

Thumb Electric Cooperative

July/August 2016

MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES

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Twice



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Special Member Regulation
Meeting On August 16

Annual Meeting Highlights

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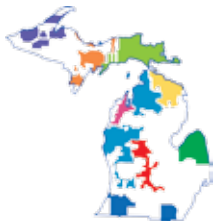
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Association officers are **Robert Kran**, Great Lakes Energy, chairman; **Mark Kappler**, HomeWorks Tri-County Electric, vice chairman; and **Eric Baker**, Wolverine Power Cooperative, secretary-treasurer. **Craig Borr** is president and CEO.

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IN YOUR WORDS

Last month, we asked electric co-op members a question:

If you could spend the day with any celebrity, who would it be?

Thank you for all the responses. Here are some of your answers...

"Shirley Jones. I fell in love with that woman when she played Marian the Librarian in *The Music Man*. That face, that voice."

"The NCIS crew, Definitely! I could hang out with Gibbs, and his crew in DC to see all the monuments; Pride, and his crew in New Orleans for some of that Cajun cookin' and Dixieland jazz; then Hettie and her crew in LA for some California dreaming."

Our new Question of the Month is:

Where can you get the best burger in Michigan?

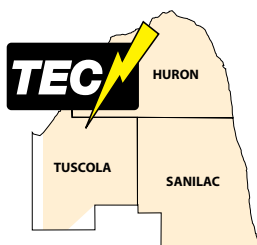
Please submit answers to countrylines.com by September 1.

ON THE COVER

Ann and Steve Loveless of Beulah, MI, stand in front of the winning panoramic landscape that they brought to life at the 2013 Michigan ArtPrize competition.

*Some co-op editions have a different cover.

Photo-Steve Loveless



Thumb Electric Cooperative

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District 2

Beth McDonald, Secretary
District 3

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District 2

Duane Kursinsky, Director
District 3

TUSCOLA COUNTY

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District 1

Jonathan Findlay, Director
District 2

Carl Cousins, Director
District 3

Dallas Braun, General Manager

PAYMENT STATIONS

Huron County

Bad Axe—Northstar Bank
Pigeon—Northstar Bank

Tuscola County

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

Sanilac County

Sandusky—Northstar Bank

Visit Thumb Electric's website
www.tecmi.coop

Thumb Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Member Regulation: A Matter Of Dollars And 'Sense'



Dallas Braun
General Manager

For about the first 30 years of its existence, Thumb Electric Cooperative was not regulated by the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC). In 1965, Michigan Electric Cooperatives agreed to allow the state to regulate their business in exchange for "territorial protection" from investor-owned utilities attempting to take customers from the Cooperatives.

In 2008, the Michigan Legislature unanimously passed, and the governor signed into law, the "Electric Cooperative Member-Regulation Act" or Public Act 167. This noncontroversial, common sense law allows not-for-profit, member-owned electric cooperative members acting through their democratically elected board of directors to establish their own rates, charges, accounting standards, billing practices and terms and conditions of service—while the MPSC retains jurisdiction over safety, interconnection, code of conduct, customer choice, service territory and distribution standards, among other matters.

The Act also declares that member regulation may be more efficient and cost-effective. The MPSC even reduces utility assessments of member-regulated electric cooperatives by 50 percent (for 2015; Thumb Electric's utility assessment was more than \$38,000). It is estimated that being member-regulated would save Thumb Electric up to \$50,000 per year in reduced utility assessments, legal fees, interest and other expenses. Ultimately, member-regulation lowers the electric rate burden to members.

The Thumb Electric Board of Directors will consider becoming member-regulated on August 16 (see the notice on page 5). The process to become member-regulated is outlined in the Act and summarized in the notice.

Since the Act passed, the other eight Michigan electric cooperatives have chosen to become member-regulated due to the benefits it brings to their membership. Electric cooperatives in most states are already member-regulated with only 12 states choosing to rate-regulate electric cooperatives. Member-regulated electric cooperatives are similar to more than 40 Michigan municipalities that are not rate-regulated by the MPSC for electric service (or water or sewer); cities and villages establish their own utility rates and charges via democratically elected leaders.

If it becomes member-regulated, Thumb Electric expects to employ the same common sense business solutions and rate setting methods it does today, but without the expense and delay of obtaining approval by the MPSC in Lansing. ■

**NOTICE TO MEMBERS OF
THUMB ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
CASE NO. U-15821
2014 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. In 2014, Thumb acquired 7,551 renewable energy credits and 1,264 incentive credits from its wholesale energy provider, CMS Energy.

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

NOTICE TO MEMBERS OF THUMB ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

The Thumb Electric Cooperative board will take action on the proposal to become member-regulated in accordance with P.A. 167 of 2008, at its meeting on August 16, 2016, to be held at Ubly Heights Country Club, 2409 E. Atwater Rd., Ubly, MI 48475. The meeting will start at 6:30 p.m. Members will have an opportunity to address the board on the proposal prior to board action. The following is the proposal to be considered:

Proposal to Become a Member-Regulated Cooperative in Accordance with Public Act 167 of 2008

On June 26, 2008, Public Act 167 of 2008 (P.A. 167) became law.

P.A. 167 states that an electric cooperative, owned by the members it serves, is regulated by its members acting through its democratically elected board of directors.

P.A. 167 further states that member regulation by a cooperative in the areas of rates, charges, accounting standards, billing practices, and terms and conditions of service may be more efficient and cost-effective than regulation by the Michigan Public Service Commission.

P.A. 167 allows the board of directors of an electric cooperative to adopt member-regulation for rates, charges, accounting standards, billing practices, and terms and conditions of service by following the process set forth in the act.

That process requires the following:

- (a) A proposal by a director of the cooperative to become member-regulated, when such proposal is made at a properly convened board meeting.
- (b) Action on the proposal taken no earlier than 90 days from the date the proposal was made.
- (c) Action on the proposal taken at a meeting of the board for which written notice is given and the meeting is open to all members of the cooperative.
- (d) At the meeting, members of the cooperative shall have reasonable time to address the board prior to its acting upon the proposal.
- (e) Following member comments, a roll call vote of the board of directors shall be taken.
- (f) For the proposal to be adopted, 2/3 of the members of the board must vote in favor of becoming member-regulated.

This proposal seeks that Thumb Electric become member-regulated in accordance with P.A. 167. Notice of the August 16, 2016, board meeting shall be sent to all members, as required by P.A. 167, by publication in *Michigan Country Lines*.

PARTICIPATION: Any interested member may attend and participate. The location of the board meeting site is accessible, including handicapped parking. Persons needing any accommodation to participate should contact Thumb Electric at 800-327-0166, ext. 215, a week in advance to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance.

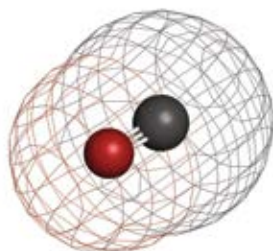


Prevent Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

You can't see, taste or smell carbon monoxide, but it can be deadly. Carbon monoxide, or CO, is a gas that is found whenever fuel is burned. Known as the "silent killer," CO causes an average of 430 deaths per year and more than 20,000 hospital emergency room visits according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Where does carbon monoxide come from?

CO is in fumes produced by items that burn fuel, including kerosene, propane, and gas space heaters, improperly working furnaces, gas water heaters and dryers, wood stoves and fireplaces. Car, truck and boat exhaust fumes contain CO as do fumes from fuel-powered generators and power washers.



How can carbon monoxide poisoning affect your health?

CO is dangerous because it blocks your body from absorbing the oxygen it needs. CO poisoning can occur suddenly or happen over a long period of time. Symptoms depend on the amount of CO a person is exposed to, the length of time exposed, and the general health and age of the person. Mild symptoms

may seem like the flu and include: mild headache and weakness, dizziness, sleepiness, shortness of breath, tightness in the chest, nausea and/or vomiting. High levels of CO or lower levels of CO exposure that last a long time can cause confusion, loss of muscle control, blurred vision, extreme headache, weakness, fainting, convulsions and even death.

Who is most at risk of harm to their health?

Anyone can be at risk for carbon monoxide poisoning. However, those most at risk are:

- infants,
- the elderly, and
- people with heart disease, lung disease, or anemia.

What should you do if you have symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning?

- Go outside and get fresh air immediately!
- Call 911 and tell them you think you have carbon monoxide poisoning, or go to the emergency room if you are able to get there without help.

A simple blood test done at the hospital can usually detect carbon monoxide poisoning. Medical treatment is available. ■

What can you do to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning?

- **DO** purchase and install carbon monoxide detectors that meet Underwriters Laboratories (UL) standard 2034-95. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for proper placement, use and maintenance. If the detectors plug into the wall, be sure they have a battery backup.
- **DO** leave the house if the alarm sounds on your CO detector. Go to a hospital emergency room or call 911 if anyone is feeling sick. If no one is sick, call the emergency number for your heating service or 911. Stay out of the home until your heating service or fire department says it's okay to go in.
- **DO** have a heating professional inspect, clean, and adjust your fireplace, wood stove, gas appliances including furnaces and water heaters, and chimneys/vents every fall—before the start of home heating season.
- **DO** purchase gas appliances that vent their fumes to the outside. Have them installed by a heating professional.
- **DO** read and follow all of the instructions for any fuel-burning devices.
- **DO** make sure that your car, truck, or boat has a working, airtight exhaust system. Repair exhaust leaks immediately.
- **DO** pay attention to symptoms (headache, dizziness, tiredness and/or a sick feeling in your stomach), especially if more than one person is feeling sick or if people and pets are feeling sick.



- **DON'T** operate fuel-powered machines such as generators, power washers, or mowers in buildings or semi-enclosed spaces.
- **DON'T** cook or heat with a grill indoors, even if you put it inside a fireplace.
- **DON'T** run vehicles in the garage, even if the door is open. Carbon monoxide can build up quickly and enter your vehicle and home.



- **DON'T** sit in a parked vehicle with the engine running for a long period of time, especially if your car is in snow.
- **DON'T** use gas stoves or ovens to heat your home.
- **DON'T** use an un-vented gas or kerosene space heater indoors.
- **DON'T** close the damper to the fireplace unless the fire is completely out and the coals are cold.
- **DON'T** ride in covered pickup truck beds or campers. Air moving around the vehicle can draw exhaust in.
- **DON'T** swim or play near the back of a boat where the motor gives off exhaust.
- **DON'T** ignore symptoms! You could die within minutes if you do nothing.

For more information, contact the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services by calling **1-800-648-6942** or visit **michigan.gov/carbonmonoxide**.

THUMB ELECTRIC

Energy Optimization Rebate Program

Energy Star Rebate	For Energy Star appliances, LED bulbs and fixtures, Energy Star TVs, and much more.
In-Home Energy Audit	Get knowledge on the energy usage of your home and some free energy saving items as well!
HVAC Rebates	Installing a new furnace or AC system? Certain energy efficient upgrades qualify for incentive dollars.
Appliance Recycling	Got an old refrigerator or freezer eating up your energy budget? Have it recycled and get cash back. *Window AC & dehumidifiers qualify under certain conditions.

Agribusiness and commercial programs also available.

Call 989-658-8571 or 1-800-327-0166, or visit our website tecmi.coop today to learn specific details.

Recycle That Old Refrigerator Or Freezer And Get Cash Back! \$\$\$\$\$

Receive \$50 for an old refrigerator or freezer and \$20 for an old window AC* unit or dehumidifier.*



Call 844-631-2130 to schedule your pick up today!

**Small appliances will only be picked up in conjunction with a larger unit.*



Co-op News

Tree Trimming Update

Tree trimming will continue at an aggressive rate in 2016, as we are seeing fewer outages and shorter duration of outages that do occur. Priorities will continue for line sections that are historically problematic lines, followed by overgrown line sections, and finally, less severe circuits will be maintained.

Due to a disease in the Ash tree, which is a very popular species of tree in our service territory, we have had to adjust our trimming locations from time-to-time. It has made planning a challenge at times, but we make every effort to contact members ahead of the trimmers. We will send out a postcard to members to let them know trimmers will be in the area, and at times, we will try and call members to let them know what is going on. If you have an updated phone number, please call us with the new contact information.

Energy Optimization Program Offers Programs And Rebates

Our in-house Energy Optimization team provides members with valuable rebates and programs. Energy saving rebates are available for such things as lighting, Energy Star appliances, efficient upgrades to heating and cooling systems, Geothermal heating system installs, farm and home lighting projects, appliance recycling and more. Please continue to check Country Lines, bill inserts, our website and other avenues for more detailed information as updates occur. For more information, please call 800-327-0166 or 989-658-8571 and ask for information on Energy Optimization.



Thumb Electric Cooperative Teams With SEEL For Appliance Recycling

For our 2016 appliance recycling, TEC teams up with SEEL, a long time leader in the Energy Optimization industry. SEEL also contracts an appliance recycling program for DTE energy which made for a good fit in the Thumb area. To recycle your unwanted refrigerator, freezer, dehumidifier, or window AC unit, please call 844-631-2130.

Special Meeting Notice

Thumb Electric Cooperative will hold a special meeting at Ubly Heights Country Club, 2409 E. Atwater Rd., Ubly, MI on Aug. 16 at 6:30 p.m. See official notice on page 5. ■

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Thumb Electric Cooperative

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BBQ FAVORITES

These Great Recipes Make Summer Sizzle!



Shredded BBQ Beef

Esther Maginity, Thompsonville

- 1 lean boneless beef chuck roast (about 5 lb.)
- 3 T. cooking oil, divided
- 2 large onions, chopped
- 1 c. ketchup
- 1-2 small cans beef broth*
- $\frac{2}{3}$ c. chili sauce
- $\frac{1}{4}$ c. cider vinegar
- $\frac{1}{4}$ c. packed brown sugar
- 3 T. Worcestershire sauce
- 2 T. prepared mustard
- 2 T. molasses
- 2 T. lemon juice
- 1 t. salt
- $\frac{1}{8}$ t. pepper
- $\frac{1}{4}$ t. cayenne pepper
- 1 T. liquid smoke, optional
- 12-16 hamburger buns

In a Dutch oven, brown roast on all sides in 1 T. oil. Meanwhile, in a large saucepan, sauté onions in remaining oil until tender. Add remaining ingredients to the saucepan. Reduce heat and simmer, uncovered for 15 minutes, stirring occasionally. Pour sauce over roast. Cover and bake at 325° for 2 hours, turn roast and continue to bake 2 more hours until roast is very tender. Remove roast from oven, shred with fork and return to Dutch oven with sauce. **If too stiff, add more beef broth to the right consistency. If there is extra, just freeze in containers.*

Photos—831 Creative

Chicken BBQ

Cora Kuiper, Grand Rapids

- 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ c. cooked chicken, shredded
- 2 T. butter
- $\frac{1}{2}$ c. chopped onion
- $\frac{1}{2}$ c. chopped celery
- $\frac{1}{2}$ c. chopped green pepper
- 1 c. ketchup
- 1 c. chicken broth
- 3 T. vinegar
- 2 T. Worcestershire sauce
- 1 t. prepared mustard
- 2 T. brown sugar
- $\frac{1}{2}$ t. salt
- $\frac{1}{2}$ t. pepper

Cook onion, celery and green pepper in butter until tender. Add chicken and remaining ingredients. Simmer 20 minutes. Serve on buns.

BBQ Chicken Pizza

Mindy Aves, Charlotte

- 1 refrigerated pizza dough or your favorite dough mix
- ¼ c. Sweet Baby Ray's BBQ sauce
- ½ c. shredded, cooked chicken (leftovers work great)
- ¼ c. thinly sliced red onion
- ½ c. fresh sliced baby portobello mushrooms
- 1 c. mozzarella cheese
- 1 c. sharp cheddar cheese

Prepare crust according to package directions. Spread crust on a 12-inch pan and brush with olive oil. Add BBQ sauce, chicken, red onions and mushrooms, followed by cheese. Bake at 375° for about 14-18 minutes or until crust is golden brown and cheese is melted.



Gather Round The Co-op Kitchen Table

A **NEW** and **EXCLUSIVE** online cooking community for our electric co-op members.

Members can submit recipes online for a chance to win a \$50 electric bill credit; plus there's more! We will print the winning recipe in *Country Lines* with a photo of the dish and create an instructional "how to" video for micoopkitchen.com.

Ready to pull up a seat?

GREAT! Go to **MICOOPKITCHEN.COM** and register.

Please submit your favorite "World Cuisine" recipes by August 1 and "Casserole" recipes by Sept. 1.

Enter your recipe online at micoopkitchen.com or send to (handprint or type 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.

micoopkitchen.com





Thumb Electric Cooperative Holds 79th Annual Meeting

Louis Wenzlaff, President of the Board of Directors, opened the 79th Annual Meeting of TEC members held on June 11, at the Cass City Recreational Park. An estimated 500 people attended the meeting, which was highlighted by the election of three Directors and numerous entertainment activities as a part of TEC's Member Appreciation Day/Annual Meeting.

After a moment of silence in recognition of the recent passing of long-time Attorney Jim Woodworth and retired TEC Director Walter Cook, President Wenzlaff introduced TEC's new Attorney Jason Bitzer and members of the current TEC Board of Directors including Donald Wolschleger, Beth McDonald and Randall Dhyse, Huron County; Kim Nunn, Mike Briolat and Duane Kursinsky, Sanilac County; and Jonathan Findlay and Carl Cousins, Tuscola County. Also introduced was General Manager Dallas Braun.

TEC's Board President, Louis Wenzlaff, highlighted the following areas:

- Since patronage capital retirements began, TEC has refunded approximately \$8 million back to its members.
- In 2015 TEC employees and contractors designed and constructed over \$4.4 million of a new utility plant bringing TEC's total investment to over \$87 million serving 12,204 member-accounts in the three County areas of Huron, Sanilac, and Tuscola.
- The Cooperative continues to make capital investments in the electrical system. Over \$4 million of upgrades are planned and under construction for 2016. TEC employees and outside line construction contractors will be performing the work.
- The Cooperative paid \$754,690 in property taxes to schools and other governmental bodies in Huron, Sanilac, and Tuscola Counties in 2015.
- The Cooperative continues to work with its statewide and national organizations to ensure that issues that may affect the availability, reliability and affordability of electricity to its membership are heard by our elected officials in Lansing and Washington, D.C.
- The Cooperative continues to support/promote "ACRE," the Political Action Committee (PAC) for all Electric Cooperatives by offering TEC members the ability to participate directly.
- Recognized TEC's employees for continuing to work safely and thanked the employees for their continued dedication and hard work during the past year.

TEC's General Manager Dallas Braun highlighted the Cooperative's financial status, rates, member services, marketing activities, patronage capital retirement, and power supply activities. The report included the following:

- General Manager Dallas Braun presented the 2015 financial statement that showed operating revenues of \$19,550,303 and expenses of \$19,228,953 resulting in an operating margin of \$321,350. The Cooperative also earned \$281,804 in interest on short-term investments, rental income, subsidiary income, and patronage capital from other Cooperative organizations. Total margins for 2015 were \$603,154. Member's patronage capital accounts were allocated 2.9 cents on each dollar paid by TEC members in 2015. Approximately 23% of this 2015 patronage along with another \$147,000 for the year of 1985 was retired and appeared as a credit on a separate line-item on members May 2016 electric bills.
- The 2015 Operating Margin was negatively impacted by several weather related expenses including two tornadoes that touched down in TEC's service area. To continue to meet its financial obligation, members will see a rate increase later in the year when approved by the MPSC. For the average residential account, members will see an increase of approximately \$6 on their monthly bill.
- Beginning in 2016, the Cooperative's Energy Optimization Programs are being handled in-house by TEC employees as a cost savings measure and an opportunity to continue to strengthen the relationship between the cooperative and its members.
- The Cooperative's website now has an active outage map that members can use to stay informed on the status of any outages on the system.
- A special Board Meeting open to all TEC members will be held in August at which the Directors will vote on whether to become Member-regulated or stay regulated by the MPSC.
- In 2015, the Cooperative met the State requirement of obtaining 10% of its electricity needs from renewable generation within the state of Michigan through its wholesale power contract with CMS Energy, which expires May 31, 2020.
- Through its subsidiary, Thumb Energy Services, the Cooperative continues to offer competitive propane service to approximately 1,100 members and non-members alike. The most popular program is the metered program where the user does not pay for the propane until after they use it.
- TEC continues its system maintenance program, including aggressive right-of-way trimming, clearing and spraying, and other system improvement programs.

- U.S. Senator Gary Peters, State Senator Mike Green, State Senator Phil Pavlov, State Representative Paul Muxlow, and State Representative Ed Canfield were recognized for their support of Thumb Electric Cooperative and the rural electric program.
- In closing his report, General Manager Dallas Braun urged members to continue their strong interest in Thumb Electric Cooperative, to stay engaged and thanked them for their support.

After the business meeting, lunch was served, which was followed by entertainment for all family members with bucket truck rides, pony rides, candy drop, face painting and other family activities.

In action taken after the annual meeting, the Board of Directors elected (reelected) Louis Wenzlaff, President; Donald Wolschleger, Vice-President; Beth McDonald, Secretary; and Randall Dhyse, Treasurer. ■

Elected (Reelected) to three-year terms of District 1 were Randall Dhyse, Huron County; Kim Nunn, Sanilac County; and Louis Wenzlaff Tuscola County. Others nominated for a Director position were Joseph Mausolf, Huron County; Michael Bender, Sanilac County; and Edward Gerstenberger and Paul VanHorn, Tuscola County.





art

WINS HEARTS OF THE PUBLIC

Twice

Artists are often seen as “rule breakers”—bumping up against the norm and defining new and different ways of both viewing and doing things. Few artists have been called “rule makers,” but that’s exactly what husband and wife duo, Steve and Ann Loveless, have become.

In 2013, Ann won the prestigious Public Vote Grand Prize at ArtPrize with her unique landscape quilt art piece “Sleeping Bear Dune Lakeshore.” Her unique collage and quilting technique dazzled visitors from around the globe with its 20-by-five-foot tall stature. The piece, inspired by her husband’s landscape photograph, put both Ann and northern Michigan on the map.

In 2015, Ann and Steve set out to create a piece together—melding Steve’s panoramic photography and Ann’s collage quilting techniques. The result? *Northwoods Awakening*—a huge quilt and photographic print hybrid that depicts a woodland panorama.



“Northwoods Awakening” earned the 2015 Public Vote Grand Prize at ArtPrize.



Ann's 2013, "Sleeping Bear Dune Lakeshore" quilt won the prestigious Public Vote Grand Prize at ArtPrize.

"Our creation begins as a traditional photographic print on the left," says Ann, "Then blends various fabrics and textiles to metamorphose into an entirely quilted textile on the right."

The two spent more than 1,100 hours on the piece, which assembles at an impressive 25 feet wide by 5 feet tall.

The ArtPrize crowds fell in love once more and awarded the couple the Public Vote Grand Prize—again.

Ann and Steve, whose art gallery is in downtown Beulah and who live near Crystal Lake in Benzie County—are never short on inspiration. Surrounded by water, woods and natural treasures like Sleeping Bear Dunes—there is always a new scene to capture.

"We've learned never to take our surroundings for granted," said Steve. "It's one thing to look at a scene, but another to actually see it."

While inspiration is plentiful, the artwork itself is quite technical. Steve's multi-row panoramic

photography process can include capturing as many as 50-60 close-ups panning rows and columns.

They eventually combine to make one panoramic photograph. It's not dissimilar to the collage stitching that Ann does on the quilting end.

"The hardest part of working together isn't the long hours," said Ann. "It's trying to combine the idea that's in Steve's head with the idea that is in my head. Communicating your vision is the challenge."

The two certainly have overcome the communication challenge. So well, in fact, that ArtPrize has amended their rules—which no longer allows an artist to win the Grand Prize more than once, making Ann the only artist in ArtPrize history who will ever have won twice.

Just when you thought breaking the rules was pretty cool, it turns out that being responsible for the making of rules is the real artist's way. ■



Photos-courtesy of Steve Loveless

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
BEFORE THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
NOTICE OF HEARING
FOR THE CUSTOMERS OF THUMB ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
CASE NO. U-18097**

On May 3, 2016, the Michigan Public Service Commission (Commission) issued an Order requiring Thumb Electric Cooperative (Thumb) to file avoided cost methodologies and avoided costs for Qualifying Facilities (QFs) of 20 megawatts and under in size. Thumb was also directed to file proposed standard rate tariffs, including applicable design capacity. The Commission's Order was issued pursuant to the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978, Pub L No. 95-617, 92 Stat 3117, 16 USC 2601 et seq. (PURPA).

The information below describes how a person may participate in this case.

You may call or write Thumb Electric Cooperative, 2231 Main Street, P.O. Box 157, Ubly, Michigan 48475-0157, (800) 327-0166 for a free copy of its application. Any person may review the application at the offices of Thumb Electric Cooperative.

The first public hearing in this matter will be held:

DATE/TIME: **Thursday, July 21, 2016, 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 **Mark E. Cummins**

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 Commission will hold a public hearing to consider Thumb's application proposing avoided cost calculation methods and avoided costs for QFs that meet the requirements set forth in 18 CFR 292.101(b)(6) and 18 CFR 292.304(a).

All documents filed in this case shall be submitted electronically through the Commission's E-Dockets website at: 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. If you require assistance prior to e-filing, contact Commission staff at (517) 284-8090 or by email at: 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 July 14, 2016. (Interested persons may elect to file using the traditional paper format.) The proof of service shall indicate service upon Thumb Electric's attorney, Richard J. Aaron, 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 Thumb Electric's request may be reviewed on the Commission's website at: michigan.gov/mpscedockets, and at the offices of Thumb 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.

The Commission has jurisdiction pursuant to 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, 1999 AC, R 492.10401 et seq.; and 2015 AC, R 792.10401 et seq.

May 13, 2016

Amazing Michigan!

Photo Gallery

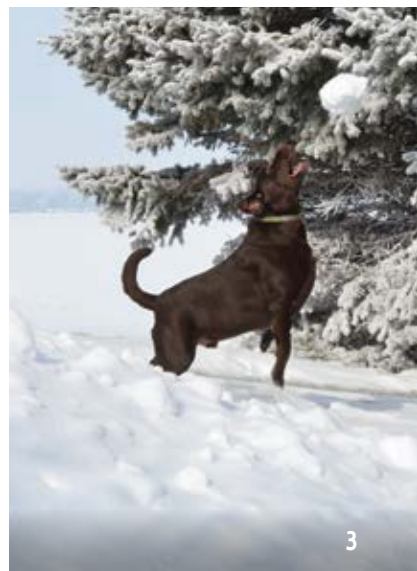


Photo Fun

Thumb Electric invites members to share their amazing photos. Selected photos will be published in *Michigan Country Lines*.

Upcoming topics and deadlines are: **Sports/Outdoor Fun** due **July 25** for the September/October issue and **Country Roads** due **Sept. 25** for the November/December issue. Details and instructions for photo submission—including rules, topic list, publication date, and submission deadlines—can be found at <http://bit.ly/countrylines>. We look forward to seeing your best photos!

Go to <http://bit.ly/countrylines> to submit photos!

1. Taquamenon Falls. By Shelly Evilsizor
2. Took this on the 4th of July, right place right time!
By Pat Lippe
3. Playing catch with snowballs on a frosty morning.
By Megan Ruthko
4. One of our favorite places to visit is Isle Royale National Park on Lake Superior. We will return this summer for our fourth visit. One morning, as we were refueling our friend's boat, this moose swam by the dock. She was totally uninterested in us as she was on a mission foraging for food. By Terry Euper

The Glamping Trend

By Jack O'Malley

glamping \glamp-in\ verb glamorous camping

If your idea of roughing it means finding the ice machine on another floor of your hotel, glamping might be for you!

Glamping or "glamorous camping" combines the intimacy of camping with the perks of a luxury hotel. Amenities can include everything from bath and laundry facilities to clubhouses and recreation halls. Accommodations will vary, but typically includes Airstreams and other trailers, barns, farmhouses, cabins, huts and teepees. You can even go glamping in a tree house!

Perfect for the vacationer who wants to enjoy nature without getting dirty, Michigan's first glamping eco-resort opened recently, with limited facilities, in Antrim County. Bella Solviva (Swedish for beautiful hope) covers more than 200 acres on the western edge of the Jordan River Valley, and will offer glamping grounds with restrooms, a fitness center, free firewood, and ice, as well as catered meals.

The owner, Brad Carlson, believes glamping will be a fun trend in the very traditional world of vacationing in Michigan. "Glamping will appeal to those who want to rejuvenate in nature but prefer doing so comfortably," said Carlson.

In the plans are several different-themed getaways. For the most adventurous traveler, Neverland Escapade offers hobbit huts and tree dwellings to stow-away yachts and authentic teepees. Vacationers who prefer a more nostalgic experience will enjoy Bella Solviva's Route 66, featuring vintage RVs and tent sites for the do-it-yourself glamper. Bella Solviva will even offer a replica of the M*A*S*H unit complete with swamp tents, a supply hut and mess tent for larger gatherings.



The eco-chic resort embraces environmental stewardship by finding the perfect balance between recreation and sustainability. Bella Solviva uses nontoxic cleaning agents, organic sheets and towels, bulk amenities and non-disposable dishes, on-site transportation with green vehicles and meals prepared with locally-grown food. Future plans include reliance on solar, wind and hydro power.



Jack O'Malley

They say seeing is believing and "Five billion stars beat a five-star hotel any day," Carlson says. ■

Visit bellasolviva.com for more information on availability.

I Remember...

We invite members to share their fondest memories.

Country Lines will pay \$50 for stories we publish.

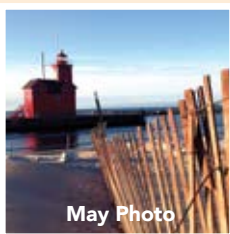
Guidelines

1. Approximately 200 words
2. Digital photos must be at least 600 KB
3. Only one entry per household, per month
4. Country Lines retains reprint rights
5. Please include your name, address, email, phone number and the name of your electric co-op
6. Submit your memories online: countrylines.com



«« Where In Michigan Is This?

Every co-op member who identifies the correct location of the photo at left by **August 18** will be entered into a drawing to win a \$50 bill credit 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, 201 Townsend St., Suite 900, Lansing, MI 48933. Include the name on your account, address, phone number, and name of your co-op.



May Photo

Our Mystery Photo Contest winner from the May 2016 issue is Arthur Kuznicki, a Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op member who correctly identified the photo as the Holland Harbor Light, more commonly known as Big Red, located at the channel connecting Lake Michigan and Lake Macatawa at Holland State Park.



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**Thumb Electric
Cooperative**
www.tecmi.coop

Annual Meeting Highlights



Early Bird Prize Drawing Winners

1. **TEC WATER HEATER** – Bernie Janowiak - Ubly
2. **FOOD GIFT CERTIFICATE** – Lawrence Bukoski - Bad Axe
3. **GAS GIFT CERTIFICATE** – Beatrice Kubacki - Ruth
4. **ENERGY EFFICIENCY GIFT CERTIFICATE** – Richard Hercliff - Mayville
5. **FOOD GIFT CERTIFICATE** – Evan Thomas - Zephyrhills, FL
6. **GAS GIFT CERTIFICATE** – Robert Uzarski - Ubly
7. **ENERGY EFFICIENCY GIFT CERTIFICATE** – Herbert Roggenbuck - Bad Axe
8. **FOOD GIFT CERTIFICATE** – Chris Davis - Ubly
9. **GAS GIFT CERTIFICATE** – Jerome Mazure - Minden City
10. **ENERGY EFFICIENCY GIFT CERTIFICATE** – Joann Yott - Port Hope
11. **FOOD GIFT CERTIFICATE** – Frederick Kent - Caro
12. **RECHARGEABLE LED WORKLIGHT** – Clara Schultheis - Caro
13. **BLOCK HEATER TIMER** – Melvin Hoppe - Cass City
14. **HEAVY DUTY TIMER** – Carl Schultheis - Caro

Final Prize Drawing Winners

1. **GAS GIFT CERTIFICATE** – Laura Kausch - Deford
2. **ENERGY EFFICIENCY GIFT CERTIFICATE** – Jan Zieba - Deford
3. **FOOD GIFT CERTIFICATE** – Roderick Walsh - Ubly
4. **GAS GIFT CERTIFICATE** – Al Fulgenti - Kinde
5. **ENERGY EFFICIENCY GIFT CERTIFICATE** – Earl Braun - Port Hope
6. **FOOD GIFT CERTIFICATE** – Greg McKnight - Bad Axe
7. **GAS GIFT CERTIFICATE** – Karl Witkovsky - Cass City
8. **ENERGY EFFICIENCY GIFT CERTIFICATE** – Michael Nimtz - Unionville
9. **FOOD GIFT CERTIFICATE** – Steven Briolat - Ubly
10. **GAS GIFT CERTIFICATE** – Marie Zulka - Hamtramck
11. **ENERGY EFFICIENCY GIFT CERTIFICATE** – Timothy Particka - Ubly
12. **CLAMP-ON LED WORKLIGHT** – Alan St Louis - Caro
13. **BLOCK HEATER TIMER** – Evans Gibbard - Ubly
14. **HEAVY DUTY TIMER** – Margaret Gombos - Brown City
15. **BLOCK HEATER TIMER** – Kirk Dale - Marlette

Children's Prize Drawing Winners

- BIKE (BOYS)** – Austin Spencer - Caro
BIKE (GIRLS) – Gracey Larson - Applegate.
TABLET – Case Gerber - Cass City
TABLET – Everly Little - Cass City
DIGITAL CAMERA – Morgan Dicks - Caro
DIGITAL CAMERA – Jacie Tyrrell - Ubly

Prize Donated By Bartnik Propane

GAS GRILL – Brad Firmingham - Silverwood

Prize Donated By Kappen Tree Service

LARGE LOAD OF MULCH (DELIVERED) – Terry Hoff - Sandusky

