

# MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES

Attend Your Co-op's  
Annual Meeting, June 14  
**SEE BACK COVER!**

## Plus!

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Co-op Owners

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**O'MALLEY**  
*Joins Country Lines*

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geothermal dealer makes a  
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**POSTMASTER:** SEND ALL UAA TO CFS.

**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](mailto: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.



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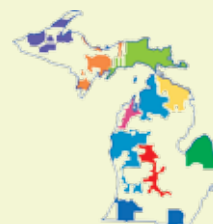
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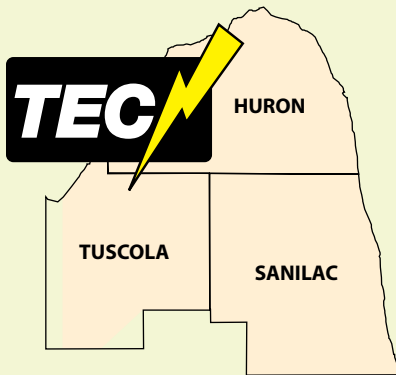
Jack O'Malley, a Cherryland Electric Co-op member and host of a northern Michigan radio show and TV 9-10 broadcast called "Jack's Journal," is joining *Michigan Country Lines* magazine as a READERS' PAGE columnist.

Photo Courtesy - Beth Price / bethpricephotography.com

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



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



## Thumb Electric Cooperative

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 E-mail: [tec@tecmi.coop](mailto:tec@tecmi.coop)  
[www.tecmi.coop](http://www.tecmi.coop)

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### HURON COUNTY

**Randall Dhyse** Treasurer  
 Kinde

**Beth McDonald** Secretary  
 Bad Axe

**Donald Wolschleger** Vice President  
 Harbor Beach

#### SANILAC COUNTY

**Lynn Morell** Director  
 Ubly

**Kim Nunn** Director  
 Crosswell

**Duane Kursinsky** Director  
 Sandusky

#### TUSCOLA COUNTY

**Carl Cousins** Director  
 Millington

**Karl DeSimpelare** Director  
 Unionville

**Louis Wenzlaff** President  
 Kingston

**Dallas Braun** General Manager

### PAYMENT STATIONS

#### Huron County

Bad Axe—Northstar Bank  
 Pigeon—Northstar Bank

#### Tuscola County

Akron—Northstar Bank  
 Caro—Northstar Bank  
 Mayville—Mayville State Bank  
 Millington—Mayville State Bank

# Four Director Positions Open

See back cover for annual meeting details and voting information!

## DISTRICT 2 SANILAC COUNTY



### Lynn Morell (Incumbent)

Lynn Morell has farmed 500 acres in partnership with his brother, Joseph, and also raised beef cattle and milked cows for the past 39 years south of Ubly, near Argyle. He is also president of Sanilac Mutual Insurance Company, and he has been an agent since 1980. Born and raised in the Ubly area, he has been a Thumb Electric member for 39 years.

Lynn and his wife, Maureen, have four children, all girls, along with three grandchildren, who include two girls and one boy. Lynn is a church lector, eucharistic minister, usher, and funeral presider at St. Joseph of Argyle. He is a member of the Ubly Fox Hunters Club and past member of the Knights of Columbus. He has served as a delegate for Dairy Farmers of America and Independent Dairy, and served on the Argyle Township Board of Review. Lynn has also served in the past on the Nominating Committee for Thumb Electric as chairman, and performed many duties at the former St. Ignatius Church, including Parish Council president and a member of the CORE team.

Lynn would like Thumb Electric members to know that he takes great interest in Thumb Electric Cooperative activities and representing the people in the service area.



### Edward Jakubiak

Ed Jakubiak and his wife, Lynne, have been married 45 years and have been Thumb Electric Co-op members since 2006. They reside in Palms year-round, and therefore will be available for all monthly board meetings. Ed has a long history of service in the electric utility business and would like to use his knowledge and experience to serve the co-op.

He retired in 2008 from Detroit Edison where he held the position of chief engineer on the distribution side of DTE Energy. He was director of asset optimization and directly responsible for a \$350 million capital budget and a \$200 million operating budget. His role was to provide customers with reliable electricity at the lowest cost, and the maintenance and protection of the \$5 billion wires system.

He has a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering from the University of Detroit and a masters degree in electrical engineering from the University of Michigan. During his 38 years with DTE he held positions in transmission, generation reserve, subtransmission, and distribution planning, rate and revenue, research, line clearance and substation operations. He also worked directly with the Michigan Public Service Commission in matters of service reliability, rate design, rule making and customer complaints.

"Since I am retired, I am available to serve without any other business distractions. I will work to keep your electrical systems safe, your rates low, and your service reliability high."

**Attend Thumb Electric's Annual Meeting on June 14 and receive a \$10 credit on your July bill! See back cover for details.**

Visit Thumb Electric's website:  
**[www.tecmi.coop](http://www.tecmi.coop)**

## DISTRICT 3 SANILAC COUNTY

**Duane Kursinsky (Incumbent)**

Raised in the Deckerville area, Duane is the owner and operator of the Sandusky D.Q. Grill & Chill Restaurant. He has been with Dairy Queen for 43 years, and a Thumb Electric member since 1994.

Duane is a member and past chairperson of Peace Lutheran Church and has also served as vice chairperson. He also serves on the Sanilac County 4-H board, is a member of the Motor City Oragras Society, Sandusky Chamber of Commerce, and is a member of several snowmobile clubs.

Duane and his wife, Wanda, will celebrate their 47th anniversary this year. They have three sons—Curt, Steve and Ryan—and eight grandchildren.

If elected, Duane would like to continue looking for new forms of energy and ways to keep TEC's electric rates competitive for members while maintaining the excellent service we all enjoy. He feels it has been a real honor serving TEC members with the present board of directors.

**Ken Landsburg**

Ken Landsburg owns and operates Sandusky Flight Academy. In addition to being a flight instructor, he charts flights. He is also a midsize farmer, has several part-time employees, does custom spraying, and has a trucking business.

Raised in the Sandusky area, Ken graduated from Sandusky High School and attended flight school in Tampa, FL. Ken has been a member of TEC since 1987.

He has three children, served on the Sanilac County Farm Bureau Board of Directors, and is a member of Sandusky United Methodist Church.

If elected, Ken would like TEC to continue to offer competitive rates and great service, now and into the future.

## DISTRICT 3 TUSCOLA COUNTY

**Carl Cousins (Incumbent)**

Carl Cousins is a retired registered civil engineer. He worked for about 40 years, splitting his time working for the Michigan Department of Transportation and private industry. He has been a member of Thumb Electric Cooperative since 1974.

Born in Flint and raised on a dairy farm east of Grand Blanc, he graduated from Davison High School. He attended Mott Community College and graduated from Wayne State University with a bachelor of science degree in engineering.

Carl and his wife, Billy Jean, were married for 41 years prior to her death in 2008.

They had two sons, Rodney who was formerly a pilot with the U.S. Air Force and now works for Boeing, and William Lloyd, who passed away in 1998.

He has been a member of the Millington Lions Club since 1977 and past president of the Pinto Horse Association of America, is a member of the Michigan Pinto and Breeders Association, and a past member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, and attends Millington United Methodist Church.

Carl feels community participation is very important, and he has the time to represent members. He also believes maintaining reliable service at competitive prices is important.

## DISTRICT 3 HURON COUNTY

**Beth McDonald (Incumbent)**

Beth McDonald has served on Thumb Electric Cooperative's (TEC) board of directors since October 1995.

Beth is currently secretary for McDonald's Food & Family Center of Bad Axe, a retail grocery store that has 135 employees. Raised in the Bad Axe area, Beth has been a co-op member since November 1974. She and her husband, Lowell, have three children, nine grandchildren (eight girls and one boy) and have two great-grandchildren.

Beth attends the Bad Axe Free Methodist Church, and her entire family has been and are still involved in many community boards and projects.

Beth wants to see TEC continue to be a local, member-owned cooperative. She also believes TEC has a great general manager, staff and board of directors that are totally committed to serving you. Thumb Electric Cooperative wants to provide you with the best possible service at fair prices, in a caring professional manner, and Beth is always looking for ways to conserve energy and make the future better for upcoming generations.

**Dan Cregeur**

Dan Cregeur was born in Bad Axe and raised on a small farm north of Ubly, one of 12 children of Elwood and Avalon Cregeur. He has lived in Huron County his entire life. After 37 years at Signature Bank, Dan retired in 2010 as senior vice president/chief lending officer. He is now contracted by the Huron County Road

Commission to do roadside mowing.

Dan has been a Thumb Electric member since 1985. He and his wife, Kathleen, who is the daughter of the late Malcom and Mary Sweeney and comes from a family of 14 children, have three children—Aaron (Maria Ahearn), Marc, and Kayla (Justin) Grifka. They three 3 grandchildren—Austin and Braden Cregeur, and Madelyn Grifka.

Dan is a member of the Ubly Fox Hunters Club and the Ubly/Sheridan Council for the Knights of Columbus. He is an active parishioner of Good Shepard, St. Columbkille Church. Dan has enjoyed being a long-time member of Thumb Electric and has utilized several of our services and programs, including cost-saving programs for geothermal heat and hot water. Dan would like to see Thumb Electric continue to offer these beneficial programs as well as help Thumb Electric to keep rates low and reliability high.

*Don't miss the entertainment!*

**BRANDON STYLES**  
Impressionist, Magician, Comedian

**June 14, 2014**

**Thumb Electric Annual Meeting**  
**Cass City Recreational Park**

*(see back cover for details on attending)*







Photos – 831 Creative

## 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

1 1/3 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](mailto: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

**A**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."

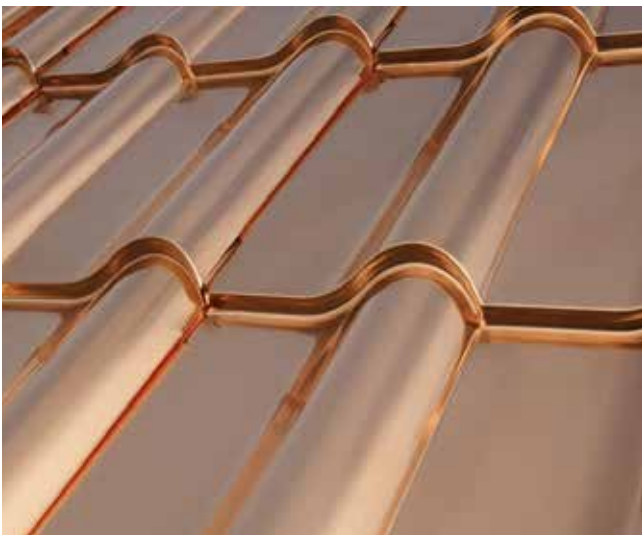
That kind of durability, say metal roofing retailers and manufacturers, is a strong selling point to a growing band of homeowners who want a building material that is not only sustainable, energy efficient, and cost-effective, but more aesthetically pleasing than asphalt. Today, consumers can select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



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 in winter.

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. ■



Gleaming copper that is shaped like barrel tile forms this home's new roof.

Photos – Metal Roofing Alliance

## Co-op News

### Briolat Retires From Thumb Board



Len Briolat, a certified and credentialed director who served on Thumb Electric Cooperative's board for 27 years, has announced his retirement (effective Dec. 31, 2013). Len first joined the board in December 1987 and served as treasurer from March 1999 until June 2012.

Len and his wife, Marjorie, along with their sons Steve, and his wife Lisa, and Mike and his wife Diane, farm 1,600 acres south of Ubly, and have been Thumb Electric members for over 50 years.

Len is also an usher at St. Johns Church in Ubly, and is a member of the Knights of Columbus, Ubly Fox Hunters Club, and several farm organizations. He and his wife have six children and 20 grandchildren. We thank Len for his years of service to Thumb Electric and wish him well in retirement.

### 2014 Tree Trimming Schedule

Your electric co-op right-of-way clearing program will proceed as weather permits. Areas scheduled soon for clearing by Kappen Tree Service include:

**Sanilac County:** All lines in Washington, Lower Sanilac, and Buel townships;

**Tuscola County:** All lines in Watertown Township sections 20, 21, 28, 29, 31, 32, 33 along Barnes, Goodrich, North Lake and Hart Lake roads.

Please call Thumb Electric at 989-658-8571 or 800-327-0166 if you have any questions or concerns.

### Watch Your May Electric Bill For Capital Credit Refund!

Because electric co-ops operate at cost, any excess revenues, called margins, are returned to members in the form of capital credits. Thumb Electric Cooperative member-owners will see the benefits of cooperative principle #3 (Members' Economic Participation) on their May electric bills as a credit on a line item called "Patronage Refund."

Over \$395,000 will be applied to members' May electric bills for those who had service during 1981, 1982, and 2013. Since retiring patronage capital, over \$6,284,347 has been returned to the co-op's members. ■

## Thumb Electric Cooperative Financial Statement Balance Sheets December 31, 2013 & 2012

ASSETS	2013	2012
ELECTRIC PLANT		
In service—at cost	\$ 79,338,459	\$ 76,668,501
Under construction	982,198	1,395,722
Total electric plant	80,320,657	78,064,223
Less accumulated depreciation	25,023,982	24,178,644
ELECTRIC PLANT—NET	55,296,675	53,885,579
OTHER PROPERTY AND INVESTMENTS		
Investments in associated organizations	1,504,303	1,473,752
Investment in subsidiary	1,241,524	1,085,163
Energy loans receivable	104,867	112,164
Nonutility property	111,554	115,779
Short-term investments—restricted	125,000	100,000
TOTAL OTHER PROPERTY AND INVESTMENTS	3,087,248	2,886,858
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and temporary cash investments	3,017,006	1,908,226
Accounts receivable, less allowance for doubtful accounts of approximately \$461,577 and \$423,446 in 2013 and 2012	2,642,138	2,338,636
Unbilled revenue	649,131	573,699
Materials and supplies	962,717	1,025,676
Prepaid expenses	124,540	126,895
Interest receivable	9,930	9,201
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	7,405,462	5,982,333
DEFERRED CHARGES	1,245,939	29,486
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 67,035,324</b>	<b>\$ 62,784,256</b>
EQUITIES AND LIABILITIES		
EQUITIES		
Memberships	\$ 167,010	\$ 164,305
Patronage capital	21,383,620	21,715,009
Other equities	1,109,456	753,088
TOTAL EQUITIES	22,660,086	22,632,402
LONG-TERM DEBT, NET OF CURRENT MATURITIES	37,835,075	34,944,319
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Current maturities of long-term debt	1,803,250	1,557,189
Accounts payable:		
Purchased power	1,800,669	1,636,757
Subsidiary	50,197	30,581
Other	1,403,868	768,070
Accrued property taxes	546,609	535,312
Accrued payroll and vacation	594,924	346,584
Customer deposits	166,284	144,780
Other	104,127	87,553
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	6,469,928	5,106,826
DEFERRED CREDITS	70,235	100,709
<b>TOTAL EQUITIES AND LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$ 67,035,324</b>	<b>\$ 62,784,256</b>
OPERATING REVENUES		
Electric sales	\$ 18,101,978	\$ 17,476,104
Other sales	453,225	381,378
	18,555,203	17,857,482
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Cost of power	9,479,982	8,913,366
Generation	18,014	24,203
Transmission	103,522	163,569
Distribution—operations	478,125	485,887
Distribution—maintenance	2,054,960	1,036,012
Customer accounts	665,495	659,314
Customer service	360,173	340,963
Sales	9,101	15,263
Administrative and general	973,692	950,980
Depreciation	1,944,238	1,845,007
Taxes—property	713,712	700,795
Taxes—other	8,735	17,144
	16,809,749	15,152,503
OPERATING INCOME BEFORE FIXED CHARGES	1,745,454	2,704,979
FIXED CHARGES:		
Interest on long-term debt	1,579,745	1,515,564
Other interest	2,649	12,742
	1,582,394	1,528,306
OPERATING MARGINS AFTER FIXED CHARGES	163,060	1,176,673
CAPITAL CREDITS	131,097	109,991
NET OPERATING MARGINS	294,157	1,286,664
NONOPERATING MARGINS		
Interest	118,149	102,363
Income from subsidiary	80,319	4,080
Other income	50,726	16,498
	249,194	122,941
<b>NET MARGINS</b>	<b>\$ 543,351</b>	<b>\$ 1,409,605</b>



**STATE OF MICHIGAN  
BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
NOTICE OF HEARING FOR THE CUSTOMERS  
OF THUMB ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE  
CASE NO. U-17101-R**

- Thumb Electric Cooperative requests Michigan Public Service Commission approval to reconcile its 2013 power supply cost recovery costs and revenues. Thumb is seeking a revenue increase through its Times Interest Earned Ratemaking Mechanism of \$626,240, or 3.38%. Thumb is also proposing revisions to its connections/extension policies, its special charges tariff, and its interest on deposit provision.
- The information below describes how a person may participate in this case.
- You may call or write Thumb Electric Cooperative, 2231 Main Street, P.O. Box 157, Ubly, Michigan 48475-0157, (800) 327-0166 for a free copy of its application. Any person may review the application at the offices of Thumb Electric Cooperative.
- The first public hearing in this matter will be held:

**DATE/TIME: May 28, 2014, at 9 a.m.**

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

**BEFORE:** Administrative Law Judge Mark E. Cummins

**LOCATION:** Constitution Hall, 525 West Allegan, Lansing, Michigan

**PARTICIPATION:** Any interested person may attend and participate. The hearing site is accessible, including handicapped parking. Persons needing any accommodation to participate should contact the Commission's Executive Secretary at (517) 241-6160 in advance to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance.

The Michigan Public Service Commission (Commission) will hold a public hearing to consider Thumb Electric Cooperative (Thumb) April 8, 2014 application to reconcile its 2013 power supply cost recovery (PSCR) costs and revenues. Thumb represented that it experienced a net PSCR overcollection of \$37,295, including prior years' overcollections and undercollections. Thumb proposes to roll-in the \$37,295 overcollection into its 2015 PSCR plan, to be filed on or before September 30, 2014. Thumb is also seeking a revenue increase through its Times Interest Earned Ratemaking Mechanism of \$626,240, or 3.38%. Thumb is proposing revisions to its connections/extension policies, its special charges tariff, and its interest on deposit provision.

All documents filed in this case shall be submitted electronically through the Commission's E-Dockets website at: [michigan.gov/mpscedockets](http://michigan.gov/mpscedockets). Requirements and instructions for filing can be found in the User Manual on the E-Dockets help page. Documents may also be submitted, in Word or PDF format, as an attachment to an email sent to: [mpscedockets@michigan.gov](mailto:mpscedockets@michigan.gov). If you require assistance prior to e-filing, contact Commission staff at (517) 241-6180 or by email at: [mpscedockets@michigan.gov](mailto:mpscedockets@michigan.gov).

Any person wishing to intervene and become a party to the case shall electronically file a petition to intervene with this Commission by May 21, 2014. (Interested persons may elect to file using the traditional paper format.) The proof of service shall indicate service upon Thumb Electric's attorney, Shaun M. Johnson, at Dykema Gossett PLLC, Capitol View, 201 Townsend Street, Suite 900, Lansing, Michigan 48933.

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

Requests for adjournment must be made pursuant to the Commission's Rules of Practice and procedure § 460.17315 and R 460.17335. Requests for further information on adjournment should be directed to (517) 241-6060.

A copy of Thumb Electric's request may be reviewed on the Commission's website at: [michigan.gov/mpscedockets](http://michigan.gov/mpscedockets), and at the offices of Thumb Electric Cooperative, 2231 Main Street, Ubly, Michigan. For more information on how to participate in a case, you may contact the Commission at the above address or by telephone at (517) 241-6180.

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

# Media-Man O'MALLEY

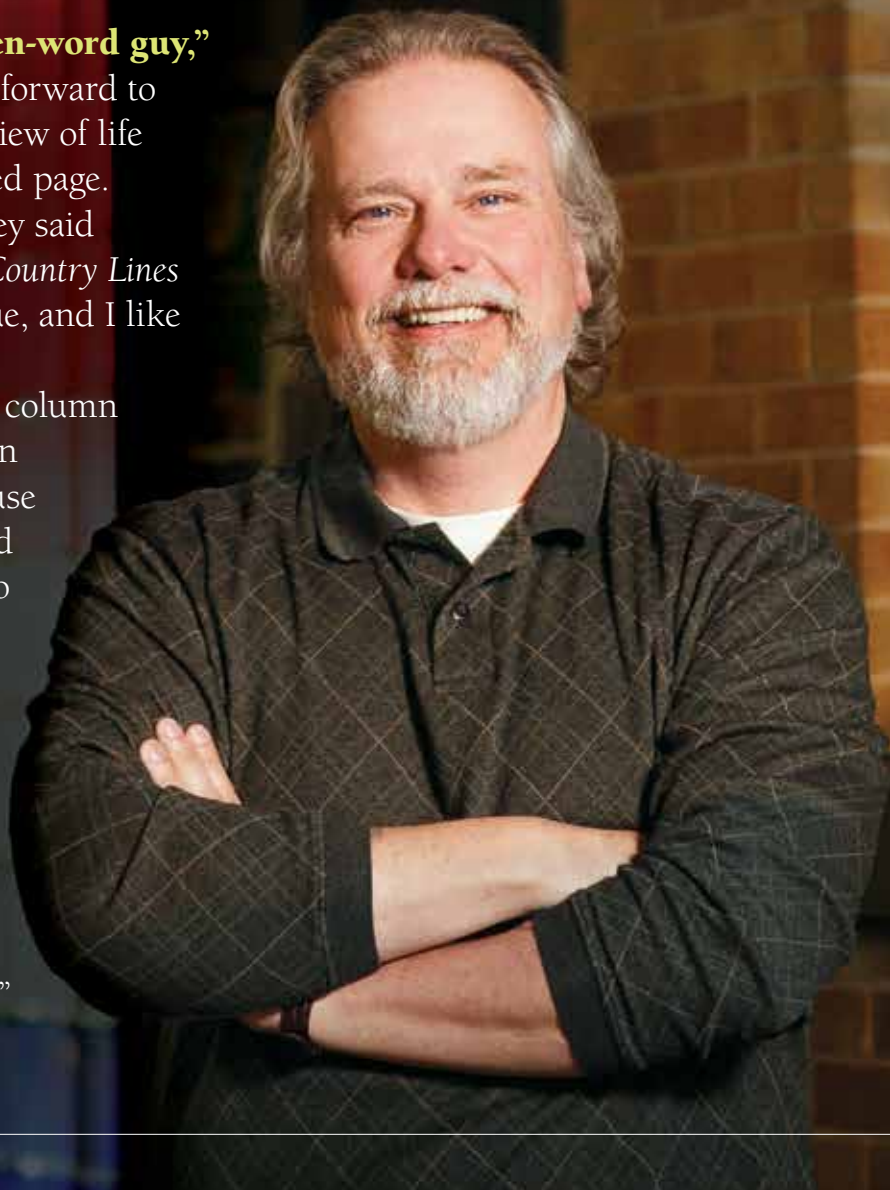
## Joins *Country Lines*

**A 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 buoyant personality.

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



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 human-interest 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. ■







## Thumb Electric Cooperative of Michigan 76th Annual Meeting of the Members (2013)

**T**he Seventy-Sixth Annual Meeting of the Members of the Thumb Electric Cooperative of Michigan was held at the Cass City Recreational Park in Cass City, Tuscola County, Michigan at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on Saturday, June 8, 2013 pursuant to call and notice thereof given to each member of the Cooperative and pursuant to the laws of the State of Michigan.

The meeting was called to order by Louis Wenzlaff, President of the Cooperative, and James Woodworth, attorney for the Cooperative, acted as secretary of the meeting and kept the minutes thereof.

The President introduced the members of the Cooperative's Board of Directors and Board Officers as follows: Louis Wenzlaff, President—Tuscola County; Donald Wolschleger, Vice-President—Huron County; Beth McDonald, Secretary—Huron County; Leonard Briolat, Treasurer—Sanilac County; Carl Cousins—Tuscola County; Randall Dhyse—Huron County; Karl DeSimpelare—Tuscola County; Kim Nunn—Sanilac County, Duane Kursinsky—Sanilac County

Also introduced were the General Manager Dallas Braun and James Woodworth, the Cooperative attorney.

The reading of the Notice of the Meeting and Affidavit of Mailing thereof to all the Cooperative members within the time prescribed by the Cooperative Bylaws was dispensed with; it having been published in *Country Lines*. A copy of the Notice and Affidavit is attached to these minutes and incorporated herein.

The Secretary reported that the members of the Cooperative present in person or by proxy had been checked by the registration of names of the members attending the meeting in person and the names of the members represented at the meeting by proxy and the names of their respective proxies, as said members entered the meeting room, and that more than one hundred fifty (150) members of the Cooperative were present in person, constituting a quorum of the members in accordance with the Bylaws of the Cooperative.

The Secretary also reported that members of the Cooperative were present at the meeting in person and that members were represented at the meeting by proxies, all of said members being named and described as to their county of residence and as to attendance in person or by proxy. The proxies were ordered filed in the records of the Cooperative.

The minutes of the Seventy-Fifth Annual Meeting of the Members were not read since a copy of same had been mailed to each of the members. There being no additions or corrections to those minutes, upon motion duly made, seconded and carried, said minutes were approved as drafted.

The Treasurer's Report to the Seventy-Sixth Annual Meeting was not read since a copy of same had been mailed to each of the members. There being no amendments thereto or questions upon the matters contained therein, upon motion duly made, seconded and carried, the report was approved as presented.

The Treasurer's Report published in "Country Lines", presented the 2012 financial statement which showed operating revenues of \$17,857,482 and expenses of \$16,680,807 resulting in an operating margin of \$1,176,673. Total assignable margins were \$1,409,605 for 2012. 2012 members' patronage capital accounts will be allocated over 8 cents on each dollar paid by TEC members. The 2012 general patronage retirement appeared as a credit on member's electric bills received in May 2013.

President Wenzlaff then introduced the Cooperative's General Manager, Dallas Braun. Manager Braun thanked the Cooperative employees for all their labors and efforts over the past year. He then reported on the Cooperative's financial status, rates, member services, marketing activities, patronage capital retirement, energy efficiency, interest, property taxes, construction and improvements. In closing, Manager Braun thanked the members for their interest in their Cooperative and for their support.

After questions and answers of the General Manager's Report, the meeting was returned to President Wenzlaff, and upon motion duly made, seconded and carried, the General Manager's Report was approved as presented.

President Wenzlaff then gave the President's Report explaining growth of the Cooperative's total utility plant in 2012, increase in equity while maintaining competitive rates, member district meetings, patronage capital retirements, 2013's major construction projects, utility plant & upgrades, renewable energy, energy optimization program, renewable portfolio standard, tree trimming, taxes and legislation. Upon motion duly made, seconded and carried, the President's Report was approved as presented.

The next order of business was the election of three Directors. One from each county for three-year terms each. The meeting was turned over to the Cooperative attorney James Woodworth to conduct the election and voting.

Acting Chairman Woodworth appointed the following members as Inspectors of the Election, all of whom were sworn to the faithful performance of their duties by the Acting Chairman who is also a notary public: **Huron**—Hillary Cook, Joel Weber, Carl Binder; **Sanilac**—Dennis Jahn, Donald Cutler, Luella Decker; **Tuscola**—James Reehl, Howard Beardslee, James Hergenreder.

The Nominating Committee Report was published in *Country Lines*. The Committee nominated the following for Directorships: **Huron County**—Randall Dhyse (incumbent),

Lawrence Iseler; **Sanilac County**—Kim Nunn (incumbent), **Tuscola County**—Louis Wenzlaff (incumbent), Keith Wood.

The Acting Chairman entertained further nominations from the floor for each Directorship in each county. There being no such nominations from the floor, upon motion duly made, seconded and carried, the nominations were closed. Each candidate was then introduced and invited to address the members for up to five minutes.

The Acting Chairman then requested the members to vote upon their ballots for the respective Directorships. The Inspectors of the Election were requested to collect and tabulate the ballots. The meeting was returned to President Wenzlaff.

Representatives from the Michigan Electric Cooperative Association were introduced. Also introduced was State Senator Mike Green, and Youth Tour Representative Alyssa Tyrell.

The President then asked if there was any old business to address. There being none, he asked for new business. There being none, he entertained a motion to adjourn. Upon motion duly made, seconded and carried, the business portion of the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m. After adjournment, the early bird, children's and final prize drawing results were announced. Beth McDonald gave the invocation followed by lunch and entertainment by Dueling Pianos.

After lunch and entertainment, the meeting was informally reconvened and turned over to attorney Woodworth who announced the results of the tabulation of votes which were as follows: **Huron County**—Randy Dhyse, 203; Lawrence Iseler, 70; **Sanilac County**—Kim Nunn, 261; **Tuscola County**—Louis Wenzlaff, 180; Keith Wood, 98.

The elected Directors were declared to be Randy Dhyse from Huron County, Kim Nunn from Sanilac County, and Louis Wenzlaff from Tuscola County. ■

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the members of Thumb Electric Cooperative of Michigan will be held at the Cass City Park, Cass City, Michigan, at 10 a.m. on June 14, 2014, to take action on the following matters:

1. The reports on officers, directors and committees.
2. The election of one director from Huron County—District 3, one director from Sanilac County—District 3, one director from Sanilac County—District 2, and one director from Tuscola County—District 3 to the Board of Directors of the Cooperative.
3. All other business which may rightfully come before the meeting or any adjournment or adjournments thereof.

*Dated: April 22, 2014, Beth McDonald, Secretary*

## Join Us! Join ACRE®!

Thumb Electric Cooperative's consumer-members are invited to join ACRE, the Action Committee for Rural Electrification®, at our Annual Meeting on Saturday, June 14, 2014.

Over 30,000 people belong to ACRE. Now, electric co-op consumer-members across the country are being asked to join through the ACRE Co-op Owners for Political Action® program.

Be part of a grassroots network that sends a strong message to elected officials on behalf of electric co-ops. Play a vital role in promoting the long-term success of electric cooperatives and the communities they serve.

Contributions to ACRE Co-op Owners for Political Action® are not tax deductible. All contributions to ACRE are voluntary and will be used for political purposes. Contribution guidelines are suggestions only. You may contribute more or less than the recommended amount. You may refuse to contribute without reprisal.



To join, stop by our ACRE table at the Annual Meeting.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The report of the 2014 Nominating Committee which met in Ubly, Michigan, at 10:45 a.m. on March 19, 2014, to select nominees for the position of Director of Thumb Electric Cooperative Nominees for one director position from Huron County—District 3; Sanilac County—District 3; Sanilac County—District 2; and Tuscola County—District 3; are as follows:

**Huron County—District 3:** Beth McDonald (Incumbent Director); Daniel Cregeur

**Sanilac County—District 3:** Duane Kursinsky (Incumbent Director); Kenneth Landsburg

**Sanilac County—District 2:** Lynn Morell (Incumbent Director); Edward Jakubiak

**Tuscola County—District 3:** Carl Cousins (Incumbent Director)

These names shall be placed on the Annual Meeting ballot in accordance with Article III, Section 3 of the Cooperative Bylaws.

*Dated: March 19, 2014, Cathy Knoerr, Chairperson*

## Winter's in the Rear View

**W**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 mid-season 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.



*"Winter gives folks true grit...  
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](mailto:jack@countrylines.com) or write: J. O'Malley, 2859 W. Jolly Rd., Okemos, MI. ■*



## «« Do You Know 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](http://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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**Thumb Electric  
Cooperative**  
www.tecmi.coop

**Don't Miss It!**

# 77<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

**Saturday, June 14, 2014  
Cass City Recreational Park**

## Main Tent

**9 – 11:15 a.m.**..... Prize Drawing Registration  
**10 a.m.** ..... Business Meeting  
**Noon** ..... Lunch  
**1 p.m.** ..... Entertainment featuring  
**Brandon Styles**

## Kids' Tent

**11 a.m. – 2 p.m.** ... Face painting  
**11 a.m. – 2 p.m.** ... Clown  
**Noon – 2 p.m.**..... Pony & Bucket Truck Rides  
**12:45 p.m.** ..... Candy Drop

**Kids' Drawing:** Two bicycles  
**Adult Drawing:** Electric water heater, and more!



## \$10 Bill Credit Eligibility:

1. Only the member, spouse or child of a member over age 18 who lives with the member and presents a properly-executed proxy can receive the \$10 credit.
2. The member or their eligible proxy representative must be registered prior to the collection of votes at approximately 11:15 a.m. Anyone arriving after the voting process is completed will not receive the credit.
3. Only one credit per membership.

# TEC 2014 ANNUAL MEETING Registration Form

**TEC MEMBER:** Bring this entire registration form, or have the proxy appointee named below bring this form, to the Annual Meeting. It is important that the imprinted member information at the top is included. It will be used to register you for voting and the prize drawing.

## Proxy Information

*If you are unable to attend the annual meeting and want to have another member, your spouse or child (of legal voting age) vote in your place, please fill in the information below. Only one (1) proxy may be voted by an individual, and only (1) \$10 credit is allowed per membership.*

As a member of Thumb Electric Cooperative of Michigan, I, the undersigned, hereby appoint (write in the name of who you appoint)

\_\_\_\_\_ to act as my proxy and vote in my absence at the meeting of the members to be held at Cass City Park, Cass City, Michigan, at 10 a.m., on the 14th day of June, 2014.

I realize that this is my duty as a member of this cooperative to take an active interest in its affairs and to exercise my voting privilege in person. I have carefully considered the business which is to be acted upon, and have decided to give my proxy to the above-named person, who agreed to vote this proxy on all matters as he or she believes I would vote if personally present. I hereby ratify and confirm my proxy's vote in my stead.

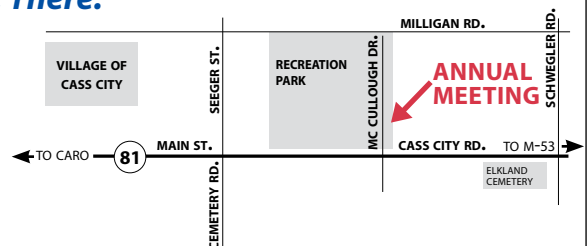
Witness my hand and seal this \_\_\_\_\_ day of June, 2014.

X \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Member giving proxy

X \_\_\_\_\_  
Witness

## How To Get There:

Cass City is about 15 miles east of Caro on M-81, and about 3.5 miles west of M-53



Please bring this entire registration form panel with you to the meeting. It is important that the imprinted member information at the top is included.