-op member-consumer. Minors may be nominated with consent from their parents or legal guardians. Non-winning nominees from previous years can be

nominated again for another chance to win.

Our 2026 winners will be announced in September and featured in Iowa Electric Cooperative Living magazine and on social media.

Go to www.IowaShineTheLight.com to review the contest rules and submission guidelines. Contest entries will be accepted at this website **starting June 1.**

Corn Belt Power is a proud sponsor of this great program. ■



NRECA launches Co-ops Vote ahead of midterms

NRECA has launched its 2026 Co-ops Vote program, which features a new Pledge to Vote campaign for the midterm elections and an enhanced 5-Star Co-op Program for co-ops that promote civic engagement.

Co-ops Vote began in 2016 as a way to boost the rural vote and make sure people think about issues affecting their local electric cooperatives when they head to the polls, said Amy Lewis, NRECA's PAC and political engagement director.

"Our co-ops love the program," she said. "We're

launching Co-ops Vote 2026 to try to engage even more voters in the co-op community."

Co-op employees and consumer-members will now be able to fill out an electronic Pledge to Vote form to show that they are committed to being a co-op voter and

will vote in the midterm elections on Nov. 3.

While co-ops continue to host voter registration booths at community events and invite candidates to speak to their members, NRECA will run the pledge campaign, Lewis said.

When voters take the pledge, they will receive information about where to vote,



how to register if they still need to, and how to find out who their legislators are.

NRECA also will direct them to the Issues and Policy section of electric.coop to learn more about topics that affect co-ops and rural communities.

Voters who fill out the pledge form will be eligible to win Co-ops Vote-themed gifts, Lewis said. They also can sign up to become co-op advocates by joining Voices for Cooperative Power.

"Elections shape energy policy," the voter pledge page says. "The decisions made by lawmakers—from your local

officials up to Congress—directly impact whether your co-op can continue delivering safe, affordable, reliable power. That's why we're encouraging co-op members to vote with these values in mind.

"When rural voters show up and vote for co-op members' interests, we send

a powerful message to decision makers. By taking this pledge, you're joining a growing network of voters committed to protecting the energy that powers our communities. Together, we're showing lawmakers that co-op issues deserve a seat at the table." ■

Eddie Slowikowski, keynote speaker, made sure all attendees participated while he dove into his four-minute formula at the Corn Belt Power Cooperative annual meeting in Webster City, April 8. Slowikowski is a former world class runner and Gold Medal winner for the USA Track & Field Team. Eddie is the 169th American to run a mile in under 4 minutes with a time of 3:58.

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April Touchstone Energy Volunteer Challenge winner | Madison Alert, communications specialist/key accounts representative, Franklin REC, won this month's Volunteer Challenge. She donated her \$100 prize to Hampton Community Christian Daycare.

Corn Belt Power to host Midwest Transmission Conference

The Midwest Transmission Conference is set to return September 15–18, 2026, in Cedar Falls, Iowa—bringing together utility professionals, industry partners and vendors from across the Midwest for one of the region's premier transmission-focused events.

With roots dating back to 1956, the conference has long served as a trusted forum for sharing ideas, strengthening partnerships and advancing best practices in the operation and maintenance of electric generation and transmission systems.

Attendees can expect a full agenda of technical sessions, featured speakers, vendor exhibits and networking opportunities designed to keep pace with an evolving grid. Registration and conference details are now available at www.midwesttransmissionconference.com.



Corn Belt Power Cooperative **Watts Watt**

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