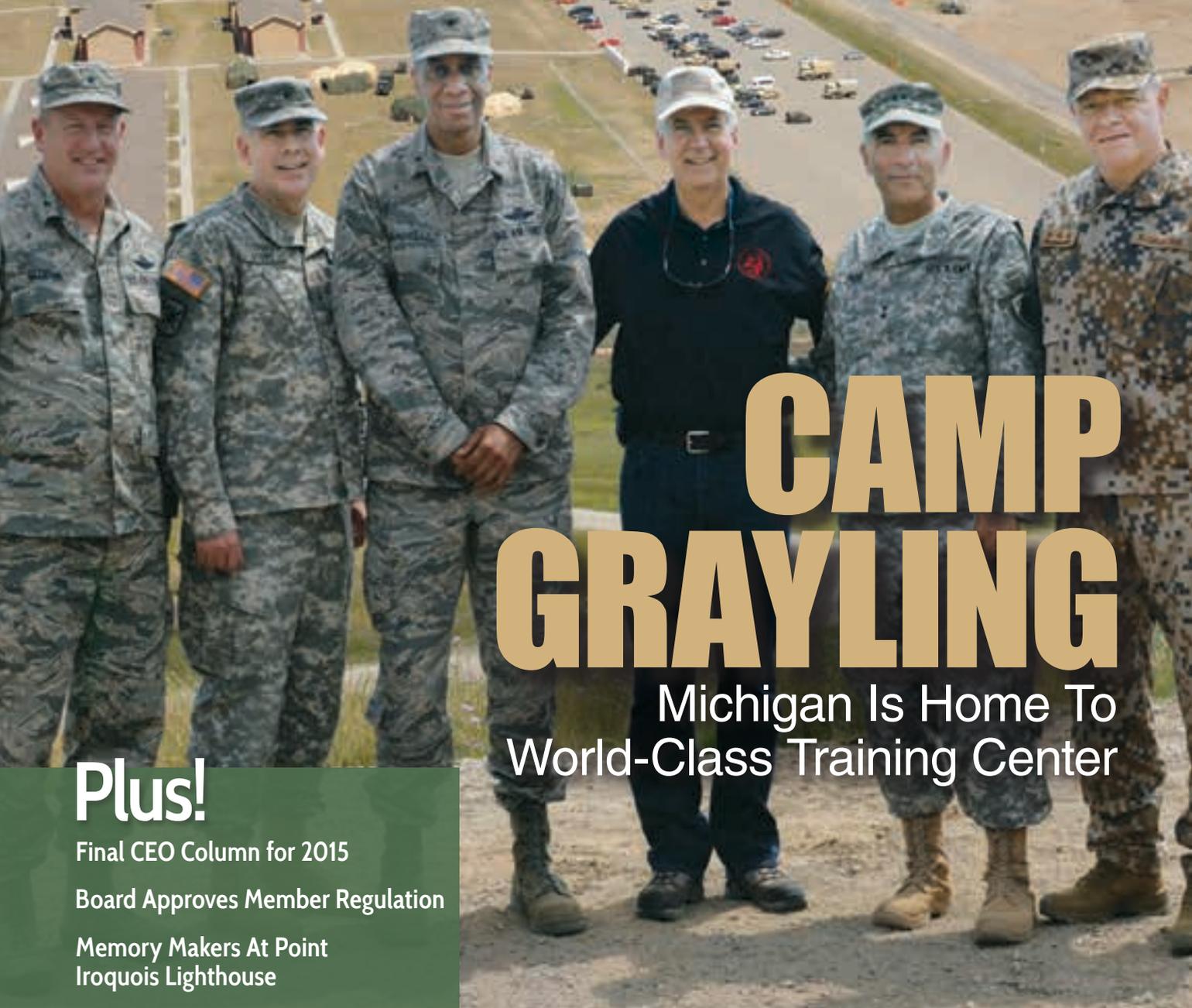


# MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES



## CAMP GRAYLING

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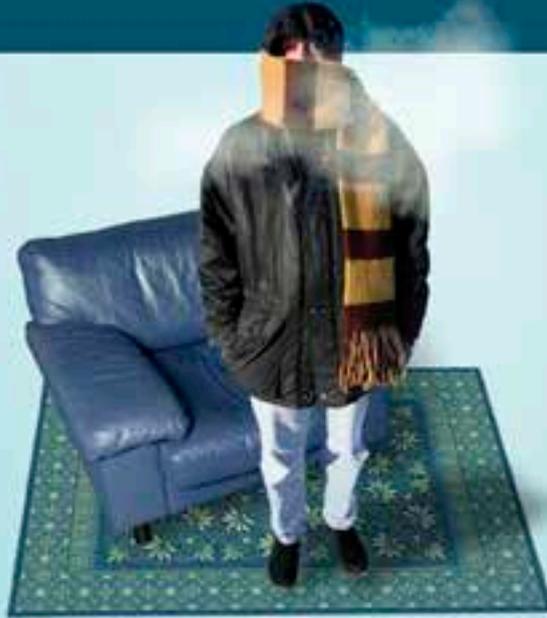
**Plus!**

Final CEO Column for 2015

Board Approves Member Regulation

Memory Makers At Point  
Iroquois Lighthouse

THE 30% FEDERAL TAX CREDIT EXPIRES AT THE END OF 2016



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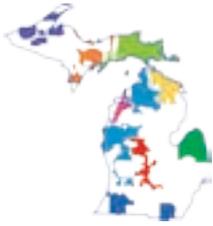
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countrylines.com

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**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\*

Camp Grayling Joint Maneuver Training Center is the largest National Guard training center in the country, and is a member of Great Lakes Energy Cooperative.

Pictured from left to right are Brigadier General John Slocum, 127th wing commander; Brigadier General Michael Stone, assistant adjutant general for installations; Brigadier General Leonard Isabelle, commander Michigan Air National Guard; Gov. Rick Snyder; Major General Gregory Vadnais, the adjutant general of Michigan; and Lieutenant General Raimonds Graube, chief of defense for the Country of Latvia.

*\*Some co-op editions have a different cover.*  
Photos courtesy of the Michigan National Guard

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## Member Service Centers

Monday–Friday • 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.  
906-635-6800 • 1-800-562-4953

2916 W. M-28  
Dafer, MI 49724

836 M-134  
DeTour Village, MI 49725

6214 County Rd. 403  
Newberry, MI 49868

2972 W. 8th St.  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

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District B – Neebish Island  
(906) 635-0941

**Dale Carlson, Vice Chairperson**  
District A – Stalwart  
(906) 647-8246

**Richard Newland, Secretary/Treasurer**  
District A – DeTour Village  
(906) 297-5681

**Gerald Nettleton, Director**  
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**Charles Litzner, Director**  
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**President & CEO – Daniel Dasho**

**Local Editor – Todd Chapman**

[cloverland.com](http://cloverland.com)

Cloverland Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

# Cloverland's Continuing Issues



**Daniel Dasho**  
President & Chief Executive Officer

For my last column of this year, I would like to give you an update on a couple of very important issues for 2015 that are continuing into 2016.

## Member Regulation

The board approved a proposal on Oct. 15 that returned Cloverland to being a member-regulated electric cooperative effective January 2016 (see minutes, p. 11). The vote followed four months of discussions, community meetings, and opportunities for members to comment prior to the board meeting.

Cloverland becomes the eighth co-op to return to member regulation. Going forward, the board has more flexibility in deciding issues that directly impact you. If any rate or rule changes are to be discussed, members will be notified and given opportunity to comment. Any approved actions related to rates or rule changes have to be presented to the membership 30 days prior to the change taking effect. Notifications will be presented in the magazine or by U.S. mail.

## Ore Mine Exemption; 'It's Déjà vu all over again!'

Last year and in January of this year, thousands of members answered the call by letting our representatives in Washington and Lansing know our opinion about a potentially devastating surcharge set to start in February. This was the result of a quietly inserted exemption approved by the Legislature in 2008 allowing the ore mines in Marquette to shift 100 percent of their electric load to an alternative electric supplier (AES). They did so in 2013, setting off a series of events that involved federal, regional and state agencies and potentially costing Cloverland \$22 million in unfair surcharges. The overwhelming response convinced the mines to return to Wisconsin Energy as a retail customer. Wisconsin Energy requested the System Support Resource (SSR) designation for the Presque Isle Power Plant be removed. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) agreed in February and the \$22 million crisis was averted for Cloverland members.

The crisis is not over, however, and we need to rally the troops again very quickly. Senate Bill 437, introduced by Senator Nofs in July, still contains this special exemption for the mines, which could allow them to again shift their electric load to an AES. If this happens, the scenario and potential surcharges start all over again. We need to get this exemption removed from SB 437 and not face this again.

Please use the post card inserted between pages 10 and 11.

Related to this, and still unanswered, is Cloverland's portion of the SSR payments for February 2014 to February 2015. The Regulatory Commission is scheduled to hear the case in May 2016. Cloverland has to be prepared to make a payment which could amount to \$8 million. While the amount has been reduced \$14 million so far, we will continue to fight to reduce it further. Please stay informed through updates presented in this magazine, on [cloverland.com](http://cloverland.com) and social media posts.

Let's hope next year will be calmer. ■

# Your Co-op Board In Action

The board of directors met on July 17 and Aug. 19. All directors were in attendance.

## July

- Reviewed department reports, including financial, power marketing and power supply cost recovery.
- Discussed the process for going forward with member regulation to include six public meetings.
- Approved motion to hold a special open board meeting on Thursday, Oct. 15, 9 a.m., at the Dafter Township Hall to act on member regulation proposal.
- Approved motion to continue lobbyist contract in Lansing to monitor Customer Choice activity in the state Legislature.
- Approved motion to adopt Resolution 2015 as presented and recommended by legal counsel.
- Received legal update concerning easement and member service issues.
- Approved motion to accept July 17, 2015, minutes with no changes.
- Carried motion to approve estate retirements for July 2015 in the amount of \$4,608.
- Approved motion to nominate director Nettleton and director Litzner as board representatives at upcoming district meetings.
- Received legal update concerning right-of-way and easement issues.

Meetings are held at the co-op's administrative office at 725 E. Portage Avenue in Sault Ste. Marie each month. The board reserves time at the beginning of each meeting for members who wish to address the board. Members who wish to present an item for board consideration at a particular meeting may submit their request for time using the member comment request form on [cloverland.com](http://cloverland.com) or by calling 906-632-5143. ■

## August

- Approved motion to modify agenda to welcome representatives from Newberry Water and Light.

## Year Three of 10-Year Rate Process

As another year comes to a close, Cloverland members will begin year three of a 10-year rate realignment process established by order of the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC).

This process was ordered in 2013 following the MPSC's decision to reduce Cloverland's rate request from 5.7 percent to 2.4 percent and to extend the requested five-year plan to simplify the many rate classes and facility charge to a 10-year plan.

Cloverland filed a rate request based on an independent utility consulting firm's cost-of-service study. The recommendation was to spread the costs across residential, commercial and industrial rate classes so that each would pay their fair share and eliminate subsidies of one class by another.

In 2010 when Cloverland purchased Edison Sault, Cloverland's facility charge was \$9 per meter, and Edison Sault's was \$3.40 per meter since 1982. Each utility had separate and multiple rates classes. Combined, the two utilities had 17 rate classes. The goal was to merge the various rates and charges into one set of rates and charges within five years. The MPSC extended it to 10 years.

Adjusting rates for any utility is never an easy task. The most equitable approach is to adjust the facility

charge that every member pays. This enables the co-op to raise needed revenue, and each member can reduce their energy use through a variety of conservation methods. The facility charge is similar to the monthly charges billed by phone or TV providers for basic service. It's the fixed costs to have the service available and covers things like poles, wires, tree trimming, property taxes and maintenance expenses.

For a more complete explanation of the 10-year plan, please visit [cloverland.com](http://cloverland.com) and click on the "MyService" tab, then the "Rates and Rules" tab. ■

### Access To Rules & Rates

This notice is published pursuant to the rules established by the Michigan Public Service Commission as set forth in the Consumer Standard and Billing Practices for Electric and Gas Residential Services, R460, 2146 and 2149.

As a member-customer of Cloverland Electric Cooperative, the following information is available to you upon request:

1. Complete rate schedules;
2. Clear and concise explanation of all rates that the member may be eligible to receive;
3. Assistance from the cooperative in determining the most appropriate rate for the member when the member is eligible to receive service under more than one rate;
4. Clear, concise explanation of actual energy use for each billing.

# Home Heating Assistance Programs • 2015–2016 Season

**Program:** Winter Protection Plan  
**Contact:** Your Local Utility Company

Income Guidelines 2015–2016	
# in Household	150% Poverty Guide Maximum Income
1	\$17,655
2	23,895
3	30,135
4	36,375
5	42,615
6	48,855
7	55,095
8	61,335

Add \$6,240 for each additional member.

**Note:** All customers 65+ are eligible regardless of income. Customers are responsible for all electricity and natural gas used. At the end of the protection period, participants must make arrangements with their utility company to pay off any money owed before the next heating season.

**Program:** Home Heating Credit  
**Contact:** Mich. Dept. of Treasury

# Exemp.	Max. Income	# Exemp.	Max. Income
1	\$12,956	4	26,699
2	17,528	5	31,270
3	22,099	6	35,842

Add \$4,457 for each exemption over 6.

**Program:** Earned Income Credit  
**Contact:** U.S. Treasury Dept., Internal Revenue Service [irs.gov/EITC](http://irs.gov/EITC)  
 Michigan Dept. of Treasury [michigan.gov/treasury](http://michigan.gov/treasury)

The **Winter Protection Plan** protects eligible senior and low-income customers from service shut-offs and high utility bill payments during the winter months (Nov. 1–March 31). You may enroll between Nov. 1 and March 31. If you are an eligible low-income customer, your utility service will remain on from Nov. 1 through March 31, if you:

- pay at least 7% of your estimated annual bill each month, and
- make equal monthly payments between the date you apply and the start of the next heating season on any past due bills.

When the protection period ends (March 31), from April 1 through Oct. 31, you must begin to pay the full monthly bill, plus part of the amount you owe from the winter months when you did not pay the full bill. **Participation does not relieve customers from the responsibility of paying for electricity and natural gas usage, but does prevent shut-off during winter months.** You qualify for the plan if you meet at least one of the following requirements:

- are age 65 or older,
- receive Department of Human Services cash assistance, including SSI,
- receive Food Assistance,
- receive Medicaid, or
- household income is at or below the 150% of poverty level shown in the Income Guidelines chart at left.

Senior citizen customers (65 or older) who participate in the Winter Protection Plan are not required to make specific payments to ensure that their service will not be shut off between Nov. 1 and March 31. However, seniors are encouraged to pay whatever they can during the winter so they will not have large, unmanageable bills when the protection ends.

You can apply for a **Home Heating Credit** for the **2015** tax year if you meet the income guidelines listed at left, or you qualify based on alternate guidelines including household income, exemptions, and heating costs. Additional exemptions are available for seniors, disabled claimants, or claimants with 5% or more of their income from unemployment compensation.

If you qualify, you may receive assistance to help pay for your winter heating bills. **Forms are available mid- to late-January wherever tax forms are provided, or from the Michigan Dept. of Treasury (517-636-4486, or [michigan.gov/treasury](http://michigan.gov/treasury)).** The Home Heating Credit claim form must be filed with the Michigan Dept. of Treasury **no later than Sept. 30 each year.**

The **Earned Income Credit (EIC)** is a refundable federal income tax credit for low-income working individuals and families who meet certain requirements and file a tax return. Those who qualify will owe less in taxes and may get a refund. Even a person who does not generally owe income tax may qualify for the EIC, but must file a tax return to do so. If married, you must file jointly to qualify. File Form 1040 or 1040A and attach the EIC.

You may claim a **Michigan earned income tax credit** for tax year **2015** equal to a percentage of the federal earned income tax credit for which you are eligible. Visit the website or see the **2015** MI tax booklet for details.

**Program:** Crisis Assistance Program  
**Contact:** Local Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (DHS) [michigan.gov/mdhs](http://michigan.gov/mdhs)

**State Emergency Relief Program (SER):** [michigan.gov/mdhhs](http://michigan.gov/mdhhs) You do not have to be a DHHS client to apply for help with a past due bill, shutoff notice or the need for deliverable fuel through the SER. This program, available Nov. 1–May 31, provides most of its utility assistance during this crisis season. However, limited assistance is available outside the crisis season. If you receive a DHHS cash grant, you may vendor part of it towards heat and electric bills. Contact your local DHHS or call the Home Heating Hotline, 855-275-6424.

**Program:** Low-Income Home Weatherization  
**Contact:** Local Community Action Agency

You may be able to receive help with weatherizing your home to reduce energy use if you meet low-income eligibility guidelines (200% of poverty guidelines shown above) and funding is available. **Weatherization** may include caulking, weatherstripping, and insulation. Contact your local Community Action Agency for details. Visit [mcaaa.org](http://mcaaa.org) to find one in your area.

**Program:** United Way  
**Contact:** Call 2-1-1 or [UWmich.org/2-1-1](http://UWmich.org/2-1-1)

2-1-1 is a free phone service operating 24 hours daily to provide information about help that may be available in a particular area with utilities and other needs. Learn more at [UWmich.org/2-1-1](http://UWmich.org/2-1-1).

**Program:** Medical Emergency Protection  
**Contact:** Local Utility Company

You are protected from service shut-off for nonpayment of your natural gas and/or electric bill for up to 21 days, possibly extended to 63 days, if you have a proven **medical emergency**. You must provide written proof from a doctor, public health or social services official that a medical emergency exists. Contact your gas or electric utility for details.

**Program:** Shut-off Protection for Military Active Duty  
**Contact:** Local Utility Company

If you or your spouse has been called into **active military duty** you may apply for shut-off protection from your electric or natural gas service for up to 90 days. You may request extensions. You must still pay, but contact your utility company and they will help you set up a payment plan.

**Program:** Michigan Veterans Trust Fund Emergency Grant Program  
**Contact:** MI Veterans Trust Fund

The Trust Fund provides temporary assistance to veterans and their families facing a financial emergency or hardship including the need for energy assistance. Michigan Veterans Trust Fund at (517) 284-5299 or [michiganveterans.com](http://michiganveterans.com)

**Program:** MI Energy Assistance Program  
**Contact:** Utility or 2-1-1 in late November

Agency assistance through MEAP, which includes services that will enable participants to become self-sufficient, including assisting participants in paying their energy bills on time, budgeting for and contributing to their ability to provide for energy expenses, and being energy efficient. Shut-off protection is provided Nov. 1–April 15 for all residential customers (regardless of income.)



# Top 10 Rules for Kids About Electrical Safety

**E**lectricity is a dynamic power source. Many home electrical fires, injuries and electrocutions can be prevented when we understand and practice electrical safety. This is especially true for our youngest co-op members. Remember the rules for using electricity the right way.

## 1. **DON'T plug a bunch of stuff into one outlet or extension cord.**

It could damage the electrical system in your house or even cause a fire. Show children how plugs work, and let them know that even if they are curious about the slits of an electrical outlet, *nothing* else should be placed inside.

Our reliance on electronics and gadgets is a risk when family members overcrowd electrical outlets, continue to use frayed wires, place devices near liquids or leave electronics on for long periods of time.

## 2. **Make sure all electric cords are tucked away, neat and tidy.**

Pets might chew on electrical cords, and people might trip and fall.

## 3. **DON'T ever climb the fence around an electrical substation.**

If a ball or pet gets inside the fence, contact your local electric utility for assistance—they'll come and get it out for you.

## 4. **DON'T yank an electrical cord from the wall.**

Pulling on a cord can damage the appliance, plug or outlet.

## 5. **Fly your kite far away from power lines or substations.**

Fly kites and model airplanes in large open areas like a park or a field, safely away from trees and overhead power lines. If a kite gets stuck in a tree that's near power lines, don't climb up to get it. Contact your local electric cooperative for assistance. The kite and the string may conduct electricity—sending it right through you to the ground.

## 6. **Ask a grown-up for help** when you need to use something that uses electricity.

## 7. **DO look up and look out for power lines before you climb a tree.**

The electricity can go right through the tree branch—and right through you!

## 8. **Have a grown-up put safety caps on all unused electrical outlets.**

Covering outlets will also help save energy by stopping cold drafts.

## 9. **Remind your mom or dad to watch out for power lines** when they're using a ladder, chainsaw or other outdoor equipment.

## 10. **Keep electrical stuff far away from water.**

Water and electricity never mix. Use caution before plugging in a radio, CD player, or any electrical gadget outdoors, and keep all electrical appliances at least 10 feet away from hot tubs, pools, ponds, puddles and wet surfaces.

# EASY CHICKEN

Quick to prep and easy to make no-fail chicken recipes.



## Salsa Chicken

*Renee Possett, Middleville*

- 2 lbs. fresh or frozen chicken breasts
- 1 can black beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 16-oz. jar salsa
- 1 15-oz. can corn, drained
- ½ of 1.25-oz. pkg. taco seasoning

Place chicken in the bottom of a crockpot. Sprinkle taco seasoning onto chicken. Pour salsa, then beans, then corn over the chicken. Turn crockpot on high and leave for about 6 to 8 hours on low. Shred chicken and place on tortillas, taco shells or tortilla chips for nachos. Serve with shredded cheese, sour cream, shredded lettuce, taco sauce or more salsa.

## Chicken Spinach Pasta (pictured)

Renee Coyer, Cooks

- 8 oz. rotini or penne pasta
- 10-oz. pkg. spinach, rinsed and dried (fresh works fine too)
- 2 T. flour
- ¼ t. salt
- ¼ t. paprika (optional)
- 8 oz. boneless, skinless chicken breasts, cut into thin strips
- 2 T. olive oil
- ½ c. Italian salad dressing (Kraft Zesty is our choice!)
- ½ c. chicken broth
- ½ c. finely chopped onion
- 2 T. lemon juice
- 2 T. dry sherry (can be omitted)
- ¼ c. shredded Parmesan cheese
- 1 c. chef style mozzarella cheese (or six-cheese Italian)

Cook pasta until nearly done. Stir in spinach, cook additional 1 minute. Drain and set aside. Combine flour, salt and paprika in a plastic bag. Add chicken strips and shake to coat evenly. Heat oil in large skillet over medium heat. Add chicken. Cook chicken 4 minutes or until no longer pink. Add dressing, broth, onion, lemon juice, sherry and remaining flour mixture; cook and stir over medium heat for 5 minutes or until hot and bubbly. Add drained pasta and spinach to skillet. Toss and heat through. Remove from heat; stir in Parmesan cheese and ½ c. mozzarella. Transfer to plates and top with remaining cheese.

## Chicken Bundles

Nancy Skidmore, Sault Ste. Marie

- 2 pkgs crescent rolls
- Chicken, cooked and cut up in small pieces
- Onion, garlic, salt & pepper—to taste
- Stuffing (canister-style)
- 1 stick of butter
- 2 (15-oz.) cans cream of chicken (or mushroom) soup (we like mushroom best)
- 2 cups sour cream

Bundles: Mix chicken, onion & seasonings. Place onto (un-baked) crescent rolls. Wrap crescent rolls to “bundle” the mixture. Melt butter & spread onto bundles (you might not use all the butter). Sprinkle stuffing on top of bundles. Bake at 350 degrees for the amount of time required on crescent roll instructions (11–13 minutes).

Sauce: In a pot, mix the soup & sour cream. Serve on bundles.

Note: For the chicken, you can use a grocery store prepared rotisserie chicken (our favorite), chicken breasts, or canned chicken. Just make sure the chicken is shredded.



## Easy Skillet Chicken

Cindy Chapman, Sault Ste. Marie

- Rotisserie chicken cut into bite size pieces
- 1 small can sliced mushrooms, drained
- 1 (15-oz.) can of Italian style tomatoes, chopped
- 1 small onion, cut into strips
- 1 red pepper, cut into strips
- Pinch of salt, pepper, oregano, and garlic seasoning
- Grated Parmesan cheese
- 1 T. olive oil

Heat oil in a skillet. Sauté the onion, pepper, and mushrooms. Add tomatoes and seasonings. Add the chicken.

Serve over white or brown rice. Sprinkle Parmesan cheese over the top!

## SUBMIT YOUR RECIPE!

Thanks to all who send in recipes. Please send in your favorite “Gluten Free” recipes by **Dec. 1**, “Pasta” recipes by **Jan. 1** and “Side Dish” recipes by **Feb. 1**.

Enter your recipe online at [countrylines.com](http://countrylines.com) or send to (handprinted or typed on one side, please): *Country Lines Recipes*, 201 Townsend St., Suite 900, Lansing, MI 48933. 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)!

# Manistique Poultry Farmer Earns Energy Award

Congratulations to Jeff and Heidi LaBar, owners of the LaBar poultry farm in Manistique for earning the Governor's Energy Excellence Award as a result of energy efficiency improvements made with the help of Cloverland's Energy Optimization (EO) program.

The LaBars received the "Best Project" award in the agriculture category for their efforts in reducing energy waste at their free-range chicken farm. The plan included replacing standard lighting with LED bulbs; installing a highly-efficient heating system; replacing outdated appliances with ENERGY STAR models; installing a high-efficiency geothermal system for heating and cooling, and installing a solar photovoltaic array earlier in the year.

The energy-saving efforts resulted in more than \$3,000 in incentives earned through Cloverland Electric's EO program. Annual energy savings of more than 50,000 kilowatt hours (kWh) of electricity are expected for the farm.

"LaBar Poultry is a perfect example of how the EO program can help small businesses save energy," said Art Thayer, director of energy efficiency programs for the Michigan Electric Cooperative



(L-R) Curt Servant, contractor, master electrician, Jeff LaBar, Heidi LaBar, Robert Jackson, State of Michigan Energy Office director, and Art Thayer, MECA.

Association (MECA). "The program exists to help make energy-efficient technologies available and affordable. Just a small upfront investment can result in big savings for many years down the road."

The Energy Optimization program offers incentives to reward Michigan electricity consumers for purchasing ENERGY STAR® or energy-efficient appliances or equipment. For more information about the EO Program, call 877-296-4319 or visit [michigan-energy.org](http://michigan-energy.org). ■



## Last-minute energy savings

You've made your list, and checked it twice. But have you completed your energy efficiency improvements for 2015? Purchase a programmable thermostat, an efficient furnace, or spoil yourself or a loved one with a new ENERGY STAR® flat screen TV. Energy efficiency is the gift that keeps on giving for years to come!

**ENERGY TIP:** Submit your Energy Optimization rebate form by December 31 to qualify for 2015 incentives.

ONLINE: [michigan-energy.org](http://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](http://michigan-energy.org).



# MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## Dafter Township Hall | Dafter, Michigan

October 15, 2015

A special meeting of the board of directors of Cloverland Electric Cooperative was held at the Dafter Township Hall. The special meeting was to seek member input prior to board consideration of member regulation as authorized under Public Act 167 of 2008 (P.A. 167).

**CALL TO ORDER**—The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Robert Schallip. In attendance were the following members of the board; Chairperson Robert Schallip, Vice Chairperson Dale Carlson, Secretary-Treasurer Richard Newland, Gerald Nettleton, Charles Litzner, John Sawruk, Ronald Provo, Peter Legault, and Virgil Monroe, constituting a quorum. Also in attendance were President and Chief Executive Officer Dan Dasho and Board Attorney Charles J. Palmer, P.C.

**INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS**—Mr. Palmer advised that, at least 90 days prior to the day's special meeting, at a properly convened meeting of the board of directors, director Dale Carlson proposed that the cooperative become member regulated. The motion was seconded by director Richard Newland. No further action was taken pursuant to P.A. 167 requiring a minimum 90 days pass from the date the proposal was made. Mr. Palmer further advised that written notice of the time and place of the day's (October 15, 2015) meeting had been provided to the members, 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 cooperative and mailed to its members. He 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 cooperative's board of directors would allow members reasonable time to address the board prior to its acting upon the proposal.



Cloverland's board voted to return to member regulation. Sitting: Gerald Nettleton, Dale Carlson, Richard Newland, Ron Provo. Standing: Robert Schallip, John Sawruk, Charles Litzner, Virgil Monroe, Peter Legault.

**MEMBER REGULATION**—Chairperson Schallip then read the member regulation proposal. He indicated the cooperative received eight comments by email and one comment via the dedicated telephone comment line. These comments were provided to the board of directors prior to this meeting. He also noted that the cooperative conducted seven informational presentations with a total of 114 attendees.

Chairperson Schallip then asked for input from members in attendance. Members were given an opportunity to address the board of directors. Following no further comments or questions from the eight attendees and upon motion duly made and seconded, the board approved via roll call vote for the cooperative to become member regulated. Schallip, Yes; Carlson, Yes; Newland, Yes; Nettleton, Yes; Litzner, Yes; Sawruk, No; Provo, Yes; Legault, Yes; Monroe, Yes.

**ADJOURNMENT**—Per motion duly made, seconded, and unanimously approved, the special meeting was adjourned.

Richard Newland, Secretary



# The Memory Makers

By Yvonne Whitman



'Santa and Mrs. Claus' in front of the lighthouse fireplace. Their costumes were made by Gilly's sister, Patricia Knecht, who was the head seamstress for the movie 'Somewhere in Time'.

Visitors to the historic Point Iroquois Lighthouse often find themselves being welcomed, depending upon the time of year, by a lighthouse keeper donning a historic costume or, during a very special season, by a lighthouse-keeping Santa Claus! Volunteers Ron "Gilly" and Karen Gilmore have been happily greeting visitors while also maintaining and living at the Point Iroquois lighthouse since 2013, when they were chosen by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) as keepers of this national treasure.

The 65-foot tower and lighthouse have stood watch for more than 160 years over the entrance where Lake Superior rushes into the St. Mary's River and on to the Soo Locks—a passage that must be navigated by every ship traveling the St. Lawrence Seaway, the world's busiest inland waterway. While the lighthouse is a local, state and national treasure, the true pride and joy of the establishment are Gilly and Karen. For over 30 years, the USFS has provided a one-of-a-kind program for any U.S. lighthouse wherein individuals can volunteer for a year to act as caretakers. This involves not only living at the lighthouse, but maintaining the grounds and greeting visitors. Community volunteers for over 40 years and recently retired, the couple was, according to Karen, "Trying to figure out what to do next. Then we



Gilly takes a batch of cinnamon rolls out of the oven. Every Saturday he bakes about 15 dozen of these from scratch using “Grandma Emma’s” recipe. He gives the rolls to lighthouse visitors that day. Visit [countrylines.com](http://countrylines.com) to get a copy of this amazing recipe.



‘Gilly’ Gilmore in his lighthouse keeper ‘dress whites’ ready to greet visitors.

heard about the lighthouse caretaker program. With our background in community service it was a perfect fit.”

The Gilmores’ duties include cleaning the buildings, stocking the gift shop, flower gardening, lawn care, snow removal and general upkeep. From May to October, they also greet tourist buses three days of the week. Each time, Gilly dons either his lightkeeper dress blues or whites, boards the bus and offers visitors a brief history of the lighthouse. While all of this may sound like a considerable amount of work for a retired couple, the Gilmores don’t see it that way. “The joys of working here far outweigh the physical demands of caring for the lighthouse,” Gilly states. “We’d stay forever if they would let us,” Karen echoes. “We love it.”

In 2015, the Gilmores’ dedication and volunteerism was recognized when they received the prestigious “Volunteer of the Year for Leadership” award from the USFS, beating out nominees from 22 states. “What it really comes down to is their dedication,” explains their supervisor, District Ranger Robert West. “The physical aspect of what they do at the lighthouse is really just a reflection of how much they care. It is really rare to find such a good fit.”



Karen (left) and ‘Gilly’ Gilmore with granddaughter Anika Mousseau in front of the lighthouse. Anika, who lives in Fort Wayne, IN, spends two months of the summer at the lighthouse volunteering with her grandparents.

Every lighthouse caretaker brings something unique to the position, but the Gilmores may have brought the most magical touch to the environment. After acting as Santa and Mrs. Claus for community events and organizations for over 35 years, they were happy to bring the tradition to Point Iroquois. This holiday season, children can visit with the lighthouse Santa and Mrs. Claus from the weekend after Thanksgiving until the weekend before Christmas. The lighthouse gets decked out in holiday lights and decorations, and children will find Santa seated in front of the fireplace, ready to greet visitors from 12–2 p.m. on these weekends.

When asked which aspect of life at Point Iroquois is most meaningful to them, Gilly sums up their feelings easily. “We are memory makers for people. And that is the greatest joy we get from being here.” ■

**The museum and gift shop are open from May 15 through Oct. 15. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., daily.**

**Call the Lighthouse at 906-437-5272 for additional information.**

# CAMP GRAYLING

## Michigan Is Home To World-Class Training Center

By Kath Usitalo

**N**orthern Michigan is a destination for outdoor lovers—paddlers, campers, fishermen and cross-country skiers—and for military convoys carrying camo-clad soldiers to the largest National Guard training facility in the U.S.

Camp Grayling Joint Maneuver Training Center's 147,000 acres sprawl across Crawford, Kalkaska and Otsego counties, neighboring Hartwick Pines State Park, the AuSable River, and Lake Margrethe. Since 1913, when lumber baron Rasmus Hanson donated 13,000 acres for a state military training grounds, the base has grown into a year-round facility with a \$30 million impact on the community. It is utilized by the Army and Air Force National Guard, all branches of the military, FBI, local law enforcement agencies, Department of Homeland Security and foreign military units.

The 24,000 personnel who trained there this year tallied 358,000 man-days (one soldier on the ground for one day), a 62 percent increase over 2014. It's a goal of Maj. Gen. Gregory Vadnais, Michigan's adjutant general and director of Military and Veteran Affairs, to raise that throughput by marketing Camp Grayling and improving its assets to meet changing demands.

Vadnais, a Lansing native with a bachelor's degree in sociology/psychology from Central Michigan University, has seen the Guard's role evolve since he started his career with the military in 1970. "The National Guard's mission is to fight our nation's wars—we are

the operational reserve of the United States military—defend the homeland and build a global partnership, something we've been doing for 23 years," he says. Michigan's State Partnership Program partners with Latvia and Liberia, as well as Canada, Denmark, Hungary, Poland and Estonia, and all sent military personnel to Camp Grayling for training this year.

The Michigan National Guard operates a counterdrug team and responds to national disasters like Hurricane Katrina, where Vadnais was Joint Task Force-Cyclone commander. The Guard's peacekeeping role has grown, and since



Maj. Gen. Gregory Vadnais, Michigan's adjutant general and director of Military and Veteran Affairs.

9/11 it's been mobilized to combat terrorism and put boots on the ground in Iraq and Afghanistan.

These duties require specialized training and Vadnais cites Camp Grayling's competitive package, including a counter improvised explosive device training area, firing and tank ranges, a Simulation Center with state-of-the-art virtual trainers, and one of the newest Combined Arms Training facilities in the country. "We've got 26 buildings designed for units to come in and train in an urban setting to replicate the sights, sounds, smells and environment that our soldiers would face in actual combat."

Sheer size is a plus. "It's 50 miles from north to southwest," Vadnais explains. "We can put units at the doctrinal distances that they would actually be experiencing in actual combat. We have a large airspace, particularly with the Alpena Combat Readiness Training Center." Another advantage Camp Grayling has over facilities in southern climates: winter training conditions. The base can bed 8,000 soldiers in the summer and 4,000 in the winter.

Several times a year Camp Grayling, under Installation Commander Col. Tom Perison, opens its gates for public tours. The outreach is important, says Vadnais. "The Grayling community is a part of that installation. They live with it. They've been great partners.

"I love telling our story, because it's a great story to tell." ■



Photos courtesy of the Michigan National Guard

**STATE OF MICHIGAN**  
**BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**  
**NOTICE OF HEARING FOR THE CUSTOMERS OF**  
**CLOVERLAND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE CASE NO. U-17915**

- Cloverland Electric Cooperative requests Michigan Public Service Commission approval to implement a power supply cost recovery (PSCR) plan and a PSCR factor of \$0.00828 per kilowatt hour (kWh) and a contingent PSCR factor of \$0.01166 per kWh to compute its member-customers' bills for the 12-month period ending December 31, 2016.
- The information below describes how a person may participate in this case.
- You may contact Cloverland Electric Cooperative, 2916 West M-28, Dafer, Michigan 49724, (800) 562-4953 for a free copy of its application. Any person may review the application at the offices of Cloverland.
- The first public hearing in this matter will be held:

**DATE/TIME: December 2, 2015, at 9:00 a.m.**

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

**BEFORE: Administrative Law Judge Martin 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 Cloverland Electric Cooperative (Cloverland) September 30, 2015 application to implement a power supply cost recovery (PSCR) plan and PSCR factor in its electric service territory. Cloverland proposes a PSCR factor of \$0.00828 per kWh and a contingent PSCR factor of \$0.01166 per kWh for its member-customers' bills for the 12-month period ending December 31, 2015, assuming a \$0.06415 per kWh allowance for cost of power supply included in base rates.

All documents filed in this case shall be submitted electronically through the Commission's E-Dockets website at: [michigan.gov/mpscedockets](http://michigan.gov/mpscedockets). Requirements and instructions for filing can be found in the User Manual on the E-Dockets help page. Documents may also be submitted, in Word or PDF format, as an attachment to an email sent to: [mpscedockets@michigan.gov](mailto:mpscedockets@michigan.gov). If you require assistance prior to e-filing, contact Commission staff at (517) 284-8090 or by email at: [mpscedockets@michigan.gov](mailto:mpscedockets@michigan.gov). Any person wishing to intervene and become a party to the case shall electronically file a petition to intervene with this Commission by November 25, 2015. (Petitions to intervene may also be filed using the traditional paper format.) The proof of service shall indicate service upon Cloverland's attorney, Shaun M. Johnson, Dykema Gossett PLLC, Capitol View, 201 Townsend Street, Suite 900, Lansing, Michigan 48933.

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

Requests for adjournment must be made pursuant to the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure R 460.17315 and R 460.17335. Requests for further information on adjournment should be directed to (517) 284-8130.

A copy of Cloverland's request may be reviewed on the Commission's website at: [michigan.gov/mpscedockets](http://michigan.gov/mpscedockets), and at the office of Cloverland Electric 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.; 1982 PA 304, as amended, MCL 460.6j et seq.; 1969 PA 306, as amended, MCL 24.201 et seq.; and the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, as amended, 1999 AC, R 460.17101 et seq.

**Cloverland Electric Cooperative  
offices will be closed on the  
following holidays:**

- Nov. 26–27 – Thanksgiving
- Dec. 24–25 – Christmas
- Dec. 31–Jan. 1 – New Year's

*For electrical emergencies, please call 1-800-562-4953.*

# Talented Members Share 'Kids At Play' Photos



1. Identical twins, Henry and Thomas, getting their sea legs heading out to Munuscong Bay.  
*By Britt Ranson Olson, Barbeau.*
2. "On the hunt for snapping turtles." Picture taken on the St. Mary's River near Sault Ste. Marie (secret spot). *By DeVere Parker, Sault Ste. Marie.*
3. This snow stamp in St. Martin's Bay was done by Kate (9) and is homage to her grandfather's "Circle K Buffalo Ranch" in Rudyard, MI. *By Kelly Kabat, Hessel.*
4. Enjoying 4-mile beach. *By Patty Ordiway, Sault Ste. Marie.*
5. Our three grandsons, ages 5, 9 and 10, built this raft and bench one day while at our waterfront cabin; they engineered a bridge to get out to the raft and were very proud of their project!! Here they are watching the ducks and geese that like to come and rest on the raft. *By Debra St. Onge, Cedarville.*
6. Playing in the surf, Lake Michigan, August 2015, Barnes Park, East Port.  
*By Helen Nozf, Germfask.*

## There's A Story In Every Photo

Cloverland members whose photos we print in *Country Lines* will be entered in a drawing and one lucky member will win a credit (up to \$200) on their December 2015 energy bill. Upcoming topics and deadlines are "**Best of Selfies,**" due **Nov. 15** for the January/February issue; "**Winter Fun,**" due **Jan. 15** for the March/April issue. Details and instructions for photo submission—including contest rules, topic list, publication date, and submission deadlines—can be found online at <http://bit.ly/1JX5Afh>. We look forward to seeing your best shot!

# Santa Claus is Coming to Town!

By Jack O'Malley

Holidays are a great time for tradition. A favorite in our family was taking the kids to see Santa. With so many children all over the world waiting expectantly to meet Mr. Claus, he welcomes a little seasonal assistance! Enter A. Michael Deller, a graduate of the World Famous Santa Claus School in Midland, MI, and Santa's helper since 2002.

How does one decide to enroll in Santa School? Years ago, Deller wanted to prove to his son that his beard would grow completely white, not salt and pepper. And it did! But even with a beard as white as snow drifting around Santa's workshop, portraying Santa was not on Deller's radar until he visited Livonia City Hall. After a volunteer backed out of the holiday parade, a staffer at city hall recognized Deller (and his beard). Frantic, she asked him to ride in the parade and with a "Ho! Ho! Ho!" Deller was hooked!

Knowing peoples' expectations and how important his seasonal duties are, Deller strives to "be authentic, true to tradition." The golden rule? "Don't promise anything! Even if the parent is nodding yes. I tell children I will do my best but it will be a surprise."

What about answers to the BIG questions? "I have a magic key. Elves are always watching who's been naughty or nice. There is no such thing as a bad cookie. And yes, the reindeer like treats too!"

Genetics have given Deller "the Santa build," so a gig impersonating Saint Nick was probably inevitable. With a jolly chuckle, Deller explained that



the beard stays year-round because "it's too itchy to grow it back." So I had to ask, do kids spot this Santa when he's off duty? Of course! And this Santa is prepared. A mother approached him one day and said her children thought he was indeed Mr. Claus! "You will grow up to be good detectives!" Deller told the kids, and handed each a card with his picture on one side and "I met Santa Claus" on the other.

But his favorite story involved his own grandchildren, Kate and Ryan. When they arrived at a function the two ran up and said, "Hi Santa!"...then Kate hugged him and whispered..."Don't worry grandpa, I won't blow your cover!"



Jack O'Malley

Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night!

A. Michael Deller is retired and a member of Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op. ■



## «« Where in Michigan is This?

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

We do not accept Mystery Photo guesses by phone. Enter your guess at [countrylines.com](http://countrylines.com) or send by mail to: *Country Lines* Mystery Photo, 201 Townsend St., Suite 900, Lansing, MI 48933. Include the name on your account, address, phone number, and name of your co-op.



Our Mystery Photo Contest Winner from the September 2015 issue is Adrian Jentoft, an Ontonagon co-op member who correctly identified the photo as "Whitefish Point" in Paradise, MI, on Lake Superior.

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