

Midwest Energy Cooperative

July/August 2015

MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES

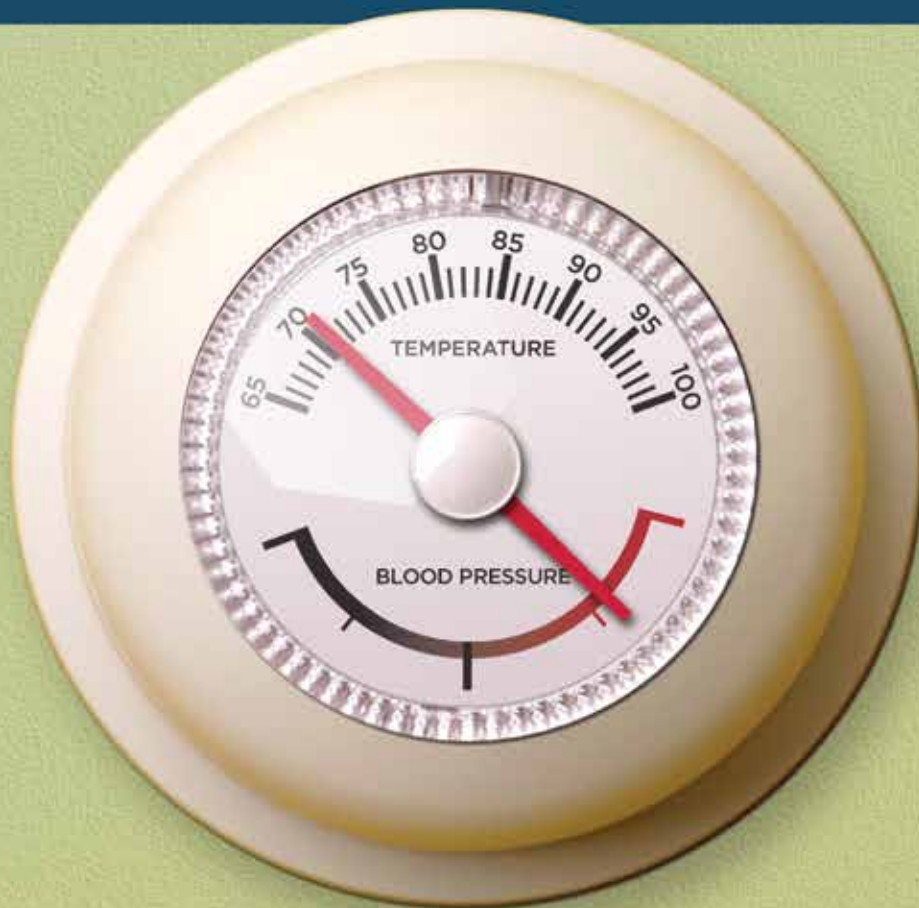
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Home Is Where The

Art Is

Local Co-op Artists On ArtPrize



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July/August 2015
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Cooperative Association

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POSTMASTER: SEND ALL UAA TO CFS.

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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.

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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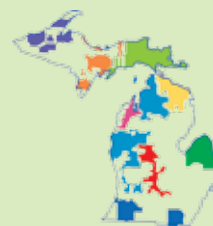
ON THE COVER*

"Trichromatic Spectra," created by Thomas Linder, was a past entry in the ArtPrize competition held annually in Grand Rapids, MI.

Linder's artwork is a kinetic inflatable installation involving thousands of LEDs that are controlled by computer animation.

Photo courtesy of Artprize.

*Some co-op editions have a different cover.



Michigan's Electric
Cooperatives
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901 E. State Street (P.O. Box 127)
Cassopolis, MI 49031-0127
M-F, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

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59825 S. LaGrave
Paw Paw, MI 49079
M-F, 8 a.m.–1 p.m. and 1:30 p.m.–4:30 p.m.

ADRIAN DISTRICT SERVICE CENTER

1610 E. Maumee Street
Adrian, MI 49221
M-F, 8 a.m.–5 p.m.

CONTACT US

MIDWEST ENERGY COOPERATIVE

800-492-5989
TeamMidwest.com

MIDWEST CONNECTIONS

844-493-4237
TeamFiber.com

MIDWEST PROPANE

844-493-4427
TeamMidwestPropane.com

E-mail: info@TeamMidwest.com

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Midwest Energy Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



Propane Success Built On Integrity, Commitment To Customer



Robert Hance
President/CEO

pass a certain propane supplier on my way to and from the office. They have a huge sign

in their yard promoting a 99 cent first-fill rate. Interestingly, the sign is surrounded by dozens of tanks. The irony makes me chuckle.

While some propane users still jump for the immediate gratification of that low ticket price, thankfully many have wised up to the gimmicks and games played by many retailers.

In our propane yard you won't see any big signs promoting a special sale price, and you also won't see an abundance of tanks waiting to get into the field. We don't rely on promotional gimmicks to move our tanks. With our loyal family of customers talking up their own experiences with our customer service and pricing approach, the tanks tend to just keep moving out.

The winter of 2013–14 was harsh. It presented a lot of serious issues with propane supply and demand and that was clearly reflected in the volatility of wholesale gas prices. The winter of 2014–15 was no walk in the park in terms of cold and snow, yet energy markets responded very differently. It's fairly predictable that wholesale energy prices rise in the winter, based on many factors including supply and demand. But wholesale prices remained fairly flat, even low, over this last winter.

This unusual situation opens the door for games and gimmicks among greedy retailers. That's why you will see a lot of low first-fill deals through the summer months. Retailers can, and should, take advantage of the low wholesale markets to extend fair and reasonable prices to their customers. The reality, though, is that the "special deals," like the 99 cent first-fill rate, are time-limited and typically reserved only for new customers. Someone down the line is paying more to bring on that new customer, and ultimately the new customer will be moved into a different price category to make room for the next gimmick.

In our nearly 18 years of business, we've secured gas supply in advance so that we could provide a guaranteed capped rate for the next heating season. Stability in pricing without added fees has always been one of the cornerstones of our approach. So, the unusual wholesale market provided us a great opportunity to finalize our supply for the 2015–16 heating season and create a fair and reasonable guaranteed capped rate of \$1.699/gallon for the entire 2015–16 heating season (June 1, 2015–May 31, 2016). It's not a special deal, and not just for new customers. It's our program for all qualifying customers for the entire season, and is the result of our thoughtful and strategic buying strategy that offers predictable and stable pricing for all.

The Midwest Propane family is 7,000 customers strong and growing every year. That's what happens when you offer a program built on integrity and a strong commitment to the customer. It's the Midwest Propane difference! ■

Midwest Propane Announces Pricing Plan For 2015-16 Heating Season

Stacy Campbell is a service technician based in our Adrian district, and one of our team members who works hard all year long to take good care of our propane customers. The entire team is excited about the 2015-16 heating season and what we are able to offer our loyal family of customers through our strategic buying program.

When Midwest Propane set its first tank nearly 18 years ago, we introduced a new approach to propane

service. We assumed the risk on behalf of our family of customers by purchasing gas in advance and offering a free, guaranteed capped rate through the entire heating season. It hasn't always meant the lowest price available in the market, but has always meant a predictable and stable price over the course of the volatile heating season. Customers will definitely benefit from that approach in our 2015-16 pricing program as we are able to offer a guaranteed capped rate of \$1.699/gallon from June 1, 2015-May 31, 2016.

Midwest Propane also offers a variety of payment programs, including pre-buy, payment upon delivery, metered service (pay monthly for what you use) and a budget plan. The pre-buy program allows customers to pay for gas before the start of the heating season. The 2015-16 pre-buy program price is \$1.599/gallon and contracts must be signed and returned with payment by July 31, 2015.

Learn more about pre-buy and other Midwest Propane delivery and payment programs and features at TeamMidwestPropane.com, or call 844-493-4GAS. ■



Co-op “Act of Generosity” Strengthens Regional Schools

Mark, a student at White Pigeon Middle School, recently sent this note after his school was awarded one of the 18 Midwest Energy Cooperative Strengthening Schools grants in January:

“Dear Midwest Energy Cooperative:

I am writing to you to thank you for giving us the tablets. I have used the tablets for: research, online learning, and using a dictionary. I would like to state that I’ve never seen someone who is so generous for giving us the tablets for free. This act of generosity will not go unnoticed.”

The generosity continues as applications are now available for the 2016 program year.

The Strengthening Schools Program makes grants up to \$2,500 available to public schools for various academic/classroom needs and special projects. Any teacher, administrator or school official in a public elementary, middle or high school serving children in the Midwest Energy Cooperative service territory may apply. Each school district is limited to one award per school and two awards per district in the annual award cycle.

Applications are due Oct. 15 and funds will be awarded in January 2016. Applications are evaluated and funding decisions made by a committee of Midwest Energy Cooperative members, without knowledge of the school or district requesting funds.

For more information or an application, please visit TeamMidwest.com or contact the community relations office at 800-492-5989 or by email at pr@teammidwest.com. ■



Students at Bloomingdale Pullman Elementary use the new Chromebooks provided through a 2015 Midwest Energy Strengthening Schools grant.

Legislation Would Strengthen Tie Between Our Peninsulas



Craig Borr
Michigan Electric
Cooperative Association
President and CEO

The Mackinac Bridge opened to vehicle traffic between the upper and lower peninsulas nearly 60 years ago. To this day, it continues to be a vital commercial link, as well as a symbol of what Michiganders can do when we work together for our state's benefit.

Legislators in Lansing may soon have an opportunity to debate legislation that could be a similar “bridge” for enhanced

flows of electricity between our two peninsulas. But it will take a great deal of determination and willpower to move this legislation forward. There are likely to be many detractors—as there were when we built the “Mighty Mac”.

Legislation was recently introduced in the Michigan Legislature that could result in the development of an additional high-voltage transmission link between the peninsulas. The Senate version of SB 282 was introduced by Sen. Tom Casperson, while the House version, HB 4575, was introduced by Rep. Triston Cole.

Currently, our two peninsulas do not operate as one when it comes to electricity. Michigan policy, utilities and regulators control the Lower Peninsula, while Wisconsin interests and utilities dominate the Upper Peninsula. All too often these competing interests and policies do not align—and customers are caught in the middle.

In addition to creating a more robust electrical tie, the legislation would form one “resource adequacy zone” to include both peninsulas, as well as increase reliability by reducing electrical “congestion” costs involved in the flow of energy between the peninsulas.

These congestion costs are a hidden tax in the cost of electricity. Portions of the northern Lower Peninsula as well as the Upper Peninsula have some of the highest

congestion costs. Residents who live in these congested areas have higher electric costs because of this “hidden tax”. These costs could be dramatically reduced, and in some cases eliminated, if we as a state have the will to invest in a more robust transmission link between the peninsulas.

Since most of Michigan's electric cooperatives are net buyers of wholesale electricity, this legislation could create more competitive markets with additional buyers and sellers of wholesale energy, as well as renewable energy—and that should provide tangible long-term benefits for electric cooperative consumers.

This legislation could also expedite the development of newer, cleaner generating capacity for the Upper Peninsula—an area of our state that recognizes all too well what can happen when there is only one significant generation resource and no meaningful way to access bulk electricity from the Lower Peninsula, where most of Michigan's electrical generating capacity is currently located.

Further development of renewable energy, particularly wind, can also be enhanced with additional connectivity between the peninsulas. The Thumb region of Michigan's Lower Peninsula has been identified as the best region for developing wind energy. A more robust transmission link will allow us to export wind from the Thumb area to the Upper Peninsula—or perhaps export wind from the Great Plains and Upper Midwest to utilities throughout Michigan.

If Michigan legislators have the fortitude to enact this legislation and we eventually fund and construct a new, more robust transmission link between our peninsulas, I believe we will look back someday, like we often do when crossing the “Mighty Mac”, and feel a very real sense of accomplishment that we as Michiganders have done something to benefit many generations.

Time will tell. ■





ALL-AMERICAN FAVORITE BURGERS

Enjoy new twists on well-known favorites.

Bratburger Summertime Sliders



1 pkg. bratwurst
1 lb. 80/20 ground beef
2 pkg. pretzel dinner rolls

Onion Jam

3 T. butter
¼ c. olive oil
2½ lb. sweet onion, sliced thin
¼ c. balsamic vinegar
1 T. fresh thyme leaves (or 1 t. dried)
1 c. pure maple syrup
salt and pepper

Remove bratwurst from casing and mix bratwurst and burger until evenly combined. Make small patties to match the size of your rolls. Salt and pepper to taste and grill or pan fry burgers to taste. Slice rolls, add burgers and top with onion jam and arugula, if desired. To make onion jam, melt butter and olive oil in a dutch oven. Add onions and sauté on low, stirring occasionally for 15–20 minutes. There should not be any “color” or browning; this process will evaporate the extra water in the onions and concentrate the sweet onion flavors. “Low and slow” is the ticket here. When the onions are soft but not quite translucent, add balsamic vinegar, maple syrup and thyme, and cook until liquid is incorporated into onion mixture. Put into 2–3 jars and enjoy! May keep in refrigerator for up to three weeks. Hot water bath or freeze and keep 6 months. Great on grilled fare, pizzas, and omelettes.

Denise Chapel, Gaylord

Bacon Blue Cheeseburger (pictured)

½ lb. bacon, cut into ¼ inch slices
2 lb. 90% lean ground hamburger
½ t. garlic powder
½ t. onion powder
salt and pepper, to taste
1½ c. crumbled blue cheese
8 burger buns
lettuce
sliced tomatoes
sliced onions
your choice of condiments

In a large skillet, cook sliced bacon until crispy. Remove from skillet and drain on paper towel; discard fat or save for other use. Mix bacon with the hamburger and add the garlic powder, onion powder, salt and pepper. Divide the burger mixture into 8 portions. Divide each portion in half and flatten into patties ¼-inch thick, using waxed paper. Place 2 T. blue cheese in center of 4 patties and top with another patty. Seal by pressing edges together. Cook in large skillet or grill until medium well, or your choice of doneness. Remove from heat and place onto bottom half of buns, and top with more blue cheese and favorite toppings. Serves 4.

Ann Brown, Niles

SUBMIT YOUR RECIPE!

Thanks to all who send in recipes. Please send in your favorite “Candy” recipes by **Aug. 1** and “Easy Chicken” recipes by **Sept. 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

STATE OF MICHIGAN BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

NOTICE OF HEARING FOR THE CUSTOMERS OF MIDWEST ENERGY COOPERATIVE CASE NO. U-17314-R

- Midwest Energy Cooperative requests Michigan Public Service Commission approval to reconcile its 2014 power supply cost recovery costs and revenues and for a Times Interest Earned Ratio (TIER) Ratemaking Mechanism review.
- The information below describes how a person may participate in this case.
- You may call or write Midwest Energy Cooperative, 901 East State Street, P.O. Box 127, Cassopolis, Michigan 49031, (800) 492-5989 for a free copy of its application. Any person may review the application at the offices of Midwest Energy Cooperative.
- The first public hearing in this matter will be held:

DATE/TIME: Thursday, July 30, 2015, at 9:00 a.m.

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

BEFORE: Administrative Law Judge **Suzanne D. Sonneborn**

LOCATION: Michigan Public Service Commission, 7109 West Saginaw Highway, 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) 284-8090 in advance to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance.

The Michigan Public Service Commission (Commission) will hold a public hearing to consider Midwest Energy Cooperative's (Midwest) April 23, 2015 application to reconcile its 2014 power supply cost recovery (PSCR) costs and revenues. Midwest represents that after taking into account prior years' overcollections and undercollections, the result is a net under-collection of \$726,273. Midwest requests authorization to roll-in the \$726,273 undercollection into its 2016 PSCR plan. The Company is not seeking a revenue increase through its TIER Ratemaking Mechanism for the 12-month period ended December 31, 2014.

All documents filed in this case shall be submitted electronically through the Commission's E-Dockets website at: michigan.gov/mpscdockets. 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: mpscdockets@michigan.gov. If you require assistance prior to e-filing, contact Commission staff at (517) 284-8090 or by email at: mpscdockets@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 July 23, 2015. (Interested persons may elect to file using the traditional paper format.) The proof of service shall indicate service upon Midwest'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, thus 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 Michigan Administrative Hearing System's Administrative Hearing Rules R 792.10422 and R 792.10432. Requests for further information on adjournment should be directed to (517) 284-8130.

A copy of Midwest's request may be reviewed on the Commission's website at: michigan.gov/mpscdockets, and at the offices of Midwest Energy Cooperative. For more information on how to participate in a case, you may contact the Commission at the above address or by telephone at (517) 284-8090.

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.; 1969 PA 306, as amended, MCL 24.201 et seq.; 1982 PA 304, as amended, MCL 460.6j et seq.; and the Michigan Administrative Hearing System's Administrative Hearing Rules, 2015 AC, R 792.10401 et seq.

May 28, 2015



MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

May 26, 2015

On Tuesday, May 26, 2015, a special meeting of the board of directors of Midwest Energy Cooperative ("the Corporation" or "the cooperative") was held at Midwest Energy Cooperative, 901 East State Street, Cassopolis, Michigan. The purpose of the special meeting was to seek member input prior to board consideration of member regulation as authorized under 2008 Public Act 167 (P.A. 167).

CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order by Chairman Clarence Barth at 10:00 am. In attendance were the following members of the board of directors: Ken Swope, Colyne Sorsby, Harry Gentz, Fred Turk, John Green, Ron Armstrong, Clarence Barth, Ben Russell and Jim Dickerson, constituting a quorum. Also in attendance were the following staff members: President and Chief Executive Officer Bob Hance; Chief Financial Officer John Miner; Chief Technology Officer Terry Rubenthaler; Vice President Administrative Resources Kerri Wade; Vice President Member, Marketing and Information Services Candy Riem; Vice President Regulatory Compliance and Community Development Dave Allen; Communications Director Patty Nowlin; Controller Angie Edge and Executive Coordinator Jenna Zache. Also present were Legal Counsel Shaun Johnson of Dykema Gossett, PLLC and eight members of Midwest Energy Cooperative.

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS – Mr. Johnson advised that, at least 90 days prior to the day's special meeting, at a properly convened meeting of the board of directors, a Corporation director proposed that the Corporation become member-regulated. Mr. Johnson further advised that written notice of the time and place of the day's (May 26, 2015) meeting had been provided to all members of the cooperative, delivered not less than 21 or more than 60 days before the date of the meeting, that such notice contained a copy of the proposal, and that such notice had

been published in *Michigan Country Lines*, a periodical issued by the Corporation and mailed to each member of record of the cooperative. Mr. Johnson further advised that the meeting of the board of directors at which the proposal was to be acted upon was open to all members of the cooperative; and that the Corporation's board would allow members of the cooperative reasonable time to address the board prior to its acting upon the proposal.

MEMBER REGULATION RESOLUTION – Mr. Johnson then read the proposed member regulation resolution in its entirety and invited questions and comments specifically pertaining to the proposal from members. Relevant questions/comments regarding the member regulation proposal included issues of stock buy-back and member equity; limitations of board's ability to change rates; timing and frequency of rate increases; trust in directors to be member friendly and hear member concerns; history of Michigan co-ops pursuing member regulation under P.A. 167; and impact of member regulation on co-op and member costs. Mr. Johnson also read a letter submitted by a member in support of the member regulation proposal. Following no further comments or questions from members, and upon motion duly made and seconded, the board unanimously approved via roll call vote for the Corporation to become member regulated.

ADJOURNMENT – Per motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously approved, the special meeting was adjourned at 10:17 am.

*These unapproved minutes are published
in accordance with P.A. 167 of 2008*

Home is Where the Art Is

Local Co-op Artists on ArtPrize

Coined the largest open art competition in the world—Grand Rapid’s ArtPrize has made its mark on the art world. It has been covered by the likes of *The New York Times* and *GQ* and lauded as both a great art experiment and lambasted as the art equivalent of a reality TV show.

The art competition opens up to any adult artist with the \$50 entry fee and a venue willing to act as its pop-up gallery for the event. When it launched in 2009, no one knew what to expect, but after the first week local restaurants had run out of food, hotels were booked solid and over 200,000 people came from around the country to check out the phenomenon. The big twist is the two \$200,000 grand prizes and eight category awards, resulting in more than \$500,000 awarded by both the public and a jury of art experts.

Whether you love the artful canvas that Grand Rapids becomes once a year or prefer your art in a climate-controlled museum amongst whispered commentary—ArtPrize has some very real rewards for Michigan artists.

“A large number of people see my work at ArtPrize. It is a large-scale event by any measure,” says John Dempsey, who lives on the Ocqueoc River and is a member of Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op. “The number of people who come to see ArtPrize is extremely large

Acrylic on canvas of a factory ceiling by John Dempsey.



Colleen Whittaker’s Michigan map is made from authentic license plates fitted together like a puzzle.



Craig Snook's artwork, created with shredded paper, makes a kaleidoscope of colors that represents the beauty of a Michigan woodland landscape.



Lily Lihting Li Kostrzewa's "urban interweave" artwork is acrylic and mixed media on canvas.

compared to all of the other exhibition opportunities available to the vast majority of contemporary artists."

A Traverse City artist and member of Cherryland Electric Cooperative, Royce Deans says that with the sheer volume of people having exposure to his artwork, the feedback is immediate and thrilling. "ArtPrize is a good place to try out some new ideas in front of people. It can be a little dangerous."

The opportunities that ArtPrize exposes participating artists to can be anything from potential buyers, connections with fellow artists and even future employers. Grand Rapids artist and member of Great Lakes Energy Cooperative, Lily Lihting Li Kostrzewa credits her current teaching position at Kendall College of Art and Design to her participation in ArtPrize. Lily's daughter, Isabella Kostrzewa, entered the ArtPrize young filmmaker awards and won second place. Her prize allowed her to purchase video equipment to continue her passion.

While exposure to a massive audience and opportunities is rewarding, many artists have also benefited on a very personal level.



Royce Deans' "kitsch 2 kunst" is a matrix of 36 panels with original paintings.

"I gained a lot of confidence as an artist," says Craig Snook, an artist who splits his time between Saginaw and Lakeview, and is a member of HomeWorks Tri-County Electric Cooperative. "It was a great learning experience and it is fun being known as an 'ArtPrize artist'."

Colleen Whittaker, a Traverse City artist and member of Cherryland Electric Cooperative, says overhearing people comment on her artwork allowed her to capture uncensored opinions from the public. "The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, but the ones I remember are the critical comments—which I keep in mind while creating new work. Feedback from such a wide variety of people is invaluable in my quest to create art that appeals to a wide range of people while still being true to my artistic vision." ■

**ArtPrize 2015 will take place
Sept. 23–Oct. 11. Visit Artprize.org
for more information.**

STATE OF MICHIGAN BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

NOTICE OF HEARING FOR THE CUSTOMERS OF MIDWEST ENERGY COOPERATIVE CASE NO. U-17800

- Midwest Energy Cooperative is seeking Michigan Public Service Commission (Commission) approval of its Renewable Energy Plan pursuant to Public Act (PA) 295 of 2008 and the December 4, 2008 Commission Order in Case No. U-15800 and the January 27, 2015 Commission Order in Case No. U-17800.
- The information below describes how a person may participate in this case.
- You may call or write Midwest Energy Cooperative, 901 East State Street, P.O. Box 127, Cassopolis, Michigan 49031, (800) 492-5989 for a free copy of its application. Any person may review the application at the offices of Midwest Energy Cooperative.
- The first public hearing in this matter will be held:

DATE/TIME: Thursday, July 30, 2015, at 10:00 a.m.

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

BEFORE: Administrative Law Judge **Martin D. Snider**

LOCATION: Michigan Public Service Commission, 7109 West Saginaw Highway, 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) 284-8090 in advance to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance.

The Michigan Public Service Commission (Commission) will hold a public hearing to consider Midwest Energy Cooperative's (Midwest) May 12, 2015 application seeking approval of its Renewable Energy Plan (REP) pursuant to 2008 PA 295, and the December 4, 2008 and January 27, 2015 Commission Orders in Cases Numbers U-15800 and U-17800, respectively. Midwest represents that it will meet Michigan's renewable portfolio standard requirements through a combination of banked Renewable Energy Credits (RECs), banked incentive RECs and generation from the Harvest Wind Farm in Elkton, Michigan, as well as generation from Thunder Bay Hydro, located in Alpena and Hillman, Michigan.

All documents filed in this case shall be submitted electronically through the Commission's E-Dockets website at: michigan.gov/mpscdockets. 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: mpscdockets@michigan.gov. If you require assistance prior to e-filing, contact Commission staff at (517) 284-8090 or by email at: mpscdockets@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 July 23, 2015. (Interested persons may elect to file using the traditional paper format.) The proof of service shall indicate service upon Midwest'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, thus 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 Michigan Administrative Hearing System's Administrative Hearing Rules R 792.10422 and R 792.10432. Requests for further information on adjournment should be directed to (517) 284-8130.

A copy of Midwest's request may be reviewed on the Commission's website at: michigan.gov/mpscdockets, and at the office of Midwest Energy Cooperative. For more information on how to participate in a case, you may contact the Commission at the above address or by telephone at (517) 284-8090.

Jurisdiction is 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.; 1969 PA 306, as amended, MCL 24.201 et seq.; 1982 PA 304, as amended, MCL 460.6j et seq.; 2008 PA 295, MCL 460.1001 et seq.; and the Michigan Administrative Hearing System's Administrative Hearing Rules, 2015 AC, R 792.10401 et seq.

June 9, 2015

Check Your Boat, Dock, and the Neighbor's, Too!

Almost one-half of Michigan is comprised of water, so it's easy to see why Michigan boasts a thriving recreational industry and leads the nation with approximately 1 million registered pleasure boats. For boating and water safety, there are items you must legally have on your watercraft—life vests, fire extinguisher, throwable flotation device, and properly working lights—but make sure the boat and the dock are safe, too.

To help prevent accidents, the National Electrical Contractors Association says:

- All installations should be performed by a professional electrical contractor.
- All dock receptacles must comply with the National Electrical Code, which mandates a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI). A GFCI measures a circuit's current and senses any imbalance (such as a discharge into the water), which trips the GFCI and cuts off the power.
- Test a GFCI at least monthly. Locate it along the ramp to the dock so it can be easily tested by local fire departments.
- Metal dock frames should have "bonding jumpers" that connect all metal parts to an on-shore

grounding rod. This means any dock part that becomes energized by electrical malfunction will trip the GFCI or circuit breaker.

- Ask neighbors if their dock electrical systems have been inspected and are up to Code.
- Household wire is not suitable for boats.
- Do not use wire nuts (these are for solid conductor wire, which should never be on a boat) or splice connectors (can cut wire strands)!
- Fuses are rated to protect the wire, not the stereo. If a fuse blows continuously, something else is wrong.
- If you rent a dock or boat, notify the owner of safety violations immediately.
- Have your boat's system (especially with onboard generators) checked at least annually, and when something is added or removed.
- Ropes, string, masts and rigging also conduct electricity—don't be the common ground between water and electricity! ■

See SafeElectricity.org for more tips.



Cool off with energy savings for your business

"Close the refrigerator!" Remember hearing that as a kid? Luckily, plenty of energy-efficient technologies are available today to help keep the electricity costs of commercial refrigeration low, beyond simply keeping the doors shut:

- LED cooler case lighting and occupancy sensors
- Anti-sweat heater controls
- ECM evaporator fan motors

ENERGY TIP: Energy Optimization Program rebates are available for all of the above commercial refrigeration upgrades and more.

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.

Jump In

One Last Mission

World War II seems like ancient history to a lot of folks. After all, it ended nearly 70 years ago! Never mind that 16 million Americans served, and over 400,000 lost their lives in a war spanning 61 countries. Despite the staggering statistics, school history books dedicate little more than a page or two to what many today call "The Greatest Generation."

Recently, I was privileged to join 150 WWII veterans and volunteers as they set off to rewrite a page in history during a "Tour of Honor" thanks to Mid-Michigan Honor Flight. Embarking on a one-day tour of Washington, D.C., that included stops to Arlington National Cemetery, Iwo Jima and of course, the National World War II Memorial, veterans learned first-hand the scope of this country's gratitude.

Dedicated in 2004, the WWII Memorial serves as a fitting tribute to the magnitude of this global conflict. Set between the Washington Monument and Lincoln Memorial, stone architecture, bronze sculptures and water features pay homage to both the Atlantic and Pacific theaters. More impressive, though, were the tourists who stopped to salute or shake hands with members of the Honor Flight as they walked by. Hearing young and old alike say "thank you" reminded me that in an era when history might be lost to the archives, there are still many who care.

Averaging 92 years old, many veterans pass before having an opportunity to see the monument built in their honor. Honor Flights transport WWII and terminally ill veterans to Washington, D.C., where they can visit the memorials dedicated to their service and sacrifice. Paired with an attentive guardian, each vet was personally escorted from one memorial to the next with a volunteer staff of medics on-call in case of emergency. Every effort is made to make this a once-in-a-lifetime experience. From the corridor of flags lining a path to the departure gate at Cherry Capital Airport to the Pin Curl Girls singing us off at Reagan International Airport to the welcome home celebration at the U.S. Coast Guard Base in Traverse City, no detail was overlooked.



And while attention to detail is obviously critical to the enjoyment and safety of those participating in an Honor Flight, the unplanned displays of gratitude were often the most touching. A man walking through Arlington National Cemetery dropping his bags to salute our three-bus motorcade. A group of middle school students stopping to give thanks. A tour guide inviting a veteran to share his story. A veteran commenting softly in front of the Freedom Wall, "I never thought I'd see this."

Reporting for WTCM Radio, I wasn't paired with a veteran like most others traveling that day. Still, I had a few sentimental moments of my own. As I silently thanked my dad for his service in the Pacific Theatre as a member of the Fifth Air Force in New Guinea, I had the undeniable feeling he was with me while I paid reverence to a monument he didn't live to see.

Harry Truman once said, "Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude. America will never forget their sacrifices." Within the next five years, most, if not all of our WWII veterans will be gone, and with them, a living piece of history. So the next time you see one, say 'thanks'. Because we all know freedom isn't free. And it's never too late to thank a veteran. ■



Jack O'Malley



May Photo

Mystery Photo Contest Winner

The May 2015 Mystery Photo contest winner is Michael Mattox, a Midwest Energy Cooperative member who correctly identified the photo as "Turnip Rock" in Port Austin, MI, just off the shore in Lake Huron. The unique shape of the rock-island is the result of thousands of years of erosion by storm waves.

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