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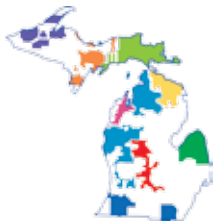
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POSTMASTER: SEND ALL UAA TO CFS.

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

The appearance of advertising does not constitute an endorsement of the products or services advertised.

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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 or email to cdorr@meca.coop



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Help Support Your Co-op



Bill Scott
Great Lakes Energy
President/CEO

We all take pride in keeping our properties looking nice. Like your home, your electric cooperative is something you own that needs your continued involvement.

I'm not suggesting you don lineworker gear, climb a pole and start changing out a broken insulator. That's our job, and you can be proud of the work we do to keep your lights on. But there are other ways you can show your support so we can continue to serve you.

Run for the board. Great Lakes Energy is governed by directors elected to the board by GLE members in their district. They work to see that we remain committed to providing reliable electric service at the lowest possible price.

Vote. Every three years, you receive a mail-in ballot to vote for a director in your district. Your vote shows you care about being part of a locally governed business that's not controlled by outside investors and stockholders. Special thanks to all the members from districts 3, 4 and 5 who voted in this year's election.

Join ACRE. The Action Committee for Rural Electrification (ACRE) is the political action committee of the nation's electric cooperatives. Co-ops formed ACRE, their political action group, in the early 1970s. Electric co-ops, like many other industries, rely on support from political leaders to ensure programs that benefit our industry and our members remain intact.

Contributing to ACRE is completely voluntary. It's supported by co-op employees, board members and even cooperative members. In fact, 100 percent of GLE's board of directors contributed to ACRE this year. Rest assured, no money from your bill is contributed to ACRE.

So, what does a political action committee have to do with an electric co-op? Electric co-ops were born in politics when President Franklin Roosevelt formed the Rural Electrification Administration (REA) in the mid-1930s. The REA still exists today as the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) and is vital to the continuation of low-interest financing for rural utilities. ACRE contributions to legislators have helped keep RUS in existence and strengthen legislative support for many other programs important to electric co-ops and their members.

ACRE works to support candidates for the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives who understand and support electric cooperatives and their consumer-owners. Plus, nearly 50 percent of all ACRE contributions come back to the state level and are used for support of local candidates and legislators.

The ACRE Co-op Owners for Political Action® program is an exciting opportunity for you to raise your voice and participate in the political process. Learn more about ACRE by visiting us online at gtlakes.com/co-op-owners-for-political-action/ or call us at 888-485-2537, ext. 8957. ■

Celebrating Co-op Month With Free Gifts!

October is National Co-op Month. Stop into one of our offices in October to receive a free LED night light and a wall calendar with energy saving tips. Plus, sign up to win one of three great prizes:

1st Prize: 32" LED Energy Star-rated TV

2nd Prize: \$100 worth of LED lights

3rd Prize: \$50 worth of LED lights

LED lights are compliments of Petoskey Home Depot. One giveaway and one entry per account. Giveaways available while supplies last.



Monshor Appointed To State Committee

Larry Monshor was appointed this year by Gov. Rick Snyder to the state Underwater Salvage and Preserve Committee. Monshor, who is also a Great Lakes Energy director, will represent the general public with experience in recreational scuba diving. The nine-member committee provides technical and other advice with respect to maintaining Michigan's 13 underwater preserves.

QUICK FACTS ABOUT



- ACRE is bi-partisan.
- Funds are contributed to federal and state legislators who support electric cooperatives.
- Participation is voluntary.
- No rate dollars are contributed.
- GLE employees and board members participate.
- The average contribution is \$59/year.
- Over 11,000 co-op members participate nationwide.
- **Learn more about ACRE by visiting gtlakes.com/co-op-owners-for-political-action/ or call 888-485-2537, ext. 8957.**



GLE Director Earns Top Training Honor

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), the national service organization for electric cooperatives, awarded Great Lakes Energy Director Ric Evans (right) a certificate for completing the Director Gold Program. It recognizes electric cooperative directors who have achieved the highest level of training that can be earned through NRECA's Director Education program. Presenting him with the certificate is Board Chairman Mark Carson.

Co-op Careers Offer Paycheck And A Purpose

By Justin LaBerge

October is National Cooperative Month! Every day in this country, more than 75,000 men and women go to work at America's electric cooperatives to keep the lights on for 42 million energy consumers in 47 states.

It's challenging work, but in addition to a paycheck, co-op employees go home each night knowing they've helped make their communities better places to live.

Over the next five years, thousands of workers will get to experience that sense of purpose and pride as America's electric cooperatives hire nearly 15,000 employees nationwide. These new hires will replace Baby Boomers reaching retirement age and accommodate organic growth in the energy industry.

Many career options

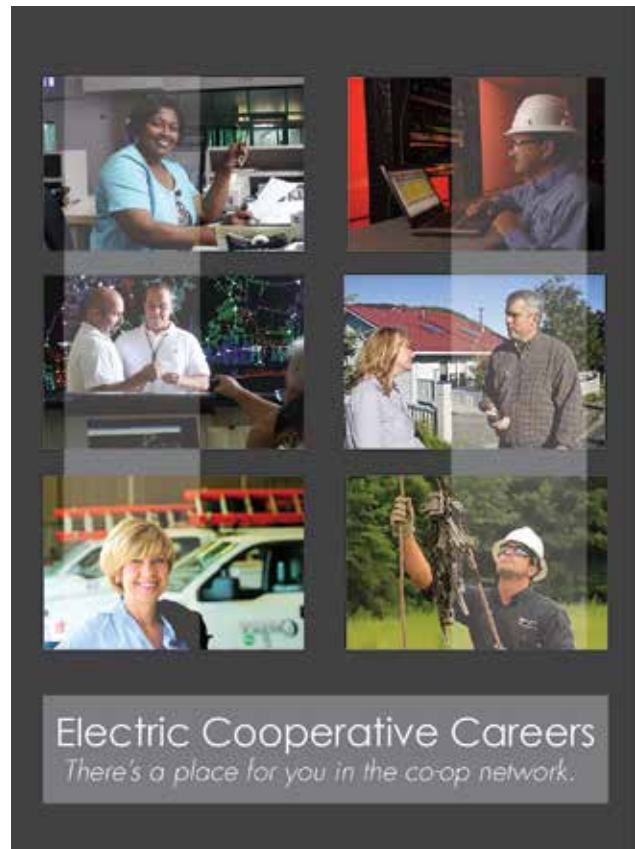
A lineworker high atop a pole is the first image that comes to mind for most people who think about electric cooperative employees. It's true that lineworkers comprise the largest segment of the co-op workforce—approximately 25 percent—but it takes a variety of talents to keep a cooperative running smoothly.

Information technology and engineering are two rapidly growing career opportunities at co-ops. The need for more high-tech workers is driven by the shift to a smarter electric grid and the growth of renewable energy sources that must be carefully monitored and managed.

Other in-demand career paths at electric cooperatives include finance, member services, equipment operators, energy advisors, communications and marketing, purchasing, administrative support and human resources.

Second careers

Some people think the only time to start a new career is fresh out of high school or college. While the energy industry offers many rewarding careers to recent grads, it is also a great place to start a second or third career.



Lineworker training programs offered through community colleges are growing in popularity among people who previously worked in oil and gas, manufacturing, mining, forestry and other similar industries.

Make a difference

As not-for-profit, member-owned, locally-based businesses, America's electric cooperatives offer careers that allow employees to make a difference in the communities they serve. Cooperatives are guided by a set of principles that put people ahead of profits and offer fulfilling work to those who enjoy serving others. ■

How to find a co-op job

Interested in joining the co-op family? To learn more about the opportunities available across the cooperative network, visit careers.touchstoneenergy.coop or by visiting Michigan co-op websites at countrylines.com.

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**.

Energy Assistance For Income Qualified Residents

We know that utility bills can easily pile up for folks with limited incomes. The Energy Optimization program is here to help! We provide a number of products and services to help qualified residents improve the energy performance of their homes—which, in turn, reduces electric bills.

Equipment Evaluations And Replacements

Is your refrigerator at least 10 years old? If so, there's a good chance it uses twice as much electricity as a new ENERGY STAR® certified model.

If you qualify for this service, an Energy Optimization program representative can visit your home to evaluate your refrigerator. If the refrigerator is determined to be highly inefficient, you could be eligible for a new replacement at no cost. In some cases, water heaters may also be eligible for free replacement if they meet program criteria.

Energy-saving Devices And Installation

Kits containing energy-saving devices are available to qualified residents. You may receive a letter in

the mail regarding a free kit. Or, you can request your kit at a participating food pantry, Salvation Army, or church. Most kits include:

- LED bulbs and night lights,
- Faucet and shower aerators,
- Smart power strip.

Weatherization Assistance

We partner with Michigan's Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) through local Community Action Agencies to support energy efficiency home improvements for income-qualified residents. To learn more about this opportunity, call 517-373-8896 or visit benefits.gov/benefits/benefit-details/1861. Families that have received services through WAP have seen their annual energy bills reduced by an average of \$437 per year.

To find out if you qualify for Energy Optimization programs or to learn more, call 877-296-4319 or visit michigan-energy.org.

Helping Hands

Energy Assistance

We know it can be difficult to keep up with energy costs. Families or individuals eligible for assistance based on income levels can receive:

- In-home equipment evaluations
- Refrigerator and water heater replacements
- Energy-saving devices (with installation)
- Weatherization assistance

ENERGY TIP: Call us or visit our website for program eligibility information.

877.296.4319 **michigan-energy.org**



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

Life's A Beach—Michigan Waters

GLE Photo Contest: Each month members can submit photos on Facebook or our website for our annual photo contest. The photo with the most votes on Facebook is published here along with other selections. Enter again in October; see details below.



Not really beach weather (North Branch AuSable River on a -35 degree day)—Heather Lovell, Grayling



Red sky at night, sailor's delight—Myra Reimink, Hamilton



Goodnight dunes—Jilayne Bosch, Mears



Ripples—Dawn Klee, Johannesburg



Raising my vibrations—first curve, Ludington—Shaun Shoemate, Fountain



Atreyu's first time on the beach—Elisabeth Bordeaux, White Cloud



Enter Our Photo Contest And Win!

Visit [Facebook.com/greatlakesenergy](https://facebook.com/greatlakesenergy) and click "Photo Contest" from the menu tabs. Not on Facebook? You can also enter the contest at gtlakes.com/photocontest/. Make sure to vote, and encourage others to vote for you, too. The photo receiving the most votes from our online and Facebook contest will be printed in an issue of *Michigan Country Lines* along with some of our other favorites. All photos printed in the magazine throughout the year will be entered to win a \$200 bill credit in December 2018.

Our October theme is **Furry Friends**. Photos can be submitted by **Oct. 15** to be featured in the January 2018 issue.

Our Apologies: The September photo contest winner with the most Facebook votes was listed as Andrew Byerly, Central Lake. The correct winner is Dorene Hogness, Gaylord.

SLOW COOKER

Put your slow cooker to work with these hearty recipes.

Photos—831 Creative

Slow Cooker Chicken Chili (pictured)

Diana Johnson, Great Lakes Energy

- 3–4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts (thighs don't work as well)
- 1 can corn, undrained
- 1 can Rotel diced tomatoes, undrained, or chili tomatoes (or both)
- 1 package ranch dressing mix
- 1 can chili beans
- 1 can northern beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 can black beans, drained and rinsed
- 1 package chili seasoning mix or Mexican seasoning packet (or make your own)
- 1 jar salsa of choice
- 1 8-ounce package cream cheese

Layer in order in a 6-quart crock pot. Do not mix. You can add more corn, beans, salsa, tomatoes according to taste. Cover and cook for 6 to 7 hours on low. Mix and add pepper to taste.

▶ Watch a video of this recipe at <https://goo.gl/nqUvzX>

Pizza Tot Casserole

Kris Hazeres, Alger Delta

- 2 pounds ground beef
- ¼–½ cup onion, diced
- 1 can (10.5-ounce) cream of mushroom soup
- 1 can (10.5-ounce) cream of chicken soup
- 1 can (14-ounce) pizza sauce
- about 37 pepperoni slices
- ½ cup green pepper, chopped
- 2½ cups shredded mozzarella
- 32-ounce bag tater tots



Brown beef in a skillet with onion over medium-high heat and drain. Mix beef mixture with soups. Spray slow cooker with cooking spray. Pour mixture into your slow cooker and spread out evenly. Pour pizza sauce evenly over

mixture. Place pepperoni slices evenly across the top. Spread green peppers evenly across pepperoni slices. Sprinkle cheese on top. Cover with tater tots.

Place aluminum foil on top. Cover and cook for 3 hours on high. Remove aluminum foil and continue cooking on high. Optional: Place in your broiler (on high if you have the choice of high/low) for 2–4 minutes, watching very closely.

Chicken Tacos

Helen Pische, Great Lakes Energy

- 1½ pounds boneless, skinless chicken breast
- 16-ounce jar salsa
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 15-ounce can black beans or pinto beans, drained
- 1 tablespoon chili powder
- 1½ teaspoons cumin
- ½ teaspoon oregano
- ¼ teaspoon cayenne pepper
- ¼ cup water
- Toppings: shredded cheddar cheese, cilantro, lime wedges



Spray a 6-quart slow cooker with cooking spray. Place chicken breast in the pot. Add remaining ingredients, stir, cover and cook 4 hours on high. Stir when done; the chicken should

shred easily. Serve with taco shells or on rice. Top with shredded cheddar cheese, cilantro and lime wedges.



Ken Silfven, special advisor for communications at the Department of Natural Resources, has been using this recipe for Venison Pot Pie for years. He can't remember exactly where it originated, but it's become a favorite in his home. Ken notes that it does take a little time to prepare (at least for him), but the results are totally worth it.

Venison Pot Pie

- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon black pepper
- 3 tablespoons minced parsley leaves
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon allspice
- 1 tablespoon chopped thyme leaves
- ¼ cup red wine
- 1 pound pork loin, diced into ½ inch pieces
- ½ pound venison, diced into ½ inch pieces
- ¼ cup olive oil
- 1 cup diced celery
- 1 cup diced carrots
- 1 teaspoon minced garlic
- 1 small, diced onion
- 1 medium potato, peeled and diced small
- 2 cups chicken broth
- 2 rounds prepared pie crust (about 9 inches)
- 1 beaten egg

Preheat the oven to 400 F. Combine the salt, pepper, parsley, cinnamon, allspice and thyme in a big bowl. Make a marinade by stirring in the red wine. Add the meat and coat it thoroughly. Cover and marinate at least 30 minutes. Use a medium pot to heat olive oil and add the celery, carrots, garlic and onion. Stir for 5–10 minutes until soft. Add diced potato to the pot and stir, then add the meat and brown slightly while continuing to stir. Lower the heat and add the chicken broth. Simmer for 30 minutes and then remove from the heat so it can cool. Spoon the meat mixture onto the already-prepared pie crust. Place the top crust on top, seal it and pinch it with a fork. Cut slits in the top and then brush it with the egg wash. Put the pie on a baking sheet and bake for 45 minutes. Let it cool for a few minutes before serving.

Read the full story about Michigan's DNR officers featured on the Outdoor Channel's "Wardens" show on page 14, and find this recipe and others at micoopkitchen.com.

MI
co-op
KITCHEN

Submit your favorite recipe for a chance to win a \$50 bill credit and have your recipe featured in *Country Lines*:

"Healthy Salads"
due November 1

"Flatbreads and Pizzas"
due December 1

Go to micoopkitchen.com for more information and to register.

Information For All Members Of Great Lakes Energy Cooperative



Your cooperative offers a program called the People Fund, which is funded through the voluntary rounding up of your monthly utility bill to the next whole dollar.

An all-volunteer board of directors appointed by the member-elected board of Great Lakes Energy Cooperative distributes the funds throughout the cooperative's service area. The Fund supports charitable efforts in and around the communities we serve. Money from the People Fund has been distributed to educational programs, medical groups, recreational organizations serving all ages, senior organizations, and numerous other local charities. A copy of the most recent People Fund annual report, which details contributions, is available by contacting Great Lakes Energy, and prior year reports are highlighted in previous issues of *Michigan Country Lines* magazine.

Your participation in the People Fund is voluntary. If at any time you wish to discontinue participation in the People Fund, please let us know and we will make the change. If you are participating, your monthly bill is rounded up to the next whole dollar. If your bill is \$58.42, it would be rounded up to \$59. The 58 cents would then be contributed by Great Lakes Energy Cooperative on your behalf to the People Fund. A member's average annual contribution is about \$6. Your annual contribution to the People Fund is tax deductible and is reported on your monthly statement at the end of the year.

For additional information regarding the People Fund, contact the co-op office by mail or call 888-485-2537.

Free Is Not Always Free



Mike Youngs
Great Lakes Energy
Business Security &
Networks Director

If you are a regular reader of this space, I am willing to bet you are using free software or services. Web giants such as Facebook and Google are free to use. The App Store and Android Market are loaded with freebies. But it costs money to build and maintain technology, so how can it just be given away?

Perhaps a photographer will offer free headshots. To get the professional pictures, they want to use your photo. You are providing something of value—you—in exchange for the free mugshot.

Free software works the same way. The developer may give out the first level of a game for free, planning on you wanting to purchase the rest of the game. Sometimes the developer is building new software or features they want to use in future products, and they use free games for real life quality assurance.

Back to two of the biggest online companies, Facebook and Google. They maintain vast, global technology platforms that billions of people use for free. How can they afford to do that, much less make record profits? It's because they are advertising companies first and technology companies second. Their job is to get eyes on advertisements.

Planning your spring break vacation by visiting the Disney World website? Next thing you know, Disney World ads are promoted in your timeline. This is because Facebook and Google offer advertising to companies who want to drive you back to their website.

They do not sell your personal information. Ads appear based on profiles of users within a certain criteria, such as male, aged 43 living in Michigan or through remarketing lists collected by the websites you visit, which is why you will see ads for things you were looking at or shopping for.

Some companies will sell your personal information for marketing purposes, too. Great Lakes Energy does not sell any of your personal or account information. Getting unrecognized calls on your cell phone about being prequalified for a loan? Chances are your contact information was purchased, sold and purchased again.

So what can you do? When surfing the internet, many browsers support a "privacy" mode or a mode that won't store information on your computer about the websites you are visiting. If you are a Google user, sign-in to your account and opt-out of ads. Using a VPN is also helpful.

If you must sign up and provide personal information before using a service or downloading software, my favorite countermeasure is to simply provide fake info. You can use a disposable email address, such as 10minutemail.com, and made up phone numbers. I'd feel really bad if by some coincidence there is a real "Jenny Fakerson" at 867-5309.

That's it for now. I'll be back again with more tips on how to get the most out of the online world as safely and securely as possible. ■

Reliable Service Keeps Your Lights On

BEST PERFORMING CIRCUITS

Because of improvements made in recent years, 161 worst performing (higher occurrence of outages and blinks) circuits are now our best performing circuits.

They include nearly 9,000 miles of main power lines that serve over 105,000 Great Lakes Energy members. That leaves only 62 circuits yet to be done.

REDUCING TREE PROBLEMS

Trees and brush near power lines are re-cleared in our service area on a regular, rotating basis, which helps control a major cause of outages.

In recent years, we've expanded our re-clearing efforts to remove more dead, diseased and dying trees that pose a threat to our lines.



MORE PROTECTION

Thousands of additional protection devices were placed on our power lines over the last decade. Protection devices operate like circuit breakers in your electrical panel. Each breaker protects different appliances and areas within the home. If there's an electrical problem, one breaker shuts off power to the trouble area leaving most of the home in the light. Similarly, the addition of more protection devices helps limit the number of members affected by outages.

BETTER TECHNOLOGY

Better technology today is brightening the day by helping to limit outage times. One example is the fault indicator (see photo). During an outage, these indicators blink on the line to help guide repair crews to the trouble. In many cases, they eliminate the need for crews to walk long stretches of line not accessible by vehicle to find the problem. Time is saved, and your lights come back on sooner.

Our Members Are Our Owners



Wild, Wild Midwest

WARDEN



Conservation Officer Mark Leadman scans the landscape in Michigan's District 1 located in the Upper Peninsula.



Conservation Officers Chris Simpson and Dave Rodgers seized nearly 60 illegally taken waterfowl in southwest Michigan's District 7.

The Outdoor Channel Captures Michigan's Finest Conservation Officers In Action

By Emily Haines Lloyd

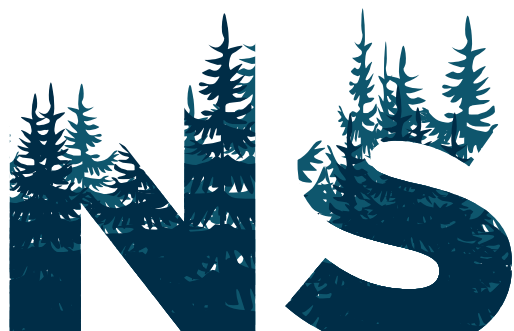
The Michigan Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) mission statement makes its purpose clear: maintain the safety of all while enforcing the laws that safeguard the natural resources of our state. Just like their fellow police officers, the conservation officers of the DNR are committed to serve and protect—even when their jurisdiction includes serving and protecting water, wilderness and wildlife around the state.

It's noble work, and yet the approximately 250 conservation officers aren't often seen or recognized for their efforts. That's because this small number of conservation officers must cover the entirety of both the Upper and Lower Peninsulas—making their districts sometimes hundreds of square miles.

However, Michigan conservation officers are becoming much more noticeable since the 2017 airing of "Wardens" on The Outdoor Channel. The show, which up until 2016, had been filmed in the state of Montana, has now turned its camera lens on The Great Lakes State.

"The resources in Michigan were one of the main reasons The Outdoor Channel had its eye on Michigan as a new location for 'Wardens,'" said Jon Ross, senior editor of Wolf Creek Productions, the producers of the show. "Great hunting, off-road vehicles, lakes and rivers—Michigan is ripe with hunting, fishing and outdoor recreational experiences."

"Wardens" chronicles the lives of conservation officers across America, with the focus on Michigan's finest.



The Michigan Department of Natural Resources is committed to the conservation, protection, management, use and enjoyment of the state's natural resources for current and future generations.

Watch "Wardens" on the Outdoor Channel Mondays at 2 a.m., Fridays at 10:30 a.m. and Saturdays at 9:30 p.m. (EST) for the month of October. Viewers can also check for air times by visiting outdoorchannel.com/wardens



"Our goal from 'Day One' was to use this partnership (between the Michigan DNR and The Outdoor Channel) as an educational tool," said Ken Silfven, special advisor for communications at the DNR. "It's important that citizens not only understand what we do, but why we do it."

The DNR is committed to ensuring all of Michigan's residents and visitors are able to enjoy the outdoor recreational opportunities of the state. It's the conservation officers' responsibility to make sure that is done both safely and legally.



"Wardens" showcases the men and women who protect our public lands in a variety of situations, such as nabbing poachers in high-stakes sting operations, snowmobiling through grizzly bear country, or tracking down illegal fishing operations in freezing rivers, lakes and streams. The show seeks to bring an understanding of the conservation officer's job and why state laws need to be enforced. It also looks to generate interest in outdoor recreation while enhancing the public's appreciation of the DNR's role. As a bonus, the program has increased recruitment efforts by sparking interest in careers as Michigan conservation officers.

"The show was meant to educate viewers about the need to protect our natural resources," said Silfven. "It is also meant to give them a firsthand look at the men and women who wear the green and gray uniform of a Michigan conservation officer. Based on the feedback we're receiving, the show is doing just that."

Top and bottom: Conservation Officer Mark Leadman is filmed by Kristin Ojaniemi as he patrols Michigan's Upper Peninsula District 1 in November 2016, for the opening of the state's firearm deer season.



GLE In The Community

Concern for community is one of the seven cooperative principles that Great Lakes Energy follows.

Students get a firsthand look at a bucket truck lineworkers use on their job. Great Lakes Energy was one of the participants in a career day event at the Boyne City Middle School.



The energy bike is always popular at the Great Lakes Energy booth at the Northern Michigan Regional Home Show in Petoskey.



Great Lakes Energy was one of the entries in the National Asparagus Festival parade in Hart.



Great Lakes Energy's Bev Hadley and Tom Urman conduct an electrical safety demonstration for Newaygo students at Velma Matson Upper Elementary.

Dressed For Working Safely

Whether it's rain, snow, sleet, ice, wind, or all of the above, Great Lakes Energy lineworkers are dressed for any type of weather to get your lights back on.

No one appreciates the monthly investments you make in your cooperative more than those who rely on special clothing and equipment to work safely and efficiently with high-voltage power lines.

Although clothing and gear costs have gone up in recent years, the investment still adds up to a good

value for GLE members by keeping lineworkers safe while they bring you the reliable service you expect and deserve. Part of the increase is due to the added costs for new equipment and clothing that are making lineworkers' jobs safer.

Here's an item-by-item average cost breakdown of what the well-dressed GLE lineworker wears, as modeled by GLE apprentice lineworker Matt Carey.

- 1. **Hard hat**\$25
- Hard hat flashlight**\$30
 (not shown)
- 2. **Safety glasses**\$10
- 3. **Arm protector sleeves**\$400/pair
- 4. **High-visibility fire retardant shirt**\$92
- 5. **Fire retardant shirt**\$52
- Fire retardant rain jacket/pants**\$320
 (not shown)
- 6. **Rubber gloves**\$194/pair
- 7. **Leather glove protectors**\$32
- Canvas bag for storing sleeves/gloves**\$45
 (not shown)
- 8. **Tool belt**\$300
- 9. **Hinged hot stick**\$560
 Used for handling energized power
 line equipment.
- 10. **Super squeeze fall restraint**\$550-\$750
 Safety equipment that catches
 lineworker in a fall from pole.
- 11. **Tool pouch**\$50
- 12. **Fire retardant pants**\$62
- 13. **Positioning pole strap**\$310
 Secures lineworker to pole.
- Safety harness**\$250
 Used for working in elevated bucket. (not shown)
- 14. **Gaff climbers**\$500
 Pointed tips are jabbed into pole for climbing.
- 15. **Work boots**\$350

Average total investment per lineworker . . \$4,332*

**Not including costs of testing equipment and items purchased by lineworkers.*



Lineworkers' knowledge and training PRICELESS

I Remember...

Growing Up With Family And Community

Throughout my growing up years, my father and grandfather farmed together in Michigan's Lapeer County. They were both full-time farmers until the mid-1950s when dad began working elsewhere. Our 160-acre family farm included milk cows, hogs, sheep and chickens with all the basic crops—hay, corn, wheat and oats. The fields, livestock and garden provided almost all the food we needed and cash for everything else. As children we each had our chores, so my brother and I fed the chickens and gathered the eggs. Our one-room school was at the corner of the farm. By the age of 10, I drove the tractors and in my teen years worked the fields. Our milk was sold through a cooperative dairy. Feed and fertilizer were purchased through the farm co-op. Grandpa owned stock in the regional electric company. Neighbors worked together during seasons of harvesting. In this way I learned the very early value of living and working



together with mutual respect and partnership, both within the family and the community, values I continue to hold highly in our day.

Ben Bohnsack, Alger Delta Cooperative Electric Association

My Grandfather's Life

His name was Albert Doezeema. He had a scar on his arm and scar on his leg, and one day he told me his story:

In the 1930s, he was lucky that he had a job with a Grand Rapids power company as a lineman. Jobs were scarce then, and he told me that the company had him work every other week so that twice as many men could have work due to the Great Depression. One day, he was at the top of a 35-foot pole and somehow touched a line that was powered with 7200 volts. He was knocked from the pole and hit the ground. He broke many bones and

had burns on his arm and leg. He said that they figured the shock of hitting the ground started his heart back up, or else he would not have survived. After recovering from the incident, he transferred to the company warehouse and was point man for the next 35 years. I always think about how linemen put their life on the line when they work so closely with powerful electricity. My grandfather surviving that electrical incident in the 1930s was a miracle at that time. He lived to be 89.

Donna Miller, Cherryland Electric Cooperative



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3rd Prize: \$50 worth of LED lights*

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