

# MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES

## MICHIGAN'S Iron Man

### Plus!

4 Time to Repeal PA 286

8b Meet Your Co-op  
Director Candidates

8d Titans of Technology,  
LSSU Robotics Lab

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Association officers are **Robert Schallip**, Cloverland Electric Cooperative, chairman; **Mark Kappler**, HomeWorks Tri-County Electric, vice chairman; and **Eric Baker**, Wolverine Power Cooperative, secretary-treasurer. **Craig Borr** is president and CEO.

Unsolicited letters, photos and manuscripts are welcome. *Country Lines*, however, will not be responsible for their safe keeping or return.

**The appearance of advertising does not constitute an endorsement of the products or services advertised.**

**Change of Address:**  
Please notify your electric cooperative. See page 4 for contact information.



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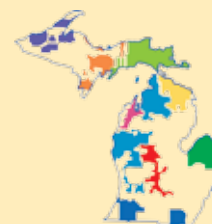


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## ON THE COVER\*

Tom Moran, of Moran Iron Works in Onaway, MI. When he's not busy building ships, turbine components or customizing industrial and commercial fabrication jobs, Moran creates large-scale art projects for the community.

*\*Some co-op editions have a different cover.*



Michigan's Electric Cooperatives  
[countrylines.com](http://countrylines.com)



**Cloverland**  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

**Board Of Directors**

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(906) 341-8808

# PA 286 Costs Cloverland Millions— Time to Repeal



**Daniel Dasho**  
President & Chief  
Executive Officer

**A**n amendment to a state law in 2008 has cost Cloverland members millions of dollars in lost revenue and threatens to cause additional financial devastation if not repealed. PA 286 amended PA 141 or the “Customer Choice and Electric Reliability Act” of 2000. One specific provision opened the state to retail customer choice where up to 10 percent of an electric utility’s kilowatt hours (kWh) sales could shift to an alternate electric supplier (AES.) Another provision allowed the two ore mines in Marquette to shift 100 percent of their load to an AES.

In 2014, Cloverland’s largest retail member, FutureMark Manistique Paper Mill, shifted part of their electric load to an AES, resulting in a \$2.8 million loss in revenue. Shortly thereafter in March 2015, the paper mill closed reducing our revenue by an additional \$3.9 million. With this provision still in place, we are at risk to have an additional 10 percent of our remaining load switch to an AES. In just a short two-year period, we stand to lose 20 percent of our electric load and nearly \$9 million in revenue. The only way to make up this loss is for the remaining members to pay more.

In 2013, the two ore mines shifted 100 percent of their load away from the Presque Isle Power Plant in Marquette, taking away nearly 80 percent of the plant’s revenues. The owner, Wisconsin Energy, facing an annual operating budget of \$52 million and more than \$60 million in EPA-mandated emissions equipment, announced to close the plant. The Midcontinent Independent System Operator (MISO) who oversees the electric power grid in 15 states stepped in and determined the plant could not close without jeopardizing the electric reliability of the entire U.P. MISO and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) decided that all ratepayers in the U.P. would share the cost to keep the plant open. Cloverland does not benefit from the plant, but our members were still facing \$22.5 million in costs. You answered the call to contact our legislators in Lansing and Washington, voicing your concern about this unfair and unjust payment. They listened and as of February, we think we may have avoided these costs.

Now, we have the opportunity to repeal PA 286, but we must act quickly. Representative Aric Nesbitt, chairman of the House Energy Committee and House Majority Floor Leader, has introduced HB 4298 that will repeal most of PA 286. Your board of directors unanimously passed a resolution in support of HB 4298, which I recently presented testimony in support of this bill to the House Energy Committee. We are once again asking you to contact our representatives requesting their support for this bill. Contact information and suggested language for you to use is on our website at [cloverland.com](http://cloverland.com).

We were successful at the federal level. Now, we need to repeal this law in Lansing and end this threat to our membership once and for all. ■

From our family to yours, have a happy and safe Memorial Day weekend.

All Cloverland Electric offices will be closed Monday, May 25, in observance of Memorial Day. Payments can be made at [cloverland.com](http://cloverland.com). To report a power outage or other electrical emergency, please call 1-800-562-4953.

# Your Co-op Board in Action

The board of directors met on January 22 and February 19. All directors were in attendance.

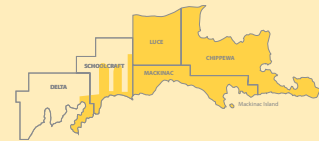
## January

- Discussed power contracts with Newberry Water and Light Board representatives.
- Met with Mackinac Island representatives to discuss keeping co-op personnel on the island.
- Reviewed department reports, including financial.
- Following discussion, accepted the 2015 budget, as presented.
- Received report from legal counsel concerning delinquent accounts and meter tampering cases.

## February

- Received a presentation concerning Action Committee for Rural Electrification (ACRE), a voluntary-supported political action committee supporting state and federal legislators that support electric cooperatives.
- Reviewed department reports, including financial.
- Received report from legal counsel.

Meetings are held at the co-op's administrative office at 725 E. Portage Avenue in Sault Ste. Marie each month. The board reserves time at the beginning of each meeting for members who wish to address the board. Members who wish to present an item for board consideration at a particular meeting may submit their request for time using the member comment request form at [cloverland.com](http://cloverland.com) or by calling 906-632-5143. ■



**President & CEO**  
**Daniel Dasho**

**Local Editor**  
**Todd Chapman**

[cloverland.com](http://cloverland.com)

## Member Service Centers

Monday–Friday  
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
**906-635-6800**  
**1-800-562-4953**

**2916 W. M-28**  
**Dafer, MI 49724**

**836 M-134**  
**DeTour Village, MI 49725**

**6214 County Rd. 403**  
**Newberry, MI 49868**

**2972 W. 8th St.**  
**Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783**

## Country Lines, Your Partner In Communication



For over 35 years, our co-op members have received *Michigan Country Lines* because it is the most effective and economical way to share information with our members. This is our most empowering communication tool to keep members up-to-date about everything going on within their electric co-op. Each issue contains information about our services, director elections, member meetings, and the staff and management decisions you need to know about as an owner of the co-op.

The magazine also includes legal notices that would otherwise have to be placed in local media at a substantial cost. And, sending *Michigan Country Lines* to you helps the co-op fulfill one of its important principles—to educate and communicate openly with its members.

The board of directors authorizes the co-op to subscribe to *Michigan Country Lines* on your behalf at an average cost of \$3.63 per year, paid as part of your electric bill. The current magazine cost is 49 cents per copy—the same cost as a first-class stamp. *Michigan Country Lines* is published for us, at cost, by the Michigan Electric Cooperative Association (MECA) in Okemos. As always, we welcome and value your comments.

Cloverland Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

# Efficient Indoor LIGHTING For Your Home



**P**eople often wonder which type of lighting to use in their home with all the choices on the market today. It is important to know the differences between the options available.

The wattage of a light bulb refers to how much electricity it consumes, not how much light it produces. The amount of light is measured in units called lumens. A 60-watt incandescent light bulb produces about 800 lumens of light and a 100-watt bulb about 1,600 lumens.

Today, your primary choices of bulb are halogen, CFLs (compact fluorescent lights) and LEDs (light emitting diodes), which are listed in order of increasing efficiency. For many home applications, LEDs are the best choice even though they cost more initially.

- **Halogen bulbs** are basically incandescent bulbs with halogen gas around the filament to improve efficiency enough to meet efficiency standards.
- **CFLs** are much more efficient, using only about 25 percent as much electricity as incandescent bulbs to produce the same amount of light—and they last 10 times longer.
- **CFLs** can produce true full-spectrum (simulates natural sunlight) light quality and can be purchased with warm white, cool white and daylight color temperatures. Daylight lamps have an even higher color temperature, and they produce more accurate colors and are good for tasks such as reading and painting.
- **LEDs** are the newest and most efficient light source available and provide an excellent payback. A 12-watt LED produces as much light as a 60-watt incandescent bulb. The LED bulb should also last a minimum of 20,000 hours. Most are dimmable, work well at cold temperatures and reach full brightness immediately. LEDs gradually get dimmer over time. When a LED is rated for 20,000 hours, its output will stay above 70 percent of its original brightness for that time.

If you have been using incandescent bulbs, you are probably accustomed to a yellowish light quality. This is called the “color temperature” of a bulb. Incandescent bulbs are in the 2700-degree K range. The whiter “daylight” LEDs and CFLs are in the 4,000- to 5,000-degree K range. Most people grow accustomed to the whiter light and prefer it. The color temperature is listed on the packaging.

CRI (color rendering index) is another quality of the light bulb to consider. A higher CRI makes objects in a room look more like they would look under natural sunlight. A CRI above 80 is considered adequate for homes, but 90 or above makes everything look better and doesn’t cost much more.

There are four general types of lighting uses—ambient, accent, decorative and task. Ambient lighting is for general illumination with comfortable brightness. Accent lighting can create a mood in the room or highlight areas or objects. Decorative lighting is when the light itself is the object, such as a chandelier. Task lighting is for reading or doing a specific activity.

For effective lighting, install several grouped circuits with dimmers to control and vary the lighting schemes. For example, choose high-CRI bulbs over a dining table to enhance the appearance of food. An overhead high color-temperature bulb above a chair would be good for reading or other tasks.

For existing rooms, where it may not be easy to rewire or add circuits, switch to LEDs in most fixtures, and install dimmer wall switches.

The goal for lighting efficiency is to use as little lighting as needed. Where you do not have a wall switch, such as with a table lamp, install a three-way socket and use a new three-way LED. Add a four-bulb lighting kit to a ceiling fan with a switch to allow you to switch on fewer than all four lights.

No matter which type of bulb or light fixture you choose, start saving by turning lights off when you leave a room. ■



# HOMEMADE PIZZAS

## Delicious And Easy Pizza Recipes

### Pesto Salad Pizza *(pictured)*

2 c. basil  
 ½ c. parmesan cheese  
 ¼ c. olive oil  
 2 cloves garlic  
 flour tortillas  
 onions, sliced  
 red peppers, sliced  
 goat cheese and/or feta  
 and/or mozzarella  
 mixed greens  
 balsamic vinegar

Preheat oven to 400°. Put basil, parmesan, olive oil and garlic in a food processor and blend. Line a baking pan with foil. Place tortilla shell on pan and smear with pesto. Add onions, peppers, and cheese of choice. Bake for 10 minutes. Add mixed greens to top of tortilla pizza. Drizzle with balsamic vinegar. Enjoy!

*Janice Clarkson, Granger*

### Mexican Pizza

1 pizza dough  
 12-oz. ground turkey  
 or beef  
 1 small onion, sliced  
 3 t. ground garlic  
 2 t. ground cumin  
 1 T. chili powder  
 1 can (16-oz.) refried beans  
 salsa  
 1–2 c. shredded  
 Mexican cheese



Spread pizza dough on sprayed pizza pan. Bake at 375° for 10 minutes. Meanwhile, cook the meat. Drain. Add onion and spices. When pizza crust has cooked, spread the refried beans over it. Then layer the meat, salsa and cheese. Return to oven; bake for 10 more minutes. Options:

sour cream, shredded lettuce, sliced black olives. Any of the ingredients can be altered for individual taste.

*Dianne Compo, Brimley*

### Cool Veggie Pizza Appetizer

2 8-oz. cans refrigerated  
 crescent dinner rolls  
 2 8-oz. pkgs. Philadelphia  
 brand cream cheese,  
 softened  
 1 c. Miracle Whip  
 salad dressing  
 1½ t. dill weed  
 ¼ t. onion salt  
 1 c. broccoli flowerets  
 1 c. chopped,  
 seeded tomato  
 1 c. chopped  
 green bell pepper  
 ¼ c. chopped onion  
 ½ c. olive slices (optional)

Heat oven to 375°F. Press dough onto bottom and sides of 15x10x1 inch baking pan. Bake 11–13 minutes or until golden brown; cool. Mix cream cheese, salad dressing, dill and onion salt until well blended. Spread on crust. Top with remaining ingredients. Refrigerate. Cut into squares. Makes 24.

*Beatrice Richard, Posen*

### SUBMIT YOUR RECIPE!

Thanks to all who send in recipes. Please send in your favorite “Fresh Seafood” recipes by **July 1**.

Enter your recipe online at [countrylines.com](http://countrylines.com) or send to (handprinted or typed on one side, please): *Country Lines* Recipes, 2859 W. Jolly Rd., Okemos, MI 48864. Please note the co-op from which you receive your electric service.

Contributors whose recipes we print in 2015 will be entered in a drawing and *Country Lines* will pay the winner’s January 2016 electric bill (up to \$200)!

Photos—831 Creative



## Delicious And Easy Pizza Recipes

### Loaded Baked Potato Pizza

¼ c. olive oil or spray  
 1 lb. pizza dough,  
 room temperature  
 4 small red potatoes,  
 boiled and sliced  
 6 oz. sour cream  
 1 t. garlic powder  
 ½ t. black pepper  
 ½ t. Italian or  
 Ranch seasoning

6 strips bacon, diced—  
 or generous amount  
 of bacon pieces  
 1-½ c. sharp cheddar  
 cheese  
 ¼ c. sliced green onions,  
 green part only  
 Ranch dip or dressing  
 for dipping

Spray your cookie sheet; after making your favorite pizza dough recipe evenly spread dough on sheet but not too thin. In a small pot add potatoes and cover with cold water. Cook until just fork tender. Drain and let cool. Once cool slice into ¼ inch slices. Preheat oven to 425°. In a small bowl mix together sour cream, garlic powder, black pepper and seasoning, set aside. In a small skillet add diced bacon and cook until just slightly crisp. Do not fully crisp because it will also cook while in the oven. Drain the bacon on a paper towel. Spread sour cream mixture over the dough leaving a ½ inch crust. Top with 1 cup cheese, sliced potatoes and bacon. Top with remaining ½ cup cheese. Bake for about 15–18 minutes until the dough is fully cooked and the underside of the crust is a deep golden brown. Once fully cooked, remove from the oven, sprinkle with green onions and let sit for 5 minutes before you remove the pizza from the pan. Enjoy plain or with ranch dip or dressing depending on your preference for dunking!

*Renee (Kohn) Coyer, Cooks*

### Alfredo Pizza with Spinach, Mushrooms and Onions

#### Crust:

1 pkg. yeast (or 2-½ t.  
 yeast from a jar)  
 1 t. sugar  
 1 t. salt  
 1 t. Trade East Vegetable  
 Seasoning (found at  
 Gordon's Food Service)

1 c. warm water  
 2 T. vegetable oil  
 2-½ c. flour

#### Toppings:

⅓ jar Prego Basil Pesto  
 Alfredo Sauce  
 1 small bag fresh spinach,  
 stems removed  
 1 small container fresh  
 sliced mushrooms

½ c. chopped onion  
 ¼ c. parmesan cheese  
 1 c. shredded mozzarella  
 cheese (feta is also good)

Preheat oven to 400°. Either spray Pam on pizza pan or grease with Crisco. Combine the yeast, sugar, salt, vegetable seasoning and warm water in a medium bowl. Stir. Add the vegetable oil. Stir. Add flour in ½ to 1 cup increments, stirring well after each addition. Spread out on pizza pan. Spread a thin layer of alfredo sauce over the crust. Cover sauce with spinach leaves. Sprinkle mushrooms, onions and parmesan cheese over spinach leaves. Place shredded mozzarella cheese on top. Bake for 20 minutes. \*Measurements are approximate for toppings. Use your own family's taste on quantities.

*Rhonda Stover, Cassopolis*



**STATE OF MICHIGAN  
BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
NOTICE OF HEARING FOR THE CUSTOMERS OF  
CLOVERLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CASE NO. U-17313-R**

- Cloverland Electric Cooperative requests Michigan Public Service Commission approval to reconcile its 2014 power supply cost recovery costs and revenues and increase its revenue in the amount of \$1,921,284, or 2.3%.
- The information below describes how a person may participate in this case.
- You may call or write Cloverland Electric Cooperative, 2916 West M-28, Dafer, Michigan 49724, (800) 562-4953 for a free copy of its application. Any person may review the application at the offices of Cloverland Electric Cooperative.
- The first public hearing in this matter will be held:

**DATE/TIME:** May 28, 2015, at 9:00 a.m.

This hearing will be a prehearing conference to set future hearing dates and decide other procedural matters.

**BEFORE:** Administrative Law Judge Suzanne D. Sonneborn

**LOCATION:** 7109 West Saginaw Highway, Lansing, MI

**PARTICIPATION:** Any interested person may attend and participate. The hearing site is accessible, including handicapped parking. Persons needing any accommodation to participate should contact the Commission's Executive Secretary at (517) 284-8090 in advance to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance.

The Michigan Public Service Commission (Commission) will hold a public hearing to consider Cloverland Electric Cooperative's (Cloverland) April 17, 2015 application to reconcile its 2014 power supply cost recovery (PSCR) costs and revenues and increase its revenue in the amount of \$1,921,284, or 2.3%. Cloverland represents that it over collected \$1,811,827 in 2014, with an accumulated over-recovery balance of \$438,980 from the 2013 PSCR Reconciliation and a related audit adjustment in an offsetting amount of (\$180,435), resulting in a total PSCR cumulative over recovery of \$2,070,372. Cloverland proposes to roll-in the indicated total over-recovery into its 2016 PSCR plan, as adjusted by any 2015 over or under collection, to be filed by September 30, 2015. Cloverland proposes that the total revenue increase of \$1,921,284 be implemented by using the rate realignment surcharge/credit methodology as developed in its last TIER proceeding, Case No. U-17098-R.

All documents filed in this case shall be submitted electronically through the Commission's E-Dockets website at: [michigan.gov/mpscedockets](http://michigan.gov/mpscedockets). Requirements and instructions for filing can be found in the User Manual on the E-Dockets help page. Documents may also be submitted, in Word or PDF format, as an attachment to an email sent to: [mpscedockets@michigan.gov](mailto:mpscedockets@michigan.gov). If you require assistance prior to e-filing, contact Commission staff at (517) 284-8090 or by email at: [mpscedockets@michigan.gov](mailto:mpscedockets@michigan.gov).

Any person wishing to intervene and become a party to the case shall electronically file a petition to intervene with this Commission by May 21, 2015. (Interested persons may elect to file using the traditional paper format.) The proof of service shall indicate service upon Cloverland's attorney, Shaun M. Johnson, at Dykema Gossett PLLC, Capitol View, 201 Townsend Street, Suite 900, Lansing, Michigan 48933.

Any person wishing to appear at the hearing to make a statement of position without becoming a party to the case may participate by filing an appearance. To file an appearance, the individual must attend the hearing and advise the presiding administrative law judge of his or her wish to make a statement of position. All information submitted to the Commission in this matter becomes public information: available on the Michigan Public Service Commission's website, and subject to disclosure. Please do not include information you wish to remain private.

Requests for adjournment must be made pursuant to the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure R 460.17315 and R 460.17335. Requests for further information on adjournment should be directed to (517) 284-8130.

A copy of Cloverland's request may be reviewed on the Commission's website at: [michigan.gov/mpscedockets](http://michigan.gov/mpscedockets), and at the offices of Cloverland Electric Cooperative. For more information on how to participate in a case, you may contact the Commission at the above address or by telephone at (517) 284-8090.

Jurisdiction is pursuant to 1909 PA 106, as amended, MCL 460.551 et seq.; 1919 PA 419, as amended, MCL 460.54 et seq.; 1939 PA 3, as amended, MCL 460.1 et seq.; 1982 PA 304, as amended, MCL 460.6j et seq.; 1969 PA 306, as amended, MCL 24.201 et seq.; and the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, as amended, 1999 AC, R 460.17101 et seq.

# Meet Your Director Candidates

## DISTRICT A



**Richard J. Newland**  
DeTour Village

My name is Richard (Dick) Newland. I was employed by your cooperative for 42 years as a groundman, then as an apprentice lineman. After completing my apprenticeship, I worked as a Class A lineman for eight years, and was then promoted to foreman. I worked as foreman for four years, and was further promoted to the DeTour area superintendent, where I finished my career. During all this time, my goal was to try to furnish excellent service to our members.

I then moved on to become your elected director and have served in that capacity for 15 years. In this position, I also served as the secretary/treasurer of the board. My position is still the same. I strive for excellent service and reasonable rates. We as a board have just voted to make this our mission statement.

I would appreciate your vote.

## DISTRICT B



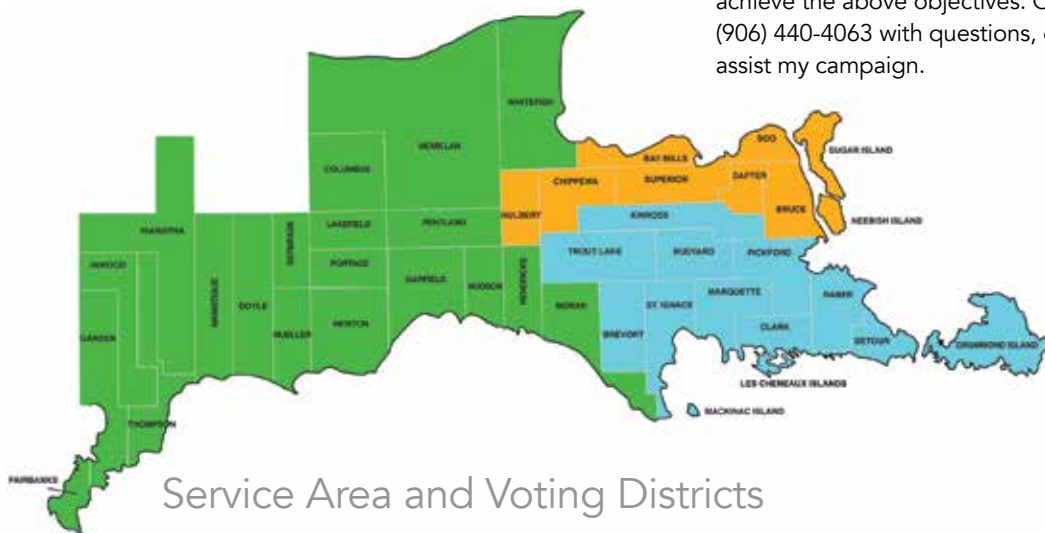
**Carmine J. Bonacci, Jr.**  
Sault Ste. Marie

(Age 57) Lake State, business major; Ferris State, Tech. major; Purchasing Mgr., Seamless Cylinder; Production, Algoma Tube. Started Bonacci Contracting 1986; general contractor.

Electricity is needed by everyone. The Cloverland and Corps plants, give the E.U.P. low cost hydro power. Cloverland needs able directors committed to: Responsible Spending. Affordable Rates. I am against member regulation. M.R. will result in no rate oversight by MPSC. All rates will be set by the board. We need MPSC oversight on rates. I am for open meetings. Members have the right to know the issues and how their directors vote on them. At the very least, complete minutes of monthly meetings should be published.

Please take the time to vote when your ballot arrives in the mail. I would appreciate your vote, and will work to achieve the above objectives. Contact (906) 440-4063 with questions, or to assist my campaign.

- District A
- District B
- District C



Service Area and Voting Districts

## DISTRICT B



**Patrick K. Egan**  
Brimley

I've been a continuous member and rate payer in both Cloverland and Edison Sault since 1978, as a resident and business owner. My wife Debra and I live at Salt Point, west of Brimley. I have raised two children here, and owned businesses, including *The Evening News*, and partnership in a large resort on Drummond Island.

At the end of 2015, I will have completed my eight years on the LSSU board of trustees where I chaired searches for both Dr. McLain and most recently, Dr. Pleger as university presidents. The university is strong and healthy. I have served on corporate boards of directors, including 19 years with a forestry-based manufacturer in northern Wisconsin, 11 years as board chairman.

Rates have been creeping up, and the region faces important decisions about energy. Cloverland is a vital economic engine, and I will serve you freely, and independently.

## DISTRICT B



**Charles F. Litzner**  
Sault Ste. Marie

It has been a privilege representing District B members the last three years. I now ask for your continued support. The Cloverland board has worked hard to eliminate the SSR payments, manage budgets, and be a cost effective Cooperative while maintaining system reliability. Important matters now facing us include continuation of our low cost power supply, and the possible changing state and federal regulations.

To make the best decisions for positive results, board members need knowledge, experience, and the ability to listen to all sides of an issue. I have these qualifications. I have worked for Detroit Edison, Edison Sault Electric Company, and Cloverland Electric Cooperative and hold a bachelor's in electronic engineering technology and a master's in business administration. I am a U.S. Army veteran, born and raised in St. Ignace and live in Sault Ste. Marie.

Thank you for your support. Please contact me at 906-440-2177.

## DISTRICT C



**Ronald D. Provo**  
Manistique

Thank you for the opportunity to serve you for the past three years. I was born, raised, and graduated in Manistique. I married Judy Gorsche 54 years ago. We have three children and six grandchildren. I'm a military veteran and worked as an industrial electrician/supervisor for 30 years at Inland Lime and Stone. I have been on the board of directors of the Limestone Federal Credit Union for 30 years and currently serve as president. Like Cloverland, it is a cooperative and operates under the same principles and values.

During my term on the Cloverland board, I attended and participated in 100 percent of all board, budget, and strategic planning meetings. I successfully completed all credentialed cooperative director courses and I'm working on my board leadership certificate. I will strive to improve our communities and quality of lives through the delivery of safe, reliable, and affordable electricity while being environmentally responsible.

**See Inside Back Cover for Your Election Ballot!  
Return Envelope Enclosed**

## TITANS OF

## TECHNOLOGY



**O**ver three decades ago, Lake Superior State University (LSSU,) Sault Ste. Marie, established the first bachelor's degree in robotics in the nation. The program was created as the combined result of both a state grant and a visionary department chair that recognized the opportunity of getting in on the ground floor of emerging technology. Since then, robotics education and training at LSSU have evolved into a concentration for students in mechanical, electrical and computer engineering degrees and as a robotics minor for students in the manufacturing and electrical engineering technology degrees. This robotics concentration (or minor) continues to be unique with only a handful of public universities in the nation offering such an option for undergraduate students.

According to LSSU Professor Jim Devaprasad, "Through our training, our graduates can design and implement robotic processes for the manufacturing industry that will help to keep jobs here in the United

States, and by using automation, keep it competitive from the transfer of labor to outside of the U.S."

According to a July 2014 article in the *Washington Post*, industrial robots have advanced to the point at which they can do the same physical work as human beings. The operating cost of some robots is now less than the salary of an average Chinese worker. The more processes can be automated, the less it makes sense to outsource activities to countries where labor is less expensive. For example, Foxconn, the world's largest contract electronics manufacturer best known for manufacturing the iPhone® recently announced it will spend \$40 million at a new factory in Pennsylvania, using advanced robots and creating 500 jobs.

With over \$1.5 million in state-of-the-art industrial robotics at their disposal, it is no surprise that LSSU engineering graduates in this field typically secure good full-time jobs well before graduation. Careers are typically in the design and implementation of



LSSU Prof. Jim Devaprasad goes through the steps of the Staubli work cell with summer robotics camp staff members Trace Hill (mech. eng), background, and Brittany Wallo (computer science), foreground. The workcell, comprised of 4 Staubli robots, 3 shared rotary index tables, and a Bosch conveyor system, assembles and disassembles model zambonis. Witness software is used to program the procedure.

LSSU photo/John Shibley.

Professor Devaprasad with members of recent LSSU senior project teams Automation Innovation Renovation (AIR) and Precision Automated Systems (PAS).

LSSU photo/John Shibley.



LSSU students Patrick Davis (seated) and Trace Hill demonstrating the FANUC LR-Automate 'grocery bagging' robot. A Cognex vision sensor takes a picture of the object. Once the shape is recognized, the system determines the best way to attempt to pick up the item. The robot picks up the item and places it into a grocery bag using an articulated suction gripper developed by the team.

Photo—Yvonne Whitman.

Professor Jim Devaprasad, Coordinator of Manufacturing Engineering Technology at LSSU.

LSSU photo/John Shibley.

innovative automation solutions for the manufacturing industry. Companies that have hired LSSU graduates include Ford, GM, Boeing, FANUC and Kawasaki. According to Devaprasad, companies arrive on LSSU's campus in the fall seeking students that will graduate the following spring. Each graduating student typically receives two or three job offers with starting salaries averaging about \$60,000. According to Devaprasad "There are more job opportunities and positions to fill than we have graduates for," "We would welcome and love to educate many more motivated, incoming students."

With a curriculum that is heavily weighted in math and science, incoming students typically display an aptitude in these areas. But there is also the factor that cannot be defined but is best personified by a statement from Patrick Davis, an LSSU senior engineering student from Chicago, IL. "When I was five years old my parents bought me a LEGO® Mind Storm kit and I just sort of never stopped." Fast forwarding 17 years, "I just applied

to graduate school and my ultimate goal now is to work in the field of nanoelectronics."

The LSSU robotics staff and students also take their knowledge and skills into the Cloverland Electric Cooperative community by serving as mentors for local high school First Robotics Competition (FRC) teams in Rudyard, Brimley and the Sault Area Schools. FRC, the varsity Sport for the Mind™, combines the excitement of sport with the rigors of science and technology. Under strict rules, teams of students are challenged to build and program robots to perform prescribed tasks against a field of competitors. It's as close to "real-world engineering" as a student can get, and volunteer professional mentors who lend their time, talents and guidance are critical to a team's success.

For over 30 years, LSSU has led the pack in the robotics field and plans to continue leading well into the future. Contact Jim Devaprasad at [jdevaprasad@lssu.edu](mailto:jdevaprasad@lssu.edu) or call 906-635-2131 for more information. ■



# MICHIGAN'S Iron Man

**While he makes his living from his 37-year-old business, Moran Iron Works,** Tom Moran has had a second career as a teacher. His first student? Tom Moran.

The son of a career lumberjack, Moran always had an interest in metalwork, but with college an unlikely possibility and his high school no longer able to support metals classes, he used some of the abandoned tools in his shop class to teach himself how to weld.

“I started tinkering with some tools and working on broken chairs in classrooms,” says Moran. “Then, it was fixing trailers for teachers. By the time I graduated, I’d become the unofficial school repairman.”

After graduation, Moran worked in the logging business with his father and at night made his own tools, practiced his craft and eventually started his own business. The land where he first built, an abandoned dairy farm in Oneway, MI, has since undergone 29 additions.

As his business grew, he was faced with the challenge of finding qualified welders and metalworkers in northeast Michigan.

“While we’re in love with northeast Michigan, it’s hard to recruit skilled tradespeople in this area of the state,” he explains. “We found the best way to make sure that we had a qualified workforce was to create our own training program,” Moran says. “We started evening classes for people with potential and interest. Some were folks we knew we’d be hiring and others were members of our community, like farmers or loggers, who wanted to be more self-sufficient.”

The training program is now a full-time school that is staffed by Moran Iron Works employees—10 full- and part-time teachers.

While Moran provides plenty of opportunities to teach his beloved trade, he’s humble and certain there is always more to learn.

Moran Iron Works has recently embarked on a large-scale project with



Tom Moran of  
Moran Iron Works.

[moraniron.com](http://moraniron.com)

Shepler’s Mackinac Island Ferry, to build their most recent ship—an 85-foot, all-aluminum ferry christened “Miss Margy” that is thought to be the first ever built entirely in Michigan. While Moran Iron has worked on many ship extensions, retro-fittings and conversions, this is the first vessel they’ve built from start to finish.

“Every project is unique and there is always something to learn,” Moran says. “With a project of this scale and scope, where you’re integrating several complex systems, you’re going to run into challenges. But in the end, the old lesson of ‘a job well planned is a job well done’ had really seen us through. Ship building is an art. The teams at Moran Iron have really turned it into an art and a science.”

When he’s not busy building ships, turbine components or customizing industrial and commercial fabrication jobs, Moran creates large-scale art projects for the annual Fourth of July parade in Oneway and as donations for area fundraisers.

“Maybe the art has gotten out of hand over 45 years,” Moran jokes. “Every year I say I’ll do something smaller and easier, but it hasn’t really gone that way.”

Maybe that’s the next lesson for Moran, but for now—the bigger the better. ■



## Make the Call and Save

**R**efrigerators over 10 years old could be costing you about \$100 per year to run. More than 60 million refrigerators are over 10 years old, costing consumers \$4.7 billion a year in energy costs. If you have a second, working refrigerator or freezer that is 10, 20 or even 30 years old, **now** is the time to consider a replacement to a new, ENERGY STAR® certified model.

Use Cloverland Electric Cooperative's Appliance Recycling program—a service that hauls away your appliance for *free*—and get a \$50 rebate for participating! You'll be getting paid to recycle with only an easy phone call! *Bonus*: Receive a \$15 rebate for any outdated (yet functioning) air conditioning units or dehumidifiers.

After making the call for your free pick-up, purchase a new ENERGY STAR refrigerator or chest freezer and receive a \$25 rebate for your smart decision. By properly recycling your old refrigerator and replacing it with a new ENERGY STAR certified model; you can save up to \$300 on energy costs over its lifetime.

With these rebates offered from Cloverland Electric Cooperative's Energy Optimization program, you now have a great reason to finally get rid of your old appliances. If you have any questions about appliance recycling or residential, business or farm rebates, call 877.296.4319 or visit [michigan-energy.org](http://michigan-energy.org). ■

### The process is as easy as 1, 2, 3:

1. Call 877.296.4319 to schedule your pick-up date.
2. Let the experts deconstruct the unit by recycling and eliminating over 95 percent of the components and materials.
3. Receive your rebate.



**SAY  
GOODBYE**

## Make the call and save

If you have a refrigerator or freezer that is 10, 20 or even 30 years old, **now** is the time to recycle it.

Use Cloverland Electric Cooperative's Appliance Recycling program, a service that hauls away your appliance for FREE. PLUS you get a \$50 rebate for participating!

**ENERGY TIP: After making the call for your free pick-up, purchase a new ENERGY STAR refrigerator or chest freezer and receive a \$25 rebate for your smart decision.**



ONLINE: [michigan-energy.org](http://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](http://michigan-energy.org).



## Notice to Members of Cloverland Electric Cooperative

### Case No. U-158162013 Renewable Energy Plan Annual Report Summary

The Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) requires all Michigan electric utilities to get approximately 2 percent of their power supply from renewable sources by 2012 and increasing to 10 percent by 2015.

Under this requirement, Cloverland Electric Cooperative submits an annual report to the MPSC regarding its Renewable Energy Plan. Cloverland acquired 341,451 megawatt hours (MWh) of electricity from a hydro facility formerly owned and operated by Edison Sault, a hydro facility owned and operated by the United States Corps of Engineers, and from WEPCO's slice of system. Of that 341,541 MWhs of renewable energy, 126,479 MWhs were sold, and 82,482 were used to comply with Renewable Energy mandates.

A full copy of the cooperative's Renewable Energy Plan annual report that was filed with the MPSC is available on the cooperative's website at [cloverland.com](http://cloverland.com) or by request at any of the cooperative's offices.

# ALWAYS CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

**For your safety and for the protection of underground utility lines, always follow these steps before starting any digging project.**

1. Contact MISS DIG at 811 or [missdig.org](http://missdig.org)
2. Wait 3 days for utility owners to mark their lines
3. Respect the marks
4. Dig with care



**Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.**  
visit [missdig.org](http://missdig.org) for more information

# Slow Down, Go Around Roadside Utility Workers

**S**ummer travel, which lines up so neatly with utility construction and maintenance season, is just around the corner.

And Joe McElroy, safety director for the Michigan Electric Cooperative Association (MECA), is bracing for the almost daily reports of heart-stopping near-misses as electric equipment operators, lineworkers, groundmen and meter readers tackle projects in the rights-of-way they share with streets, roads and highways.

"It's one of the biggest concerns I have as a safety provider," McElroy says. And, protecting lineworkers by training them to do these jobs safely is getting harder. "Distracted drivers, primarily from mobile devices, are making roadway work zones more dangerous. Most any utility worker can tell you about a near-miss event. We are now encouraging work zones to be set up with an unoccupied buffer vehicle parked behind our bucket trucks to help absorb a crash."

During McElroy's 10 years at MECA, no co-op crew member has been killed in a traffic incident while on the job, but he recalls many suspected distracted-driver accidents and near-misses. "At safety meetings, operations personnel can usually recall an incident that has occurred within the past few weeks."

Last spring, McElroy joined utility reps, legislators, union leaders and Transportation Department and Public Service Commission officials, as Gov. Rick Snyder proclaimed May 22 as "Roadside Safety Awareness Day."

"Roadside safety awareness starts with us letting motorists and pedestrians know they are entering a work zone," McElroy says. "Orange signs, cones and amber lights should be enough for people to understand they are approaching an active worksite, but even with all the proper safety equipment in place, incidents still happen."

Roadside accidents annually kill 100 Michigan police officers, firefighters, and line or sanitation workers. Another 20,000 such public servants are injured by vehicles while doing their jobs.

McElroy is also quick to recommend stiffer penalties for these incidents and fatalities, and says a consistent national approach is needed. "And, I have encouraged our co-ops to use local law enforcement to help out in high-traffic areas or where visibility can be an issue. Drivers are accustomed to seeing our signs and cones, so they still speed or become

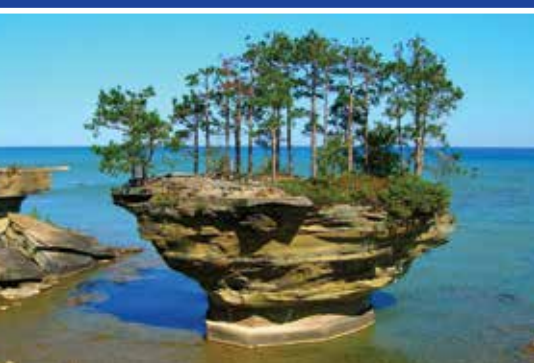


distracted. Once law enforcement is present, they seem to get it."

Meanwhile, McElroy drills co-op and municipal utility crews how to properly set up a safety perimeter. "Their situational awareness also has to be keen in the work zone, and those of us in the utility safety field have to raise awareness of these dangers."

Please "Slow Down, Go Around, and Watch Out" for folks who serve us by working near the roadways. ■

– Reprinted in part from RE Magazine



## «« Do You Know Where This Is?

Every co-op member who identifies the correct location of the photo at left by **June 10** will be entered in a drawing for a \$50 credit for electricity from their electric co-op.

We do not accept Mystery Photo guesses by phone. Enter your guess at [countrylines.com](http://countrylines.com) or send by mail to: *Country Lines* Mystery Photo, 2859 W. Jolly Rd., Okemos, 48864. Include the name on your account, address, phone number, and name of your co-op. Only those sending complete information will be entered in the drawing. The winner will be announced in the July/August 2015 issue.

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# Cloverland Electric Cooperative

## Hydro Electric Plant Open House

Friday, June 26 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

- Free hot dogs and popcorn
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- Tour the LSSU Aquatic Lab
- Prize drawings and giveaways
- Displays and artifacts
- Tools of the Trade exhibit



Free trolley between plant and Soo Locks activities in downtown area.



Plan to join us for the annual hydro electric plant open house on Portage Avenue.

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cloverland.com | 800-562-4953 | Sault Ste. Marie, MI

