

MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES

MICHIGAN'S **Iron Man**

Plus!

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

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



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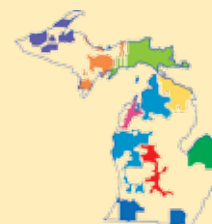


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Tom Moran, of Moran Iron Works in Onaway, MI. When he's not busy building ships, turbine components or customizing industrial and commercial fabrication jobs, Moran creates large-scale art projects for the community.

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



Michigan's Electric Cooperatives
countrylines.com



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2015 Annual Meeting Promises Food, Fun for the Family

Saturday, June 13



Tom Harrell
General Manager

Alger Delta's upcoming Annual Meeting will be a brand new event compared to the past few years, and I'm encouraging members to come out and enjoy the day with their cooperative family.

This year's Annual Meeting will feature something for everyone: a cookout, a play area for kids, a petting zoo, pony rides, face painting, prize drawings for the grown-ups, ice cream, good coffee; and of course, a report on the state of the cooperative. Following all that, you'll have a chance to win one of about 15 prizes—so, don't miss out, there's something for the whole family.

We know it's a long drive from Grand Marais or Big Bay. So, to make it easier and more attractive for all the outlying members, the Annual Meeting is on Saturday, June 13 from 12 noon to about 4:30 p.m. To accommodate what we hope is a record-breaking crowd, the meeting will be held at the U.P. State Fairgrounds at the Miracle of Life Building.

Prize drawings every twenty minutes will entertain mom, dad or the grandparents while the kids have a good time on the inflatable slide or in the bounce-house.

The business meeting is an important part of the day as the cooperative's accomplishments for 2014 are discussed, and to seat your newly elected directors. The business meeting will begin about 3:40 p.m. and the grand prize drawings will follow that. There are over a dozen grand prizes, including appliances, tools and yard equipment, and other valuable home items. Grand prizes add up to \$4000 in value, and are being underwritten by WPPI Energy, Alger Delta's power supplier.

To ensure enough food and fun for everyone, we're asking members to RSVP. You can do so at algerdelta.com and click on the Annual Meeting link. It's super simple—just fill in your phone number (to verify membership), your name, and how many you're bringing. Alternatively, members can RSVP by calling 906-428-4141 or 800-562-0950.

This year's annual meeting is all about showing appreciation to you, our members, for your loyalty and support. So, please join us at the Annual Meeting, enjoying an afternoon of free food and fun with your family and ours! ■

Notice of the Annual Meeting of the Members of the Alger Delta Cooperative Electric Association

Pursuant to the Bylaws, notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the members of the Alger Delta Cooperative Electric Association will be held on Saturday, June 13, 2015, in the Miracle of Life Building at the Upper Peninsula State Fairgrounds; 2401 12th Ave. North—Escanaba, MI. The Annual Meeting shall commence at 12:00 p.m. Eastern Time. The business portion of the Annual Meeting shall be called to order at 3:40 p.m. Eastern Time and actions shall be taken on the following matters:

1. Seating of elected directors
2. Presentation and consideration of reports
3. New business

Dated at Gladstone, Michigan this 15th day of April, 2015.

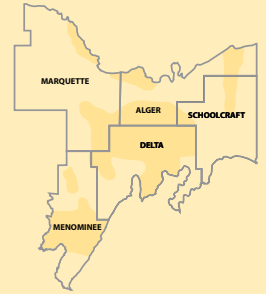
David Anthony – President

The Value Of Alger Delta

There are three main types of electricity providers in the U.S. Investor-owned utilities (IOU's), Municipal Utilities (Muni's) and Cooperative's. IOU's and Muni's typically serve densely populated urban and suburban areas. Even in relatively small cities and towns, municipal utilities typically have a concentration of consumers. Cooperatives—like Alger Delta—typically serve in less populated parts of the country.

In the utility business, density matters a lot. Since the costs to serve any given area are similar, increased density allows the utility to spread the costs among more consumers which helps keep rates lower. At least that is the theory. Municipal utilities, which typically operate in cities and towns, have the greatest density on a national average—48.3 customers per mile of line, generating an average of \$113,301 of revenue per mile. IOU's follow with 34 customers per mile of line, while generating average revenues of \$75,498 per mile. Finally, electric co-ops average just 7.4 members (not customers, but members) per mile of line, bringing in an average of \$14,938 of revenue per mile. Alger Delta fares just slightly better than the national average for cooperatives but still far behind the IOU's and Muni's. According to the most recent data, we serve 7.75 members and generate \$10,909 in revenue per mile of line.

Alger Delta operates on a not-for-profit basis. Of course, we must generate enough revenue to cover costs, which includes margins—in fact, regulators and financial institutions require us to do so. Since our members are owners, margins are allocated back to the members who provided them. Alger Delta paid back, or retired, some these margins in 2014. Alger Delta continues to work hard for you. Our goals are to provide safe, reliable and affordable power to you, our members, in an environmentally responsible way. That is just another way your co-op provides value. ■



CEO

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*Alger Delta Cooperative
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Predictable Outcome In District 3 & 4 Elections

Alger Delta director elections are underway and the outcomes in District 3 (Grand Marais) and District 4 (Cedar River/Palestine) are already known. “In these two districts, the directors are running unopposed. Director Nancy Gardner-Platt will be re-elected in Grand Marais and Director Dave Prestin will win in Cedar River” says Alger Delta CEO Tom Harrell.

“It appears to be a testament to the good job these directors are doing for their members” said Harrell, when asked about any reasons why the incumbents are running without opposition. Harrell pointed out that Prestin quickly rose to the position of board Vice President after being appointed to the board in March 2014. Prestin and his spouse, Kathie, own the Cedar River Plaza. Prestin also serves as a volunteer for the fire department and is an EMT. Kathie is the township treasurer. Their involvement in the community has built trust and co-op members in that District are happy with Prestin's representation on the board, so no other candidate came forward.

In District 3, Gardner-Platt has served on the board for over five years and the Grand Marais co-op members are confident in her ability. Grand Marais is pretty much buried in snow throughout the winter so reliability is a major concern. Gardner-Platt has been on the Finance and Rates committee for several years and now serves as that committee's chair.

Director elections are taking place via mail balloting over the course of a thirty-day period beginning in April. The co-op advises members who receive ballots to carefully follow the directions to ensure their vote counts. Voting is important even if a candidate is running unopposed. “It's an opportunity for members to express confidence in their director and in the co-op” Harrell says. “And that's important because it shows the director the district is behind them” he added. Alger Delta began using mail balloting in 2011 and is now in its 5th year. Ballots are counted by an independent party that reports the results to the cooperative. ■

Efficient Indoor LIGHTING For Your Home



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



HOMEMADE PIZZAS

Delicious And Easy Pizza Recipes

Pesto Salad Pizza *(pictured)*

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

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

Janice Clarkson, Granger

Mexican Pizza

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



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

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

Dianne Compo, Brimley

Cool Veggie Pizza Appetizer

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 2 8-oz. cans refrigerated crescent dinner rolls | 1¼ t. onion salt |
| 2 8-oz. pkgs. Philadelphia brand cream cheese, softened | 1 c. broccoli flowerets |
| 1 c. Miracle Whip salad dressing | 1 c. chopped, seeded tomato |
| 1½ t. dill weed | 1 c. chopped green bell pepper |
| | ¼ c. chopped onion |
| | ½ c. olive slices (optional) |

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

Beatrice Richard, Posen

SUBMIT YOUR RECIPE!

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

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

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

Photos—831 Creative

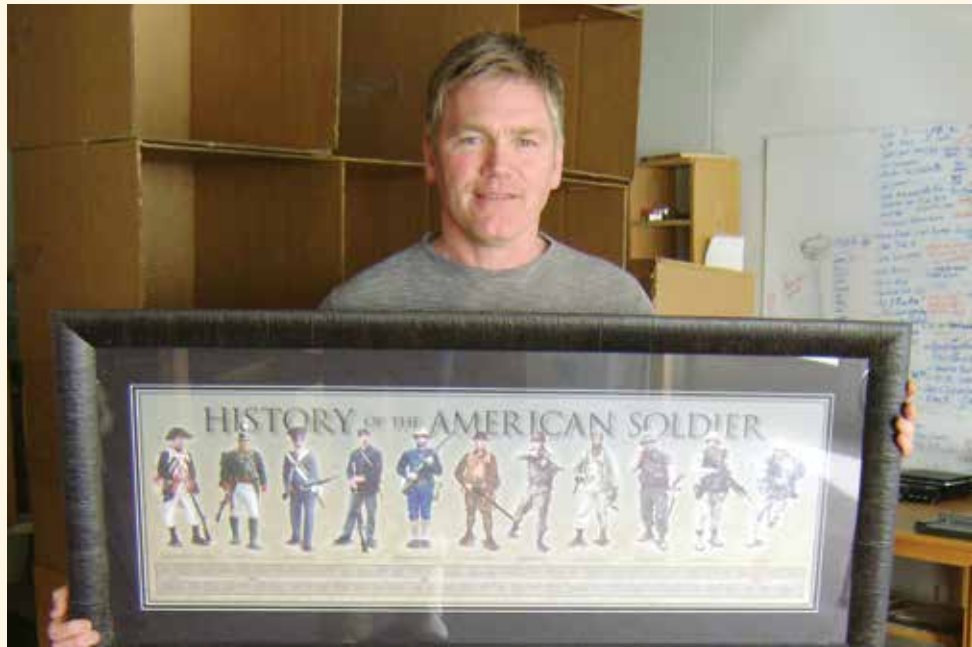
Patriotic Posters

As a descendent from a long line of numerous military veterans who fought in the American Revolution and Civil War, it is no surprise that Mark Waterman ended up founding a company named History America. Based out of offices located in Harvey, MI, the company creates and publishes American history prints. The patriotic prints contain a timeline of iconic American images from pre-revolution to modern day.

While growing up in Kentucky, his father's work moved their family to Canada. After graduation, Waterman headed to Utah to play football, where at Snow College the Badgers won the National Championship. This opened the door for Waterman to play football at the professional level in the Canadian Football League. His move to the Upper Peninsula was precipitated by meeting and marrying his wife Rebecca, a Calumet native who was attending Northern Michigan University. Waterman then began his 20 year career in the publishing field. In 2005, with the entrepreneurial spirit that forms the basis of so many companies, he founded History America. "I sat down with my wife and told her about my idea. She said 'Let's give it a shot' and as the saying goes, the rest is history," said Waterman.

The first print, History of the American Firefighter, began with lots of research. He contacted the New York Fire Museum for assistance and ran his idea past them asking "Do you think this will sell?" The response reinforced his commitment to bringing his idea to fruition, "It will sell huge." And it did. "I paid off the first investment for the printing in four months and immediately started working on History of the American Soldier," said Waterman.

The creation of the sixth print in the series was the tipping point where he was able to expand from a mail order company to a presence in retail with a catalog and store displays. His posters are now sold at historic American locations such as the Smithsonian, Arlington Cemetery and Gettysburg. Waterman estimates that he



Waterman in the shipping area of his office headquarters.

has sold over 75,000 posters mailing them to addresses as far away as Iraq, Australia and Romania.

Throughout the evolution of History America Waterman has stayed true to his initial vision of creating prints with the intention to remind and impact our generation about the patriotic and heroic legacy that is specifically depicted in his products. He said, "I hope to increase and restore patriotic awareness and respect for those who served to protect the freedom for which this nation was founded on."

When asked for an example of a meaningful experience related to the posters, he was quick to respond. "That would be Iwo Jima. One day while at work I looked out the front window and noticed two men sitting in a truck that sported an 'I survived Iwo Jima' license plate. There's not too many of those veterans left so I immediately got up and went out to speak with them. 'You were there?' He quietly nodded and I told him 'I have something for you.' As the man looked at the history of the United States Marine poster, tears began to trickle down his cheeks. It was both humbling and a privilege." ■

www.historyamerica.us

Country Lines, Your Partner In Communication



For over 35 years, our co-op members have received *Michigan Country Lines* because it is the most effective and economical way to share information with our members. This is our most empowering communication tool to keep members up-to-date about everything going on within their electric co-op.

Each issue contains information about our services, director elections, member meetings, and the staff and management decisions you need to know about as an owner of the co-op.

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

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

Notice to Members of Alger Delta Cooperative Electric Association

Case No. U-15813 2013 Renewable Energy Plan Annual Report Summary

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

Under this requirement, Alger Delta Cooperative Electric Association submits an annual report to the MPSC regarding its Renewable Energy Plan. In 2013, Alger Delta purchased power as a member of WPPI Energy. WPPI acquired renewable energy from direct renewable energy purchases and from slice-of-system contracts with major investor-owned utilities. As a WPPI member, Alger Delta has allocated a portion of those resources necessary to meet its renewable energy portfolio standard. WPPI Energy will ensure Alger Delta will have sufficient renewable energy credits to meet the renewable energy standard.

A full copy of the cooperative's Renewable Energy Plan annual report that was filed with the MPSC is available on the cooperative's website at algerdelta.com or by request at any of the cooperative's offices.

STATE OF MICHIGAN BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT Case No. U-16589

On January 27, 2015, in Case No. U-15825 et al, the Michigan Public Service Commission (Commission) ordered Alger Delta Cooperative Electric Association to file a renewable energy plan on or before May 12, 2015 to comply with the "Clean, Renewable and Efficient Energy Act" (2008 PA 295, MCL 460.1001, et seq.) and MPSC order in Case No. U-15800 dated December 4, 2008. On April 13, 2015, Alger Delta Cooperative Electric Association filed its Notice of Intent to File Application For a Renewable Energy Plan with the Commission.

Any interested person may review the filed Renewable Energy Plan on or after May 12, 2015 on the MPSC website under Case No. U-16589 at: www.michigan.gov/mpscedockets or at the office of the Commission's Executive Secretary, 7109 West Saginaw, Lansing, Michigan, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, or at the offices of Alger Delta Cooperative Electric Association, 426 North 9th Street, Gladstone, Michigan.

Written and electronic comments may be filed with the Commission and must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on June 12, 2015. Written comments should be sent to the: Executive Secretary, Michigan Public Service Commission, P.O. Box 30221, Lansing, Michigan 48909, with a copy mailed to Alger Delta Cooperative Electric Association, 426 North 9th Street, Gladstone, Michigan 49837. Electronic comments may be e-mailed to: mpscedockets@michigan.gov. All comments should reference Case No. U-16589. Comments received in this matter become public information, posted on the Commission's website, and subject to disclosure. Please do not include information you wish to remain private.

The Commission will review the renewable energy plan together with any filed comments and provide a response within 60 days of the filing of the application indicating any revisions that should be made. If the Commission suggests revisions, Alger Delta Cooperative Electric Association will file a revised RPS plan no later than 75 days after the filing of the application. A Commission order will be issued on or before the 90th day following the filing of the application.

Any proposed Renewable Energy Plan Charges may not exceed \$3 per meter per month for residential customers, \$16.58 per meter per month for commercial secondary customers or \$187.50 per meter per month for commercial primary or industrial customers.

ALGER DELTA COOPERATIVE ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION

A detailed photograph of a welder working on the Iron Man armor. The welder is wearing a blue protective mask and gloves, and is focused on welding a part of the armor. The armor is highly detailed, with various mechanical components and a blue and gold color scheme. The background shows a workshop environment with various tools and equipment.

MICHIGAN'S Iron Man

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Tom Moran of
Moran Iron Works.

moraniron.com

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

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

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

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

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



Make the Call and Save

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

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

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

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

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

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



Make the call and save

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

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

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



Energy
Optimization



ONLINE: michigan-energy.org

PHONE: 877.296.4319

Energy Optimization programs and incentives are applicable to Michigan service locations only. Other restrictions may apply. For a complete list of participating utilities, visit michigan-energy.org.

ALWAYS CALL BEFORE YOU DIG



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

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

**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**

visit missdig.org for more information

Slow Down, Go Around Roadside Utility Workers

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

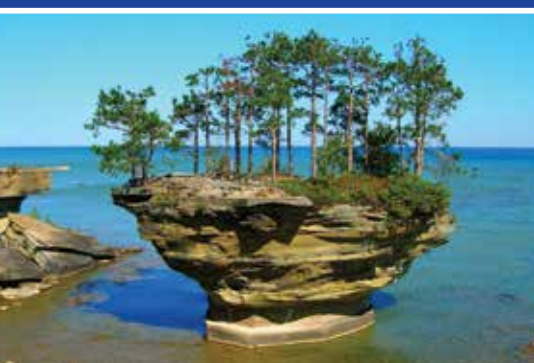


distracted. Once law enforcement is present, they seem to get it."

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

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

– Reprinted in part from RE Magazine



«« Do You Know Where This Is?

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

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

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**Saturday, June 13, 2015
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U.P. State Fairgrounds**

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something for the whole family!**

**For more information, a complete list of
prizes and to RSVP, visit AlgerDelta.com**