



Braving any weather to get you power



Bill Scott
Great Lakes Energy
President/CEO

As life
screeches
to a halt

for many of us when the power goes out, it is ramping up for the lineworkers here at Great Lakes Energy. No matter the time of day or type of weather, if the lights go out, so do they.

Lineworker Appreciation Day is Monday, April 8, a day for us to celebrate and honor our team members who brave the elements to bring the power we all depend upon.

Storms become part of our life at GLE – we plan, we prepare and we train for them but yet the task of restoring power can be a challenging one. Take the storm that hit just before Labor Day in 2018 with brutal winds and tornadoes causing power outages for almost 47,000 members. With 413 broken poles (the most we've ever experienced!) and the mass devastation of trees, all our available 88 lineworkers, 102 contractors from other co-ops, as well as many other field personnel went fast to work. Laboring tirelessly they logged an average of 112 hours each over a span of seven days. The rain and humidity that followed the storm could not stop the determination

of our team members hard at work to ensure each member was restored with the reliable power we are proud to provide.

When they're out in the field, the elements can be challenging and the equipment can be cumbersome. Lineworkers often must climb 40 or more feet into the air, carrying heavy equipment, to restore power—all while working next to high voltage power lines. Behind the scenes, they are also working to map outages, document their work, and troubleshoot problems to keep our 14,000 miles of lines across 26 counties operating. In addition to all they do for members in their local service

territories, lineworkers may also travel to assist neighboring co-ops when they are affected by major outages.

It takes the efforts of many departments working together to make up our team at Great Lakes Energy, but we truly could not do what we do without the efforts of our lineworkers. Their care and commitment to you, our members, is critical to our success. We hope you will join us in thanking the many lineworkers—both GLE employees and others around the state and country—who, literally, light up our lives. So, if you see a lineworker, please be thankful to the power behind your power. We sure are!



**LINEMEN
CARE
ABOUT
THE
COMMUNITIES
THEY
SERVE.**

#ThankALineman

Attend a Free Energy Seminar

A free energy seminar for Great Lakes Energy members will be held Saturday, June 1, at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in Ludington.



REGISTER NOW

SATURDAY, JUNE 1ST
FROM 10 A.M. TO NOON.

**Holiday Inn Convention Center
East Ballroom
4079 W. U.S.-10
Ludington**

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

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.

Three openings on GLE board

Nominating petitions are available in three districts for Great Lakes Energy (GLE) members who wish to seek election to the cooperative's board of directors.

Three board positions, each for three years, will need to be filled. Qualifying GLE members who reside in districts 6, 8, or 9 can seek election to the board.

District areas are:

- District 6 – Lake and Mason counties
- District 8 – Clare, Mecosta, Newaygo and Osceola counties
- District 9 – Allegan, Barry, Kent, Montcalm and Ottawa counties.

The terms of directors Robert Kran of Free Soil, Tim Brechon of Paris, and John LaForge of Delton expire this year. The three incumbents plan to seek re-election.

To get their names on the ballot, qualifying member-owners of the electric cooperative who maintain a primary residence within its service area must file a nominating petition signed by at least 50 active GLE members within the candidate's district.

Signed petitions returned by mail or in person must be received in the co-op's Boyne City office no earlier than Thursday, May 23 and no later than noon on Friday, June 7.

Petition forms are available by contacting 888-485-2537, ext. 1331 or visit gtlakes.com/board-candidate-info/.

GLE members in each of the three districts will elect one candidate from within their district to fill the three positions on the board. Mail-in ballots will be sent with the July/August 2019 issue of Michigan Country Lines. Winners will be announced Aug. 21 at the GLE annual business meeting.



Kran



Brechon



LaForge

TRUESTREAM CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES

Spring is here and we are excited to announce that construction will begin soon for Truestream fiber internet in our Petoskey service district. Members in this area (rural Emmet County and small parts of Charlevoix and Cheboygan counties) will soon be able to experience digital freedom by having the capability to easily videocall their family, cut the cord, and surf the web with ease and no interruption. Those who have not yet pre-registered at jointruestream.com are encouraged to do so to receive free installation (a \$149 value).

Great Lakes Energy is considering expanding the Truestream fiber network into the Boyne service area which includes rural Charlevoix County and parts of Antrim, Otsego, Cheboygan and Emmet counties. Preliminary engineering fielding work in this area will begin this spring to explore the possibility of expanding the Truestream network. The Boyne service area was selected for this engineering study based on the high level of interest from members on jointruestream.com.

Want to see Truestream come to your area? Member interest helps us determine our next steps—the more sign-ups, the more likely we will come to your area next. **Register your interest at jointruestream.com or call us today.**

**Spring Showers
Brings Truestream
Flowers**

 **truestream**
powered by Great Lakes Energy



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

Looking Out for You

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