

## Help Support Your Co-op



Bill Scott  
Great Lakes Energy  
President/CEO

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

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

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

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

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

Contributing to ACRE is completely voluntary. It's supported by co-op employees, board members and even

cooperative members. In fact, 100 percent of GLE's board of directors contributed to ACRE this year. Rest assured, no money from your bill is contributed to ACRE.

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

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

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

### Quick Facts About ACRE

- ACRE is bi-partisan
- Funds are contributed to federal and state legislators who support electric cooperatives
- Participation is voluntary
- No rate dollars are contributed
- GLE employees and board members participate
- The average contribution is \$59/year
- Over 11,000 co-op members participate nationwide

## Monthly Surcharge Helps Low Income Families

Established by state law, a surcharge of 93 cents per meter per month will begin appearing on bills starting in September.

**T**he surcharge funds the Low-Income Energy Assistance Fund established by the Michigan legislature as a long-term solution to assist low-income, at risk residents with their utility bills. The intention is to provide funds to prevent disconnection of service and to help people become more energy self-sufficient. The program is funded by Michigan electric consumers through the surcharge. Funds are distributed by the state Department of Human Services to help qualifying residents during the heating season with energy bills.

Great Lakes Energy joins other electric utilities in Michigan that have the surcharge, which by law cannot exceed \$1 per meter per month. Great Lakes Energy members who have more than one meter at the same residential location would still only pay one surcharge per month.

The surcharge will appear as MI Low Income Energy Fund on your bill.

Without the surcharge, the cooperative's ability to collect payments on delinquent accounts during the heating season would be limited and qualifying low-income families within GLE's service area may not be able to receive energy assistance funding. The surcharge gives GLE the ability to disconnect non-paying members year-round.

Visit our website or contact your local state representative or senator if you would like more information about the Michigan Low-Income Energy Assistance Fund (LIEAF).



# FREE ENERGY SEMINARS

Two free energy seminars for Great Lakes Energy members will be held Oct. 7 and 14. Attend the one nearest to you.

Learn about home heating and cooling options with geothermal and air-source heat pumps and energy optimization (EO) programs that offer incentives to help co-op members save energy. They include rebates for the purchase of furnaces with variable speed blower motors, heat pump water heaters, Wi-Fi-enabled or smart occupancy-sensing thermostats, refrigerators, televisions, lighting and more. In addition, information on free online audits will be provided.

Local heating and cooling companies and Great Lakes Energy staff members will be on hand to answer questions related to heat pumps.



Co-op members will learn about other incentive programs offered by Great Lakes Energy, too.

Door prizes will be awarded. Winners will receive energy saving gifts.

**Register now and attend either session:**

**Saturday, Oct. 7**

From 10 a.m. to noon at our GLE office in Newaygo.

**Saturday, Oct. 14**

From 10 a.m. to noon at our GLE office in Boyne City.

Space is limited, so please register by calling 1-888-485-2537, ext. 8958, or email: [events@glenergy.com](mailto:events@glenergy.com).



## Celebrating Our Members!

October is National Cooperative Month and we're celebrating with free gifts for members plus a chance to win an LED TV. Stop into one of our offices during October and receive a free energy saving gift and Energy Optimization program information.

**You can also sign up to win one of three great prizes:**

**1st PRIZE: 32" LED Energy Star-rated TV**

**2nd PRIZE: \$100 worth of LED lights**

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

One giveaway and one entry per account. Giveaways available while supplies last. LED light prizes were donated by Home Depot of Petoskey.



Ric Evans  
District 3



Larry Monshor  
District 4



Dale Farrier  
District 5

## Three Directors Re-elected

**Ric Evans, Larry Monshor and Dale Farrier were re-elected to the board of directors of Great Lakes Energy.**

The three incumbents ran unopposed in their districts in an election by mail-in ballots contained in the July/August issue of *Michigan Country Lines*.

Election results were announced Aug. 23 at Great Lakes Energy's annual business meeting in Boyne City.

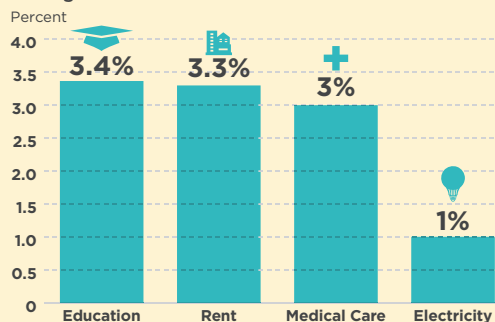
Evans, of Ellsworth, is an energy consultant and presenter who resides in District 3 (Antrim County). Monshor, of Gaylord, is a CPA/engineer-manager who regained his seat in District 4 (Otsego, Montmorency, Oscoda, Crawford counties). Farrier, of Kalkaska, is office manager for the Antrim County Road Commission who represents District 5 (Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Manistee, Missaukee, Wexford counties).

Candidate vote totals appear in the September issue of *Michigan Country Lines* and on the GLE website, [gtlakes.com](http://gtlakes.com).

## ELECTRICITY REMAINS A GOOD VALUE

The cost of powering your home rises at a slower pace than many of your typical expenses. Compare the average price increase of these expenses each year over the last five years, and the value of electricity shines.

Average Annual Price Increase 2011-2016



Sources: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

**Looking Out for You**

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*Great Lakes Energy is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*