



Annual contractor conference promotes energy efficiency

Iowa's electric cooperatives celebrated the 31st annual "Momentum Is Building" conference Feb. 8–9 at the Meadows Events and Conference Center in Altoona, Iowa.

Since the conference began in 1993, its mission has been to provide a forum for energy efficiency and electric technology education.

The conference seeks to build relationships with trade professionals who influence electric co-op members' decision-making about home building/remodeling, heating, cooling, water heating and energy efficiency.

Momentum Is Building continues to offer up-to-date building science information, practical hands-on details and new technology displays for building trades professionals – including homebuilders, electricians, and heating-plumbing contractors. Rural electric cooperative personnel from across Iowa join their local contractors at the conference.



Obtaining CEUs

Above | Dave Sullivan, Sullivan Training and Consulting, LLC., presents to a group of close to 80 electricians at this year's Momentum is Building conference Feb. 8. Sullivan provides electrical continuing education courses for licensed electricians.

"For many years, Momentum Is Building has allowed building trades professionals from our area to find out what's new in the industry—techniques as well as products. Attendees also obtain continuing education credits they need to stay current in their professions," says Ryan Cornelius, vice president, corporate relations, Corn Belt Power Cooperative.

"We thank our local contractors for taking part in our event. This is a great way for co-op employees and the individuals who provide services inside cooperative members' homes a chance to network, share information and learn from each other. We want to thank our partners Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative and Associated Electric Cooperative for helping to put on a great event."

Nationally recognized speakers including Jay Gubrud, Dr. Charlie Cartwright, Terry Moorman, Dave Sullivan and Jeff

Reichart shared their knowledge on topics including meeting consumer expectations in customer service; inspiring building trades professionals to cultivate a culture of safety within their operations; and CEU sessions for electricians and heating-plumbing professionals.

Momentum Is Building also includes a trade show where participants visit with companies to learn about new products that support efficient and healthy homes.

Support for the conference comes from the Iowa Cooperatives for Energy Efficiency, Iowa's rural electric cooperatives, and the conference's premier sponsor Basin Electric Power Cooperative.

Next year's Momentum is Building conference will take place on February 20-21 inside the Sheraton West Des Moines hotel.

For more on each year's Momentum is Building conference, please visit:

www.momentumisbuilding.com.



Safety

Above | Dr. Charlie Cartwright provides a safety message as part of his closing keynote address at Momentum is Building Feb. 9.

Co-ops welcome legislators back to Des Moines

Severe winter weather couldn't stop employees and directors from Iowa electric cooperatives as they discussed concerns and priorities with state legislators during our 2024 Welcome Back Legislative Reception in downtown Des Moines. The Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives hosted the annual reception on January 9 in conjunction with the Iowa Biotechnology Association, the Iowa Communications Alliance, the Iowa Institute for Cooperatives and FUEL Iowa.

The event provided a valuable opportunity to meet with state legislators at the beginning of the 2024 Legislative Session to discuss issues that impact rural electric cooperatives and the communities we serve.

For example, we're concerned about the potential establishment of Integrate Resource Plans in Iowa Code. IRPs would essentially force the early retirement of carbon-based electric generation facilities, resulting in stranded costs and reliability concerns for the member-consumers we serve. Iowa's locally owned and governed electric cooperatives continue to support an "all-of-the-above" power generation strategy that ensures reliable and affordable electricity for our members.

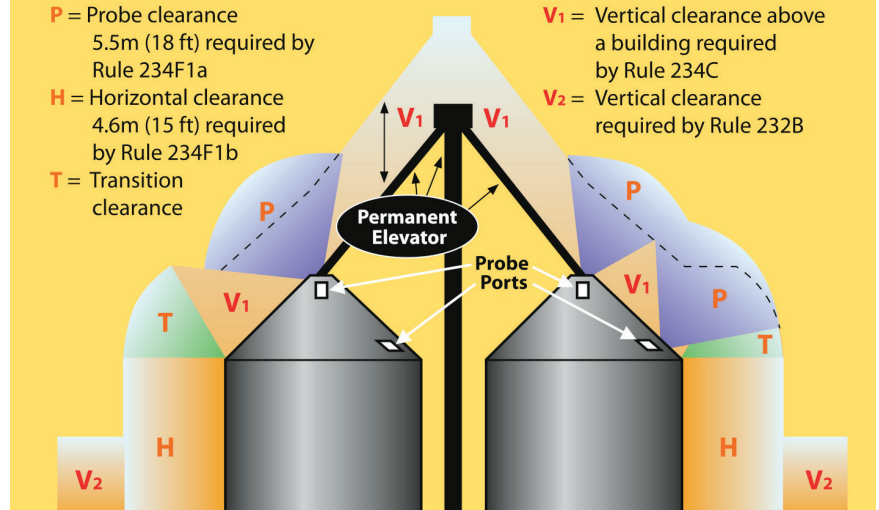
In the coming months, the Iowa General Assembly will be addressing a multitude of issues, including energy-related matters that are central to Iowa's rural economy. Beginning with the Welcome Back Legislative Reception, Iowa electric cooperatives will again be important advocates for a balanced approach in addressing energy issues as we work to power lives and empower communities. Learn more about our advocacy efforts at www.iaruralpower.org.



Welcome back

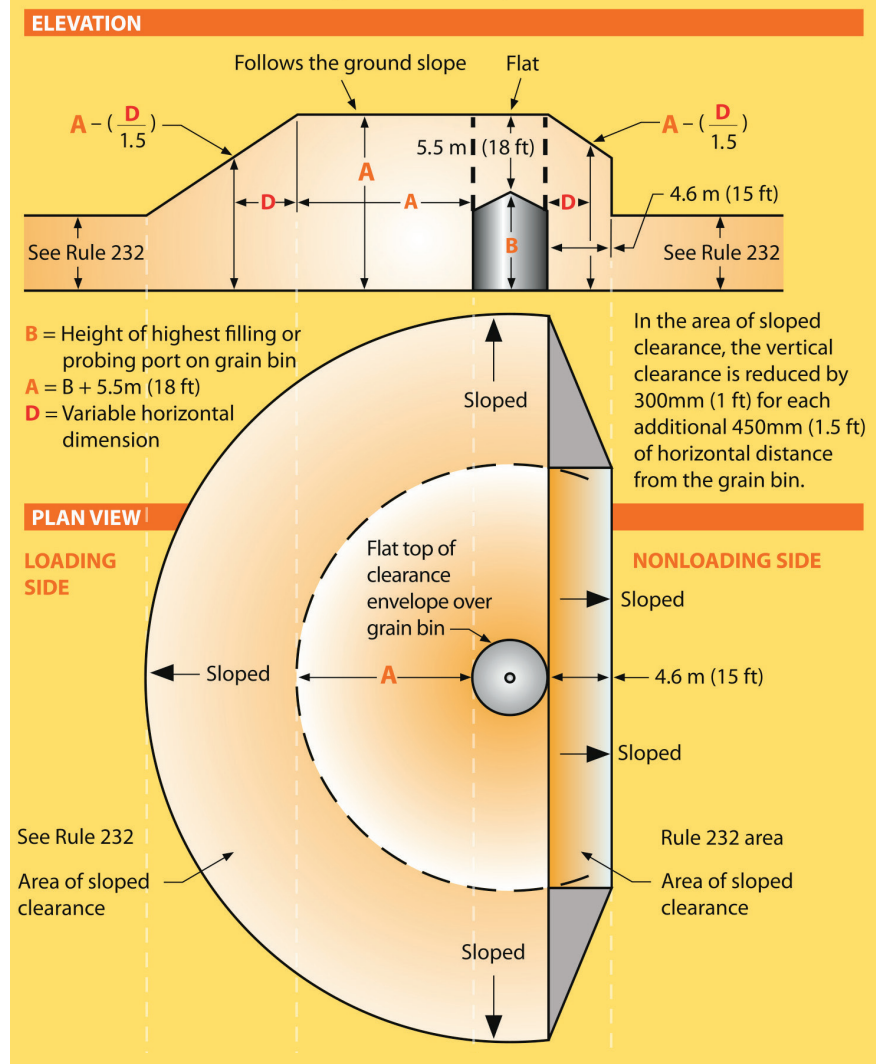
Above | Garrett Thompson, left, general manager/CEO, Franklin Rural Electric Cooperative, and Dale Schaefer, right, director, Franklin Rural Electric Cooperative and Corn Belt Power Cooperative, meet with Iowa State Rep. Shannon Latham at the Welcome Back Reception Jan. 9.

Clearance envelope for grain bins filled by permanently installed augers, conveyors or elevators



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Clearance envelope for grain bins filled by portable augers, conveyors or elevators



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Policy perspective:

Coal-fired power plant shutdowns to slow in 2024



Above | Corn Belt Power Cooperative's Wisdom Station Unit I and Unit II remain ready and capable of generating electric power during times of peak demand. Plants like Wisdom Station are crucial to America's electric supply.

According to the U.S. Department of Energy Information Administration, power grid operators are planning to retire 5.2 gigawatts of power generation capacity this year, which adds up to a 62 percent fall from last year, when 13.5 GW worth of capacity went offline. This is the biggest slowdown in power plant retirements since 2008, according to the EIA.

Also, all of the planned retirements are fossil-fired thermal facilities, with no nuclear

power retirements, according to the EIA's most recent Preliminary Monthly Electric Generator Inventory.

A total of 22.3 GW in coal-fired capacity retired in the past two years. This year, the 2.3 GW of coal-fired capacity slated for retirement adds up to 1.3 percent of the country's in-operation coal fleet as of the end of 2023.

However, the EIA reports that coal retirements will pick up again in 2025, when 10.9 GW in coal capacity will be shuttered.

Most of 2024's retirements will come

from aging coal-fired units. Weighted by capacity, the average age of these units is almost 54 years. This represents a loss of 1.3 percent of the coal-fired fleet's capacity.

Corn Belt Power continues to advocate for a responsible energy transition that factors in an All-of-the-Above energy portfolio. An All-of-the-Above energy approach favors the incorporation of renewable resources like wind and solar to work alongside traditional reliable sources of energy like oil and natural gas. For us, adopting a strategy incorporating renewable energy sources must be done in a way that protects our members financially and does not impede their power supply.

It comes down to having reliable baseload generation for when renewables aren't available. That's why we call it "All-of-the-Above." Corn Belt Power continues to support renewable, carbon-free resources and reliable, carbon-based resources. We will continue to advocate on behalf of our member-cooperatives for that energy strategy on a state and federal level. ■

Corn Belt Power Cooperative to host annual meeting

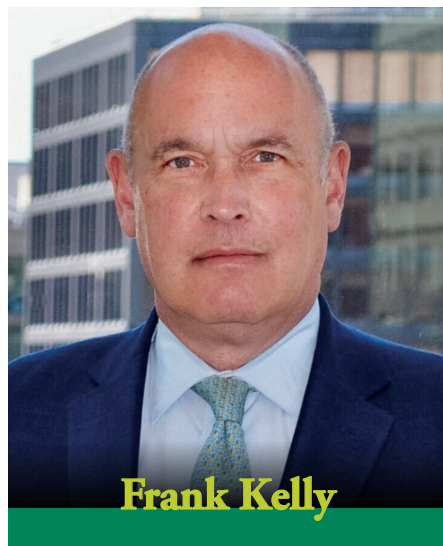
Corn Belt Power will celebrate and recap its successes of 2023 and look forward to the future at this year's annual meeting on Wednesday, April 3 inside the Fort Dodge Starlite Best Western. This year's event is slated to kick off at 9 a.m. Invitations will be sent via email as the event draws nearer.

Attendees will hear an update on Corn Belt Power's operations and finances as well as a keynote address from Frank Kelly.

Having worked as a senior executive on Wall Street as well as having served in senior government roles, Kelly brings extensive global experience and insight into the public policy decision-making process and its impact on global markets.

Kelly began his career as a writer for President Ronald Reagan and went on to serve in the White House Office of Political Affairs. He served as a writer for President George H.W. Bush and then served at the Justice Department in the Office of Policy Development, focusing on national security and international issues. From there, Frank went to the US Securities and Exchange

Commission, being appointed Senior Policy Advisor to the Chairman and Chief Spokesman for the Commission as well as a



member of the SEC Senior Staff.

He then joined Merrill Lynch Investment Banking in New York serving as Chief of Staff and Global Head of Marketing for Investment Banking, Sales & Trading. Frank

was also a member of the German/Swiss/Austria country coverage team and was involved in numerous large cross-border deals. He returned to Washington DC to establish Charles Schwab & Co.'s first Global Government & Regulatory Affairs operation. He served as both the Senior Vice President and Global Head of Government Affairs and the firm's first Chief Political Strategist.

Kelly joined Deutsche Bank in 2003 as the Bank's first Head of Government Affairs and then later, Global Coordinator for Government & Public Affairs. He was also the Bank's first Chief Political Strategist. In this role, he advised the Bank's top institutional clients globally on US and geopolitical issues. He also has extensive experience in mergers and acquisitions, establishing and heading up the Bank's Direct Investment Advisory Group (DIAG). Frank and his team advised corporates on sensitive national and economic security-related mergers and acquisitions seeking approvals from the US Committee for Foreign Investment in the US (CFIUS). ■



February Touchstone Energy Volunteer Challenge winner | Mark Saxton, journeyman lineman, Corn Belt Power Cooperative, donated his \$100 prize to Little E-Hawk.

Zupke awarded scholarship

Congratulations to Colton Zupke, for winning this year's Corn Belt Power Cooperative and Basin Electric Power Cooperative \$1,000 scholarship.

Zupke, whose parents are members of Butler County REC, is known to his teachers as a hard-working, dedicated student who always does his best.

Colton is a senior at Sumner-Fredericksburg High School in Sumner. He plans to attend Iowa State University to study agricultural engineering. Zupke is involved in Future Farmers of America, Experience the Action, football, basketball and multiple leadership activities.

Colton is the son of Ryan and Ann Zupke of Fredericksburg.



Colton Zupke
 Above | Colton Zupke, Fredericksburg, has been awarded a \$1,000 scholarship from Basin Electric Power Cooperative and Corn Belt Power Cooperative.

Showing a good handle on the challenges electric cooperatives face, Zupke wrote in his scholarship: Many people depend on electric cooperatives for their power and share personal data with the cooperative, which can be threatened by cyberattacks on the cooperatives. Cyber threats not only attack the personal data of members but also the electrical grid itself. It is important for cooperatives to work with each other and security experts to limit the risks and prevent future attacks on our power grid and the database for the members of the cooperative. ■

Corn Belt Power Cooperative Watts Watt

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