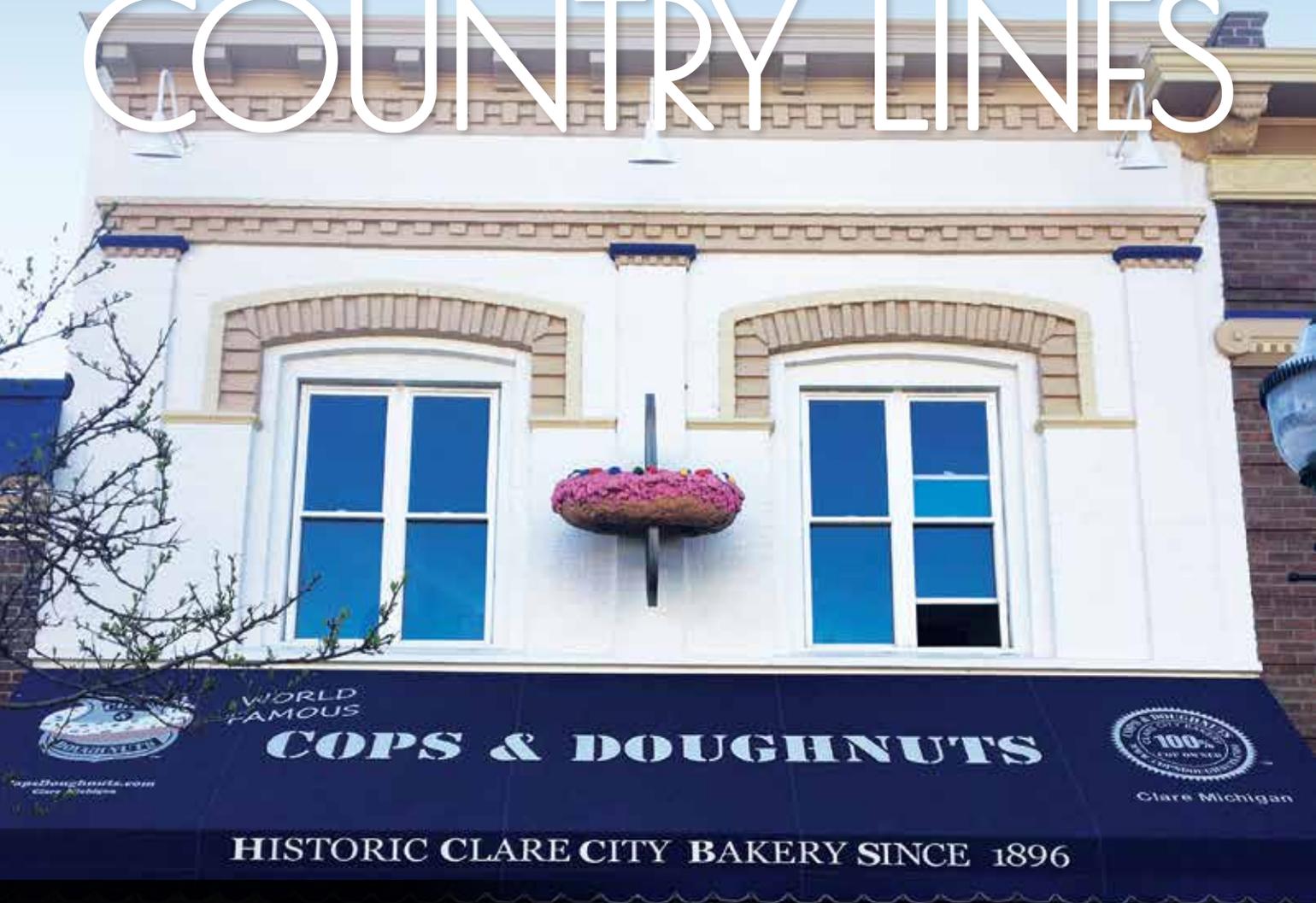


MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES



PROTECT & Serve

The Sweet Story
Of Cops & Doughnuts

2016 Annual
Report Inside

School Program Teaches
Students About Energy

Members Make Annual
Meeting A Success



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POSTMASTER: SEND ALL UAA TO CFS.

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

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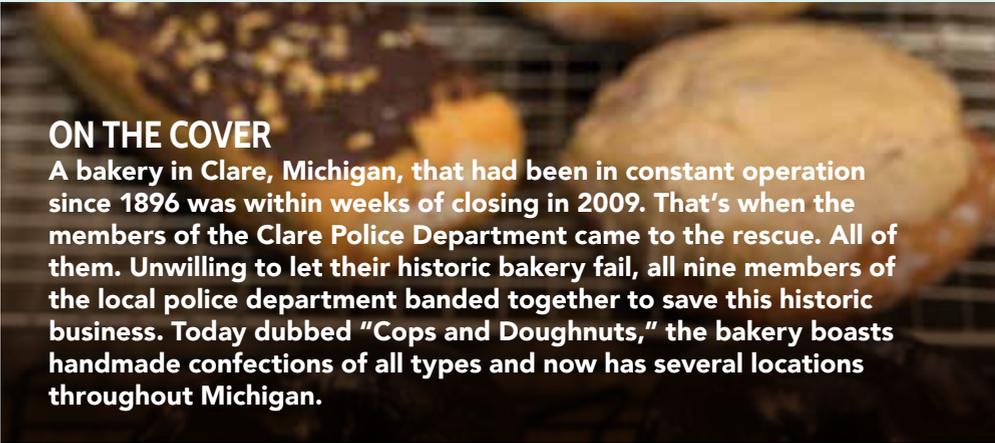


Change of Address:

Please notify your electric cooperative. See page 4 for contact information.

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ON THE COVER

A bakery in Clare, Michigan, that had been in constant operation since 1896 was within weeks of closing in 2009. That's when the members of the Clare Police Department came to the rescue. All of them. Unwilling to let their historic bakery fail, all nine members of the local police department banded together to save this historic business. Today dubbed "Cops and Doughnuts," the bakery boasts handmade confections of all types and now has several locations throughout Michigan.

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Guess Our New Mystery Photo And Win
A \$50 Bill Credit!

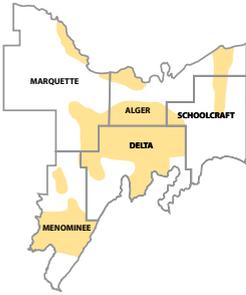
I Remember...

We invite members to share their fondest memories.

Country Lines will pay \$50 for stories we publish.

Guidelines

1. Approximately 200 words
2. Digital photos must be at least 600 KB
3. Only one entry per household, per month
4. Country Lines retains reprint rights
5. Please include your name, address, email, phone number and the name of your electric co-op
6. Submit your memories online: countrylines.com or email to cdorr@meca.coop



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Celebrating Co-op Independence



Tom Harrell
Chief Executive
Officer

July Fourth is a classic American holiday. It is the day that the United States declared its independence from Britain and the day on which we celebrate our nation's founding. The Declaration of Independence set the U.S. apart and has influenced the conscience of the nation ever since. And, what is a nation but people joining around a set of ideals or beliefs? The ideal or belief in independence not only informed the founding of our nation, but is demonstrated in our midst in many ways and over a great expanse of time.

In the midst of parades, picnics and fireworks, I can't help but think about the independent streak that inspired the farmers, loggers, ranchers and others throughout America's countryside to band together, form an electric cooperative and improve their quality of life.

Aside from President Franklin Roosevelt's promise of federal aid in the form of low-interest loans and engineering expertise, rural Americans didn't get much help in bringing electricity to their homes. They pulled themselves up by their figurative bootstraps and did it themselves.

This kind of independence not only tends to inspire cooperatives; it's a guiding principle. The Fourth Cooperative Principle, "Autonomy and Independence," means that Alger Delta through its board of elected directors can make its own decisions and will always remain responsive to the members of the cooperative.

Alger Delta is part of a vast network of electric cooperatives that span the country from coast to coast. Co-op power lines are strung in 47 states. Together, we serve about 42 million people. Without Alger Delta and co-ops like us, much of America might still remain dark. Can you imagine 42 million people without electricity?

This Fourth of July, join me in honoring those who fought, both physically and intellectually, to win independence and create a new nation. And, let's honor the founders of Alger Delta Cooperative, people who beat incredible odds to make life better for themselves, their neighbors and you. ■

Alger Delta Sponsors School Program

On May 16 elementary students at Wells Township School were entertained by "Space Station Conservation," an educational, space-themed show from the National Theatre for Children (NTC). NTC is an award-winning educational program that uses storytelling to put a fresh spin on learning and provides a number of resources for elementary schools. Alger Delta Electric Cooperative and WPPI Energy provide these performances to schools at no charge. This is the eighth year that the program has been performed at Wells Township School.

This year's program focused on helping the next generation of consumers learn about energy conservation and renewable resources in a fun and memorable way. According to Beth Carlson, manager of mass market programs for WPPI, "We get such great feedback from educators about how effectively the program teaches students. Many times, the students take home what they've learned in school and share it with their parents. It's a great way to get the whole family involved in our energy efficiency efforts."

Wells Township School Principal LuAnn Lohfink stated, "Our students look forward to the National Children's Theater performance every year. The students and teachers go online to play the games and learn more about energy conservation. It is a very worthwhile program and we are very fortunate to be included in their tour." ■



Shawna, a student from Wells Township School, assists National Theatre for Children program presenter Kali McMillan.



Pictured with National Theatre for Children program presenters Evan Jackson and Kali McMillan are students from Wells Township School. From left to right (front row), the students are: Cole, Kasey, and Marty. Riley, Shawna, and Elayna are pictured in the back row.

Conger Receives Journey Lineworker Certification



Alger Delta employee Jonathan Conger completed apprenticeship training in May and received his Journey Lineworker Certification from the Great Lakes Energy Apprenticeship Training Program.

To achieve journey lineworker status, apprentices must complete a training program that meets rigorous training standards set by the federal Department of Labor (DOL). This includes 7,000 hours of on-the-job training over a four-year apprenticeship. In addition, the DOL requires 50 hours of safety training and 144 hours of classroom instruction per year of apprenticeship.

Upon reaching journey lineworker status, Conger is fully trained and qualified to work on Alger Delta's lines and equipment, some of which are energized at 24,900 volts.

Congratulations, Jon!



PROTECT & SERVE

The Sweet Story Of Cops & Doughnuts

By Emily Haines Lloyd

There's something sweet happening in Clare, Michigan, and it's on a roll.

It started with a classic tale of a group of small-town police officers sitting in a local doughnut shop back in 2009. But then a twist occurred—the owner of Clare City Bakery told the officers he had to sell the bakery, which was one of the few open storefronts in the two-block downtown area of Clare. The officers lamented, continued talking and were struck by a thought—what if *they* bought the bakery?

“At first we laughed at [the thought of] a bunch of cops buying the only doughnut shop in town,” said

Al “Bubba” White, the now vice president of Cops & Doughnuts. “But eventually we stopped laughing.”

The recession had hit hard and the police force saw their small town slowly close storefront after storefront. Eventually, Clare City Bakery, a shop that had been around since 1896—surviving wars and the Great Depression—looked like it was about to be lost as well.

After making calls to the owner and quick talks among the nine-member police force, the deal was finalized within two weeks. Clare City Bakery became Cops & Doughnuts: Clare Precinct.

Without much business experience, White, along with now-president Greg “Ryno” Rynearson, as well as the other officers/owners, kept some of the bakery’s key recipes along with the head baker. The result was a good first day.

It wasn’t long before the story of a bunch of cops opening a doughnut shop caught some attention. They got a call from a reporter with *The Associated Press*, confirming that they were, in fact, a bunch of cops who opened a doughnut shop. Before they knew it, the guys were fielding interviews from





"It's a combination of things— a good product, of course, but it's also a good story. We don't just sell doughnuts," explains White. "We sell cops selling doughnuts."

"NBC Nightly News," "Fox and Friends," and "Good Morning America."

When asked why he thinks Cops & Doughnuts is a story, White has some ideas.

"It's a combination of things—a good product, of course, but it's also a good story. We don't just sell doughnuts," explains White. "We sell cops selling doughnuts."

That combination, plus a healthy dose of good humor and community spirit, seems to be working in a big way. The Cops & Doughnuts crew saw that they had a good thing and knew they could grow. But where to expand became the next question. It had been important to them to save their beloved Clare City Bakery and the important role it had played in their story. So, what if they could save another historic bakery?

The group expanded to McDonald's Bakery, a fifth-generation establishment in Ludington, Mich., followed by The Sutherland Bakery in Bay City, which originally opened in 1912. The crew then expanded and opened a precinct (or bakery) in Jay's Sporting Goods in Gaylord, and finally, a gem in South Bend, Indiana, was acquired, known as The Dainty Maid Bake Shop. Each town was reinvigorated by the lively atmosphere and genuine love that White, Ryneason and the team have for the history, community and, of course, the bakery.

With five precincts, more than 500 retail outlets, and approximately half a million customers visiting annually, Cops & Doughnuts is well on its way to their goal of "world domination," they attest. However, at the very heart, it's still a group of civic-minded public servants determined to protect the rich history of small-town bakeries by serving up great doughnuts. ■

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If you suffer from allergies, or would simply like to ensure the best air quality in your home, an air purifier is a great investment. These appliances can be costly, but the Energy Optimization program is here to help: Receive a \$50 cash incentive when you purchase an ENERGY STAR® qualified air purifier!

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The Art Of Nature



These honeybees were working diligently on a 10-foot mammoth sunflower—By Kathryn Southerland



It was time to close the camp last fall and honor our tradition of saying "goodbye." It was misting as I walked to the beach and to my surprise there was a complete rainbow before me—By Claude Cybulski



It's daily morning feeding time. My granddaughter, Riley, has been feeding the birds up close since she was three years old. She is now six—By Tina Hiironen



Photography has helped me get over my fear of spiders and snakes. It's a lot of fun to try to capture the delicate work of the spiders, especially when they're covered in early morning dew—By Kim Foos

Share Your Captured Moments!

Alger Delta invites members to share their amazing photos. Selected photos will be published in *Michigan Country Lines*. Upcoming topics and deadlines are: **Birds and Feathers** due **July 20** for the September issue and **Life's A Beach—Michigan Waters** due **August 20** for the October issue.

To submit photos go to <http://bit.ly/countrylines>

We look forward to seeing your best photos!

CHICKEN CHALLENGE

Transform your dinner with these easy-to-prepare chicken recipes.

Pepper Jack Pasta

Deb Mitteer, Great Lakes Energy

- 2 boneless, skinless chicken breasts, cut into medallions
- 1 red bell pepper, cut into small strips
- 1 green bell pepper, cut into small strips
- 1 yellow bell pepper, cut into small strips
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 4 cups mini penne pasta, uncooked
- 5 cups milk
- 8-ounce block pepper jack cheese, cut into small pieces
- 2–3 tablespoons cooking oil

Drizzle cooking oil in a dutch oven pot. Add the chicken medallions and cook chicken until no longer pink. Remove chicken from pot and set aside. Add the peppers and onions to the pot and cook until onion is transparent. Add chicken back to the pot with the peppers and onion. Add the uncooked penne pasta and 5 cups of milk to the pot. Bring the milk to a boil and stir constantly for 8–10 minutes or until pasta is tender. Remove from stove and add the pepper jack cheese. Let set until the cheese is melted. Stir until well mixed. Serve immediately.

▶ Watch a video of this recipe at <https://goo.gl/BRjFXS>



Rosemary Chicken And Brie Bundles

Denise Barth, Cherryland

- 8-ounce can refrigerated crescent dinner rolls
- 2 tablespoons green onions, sliced
- 6 ounces Brie cheese, rind removed, cubed
- 1 ½ cups cooked chicken breast, chopped
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1 teaspoon crushed dried rosemary
- 1 tablespoon grated Parmesan cheese



Heat oven to 350 F. Separate dough into four rectangles, press perforations to seal. Spoon ¼ of green onions onto the center of each rectangle; top with ¼ of the Brie cheese cubes. Top each with ¼ of chicken, pressing into cheese. Fold short

ends over chicken, overlapping slightly. Fold open ends over about ½ inch to form a rectangle. Press all edges to seal. Place seam side down on ungreased baking pan or cookie sheet. Cut three 1-inch slashes on top of each roll to allow steam to escape. Brush with egg, sprinkle with Parmesan cheese and rosemary. Bake for 21 to 26 minutes or until golden brown. Let stand 5 minutes before serving. Serves 4.

Dawn's Elegant Chicken

Dawn Wagner, Great Lakes Energy

- 8 half chicken breasts (4 whole)
- 8 Swiss cheese slices
- 1 can cream of chicken soup
- 1 can cream of celery soup
- ½ to ¾ cup white cooking wine
- Pepperidge Farm Stuffing mix (or your favorite)
- ⅔ stick of butter



Preheat oven to 350 F. Spray a 9×13 baking dish with vegetable spray. Place chicken breasts in the baking dish. Place a slice of Swiss cheese on each piece of chicken. In a separate bowl, mix the cream of chicken soup, the cream of celery

soup and the white wine. Pour the mixture over the chicken. Cover the entire top of the dish with stuffing mix. Melt butter and pour it on top of the stuffing/chicken. Bake for 1 hour. Serve over Uncle Ben's Wild Rice (or your favorite).



Submit your favorite recipe for a chance to win a \$50 bill credit and have your recipe featured in *Country Lines*:

- "Slow Cooker Favorites" due August 1
- "Pleasing Pies" due September 1

Go to micoopkitchen.com for more information and to register.

Cream Cheese Chicken Dumpling Soup

Jessi Smith, Great Lakes Energy

- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 celery stalk, chopped
- 2 carrots, chopped
- 2 cups cooked chicken
- 8 cups chicken broth
- 2 eggs
- 1 package of cream cheese, cut into 1-inch cubes
- 1 cup flour
- salt and pepper, to taste



Melt butter in soup pot. Add chopped onions and sauté for 2 minutes or until lightly golden brown. Add chopped celery and carrots, and sauté for 2 minutes. Add chicken and chicken broth to vegetables. Continue to cook soup on medium

heat. To make the cream cheese dumplings, you will need either a food processor or a bowl and mixer. Combine the eggs, cubed cream cheese and flour, mix until smooth. When the broth in the soup pot is near a boil, reduce heat to low. Dip a large metal spoon into the pot to get the spoon hot. Remove about half a spoonful of the dumpling mixture and dunk the spoon into the soup, wiggling the spoon until the dumpling releases. Repeat this step until all the dumplings are in the pot. Allow the last dumplings to cook 2 minutes per side. Add salt and pepper to taste. Serve and enjoy.

2016 Alger Delta Cooperative ANNUAL REPORT

By CEO Tom Harrell

Alger Delta enjoyed another successful year in 2016. In terms of overall performance, 2016 ranks as one of the best years in your cooperative's history. Our audit is complete and, once again, the auditors rendered a "clean opinion" on Alger Delta's books, stating they "present fairly" in all material respects. This is Eide Bailly's third audit at Alger Delta.

Audit Finding #1: Alger Delta's financial performance complies with the obligations required by lenders and regulators.

In 2016 Alger Delta had net margins of \$1.432 million. Although we are nonprofit, we are required by loan covenants, mortgages and other regulations to achieve and maintain certain margins. Lenders and regulators monitor our financial performance to ensure margins provide adequate working capital and the ability to pay debt. The 2016 audit shows that Alger Delta's financial position and resulting ability to meet loan and other financial obligations complies with the mortgage and loan covenants, as well as the requirements set by lenders and regulators.

Four important financial measurements are TIER, Operating TIER, Debt Service Coverage (DSC) and Operating DSC. All four of these ratios are within the performance ranges required by lenders and regulators that monitor our position. In addition, these and other key performance measurements show Alger Delta is in a strong financial position.

Alger Delta's financial performance can be attributed to several things, including stable wholesale costs, sound financial and operational management, financial planning, good returns on invested capital and other factors.

Finding #2: Margins are allocated, or assigned, to the members.

At its April meeting, the Board of Directors allocated 100 percent of 2016's margins—or patronage capital—to members. In a future year, 2016's patronage capital will be paid back to the members whose electric usage helped create the margin.

Finding #3: Alger Delta members benefit from a long-term wholesale power supply agreement.

WPPI supplies wholesale power to 51 utilities in Wisconsin, Iowa and Michigan's Upper Peninsula. As a WPPI member, Alger Delta enjoys an advantage

over those who "go it alone" in the energy marketplace. Aggregating our energy requirements with other members' needs in an energy portfolio managed by WPPI reduces market risk and rate volatility. It also ensures energy security for all members thereby helping to keep energy affordable.

WPPI is our partner in economic development, efficiency, and renewable energy projects, too. WPPI's wholesale rates and associated services are competitive and provide great value to Alger Delta and our members. Alger Delta's contract with WPPI will provide a safe, clean and reliable wholesale power supply extending through 2055.

Finding #4: Rates will continue to experience upward pressure in 2017.

Over time, our normal operating costs increase and exert upward pressure on rates. Alger Delta's last rate increase occurred in October 2010. However, costs have increased since then. But, sound fiscal management has kept rates stable while at the same time improving our overall financial performance. Alger Delta continuously evaluates our costs and our rates to ensure that costs are recovered through fair and equitable rate structures. These evaluations have shown that rates need realignment soon. The board will take up this issue in 2017.

Finding #5: Alger Delta and WPPI lead in reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Alger Delta benefits from WPPI's portfolio of generation resources since it is one of the lowest greenhouse gas (GHG) emitters in the Midwest. This will improve even more in the near future as Alger Delta and WPPI add 100 megawatts of solar generation to the portfolio. As a result, Alger Delta enjoys exceeding the compliance threshold for Michigan's Renewable Portfolio Standard, or RPS. Through WPPI, Alger Delta's power from renewable resources includes wind, solar, hydro and energy from bio-fuels.

Finding #6: Alger Delta is improving every day.

In summary, Alger Delta is in a very good financial position and we continue to deliver on the promise of energy in the rural Upper Peninsula. We are meeting or exceeding obligations to lenders and regulators and we promise to continue working hard to provide reliable, safe and affordable electricity. ■

Alger Delta Electric Co-op Financial Statements *(audited)*

BALANCE SHEET

Year ended December 31	2016	2015
ASSETS		
Electric Plant	\$ 35,647,348	\$ 34,745,261
Investments	1,974,655	1,844,490
Current Assets	2,177,091	2,148,060
Deferred Debits	427,085	529,670
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 40,226,179	\$ 39,267,481
MARGINS & EQUITIES (NET POSITION)		
Membership & Equities	\$ 455,441	\$ 347,851
Patronage Capital	14,161,462	13,146,058
TOTAL MARGINS & EQUITIES	\$ 14,616,903	\$ 13,493,909
LIABILITIES		
Long-Term Debt, Net	\$ 22,466,400	\$ 22,744,449
Current Liabilities	2,936,084	2,854,755
Deferred Credits	206,792	174,368
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$ 25,609,276	\$ 25,773,572
TOTAL NET POSITION & LIABILITIES	\$ 40,226,179	\$ 39,267,481

STATEMENT OF REVENUE AND PATRONAGE CAPITAL

Year ended December 31	2016	2015
OPERATING REVENUE	\$ 14,226,714	\$ 14,064,386
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Purchased Power	\$ 6,481,509	\$ 6,547,064
Distribution Expense	2,292,278	2,057,778
Consumer & Customer Service Expense	340,640	312,779
Depreciation	1,532,574	1,434,528
Taxes	448,830	421,081
General & Administrative Expense	1,066,460	1,077,430
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 12,162,291	\$ 11,850,660
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	\$ 2,064,423	\$ 2,213,726
Interest Expense	\$ (1,103,815)	\$ (1,138,444)
Interest Income	262,239	169,049
Other Non-Operating Revenues (Expenses), Net	210,067	230,530
CHANGE IN NET POSITION	\$ 1,432,914	\$ 1,474,861

The statements above show the results of the cooperative's electric operations for the calendar year 2016. The Dec. 31, 2016, balance sheet and the related statement of operations for Alger Delta's electric operations were prepared in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles applied on a basis consistent with that of preceding years. The board of directors has accepted these statements. These statements present the financial position of the cooperative's electric operations as of Dec. 31, 2016, and the results of its electric operations for the year under review, according to the information and explanation shown on the records of Alger Delta Cooperative Electric Association.

Complete, audited financial statements are maintained at the Gladstone office of Alger Delta Cooperative Electric Association. The independent audit of 2016 financial statements was unqualified and completed by the certified public accountant (CPA) firm of Eide Bailey of Fargo, ND.

DOUGHNUTS & Craft Beer: A Divine Pairing

Our cover story on page 6 features the fun-loving Cops & Doughnuts bakeries. So, what better than to pair a few of these business-savvy police officer's favorite baked goods with some popular Michigan-made beers. It's a fun idea for dinner parties, tailgating or lounging around the fire pit.

By Emily Haines Lloyd | Photos—Christin McKamey

This is a classic doughnut for a reason and is a dream to pair.

When it comes to chocolate, fruit is pretty much a no-brainer. For a berry "wow factor," try **Short's (Bellaire) Soft Parade**—a fruity-rye ale featuring strawberries, blueberries, raspberries and blackberries. It's a home run in contrasting flavors.

If you want to stay in the sweet pocket, look at **Saugatuck Brewing Company's (Saugatuck) Neopolitan Milk Stout**. It truly drinks like its namesake with a blend of chocolate, vanilla and strawberry. Super smooth and rich, you'll feel like you just added a dollop of ice cream to your already delicious doughnut.



**CHOCOLATE
DIP RAISED
GLAZED**



**CINNAMON
BUN MAPLE
FROSTED**

You would think a fresh-baked cinnamon bun can't get any better, but then you discover the delicious Cops & Doughnuts maple frosting and realize you were wrong.

A dessert lover's dream is a rich pairing with **New Holland's (Holland) Dragon's Milk Bourbon Barrel Aged Stout**. Its roasty malt character intermingled with deep vanilla tones, all dancing in an oak bath, is a whopping 12 percent ABV, but perfect for sipping with this dreamy doughnut.

Screamin' Pumpkin Ale from Griffin Claw Brewing Co. (Birmingham) is like a slice of warm pie, offering flavors of cinnamon, clove, sweet pumpkin and a little molasses. Paired with the cinnamon bun, it's like double dipping in the dessert category.



PEANUT BUTTER DEPUTY

Cops & Doughnuts' Peanut Butter Deputy is a Long John filled with peanut butter cream, topped with chocolate frosting and chopped peanuts. In other words—YUM!

Founder's (Grand Rapids) Curmudgeon is an old ale brewed with molasses and uber malty. It's a barrel-aged brew that seems made for this kind of decadent pairing.

Atwater Brewery's (Grand Rapids) Vanilla Java Porter has the rich flavor of dark roasted coffee with plenty of vanilla notes. It's a fairly simple beer that packs a classic coffee and doughnut punch.



FELONY FRITTER

This is a classic apple fritter that is sweet, tart and showcases hints of cinnamon. Each one is handcrafted in the historic bakery in downtown Clare, Michigan. Let's be honest, they're huge, satisfying and could be shared, but do you really want to do that?

For a beer pairing, try a hoppy IPA like North Peak's (Traverse City) Diabolical. It is unfiltered and dry-hopped with Michigan grown Chinook and Cascade hops. It has a smooth malt character and citrus pine aroma that brings forward the tartness in the apples.

Looking for something a bit more earthy and smoky? Try a Scotch Ale, such as Dark Horse Brewing Company's (Marshall) Scotty Karate. It's brewed with cherry wood smoked malt instead of the traditional peat smoked malt, offering up warming notes of coffee, caramel and sweet caramelized brown sugar. If that doesn't sound like a pair made in fritter heaven, we don't know what does.

Members Make Annual Meeting A Success

Plenty of **Alger Delta distribution department equipment** was on display such as this aerial lift truck and skid steer.



More than 400 members attend the Annual Meeting. Board adopts proposals and seats Director.

A beautiful, sunny Upper Peninsula day provided the perfect backdrop to Alger Delta's 79th Annual Meeting held on Saturday, June 10, at the U.P. State Fairgrounds. More than 400 members attended the event which featured a picnic-style cookout, games and activities for the whole family and many prize drawings.

"This event gives us a chance to show our members how much we appreciate them," said CEO Tom Harrell. "Being a member of a co-op comes with some responsibilities and we appreciate that, so it's just a really good time to be with our members and celebrate how far we've come."

Harrell opened the business portion of the meeting by giving an overview of 2016 operations as well as updates on continuing electrical development work at the Ojibwa Casino, Eagle and Aquila mine.

Board President David Anthony chaired the meeting during the discussion of new business. This included a proposal to increase the Energy Optimization rate as well as the potential termination of the program in 2021. The increase will result in a member who uses the system



Approximately 480 people enjoyed the 79th Annual Meeting festivities

average of 600 kilowatt-hours paying \$.84 more per month. The other rate-related issues proposed were adding LED lighting rates to the tariffs and creating an industrial rate class. After an opportunity for member comment and discussion, the board moved to adopt the proposals.

The board also seated its newest member, Kirk Bruno representing District 7. "I'm certainly looking forward to representing the Stonington-Rapid River district," Bruno stated, "and I hope to do the best that I can to help the co-op continue to be successful."

Harrell concluded his remarks by expressing optimism for the future, confidently stating, "In 2018 we are looking forward to growing and becoming stronger to serve our members more effectively and efficiently." ■

Thank you, Alger Delta Cooperative members,
*for making our 2017 Annual Meeting a success! We appreciate
you and your dedication to Alger Delta Cooperative.*



CEO Tom Harrell is pictured speaking to the Annual Meeting attendees while the board of directors looks on.



Poopeck the clown provided face painting and entertainment to young attendees.



Cameron Smith enjoyed visiting with Bob the goat. Bob was part of the Petting Zoo that also included bunnies, kittens and chickens.



Face painting was a big hit at the Annual Meeting as evidenced by (left to right) **Dominick, Kerri and Jessie**.



Alger Delta meter technician John Dault is pictured demonstrating WPPI's Pedal Power to some young biking enthusiasts. Pedal Power is a bicycle-powered generator that teaches basic scientific concepts related to converting energy from one form to another.



Many Alger Delta employees were on hand to assist at the event including (left to right) linemen John Conger and Bill Carlson, and Operations Manager Troy Tiernan.

Beaver Island's Music Festival Offers Unique Vibes In A Throwback Setting

With a population of 600 living on 56 square miles of land off the coast of Charlevoix in Lake Michigan and accessible only by boat or air, Beaver Island could be described as a throwback to another era. How fitting then that the island hosts its own musical festival featuring sounds of the Renaissance.

Celebrating its 16th season this summer, Baroque on Beaver (known as BonB) focuses on classical music; however, guests may also be treated to jazz, Broadway, folk and other genres throughout the 10-day festival. Renowned musicians from symphonies in Midland, Grand Rapids, Chicago, and even as far away as Mexico, gather for what many consider the epicenter of classical music on the Great Lakes.

Originally organized by locals for locals, the event quickly gained a wider audience and became one of the island's most popular events and tourist destinations. According to Festival Director Matthew Thomas, the reason for the event's growth is simple. "Beaver Island is a unique place. Add high-quality music you can enjoy up close and personal, and suddenly a great experience becomes unforgettable!" For this small community, that's music to its ears.

While the event continues to be celebrated for raising cultural awareness of classical music, BonB also makes an important economic contribution to the island. Guests tend to stay longer, spend more, and support businesses whose primary focus is tourism, hospitality and transport. For those who don't have time for an extended stay, day packages are now available. Visit baroqueonbeaver.org for ticket, travel and accommodation information.



In the meantime, as locals and tourists gather under a canopy of stars on a remote island, the sound of music echoing off the water and surrounded by the region's finest musicians, the words of one musician sum up the experiences of most who attend BonB. "This might sound strange," this first-time event musician said, "but I really hope you have me back next year." ■

The Beaver Island Cultural Arts Association was formalized as a 501c3 corporation in 2006. BICAA's mission is "To serve the Beaver Island community by promoting and supporting the cultural arts, including the annual Baroque on Beaver Festival." For information about BICAA, please visit the website at bicaa.org or by calling 888-511-5189.



Jack O'Malley

The 2017 festival is July 28 through August 6.



«« Where In Michigan Is This?

Identify the correct location of the photo on the left by August 10 and be entered into a drawing to win a \$50 electric bill credit. Enter your guess at countrylines.com or send by mail to: Country Lines Mystery Photo, 201 Townsend St., Suite 900, Lansing, MI 48933. Include the name on your account, address, phone number, and the name of your co-op.

Our Mystery Photo Contest winner from the May 2017 issue is Paul Morningstar, a Midwest Energy Cooperative member, who correctly identified the photo as the annual Harbor Beach BiYakAthon (bike, run, kayak) at Lincoln Memorial Park.

Winners are announced in the following issues of *Country Lines*: January, March, May, July/August, September and November/December.



May Photo



AMERICAN METAL ROOFS President, Frank Farmer



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I have been selling home improvements across Michigan since 1986. Over the years, one thing always worried me about what I saw in my customer's eyes - no matter what I said or did, deep down, I could tell that many of them just didn't trust me.

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