

January 2018

# MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES

Alger Delta Cooperative Electric Association

## NO BARRIERS WARRIORS

THE POWER OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT

Director Elections In 2018

Preserving The Grange

A Soldier Remembers





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# In This Issue

January 2018 // Vol. 38, No. 1



## ON THE COVER

Through strenuous outdoor adventures, such as white water rafting, hiking or mountain climbing, No Barriers Warriors teaches veterans how to regain their skills and confidence after a service-related injury. Read more about this inspiring, non-profit organization on page 14.

Photo courtesy of No Barriers / Samantha Hanus

**6**  
**PARTNERS FOR POWER**  
Electricity Changes Everything

**7**  
**YOUTH TOUR 2018**  
Michigan Co-ops Host Youth  
Leadership Travel Opportunity

**10**  
**COOKING COMMUNITY**  
Start The Year Off Right With  
Recipes For Healthy Salads  
**Christin McKamey & Our Readers**

Gather 'Round the Campfire  
For Backcountry Fondue

Enter Our Recipe Contest  
And Win A \$50 Bill Credit!

**14**  
**FEATURE**  
No Barriers Warriors:  
The Power Of The Human Spirit  
**Emily Haines Lloyd**

**18**  
**READER'S PAGE**  
Michigan's Main Street  
**Jack O'Malley**

Guess Our New Mystery Photo  
And Win \$50!

## *I Remember...*

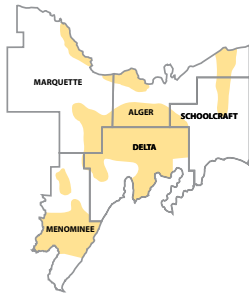
We invite members to share their fondest memories.

### 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](http://countrylines.com) or email to [cdorr@meca.coop](mailto:cdorr@meca.coop)

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M–F, 8 a.m.–4 p.m. (ET)

*Alger Delta Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*

**algerdelta.com**



# New Year, *New Directions*

**Tom Harrell**, Chief Executive Officer

New Year's Day is a great holiday because it affords us the opportunity to start over with a clean slate, figuratively speaking. Many of us make "new year's resolutions"—or something akin to them—as we think about the things we want to accomplish or change in our life. Our chances of success are greatly improved if we at least write them down to start our plans in motion. Watching college football all day while thinking about or dreaming of the things we want to do will not likely produce the desired outcome.

It is the same with Alger Delta. Early January is a great time to revisit our strategic plan and zero in on the things that represent our desired future state. Oh yes, institutions can be just like individuals in many ways. Just as a person can become so busy managing life from day to day, we fall into the same trap. There is always paperwork to be done, bills to be paid, and on it goes.

Alger Delta's desired future is bigger than just making sure the bills get paid and the paperwork gets done. There are real opportunities out there—like economic development, business growth, expanding our services and offerings—and much more than we imagined just a few short years ago.

"Nothing succeeds like success," is a quote that is attributed to the writer Alexandre Dumas. Dumas was the French writer whose works include: "The Three Musketeers," "The Man in the Iron Mask," and "The Count of Monte Cristo." Generally, it means if you've been successful in the past, you are more likely to be successful in the future. In the past 12 years we have navigated our way to some very good success stories: member regulation, a better financial foundation, improved service and reliability, paying capital credits, greatly increased energy sales, reduced greenhouse gas emissions, and more renewable energy, just to name a few. So, if Alexandre Dumas is correct, we have a great future ahead.

*May you find peace, happiness, blessings  
and prosperity in all you do in 2018.*

2018

# Director Elections On The Horizon

Alger Delta Cooperative will be holding elections in three of its nine Districts in 2018. Districts 2 (Harvey/Deerton); 3 (Grand Marais); and 4 (Cedar River/Palestine) will elect a representative to the board of directors. Elections will be held via mail ballot over a 30-day period beginning in late April and ending in May.

Serving on the board of directors is both time-consuming and rewarding. Any member interested in running for the board should be aware of the qualifications and responsibilities associated with the position.

To qualify, a person must be a member of the cooperative and take electric service in the District they seek to represent. They must be at least 18 years old; they must not be employed by, or have a financial interest in, a competing business. Candidates must complete and submit a nomination petition.

Directors are charged with the responsibility of strategic planning, exercising fiduciary responsibility, setting policy and direction, governance, and other duties relating to a non-profit corporation. Board members are expected to prepare for and attend the monthly board meetings that are held on the third Wednesday of each month at the cooperative's office in Gladstone, Mich. Directors are also required to attend the Annual Meeting in June.

Board members are assigned to serve on at least one committee. The cooperatives' standing committees include the Policy Committee, the Employee Relations Committee, the Finance & Rates Committee, and the Executive Committee.

In addition to the regular board meetings and committees, directors are scheduled to participate in state, regional, and national events related to the electric business. These meetings may be business or training related or political. They often require advanced preparation, such as reading briefing materials or researching issues. These meetings may range from one half-day to five days for travel and participation. Directors are encouraged to complete Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) training within their first, three-year term on the board. Finally, directors are required to represent Alger Delta in their community and elsewhere, which sometimes includes making public presentations.

Directors are elected for a term of three years.  
Directors are paid \$350 per day when attending to



Alger Delta business, plus reasonable and customary expense reimbursement.

For more information about serving on the board of directors, you can look at Article III of the cooperative's bylaws at [algerdelta.com](http://algerdelta.com) under the tab "About Us" then "Bylaws/Tariffs/Rates." You can also find more details or print out the nominating petition from our website. If you cannot access our website and would like to receive a copy of the bylaws or a nominating petition, call Alger Delta at 906-428-4141.

## Notice to Members of Alger Delta Cooperative Electric Association

### Case No. U-18271 2018–2019 Energy Waste Reduction Plan

2008 PA 295, as amended, requires all Michigan member-regulated electric cooperatives file with the Michigan Public Service Commission (the "MPSC") an Energy Waste Reduction ("EWR") Plan. Pursuant to this requirement, Alger Delta submitted its 2018–2019 EWR Plan as part of a collaborative plan with 12 other utilities in cooperation with the Michigan Electric Cooperative Association and Michigan Municipal Electric Association to continue to offer several existing energy efficiency programs (the "Programs") designed to help members and customers use energy more efficiently and to achieve targeted energy savings. Alger Delta proposes to implement its 2018–2019 EWR Plan and does not intend to change the existing approved surcharge for the Programs. A copy of Alger Delta's 2018–2019 EWR Plan as filed with the MPSC is available by request at any of Alger Delta's offices.



# Electricity Changes Everything

More than 1.6 billion people in the world remain without electricity. That's a pretty staggering statistic considering health, safety, education and economic growth all start with power. In modern times, no country has managed to substantially reduce poverty without access to electricity.

Electric co-ops know a thing or two about bringing electricity to people who don't have it. After all, it was the co-ops who brought electricity to rural America over 75 years ago when no one else would.

In partnership with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) International Program, Michigan's electric cooperatives sent 10 linemen to Buena Vista, Guatemala, in 2015. The linemen worked side-by-side with local residents to bring electricity to the remote, mountainous village. When work was completed, the community celebrated together as electric lights came on for the very first time. This moment marked the beginning of new opportunities and a new future for the 54 families that call Buena Vista home.

NRECA International Program Manager Ingrid Hunsicker recently visited Buena Vista to see how life has changed with electricity. Hunsicker reported that lights in the schoolyard and classrooms provide the children with a safe, bright place to learn. Processing corn is now easier and more efficient with electric corn mill grinders. Residents have access to better communication with radios and televisions, she noted.

And, thanks to a new refrigerator, the local convenience store is able to offer cold drinks and meats.

This is just the beginning. The good people of Buena Vista now have the opportunity to grow and flourish in a way that was never before thought possible.

## Up Next: Bolivia

In 2018, Michigan co-ops will send 15 linemen to bring electricity to remote parts of Bolivia. The North Beni Electrification Project will electrify six communities located on the road between Riberalta and Guayaranerin in northern Bolivia. Due to the length of this project, several groups of co-op volunteers from different states will be needed to complete the entire project construction. Michigan linemen will be working to electrify the first two communities of Santa Malia and El Hondo. The climate there is hot and humid as it's one of the wettest regions in Bolivia. While planning is now underway, the construction trip will take place in the fall of 2018.

Visit [partnersforpower.org](http://partnersforpower.org) to learn more.





ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE  
**YOUTH TOUR**



# YOUTH TOUR 2018

Michigan Co-ops Inspire Tomorrow's Leaders Today  
**June 10–15, 2018**

Youth Tour teaches students of Michigan about their past—and helps equip them with the skills they need to be Michigan's next generation of energy-minded leaders. This is a once-in-a-lifetime, all-expenses-paid leadership travel opportunity for high school sophomores and juniors (going into their junior or senior year this summer) and is sponsored by Michigan's electric cooperatives. From the battlefields of Gettysburg to the halls of Congress in Washington, D.C., the program explores the leadership lessons of our nation's history and will immerse students in the cooperative spirit.

Youth Tour offers a unique opportunity to build leadership and public speaking skills, enhance students' knowledge of the cooperative form of business, and build life-long friendships with other student-leaders from across the country.

**Youth Tour applications accepted  
between now and Feb. 28.**

## Trip Highlights Include:

- Visit the Gettysburg Civil War battlefields
- See Fort McHenry, birthplace of "The Star Spangled Banner"
- Explore the Washington, D.C. monuments and memorials
- Attend a world-class theater performance
- Explore the museums of the Smithsonian Institution
- Pay respects at Arlington National Cemetery
- Meet with Michigan Senators and Congressmen
- And much, much more

**Visit [CooperativeYouthTour.com](http://CooperativeYouthTour.com) to learn more  
and for an online application.**

# Energy Savings Opportunities For Agribusinesses

Are you tired of high energy bills eating up your budget? Upgrade outdated lighting and equipment to reduce energy waste and start saving money! And, with the help of Alger Delta's Energy Optimization program, you can receive cash incentives to offset the upfront cost of improvements.

A few energy-saving opportunities currently available include:

**Farm Energy Audit:** To get started, consider a comprehensive audit to assess your farm's current energy usage. The audit will help identify where and how to implement practical, energy-saving alternatives to outdated, inefficient equipment.

The Energy Optimization program has partnered with the Michigan Farm Energy Program (in conjunction with Michigan State University Extension) to offer a \$500 incentive toward the cost of a farm energy audit.

**Incentives For Energy-Efficient Products And Equipment:** Receive cash back when you purchase and install energy-efficient measures, such as:

- Low-energy livestock waterers
- Fans and controls
- Milk-handling equipment
- Variable speed pumps and controllers
- Dairy refrigeration tune-ups
- Irrigation system upgrades
- LED grow lights and poultry lights
- Long-day lighting systems

**Incentives For Custom Projects:** Have an energy efficiency project in mind, but don't see it on our list? The Energy Optimization program will work with you to provide incentives for innovative and unique energy efficiency projects designed to meet specific needs. Contact us to discuss your ideas!

These are just a few of the energy-saving offers currently available for Michigan agribusinesses. View all farm services incentives at [michigan-energy.org](http://michigan-energy.org) or call 877-296-4319 for details.



## Reduce your energy use and save!

**FREE** agribusiness energy assessments available.  
Call now for best availability.

Rebates available for custom and prescriptive energy saving projects.

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

**PHONE:** 877.296.4319



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

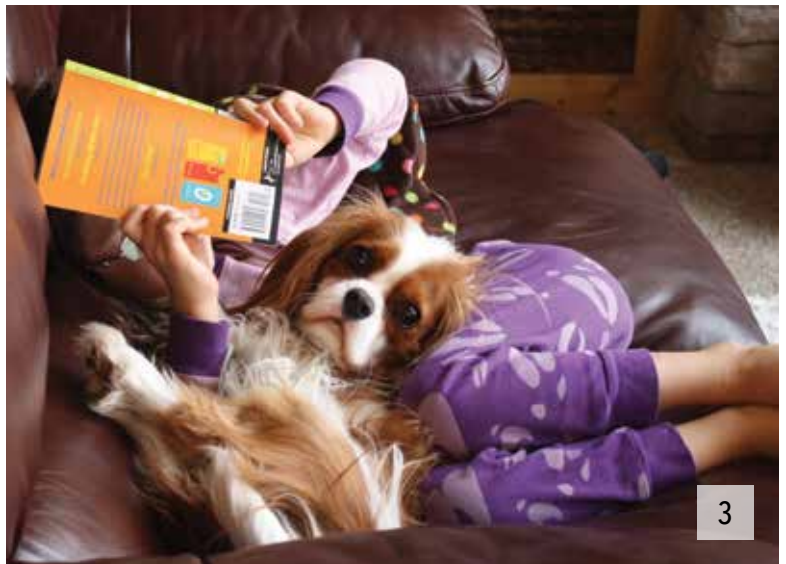
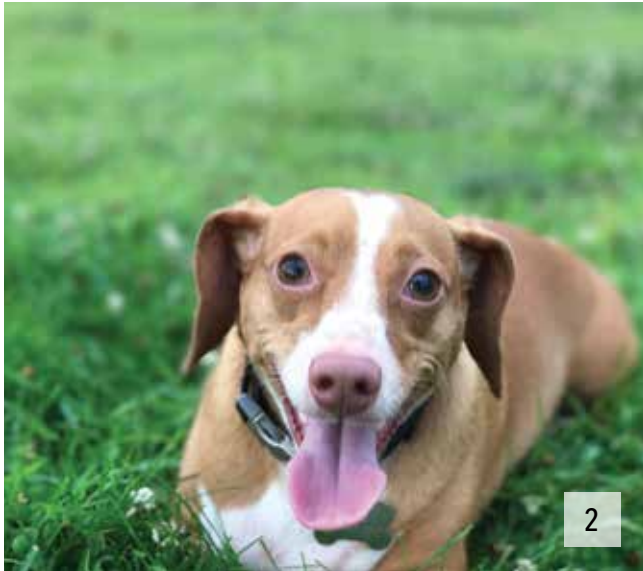




# Photo Contest

## Furry Friends

1. Oh, the dog days of summer! *By Davina Clark*
2. Ever since he was a tiny pup, Abe, the Chi-weenie, has been the happiest dog in the world. *By Christopher Linsell*
3. Where ever you go, I go. *By Amy Devanney*
4. Captain, on the watch. *By Don DeManigold*



### Share Your Captured Moments!

Alger Delta invites members to share their amazing photos. Selected photos will be published in *Michigan Country Lines*. Our upcoming topic and deadline is: **Talented Kids due Jan. 20 for the March issue.**

To submit photos go to <http://bit.ly/countrylines>

We look forward to seeing your best photos!



# Healthy Salads

Start the year off right with these easy-to-make healthy salads.

Photos—Robert Bruce Photography

## Quinoa Cucumber Salad (pictured)

Patricia Wyers, Cherryland Electric Cooperative

- 4 cups cooked quinoa
- 1 small cucumber, diced (local Michigan cucumber if in season, if not use English cucumber)
- 1 small red onion, diced
- 1 red bell pepper, diced
- 2 tablespoons fresh dill weed, minced
- 1 medium garlic clove, minced
- 1 tablespoon canola oil
- 2 tablespoons apple cider vinegar
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- ½ teaspoon salt

Prepare quinoa according to the package. Cool. Mix with the rest of the ingredients. Toss to coat evenly. Keep refrigerated and use within two to three days.



Watch a video of this recipe at  
<https://goo.gl/6aZzpb>



## Mediterranean Pesto Chickpea Salad

Ruthann Adams, Midwest Energy

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 15-ounce can chickpeas, drained and rinsed                  | 2 roasted red bell peppers, seeded and coarsely chopped |
| 1 15-ounce can black olives, drained and coarsely chopped     | ⅓ to ½ cup pesto  |
| 1 15-ounce can artichoke hearts, drained and coarsely chopped | • Salt and black pepper to taste                        |

Combine all ingredients. Chill and enjoy.

Note: If chickpeas are mashed, this makes a tasty sandwich filling.





## Spaghetti Salad

Jan Goodwin, Great Lakes Energy

- 1 16-ounce package whole grain spaghetti
- 1 package mini Hormel pepperoni
- 1 16-ounce Kraft Zesty Italian dressing
- Parmesan cheese
- Perfect Pinch Salad Supreme Seasoning by McCormick
- Seasonal vegetables: tomatoes, cucumbers, green pepper or any of choice

Cook spaghetti according to the package. Drain. Cut up raw vegetables. Add to spaghetti. Add mini pepperoni. Mix in an entire bottle of Italian dressing. Top with Parmesan cheese and Perfect Pinch Salad Seasoning. Refrigerate 3 hours and serve. Can make the night before. The recipe makes a large amount for a big crowd.



## Indulgent Desserts...

due February 1

## Entertaining & Potluck...

due March 1

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

Go to [micoopkitchen.com](http://micoopkitchen.com) for more information and to register.

Enter to win a  
**\$50**  
energy bill  
credit!

## Featured Guest Chef

Participants in the No Barriers Warriors program spend their days hiking, rafting, skiing and mountain climbing. When they come back to base, there's nothing like a warm fondue, enjoyed around the fire, to cap off those daily adventures. Gather round, skewer up, and dip in!



## Backcountry Fondues

Recipe Courtesy of No Barriers Warriors

### Gear Required

- Two pots (one larger than the other) that will work as a double boiler
- Pot pliers/lifter to hold pots steady while stirring
- Camp stove (we used WhisperLite)
- Fuel
- A large spoon
- Skewers

### Cheddar Cheese Fondue

- 3-4 cups Cheddar cheese
- ½ cup flour
- ½ can light beer
- Garlic (optional)

**Suggested Dippers:** fruit (apples, pears, etc.), vegetables, meat (summer sausage) and bread cubes

### Swiss Cheese Fondue

- 3-4 cups Swiss and Gruyere cheeses
- ½ cup flour
- 1 cup white wine
- Garlic (optional)

**Suggested Dippers:** fruit (apples, pears, etc.), vegetables (carrots, broccoli), meat (summer sausage) and bread cubes

### Chocolate Fondue

- 3-4 cups semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 cup cream

**Suggested Dippers:** fruit (bananas, strawberries), marshmallows, cubed pound cake

### Directions

It's recommended to pre-cut prior to heading to the backcountry when possible. Otherwise, add a cutting knife and cutting board to the gear list.

Place water in the larger pot and bring to boil. Place smaller pot in the larger pot and add the ingredients for whichever fondue you are making. (Note: the wine/beer helps keep the mixture smooth and prevents clumping.) Stir until ingredients are melted and smooth.

Read the full story about No Barriers Warriors on page 14, and find this recipe and others at [micoopkitchen.com](http://micoopkitchen.com).



The Isabella Community Hall Committee. Pictured L to R: Gloria Herod, Sally Henry, Naomi Fletcher and Teddy Nelson (not pictured is committee member Mary Larson).



The Grange circa 1913 with local community members at a celebration.

# preserving The Grange

By Yvonne Whitman

*We shape our buildings;  
thereafter our buildings shape us.*

— Winston Churchill



This well used and often emptied donation jar greatly helped in raising the \$10,000 needed for the project's completion.

For over 105 years the Isabella “Grange Hall” has served as a social center and gathering place for the rural residents of the small community of Isabella. Built in 1912, “The Grange,” as it was originally known, initially hosted not only agricultural meetings but cultural events. Professional plays put on by touring artists and Saturday night dances were anticipated events that provided entertainment and relief from the daily rigors of early 1900s farm life. Over the decades, the hall’s name changed to the Isabella Community Hall and it continued to be used by the community for various events such as card parties, auctions, wedding receptions, hunter suppers and meetings. As with most historic buildings, however, the structure began to show its age. In 2012, the building was shut down due to the deterioration of the foundation.

The Isabella Community Hall Committee, comprised of many family members of founders and builders, sprang into

action. Preserving local heritage and community traditions is important to the committee, all of whom have family roots in the community, some going back four generations. As stated by committee treasurer Gloria Herod, “This place is 104 years old, and all of our grandfathers and great grandfathers worked hard to build this building and keep it going, and we just kept thinking, ‘How can we let it fall after all the hard work that those people put into it?’ Our hearts were in this building.”

Different options were explored, and an initial quote of \$100,000 for labor and materials for the necessary repair work almost dissuaded the group. But following the adage of “Where there is a will there is a way,” the group explored other options. For four years they held fundraisers. “Karaoke, card parties, pretzel sales, ice cream socials, you name it, we did it,” Committee President Teddy Nelson says with a grin.





Lyle Nedeadu an 84-year-old wood worker, contributed many items for the hall such as this sign. He also designed the arches found inside the hall.



Wood worker Lyle Nedeadu also contributed the carved bear statue.



The interior of the hall contains community memorabilia such as this document that recognizes the community's armed forces veterans.

"The community made this possible by attending events," Gloria thoughtfully states. "Without them, we would never have raised the monies that we needed for this huge project." The group raised \$10,000, and that, coupled with significant material and monetary donations and a strong volunteer workforce for the manual labor, gave the project green light status. Resident Ken Bradshaw, who volunteered as project manager, was integral to the success of the project. According to Gloria, "If it wasn't for Ken, this project would not have happened."

After four years the hall reopened in 2015 when a Memorial Day coffee and donuts event was held at the refurbished hall. Newly added events such as a weekly Farmers Market in the summer and a seasonal craft fair keep the community stepping over the threshold of the historic building. Fundraising continues for infrastructure items such as a new heater and building maintenance. And according to Gloria, "We are already thinking ahead for next year."



An historic depiction of a Grange gathering circa 1873.

**The Grange, officially referred to as The National Grange of the Order of Patrons of Husbandry, is a fraternal organization in the United States that encourages families to band together to promote the economic and political well-being of the community and agriculture. The Grange, founded after the Civil War in 1867, is the oldest American agricultural advocacy group with a national scope. The Grange actively lobbied state legislatures and Congress for political goals, such as the Granger (Anti-Trust) Laws to lower rates charged by railroads, and rural free mail delivery.**

**In 2005, the Grange had a membership of 160,000, with organizations in 2,100 communities in 36 states. It is headquartered in Washington, D.C., in a building constructed by the organization in 1960, and dedicated by President Eisenhower. Many rural communities in the United States still have a Grange Hall and local Granges still serve as a center of rural life for many farming communities.**

**As of 2017 the Grange continues to press for the causes of farmers, including issues of free trade and farm policy. The Grange provides opportunities for individuals and families to develop to their highest potential in order to build stronger communities and states, as well as a stronger nation.**

A group of people, including veterans, are participating in a white-water rafting activity. They are wearing helmets and life jackets, and are using paddles to navigate a turbulent river with large rocks. The text "NO BARRIERS WARRIORS" is overlaid on the image in large, white, bold letters.

# NO BARRIERS WARRIORS

## THE POWER OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT

By Emily Haines Lloyd

**W**hen an organization's mission is to "unleash the power of the human spirit," participants suspect that challenging circumstances combined with lofty goals are probably expected. And, indeed, that is exactly what No Barriers Warriors does. The organization engages disabled veterans in challenging outdoor adventures that include hiking, paddleboarding, rafting and, ultimately, mountain climbing. The purpose is to help disabled veterans regain their confidence in spite of a service-related disability.

"When you take individuals from varying backgrounds and various levels of experience in the outdoors, you're obviously teaching some basic skills—like how to pitch a tent or the fundamental techniques of camping," said John Toth, director of No Barriers Warriors. "But it's

important to note that our purpose is not necessarily to build a skill set—our goal is to build a mindset."

No Barriers Warriors was inspired by the tenth anniversary of blind adventurer Erik Weißenmayer's historic climb of Mount Everest. Weißenmayer, founder of No Barriers USA, joined his Everest teammates to lead a group of disabled soldiers to the summit of Lobuche, a 20,100-foot-peak in the Himalayas. The endeavor was captured on film and eventually became the documentary "High Ground."

In 2012, No Barriers USA officially began incorporating its programming to include injured soldiers from all branches of the military, as well as survivors of the fallen. Today they are known as No Barriers Warriors (NBW). These individuals participate in mentally, physically, and emotionally

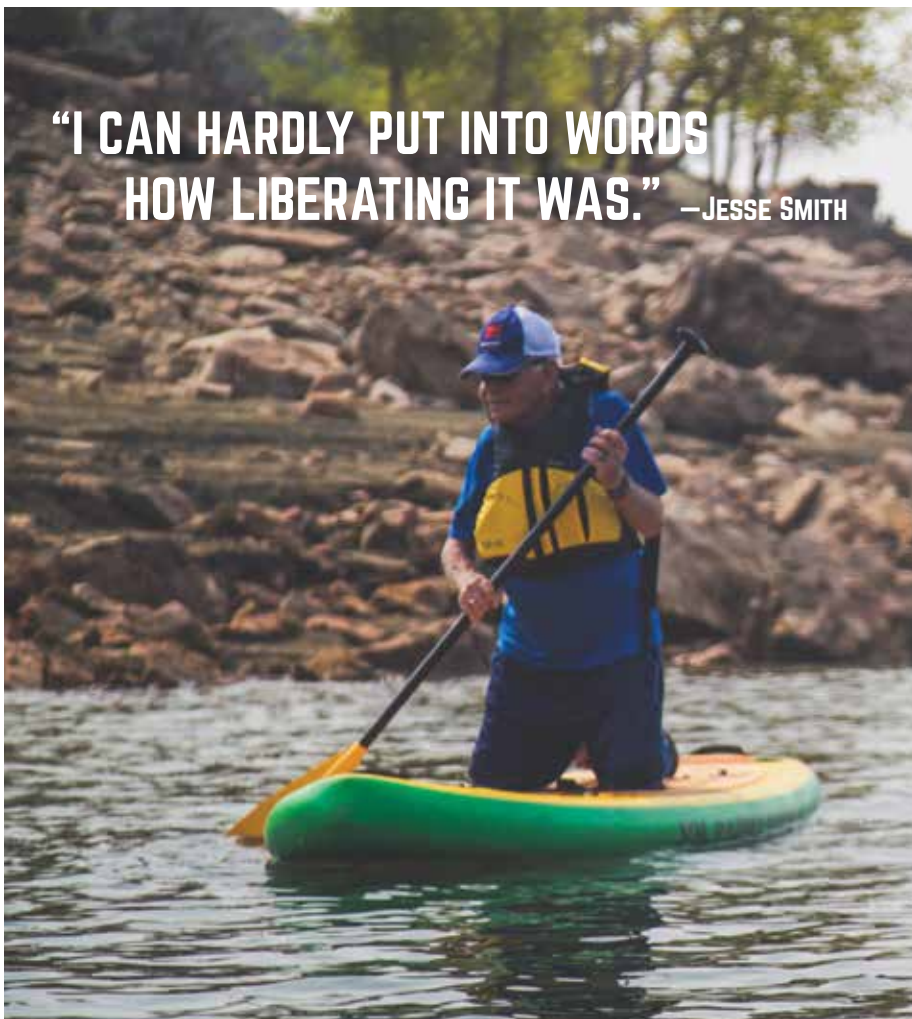
challenging activities, personal reflection, and group interactions designed to remind them that what's within them is stronger than what is in front of them.

Veterans from across the country have been helped through NBW's unique curriculum and no-pay policy, meaning all veterans who attend the program do so at absolutely no cost. This is another way that NBW wants to eliminate barriers, even when it comes to funding.

"When our veterans are given this opportunity, we see how their lives are changed—sometimes even saved," said Toth. "We set very high and lofty goals for our participants. When I see them accomplish those goals, I'm not surprised. I'm inspired."

Veterans are able to participate in the one-of-a-kind program through the





generosity of various organizations that donate to NBW. In November 2016, CoBank, a cooperative bank serving agribusinesses, rural infrastructure providers and Farm Credit Associations, announced a program that allowed its customer to nominate up to 50 rural veterans to participate in a No Barriers expedition. This corporate sponsorship allowed three Michigan co-op members and veterans to attend No Barriers Warriors adventures in 2017, Jesse Smith (Midwest Energy & Communications), Michael Valkner (Cherryland) and Christopher Irving (Great Lakes Energy). "America's rural communities are home to millions of men and women who have sacrificed for their country through military service, many of whom are facing some sort of disability," said Tom Halverson, CoBank CEO. "The No Barriers program provides these veterans with an opportunity to challenge their own limitations—both real and perceived—and to create a network of support that can last a lifetime."

Smith, a mostly-retired therapist, took the opportunity to attend a NBW adventure in Colorado in September and has already recommended the program to his friends and clients.

"I can hardly put into words how liberating it was, at nearly 80 [years old], to go and do the things I did," said Smith. "I would tell anyone who is even considering it, to not be afraid and just go for the adventure."

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**Are you a veteran interested in being nominated for the 2018 No Barriers program? If so, please go to [countrylines.com/nobarriers](http://countrylines.com/nobarriers) by Feb. 28 and complete the form to express your interest. Your co-op will follow-up with more detailed information.**

Photos courtesy of No Barriers /Samantha Hanus.

# A SOLDIER REMEMBERS

By Yvonne Whitman



## REINO'S U.S. ARMY ENLISTMENT PHOTO

Reino proudly wore the coveted Indianhead patch on his uniform. The Second Infantry Division (Indianhead) patch is one of the most recognized unit emblems in the U.S. Army because of its distinctive design and 80 years of proud service by its Warriors. Their motto was 'Second to None.'



## REINO ON THE DAY OF THE HONOR FLIGHT

According to his friend Marlene Nier, "Words cannot express what a remarkable man I had the opportunity of meeting while volunteering at the D. J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans. I am so thankful that he was recognized for his service in Korea and included as a participant on the Honor Flight. He was truly deserving of this honor."

Armistice Day began at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918, when the nations engaged in The Great War (WWI) ceased hostilities. Today, November 11 is known as Veterans Day—a day to honor and remember those who have proudly served our nation in the armed forces. The Upper Peninsula is home to thousands of veterans from all branches of the armed forces. For years, small communities throughout the U.P. bade farewell to their loved ones who went off to become soldiers, sailors and airmen not knowing when or if they would ever see them again. The Bruce Crossing community in the U.P. is home to 89-year-old Korean War veteran Reino Alanen.

Reino was born in Bruce Crossing on May 3, 1928. One of four sons of Finnish immigrants, he grew up on an 80-acre farm just outside of town. Like so many other families during this time, they worked hard and lived a simple but good life. Reino remembers his mother rising early to stoke

the kitchen's wood stove before lighting lanterns for the barn and waking her sons for their morning chores. "Before breakfast, we would ski off through the woods to check our trap lines for weasels," he recalls, "and we also had snares for rabbits." Back at the farm they would clean the barn, collect eggs, feed the livestock and milk the cows. He and his brothers would then walk one and a half miles to the one-room schoolhouse. He recalls years of meager hay crops. "Some years we had to harvest basswood from the back 40. We would bundle all the limbs and store it in the barn to supplement feed for the livestock during the winter months." Baths took place once per week in a circular, galvanized tub.

Reino's life drastically changed when he was drafted in September 1950. After basic training at Camp McCoy in Wisconsin, he was shipped overseas to Korea where he was assigned to the U.S. Army Second Infantry – Unit 15th Field Artillery Division. Korea was a far cry from the



fields and forests of the U.P. Reino spent six months on the frontline, flanked by South Koreans on one side and French (Indonesia) troops on the other. "It was a question of kill or being killed," Reino softly states. "We slept in pup tents and had to be ready 24/7."

During his time in the service, Reino was promoted to sergeant 1st class in recognition of good behavior and diligently doing his duties when asked—qualities he had likely learned on his farm in Bruce Crossing. After this promotion, he became a section chief in artillery and oversaw up to six men when on a mission.

Reino was honorably discharged from the service in July 1952. Today, he still sadly ponders, "I don't understand why I got out without a scratch and yet so many of my friends never came home." And what is his best memory of his time in the service? "I remember when I returned home, standing on the deck of the ship as it came into San Francisco Bay and how happy I was to see the lights on the Golden Gate Bridge," Reino says, his voice cracking a bit.

Once back home he enrolled at Michigan Technological University where he obtained his engineering degree in under four years. He then began a career with U.S. Steel, working as an engineer at the world's largest limestone quarry in Rogers City, Michigan. During his career, he enjoyed traveling globally to places such as China, Australia, Japan and India. Never forgetting his roots, he says with a grin, "But Finland was my favorite."



A USO show while Reino was stationed in Korea featured Betty Hutton. It was something he never forgot.



Reino and two of his fellow soldiers in Korea sporting bandoliers draped over their shoulders.



Reino with a fellow soldier digging a fox hole in Korea.

Reino now resides at the D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans in Marquette, and on September 27 was honored to be one of the participants on the Honor Flight to Washington, D.C. When asked what it meant to him to have served his country, he simply states, "I was proud to do my duty, whether right or wrong."

Reino serves as an example of a faithful American hero and inspires us to seek out the stories of veterans around us. Thank you, Reino. Thank you, veterans. ■

*"Our nation honors her sons and daughters who answered the call to defend a country they never knew and a people they never met."*

—Korean War Veteran Memorial Washington, D.C.

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## Where In *Michigan* Is This?

Identify the correct location of the photo above by January 15 and be entered into a drawing to win a \$50 electric bill credit. 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 the name of your co-op.

Our Mystery Photo Contest winner from the November/December 2017 issue is Christa Carbone, a HomeWorks Tri-County Cooperative member, who correctly identified the photo as Seal Choix Point Lighthouse near Manistique in Gulliver, Mich.

Winners are announced in the following issues of *Country Lines*: January, March, May, July/August, September and November/December.



November/December Photo



## Jack's Journal: Michigan's Main Street

By Jack O'Malley

Each year motorists drive over 95 billion miles on Michigan roadways, many of them on the state's longest route-numbered highway. Its full name is Interstate 75. We locals just call it 75. It has also picked up a nickname, some calling it Michigan's Main Street. In fact, Michigan's Main Street covers 395 miles through the state's upper and lower peninsulas.

Michigan's Main Street begins in Michigan's oldest city, Sault Saint Marie. Travelers headed south will pass Castle Rock, one of the upper peninsula's most iconic tourist attractions. After climbing the 196-foot limestone stack, travelers should leave time to visit Paul Bunyan and his Blue Ox, Babe. They're always ready for a picture or two! Continuing south, I-75 crosses the mighty Mackinac Bridge to Michigan's Lower Peninsula. From there, things get really interesting!

History lovers may enjoy an afternoon touring Mackinac City's colonial Fort Michilimackinac, while travelers on the hunt for souvenirs might prefer an excursion to the legendary Sea Shell City. With the famous "man-eating clam" located at the iconic shop, it's a trip back to 1960s tourism for sure.

Continuing south, Michigan's Main Street passes through Indian River, home to the world's largest crucifix, and Houghton Lake, the state's largest inland lake. Locals love to point out the lake is "so big you can see it from space." Pinconning has the honor of being the cheese capital of Michigan, and Birch Run is home to the largest outlet mall in the Midwest.

Rolling rural hills eventually give way to the state's urban setting. Motorists maintaining a southern course will pass Comerica Park, Little Caesar's Arena and Ford Field in downtown Detroit, as well as the Marathon Petroleum Refinery with its giant butane sphere painted like a basketball. The highway's Michigan journey ends in Monroe County, hometown to General George Armstrong Custer, who was a celebrated civil war veteran.

Interstate 75 continues for another 1,390 miles, finally ending in Miami, Florida. But that's not our 75. Our 75 is just like our people—diverse, entertaining and reliable. With so much to see in our great state, where will Michigan's Main Street take you?





# SUN

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