

Michigan

COUNTRY LINES

A diver in a blue wetsuit and mask is swimming over a large, rusted metal structure covered in brown seaweed. The scene is underwater with blue water and sunlight filtering through.

Visit Michigan's Underwater Shipwrecks

(For divers & landlubbers, too!)

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gtlakes.com

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Your Vote Is Important

Voting for directors for the Great Lakes Energy board may not seem like a history-making event, but it is.

For over 75 years our members have exercised their ownership rights by electing directors to their electric cooperative board. By casting your vote on the mail-in ballot attached to this magazine, you are keeping a tradition alive that shows you value being part of a locally-owned and operated business.

But it's more than just a tradition. "Democratic member control" is one of the founding principles that helps guide a member-owned electric cooperative. Members elect the people

commitments are considerable. Besides attending hours of meetings every month, directors must continuously educate themselves about the complex business of electricity production and distribution. They also spend hours of their free time acquiring knowledge on the intricacies of strategic planning and financial decision-making.

Like any successful democracy, this decision-making process does not operate in the dark. We keep you informed about the co-op's financial condition, tell you when situations arise that could affect your bill or service, and educate you about



Steve Boeckman
Great Lakes Energy
President/CEO

We welcome and encourage your involvement in the voting process. After all, it's your co-op.

they feel can best determine the strategic direction their local, not-for-profit business should take. The directors understand their members' needs because they are co-op member-owners, too.

In a democracy, participation is crucial. That's why it is important for you to review the candidates' statements on pages 6 and 7 and then use the ballot to select the ones you feel best represent your interests as a Great Lakes Energy member.

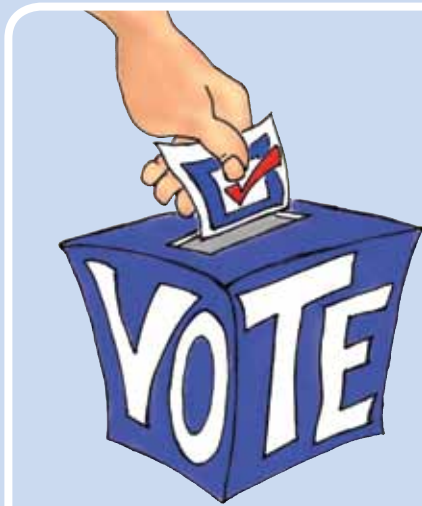
Your directors must constantly consider policies affecting the co-op, always mindful of your need for a safe, reliable and affordable supply of power. It's not an easy task. Responsibilities stack up and time

the issues involved. We do this through these pages in *Michigan Country Lines*, in inserts included with your bills, and, most importantly, during face-to-face conversations, whether at our annual member information luncheons, in our offices, or out in the field.

Co-ops are different than other businesses because of you, our members, and because of the way decisions are made. We welcome and encourage your involvement in the voting process. After all, it's your co-op.

 Find us on Facebook.
facebook.com/greatlakesenergy

Exercise your ownership right — vote!



**Learn about the
five candidates before
casting your vote.
Candidate profiles appear
on pages 6 and 7.**



**Great Lakes Energy Cooperative
Candidates for Board of Directors
to be elected at the 2013 Annual Meeting**

Nominations By Petition

Date Posted: June 10, 2013

The following individuals have been nominated by petitions verified by the secretary of the cooperative for the two (2) open positions on the board of directors:

1. Mary Brower..... 4218 M-32, East Jordan, Michigan 49727
2. Mike Hayes 6542 Hollyglen Drive, Elmira, Michigan 49730
3. Robert Thurow 819 W. Chauvez Rd., Scottville, Michigan 49454
4. Richard Walsworth..... 3701 N. 48th Avenue, Mears, Michigan 49436
5. Kara Wasylewski..... 8934 Wildwood Trail, Elmira, Michigan 49730



Board of Directors Candidates



Mary Brower

Home: East Jordan
Occupation: Food and Farm Coordinator, Farmer
Co-op Member: Over one year

1) Why are you seeking a board seat?

If elected to the Great Lakes Energy Cooperative board, I will contribute a voice for sustainable energy in our region by keeping rates low, promoting efficiency measures, and supporting responsible policy.

2) Do you have energy industry experience, including work as a Great Lakes Energy employee, electric utility contractor, or at another energy service provider? If yes, please list employer(s), years of experience, and brief details.

I have advanced prudent energy measures through my work as a business owner, educator, and program coordinator. Along with my husband Aaron, I own and operate Bluestem Farm, one of northern Michigan's newest sustainable farming ventures. Bluestem Farm not only produces local, sustainable, and delicious vegetables, pasture-raised meats, and eggs, we do so using innovative methods which leave the environment in better condition than it was before. Our style of farming reduces everyone's dependence on fossil fuels through local production and distribution of that most basic of human needs: our food.

Through my work with the Institute for Sustainable Living, Art & Natural Design, I support ecological measures and the work of the larger farming community. I am a standing board member of the Martha Wagbo Farm and Education Center, with special focus on community programming.

3) List other qualifications and relevant information

Before becoming a business owner in

northern Michigan, I served as a program administrator and education consultant, providing supervision and guidance to teams of teachers in schools large and small. An experienced educator at the high school and college levels, I have designed graduate teaching workshops and professional development sessions for practicing teachers. I hold a number of advanced degrees.

Keep energy rates low, promote efficiency, and seek responsible sources for sustainable energy with a vote for Mary Brower.



Michael Hayes

Home: Elmira
Occupation: Retired
Co-op Member: 12 years

1) Why are you seeking a board seat?

I am running for the board of directors of Great Lakes Energy Cooperative so that I can work to provide our members with low cost electricity from clean sources. The board needs to be receptive to the voice of the members so that they have an input to the policies of their Co-op. We need to keep rates low and encourage conservation.

2) Do you have energy industry experience, including work as a Great Lakes Energy employee, electric utility contractor, or at another energy service provider? If yes, please list employer(s), years of experience, and brief details.

Yes: I was employed by Michigan Consolidated Gas Company, Grand Rapids District, 1970 to 1983. I managed two on-site co-generation systems (electricity and steam) providing power for two sites. I also supervised the district corrosion control program and radio maintenance.

3) List other qualifications and relevant information.

Electrical Engineering Degree, BS, South

Dakota School of Mines and Technology. I have experience as a design engineer in the aerospace industry and I have operated my own electrical contracting business and am a member of the UAW. I was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Antrim County Commission, April 2010 to December 2010. I now serve, by appointment, on non-elective Antrim County boards; planning and housing commissions, Veterans Affairs and Capital Improvement committees. I serve on the Mancelona Township Board of Review.

I worked with others to establish the Mancelona Community Garden and Mancelona Farm Market; working as a liaison to the Mancelona DDA in the design and construction of the new Farm Market Pavilion.

My wife and I are active in our church and are year-round residents of Lakes of the North.



Robert Thurow

Home: Scottville
Occupation: Dairy and Grain Farmer
Co-op Member: 40 years
Co-op Director: Over 13 years

1) Why are you seeking a board seat?

While serving, I have kept abreast of the issues pertaining to electrical power through educational seminars, special committees, working with governmental agencies and serving on the Great Lakes and Wolverine Power Supply boards. In the immediate future our board will be making crucial decisions for supplying our electrical needs. I believe my experience would be a valuable asset to our board in making these complex decisions.

As a cooperative board member, I feel my primary purpose is, and will be, to serve you and not any special interest groups. I will be available to listen to your questions and concerns and give you a voice in the

As a member and owner of an electric cooperative, you decide who will represent you on the Great Lakes Energy Cooperative Board of Directors.

decision-making process.

My two sons and I operate a dairy and grain farm so, like you, it is very important that we have the best reliable service at an affordable cost. I would appreciate your vote to support me in this endeavor.

2) Do you have energy industry experience, including work as a Great Lakes Energy employee, electric utility contractor, or at another energy service provider. If yes, please list employer(s), years of experience, and brief details.

I have enjoyed 13 years with Great Lakes Energy as a director and also was a director of Western Michigan Electric before it merged with Great Lakes. I have never been employed by Great Lakes Energy or any other electric service provider.

3) List other qualifications and relevant information.

I represent Great Lakes Energy on the Wolverine Power Cooperative Board of Directors. I have participated in various leadership training courses, have completed training courses to become a certified director, and kept up with the issues of renewable energy sources. I have served on various county boards and agricultural cooperatives, as well as church boards.



Richard Walsworth

Home: Mears

Occupation: Retired Owner/Operator of Walsworth Farms (asparagus), Oceana County

Co-op Member: 50 years

Co-op Director: 27 years

1) Why are you seeking a board seat?

I am seeking reelection to the board of directors because I want to continue serving the membership with a focus on continued investment in reliability and an emphasis on cost competitiveness. Energy costs for

year-around residents are now very competitive, and at higher usage levels, below those of Consumers Energy, Detroit Edison and others—this is a key accomplishment particularly given the rural, sparsely populated nature of our service area. Finally, I am proud of the quality employee team that we have built to serve you 7/24/365 as well as your cooperative's leadership role in renewable energy and beneficial energy efficiency programs.

2) Do you have energy industry experience, including work as a Great Lakes Energy employee, electric utility contractor, or at another energy service provider? If yes, please list employer(s), years of experience, and brief details.

I have 20+ years of experience as an electric cooperative director and am proud of the work the directors and management team have accomplished together to position Great Lakes Energy as both a competitive and reliable supplier. I have not been employed with Great Lakes Energy or any other electric service provider.

3) List other qualifications and relevant information.

I currently serve as chairman of Wolverine Power Cooperative, the wholesale power supplier owned by Great Lakes Energy and five other Michigan electric cooperatives. This is important because every dollar of your bill contains approximately 70 cents attributable to wholesale power supply and transmission costs.



Kara Wasylewski

Home: Elmira

Occupation: Wife, Mother, Retail Sales

Co-op Member: 8 years

1) Why are you seeking a board seat?

I believe it would be beneficial to the co-op and its members to be represented by a



Please read the information about the candidates on these two pages, then cast your vote on the ballot on the back of the cover wrap on this magazine. Two positions are open on the board.

young working mother and have a voice from a different perspective. I also feel it is important to have board members from all the different service areas so all locations have equal representation when it comes to decisions.

2) Do you have energy industry experience, including work as a Great Lakes Energy employee, electric utility contractor, or at another energy service provider? If yes, please list employer(s), years of experience, and brief details.

No.

3) List other qualifications and relevant information.

I am a mother of two young boys and work part-time retail sales in Boyne City. Prior to that I worked at a preschool program in Boyne City and at a coffee shop on Beaver Island.

My time in these positions has given me a lot of experience with customer service, cooperation, compromise, and listening to others' concerns and needs. I will be a responsible and accessible board member when it comes to the budget, making decisions regarding the People Fund, and validating any member issues that are brought to my attention.

4 Easy Ways To Reduce Your Cooling Costs

If you're a business owner, you have a lot on your plate, and the commercial refrigerators at your facility are probably the last things on your mind. However, an old refrigerator—or one that isn't equipped with modern controls or technologies—could be using up to 35 percent more energy than necessary. This is money that could be invested elsewhere.

It is also important to understand the basics of energy-efficient commercial refrigeration. Read below to find out how your business can start saving more energy!

1 Anti-sweat heater controls

Reach-in freezer and cooler cases usually include electric heaters that prevent frost and condensation from forming on the glass. The problem is that anti-sweat heaters run all the time. The reality is that these heaters only need to kick on when it's extremely humid. Otherwise, you're just wasting energy.

THE FIX? Anti-sweat heater controls. They automatically sense humidity levels and

selectively run the heaters as needed. Energy Optimization rebate: \$80 per door.

2 LED cooler case lighting

Ironically, older coolers contain fluorescent lights that waste most of their energy generating heat instead of light. In turn, the refrigeration system has to work harder to remove the excess heat.

THE FIX? New light-emitting diode (LED) technology literally provides cooler light. LED case lights use significantly less electricity and produce 50 percent less heat. Energy Optimization rebate: \$25 per door.

3 Occupancy sensors

We tell kids (and maybe even employees) to turn off the lights when they're not using them. Yet, reach-in coolers leave the lights on indefinitely.

THE FIX? LED occupancy sensors. LEDs aren't affected when turned on and off in a cold environment. With instant-on capabilities, they light up when a shopper approaches

the cooler, or they can be programmed to stay on for a set amount of time and then shut off. Energy Optimization rebate: \$10 per door.

4 ECM motor

Did you know commercial refrigeration systems use fans to circulate cold air inside reach-in or walk-in coolers or freezers? Like the old electric heaters mentioned in our first tip, these fans run non-stop, wasting energy and putting extra wear and tear on the equipment.

THE FIX? Electronically commutated motors (ECMs). Through the magic of modern technology, ECMs are design to use electricity sparingly and therefore reduce the load on your refrigerator. In many cases, you can swap out the existing motor for an ECM motor and get a full return on your investment in less than a year! Energy Optimization rebate: \$30-70 per motor.

Interested in more ways to save energy?

Great Lakes Energy offers numerous rebates and resources to reward businesses and residents for saving energy. Check out the latest incentives at michigan-energy.org or call 877-296-4319 for more information.



Reduce energy costs.

"Close the refrigerator!" Remember hearing that as a kid? No one likes wasting energy. The same principle goes for commercial refrigeration. Earn **thousands of dollars in Energy Optimization rebates for your business** when you implement anti-sweat controls, in-case LED lighting, efficient cooler fan motors and more.

ENERGY TIP: Energy-efficient commercial refrigerators can use up to 35% less energy per year.

ONLINE: michigan-energy.org PHONE: 877.296.4319



Energy Optimization programs and incentives are applicable to Michigan service locations only. Other restrictions may apply. For a complete list of participating utilities, visit michigan-energy.org.

GLE in the Community



Putting Our Concern for Community Into Practice



▲ John Graves places a hot dog on an energized power line to send a clear message to Boyne City students about the importance of staying safe around electricity.

◀ Student Eareckson Myers (L) tries on a lineworker's gear as GLE's Tyler Armantrout discusses his job at a Career Day held at Pellston High School.



◀ Julie Bailey assists a Great Lakes Energy member with questions about the cooperative's services at a recent member luncheon. The luncheons are held in each of Great Lakes Energy's service districts each year. They give members an opportunity to learn how their electric cooperative is working for them. Invitations are sent to randomly-selected members.



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Prevent Deadly Shocks —

Check Your Boats & Docks



Don't be the common ground between water and electricity!

Safe Electricity (SafeElectricity.org) urges boat owners to have dockside electrical systems installed by professional electricians guided by the National Electrical Code, and have them inspected regularly to avoid tragedy.

For a fun, safe season on the water, there are items you must legally have on-board your watercraft—life vests, a fire extinguisher, a throwable flotation device, and properly working lights. But the list should not end there when it comes to helping prevent a tragedy, so make sure the boat itself and the dock is safe, too!

July 2012 saw some horrific fatal accidents near boats and docks. A 26-year-old woman was swimming in Lake of the Ozarks and was electrocuted when she touched an energized dock ladder, and a 13-year-old girl and her 8-year-old brother received fatal shocks while swimming near a lighted dock with an improperly grounded circuit.

Two young Tennessee boys died from electric shock while swimming between house boats when current from an on-board generator entered the water through frayed wires under the boat.

In Michigan, a 20-year-old Port Huron man entered the water behind a moored boat and became disabled as he tried to climb onto the swim platform. Friends trying to pull him onboard reported getting shocks. He could not be resuscitated. An investigation confirmed voltage behind the boat, caused by an AC to DC fault in the battery charger that energized the underwater gear; and there was no AC to DC bonding connection.

To help prevent such tragedies, it's important to ensure proper installation and maintenance of electrical equipment and inspect all electrical systems on or near the water. Also, remember that ropes, string, masts and rigging can also conduct electricity.

✓ Check your dock and the neighbor's, too!

Safe Electricity (safeelectricity.org), in conjunction with the American Boat and Yacht

Council (ABYC) and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers/National Electrical Contractors Association, recommends these steps:

- At a minimum, all electrical installations should comply with the 2011 National Electrical Code (article 553-residential docks, and 555-commercial), which mandates a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) on all dock receptacles. A GFCI measures the current in a circuit and senses any imbalance, such as a discharge into the water, that trips the GFCI and cuts off the power.

- The GFCI should be tested at least monthly, or per the manufacturer's specifications. Locate the GFCI somewhere along the ramp to the dock so it can be easily found and tested by local fire departments, as needed.

- Metal dock frames should have "bonding jumpers" that connect all metal parts to an on-shore grounding rod. This ensures that any part of the metal dock that becomes energized because of electrical malfunction will trip the GFCI or circuit breaker.

- Neighboring docks can also be a shock hazard to you. Talk to your neighbors about ensuring that their dockside electrical systems are Code compliant and inspected, too.

- All electrical installations should be performed by a professional electrical contractor.

- Docks are exposed to the elements so their electrical systems should be inspected at least once a year.

- Even if you are renting the dock, it is important to notify the owner of any safety violations so they can be fixed immediately.

If the owner will not make the corrections or properly maintain the dock, you might strongly consider moving your boat to another place.

✓ Check Your Boat

When it comes to a boat's electrical system, particularly those with onboard generators, use these tips:

- If you are unsure about how to install something, call an ABYC electrical certified technician.

- Household wire is not suitable for boats, as houses are motionless and generally dry. Even marine-rated wire that is not supported along its length will break with constant motion stress.

- Do *not* use wire nuts or splice connectors! (Wire nuts are for solid conductor wire, which should never be on a boat, and splice connectors can cut wire strands.)

- Fuses are rated to protect the wire, not the stereo. If a fuse blows continuously, it should not be replaced with a larger one just to keep it from blowing again—something else is wrong.

- Have your boat's electrical system checked at least once a year, and also when something is added or removed from it.

Most wet environments are dangerous when it comes to electricity, but related drownings can be prevented by regularly inspecting for ground-fault failure and strictly enforcing the National Electrical Code through frequent pool, dock and boat inspections.

Working With Our Power Supplier For You

The power you use every day comes from another cooperative, and that is Wolverine Power Cooperative. Wolverine is the power supplier to Great Lakes Energy and five additional cooperatives.

Each Wolverine member has two board seats. Bob Thurow and I currently serve on the Wolverine Power Cooperative board of directors on behalf of Great Lakes Energy. I am also the current chairman of the Wolverine board. Bob Thurow has chaired the Wolverine board as well, and we have both served as board officers at Great Lakes.

The role of a Wolverine director is equally as important as the responsibilities we have on the Great Lakes Energy board. Over 60 percent of your electric bill goes for power supply. This includes power generation costs as well as high-voltage delivery of the power across Michigan over transmission lines and



Richard Walsworth
Wolverine Power
Cooperative
Board Chairman

through electric substations.

The Wolverine board meets monthly, along with the co-op's

informed and take action in good faith, never using their positions as board members for personal advantage. They should set poli-

Over 60 percent of your electric bill goes for power supply. This includes power generation costs as well as high-voltage delivery of the power across Michigan over transmission lines and through electric substations.

management team and the managers of each member cooperative, with one goal in mind—ensuring reliable delivery of competitively-priced power supply to approximately 268,000 homes, farms and businesses served by Wolverine members throughout the state. At each meeting, Wolverine staff provides transmission, power supply and financial reports. Board members engage in the discussion, asking questions and providing comments.

The role of an electric cooperative director is to act in the best interest of the cooperative membership as a whole. Directors should be

cies and procedures that effectively oversee management and should not engage in the co-op's day-to-day operations.

Over the years, both Great Lakes and Wolverine have faced many challenges and adapted to many changes in the electric industry, yet their commitment to reliable service to members at a competitive price has remained steady.

Great Lakes Energy and Wolverine Power Cooperative will continue to work together to deliver reliable power and you can be assured that your directors are involved every step of the way. It's the cooperative difference.



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There's **POWER** in Numbers



Otsego County Habitat for Humanity, Gaylord



Mason County Central Middle School Veterans Committee



Morton Township Library Literacy Link Program

The average Great Lakes Energy member gives just \$6 or less per year to the People Fund program to help local nonprofit organizations. But with the needs in our communities increasing, your contribution to the People Fund matters even more! If every People Fund supporter got just one other person to join, we could easily double the amount of money available each year to help local food pantries, senior citizen centers, youth programs, and other local worthwhile causes.

There's power in numbers. More than \$146,000 in grants was awarded to local non-profit groups in 2012 alone. Only you have the power to make a contribution to the People Fund. You have the power to make a difference.

We Need Your Help! Enroll in the People Fund today
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