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COUNTRY LINES

Ontonagon County Rural Electrification Association

Courageous Coffee

The Perfect Blend

**New Power
Supplier Announced**

**Open Director
Seat For District 7—
Lake Linden**

Annual Meeting Highlights

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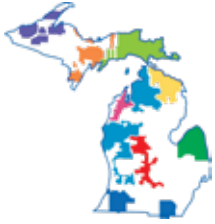
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countrylines.com

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POSTMASTER: SEND ALL UAA TO CFS.

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

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[Guess Our New Mystery Photo And Win A \\$50 Bill Credit!](#)

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

Win \$50 for stories published.

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. Submit your memory at: countrylines.com under the MI Co-op Community tab.



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Lake Linden District

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Fay Hauswirth, Billing Clerk

Bill Tucker, Line Superintendent

OTHER INFORMATION

Date of Incorporation: Sept. 30, 1937

Fiscal year-end: Dec. 31

countrylines.com/coops/ontonagon

Ontonagon County REA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



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facebook.com/OntonagonCountyREA



Accomplishments Are Rising

Debbie Miles, General Manager

It has been a very busy year at Ontonagon REA. We have recently completed a new member redistricting process as well as completed a new multi-year collective bargaining agreement with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) for our collective bargaining unit employees.

Most importantly, your board of directors recently approved a new, long-term wholesale power agreement with Wolverine Power Cooperative. This new agreement begins, in part, next year with the full agreement coming into play in 2021.

Purchased power is nearly 60 percent of your cooperative's total operating and maintenance. Labor costs and power supply are the two largest annual expenses your cooperative has.

Ontonagon's new agreement with Wolverine will lower the future cost of wholesale power and this is very good news for you, our members. Our two current power supply agreements are both with Wisconsin-based power suppliers.

Under this new agreement, Ontonagon will be partnering with Wolverine Power Cooperative for our future power supply—and I believe that is a good thing for our members. Wolverine is not only very competitively priced but is the state's leader in renewables and carbon free electricity, and has a diverse portfolio of generating assets located in Michigan.

This new partnership will result in more competitive retail rates for Ontonagon. Also, Wolverine is a cooperative, owned by its members, and that means that they are committed to the same goals and objectives that we are—service, competitive rates and reliability.

This year has seen a number of accomplishments from your board of directors. I am hopeful that trend will continue.

Open Seat On Board Of Directors For Newly Created District 7—Lake Linden

Ontonagon County REA is a member-owned utility governed by a seven-member board of directors. Directors are elected by and represent members living in their district, and must receive electric power for their primary residence in the district which they represent.

To comply with the cooperative bylaws, the seven districts were realigned in 2017 so that each contains as nearly as possible the same number of members. In redistricting, some existing districts were combined, and Lake Linden was formed as a new district. There is currently a seat open for District 7—Lake Linden.

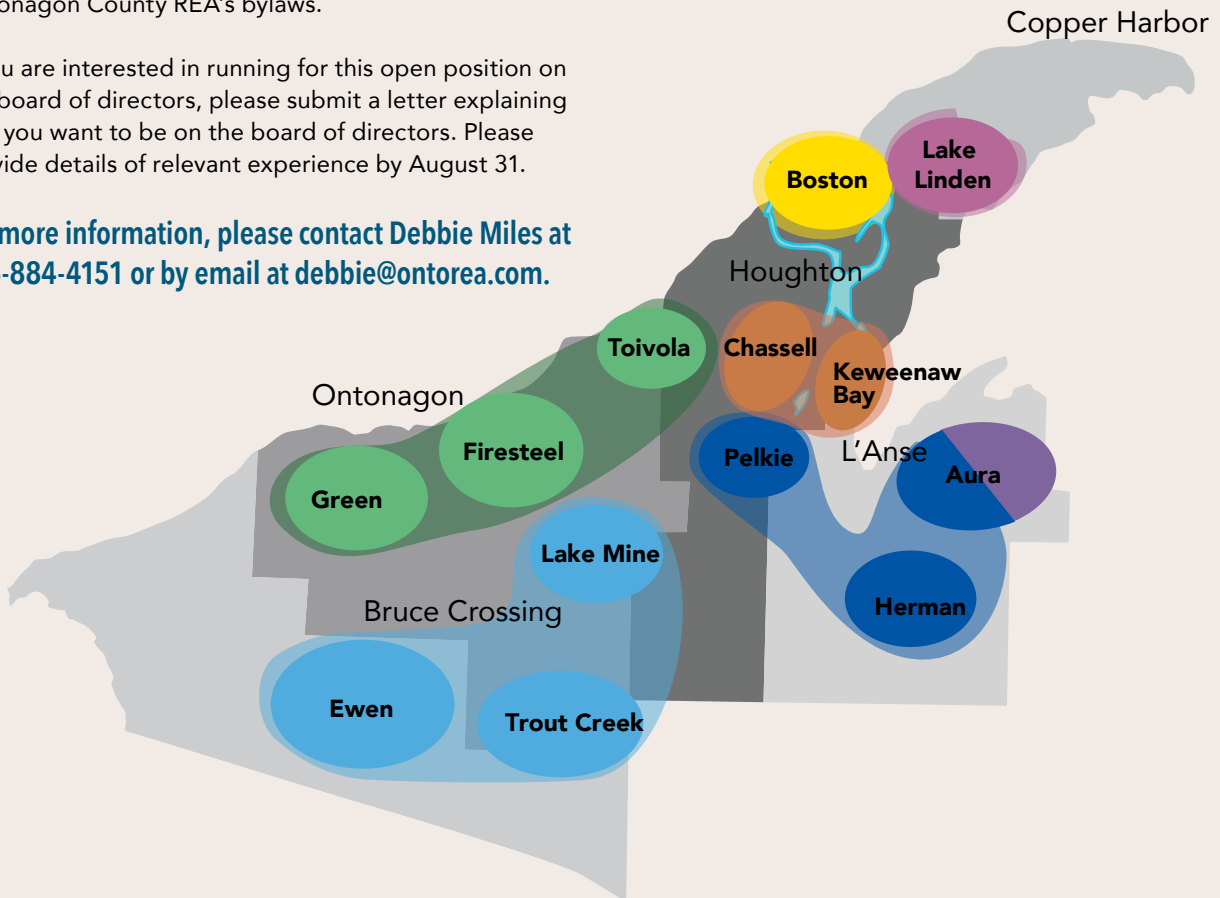
As the governing body of the cooperative, the board of directors establishes policies, provides strategic direction, hires and evaluates the CEO, provides for a plan of succession, and oversees all major corporate decisions. It has a fiduciary responsibility to represent the members of the cooperative as provided for in state law and Ontonagon County REA's bylaws.

If you are interested in running for this open position on the board of directors, please submit a letter explaining why you want to be on the board of directors. Please provide details of relevant experience by August 31.

For more information, please contact Debbie Miles at 906-884-4151 or by email at debbie@ontorea.com.

Ontonagon County REA Districts

- District 1: Green, Firesteel, Toivola
- District 2: Ewen, Trout Creek, Lake Mine
- District 3: Pelkie, Herman, Aura
- District 4: Aura
- District 5: Chassell, Keweenaw Bay
- District 6: Boston
- District 7: Lake Linden



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:

- Apples
- Apricots
- Asparagus
- Beans
- Broccoli
- Blackberries
- Blueberries
- Cabbage
- Carrots
- Celery
- Cherries (tart and sweet)
- Cucumbers
- Greens (turnips, collards, kale)
- Peaches
- Peas
- Peppers
- Radishes
- Raspberries
- Spinach
- Squash (yellow, zucchini)
- Strawberries

Optimize Your Home With A *Free* Energy Audit

Is your home properly sealed, insulated, and ventilated? If you've noticed any issues such as mold, mildew, ice dams, drafts, or overall discomfort, your home may require improvements to resolve energy inefficiencies. To better understand and manage your home's energy use and costs, take advantage of the Energy Optimization program's free energy audit!

The Home Energy Optimizer is a brief online survey that analyzes your home's energy use. You will be asked to enter some specific information, such as the year your home was built, the type of heating and cooling systems in place, and when various other systems and appliances were purchased and installed.

Once you've completed the survey, you will receive a personalized, comprehensive report, as well as cost-saving tips and recommendations to help reduce energy waste throughout your household. Additionally, all participants will receive a free energy-saving kit, which includes light bulbs and other devices to help save energy and water!

How to complete your home energy audit:

- Visit the Energy Optimization website (michigan-energy.org).
- Select your electric utility from the drop-down menu at the top of the page.
- In the left menu bar, select "Online Home Audit."
- Click "Get Started Now!" and complete the questionnaire.

Upon completion of the Home Energy Optimizer survey, your free energy-saving kit will be mailed to the address you provide. Have questions about the free home energy audit or energy-saving kit? Call us at 877-296-4319.



Energy Savings At Your Fingertips

Team up with the Energy Optimization program to improve the comfort, durability and energy efficiency of your home! Complete our Online Home Audit to assess your home's energy performance and receive a comprehensive report featuring cost-saving tips and opportunities.

ENERGY TIP: Receive a **FREE** energy-saving kit when you complete your Online Home Audit!

ONLINE: michigan-energy.org

PHONE: 877.296.4319

Better Together



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



Photo Contest

Fan Spirit

1. This is a closeup of a portion of a 24" X 48" acrylic still life painting, titled "Phoebe". I love old "fans"! I'm an artist/prairie farmer/collector and use special collectibles, plants, whirligigs, and interesting objects as "subjects" in my artwork. *By Jeanne Houle Peters*
2. Take me out to the ball game! *By Janet Reed*
3. Go Pack Go *By Kathleen Johnson*
4. Go Blue! *By Sarah Callovi*



1



2



3



4

Submit A Photo & Win A Bill Credit!

Ontonagon REA members whose photos we print in *Michigan Country Lines* will be entered in a drawing. One lucky member will win a credit up to \$200 on their December 2018 energy bill!

Our upcoming topics and deadlines are:

- **Fall Colors due July 20** for the September issue
- **Celebrations due September 20** for the Nov/Dec issue

To submit photos, and for details and instructions, go to <http://bit.ly/countrylines>

We look forward to seeing your best photos!

Enter to win a
\$200
energy bill
credit!

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 micookitchen.com/videos



Rise N' Shine Eggs

Kathie Riess, Cherryland

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

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

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 medium potatoes, peeled and sliced 2 tablespoons oil ½ cup ramps (leeks), chopped ½ cup roasted red bell pepper, chopped ¼ cup morel mushrooms, coarsely chopped ¼ cup blanched asparagus, chopped | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ¾ teaspoon dried thyme 8 strips bacon, cooked crisp 4 ounces gruyere cheese, grated 8-10 large eggs ½ cup half & half 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*.

Enter to win a
\$50
energy bill credit!

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

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

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 cups all-purpose flour ¾ cup sugar 2½ teaspoons baking powder ½ teaspoon salt ½ cup milk | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ½ cup strong brewed coffee ½ cup butter, melted 1 large egg 1 teaspoon vanilla extract 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.

Silver Muzzle Cottage

A Rescue & Hospice For Homeless Senior Dogs

By Emily Haines Lloyd // Photos By Dre Photography



Captain
13 years old;
sweet, gentle,
slow mover



Parker
12 years old;
recently adopted

"The truth is, I'm selfish."

Those words don't quite ring true when you're speaking to Kim Skarritt-Nelson, owner of Bowers By The Bay, and founder and program director for Silver Muzzle Cottage Rescue & Hospice in Rapid City. Skarritt-Nelson is the heart and soul of this organization that looks to place or care for senior dogs that have been surrendered or abandoned by their previous owners.

"You see," Skarritt-Nelson explains, "I get as much out of the time spent with these amazing animals as they do."

Skarritt-Nelson's "selfishness" began when she left corporate America in 2004 and opened Bowers By The Bay in Elk Rapids in 2011. This cage-free boarding home, grooming center and behavior therapy clinic for dogs offers everyday encounters with a variety of beloved breeds.

However, as Skarritt-Nelson became more involved in the community, she saw a disturbing trend.

"Over and over again, I would see senior or terminal dogs in shelters," said Skarritt-Nelson. "They were either dropped off by their owners who could no longer care for them or, even more heartbreaking, these animals were abandoned and left to fend for themselves."

Silver Muzzle Cottage, to date, has rescued more than 110 senior dogs.

Gracie
10 year old Lab mix;
sweet and gentle



Kim
Founder, Silver Muzzle Cottage

“Our rescue takes dogs of all breeds and sizes.”

—Kim Skarritt-Nelson



Reese
12 years old;
a gentle giant



Emily
13 years old and blind;
a permanent resident of
the Cottage, truly an angel

In a typical shelter older dogs are often overlooked for more energetic puppies, while the terminally ill dogs are often euthanized. Over 2,000 senior dogs are without homes within 500 miles of Traverse City, she learned. Skarritt-Nelson’s heart couldn’t take it.

That’s when she created Silver Muzzle Cottage—a unique rescue mission for senior dogs and hospice care for terminally ill dogs. Unlike overcrowded shelters, Silver Muzzle provides a home-like environment where dogs roam freely during the day and sleep on large pillow beds or sofas at night, often curled up with their new pack family.

“These dogs once were loved by an individual or a family,” said Skarritt-Nelson. “We believe that they should feel that same love at the end of their life as well.”

As big as Skarritt-Nelson’s heart is, even she can’t attend to all the needs of each dog in her care, which is why a dedicated team of volunteers are critical to Silver Muzzle’s success. Volunteers take the shelter’s beloved pack on trips to the beach, walks in the woods, drives into town for ice cream, or even just long, lazy naps on Skarritt-Nelson’s newly-acquired 15 acres in Rapid City. The new location is undergoing constant renovations to provide an amazing quality of life for its canine residents and accommodate even more needy dogs in the future.

Volunteers even gather together when it’s finally time for some of their hospice pets to say goodbye. Surrounded by loving words, lots of animals and heartfelt farewells, Silver Muzzle’s team sends beloved friends off with all the love and companionship each dog deserves.

With heartwarming touches and thoughtful experiences like that, it’s easy to say that the world could do with a little more selfishness like Skarritt-Nelson and the team at Silver Muzzle Cottage. 🐾



Mongo
8 year old
Dane/Mastiff mix;
has no idea he
weighs 130 lbs

With 12–20 dogs onsite on a daily basis, there’s always plenty to do! If you are interested in helping Silver Muzzle Cottage, volunteers can take dogs out on adventures, lend a hand with custodial work that allows the residents a clean home, or assist with administrative work like writing thank you notes or stuffing envelopes.

Visit silvermuzzlecottage.com to see how you can help.



Courageous Coffee

The
Perfect Blend

By Emily Haines Lloyd



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 mycourageouscoffee.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.





2018 Annual Meeting

Highlights



Chassell High School was the setting for the 2018 Ontonagon County Rural Electrification Association (OCREA) Annual Meeting held on Saturday, June 16th. Approximately 85 people from the co-op's seven-county service area attended the event, which featured food, reports from the co-op manager and the board of directors, seating of directors and prize drawings.

Reports regarding overviews of the co-op operations, finances and highlights from the past year were presented by President Calvin Koski, Director George Rajala, Ted Greeley and General Manager Debbie Miles. During the business portion of the meeting, three resolutions were presented regarding a membership audit, redistricting, and transparency. After a spirited open discussion between members, staff and directors, these resolutions were voted on and passed. Director Calvin Koski ran

unopposed for District 4—Aura. District 7—Lake Linden is vacant.

Guest speaker for the event was Johnathan Mantila, a junior at Baraga High School. Johnathan was Ontonagon's choice to attend the 2017 Cooperative Youth Tour to Gettysburg and Washington D.C. He gave a brief summary of his trip and thanked Ontonagon REA for the opportunity and experience.

During public comment, many members remarked positively on the co-op's excellent customer service and the line crews. Co-op member Mildred Ann Gasperich commended the staff "for all that they do and the low number of outages," which was greeted with a round of applause.

The meeting concluded with **\$360 of cash prizes** being distributed to those members with winning raffle tickets.



Johnathan Mantila gave a brief summary of his time spent in Washington D.C. attending Cooperative Youth Tour in 2017. Johnathan's trip was sponsored by OCREA.

Billing clerk Fay Hauswirth greeted members at the door.

Board President Calvin Koski announced prize winners who came to the podium to accept their cash prizes from Donna Siren.

8 month old Ada Impola was the youngest member in attendance and is pictured with her dad Morgan.

A delicious continental breakfast and luncheon was catered and served to the members by Kangas Cafe of Hancock.

Guest speaker Johnathan Mantila with his proud parents, Tammy and Jason Mantila.

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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MI CO-OP Community

A place for you to share, win and belong.

As a *Michigan Country Lines* reader, not only are you the heart of your co-op, you are the heart of this magazine. The recipes, memories, photos and stories you share are what make our magazine one-of-a-kind. It brings us together as a community, and we want to encourage more of it. Thanks to the new MI Co-op Community page on countrylines.com, it's now easier than ever to share your content and to read content submitted by other members. Better yet, we don't expect you to work for free. Many submissions are rewarded with cash and bill credits. Just look for the blue ribbon—and we'll look forward to your content.



1.

Monthly Recipe Contest And MI Co-op Kitchen

If you're in need of some food inspiration, look no further than MI Co-op Kitchen—our online cooking community. MI Co-op Kitchen is an interactive space where you can share your recipes and food ideas with other like-minded members. Submit a recipe for our monthly contest and you could win a \$50 bill credit and have your recipe published. A winner is selected every month.



2.

Where In Michigan Is This? Our Mystery Photo Contest

Have you traveled much in the mitten state? If so, it could pay off. Correctly identify our mystery photo and you could win a \$50 bill credit. A new "Where in Michigan Is This?" mystery photo is published in our January, March, May, July/August, September and November/December *Michigan Country Lines* issues. Each correct guess is placed into a drawing and one lucky winner is selected.



3.

I Remember—Members Share Their Fondest Memories

The best stories come from the people who've lived them, so share yours with us. If we publish your story, you receive a \$50 check! Just send us your memory up to 200 words; photos are always a great addition!



4.

Our New Guest Column

We know many of our members are talented and have great ideas—so we invite you to share that talent in *Country Lines*! We will pay \$150 for stories we publish. Let the ideas flow! Stories could be about a significant or memorable event, a person in your life, life lessons learned, educational topics, Michigan recreational activities—and more! Please keep stories to approximately 350 words. Photos are always welcome!



NEW!

Best Of Michigan

Do you have a favorite spot you bring out-of-state guests? What about a favorite Michigan ice cream store you can't resist or a Michigan-inspired treat you always buy? We want to know! Our new Best of Michigan column is a way for you to submit your favorite treats, sites, restaurants, opinions and activities.

We will publish many submissions for the Best Of Michigan section—so there is no monetary reward. However, your name will be published!

Best Beaches!

See page 18 for details!