



Corn Belt Power begins NRECA's RC3 program

As the electric utility industry evolves, so do the threats that face it. Jon Myer, one of Corn Belt Power's information technology administrators, calls the cyber security threat one of the more dangerous the utility industry faces.

"It's a very real threat," he says. "It's actualized all the time, specifically against electric utilities."

This fall, Corn Belt Power and electric cooperatives across the state of Iowa began to take part in the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Rural Cooperative Cybersecurity Capabilities Program (RC3).

NRECA began RC3 in July 2016 after receiving funding from the Department of Energy's Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability. The program will offer online education, training materials and vulnerability assessment tools; reduced-cost access to cybersecurity training programs; and increased opportunities for information sharing and to participate in RC3's cybersecurity research efforts.

Last year, the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives convened an RC3 committee. Iowa's three generation and transmission cooperatives began the program's self-assessment earlier this fall.

"The program helps us identify our assets, detect threats and vulnerabilities and secure our physical security," he said. "This program is going to allow us to be in line with industry standards and best practices."

Identifying threats is just one piece of the RC3 project.

"We're finding that we have a lot of the infrastructure in place, however, an organization's job is never finished when dealing with cyber threats," Myer said.



Above | Jon Myer, IT administrator, Corn Belt Power, reviews the co-op's Axio cyber security management dashboard following a group conference call with distribution co-op IT administrators. Myer says cyber security is one of the biggest threats facing the electric utility industry. Corn Belt Power began the NRECA's Rural Cooperative Cyber Security (RC3) program earlier this year.

"Ultimately, we're going to be able to protect our systems with enhanced firewalls. Corn Belt Power is going to be able to better detect potential threats and learn how to respond to those threats."

In the early stages of the project, Myer says he and his Corn Belt Power IT colleagues Dennis Anderson, IT administrator, and Kevin Hapes, applications support specialist, are learning a lot.

"It's been beneficial in showing us where we stand within the current threat landscape," he said. "So far, it's helped us develop a plan and a way forward."

Collaboration with Corn Belt Power's distribution member-cooperatives is key to the success of the program.

"We've been in open communication with our distribution systems on the process," he said. "It's mutually beneficial for us to establish secure connections within our own systems."

Corn Belt Power will continue with its self-assessment before receiving its initial findings. Axio, an integrated cyber risk management company, has been contracted by Iowa's electric cooperatives to facilitate the program. ■

Henkelvig serving with Iowa National Guard

In November, we honor veterans. Corn Belt Power thanks the many who have served our country. We are also mindful of those who continue to serve.

One serving right now is Corn Belt Power's own Howard Henkelvig. Henkelvig is a journeyman lineman based out of the co-op's Emmetsburg location.

Henkelvig, a nine-year member of the Iowa National Guard, left in August and will return following his 400-day service order.

"This is my first deployment," he said. "It's just something I want to do. A year ago, we found out this was a possibility.



We've been training and getting in the right mindset ever since."

Henkelvig drills with his National Guard unit in Spencer. Before deployment overseas, Henkelvig says his group will train in Fort Bliss, Tex. and Fort Sill, Okla. Before leaving, he said he'd miss his family and friends the most.

"I worry about my family more than I do myself," he said. "My parents are glad I get to go but nervous at the same time. I would like to thank everyone at Corn Belt Power for their continued support. I'm looking forward to returning next year."

Corn Belt Power wishes for Henkelvig and his team's safe return and we thank them for their service. ■



Dickey selected for Leadership Iowa program

Forty leaders from across Iowa have been selected as members of the 2020-21 class of Leadership Iowa and Corn Belt Power's Brittany Dickey is one of them.

Dickey, the cooperative's development finance director, has served Corn Belt Power members for the last 13 years. She applied for the program in May and was notified of her selection in August. Leadership Iowa is the state's premiere issues awareness program.

"I'm very honored and excited to be accepted into the Leadership Iowa program this year," she said. "This is a great opportunity to connect with leaders across the state as well as learn about issues facing Iowa. The first session was amazing and I look forward to future sessions."

More than 1,200 Iowans have



Brittany Dickey

graduated from the program since it started in 1982.

"It's more important than ever to recognize the role our state's leaders have in developing solutions," said Mike Ralston, president of ABI and 1991 graduate of Leadership Iowa. "For the past 38 years, Leadership Iowa has provided them with the resources to make our great state even better."

Class members attend a series of eight two-day sessions between October and June. Each session gives participants an in-depth look at an important issues facing our state through discussions with subject-matter experts, engaging activities and unique opportunities.

This year's host communities are Atlantic, Sioux Center, Ottumwa, Des Moines, the Quad Cities, Mason City and Marshalltown. Session topics include agriculture and renewable

resources; economic development and workforce; government; advanced manufacturing and transportation; education; and community preparedness and response, public safety and security.

"This program recognizes these individuals for the leadership they've demonstrated, and their desire and commitment to effect positive change in their workplaces, communities and our state," said Jessi McQuerrey, director of programs at the ABI Foundation. "Year after year, participants tell us that these experiences propel their personal and professional development, and we're looking forward to another great Leadership Iowa year with this new cohort of extraordinary leaders."

Participants are selected from a large applicant pool based on achieving the best balance of qualified candidates for a particular year. This opportunity is offered to Iowans by the Iowa Association of Business and Industry (ABI) Foundation. ■

News in brief

Capesius begins as apprentice lineman

John Capesius began work at Corn Belt Power on October 16 as an apprentice lineman at Emmetsburg.

He is a recent graduate of the powerline program at Northwest Iowa Community College. John will work with the crew until Howard Henkelvig returns from active duty.



John Capesius

New operations engineer begins

Neil Smith is Corn Belt Power's new operations engineer. Smith began work at the cooperative on October 19. Smith hails from Montgomery, Ala. He has a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Auburn University.

Smith's wife Amberly, a school teacher, will be joining him in Humboldt as soon as the school year is over.



Neil Smith

Grundy County REC holds 2020 annual meeting

Grundy County Rural Electric Cooperative held a virtual annual meeting this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In accordance with the Articles of Incorporation and bylaws the business meeting was conducted to complete director elections. The needed quorum of 50 was established through the return of 453 mail-in ballots.

During the meeting 20 members from across Grundy County's service territory won a 50 dollar electric bill credit.

Parliamentarian, Dennis Puckett, attorney with Sullivan & Ward, conducted the director election process. The following directors were re-elected to three-year terms:

- Incumbent Larry Rohach, District 4
- Incumbent David Schmidt, District 6

Onken, Werner elected to terms at Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative's virtual annual meeting

The Raccoon Valley Electric Cooperative annual meeting was held at the co-op office in Glidden, Iowa on September 9.

Like many other annual meetings, the COVID-19 pandemic caused the board to make the difficult decision to conduct this year's annual meeting differently by restricting attendance and completing the essential business of the director election by mail.

In accordance with the Raccoon Valley bylaws, the Board of Directors had appointed from the members of the Cooperative a Nominating Committee consisting of Jason Klocke, Dale Wernimont, Corine Handlos, Carol Raasch, Brian Johnson, Keith Kenny and Tracy Onken.

David Onken and Karen Werner were re-elected to three-year terms on the Raccoon Valley board of directors.



Resolution of Appreciation

Above | These 16 Corn Belt Power Cooperative linemen served as part of a statewide mutual aid effort to restore power to parts of Iowa following the devastating Aug. 10 derecho.

CIPCO honors Corn Belt Power

Cooperation among cooperatives is a founding principle of an electric cooperative. That's why Corn Belt Power crews assisted Central Iowa Power Cooperative (CIPCO) with its restoration efforts following the devastating derecho in August. In response to our crews' diligent work, CIPCO honored them with a board resolution of appreciation. The resolution was presented to Corn Belt Power's board of directors on Friday, October 2.

The resolution also honors Northwest Iowa Power Cooperative, Dairyland Power Cooperative and Northeast Missouri Electric Power Cooperative for their assistance with restoration efforts. Crews from each organization worked countless hours of overtime to restore power to thousands of rural Iowans following the storms. CIPCO sent crews a commemorative t-shirt and hat as a thank you gift.

The storm left thousands of Iowans without power and some estimates claim billions of dollars in damage. Corn Belt Power's system sustained little damage. CIPCO sustained heavy damage with hundreds of broken poles on multiple line sections.

At the height of the outage event, more than 60,000 cooperative member accounts were without power. Within 72 hours, two-thirds of those accounts were restored. ■



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October Touchstone Energy Volunteer Challenge winner | Shelly Tredway, manager of accounting, Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative, donated her \$100 prize drawing to Grandview Baptist Church Awana program.



Shelly Tredway

The power of human connections

Shelly Tredway, manager of accounting, Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative, demonstrates the Touchstone Energy value of commitment to community by volunteering at her church, Grandview Baptist in Estherville. Here Tredway is pictured with one of the “Sparky” classes at her local Awana program. She serves as the program’s secretary.

Calhoun County REC holds virtual annual meeting

Jim Miller, Steve Boedecker and Jason McKenney each retained their seats on the Calhoun County REC board during the cooperative’s September 2, 2020 annual meeting. Members voted for the board via mail-in ballot. Feel free to watch the Calhoun County REC recorded annual meeting video on the co-op’s website. ■

Calhoun County REC 2020 Annual Meeting Video:
<http://bit.ly/Calhoun2020video>

Corn Belt Power Cooperative Watts Watt

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