

MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES

Alger Delta Cooperative Electric Association

Courageous Coffee

The Perfect Blend

Annual Meeting Highlights

**Alger Delta
Celebrates 80 Years
In Business**

Yoopers Service Dogs

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Win \$150 for stories published.

Guest Column

Country Lines
invites members to
submit stories.

Guidelines

1. Approximately 350 words
2. Digital photos must be at least 600 KB
3. Submit your guest column at countrylines.com under the MI Co-op Community tab

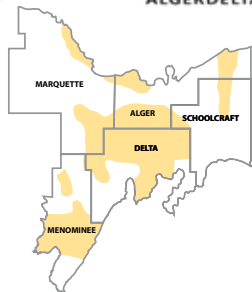
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I Remember...

We invite members
to share their
fondest memories.

Guidelines

1. Approximately 200 words
2. Digital photos must be at least 600 KB
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Honor Flight

Tom Harrell, Chief Executive Officer

Honor Flight is a nonprofit organization created solely to honor America's veterans for all their sacrifices. Honor Flight transports American heroes to Washington, D.C., to visit and reflect at the memorials and monuments that have been created to commemorate their sacrifice and service to our nation. Honor Flight provides this to World War II, Korean and Vietnam war veterans who served during each of these respective wars whether stateside or overseas; and it is provided at no cost to the veterans.

Honor Flight's motto is "It's never too late to say... thank you." This is especially poignant given that about 430 World War II veterans pass away each day. So, the time to express our thanks to these brave men and women is running out.

That is why Alger Delta supports the Upper Peninsula Honor Flight, a local hub of the National Honor Flight Network. Our way of paying tribute to those who gave so much is to help provide a memorable, safe and rewarding trip to Washington D.C., where they can see the gratefulness of a nation artfully expressed in beautiful and meaningful sculpture and architecture.

It's a privilege to participate in Honor Flight—and we do that by allowing an employee to be a "guardian" and accompany a veteran as they tour the World War II, Korean and Vietnam memorials, the Lincoln Monument, Arlington National Cemetery and the Air Force Memorial. Along the way are stirring views of the Washington Monument, the White House, the Pentagon and other notable locations in our nation's capital. In all of these rest a vision of what our country can do for our own good and for the good of people throughout the world when we are united and act as one.

When the day comes to an end, these honored vets get off the plane to go home and they are met by gatherings of family, friends and well-wishers who greet them, clap for them and thank them for their service to this nation.

On this Fourth of July, Alger Delta honors you and says "Thank you" for your service. And, to all those still serving—may you be blessed above all measure and thanks to you also, for guarding that which has been entrusted to us by our founding fathers.

To learn more about Honor Flight and to see some pictures of the honored veterans, visit upperpeninsulahonorflight.org.

Happy Fourth of July!



Alger Delta Inks Labor Deal

At their regular board meeting on May 16, Alger Delta's Board of Directors ratified a three-year collective bargaining agreement with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 876. IBEW Local 876 represents Alger Delta's lineworkers, other outside employees and the member service representatives.

The current contract runs through November 2018. The co-op and the IBEW met in early May to begin discussions with the intent of reaching an agreement prior to the expiration of the existing contract. The two sides agreed to focus on wages and quickly reached a tentative agreement.

Alger Delta says that competition for skilled workers has increased significantly in the past several years and the demand for lineworkers is high. "We have a great workforce and we're doing things to invest in our employees," says Tom Harrell, Alger Delta's CEO. "Compensation is about attracting and retaining the best people we can get. We provide them with the tools, equipment and skills to do their jobs, but also develop their leadership abilities and show them opportunities for professional growth and development. We want to be an employer of choice in the central U.P." Harrell added.

The new agreement takes effect on December 1, 2018, and expires on November 30, 2021. The deal provides employees with an 11 percent increase over the three-year contract. Some skilled positions will also receive an additional \$1.50 per hour, thereby keeping compensation competitive with like positions in other utilities. On May 11, the employees voted unanimously to accept the deal thereby setting up approval by Alger Delta's board. The co-op's board also voted unanimously to ratify the agreement.



Board President Dave Anthony Retires

The President of Alger Delta Cooperative's Board of Directors announced his retirement at the co-op's board meeting on Wednesday, May 16. Dave Anthony joined the board in April 2014 and served over four years. Anthony was elected President in June 2014 and served in that capacity for all but one year of his tenure. In announcing his retirement from the board, Anthony cited the need to spend more time tending to his other business interests. Anthony also reported he will be retiring from the Hannahville Indian Community where he works for the tribal administration.

Collectively, the board expressed its respectful disappointment in his decision. "Dave Anthony brought a level of skilled leadership to Alger Delta's boardroom and he will certainly be missed," says Tom Harrell, Alger Delta's CEO. Harrell added that Anthony's experience in the Michigan legislature and his business acumen were valued resources to the board and the co-op as a whole. "Dave came on board when there was turmoil in the boardroom and his steady influence helped guide the ship to calmer waters," Harrell added.

Anthony and his spouse, Susan, own and operate the Northern Sun Winery where they grow grapes and produce a variety of wines. They also host a variety of events at their winery and tasting room.

Alger Delta's board will interview candidates to complete Anthony's term at their July board meeting.

◀ 2018 ▶ YOUTH TOUR

Photos courtesy of Doug Snitgen

Washington, D.C. Highlights

Electric Cooperative Youth Tour teaches students about their past and helps equip them with the skills they need to be Michigan's next generation of energy-minded leaders. Youth Tour offers a unique opportunity to explore leadership lessons from our nation's history, build life-long friendships with students from across the country, and be immersed in the cooperative spirit.

Michigan's electric cooperatives sponsored 22 high school juniors and seniors on this once-in-a-lifetime trip to Washington, D.C. this past June.



▲ Students from across the state toured multiple landmarks, including a guided tour of the U.S. Capitol.



▲ The Michigan pillar is a tribute within the National World War II Memorial, and represents the 620,000 Michigan residents who served during World War II.



▲ Youth Tour students visited the historical home of George Washington, Mount Vernon.



▲ The group visited the Marine Corps War Memorial.



▲ Students enjoyed meeting with Congressmen Bill Huizenga and Jack Bergman on the steps of the U.S. Capitol building.



**Information is available at
CooperativeYouthTour.com**



Five Friendly Tips For The Farmers Market

By Grace Derocha

Michigan residents are fortunate in their ability to grow and buy fresh, locally grown produce throughout the summer and fall. According to the Michigan Farmers Market Association, the mitten is home to more than 300 farmers markets, reaching residents in nearly every county of the state. Trips to the farmers market can be a fun family tradition to inspire healthier eating habits and explore new foods and flavors. While planning a visit to the farmers market, keep in mind some of the following tips:

1. Ask Questions

Don't shy away from making conversation with the vendors at a local farmers market. Unlike a grocery store setting, shoppers are given the opportunity to learn more about what they're purchasing, ask questions and get advice for their own growing/gardening purposes. Some vendors may even have insight on cooking methods or tasty food pairings.

2. Bring Bags And Cash

Farmers market vendors do not usually supply shopping bags. Bringing reusable bags from home guarantees a means of carrying purchases while reducing waste. It's also common for farmers market vendors to only accept cash, so be sure to have bills and small change on hand before heading out the door.

3. Pick The Right Time To Go

Crowds at the market tend to pick up around midday, so it's best to arrive right as it opens. Early shoppers have a better chance of avoiding lines, getting advice from vendors and picking from high-demand fruits or vegetables. On the other hand, those in the market for a good deal may want to visit later in the day. Oftentimes farmers market vendors will discount their products instead of risking waste.

4. Know Seasonal Produce

Having an idea of what produce is in season can help set expectations for purchases at the market. Research what grows in the area, talk to the farmers about what produce will be coming and plan shopping trips from there. Many farmers markets provide customers with a crop calendar at the information booth to show when various fruits and vegetables will be available.

5. Meal Plan Ahead

Going to the farmers market without a list or plan may lead to unnecessary purchases. To avoid waste, look around the kitchen and get an idea of which foods might pair well for meals in the week ahead. Use the seasonal produce available at the market for inspiration and explore using any leftover produce in a new soup, salad, sandwich or casserole recipe.

To find a farmer's market nearby use the Find a Farmers Market tool, found on the Michigan Farmers Market Association website: mifma.org/findafarmersmarket/.

Fruits and vegetables in-season throughout the summer in Michigan include, but are not limited to:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Apples | <input type="checkbox"/> Cucumbers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Apricots | <input type="checkbox"/> Greens (turnips, collards, kale) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asparagus | <input type="checkbox"/> Peaches |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beans | <input type="checkbox"/> Peas |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Broccoli | <input type="checkbox"/> Peppers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blackberries | <input type="checkbox"/> Radishes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blueberries | <input type="checkbox"/> Raspberries |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cabbage | <input type="checkbox"/> Spinach |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Carrots | <input type="checkbox"/> Squash (yellow, zucchini) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Celery | <input type="checkbox"/> Strawberries |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cherries (tart and sweet) | |

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.

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
- Pipe wrap

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. 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.



Photo Contest

Fan Spirit

1. "Go Trojans!" by Laurie Borysiak
2. "Take me out to the ball game!" by Janet Reed
3. "Go Pack Go" by Kathleen Johnson
4. "Go Blue!" by Sarah Callovi



2



1



3



4

Share Your Photos!

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

Upcoming Photo Topics And Deadlines:

Fall Colors, deadline: July 20 (September issue)

Pumpkin Faces, deadline: August 20 (October issue)

Celebrations, deadline: September 20 (November/December issue)

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

We look forward to seeing your best photos!

Eggcellent

Jump start your day with these egg recipes!

Crustless Quiche

Mary Gavlek, Great Lakes Energy

- ½ cup Bisquick
- 3 eggs
- ½ cup melted butter
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon pepper
- 1½ cups milk
- 1 cup shredded cheese
- cooked chopped meats of choice
- diced vegetables of choice

Preheat oven to 425 F. Mix together Bisquick, eggs, butter, salt, pepper, milk and cheese with a wire whip. Add meat and vegetables. Pour into a round pie plate or 9×9 square pan. Bake uncovered for 45 minutes. Let stand 5 minutes, serve and enjoy.



Watch a video of this recipe at
micoopkitchen.com/videos



Rise N' Shine Eggs

Kathie Riess, Cherryland

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| 2-3 tablespoons butter | 1-2 teaspoons prepared horseradish (not cream style) |
| 4 large eggs | • Tabasco sauce, to taste |
| ⅓ cup grated sharp cheddar cheese | • salt and pepper |
| ⅓ cup seeded and chopped tomatoes | |

Melt butter in a skillet over medium heat. In a mixing bowl, whisk eggs until almost totally homogenized. Add eggs to skillet and stir gently. After they have begun to thicken, add remaining ingredients. Stir until cheese melts and is incorporated. Serve immediately.



Potato Crusted Quiche With Morels, Ramps, Asparagus, Bacon And Swiss

Bonnie Langworthy, HomeWorks Tri-County

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 2 medium potatoes,
peeled and sliced | ¾ teaspoon dried thyme |
| 2 tablespoons oil | 8 strips bacon, cooked
crisp |
| ½ cup ramps (leeks),
chopped | 4 ounces gruyere cheese,
grated |
| ½ cup roasted red bell
pepper, chopped | 8-10 large eggs |
| ¼ cup morel mushrooms,
coarsely chopped | ½ cup half & half |
| ¼ cup blanched asparagus,
chopped | ¼ teaspoon salt |
| | ¼ teaspoon ground pepper |
| | • pinch of nutmeg |

Preheat oven to 350 F. Lightly grease a 9-inch pie pan. Blanch potatoes in salted, boiling water for 1½ minutes. When cool, place a single layer of potatoes in the pan, slightly overlapping. Stand up slices (also overlapping) around edge. Heat oil in large skillet over medium-high heat. Add ramps (leeks), red pepper, morels, asparagus and thyme and sauté 5 minutes. Spoon mixture on top of potatoes. Crumble bacon on top of veggie mix. Spread cheese on top. Whisk together eggs, half & half, salt, pepper and nutmeg. Whisk until color lightens. Pour into pie dish. Bake for 35 minutes. Cool 25 minutes and serve in wedges.



Cocktails And Drinks: due August 1
Holiday Favorites: due September 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

When Courageous Coffee's Tanya Schneider puts so much soul into roasting the perfect coffee beans, it seems a shame not to take advantage of all that heartfelt flavor. She shares a recipe that uses brewed coffee for the ultimate coffee companion.



Cappuccino Muffins

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| 2 cups all-purpose flour | ½ cup strong brewed coffee |
| ¾ cup sugar | ½ cup butter, melted |
| 2½ teaspoons baking
powder | 1 large egg |
| ½ teaspoon salt | 1 teaspoon vanilla extract |
| ½ cup milk | 1 cup miniature semisweet
chocolate chips |

Preheat oven to 350 F. In a large bowl, combine the flour, sugar, baking powder and salt. In another bowl, combine the milk, coffee, butter, egg and vanilla. Stir into dry ingredients just until moistened. Fold in chocolate chips.

Fill greased muffin cups two-thirds full and bake for 15-20 minutes or until a toothpick comes out clean.

Serve with cream cheese spread (optional).

Cream Cheese Spread

- 4 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 1 tablespoon sugar
- ½ teaspoon vanilla extract
- ¼ cup miniature semisweet chocolate chips

Mix all ingredients together until well blended and spread on muffins.

These muffins pair well with a cup of Courageous Coffee!

Read the full story about Tanya Schneider, owner of Courageous Coffee, on page 14, and find this recipe and others at micoopkitchen.com.

The Island Resort and Casino Convention Center in Harris was filled with Alger Delta Cooperative members who attended a sit-down dinner and business meeting.



Alger Delta Celebrates

80 Years of Business

At The Annual Meeting

On Wednesday, June 13, Alger Delta celebrated their 80th year of doing business with a sit-down dinner at the Island Resort and Casino Convention Center in Harris. Board Vice President and Director of District 6 Paul Sederquist chaired the event, which was attended by 366 members, invited guests and staff. Attendees enjoyed a delicious dinner and program including introduction of newly elected directors and prize drawings.



The Alger Delta Board of Directors was seated at the dais during the meeting, which was chaired by Board Vice President and Director of District 6 Paul Sederquist.



Guest Speaker
Cherryland Electric CEO
Tony Anderson addresses
members and guests.

Special guest speaker for the event was Cherryland Electric Cooperative CEO Tony Anderson, who gave a heartfelt and inspiring speech touching on his life path and career in the electric cooperative business.

"This particular Annual Meeting gave recognition to 80 years of serving our members," says Tom Harrell, Alger Delta's CEO. "Everyone involved did a great job and I heard a lot of members say they really enjoyed the meeting. It's a great way to just talk to members, tell them what we're doing, and really connect with them on a personal level. I'm so glad we do that. It's the cooperative difference in action," he added.

**"It was the *nicest evening* of
being entertained by Alger Delta.
Just the best ever."**

Gayle Gill, Alger Delta member

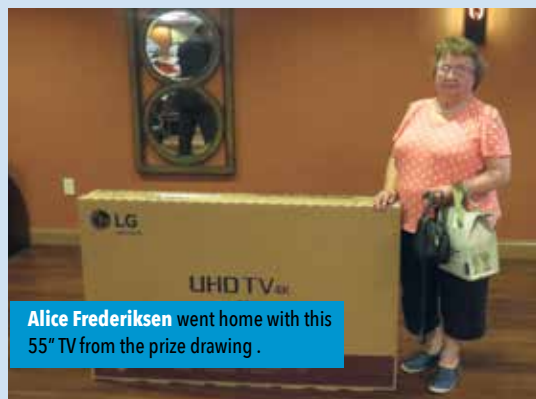
PRIZE DRAWING *Winners*



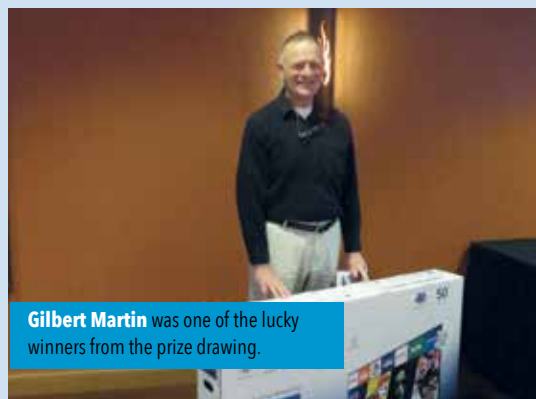
Tracy Elford may enjoy her summer a bit more after winning a patio set from the Annual Meeting prize drawing.



David Delaire was the lucky prize drawing recipient of this 55" TV.



Alice Frederiksen went home with this 55" TV from the prize drawing .



Gilbert Martin was one of the lucky winners from the prize drawing.



Courageous Coffee

By Emily Haines Lloyd

The
Perfect Blend



While coffee is a daily part of many people's lives—there are some folks for whom coffee is more than a ritual, it's a calling.

For Tanya Schneider, her fascination with coffee started early in life.

As a young girl, she would get up in the morning with her father, an otherwise busy man, and watch him sit down with a simple coffee cup and relax. By the time she was six, she'd asked for her first mug of coffee, served with an ice cube and a dash of milk. It was love at first sip.

Years later Schneider began to educate herself more deeply. She read books on the growing seasons of coffee beans and how to roast them. While Michigan weather would never allow her to grow her own beans, it couldn't keep her from roasting them.

Armed with her first coffee roaster, which was the size of a toaster oven and only roasted about a quarter-pound of beans at a time, Schneider trial and errored her way into her craft. She saved money along the way with a bigger dream in the back of her mind.

In 2010, Schneider, who is employed with HomeWorks Tri-County Electric Cooperative, had an opportunity to roast her coffee for military care packages that were being assembled at work.



"It felt so good to roast for someone else, instead of just myself and my family," said Schneider. "I knew that if this ever grew—the purpose would have to be bigger than myself."



Soon after the mission trip, she and her husband bought the future home of Courageous Coffee—a 12x12 Amish-built building that found itself on the back of the couple's property. Next

In 2016, Schneider found herself on a mission trip to Belize with a group of individuals from church. In the evenings, she and the other women on the team sat together and shared stories about their lives and connected with one another. Schneider shared with them that she'd just started a business the month before—Courageous Coffee.

came a larger, upgraded roaster and a few 150-pound bags of quality coffee beans. By the end of the year she'd sold her first bag of coffee to a co-worker. Within a few months several local businesses were carrying Courageous Coffee for sale and it was available for purchase online at mycastleourageouscoffee.com.

"I shared that I roasted coffee—mostly for family and friends—and I told them of my mission to make a difference by roasting coffee," said Schneider. "I was so amazed by their support and it gave me a huge boost of confidence that I really needed in order to move forward."

Since then, Schneider has been roasting her heart out. In line with her early vision to have her business serve others, 10 percent of all proceeds are donated to nonprofit causes.

At that moment, Courageous Coffee went from a quiet passion to a full-blown dream come true.

For Schneider, Courageous Coffee is an homage to perfect moments over a cup of joe and a knowing nod to seemingly impossible dreams. Bold, strong, courageous—it really is the perfect blend for coffee. And for life.

Bolivian Expedition Blend Fundraiser



Courageous Coffee's next service mission to give back is a specialty blend that's brewing to support the next *Partners for Power* project by Michigan's electric cooperatives.

This September, linemen from Michigan electric cooperatives are headed to Bolivia to bring reliable electricity to the community of Yata. The people of Yata are an ambitious bunch. But before many of them can realize their dreams, they need access to reliable electricity.

When you buy a bag of Courageous Coffee's *Bolivian Expedition Blend*, you help support the project. To learn more about the project and other ways to get involved, visit partnersforpower.org.



Join Tanya in her kitchen as she explains how she brews the perfect cup of coffee using the pour over method. A short instructional video is available at countrylines.com.





Left: Katie and her devoted service dog Coco.

Below: Katie and Coco at the Marine Corps Ball.



YOOPER SERVICE DOGS



Assisting God's Country With Man's Best Friend

By Yvonne Whitman

In 2016, when Marine Corps veteran Katie Johnson started a Facebook group for service dog handlers in the Upper Peninsula, she did not know it would ultimately result in the creation of her U.P. based nonprofit organization, Yooper Service Dogs (YSD). Johnson, an Alger Delta co-op member, who served nine years and was deployed to both Iraq and Afghanistan, was left with several medical issues related to her military service. As a result, her faithful service dog Coco has been her constant companion since 2014.

According to Johnson, she began her FB group because, "When I was out with Coco I would get questions non-stop from people who had disabilities or had children with disabilities and needed help."

Questions poured in not only from people who wanted to know how to get a service dog, but also from businesses and the public seeking information. Fueled by the apparent need for U.P. based resources, "Yooper Service Dogs was

really created as an accidental organization," Johnson states with a chuckle.

Prior to Johnson creating Yooper Service Dogs, there were no organizations in the U.P. that offered this service. Historically, lack of training creates a problem not only for businesses but for other service dog handlers as well. For example, when a service dog is distracted by an untrained dog, the handler may be put in danger when the animal doesn't alert to a medical emergency. And an untrained dog encountering another dog in an unfamiliar environment often results in it becoming aggressive out of fear, putting the service dog in danger. Sadly, service dogs have been injured and killed in this way, leaving the handler emotionally, medically and financially devastated.

Education is key but for decades businesses, service dog handlers and the public have been on their own with trying to figure out how multiple state and federal laws affect

“When I was out with Coco I would get questions non-stop from people who had disabilities or had children with disabilities and needed help.”

—Katie Johnson

their lives and businesses. And handlers have been faced with the difficult task of training their own service animals. Johnson created YSD to offer resources, education and service dog training as well as mediation.

Katie’s own experiences were part of the impetus for creating her organization. “I was constantly fighting the Marine Corps to be able to have her.” Katie obtained Coco through Healing 4 Heroes, a nonprofit organization dedicated to connecting military service members and veterans suffering with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and other medical conditions with Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant service dogs. Through various organizations Katie learned the skills that she currently uses to assist others.

Training a service dog generally takes one to two years and the initial step is for an individual to sit down with Katie for an orientation assessment, during which she learns what their life is like and what the issues are. “I talk to the person to see what their needs or disabilities are. PTSD is the most common need that people come to see me for as there is a lot of trauma in the world today,” she acknowledges.

The initial assessment allows Katie to determine what type of dog would be best for the person, and gives her some preliminary ideas on how they can train the dog. If they already have the dog, she discusses what kind of personality the dog has, conducts a temperament test and discusses initial classes. Training begins with biweekly Saturday morning training sessions. No more than five people in a session at a time ensures adequate one-on-one interaction.

Yoopers Service Dog’s impact is best reflected by a Facebook post from Patty Cornish. Cornish is a U.P. resident, founder and leader at SuperiorLand Pet Partners, a therapy dog organization in Ishpeming. She wrote, “This is a needed resource for public education and to direct people who need service animals to where they can go. I am glad to see that people can get help and information on a local level.”

Leave it to a Marine Corps veteran to put into action the well-known motto of ‘Semper Fi’. Always faithful, indeed.



Above: Coco—now seven years old—was just two when she became Katie’s service dog.

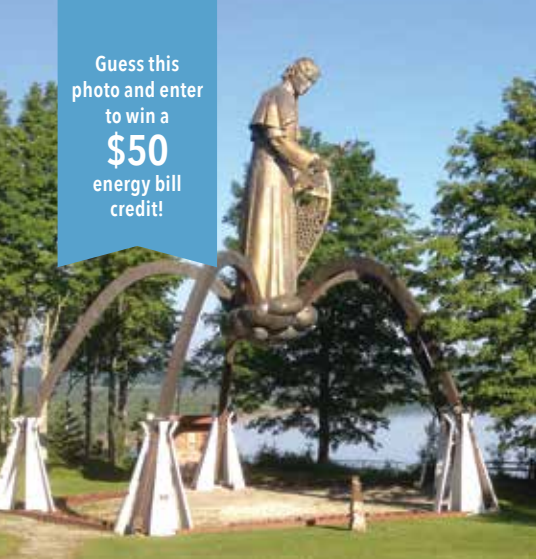


Above and below: ‘Students’ at a Yooper Service Dogs training class.



You can find Katie Johnson on Facebook at Yooper Service Dogs or email her at YooperServiceDogs@gmail.com. Yooper Service Dogs is donation-based and staffed by dedicated volunteers.

Guess this photo and enter to win a \$50 energy bill credit!



Where In Michigan Is This?

Identify the correct location of the photo above by July 20 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 May 2018 issue is Richard Fluegge, a Thumb Electric Cooperative member, who correctly identified the photo as Stafford Park in Port Hope. It's an icy view from the Port Hope Marina looking back at the famous historic chimney at Stafford Park.

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

May 2018



Photo courtesy of Karen Murphy



Best Beaches

We asked our members to share their favorite Michigan beach in our Great Lakes state—so take their recommendations to heart and enjoy!



1 Brimley State Park, Whitefish Bay

Brimley State Park, located on the shores of Whitefish Bay in the U.P., is one of the best beaches in Michigan in my opinion. It provides a non-traditional "beach" setting in the fact, that the water is a little cooler, the sand isn't the most pristine, and there isn't a fancy pier. What you will find is a beautiful, relaxing and picturesque scene of the beautiful Whitefish Bay. The very best part about this beach is that the Soo Locks are very close, so you will see freighter traffic throughout your day! Don't forget to download the "Boatnerd" app on your phone, so you know the names of the freighters you will see floating by! —Karen Murphy, Thumb Electric

2 Tawas Point State Park and East Tawas City Park Beach, East Tawas

We visit East Tawas for its beaches every year. There are wonderful cottages to rent, gorgeous sunrises and the water in the bay is shallow and warm for swimming. East Tawas also has the cutest downtown with great ice cream, antique shops, a chocolatier and more. —Joanne Preston, Midwest Energy & Communications

3 Aral Beach, Empire

Aral Beach is hands down my favorite in Michigan! It is located outside of Empire at the end of a dirt road in the middle of nowhere. Beautiful views of the Empire bluffs, very few people around and my four-legged friends are welcome. —Mindy Aves, HomeWorks Tri-County

4 Young State Park, Boyne City

Young State Park in Boyne City is a favorite. You can just enjoy the beautiful sunrises and sunsets, and walk the sandy beaches. Amazing! —Kristine Diegel, Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op



Best of Michigan

Up Next: Best Cider Mills!
Apples, Cider and Doughnuts—Oh My! Share your favorite spot for these delicious fall treats. We will publish these gems in our September issue.

Submit your favorites at countrylines.com under the MI Co-op Community tab by August 1.

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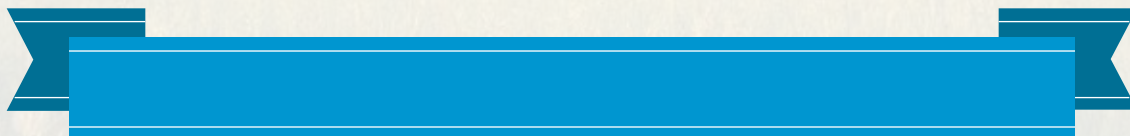
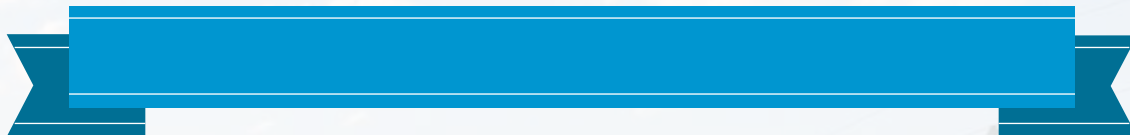
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—— ***Shaping the future together with our members.*** ——

From September 2017 to September 2018, Alger Delta is celebrating its 80th year of business. Alger Delta was incorporated in September, 1937. The co-op worked hard to overcome many obstacles in those early days, including attempts by other electric utilities to thwart the small, upstart cooperative. Alger Delta's first year was marked by turmoil as the co-op tried to secure a source for power supply and get materials to build its first power line. It wasn't until December 8, 1938—fifteen months after being incorporated—that Alger Delta energized its first power line. Alger Delta's first Annual Meeting was held in 1939.

Through 80 years the co-op has seen its share of good and difficult times. Just after its founding, World War II broke out. The war effort consumed a lot of resources and Alger Delta, like co-ops all over America, could hardly get any materials to build lines. America prevailed

and the post-war years brought growth and expansion. Alger Delta grew too, adding more lines and consumers including its most distant communities, Big Bay and Grand Marais. The 70s and early 80s brought Arab oil embargoes, concerns about the nation's supply of natural gas, high-interest rates and increased costs to build and maintain the electric system. These developments caused upward pressure on all forms of energy.

From the mid 80s through the early 2000s the co-op saw more growth. Then, the housing bust of 2007 cooled the economy and coupled with increasing wholesale electric rates brought more challenges to Alger Delta. We weathered that storm and since then, we've managed our way to stable wholesale and retail rates, improved reliability and power quality, and a dedicated workforce that is here to serve the co-op members. Not bad for an 80-year-old.