



# Jerry Beck elected to represent Corn Belt Power on Basin Electric board of directors

**C**orn Belt Power's board of directors elected Jerry Beck, Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative, to replace Charlie Gilbert, Midland Power Cooperative, as the cooperative's representative on the Basin Electric Power Cooperative board of directors.

Beck was elected Aug. 26 at Corn Belt Power's regular meeting of directors to represent District 11 at Basin Electric, Bismarck, N.D. Basin confirmed Beck's election at their Nov. 10 annual meeting.

Basin Electric Power Cooperative is a not-for-profit generation and transmission cooperative owned by 131 member cooperative systems across nine states serving three million consumers. The organization operates more than 5,000 megawatts of wholesale electric generation and maintains more than 2,500 miles of high-voltage transmission.

"I'm honored that my peers voted me on the Basin board," said Beck. "I'm looking forward to carrying on the partnership Charlie set up. Working together, Corn Belt Power and Basin Electric are in a strong position to face the future. Charlie has done marvelous things to help Corn Belt Power and Basin."

Gilbert says he believes Beck is the right choice to represent Corn Belt Power.

"I have confidence that Jerry Beck will fit right in, represent Corn Belt well and help move our rural electric cooperative family forward in the right direction," he said. "Jerry has a great understanding of Corn Belt Power, Basin and the cooperative member at the end of the line. He has shown leadership qualities as Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative's board president and



## **Basin board of directors**

**Above** | Charile Gilbert, left, welcomes Jerry Beck, right, to the Basin board of directors. Beck replaced Gilbert at the December Basin board meeting as Corn Belt Power Cooperative's representative. Beck, Corn Belt Power board secretary, was elected Aug. 26 and confirmed as a new Basin director at Basin's Nov. 10 annual meeting.

as Corn Belt Power's board secretary. Jerry's active participation on Corn Belt's board will help transition him into a contributing director at Basin board meetings."

Gilbert says he will miss being a Basin director. He's been Corn Belt Power's only representative since Corn Belt Power joined Basin as a Class A member in 2009.

"I have been honored and very blessed to represent Corn Belt on the Basin Board for the past 12 years," he said. "Meeting and working with great REC people throughout the Basin footprint has been the experience of a lifetime. While Basin is a large \$7 billion company, it is a cooperative which

asks, 'Is this best for the membership?' as a routine part of board decision making."

Ken Kuyper, executive vice president and general manager, Corn Belt Power, echoed Gilbert's sentiments.

"Jerry will do a great job for Corn Belt Power's membership," he said. "He's been an integral part of our board of directors for many years. I'm confident that Jerry will continue to support Corn Belt Power's mission while also being a great asset to the Basin board of directors."

Beck shadowed Gilbert at recent Basin Electric board meetings. He took over full-time in December. ■



**Above** | TrinityRail receives the 2021 Venture Award for Iowa Area Development Group's Outstanding Business of the Year award. Trinity Industries selected Butler Logistics Park near Shell Rock as the location of TrinityRail, a \$60 million state-of-the-art rail maintenance facility to serve the upper Midwest. This facility is the largest and most equipped maintenance facility in the Trinity Industries network serving Class 1 railroads and shippers.

## IADG honors businesses on cooperative lines

The Iowa Area Development Group (IADG), on behalf of Iowa's rural electric cooperatives, municipal utilities and independent telecommunications companies, honored seven distinguished Iowa companies with the Iowa Venture Award at an Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives' annual meeting luncheon.

### TrinityRail "Outstanding Business of the Year" *Butler County REC Member*

Trinity Industries selected Butler Logistics Park near Shell Rock as the location of TrinityRail, a \$60 million state-of-the-art rail maintenance facility to serve the upper Midwest. This facility is the largest and most

equipped maintenance facility in the Trinity Industries network serving Class 1 railroads and shippers. Activity at the facility ranges from repairs and maintenance to coatings, cleaning, inspections, testing and full rebuilds. The facility, when complete will include 370,000-square-feet of manufacturing and maintenance floor space and seven miles of rail track. It currently employs 150 with plans to expand to 260 employees and beyond based on demand.

"The Iowa Venture Award Luncheon provides a forum to celebrate the courage, contribution, innovation, responsibility, and vision of Iowa entrepreneurs," said IADG President Rand Fisher. "TrinityRail

demonstrated an incredible investment in Iowa with development of a 230-acre site as the location of their state-of-the-art maintenance facility and creation of up to 260 high quality jobs for the region."

### Sister's Home Style Entrees

*Midland Power Cooperative Member*

Deb Davis, owner of Sister's Home Style Entrees, Humboldt, turned her hobby of preparing meals for family and friends into a statewide business in 2011. Today, 47 employees prepare more than 70,000 meals per month and serve all of Iowa and its bordering states. Sister's Home Style Entrees strives to provide delicious home-style meals at an affordable price. Its core customers are elderly and homebound populations, but families also love the convenience and flexibility of their savory meals.

"Deb and the team at Sister's Home Style Entrees provide an invaluable service by supporting the health and wellbeing of all of their customers," said Fisher. ■



**Above** | IADG honored Sister's Home Style Entrees with a Venture Award Dec. 2. Today, 47 employees prepare more than 70,000 meals per month and serve all of Iowa and its bordering states.

## Corn Belt Power learns about recent cyber events

Cybersecurity continues to be a leading news story in the United States. That includes the state of Iowa where several companies have fallen victim to nefarious actors.

Corn Belt Power and its information technology partner, IP Pathways, recently held an informational session on what to do in case of a cyber-attack. IP Pathways shared lessons learned from other organizations with Corn Belt Power.

"We continue to stay vigilant when it comes to our cybersecurity posture," said Jon Myer, IT administrator, Corn Belt Power Cooperative. "We appreciate IP Pathways taking the time to share

information with us."

IP Pathways provides IT hardware and software, data center, cloud, professional and managed services, and hybrid IT solutions to small, medium-sized and enterprise customers throughout the Midwest. Its engineering team architects, implements, monitors, supports and manages private and hybrid cloud solutions for your data center, our data center or any data center. Named by CRN Magazine in 2015 as one of the 250 most certified, 500 largest and 100 fastest growing IT service providers in North America.



### Cybersecurity education

**Above** | On Nov. 17, Corn Belt Power employees listen in as an IP Pathways representative explains cyber attacks, how to avoid them and what to do if you fall victim of one.

# Corn Belt Power and NIPCO join electric vehicle charging network

The CHARGE EV, LLC, family has grown to 49 participating cooperatives. The CHARGE™ brand will extend to western Iowa and southern Illinois with the addition of Iowa generation and transmission (G&T) cooperatives Corn Belt Power Cooperative (Humboldt, Iowa) and Le Mars-based NIPCO (Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative), as well as Egyptian Electric Cooperative Association (EECA) in Murphysboro, Ill.

In addition, the G&Ts' member cooperatives will utilize the CHARGE™ brand as they build electric vehicle (EV) awareness among their consumer-members.

“This is an incredible boost for CHARGE™ both in terms of cooperative participation and the opportunity for collaboration,” said Nate Boettcher, President of CHARGE EV, LLC. “As our affiliations grow, we leverage the needs of each cooperative to benefit all.”

CHARGE™ is a national electric vehicle (EV) charging brand powered by electric cooperatives and invests in EV-focused companies. CHARGE™ cooperatives are part of a growing brand that signals a nationwide cooperation among cooperatives effort (the 7th Cooperative Principle) to help promote and educate members about electric vehicles.

“The number of available electric vehicle models are increasing each quarter.” Kenneth H. Kuyper, Corn Belt Power’s Executive Vice President and General Manager, said.

“Our CHARGE™ affiliation will give NIPCO and our member cooperatives extra support and expertise to answer member questions,” NIPCO Executive Vice President & General Manager Matt Washburn said.

“Being part of a brand that is powered by cooperatives benefits Corn Belt, our members and the consumer-members in our region. There is a great model in place to help facilitate collaboration among cooperatives.”

In addition to joining a national EV brand, CHARGE™ cooperatives benefit from CHARGE™ affiliations with EV-focused companies, such as ZEF Energy. ZEF manufactures EV charging units that will work with cooperatives’ existing load management programs. The technology allows members to delay charging their vehicle until evening and overnight hours when electricity prices are lower.

CHARGE EV, LLC, was created in 2020 by 31 electric cooperatives throughout Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota and Wisconsin to help promote electric vehicle adoption. Find out more at [www.charge.coop](http://www.charge.coop) or on social media: @ChargePoweredByCoops (Facebook) or @CoopCharge (Instagram). ■



New Touchstone Energy director

## Gossett newly elected to Touchstone Energy Board of Directors

Jim Gossett, CEO, Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative, has been elected to his first three-year term on the Touchstone Energy Cooperatives board of directors. Gossett was nominated by Corn Belt Power Cooperative, one of 24 regional members in the Touchstone Energy system. The election was Dec. 1, 2021.

Gossett spent the last part of 2021 serving out the remainder of Tresa Hussong’s board term, following her retirement.

“I believe awareness of the cooperative business model and the value of member-ownership are among the most valuable messages we can communicate,” Gossett said in his nomination form. “With 25 years in non-profit management, the last eight with Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative and four as co-op CEO, I know my media and community economic development experience will contribute well to the Touchstone Energy board.”

Gossett is a director for the Iowa Institute of Cooperatives and a graduate of Leadership Iowa. He serves on several different statewide boards and advisory committees.

“Touchstone Energy programs and services offer co-ops a great bang for the buck,” Gossett says. “From web design and hosting, graphics and advertising, to training, no other organization is meeting our need to protect and promote our brand as a rural electric cooperative like Touchstone Energy. The sharing of best practices, networking and training are extremely valuable to RVEC.”

Corn Belt Power congratulates Jim on his election to the Touchstone Energy board of directors. ■

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**5** Sam Moore

**5** Reed Dreyer

**5** Jacob Howey

**5** Kerri Mertz

**5** Jacob McCullough

**10** Tyler Herrig

**10** Ethan Miller

**15** Travis Hefty

**15** Steve Smith

**20** Kurt Olson

**30** Darwin Johnson

**40** Kevin Bornhoft

# 2021. Service Awards



**December Touchstone Energy Volunteer Challenge winner | Jed Skogerboe**, manager business/community development, Iowa Lakes Electric Co-op, donated his \$100 prize drawing to his local Knights of Columbus Council.



Jed Skogerboe

## The power of human connections

**J**ed Skogerboe, manager business/community development, Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative, demonstrates the Touchstone Energy value of commitment to community by volunteering with his local Knights of Columbus Council. Skogerboe delivered coats to the Graettinger Terrill School district as part of the annual Knights of Columbus Coats for Kids drive.



### Christmas donation

**Above** | Jennifer Arndorfer, human resources specialist, organizes donations from Corn Belt Power employees that will be given to people in need this holiday season through the Adopt-A-Family program.

## Corn Belt Power Cooperative Watts Watt

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