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# MICHIGAN

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# COUNTRY LINES

Alger Delta Cooperative Electric Association

COPPER PEAK:  
**REACHING**  
*new*  
**HEIGHTS**

Annual Meeting Is June 13

Meet Your  
Director Candidates

National Lineworker  
Appreciation Day—April 9



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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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April 2018 // Vol. 38, No. 4



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Located near Ironwood in Michigan's beautiful Upper Peninsula, Copper Peak's ski flying jump sits 469-feet-high and offers panoramic views for 2,500 square miles.

Photo courtesy of Brad Nelson, NorthernPOV

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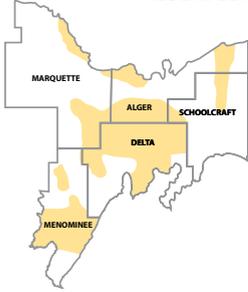
## *I Remember...*

We invite members to share their fondest memories.

### 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](http://countrylines.com) or email to [cdorr@meca.coop](mailto:cdorr@meca.coop)

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## Office Hours

M–F, 8 a.m.–4 p.m. (ET)

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# Transparency

**Tom Harrell**, Chief Executive Officer

Merriam-Webster says that transparency means “the quality or state of being transparent.” Transparent is the root word, and it means “free from pretense or deceit; readily understood; characterized by visibility or accessibility of information especially concerning business practices.” Another definition is “openness, honesty, and accountability.”

We hear the word “transparency” quite a bit these days. The media and pop culture call for it all the time. It’s easy to see why, especially in politics where transparency often appears to be lacking. And, we’ve all heard a juicy story or two about how the fix was in, or an important decision had already been made in secret, behind closed doors. These stories have appeal because they confirm our biases or offer excuses for not doing more or trying harder. These stories are often rooted in cynicism, too, and are contrary to our desire to know that the institutions and people we trust in are not influenced by money, favors, and other things of value. People want to know that decisions are made openly, honestly and that there is accountability afterward.

Transparency matters. Members want to know that their co-op is operating above reproach and with the interests of all members in mind. Transparency means providing members with the opportunity to attend a board meeting and see the board in action. Another demonstration is that members can speak to the board about issues that concern them. Alger Delta provides a member comment period at every board meeting. Members may attend the open part of each regular board meeting and listen to the reports and discussion. Co-ops don’t have to do this, but many do.

The bylaws are part of our transparency and they’re available on our website. The bylaws make up the constitution of the cooperative. They define the governance structure of Alger Delta, including what it means to be a member; how many directors are on the board, how long they serve, and when they meet; the annual meeting, members’ rights and responsibilities, and much more. The bylaws help define the purpose of the cooperative and some of the ways it is required to operate.

Other things available on our website that contribute to transparency include the Form 990, information on how to become a board member, when the board meets, the minutes of our board meetings, rates and tariffs, our annual report and much more.

Mother Teresa said something we can all live by: “Honesty and transparency make you vulnerable. Be honest and transparent anyway.”

# Your Board In Action

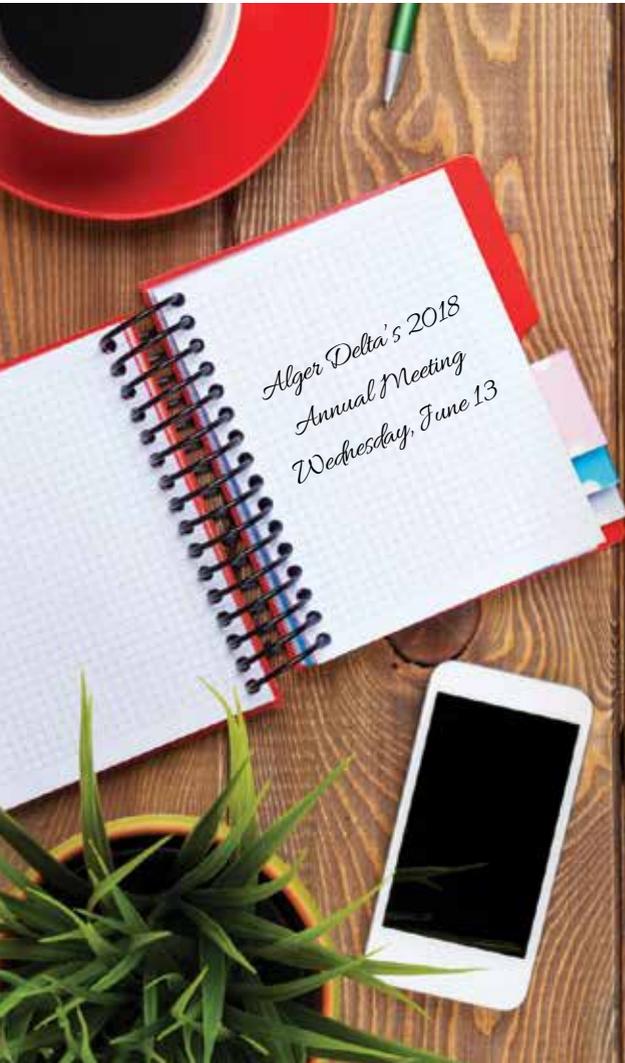
## January Meeting Highlights

- The board adopted revisions to Policy 104 which establishes four standing committees (Executive, Finance and Rates, Employee Relations, and Policy). The Policy was revised to relax the order of progression through the committees, allowing board members to serve on committees suited to their experience and to allow the president to appoint board members to the various committees.
- The board reviewed the Code of Conduct policy to ensure adherence to the policy and to satisfy audit requirements.
- Listened to a presentation on the Action Committee for Rural Electrification (ACRE) and was challenged to achieve 100 percent participation at the \$100 level.
- Reviewed and approved the auditor's engagement letter; approved writing off uncollectible debts of just over \$18,000.

- Reached a consensus on the date and format of the Annual Meeting and took action on various administrative items.

## February Meeting Highlights

- Confirmed the credentials of Alger Delta's representatives on the Michigan Electric Cooperative Association (MECA) board of directors.
- Discussed an anticipated cost of service and rate design proposal from Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC.)
- Scheduled a policy committee meeting, a finance and rates committee meeting, and was apprised of the arrangements for the Annual Meeting.
- Approved a contractor for web design work and approved a policy waiver on a one-time basis.



## Registration Is Open For The June 13 Annual Meeting

Alger Delta's 2018 Annual Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 13, at the Island Resort and Casino in Harris, Mich. Celebrating our 80th year of business, Alger Delta is treating you to a sit-down dinner. There is a two-person per membership limit and reservations can be made by calling the office or online at [Algerdelta.com](http://Algerdelta.com). Along with a delicious dinner, there will be drawings for prizes.

The business meeting is an important part of our Annual Meeting as we introduce you to newly elected directors, talk about the cooperative's past performance, future expectations and more. So, mark Wednesday, June 13, on your calendar and plan to have a wonderful time!

# Hiring The Right Contractor

By Pat Keegan and Brad Thiessen

Renovations to your home can be the perfect time to improve your home's energy efficiency. To make sure you get those energy savings, it's important to do some planning right from the beginning.

The first step is to educate yourself so you can be in control of your project. Helpful, easy-to-understand energy efficiency information is available for virtually any area of your home and any renovation project. Just be sure to use reputable sources, like your local electric co-op, [energy.gov](http://energy.gov) or [energystar.gov](http://energystar.gov).

You'll need that knowledge so you can judge the solutions each potential contractor proposes. Some products or methods that are sold as effective energy efficiency solutions may not work as well as they claim, or may be too expensive relative to the energy savings they provide.

It's important to talk to your local building department to find out if your project requires a permit and inspections. Some contractors may suggest doing the work without a permit, but unpermitted work can cause problems if you need to file an insurance claim down the road or when you get ready to sell your home.

You can also use your newfound knowledge to ask the right questions of potential contractors. Ask about the product to be installed, the energy savings it should yield and whether it will improve comfort. Because energy efficiency installations and construction are specialized, most measures are unlikely to be installed correctly unless the installer has experience and hopefully some appropriate training or certification.

Finding a contractor can be a challenge, especially in rural areas. Your electric co-op may be able to provide a list of approved contractors in your area. You may decide you'd like to hire a small specialty contractor or a larger general contractor. Either way, it's crucial to hire someone with a contractor's license, a local business license and three types of insurance: liability, personal injury and workers' compensation. Check references to verify the contractor has a solid history of cost-control, timeliness, good communication and excellent results, including significant energy savings. You might learn that your lowest bidder tends to increase the price after the job has begun.

Once you have settled on a contractor, be sure to get a written contract. It should include "as built" details and specifications that include energy performance ratings you have researched ahead of time, such as:

- the name of the individual doing the installation
- the specific R value if you're insulating
- the make, model, the AFUE (annual fuel use efficiency) and COP (coefficient of performance) ratings if you're replacing a furnace (and ask that an efficiency test be conducted before and after the work)
- the make, model and EER (energy efficient ratio) rating if you are replacing the air conditioner. Some contractors can check for duct leakage in the supply and return ductwork with a duct blaster if you're doing any furnace or AC work.
- whether the contractor must pay for the necessary building permits.



Finally, be cautious about pre-paying. Keep the upfront payment as low as possible, set benchmarks the contractor must meet to receive the next payment and make sure a reasonable amount of the payment is not due until the project is completed, passes building inspections and you are fully satisfied. If you don't feel qualified to approve the project, you could even require testing or inspection by an independent energy auditor.

Then, enjoy your new energy efficient space!

*This column was co-written by Pat Keegan and Brad Thiessen of Collaborative Efficiency. For more information on hiring the right contractor, please visit [collaborativeefficiency.com/energytips](http://collaborativeefficiency.com/energytips).*

As the “first responders” of the electric co-op family, lineworkers perform around-the-clock duties in dangerous conditions and challenging situations to keep power flowing and protect the public’s safety. These brave members of our community go above and beyond to restore power to their neighborhoods and towns, often in the most hazardous environments.

We honor the hardworking men and women who keep the lights on. Resolutions adopted by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) explain it best:

“Whereas linemen leave their families and put their lives on the line every day to keep the power on; Whereas linemen work 365 days a year under dangerous conditions to build, maintain and repair the electric infrastructure; Whereas linemen are the first responders of the electric cooperative family, getting power back on and making things safe for all after storms and accidents; and Whereas there would be no electric cooperatives without the brave men and women who comprise our corps of linemen; Therefore be it resolved that NRECA recognize the second Monday of April of each year as National Lineman Appreciation Day and make available to electric cooperatives, materials and support to recognize the contributions of these valuable men and women to America’s Electric Cooperatives.”

**Lineworkers are the heart of the co-op nation, proud and strong.  
Remember to #ThankALineworker**

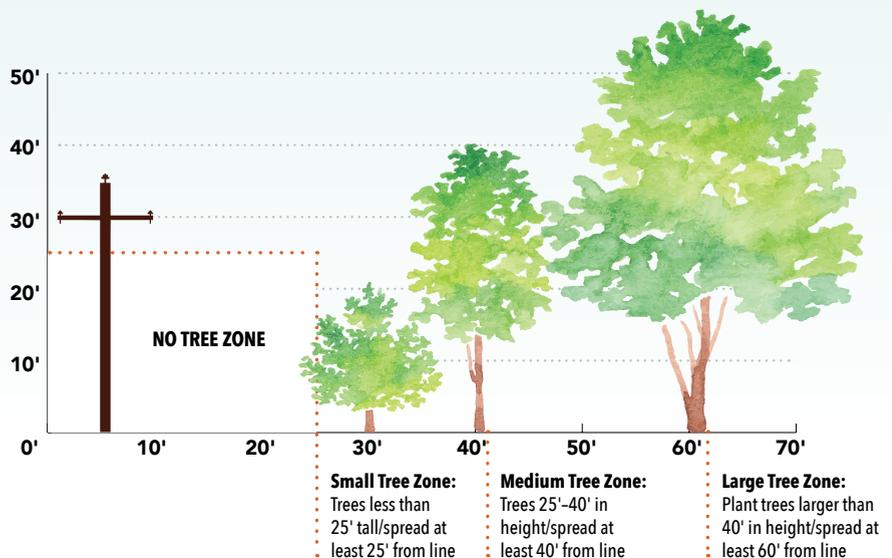


## Plant The Right Tree In The Right Place

Trees beautify our neighborhoods, and when planted in the right spot, can even help lower energy bills. But the wrong tree in the wrong place can be a hazard...especially to power lines.

### To avoid future electrical hazards, planting tips include:

- Consider the mature height of trees. Any tree that can grow as tall as 25 feet or more should not be planted near overhead power lines. A mature height of less than 15 feet is recommended.
- Do not plant near underground utility services. Tree roots can grow and interfere with underground pipes, cables and wires. Future repairs to these facilities could also damage the health and beauty of nearby plants and trees.
- Keep areas around electric meters, transformers or other electrical equipment free of any vegetation that could limit utility service access.



**Be safe!** Always call 811 before you dig to locate any buried utility lines.

# Save Now On ENERGY STAR Air Purifiers

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. Receive a **\$50 cash incentive** through Alger Delta Cooperative's Energy Optimization program when you purchase an ENERGY STAR® qualified air purifier!

## What is an Air Purifier?

Room air purifiers are portable appliances that remove fine particles—such as dust, pollen, pet dander, tobacco smoke and mold spores—from indoor air. Purifiers should be placed as close to the main source of the contaminant as possible, keeping the unit(s) unobstructed and at least a few feet away from televisions, microwaves and stereo equipment. Air purifiers are most effective when all doors and windows are shut.

## Why ENERGY STAR?

A standard room air purifier, operating continuously, can use more energy than some new refrigerators! However, ENERGY STAR qualified air purifiers are 40 percent more efficient than standard models, saving you a considerable amount on utility bills.

ENERGY STAR is a trusted brand for quality products that use significantly less energy than required by minimum federal standards. All ENERGY STAR products undergo rigorous testing to ensure maximum energy savings.

## Receive Cash Back!

To claim your \$50 incentive, submit an application online, or send it to us via mail, fax or email. Include a copy of your sales receipt(s) per the instructions on the form.



As always, visit [michigan-energy.org](http://michigan-energy.org) or call **877.296.4319** for additional energy-saving information and incentives.



*Breathe*  
**Easy**

## Protect your family with an air purifier.

Reduce indoor pollutants, including:

- Pet dander
- Pollen
- Mold spores
- Seasonal allergens

### **\$50 CASH INCENTIVE**

Purchase an ENERGY STAR® model for cash back and 40% more energy savings!

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

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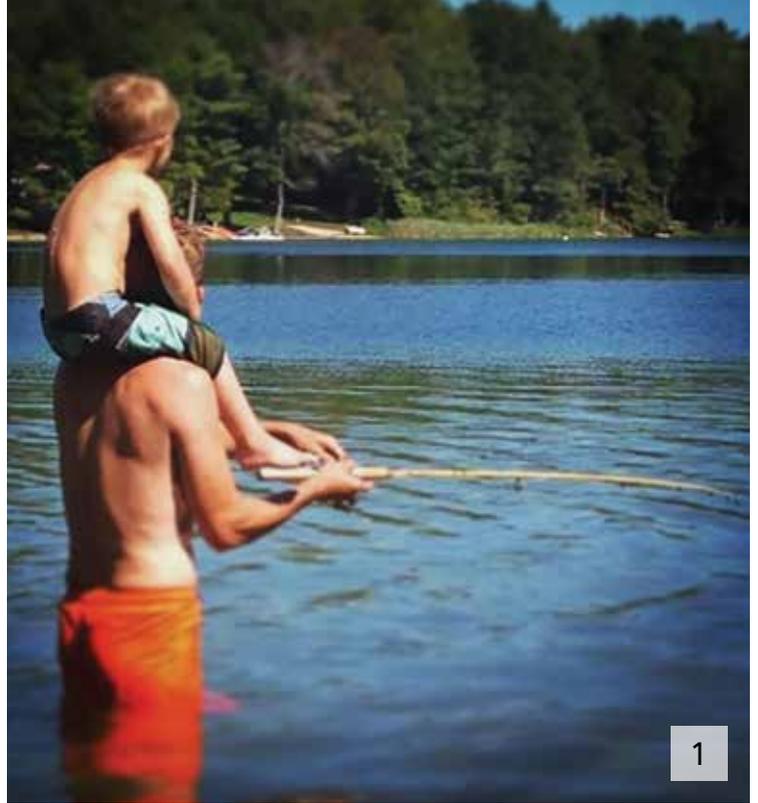
Energy Optimization programs and incentives are applicable to Michigan electric service locations only. Other restrictions may apply. For a complete list of participating utilities, visit [michigan-energy.org](http://michigan-energy.org).



# Photo Contest

## Heroes

1. "A boy's hero" by *Natasha Cummins*
2. "Hero, One of Many" by *Carrie Noren*
3. "Starving and abandoned by its mother, this cat (later named, Piper) was rescued by my grandson, Mason" by *Penny Fort*
4. "Daddy Daughter Dance—Emma's Hero" by *Susan Stegmeyer*



1



2



3



4

### Share Your Photos!

Alger Delta invites members to share their amazing photos. Selected photos will be published in *Michigan Country Lines*.

### Upcoming Photo Topics And Deadlines:

**Outdoor Adventures, Deadline: April 20** (June issue)

**Fan Spirit, Deadline: May 20** (July-August issue)

**Fall Colors, Deadline: July 20** (September issue)

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

We look forward to seeing your best photos!

# Divine Desserts

Indulge a little!



Photos—Robert Bruce Photography

## Espresso Cheesecake (pictured above)

Jeannette Len, HomeWorks Tri-County

### Crust

- 2 cups Oreo cookie crumbs (use entire cookie, including cream)
- 5 tablespoons butter, melted

### Cheesecake

- 3 (8-ounce) packages full-fat cream cheese
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 3 eggs
- $\frac{1}{3}$  cup brewed espresso (about 3 shots)

### Chocolate Ganache

- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup heavy cream
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cups semi-sweet chocolate chips
- mini chocolate chips, for topping (optional)

**Crust:** Preheat oven to 350 F. Pulse Oreos in blender or food processor until very fine. Measure out 2 cups of crumbs, roughly  $\frac{2}{3}$  of a 14.3-ounce package of Oreo cookies. In a small bowl, combine crumbs with melted butter and mix well. Before adding crumbs to the pan, wrap bottom and sides of a springform pan in three layers of aluminum foil, which will keep the water out during the water bath. Add crumbs to an 8-inch springform pan and distribute evenly, using a cup to press the crumbs into the pan. If desired, press crumbs up the sides of the pan about a half inch. Bake crust for 8 to 10 minutes. Remove pan from oven. Cool to room temperature before adding cheesecake mixture.

**Cheesecake:** Turn oven down to 325 F. In a large mixing bowl, beat cream cheese until smooth, 2 to 3 minutes. Add in sugar, vanilla, and espresso; beat again. Add eggs, one at a time, beating after each one. Beat mixture for 1 additional minute. Pour cheesecake mixture on top

of cooled crust. Place 8-inch round springform pan inside a 9x13-inch cake pan (or another large pan). Carefully fill 9x13-inch pan with water, about 1-inch below top of the tin foil on the 8-inch pan. Place water bath with the cheesecake in the oven and bake for 60 minutes at 325 F. The cheesecake is done when the center wobbles a little when you jiggle the pan. The edges of the cheesecake should look firmer than the center.

Once cheesecake looks done, turn oven off and open the oven door a little. Allow to cool to room temperature inside the oven before removing, 60 to 90 minutes. Once cooled, remove cheesecake from oven. Carefully take off aluminum foil on edges and place cheesecake (still in pan) in the fridge for a least 6 hours or overnight. Before serving, carefully unmold cheesecake from pan. Allow pan to do most of the work; some of the cheesecake may stick to the pan, but the cheesecake should naturally separate from the pan.

**Chocolate Ganache:** To make the chocolate ganache, place the chocolate chips in a heat-proof bowl. In a small saucepan over medium heat, bring the heavy cream to a boil. Once boiling, pour the heavy cream over the chocolate chips. Allow mixture to sit for 1 to 2 minutes, melting the chocolate chips, then stir well to mix. Allow the chocolate to cool for 5 to 7 minutes.

To assemble, spoon the chocolate ganache on top of the cheesecake, using a spatula to spread around. Add mini chocolate chips on top of the ganache. Serve. Cover and refrigerate any leftovers.



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

## Oh-So-Tempting Turtle Brownies

Debbie Eberly, Great Lakes Energy

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>1 package German Chocolate cake mix</b> | <b>1 cup pecans or walnuts, chopped</b>                          |
| <b>2/3 cup evaporated milk, divided</b>    | <b>14 ounces caramels, unwrapped (approx. 1 1/3 bags)</b>        |
| <b>2 eggs</b>                              | <b>16 ounces semi-sweet chocolate chips (approx. 1 1/3 bags)</b> |
| <b>3/4 cup butter, softened</b>            |  |



Preheat oven to 350 F. Combine cake mix, 1/3 cup evaporated milk, eggs, and butter. Mix well. Stir in nuts. Press half of the cake mixture into a 9x13-inch, well-greased pan. Bake for 6 to 7 minutes. While baking, combine caramels and remaining 1/3 cup evaporated milk and melt in microwave. Remove pan from oven and sprinkle chocolate chips evenly over bottom layer. Pour caramel over chocolate chips. Spoon remaining cake mixture over top. Spread as evenly as possible. Finish

baking for 18 to 20 minutes. Cool before cutting.

## Chocolate-Covered Oreo Cookie Cake

Becky Elliott, Cherryland

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>1 package devil's food chocolate cake mix</b>     | <b>1 package (8-ounce) cream cheese, softened</b> |
| <b>4 ounces (2/3 cup) semi-sweet chocolate chips</b> | <b>1/2 cup sugar</b>                              |
| <b>1/4 cup (1/2 stick) butter</b>                    | <b>2 cups whipped topping, thawed</b>             |
|  | <b>12 Oreo cookies, coarsely crushed</b>          |



Preheat oven to 350 F. Prepare cake batter and bake in 2 (9-inch) round pans as directed on package. Cool cakes in pans 10 minutes. Invert cakes onto wire racks; gently remove pans. Cool cakes completely. To make chocolate glaze, microwave chocolate and butter in bowl on high for 2 minutes or until butter is melted. Stir until chocolate is completely melted. Cool 5 minutes. Meanwhile, beat cream cheese and sugar in large bowl with mixer until blended.

Gently stir in whipped topping and crushed cookies. Stack cake layers on plate, spreading cream cheese mixture between layers. Spread top with chocolate glaze; let stand until firm. Keep refrigerated.

## Featured Guest Chef

As visitors reach the small town of Ironwood, stomachs growl and thoughts turn toward fueling up before braving the Copper Peak Adventure Ride. Ironwood natives, the Pozegas, dished up their savory family recipe so everyone can enjoy a taste of the U.P.



## Pozega Family Meat And Potato Pasties

### Dough Ingredients

- 3 cups flour
- 1 cup shortening
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 3/4 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 egg
- 1 tablespoon vinegar
- 6 tablespoons cold water

### Filling Ingredients

- 6 cups thinly-diced potatoes
- 1 large onion, diced
- 1 pound ground chuck
- 1 1/2 teaspoons salt
- 1 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 teaspoon garlic powder

Preheat oven to 350 F. Mix flour, shortening, salt and baking powder until fine. Then beat egg with a fork, mix in vinegar and cold water. Combine with flour mixture until it forms a dough. Divide the dough into 6 round balls.

Mix potatoes, meat, onion, salt, pepper and garlic powder in a large bowl.

Roll out each ball of dough into a circle and fill with 1/6 of the meat filling over half of each circle. Put a pat of butter on top of mixture, and fold over and seal edges. Make small slits on top of each pastry. Transfer to a parchment-lined rimmed baking sheet and brush pasties with milk. Bake until golden brown, about 1 hour. Enjoy!

**Read the full story about Copper Peak on page 14, and find this recipe and others at [micoopkitchen.com](http://micoopkitchen.com).**



**Eggcellent: due May 1**  
**Cookies And Cakes: due July 1**

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

Go to [micoopkitchen.com](http://micoopkitchen.com) for more information and to register.

Enter to win a  
**\$50**  
energy bill  
credit!

# MEET THE DIRECTOR CANDIDATES



**DISTRICT 2 – HARVEY/DEERTON**  
**KAREN ALHOLM**

**Occupation:**

- Retired attorney
- Marquette County Board of Commissioners

**Affiliations/Community Activities/Volunteer Service:**

- Director of the Adult Learning Systems U.P. Board
- Member of the Climate Adaptation Task Force

**Candidate Comments:**

I have been a member of the Alger Delta Cooperative for over 30 years, and I am a lifelong resident of the Upper Peninsula. Alger Delta is a member-owned utility as opposed to those owned by municipalities or investors. Your board of directors oversees the cooperative policies, finances and operations. In recent years, Alger Delta has improved service reliability without increasing rates. We have not increased rates since 2010.

I am a Credentialed Cooperative Director having successfully completed training through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association on topics pertinent to co-op directors' obligations and responsibilities. Consequently, I have a greater understanding of the electric industry, and electric cooperatives in particular. My experience as an attorney is an asset in analyzing co-op and board issues.

My focus is to improve our electric system and service reliability while not increasing rates. I look forward to continuing to serve you.



**DISTRICT 2 – HARVEY/DEERTON**  
**DAVID A. LYNCH**

**Occupation:**

- Retired Assistant Director, Marquette Board of Light and Power.

**Affiliations/Community Activities/Volunteer Service:**

- Chocolay Township Trustee
- Board Member: Lake Superior Community Partnership Foundation; Midwest Skills Development Center—Line Technician Program; Career Technical Education Committee; St. Louis the King Financial and Personnel Committee.
- Treasurer: Knights of Columbus Council 6447
- Volunteer: Room at the Inn; Marquette Summer Shelter for the Homeless
- Past Chair: American Public Power Association Engineering and Operations, System Planning and Reliable Public Power Provider Committees
- Speaker: APPA National Engineering/Operations Conferences
- Published in *American Public Power Magazine* spring 2017 edition on improving reliability

**Candidate Comments:**

I have been an Alger Delta Cooperative member since 2004. I have served in public power for 31 years and have a passion for this industry-serving members of the co-op providing safe, reliable, low-cost energy to the customer-owners. I have experience in all facets of electric utility operations including generation, transmission and distribution services, as well as financial and labor relations. I am inspired to be at the board level representing our district to ensure safe, reliable and low-cost energy services to our members. I have been involved with other utilities across the country to improve mutual aid programs to benefit utilities responding to major storm damage ensuring quicker restoration efforts. I have worked with Alger Delta Cooperative for my entire career at the Marquette Board of Light and Power.



**DISTRICT 3 – GRAND MARAIS**  
**MIKE LAWLESS**

**Occupation:**

- Owner, Superior Hardware
- Cash crop and livestock farming

**Affiliations/Community Activities/Volunteer Service:**

- Director and Board Chair – Eaton County Conservation District
- Regional Chair – MI Association of Conservation Districts
- Member of the Policy Development Committee
- Member of the Groundwater Stewardship Committee
- VP – MI Association of Conservation Districts
- President – MI Association of Conservation Districts
- President – Grand Marais Sno-Trails
- Grant Sponsor – Snowmobile Grooming
- First Trustee – Grand Marais Chamber of Commerce
- Church Elder, Church Nomination Committee and volunteer at community events
- Sunday School Teacher

**Candidate Comments:**

I have been a co-op member for 33 years. I represent District 3 on the Alger Delta Electric Cooperative Board of Directors. I have held this position since October 2016.

The concept and history of electric co-ops is an inspiring grass-roots story that I have always found interesting. It is ever evolving into the modern era with new challenges of sourcing and distributing power, as well as playing a role in the communications technology.

The most immediate issue facing the co-op is the balance between the cost of energy and variety of sources that provide it. This includes traditional sources as well as renewable sources. Being a business owner gives me perspective on budget costs versus growth, maintenance versus new construction, as well as borrowing money versus cash expenditures.



**DISTRICT 4 – CEDAR RIVER/PALESTINE**  
**DAVID PRESTIN**

**Occupation:**

- Bay Area Medical Center – Emergency Medical Technician
- Alger Delta Electric Cooperative – Board Member
- Former Owner, Cedar River Plaza

**Affiliations/Community Activities/Volunteer Service:**

- Cedarville Township Volunteer Fire Department – Assistant Fire Chief
- Mid-County Rescue – Emergency Medical Technician
- Pine Mountain Ski Resort – Ski Patrol Member

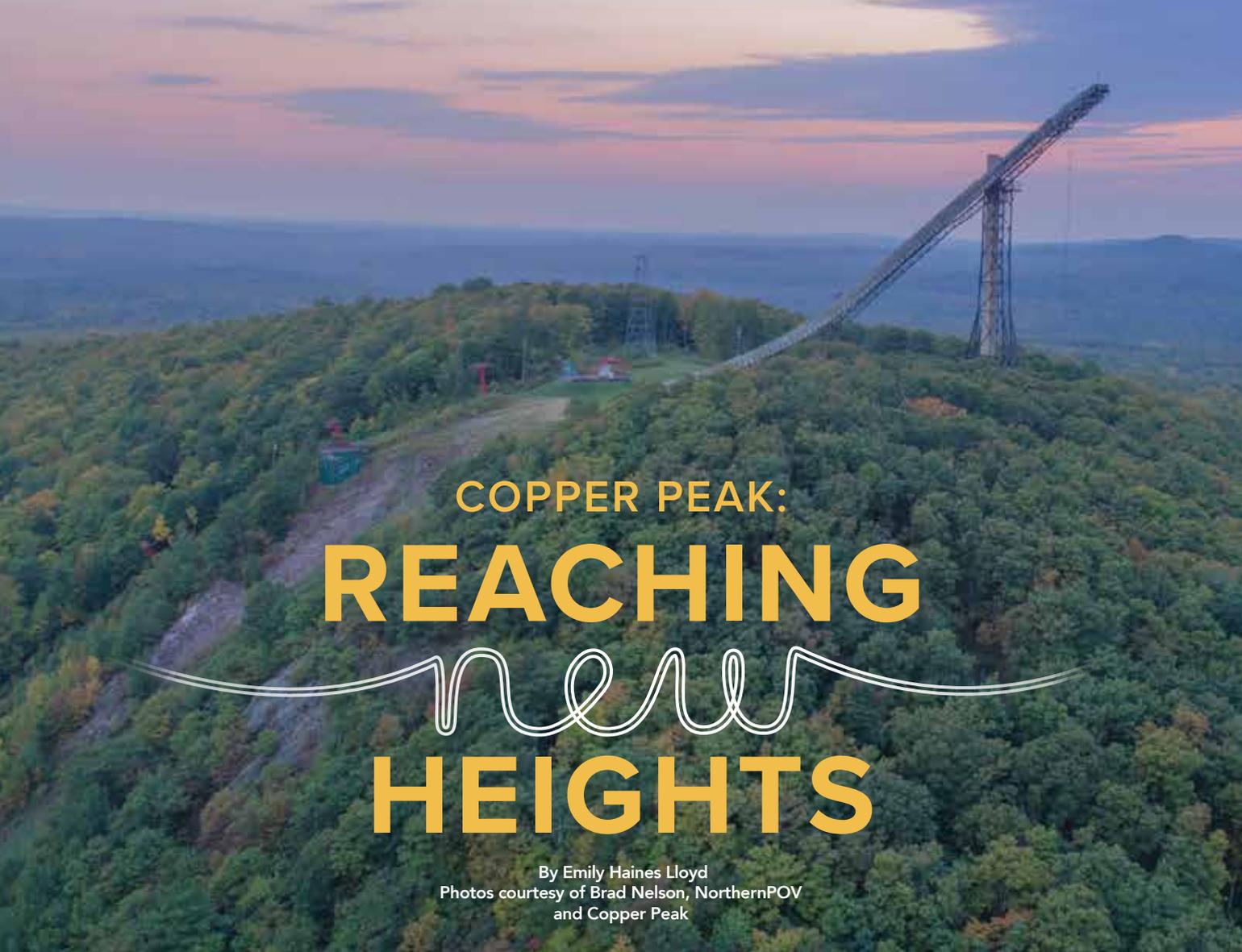
**Candidate Comments:**

I've been a Co-op member since 2007. I was appointed to the board in March of 2014 and have since served on the Employee Relations Committee and the Finance and Rates Committee. While other electric utility companies struggle with their rates, Alger Delta has successfully managed the cooperative to maintain stable rates while exponentially increasing reliability throughout the Cedar River/Palestine District 4 area with the recent transmission line rebuild and aggressive de-brushing of rights-a-way.

I have 20 years experience running my own businesses, including the last 10 years at Cedar River Plaza on M-35. Since selling the station in August of 2017, I have taken a position at Bay Area Medical Center as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT).

I am the Assistant Fire Chief in Cedarville Township and an EMT for Mid-County 114 in the Cedar River and NE Ingallston Township area.

Your electric rates are my electric rates. So, I will always consider lowering costs and increasing reliability as my mandate on the Alger Delta Board of Directors. I would appreciate your vote this April.



# COPPER PEAK: REACHING *new* HEIGHTS

By Emily Haines Lloyd  
Photos courtesy of Brad Nelson, NorthernPOV  
and Copper Peak

**F**resh off the February festivities in Pyeongchang, South Korea, Olympic fever is slowly fading. But for a small community in the Upper Peninsula, Olympic dreams are still very much alive.

In Ironwood, a village that sits on the Michigan and Wisconsin border, visitors can travel down a country road to Copper Peak, which is currently a tourist stop for breathtaking 360-degree views. However, between the 1970s through the 1990s, Copper Peak was a premiere ski jump for would-be Olympians and ski jump enthusiasts. And, if a dedicated band of supporters have their way, it will be again.

The Copper Peak ski jump sits 469-feet-high and looks over 2,500 square miles. The view from the world's largest artificial ski jump includes three states (Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota), majestic Lake Superior, and the winding Black River as it cuts through the woods. In its prime, it hosted 13 ski flying events in its nearly 25-year run.

The Copper Peak ski jump eventually closed due to financial constraints, but by no means remained dormant. Administrators believed that the views from the top of the jump should be enjoyed by more than just the lucky few jumpers and flyers who competed

and trained on the hill. That's when the Copper Peak Adventure Ride entered the scene.

"The Copper Peak Adventure Ride is one of the most thrilling experiences," said Marketing and Communications Director Kassi Huotari. "There is the perfect mixture of excitement and anxiousness as you slowly head to the top, but the payoff is priceless."

The return on the \$20 ticket price (\$20/adults, \$8/children) more than pays for itself, as adventurers take an 800-foot-chairlift ride to the crest of the hill, followed by an 18-story elevator trip to the main observation deck. If you're

feeling even more daring, individuals can climb eight additional stories to the top of the jump's starting gate.

Breathtaking hardly describes the feeling, adventurers say, as they look out over the landscape with a view that few get to experience.

While bringing those amazing views to nearly 10,000 ticket buyers last year was inspiring, those who have known and loved this hill—including team members, athletes and community members—still dream of returning Copper Peak to its former glory. A few years ago, that group of ski-jump enthusiasts and go-getters began efforts to upgrade the jump to meet modern standards and reached out for fundraising and, eventually, legislative support to return Copper Peak to a premiere competitive ski jump and training site.

“We’ve got excellent support from the international ski jumping community,” said Charles Supercynski, president of the Copper Peak board. “We see it as a very important construction project that will enhance the area. This is huge for us. We only have 16,000 people in the county, so it would be enormous for us economically and for the state. It would shine the international spotlight on Michigan and this community.”

The mission is to re-establish Copper Peak as the western hemisphere’s largest active ski jump and host the Summer Grand Prix competitions.

“At the recent Olympic trials in Park City, Utah, a U.S. female flyer approached a couple of our board members who were wearing Copper Peak gear,” said Huotari. “She went right up to them and said she wanted to be the first woman to fly off Copper Peak when it reopens. With that kind of passion and support, we’re even more committed to succeeding.”

**Visit [copperpeak.net](http://copperpeak.net) to learn more.**

**Copper Peak** is all about the adventure and is excited to be hosting the Red Bull 400, a grueling, 400-meter sprint to the top of the ski jump that will put each athlete’s calves, quads and endurance to the test. The event on Saturday, May 12, is open to the public and, much like the view from the top, will be a remarkable site to see.

**For more information visit:**  
[redbull.com/us-en/events/red-bull-400-international](http://redbull.com/us-en/events/red-bull-400-international)



**Past**



**Present**



**Future**

Artistic rendering, provided by Populous, shows the future plans of the Copper Peak site which includes adding a plastic landing hill and porcelain track down the in-run to prepare for summer ski jumping.

# Fast Eddie's Coffee Shack

By Yvonne Whitman



Linda and Ed Bruce stand in front of the Coffee Shack. The Lottery sign came from Porky's Party Store in Gwinn. When it closed, the owner came down for coffee and gave it to Ed. Ed states, "If I won the Lotto, the first day I would just get a bunch of 100-dollar bills, sit on the corner and pass them out. I would give them to whoever comes by. But just for one day."

According to 79-year-old Wells Township resident Ed Bruce, it all began with a simple idea. "In the back of my mind I always thought it would be nice to have a meeting place for the retirees of Arnold," he recalls. "Some place to chew the fat and to settle world and community affairs." Ed thought his own yard would be a good location for the meeting place, so he built the Coffee Shack.

Cutting brush in 1994, he and a friend cut and saved the nicer trees for the coffee shop that, at the time, existed only in his mind. By the end of the season, they had cut

enough trees for a building. When his son Russ came home on leave from the Navy in 1995, they made a project of peeling the 51 logs with a draw knife and then oiling them to keep the natural color of the wood.

In 1997, after retiring from the Empire Mine, Ed and a group of his friends poured the floor, and Ed got to work on building the coffee shop. He proceeded at an easy pace with just a couple logs per day. "I had to take time out for fishing and four-wheeling," he says with a chuckle. Now in existence for over 20 years, Fast Eddie's Coffee Shack is

*"Community is all about having a place to gather."*

A group of the regulars. Pictured left to right: Fred Horrocks, Ed Bruce, Mike Crawford, Leroy Wyatt and in front, Bill DeShambo with Duke the dog. Missing from the photo: Bill Raye, Ed St. Aubin, Rich Seger, Brian Mattson, Reno Makie, Dutch Salos, Russ Davis.



my cousins and nephews would get together to play baseball in our horse pasture. Afterward, we would go swimming in the Ford River, almost five miles away. We worked hard, but we had fun together too," he fondly recalls.

According to longtime friend, neighbor and coffee shack regular Bill DeShambo, "The Coffee Shack is a wonderful place for all of the local and visiting people to stop in at. It's a lot of work for Linda and Ed, but it seems to be a labor of love for them. There is always lots of camaraderie and conversation with family and friends about everything. We talk about the olden days, our aches and pains, and what's happening in the U.P. You don't see this kind of neighborhood anymore. We are always there for each other, so it's almost like we are one family."

This is echoed by Ed, who says with a twinkle in his eye, "As long as we live here, the coffee shop will be active. Community is all about having a place to gather."

open six days per week from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Coffee is free, compliments of the patrons regularly bringing in cans of coffee, and bakery items make a regular appearance. Most days there are five to six people who show up, "But on Saturday we get a whole bunch, 12 to 16," Ed states. "That's because all the wives show up." Sometimes the conversations get so spirited and loud that in the summer people relocate outside to one of the picnic tables. Sunday is the only day the shack is not open. Patrons all have their own coffee cups and when a regular member of the coffee gang passes away, their cup is permanently retired to a place of honor in the shack.



The well-used "30 cupper" coffee pot is prepared by Ed's wife, Linda, the night before so that in the morning it just has to be plugged in by Ed. This way it is ready for the first visitor.

Raised in a log home not far from where he currently lives, Ed grew up as the youngest of a family of 14 children—seven boys and seven girls. Ed remembers what it was like growing up with "no inside plumbing, well water outdoors and an outside john." He adds with a chuckle, "That made life interesting!" And the seeds for the idea of a community meeting place may have been planted in Ed's youth. "Growing up in the country was the best time of my life. I enjoyed every minute of it. Every Sunday afternoon



Ed, wearing his favorite coonskin cap, seated in front of the shack stove.

# I Remember...



Photos courtesy of Joanne Sobeck

## The Nahma Airport

My mother Alice one day not long ago told me about a ride she took on a single-engine plane as a young girl. Born in 1920 she grew up in Nahma on Big Bay de Noc with her seven siblings. She said that Pup Ranguette had a plane at the Nahma airport. “What? There was an airport in Nahma?” She smiled and explained that it was west of Nahma on the shoreline running parallel to the road going out to St. Jacques. Having spent my youth in Nahma, I never saw any airport or beach; it was an area covered with water and weeds everywhere.

Later that summer we visited my mother’s brother and wife, George and Ruthann Ritter, in Nahma. I asked my Uncle George about the airport and he took my mom, myself, and my two young sons onto a two-rut road. We made our way to an expansive beach on the shores of Lake Michigan. My uncle showed me the cement grooves that held the airport hangar doors. More impressive were the large boulders still visible, yet in disarray, spelling out NAHMA in 15x10-foot letters signaling to early planes where to land. I said to my mom, “I’ve never seen this beach before.” She tapped me with the back of her hand and said, “You haven’t lived long enough,” educating me to the cycle of the big lake and life.

*Joanne Sobeck, Alger Delta*

## The Red Farmhouse History

It was the day we pulled into the driveway and I told my husband “this is it” before we even got out of the car. It’s that feeling you get when you know something is meant to be. That day, 15 years ago, the red farmhouse on Valley Road spoke to me and became ours.

I’m continually reminded of our responsibility not only to the house but the integrity of the land and its history. The original owners homesteaded and farmed the land in Potato Soup Valley more than 100 years ago. Over the years, history became more apparent and appreciated. One summer afternoon, a woman and her elderly mother pulled into the driveway. The older woman had grown up in the house and wanted to see it again. A few years later, extended families of the elderly woman who had stopped by a few summers earlier also came to visit the farmhouse.

I remember the countless times we’ve been snowed in and can’t imagine being anywhere else. The first time our daughter ran across the field into the setting sun was so joyful. We even planted a time capsule so that 50 years from now, future generations can recall and appreciate the history that continues to be made in this magical place.

*Heather Carmona, Great Lakes Energy*



Photo courtesy of Heather Carmona

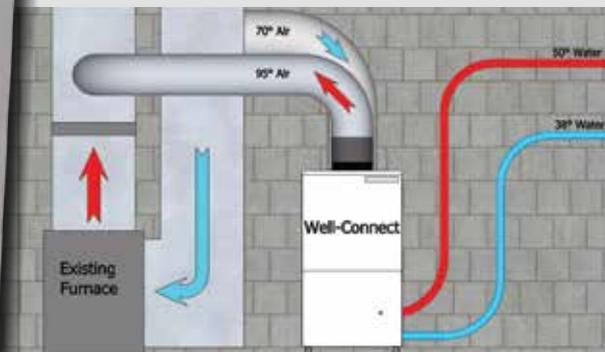
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— Jack and Marsha Frost,  
Fountain, MI



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