May/June 2014

# MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES

Attend Your Co-op's Annual Meeting, June 18 See Page 16

# Plus!

- 5 Districts 5, 7 & 8 Election Candidates
- 12 Rebates For Recycling Old Appliances

Media-Man

# **O'MALLEY**

Joins Country Lines



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# Traverse City

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**Kinross** Great Lakes Services Inc. (906) 632-5543



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# **MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES**

May 2014 Vol. 34, No. 5

Executive Editor

**Casey Clark** 

Editor

**Gail Knudtson** 

**Publisher** 

Michigan Electric
Cooperative Association

Design and Layout

# Ciesa Design

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**Letters to the editor** should be sent to Country Lines, 2859 W. Jolly Rd., Okemos, MI 48864. Phone 517-913-3531. **Email: gknudtson@meca.coop.** 

Association officers are **Ken Swope**, Midwest Energy, chairman; **Robert Schallip**, Cloverland, 1st vice chairman; **Jon Zickert**, Cherryland, 2nd vice chairman; **Eric Baker**, Wolverine Power, secretary-treasurer; and **Tony Anderson**, Cherryland, past chairman. **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.





# IN THIS ISSUE







OUR ENERGY
Cool Energy Bills
With Metal Roofing
B. Denise Hawkins



# FEATURE Media-Man O'Malley Joins Country Lines John Schneider



SAFETY
Call 8-1-1
Before You Dig



READERS' PAGE
Jack O'Malley's
New Column,
Mystery Photo

# ON THE COVER\*

Jack O'Malley, a Cherryland Electric Co-op member and host of a northern Michigan radio show and TV 9–10 broadcast called "Jack's Journal," is joining *Michigan* Country Lines magazine as a READERS' PAGE columnist.

Photo Courtesy – Beth Price / bethpricephotography.com

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



Michigan's Electric Cooperatives countrylines.com





# **Board Of Directors**

# District #1—Big Bay

Mike Nason

906-360-1477 • mnason9993@charter.net

# District #2—Harvey-Deerton

Sam Simonetta

906-892-8504 • Icellc@hotmail.com

### District #3—Grand Marais

Nancy Gardner-Platt 906-494-2772 • rlnkgard@jamadots.com

# District #4—Cedar River/Palestine

Dave Prestin

906-424-0055 • cedarriverplaza@gmail.com

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(906) 466-2932 • anthony@hannahville.org

# District #6—Nathan, White Rapids

Paul Sederquist

906-753-4484 • seder@dreamscp.com

# District #7—Stonington/Rapid River

Keith Anderson 906-280-1812

andersoninstonington@gmail.com

# District #8—Nahma/Isabella

Ray Young

(906) 644-2488 • kyoung@uplogon.com

# District #9—Hiawatha & Maple Ridge

Ron Oberg

906-573-2551

director9-algerdelta@jamadots.com

# CEO

Tom Harrell

tharrell@algerdelta.com

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M-F, 7:30-4:00 (ET)

# algerdelta.com

# Your Co-op Delivers Good Value



**Tom Harrell** General Manager

**alue" is defined** as a fair return or equivalent in goods, services or money for something exchanged. We believe that Alger Delta Cooperative delivers good value in exchange for your energy dollar.

The electric energy part of the equation is pretty straightforward. At the wholesale level, the cost of energy is calculated to ensure that all the various elements are included and the cost is fair and accurate. At the retail level—which is the rate you pay—the same process applies. The entire process

is overseen by various regulatory authorities, beginning with the board of directors who are elected by you, the members, to ensure your voice is heard.

The service part of the equation is more difficult to clearly define. Different people want different kinds of service from their cooperative. As a member-owned organization, we listen to you and do our best, but we know that many of the things we're asked to do are beyond the scope of why we exist. Alger Delta was founded to provide electric service to people who live where all the other power companies refused to serve. That's still our purpose today.

So, what about service that is within the scope of our purpose? Clearly, the first priority is keeping the lights on. Another way to state this is "Reliability." Alger Delta, like all electric utilities, is measured on its ability to keep the lights on. Keeping the lights on is the measure of value that our members most easily and quickly relate to. Everyone knows when their electricity is off, and most can tell me about how many times it has gone off in the past winter, the past six months, or the past year.

If the lights go off during a wind or ice storm, or while the lightning is flashing all around them, people can relate to the events. They understand that natural causes can, and sometimes do, wreak havoc on the power system. People also understand that it takes time to get the lights back on.

How frequently the lights go off, or how long it takes to get them back on, are two things that have a big impact on value. Our employees make huge efforts to respond, but some storms and their resulting damage are just too overwhelming and widespread for us to recover quickly. Although this can happen again, it should be the rare occasion, not the usual occurrence.

In addition to the weather, trees and other vegetation growth are a major source of outages. In our case, however, vegetation-related outages have declined dramatically over the past several years. We have invested more than ever before in tree trimming, tree removal, and right-of-way maintenance. Alger Delta keeps working hard to improve at keeping the lights on and reducing outage times.

Alger Delta is committed to keeping the lights on because that is the best way to provide value to you, our members. ■

# Meet The **Director Candidates**

**It's election time** for your Alger Delta Cooperative district only if it's noted below. Only districts 5, 7, and 8 are voting this year. Members in these districts will receive a ballot in the mail in a specially-marked envelope with instructions on how to submit their vote. Ballots can no longer be hand-delivered; they will be mailed to an independent third party that will tabulate the votes and report the final count to the board president or their designee, and the results will be announced at each district meeting.

### DISTRICT 5 GOURLEY/LABRANCHE/CORNELL



# **DAVE ANTHONY**

# Occupation:

Director of Community Development & Government Affairs, Hannahville Indian Community; Instructor, Bay DeNoc Community College; Wine Grape Grower and Winery Owner

# Other Occupations, Positions or Service:

1991–1998: Represented 108th District, Michigan House of Representatives 1979–1990: Upper Peninsula Regional Representative for U.S. Senator Carl Levin

2011: Delta County Economic Development Alliance Board Member

2010: U.P. State Fair Board Member

2007–09: Member, Michigan Grape and Wine Industry Council

2005–11: Delta County Area Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

2000–04: U.P. Business Today – wrote a column for the monthly periodical

2001: Work Force Board of the Six County Consortium for Employment

& Training—Board Member

2002: Community Action Agency of Delta, Menominee, Schoolcraft Counties—Board Member

2001–04: Community Foundation – Board Member

1994–99: State Board member of Youth in Government, Taught at Delta

County YMCA, Taught martial arts to students of all ages

1977: Youth in Government University of Royal Holloway, University of London— Participated in foreign exchange student program

# **Education:**

1978: Bachelors of Science degree in Political Science & History, Northern Michigan University (double major)

(See more director candidates on pgs. 8-9)

# OFFICIAL NOTICE OF **DISTRICT MEETINGS**

Pursuant to the Bylaws, notice is hereby given that the Alger Delta Cooperative Electric Association shall convene a District Meeting of the members of the cooperative in the districts identified herein, on the stated dates and at the locations and times indicated.

District 5—Gourley/LaBranch/Cornell

- Tues., May 13, 2014 6:30 p.m.—Call to Order
- Gourley Town Hall N13407 County Rd 551 Wilson, MI 49896

**District 7**—Stonington

- Mon., May 12, 2014 6:30 p.m.—Call to Order
- Stonington Town Hall 5870 Co 513 T Road Rapid River, MI 49878

District 8—Isabella/Nahma

- Thur., May 15, 2014 6:30 p.m.—Call to Order
- Nahma Town Hall 13852 Main Street Nahma, MI 49864

Each District Meeting shall be called to order at 6:30 p.m., local time.

Each district shall complete the following items of official business:

- Election of one (1) person to serve on the Board of Directors for a term of three (3) years.
- Presentation and consideration of reports by the Officer(s) and/or Director(s) of the Cooperative.

Dated at Gladstone, Michigan, this 16th day of April, 2014.

Alger Delta Cooperative Electric Association

Kevin Webber, President



# **GIVE YOUR TASTEBUDS**

# A HAWAIIAN VACATION

These island-inspired recipes are perfect for any Hawaiian luau or just for fun.

# Hawaiian Sweet & Sour Meatballs

3/4 lb. ground beef
3/4 c. fine bread crumbs
1/8 c. sesame seeds, toasted
1 small can pineapple chunks
1 small onion, minced
1 egg, beaten
1 t. salt
dash pepper
1 T. salad oil

# Sweet and Sour sauce

2 T. cornstarch 1/2 c. sugar 2 T. shoyu sauce (soy sauce) 1/4 c. white vinegar 1/4 c. pineapple juice 1/4 c. water



Combine beef, bread crumbs, onion, egg, sesame seeds, salt and pepper. Shape meat mixture into balls and put a chunk of pineapple in center of each meatball. Heat oil in skillet; sauté meatballs a few at a time, browning well on all

sides. Cover and cook on low heat until meatballs are done. Combine ingredients for Sweet and Sour sauce in small pan. Cook about 5 minutes, stirring constantly till thickened. Pineapple chunks may be added to sauce, if desired. Pour sauce over meatballs and serve. Serves 4. This is a traditional Hawaiian recipe given to me by my daughter-in-law, who is Hawaiian.

Tanya Blackmer, Atlanta

# Hawaiian Refrigerator Cake

11/3 c. sweetened condensed milk 10 maraschino cherries, quartered 1/4 c. fresh lemon juice 1/2 c. heavy cream, whipped 1 c. miniature marshmallows Ladyfingers cookies, about 3 dozen 1/2 c. crushed pineapple, undrained



Combine milk and lemon juice; stir until thickened. Add marshmallows, pineapple, maraschino cherries and whipped cream. Line large loaf pan with separated ladyfingers, standing halves around edge and laying them across the pan bottom. Pour in filling and cover with ladyfingers. Chill at least 6 hours. Garnish with additional whipped cream and maraschino cherries, if desired. Serves 8–10. I received this recipe from friends who had just returned from Hawaii.

Janice Harvey, Charlevoix

# **SUBMIT YOUR RECIPE!**

Thanks to all who send in recipes. Please send in your favorite "All About Snacks" recipes by **June 10**.

Mail (handwritten or typed on one side, please) to: Country Lines Recipes, 2859 W. Jolly Rd., Okemos, MI 48864; or email recipes@countrylines.com.

Contributors whose recipes we print in 2014 will be entered in a drawing and *Country Lines* will pay the winner's January 2015 electric bill (up to \$200)!

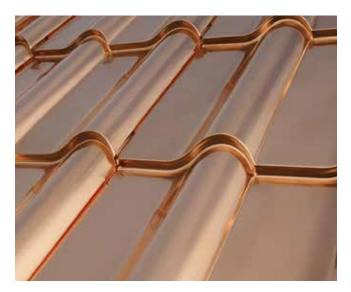
Find more of our readers' recipes at **countrylines.com** 

# **Cool Energy** Bills with **Metal Roofing**

**sphalt shingles** are still the norm in most regions, but the next roof over your head could be an energy-saving metal one made of stainless steel and painted to reflect hot sun rays. Thomas Jefferson chose metal roofing to shelter Monticello, his Virginia estate. Centuries later, historians say, Jefferson's "tin" roof "is in fine shape."

That kind of durability, say metal roofing retailers and manufacturers, is a strong selling point to a growing band of homeowners who want a building material that is not only sustainable, energy efficient, and cost-effective, but more aesthetically

pleasing than asphalt. Today, consumers can select metals from copper to zinc, and roofing styles ranging from traditional vertical seams to those resembling wood shake, slate, shingles, and clay tiles. A multi-year study conducted by the Oak Ridge National Laboratory's Building Technology Center suggests that replacing conventional asphalt roofs with metal ones can reduce air conditioning energy use by up to 25 percent.



Gleaming copper that is shaped like barrel tile forms this home's new roof. Photos - Metal Roofing Alliance



The metal roof on this log home features a standing seam design that reflects the sun's rays, making it both easier to cool in summer and great for shedding snow.

If you're wondering whether your house should be clad with a metal roof, ENERGY STAR® offers this guidance: homes that are hampered with high air-conditioning bills, have large roof surfaces, lower insulation levels, or located in hot, sunny climates benefit the most from metal roofing. Painted metal roofs, also known as "cool metal roofs," are designed to reflect more sunlight and absorb less heat than a standard roof. Special reflective color pigments make this possible. Whether white or a darker paint color is used, heat will still reflect well and help reduce cooling loads in summer and insulate homes

With metal roofs, there are additional ways for homeowners to save money over time, but the initial purchase price can be a factor. The cost for using metal roofing systems in home renovations or new residential construction is higher than most other materials, manufacturers say. But compared to traditional, dark gray asphalt shingles and other non-metal roofs that last an average of 17 years and require replacing about every decade or two, metal roofs last longer. A metal roof lifespan is about two to three times longer, says William "Bill" Hippard, chair of the nonprofit Metal Roofing Alliance, a coalition that educates consumers about the benefits of modern metal roofing, and the product is virtually maintenance-free.

# Meet The Director Candidates (Continued from page 5)

# **DISTRICT 7** STONINGTON/RAPID RIVER



SUE ALEXANDER Current Occupation: Retired

# Other Occupations or Positions:

4+ years working directly with project managers from Cloverland Electric, American Transmission Company, Enbridge and Great Lakes Gas.

5+ years in human resources working with management, union officials, and union members.

6+ years as an Executive Assistant to the head of an agency with over 150 employees in five different locations.

Worked with large budgets and tracking expenses to keep within budget parameters.

30+ years as co-owner of a contracting company working with municipalities and the private sector.

# **Candidate Comments & Service:**

I have been a full-time Alger Delta Coop member since 1974, currently with three co-op meters. I want to provide the best power for the lowest cost to members.

I have been attending months of co-op board meetings and feel I would be an asset to the team directing the co-op into the future. Money has been spent unnecessarily in the past and instead of working with co-op members, the members are faced with many unnecessary road blocks such as:

- The 2013 Annual Meeting costing over \$40,000.
- Tens of thousands of dollars spent on lawyer fees for lawsuits against co-op members instead of good faith negotiation with the member.
- The addition of a monthly charge on members' bills
  that accumulated to \$98,000 toward the Low Income
  Energy Fund (LIEF) each year. A fund managed by a state
  government agency, that is used for assisting low-income
  people statewide with their heating costs—not even
  electric costs.



KEITH ANDERSON (INCUMBENT)

# Occupation:

Funeral Director/Co-owner— Anderson Funeral Homes

### **Candidate Comments:**

As a current board member of District 7 (Stonington) of the Alger Delta Cooperative, I am currently serving on the Employee Relations Committee for Alger Delta Cooperative.

I consider serving the members in Stonington as a director for Alger Delta Cooperative both an honor and a privilege. I will give 100 percent of my abilities to represent the people of Stonington in a positive and productive manner. Over the years, I have been very active in the leadership of our community, both in my business career and in civic organizations. I am the co-owner and a third generation funeral director, with my brother Chris Anderson, at Anderson Funeral Homes located in Gladstone and Escanaba. Our family business was started over 95 years ago and we are dedicated to serving others.

I also have been very community oriented over the years, serving as a board member and board chairman for the Delta County Chamber of Commerce; past president of the Upper Michigan Funeral Directors' Association; and serve on several civic boards. Involvement in our community affairs is extremely gratifying to me. I am a member of Bethany Lutheran Church, Masonic Lodge, Delta Shrine Club, Lions Club, Stonington Booster Club, Delta County Chamber of Commerce, Elks Lodge, Eagles Lodge, Gladstone Swedish Club and Sons of the American Legion.

I would be honored to continue to represent the people of Stonington on the Alger Delta Cooperative Board of Directors. Thank you in advance for your support.



BARBARA BENNETT

# Occupation:

Owner of Sterling Light Systems & an advertising agency



# **DOUG CURRY**

# Occupation:

Forester/Industry &
Private Lands Consultant

### **Candidate Comments:**

I have been a member of the cooperative since purchasing my home on the Stonington Peninsula in 1984. I currently serve on the Advisory Committee on Efficiency, Renewables and the Environment.

My passion for energy conservation led to my career as owner of Sterling Light Systems. In that capacity, I attend conferences and workshops in the field of energy and strive to keep abreast of the rapid changes in LED technology and its impact on power consumption. I work closely with the agencies administering energy efficiency programs in Michigan, providing my clients with cost effective LED lighting solutions and detailed audits of their energy savings. I also own an advertising agency, which requires excellent communication skills. Operating these two businesses gives me a unique perspective into both the energy side as well as the communications side of a cooperative.

I have served as vice president and president of GFWC Escanaba Women's Club and on the executive board of Boy Scouts of America. I have a BS in chemistry/biology with a minor in mathematics and have taught chemistry, math and physics at the college level.

Some of the biggest challenges for the cooperative include maintaining the reliability of service through continued preventive maintenance of the equipment and the distribution system as well as keeping our members informed of challenges in the energy arena and how they impact the cooperative's mission.

Doug Curry is a graduate of Michigan Technological University with a Bachelor of Science degree in forestry. He has worked as a forester in various positions, both in industry and as a private-lands consultant for the past 36 years.

In the past, his work required extended out-of-town travel, which prevented Doug from running for a seat on the Alger Delta Electric Cooperative Board. However, now that he works locally he has the time and ability to attend meetings and be available to respond to the needs of District 7 co-op members.

Public service is, and has been important to Doug. Over the years, he has served on many public and private boards and commissions, including: Masonville Township Board, West Iron County School Board, Iron County Conservation District, New Homes Development Corp, and New Horizons. Curry, if elected, will be available to discuss the questions and suggestions of co-op members throughout his district, and will work with the rest of the co-op's board to ensure that all members receive the best possible electric service at the best possible pricing.

Doug and his wife of 37 years, Laura, have two grown children, Taylor and Sydney. He and Laura have been local residents and co-op members since 1998. In his down time, Doug enjoys reading, watching wildlife, and this winter his latest hobby has become shoveling snow.

Doug would appreciate your vote for District 7 representative and promises he will serve with integrity and diligence.

MAY 2014

# Media-Man O'MALLEY Joins Country Lines

self-proclaimed "spoken-word guy,"
Jack O'Malley is looking forward to transferring his upbeat view of life in Michigan to the printed page.
"I'm thrilled about this," O'Malley said about his new gig with Michigan Country Lines magazine. "It's a whole new avenue, and I like a challenge."

Beginning with this edition, his column on the Readers' Page will appear in alternating issues. O'Malley will use the hallowed space, once occupied by Jim Hough, then Mike Buda, to expand on what he already does on northern Michigan radio and TV: celebrate the great and quirky people and places of his home state, filtering the stories through the lens of his

"People get enough bad news," he says. "They want a little good news."

buoyant personality.

O'Malley, 54, relishes the role of good-news messenger. To Traverse City area people, his voice is as familiar as cherry pie. He's hosted the WTCM Radio Morning Show since 1984, making it the longest-running morning radio show in northern Michigan. O'Malley describes the program, which airs from 5 to 9 a.m. Monday through Friday as "full-service," meaning a complete package of music (country), news, weather, traffic reports—everything listeners need to start their day, except the coffee.

"People waking up want to know the world is still here and that all is well," O'Malley explains. "The idea is to be happy and fun, and keep people informed."

Brief interviews with various guests are also part of his routine—a local librarian offering a glimpse of what Traverse City folks are reading, an outdoor writer discussing what's biting in the Bay, or a city official discussing a development project.

A true multi-media man, O'Malley also turns up every Monday on the northern Michigan CBS affiliate WWTV (TV 9&10), in the form of "Jack's Journal," a 2-minute human-interest feature that airs during the 6 p.m. news.

The subjects?

"Gosh, it's everybody and everything," O'Malley says, tossing out a few recent examples—a hidden gem known as the Manton Military Museum, a one-man band, a funky little "Up North" tavern...

O'Malley describes the drill: "I get a cameraman and travel all over northern Michigan—from Alpena to the eastern Upper Peninsula, to the Ludington area—I follow the subject around, do an interview, put it all together."

Now and then O'Malley spends the 2 minutes musing about one of modern life's marvels—the overwhelming number of options, for example, in a supermarket cookie aisle.

O'Malley gleans ideas from his viewers and listeners, production team members, and his own observations. For *Country Lines*, O'Malley, who grew up in Detroit, will continue working Michigan's fertile humaninterest soil, but on a broader, statewide field.



Jack O'Malley says his WTCM Radio Morning Show is a complete package of music, news, weather and everything listeners need to start their day, except the coffee.

"I'm a Michigan boy," he says. "My heart is in Michigan." O'Malley and his wife Robin are, by the way, Cherryland Electric Co-op members. O'Malley has two grown daughters and a 12-year-old son. As this *Country Lines* edition went to press, a first grandchild was also expected.

A veteran hunter of human-interest stories, O'Malley knows that the eyes and ears of his listeners, viewers, and now, readers, are his best bush-beaters. If you have an idea for a column, he wants to hear from you.

"I'm always open to ideas and suggestions," he says. On column writing, as well as on grandfathering.

# Meet The Director Candidates (Continued from page 9)

# **DISTRICT 8** NAHMA/ISABELLA



# **RAYMOND YOUNG**

# **Occupation:**

Garden Township Supervisor; Adjunct Professor, Human Biology and Chemistry, Bay de Noc Community College

# Other Occupations, Positions or Service:

Former High School teacher; Retired Journeyman Sheet Metal Worker.EMT; Garden VFD; Board member and coordinator for Hope At The Inn, a homeless shelter serving Delta and Schoolcraft counties; chairperson, Missions Committee, Memorial United Methodist Church; member of Michigan Township Association and Delta County Association.

# **Candidate Comments:**

My wife and I are full-time residents of District 8 and have been members of the co-op for 25 years. We remember when it rained or the wind blew, the power went out. Now it takes quite an event for the power to go out. The power is definitely more reliable, but doesn't seem more efficient. My father, a member for over 45 years, lived on a fixed income. When the rates went up, he turned things off and gave up some little pleasures. District 8 has many members on fixed incomes. When the rates go up, they have to cut something else to pay their bill.

As business owners, we know that having higher rates puts us at a competitive disadvantage and higher rates discourage business development and expansion. The co-op, although more reliable, is not relating to its members when it comes to the cost of electricity. More and better budgeting, more efficiency, and lowered or stable rates will be my primary goal when I am elected. Those of us on fixed incomes need electrical power that is affordable, reliable and efficient.



# **Your Board in Action**

# The Alger Delta Cooperative Board of Directors met on Feb. 19, 2014, and took the following actions:

- Affirmed Director Gardner-Platt— District 3, and CEO Harrell as the voting delegates to Michigan Electric Cooperative Association annual meeting.
- Reviewed attorney's report on a complaint/settlement agreement filed at the Michigan Public Service Commission.
- Interviewed five candidates for an open board seat in District 7.
- Appointed Keith Anderson to fill the open board seat in District 7.
- Directed the CEO to request letters of interest from District 4 members to fill an open board seat.
- Reviewed reports from the operations manager, CFO and CEO.
- Approved a resolution to write off uncollectible debts of \$15,932.

- Approved a proposal to contract with Survey and Ballot Systems to conduct 2014 director elections.
- Discussed policy revisions as proposed by the policy committee.
- Formed a committee to investigate a complaint.
- Approved the check register, member applications, directors' per diem/expenses, and CEO timesheets/expenses.
- Appointed Director Clay Peterson—District 8 to the Rates and Finance Committee.
- Appointed directors Ron Oberg— District 8, and Keith Anderson— District 7, to the Employee Relations Committee.
- Notified committee members of an Employee Relations Committee meeting on March 19, 2014.
- Notified board members of the next regular board meeting on March 19, 2014.

# At their March 19 meeting, the board:

- Accepted a report and recommendations from attorney Terry Burkhart and a committee following their investigation into a complaint.
- Voted to investigate a possible policy violation related to a director's website.
- Interviewed four candidates for the vacant District 4 board seat and appointed Dave Prestin to fill that seat.
- Reviewed the financial, operations and CEO reports; plus two collective bargaining agreement proposals.
- Rejected a proposal to hold a member appreciation event at the U.P. State Fair.
- Approved the check register, member applications, directors' per diem/expenses, and CEO timesheets/expenses.



# Winter's in the Rear View

hew! Winter is finally in our rear view mirrors. All of Michigan's 83 counties experienced a humdinger, didn't they? Persistent cold, high accumulations without a traditional midseason thaw, an abundance of snow days, and the Great Lakes nearing an ice-cover record made the Winter of 2013 one for the books! Yowsers!

I'm as ready for spring as the next guy, but let's be honest about winter in Michigan, too. We all love it! Winter is as much a part of who we are as the DNA that determines our eye and hair color.

We love seeing how southern towns react when hit with an inch or two of snow. Schools close, YouTube videos of garbage trucks pirouetting down the interstate are circulated, and news crews are on the scene! Why do we find such humor in our southern neighbors' response to what we consider a "light dusting"?

Bragging rights, pure and simple. We Michiganians are a tough bunch—enduring months of snow and frigid cold, driving to and from work (uphill both ways), and sending kids to the bus stop on days when the slightest breeze can leave cheeks raw and chapped. And, when warm weather friends call to complain about an inch of snow or temperatures below freezing, we can let loose! "Heck, we got a foot last night! It's minus 8 with wind chills at 35 below and schools have been closed all week!"

Not for the faint of heart, winter gives folks true grit, an identity. Anybody can do sunny and 75, but it takes seasoned Michiganians to handle negative temperatures and snow up to their backsides! Floridians have lawn mowers. A rake or two. But look in any Michigan garage and you will find all that plus an assortment of snow blowers, shovels, ice choppers, snow scoops...an arsenal for the war with winter we secretly enjoy waging year after year.



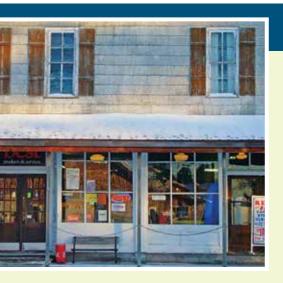
Anybody can do sunny and 75."

Jack O'Malley pictured using a snowblower during this infamous "Winter of 2013."

Enjoy the warm months ahead. You've earned 'em! And while boating, camping or lazing on the beach this summer, pay attention to the number of times you catch yourself bragging about how you survived the infamous "Winter of 2013." Because you will. And, you should. The seasons make us who we are. And we are from Michigan, home of the real winter!



P.S. I am looking forward to talking with you through this column (every other issue), so if you have a topic idea to share about unique Michigan people, places and things, give me a shout to jack@countrylines.com or write: J. O'Malley, 2859 W. Jolly Rd., Okemos, MI.



# Where This Is?

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

We do not accept Mystery Photo guesses by phone. Enter your guess at countrylines.com; or send by mail to Country Lines Mystery Photo, 2859 W. Jolly Rd., Okemos, 48864. Include your name, address, phone number and the 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 2014 issue.

The March contest winner is Deborah Dunlap, a Cherryland Electric Cooperative member from Traverse City, who correctly identified the photo as

Lakenenland

Sculpture Park

in Marquette.





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**From RAPID RIVER:** Take U.S. 2 & 41 west/south. Turn west (right) on M-35. Continue on M-35 past the big curve to the north. Gladstone High School on the east side (right) side of M-35. **From PERKINS:** Take M-35 south toward Gladstone. Gladstone High School on east side of M-35 just before the industrial park. **From ESCANABA:** Take U.S. 2 & 41 east/north. Turn west (left) on M-35. Continue on M-35 past the big curve to the north. Gladstone High School is on the east (right) side of M-35.

# Notice Of Annual Meeting Of The Members Of Alger Delta Cooperative Electric Association

Pursuant to the Bylaws, notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the members of Alger Delta Cooperative Electric Association will be held on **Wednesday, June 18, 2014**, at 7 p.m. Eastern Time at Gladstone High School Auditorium, 2100 Highway M-35, Gladstone, MI.

Actions will be taken on the following matters:

- Installation of directors
- Presentation and consideration of reports
- New business

Dated at Gladstone, Michigan, This 16th day of April, 2014.

Kevin Webber, President