

January 2018

MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES

Great Lakes Energy Cooperative

NO BARRIERS WARRIORS

THE POWER OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT

Fiber Internet Project Approved

Grants Awarded To Local Schools

Rate Change Meeting Planned



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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

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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 or email to cdorr@meca.coop

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Fiber Internet Pilot Project Approved

Bill Scott, Great Lakes Energy President/CEO

I have good news for Great Lakes Energy members interested in high-speed internet service.

Our board of directors has approved moving forward with a fiber internet service pilot project in the Petoskey service area, which includes most of Emmet County and small parts of Charlevoix and Cheboygan counties (see map). Service to Beaver Island will be a form of high-speed internet yet to be determined. Should the pilot project be successful, we would extend fiber internet to other service areas based on member demand.

The addition of the fiber optic technology will benefit all GLE members in the service area, not just those who subscribe to the service. It will serve as the backbone for other supporting technologies that will enable us to improve our reliability and outage restoration capabilities. It could also lead to improving our members' overall experience with us by, for example, providing customized information on where and when their kWh usage is occurring.

The construction phase of the pilot project which would involve attaching fiber optic cable to our poles could begin as early as spring 2018. If plans proceed as scheduled, the service could first become available to some members one year after installation begins.

Based on two independent feasibility studies, we expect the service could attract an estimated 6,000 subscribers within the Petoskey service area within the first three years. The two firms that conducted the studies for us either have experience working with other electric co-ops on similar projects

or experience working with fiber deployment worldwide.

The two studies, along with a third commissioned by our power supplier, Wolverine Power Cooperative, all conclude building and operating a fiber-to-the-home network in this service area is a financially viable option for GLE. That's based in part on GLE's very positive satisfaction rating from its members for its electric service. It's also based on surveys done by GLE and Wolverine that show a high demand for high speed, reasonably priced, internet service.

Preliminary pricing for residential fiber service is expected to be competitive with existing internet service providers in the area, but it will offer speeds faster than cable internet. We also will be able to provide this service to members currently not offered high-speed internet from the existing providers.

Our plan is that there will be no negative impact on electric service or rates.

Now that the fiber pilot project is approved, we will begin moving diligently to the next phase which will include securing financing, as well as plans for construction, staffing, marketing and much more.

Details Coming Soon

We will keep you informed on this exciting new project as it develops in the months ahead through our publications, online at gtlakes.com or on our Facebook page. Please note: enrollment is not available yet. Make sure you get the latest news by keeping your mailing address and email address current.

Fiber Internet Project Q&A

Q: What is fiber-to-the-home internet service?

A: Fiber-to-the-home, or FTTH, refers to a technology that can be used to provide communications and entertainment services to your home or business. Fiber allows members to access state-of-the-art voice, data, and video services over fiber optic cable, which is as thin as a human hair.

The greatest benefit of fiber-to-the-home internet service is the amount of information and services that can be provided over a single connection. Additionally, the service offers unsurpassed speed and reliable, clear connections.

Q: Why is Great Lakes Energy offering fiber-to-the-home?

A: This project is a pilot that will help us determine the feasibility of offering the service throughout our service area. The two main reasons we are starting this pilot are:

1. Access to a fiber data system will help our engineers and operations teams monitor and maintain our electric system more accurately, respond to outages faster, and plan for system upgrades in an effective manner.
2. Our members have told us there is a need for better internet in our service area to improve the quality of life. Many people in rural Michigan don't have access to a dependable, fast internet connection which can impact the ability to do basic things on the internet as well as work from home, stream video/audio, expand businesses and more. We strive to offer reliable energy, comfort and communications solutions to enhance our members' quality of life. Access to high-speed (true broadband) internet is a solution that builds on our past successes in delivering reliable electricity with outstanding service to our members.

Q: When will fiber internet service be available to serve my home or business?

A: Members in the Petoskey service district will be the first to receive service through the pilot project. We expect they could begin subscribing to fiber internet service as early as the spring of 2019. We anticipate beginning construction in spring 2018 with construction work taking a few years. Construction will involve stringing fiber optic cable to our poles.

Q: When will fiber internet service be available to GLE members outside the Petoskey district?

A: After the pilot project in the Petoskey district is well underway—which will take a few years, we will analyze the entire process to guide us in determining the feasibility of expanding the service to other regions within our service area.

Q: When will members be able to sign up for service?

A: We will notify members when we are ready to offer service in their area.

Q: Will fiber-to-the-home affect my electric bill?

A: Our plan is for this project to have no negative impact on your bills, rates, or electric service.

Q: How can we get updates on when service will be available in our area?

A: We plan to make regular news updates on our web page, Facebook page, at member meetings, through email, in *Michigan Country Lines* magazine, and in our PowerTalk bill inserts.



Fiber internet service is coming to the shaded areas above, which includes most of Emmet County and small parts of Charlevoix and Cheboygan counties. Service to Beaver Island will be a form of high-speed internet yet to be determined.



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 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 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 Great Lakes Energy'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 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

PHONE: 877.296.4319



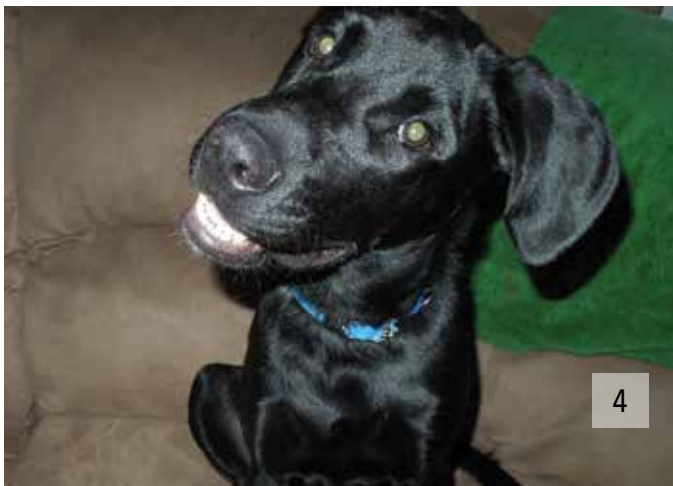
Energy Optimization programs and incentives are applicable to Michigan electric service locations only. Other restrictions may apply. For a complete list of participating utilities, visit michigan-energy.org.



GLE Photo Contest

Furry Friends

1. Leaf on a log! –Nancy Glaspie, Grayling
2. Naughty dog, nifty feet. –Dawn Klee, Johannesburg
3. A boy and his dog afloat on a boat. –Cynthia Smith, Johannesburg
4. Cheese! –Jonathan Clark, Idlewild
5. Saint was not impressed by his homework. –Sarah Lohman, Reed City
6. Ziggy on his big red tractor. –Michael Adams, Petoskey



Most votes on Facebook!

Submit Your "Talented Kids" Photo!

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.

Our January theme is Talented Kids. Photos can be submitted by Jan. 20 to be featured in the March issue.

How To Enter:

Visit [Facebook.com/greatlakesenergy](https://www.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 (see 2017 winner on page 17.)

Enter to win a
\$200
energy bill
credit!



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 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.



Historic Farm Honored

An Otsego County farm owned by Great Lakes Energy member Sandra Prusakiewicz was recently certified as a centennial farm.

Great Lakes Energy is a sponsor of the Michigan Centennial Farm Program that honors Great Lakes Energy members and other Michigan residents whose farms have been owned and operated by the same family for 100 years. Once a farm is certified, the owners receive a certificate as well as a display marker for their farm.

GLE members can request an application or receive more information about the program by contacting The Historical Society of Michigan, 517-324-1828, or by visiting their website at centennialfarms.org.



Need Payment Help? Dial 2-1-1

Find help paying your utility bills this winter by dialing 2-1-1.

It's a free community health and human services information and referral service that connects eligible residents with energy payment assistance, and much more. By simply dialing 2-1-1, available 24/7, callers are connected with a trained, caring professional who will confidentially assess their situation, identify their needs and refer them to local resources for help.

If you should experience trouble accessing 2-1-1, you can do a search for the closest 2-1-1 provider in your area by visiting 211.org.

Please remember to also review our Energy Optimization programs, for energy efficiency rebate offers. Visit michigan-energy.org for details or call 877-296-4319.

Helping our members with their energy costs is another way we're looking out for you.

Notice To Members of Great Lakes Energy Cooperative ("Great Lakes")

RE: Case No. U-18275 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, Great Lakes 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. Great Lakes proposes to implement its 2018–2019 EWR Plan and does not intend to change the existing approved surcharge for the Programs. A copy of Great Lakes 2018–2019 EWR Plan as filed with the MPSC is available by request at any of Great Lakes offices.

Great Lakes Energy Seeks Rate Increase

Great Lakes Energy is proposing rate changes that would result in a net increase of less than one cent per kilowatt-hour (kWh) for residential and seasonal accounts.

Under the proposed rates, the kWh rate for residential/seasonal members would increase \$0.0216 per kWh, and the power supply cost recovery (PSCR) factor would decrease \$0.0165 per kWh. The result is a \$0.0051 increase per kWh. The monthly charge would remain the same for both rate classifications.

For the average residential member using 800 kWh per month, this equates to a \$4.08 monthly increase. For the average seasonal member using 200 kWh per month, this equates to a \$1.02 monthly increase.

The increase, although small, would raise revenues to provide sufficient funding levels for maintaining reliable electric service, providing adequate margins, and ensuring members receive the service they need to power their homes and businesses.

The need for an increase was identified in a cost of service study recently completed by an independent rate consultant. As a not for profit cooperative, Great Lakes Energy's rates are established to cover costs. Margins (profits) are returned to members, not investors, in the form of capital credit refunds.

"We want the progress we've made in providing safe, reliable electric service to continue," says Bill Scott, president/CEO.

"As a not for profit cooperative, we are committed to seeking only enough additional revenue to cover our costs."

The cooperative's board of directors will hold a Jan. 24 informational meeting (see the related notice on this page) to discuss the proposed rate changes for residential/seasonal rates as well as all other rate classifications. Members can attend to comment and ask questions. Members may also direct any comments or questions by email to glenergy@glenergy.com or by mail to Great Lakes Energy, Attn: Rate Increase, PO Box 70, Boyne City, MI 49712 by March 5.

The board will consider adoption of the proposed rate changes at an open member meeting on March 21. If approved, the new rates would take effect with June monthly bills.

Adequate margins will also allow Great Lakes Energy to continue to fulfill its obligation as a cooperative to share margins or profits with its members as capital credit refunds. Since 2003, Great Lakes Energy members have received more than \$66.4 million in capital credit refunds.

Proposed Rate Changes

	Current Rate	Proposed Rate	Change
Energy charge	\$0.0864/kWh	\$0.1080/kWh	\$0.0216/kWh
PSCR charge	\$0.0165/kWh	\$0.00/kWh	\$(0.0165)/kWh
Net increase			\$0.0051/kWh

Notice to Members of Great Lakes Energy Cooperative

**A Special Board Meeting is set for Wednesday, January 24, 10:30 a.m.
at Great Lakes Energy headquarters in Boyne City**

The board of directors will seek member input on proposed changes to the cooperative's rates and tariffs at its meeting on January 24, to be held at the cooperative's Boyne City headquarters. The meeting will start at 10:30 a.m. and is open to all members of Great Lakes Energy Cooperative. Members will have an opportunity to address the board on the proposed changes prior to board action which will occur in March at an open member meeting. Members who are unable to attend may submit their comments (see below) by March 5. Comments will be shared with the board prior to the March 21 meeting at which they will make a final decision.

The following item will be reviewed:

- Great Lakes Energy is seeking to increase revenues through rate changes that will result in a net increase of \$0.0051 per kilowatt-hour (kWh) for residential/seasonal members as well as rate changes for all other rate classifications.

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 Great Lakes Energy at 888-485-2537, ext. 1313 a week in advance to request mobility, visual, hearing or other assistance. Comments may also be made by March 5 by email at glenergy@glenergy.com or by mail to Great Lakes Energy, Attn: Rate Increase, PO Box 70, Boyne City, MI 49712.



NO BARRIERS WARRIORS

THE POWER OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT

By Emily Haines Lloyd

When 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."

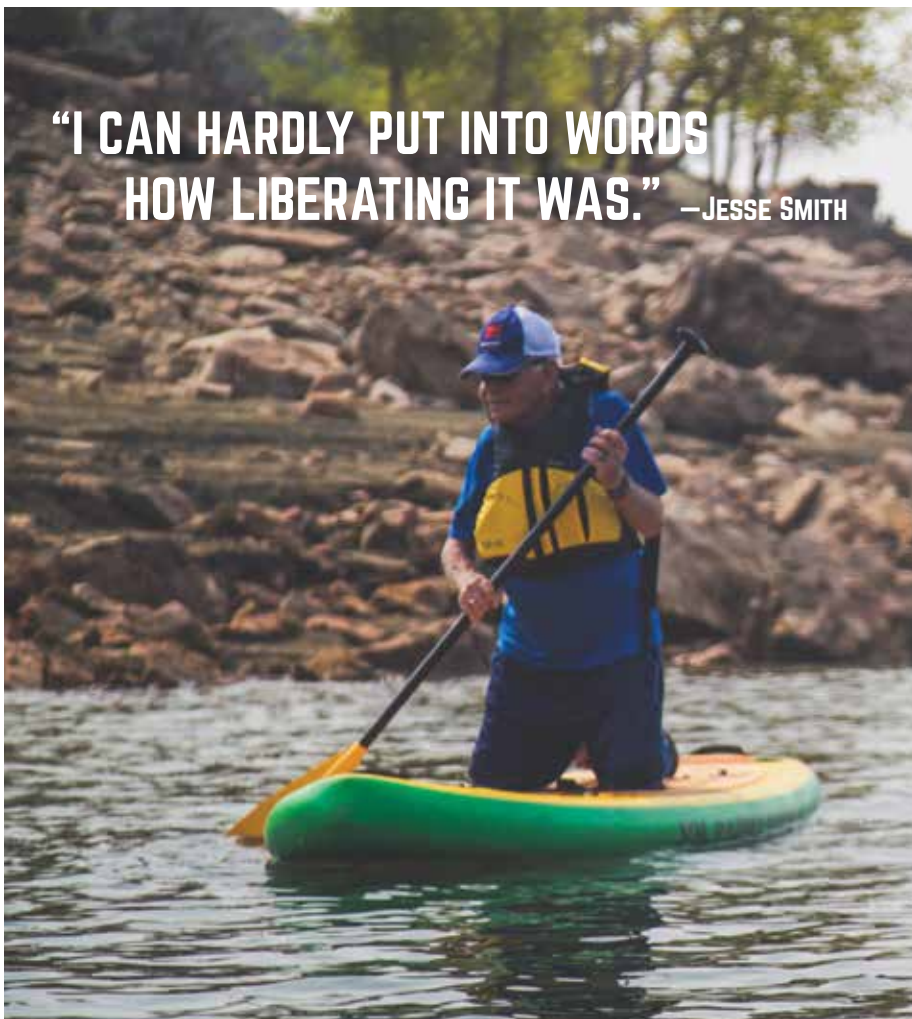
In 2012, No Barriers USA officially began incorporating its programming to include injured soldiers from all branches of the military, as well as survivors of the fallen. Today they are known as No Barriers Warriors (NBW). These individuals participate in mentally, physically, and emotionally

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."

Are you a veteran interested in being nominated for the 2018 No Barriers program? If so, please go to 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.



Paul Schemanski

Who Are Your Directors?

The directors of your electric cooperative are Great Lakes Energy members just like you.

In this issue, we feature GLE directors so you can get to know them better. **Paul Schemanski**, Business Intelligence Team, Atos Healthcare, helps manage the electronic medical records data for McLaren Northern Michigan Hospital in Petoskey.

Working with other departments, his efforts in gathering data electronically for the Antimicrobial Stewardship Program helped the hospital earn a Governor's Award for improving patient care through automated data analysis. He also was recognized as a Patient Safety Hero by the hospital for automating the gathering of infectious disease data which enhanced patient care.

"It is extremely rewarding to know that the work I do has a direct impact on the care of patients," he said.

In addition to his responsibilities as a GLE board member, he volunteers his time with Northern Community Mediation, Petoskey Rotary, Petoskey High School and is a trustee of Resort Township.

Working together for the benefit of all is part of the cooperative difference.

Co-op Members Win Prizes



Donna Frank (pictured), of Scottville, is the grand prize winner of an LED TV in a random drawing that was part of Great Lakes Energy's Co-op Month celebration. Emmy Jandernoa, of Wayland, won second prize, which is \$100 worth of LED lights. Third prize, \$50 worth of LED lights, went to Ken Maitre of Kalkaska.

Thank you to the 2,520 Great Lakes Energy members who entered and also took advantage of our energy-saving gifts giveaway. Continue to save by visiting michigan-energy.org for news on current energy-saving rebate offers.



Two Earn National Director Certification

Great Lakes Energy directors (L to R) Tim Brechon, of Paris, and John LaForge, of Delton, recently earned Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) certificates.

The certificate is the first level of co-op director training available from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the national service organization for electric cooperatives. CCD courses cover director duties and liabilities, understanding the electric business, board operations and process, strategic planning, and financial decision-making.



Pay My Bill

Photo Contest Winner

Julie Lorson, of Montague, is the 2017 winner of Great Lakes Energy's Pay My Bill Photo Contest.

The winner received a credit up to \$200 that was applied to the Great Lakes Energy member's December 2017 electric bill.

The winning photo above was selected in a random drawing of all entries that appeared in *Michigan Country Lines* in 2017. It was originally published in the June issue.

Thank you to the many GLE members who participated. Members are invited to send in photos for our 2018 contest.

See page 9 for details.

GLE Awards \$30,000 In Learning Grants

For the sixth year in a row, Great Lakes Energy showed support for local communities through its Touchstone Energy Classroom Grant Program. Grants totaling \$30,000 were awarded to 19 school districts in the GLE service area to promote learning, innovation and technology in the classroom.

Classroom grants awarded for the 2017–18 school year include:

Allendale Christian School: \$1,511.93 to help fund scientific instruments for outdoor education.

Bellaire Middle/High School: \$1,319.91 for snap circuit kits for giving middle school students the opportunity to learn the basics of an electrical circuit without having to solder wires together.

Daisy Brook Elementary, Fremont: \$2,000 for LEGO Mindstorms Education sets and Chromebooks to aid in teaching fifth graders science, technology, engineering, math and computer science skills.

East Jordan Elementary: \$1,360 to integrate a Mimio Teach System into kindergarten classes for interactive teaching and hands-on learning.

Franklin Elementary, Cadillac: \$1,734 for materials for The Mystery Science program to build children's love and curiosity of science.

Gaylord St. Mary Cathedral School: \$322 for KUTA mathematics software for middle school students.

Lee Elementary School, Middleville: \$1,200 for 12 Spheros SPRK+ robots designed to inspire curiosity, creativity, and invention through connected play and coding.

Mackinaw Public School, Mackinaw City: \$2,000 for 15 Chromebooks for online assessments and activities that give students more access to technology.

Manton Middle School: \$1,949.75 for five LEGO Mindstorms Education sets to aid in teaching students science, technology, engineering and math skills.

Mason County Central High School, Scottville: \$2,000 for computer-controlled cutting machine for woodshop/CAD class students.

Northern Michigan Christian School, McBain: \$1,900 for Chromebooks for third through fifth grades.

R.J. Steeby Elementary, Wayland: \$1,847.48 for 10 LEGO Education WeDo 2.0 Robotics kits for building and programming robots to solve problems.

Reed City Public School: \$1,976.31 for equipment and materials for technology resources to benefit students in elementary grade art, middle school computer science and high school science classes.

Shay Elementary, Harbor Springs: \$1,900 for littleBits education kits to integrate engineering challenges into the school's Makerspace program.

Sheridan Elementary, Petoskey: \$600 for six e-readers to increase the amount of time students spend reading books at their independent reading level.

St. Francis Xavier, Petoskey: \$1,400 to help cover materials and other expenses for middle school students to build underwater, remotely-operated vehicles for scientific research and competitions.

St. Mary School, Charlevoix: 1,981.62 for the LEGO Education's Simple and Power Machine sets to support the school's science curriculum.

Thomas Read Elementary, Shelby: \$1,997 for Coding Music Crossover program with Osmo Coding Jam that helps students compose a piece of music with coding.

White Cloud Elementary: \$1,000 for large light table and transparent bricks, cubes, blocks, etc. for tracing and other interactive learning experiences.

Enter to win a
\$50
energy bill
credit!



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 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

It has fueled a lifetime of family getaways.
Today, it's fueling your everyday life.




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Power
OF
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