

Thumb Electric Cooperative

May/June 2015

MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES

MICHIGAN'S Iron Man

Plus!

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

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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Change of Address:
Please notify your electric cooperative. See page 4 for contact information.



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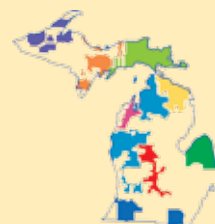


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**Some co-op editions have a different cover.*



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District 2
Director
Caro

Carl Cousins – District 3
Director
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Director Nominees

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 dairy cows for the past 40 years south of Ubly, near Argyle. He is also president of Sanilac Mutual Insurance Company, and he has been an agent and director since 1980. Lynn also is a part-time employee for Zinger-Smigielski Funeral Home in Ubly. Born and raised in the Ubly area, he has been a Thumb Electric member for 40 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. He is actively taking training classes to further his knowledge of electrical cooperatives and obtain board certification.



Mike Briolat

Mike Briolat farms 1,600 acres with his brother, Steve and his father, Leonard in mostly Greenleaf and Austin Townships of Sanilac County just south of Ubly. While farming part-time, he worked at Tower Automotive for 30 plus years, giving it up to focus full time on the farm. Mike was born and raised in the Ubly area, where he is a member of Good Shepard Parish (St. Johns) and is a member of the Knights of Columbus.

Mike is a 10-year member of Thumb Electric Cooperative and lives in Greenleaf Township with his wife, Diana and their two children, Macanna and Justin. Mike would like to see rates remain affordable for members, to make sure that the power is there when it is needed, and would work to make sure of this if elected.

DISTRICT 2 HURON COUNTY



Donald Wolschleger (Incumbent)

Don Wolschleger is president and owner of East Huron TV & Appliance, Inc., a business he started in 1979.

Don is a member of Our Lady of Lake Huron Catholic Church, Verona Hills Golf Club, and several business and trade organizations. He has also been the Sigel Township clerk for the past 26 years and is a former firefighter and EMT for his township.

Born and raised in the Harbor Beach area, Don and his wife, Della, have been married for 41 years and have two children, Tina and Michael. They have been TEC members since 1974. In recognition of the importance of continuing education, Don has become certified by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association as a credentialed director.

"I have enjoyed and appreciated the opportunity to serve as your director for the past 12 years. With that board experience, a business and technology background, I feel I can be an asset serving as your director."



Kevin Grifka

Kevin Grifka runs a family farm north of Ubly. He and his father Hank farm 1,000 acres of cash crops which include corn, wheat and dry beans. Kevin was born and raised in Ubly and has been a Thumb Electric Cooperative member since 1989. He is currently a member of St. Johns Church of Ubly and is a trustee on the Bingham Township board of directors. Kevin also volunteers in Bingham Township as a firefighter and a first responder on medical emergencies. He is a past board member of the Ubly Fox Hunters and a current honorary member.

Kevin and his wife, Shelly, have four children Evan, Aaron, Jack and Josie. If elected to the Thumb Electric board of directors, he would see that TEC would continue to provide reliable and affordable electricity, and to ensure top notch member service.

DISTRICT 2 TUSCOLA COUNTY

**Jonathan Findlay (Incumbent)**

Jonathan Findlay farms organically with his father, Michael, and brother, Kevin. Together they farm 2,200 acres of certified organic commodities. They grow corn, black beans, navy beans, snap (string) beans and spelt. They also have a grain cleaning facility (Harvest Ridge Processing) where they clean and package many of the commodities that they grow. They started a small trucking company, Finn Flyer Transport, that specializes in transporting bulk organic commodities around the state. Lastly, they have a retail bean project that was started in 2014,

Findlay's Organics. Currently their "Beans in a Box" is in nearly 300 stores in 11 states. Their efforts employ six people.

Jon has been a member of TEC since November of 2010, living in Almer Township on Colwood road. He was raised on his family farm north of Caro. Jon and his wife, Carrie, have four children, Madison (8), Logan (6), Austin (4) and Sierra (1). He previously served on the Tuscola County Farm Bureau board for eight years, where he was county president for two. After high school he went to college and received a degree in aviation science and marketing. *"I have been a lifelong resident of rural Tuscola County and know the benefits and challenges of being a young man living here."*

**Thumb Electric Cooperative**

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Electric's website
www.tecmi.coop

*Thumb Electric Cooperative
is an equal opportunity
provider and employer.*

**Attend Thumb Electric's Annual Meeting on June 13 and receive
a \$10 credit on your July bill! See back cover for details.**

**Notice of Annual
Membership Meeting**

The Annual Meeting of the members of Thumb Electric Cooperative of Michigan will be held at Cass City Park, Cass City, MI, at 10 a.m. on June 13, 2015, 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 2, one director from Sanilac County – District 2, and one director from Tuscola County – District 2, 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: March 17, 2015
BETH MCDONALD, Secretary

**Notice to Members of
Thumb Electric Cooperative****Case No. U-15821 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, Thumb Electric Cooperative submits an annual report to the MPSC regarding its Renewable Energy Plan. As of 2013, Thumb acquired 1,253 renewable energy credits, which is enough to satisfy the renewable energy standards.

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 tecmi.coop or by request at any of the cooperative's offices.

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 \$689,000 will be applied to members' May electric bills for those who had service during 1983, 1984, 1985, and 2014. Since retiring patronage capital, over \$6,893,916 has been returned to the co-op's members.

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

Thumb Electric Cooperative

Financial Statement Balance Sheets

December 31, 2014 & 2013

ASSETS	2014	2013
ELECTRIC PLANT		
In service—at cost	\$ 81,648,385	\$ 79,338,459
Under construction	1,711,331	982,198
Total electric plant	83,359,716	80,320,657
Less accumulated depreciation	26,139,118	25,023,982
ELECTRIC PLANT—NET	57,220,598	55,296,675
OTHER PROPERTY AND INVESTMENTS		
Investments in associated organizations	1,542,187	1,504,303
Investment in subsidiary	1,290,038	1,130,035
Energy loans receivable	150,285	104,867
Nonutility property	107,329	111,554
Short-term investments—restricted	150,000	125,000
TOTAL OTHER PROPERTY AND INVESTMENTS	3,239,839	2,975,759
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and temporary cash investments	1,004,791	3,017,006
Accounts receivable, less allowance for doubtful accounts of approximately \$506,632 and \$461,577 in 2014 and 2013	2,515,411	2,642,138
Unbilled revenue	634,138	649,131
Materials and supplies	1,047,952	962,717
Prepaid expenses	106,777	124,540
Interest receivable	8,366	9,930
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	5,317,435	7,405,462
DEFERRED CHARGES	1,052,631	1,245,939
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 66,830,503	\$ 66,923,835
EQUITIES AND LIABILITIES		
EQUITIES		
Memberships	\$ 169,680	\$ 167,010
Patronage capital	22,289,988	21,383,620
Other equities	1,254,352	1,109,456
TOTAL EQUITIES	23,714,020	22,660,086
LONG-TERM DEBT, NET OF CURRENT MATURITIES	36,811,860	37,835,075
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Current maturities of long-term debt	1,908,965	1,803,250
Accounts payable:		
Purchased power	1,766,390	1,800,669
Subsidiary	72,895	50,197
Other	1,180,324	1,403,868
Accrued property taxes	557,464	546,609
Accrued payroll and vacation	407,267	594,924
Customer deposits	178,352	166,284
Other	109,256	104,127
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	6,180,913	6,469,928
DEFERRED CREDITS	123,710	70,235
TOTAL EQUITIES AND LIABILITIES	\$ 66,830,503	\$ 67,035,324
OPERATING REVENUES		
Electric sales	\$ 18,980,740	\$ 18,101,978
Other sales	296,619	453,225
	19,277,359	18,555,203
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Cost of power	9,644,267	9,479,982
Generation	10,357	18,014
Transmission	58,711	103,522
Distribution—operations	537,610	478,125
Distribution—maintenance	1,564,867	2,054,960
Customer accounts	709,503	665,495
Customer service	348,450	360,173
Sales	10,227	9,101
Administrative and general	970,647	973,692
Depreciation	1,947,549	1,944,238
Taxes—property	731,847	713,712
Taxes—other	=	8,735
	16,534,035	16,809,749
OPERATING INCOME BEFORE FIXED CHARGES	2,743,324	1,745,454
FIXED CHARGES:		
Interest on long-term debt	1,493,713	1,579,745
Other interest	1,084	2,649
	1,494,797	1,582,394
OPERATING MARGINS AFTER FIXED CHARGES	1,248,527	163,060
CAPITAL CREDITS	126,557	131,097
NET OPERATING MARGINS	1,375,084	294,157
NONOPERATING MARGINS		
Interest	72,583	118,149
Income from subsidiary	88,564	80,319
Other income	46,743	50,726
	207,890	249,194
NET MARGINS	\$ 1,582,974	\$ 543,351

TEC News

Retirement

Board member Karl DeSimpelare, has decided to retire after 25 years of service to TEC members. The Tuscola County representative first joined the board in 1990 and decided to step down early this year. The cooperative is thankful for his years of service and we wish him well in retirement.

Appointment

Jonathan Findlay, of Caro, was recently appointed as the Tuscola District 2 board of director by a selection committee of TEC board members. TEC welcomes him to the board.

Tree Trimming

Tree trimming will take place in the following areas by Kappen Tree Service and Proline Clearance.

Tuscola County: Juniata Township: Sheridan Road, Vickory Road, Densmore Road, and Ball Road.

Koylton Township: Philips Road, Birch Road, Centerline Road, and Cartwright Road.

Millington, Arbela, and Vassar Townships: All single phase lines.

Sanilac County: Lower Sanilac, Bridgehampton, and Lower Forester townships.

Huron County: Various maintenance trimming.

*Note: Other areas could see trimming as time allows.

Metering and Service Equipment

Thumb Electric Cooperative is responsible for repairs to the meter itself. We are also responsible for the service drop, which is the line either above ground or underground running from the utility pole to your home or commercial facility. You are responsible for all other equipment at the meter location, including the service entrance cable. Contact a licensed electrician to complete any repairs that are your responsibility.

METER EQUIPMENT

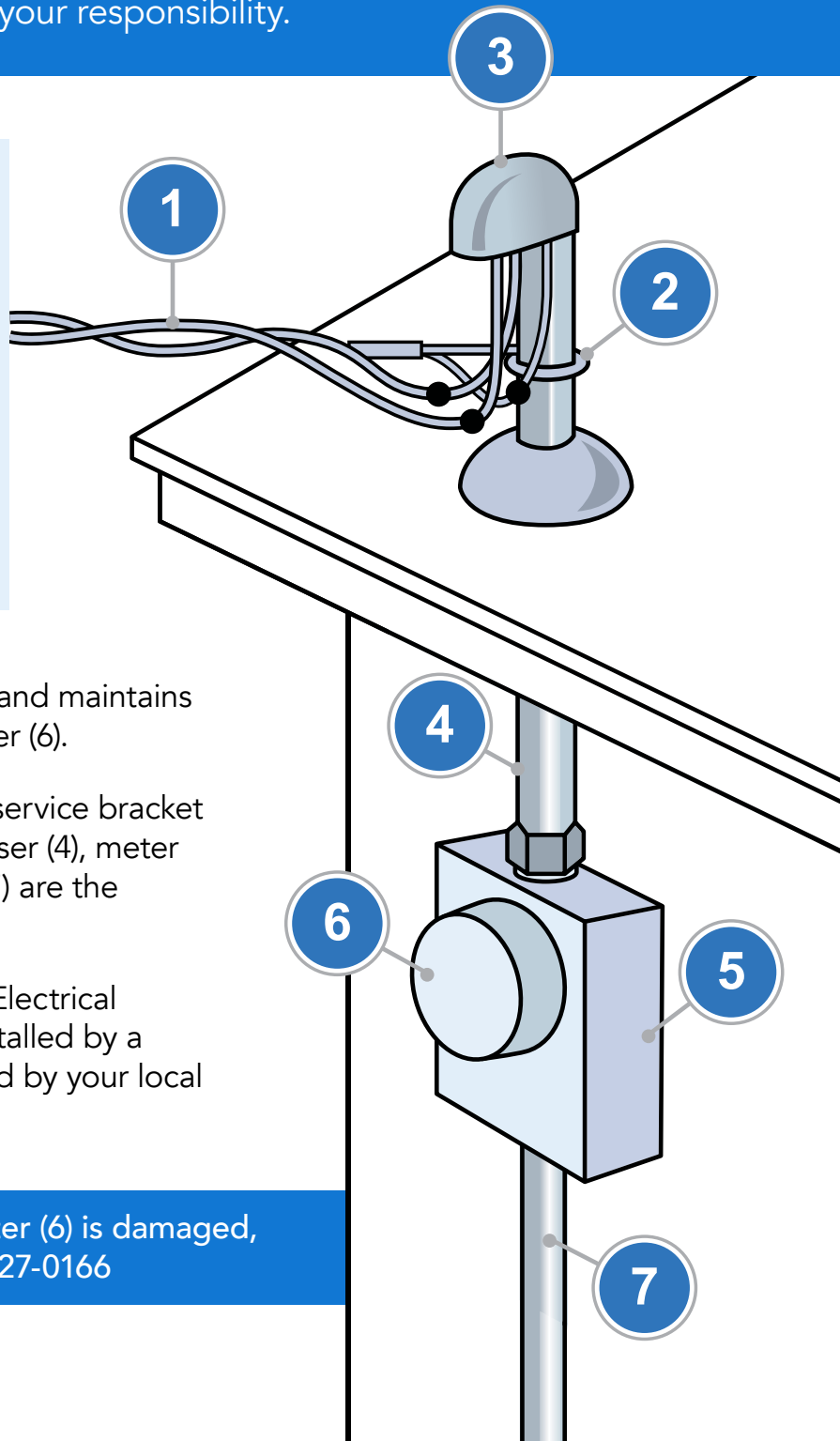
- 1 Service Line
- 2 Service Bracket or Hook
- 3 Weather Head
- 4 Pipe Riser
- 5 Meter Can
- 6 Electric Meter
- 7 Service Entrance Cable

Thumb Electric Cooperative installs and maintains your service line (1) and electric meter (6).

Installation and maintenance of the service bracket or hook (2), weather head (3), pipe riser (4), meter can (5) and service entrance cable (7) are the customer's responsibility.

These items fall under the National Electrical Code and by regulation must be installed by a licensed contractor and be inspected by your local inspection authority.

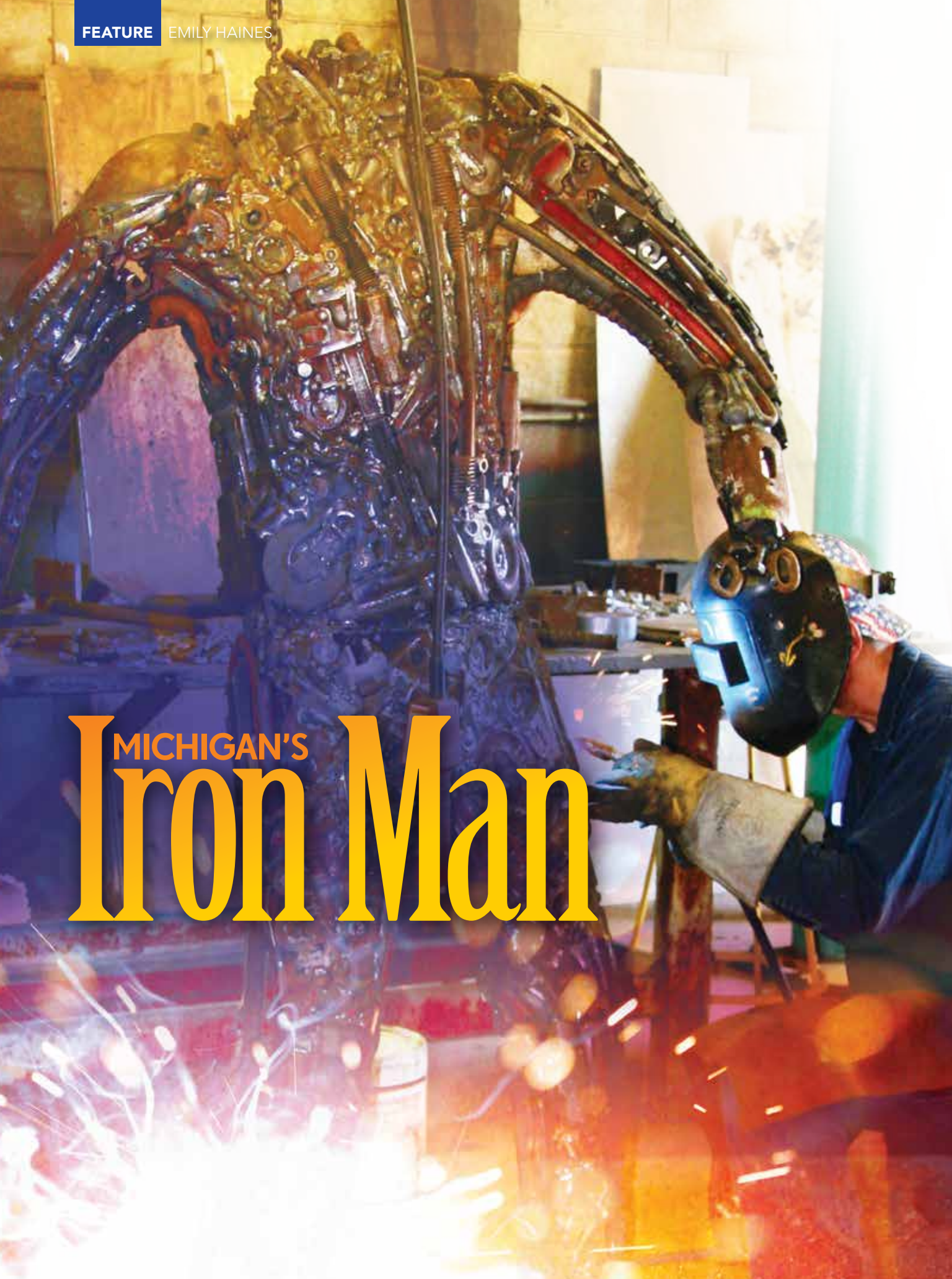
If your service line (1) or electric meter (6) is damaged, please call (989) 658-8571 or (800) 327-0166



FEATURE

EMILY HAINES

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

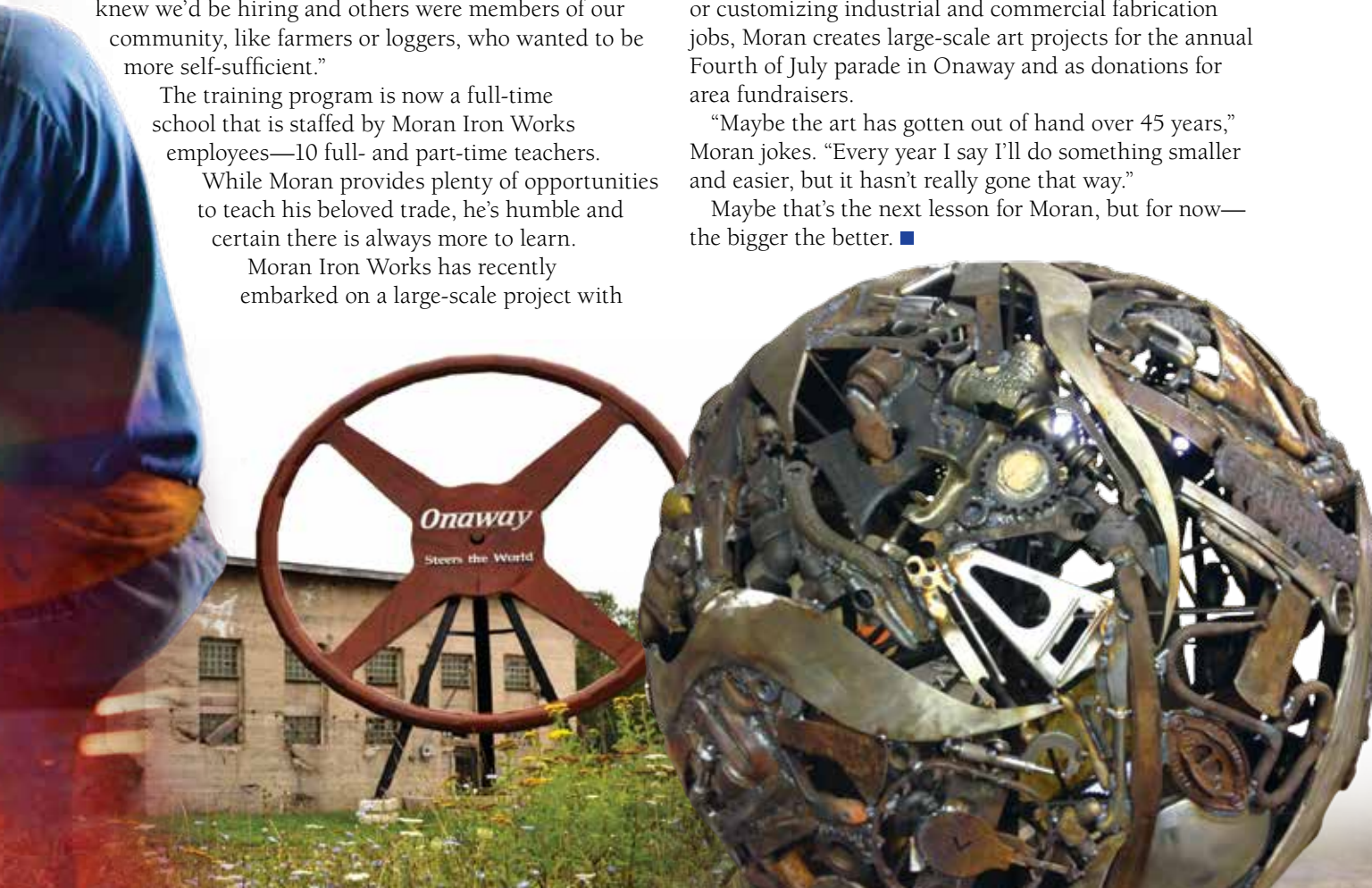
Shepler's Mackinac Island Ferry, to build their most recent ship—an 85-foot, all-aluminum ferry christened "Miss Margy" that is thought to be the first ever built entirely in Michigan. While Moran Iron has worked on many ship extensions, retro-fittings and conversions, this is the first vessel they've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





Thumb Electric Cooperative of Michigan 77th Annual Meeting of the Members (2014)

The 77th Annual Meeting of the Members of 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 14, 2014 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; Randall Dhyse, Treasurer, Huron County; Carl Cousins, Tuscola County; Lynn Morell, Sanilac 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 76th 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 77th 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 2013 financial statement which was negatively impacted by a late December ice storm and showed operating revenues of \$18,555,203 and expenses of \$18,392,140 resulting in an operating margin of \$163,064. Total assignable margins were \$543,351 for 2013. For 2013, members' patronage capital accounts will be allocated 2.76 cents on each dollar paid by TEC members. The 2013 general patronage retirement appeared as a credit on member's electric bills received in May 2014.

President Wenzlaff then introduced the cooperative's General Manager, Dallas Braun. 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, 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 2013, increase in equity while maintaining competitive rates, member district meetings, patronage capital retirements, 2014'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, and an additional director from Sanilac County to fill the remaining term of retired Director Leonard Briolat. 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** – Walter Cook, Francis Mazure, Harold Cook; **Sanilac** –

Marion Schiller, Pete Wurmlinger; **Tuscola** – Howard Hergenreder, William Strech, James Hergenreder.

The Nominating Committee Report was published in *Country Lines*. The Committee nominated the following for Directorships: **Huron County – District 3:** Beth McDonald (incumbent), Dan Cregeur; **Sanilac County – District 3:** Duane Kursinsky (incumbent), Ken Landsburg; **Sanilac County – District 2:** Lynn Morell (incumbent), Edward Jakubiak; **Tuscola County – District 3:** Carl Cousins (incumbent).

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, except for Mr. Landsburg who was unable to attend the meeting.

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.

President Wenzlaff recognized and thanked retired Director and Treasurer Leonard Briolat who served 27 years on the TEC Board.

The President introduced Michigan Electric Cooperative Association CEO Craig Borr. Mr. Borr introduced Alden Knowlten from ACRE and State Senator Mike Green who spoke to the membership. Also recognized were, Representative Terry Brown and Ed Smith of Candice Miller's office.

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 11:54 a.m. Beth McDonald gave the invocation followed by lunch and entertainment by Brandon Styles.

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 – District 3:** Beth McDonald – 182; Dan Cregeur – 96. **Sanilac County – District 2:** Lynn Morell – 145; Edward Jakubiak – 135. **Sanilac County – District 3:** Duane Kursinsky – 208; Ken Landsburg – 68; **Tuscola County – District 3:** Carl Cousins – 267.

The elected Directors were declared to be Beth McDonald from Huron County – District 3, Lynn Morell from Sanilac County – District 2, Duane Kursinsky from Sanilac County – District 3, and Carl Cousins from Tuscola County – District 3. ■

—BETH MCDONALD, Secretary

APPROVED BY: LOUIS WENZLAFF, President

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 in Okemos. As always, we welcome and value your comments.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The report of the 2015 Nominating Committee which met in Ubyly, Michigan at 11:00 a.m. on April 8, 2015 to select nominees for the position of Director of Thumb Electric Cooperative. Nominees for one director position from Huron, Sanilac and Tuscola Counties are as follows:

Huron County – District 2

Donald Wolschleger – *Incumbent Director*; Kevin Grifka

Sanilac County – District 2

Lynn Morell – *Incumbent Director*; Mike Briolat

Tuscola County – District 2

Jonathan Findlay – *Incumbent Director*

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

Dated: April 8, 2015

CATHY KNOERR, CHAIRPERSON

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

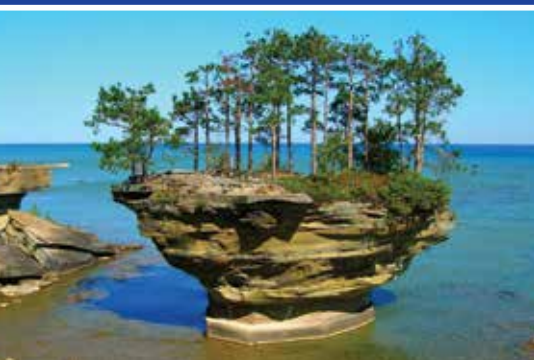


distracted. Once law enforcement is present, they seem to get it."

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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Cooperative**
www.tecmi.coop

DON'T MISS IT!

78th Annual Meeting

**Saturday, June 13, 2015
Cass City Recreational Park**

MAIN TENT

9–11:15 a.m.Prize Drawing Registration
10 a.m.Business Meeting
NoonLunch

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 2015 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 13th day of June, 2015.

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.

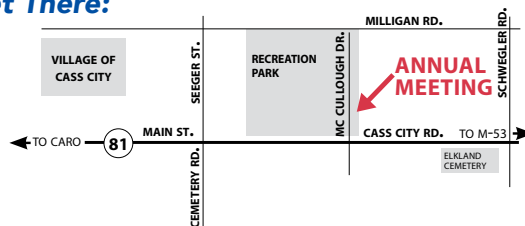
Witness my hand and seal this _____ day of June, 2015.

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.