

power talk

A SUPPLEMENT TO MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES



Shaun Lamp

President & Chief Executive Officer

In this space I've regularly used the phrase "the cooperative difference" when highlighting the many benefits of being part of an organization that is entirely focused on providing the best service for its members. At the heart of this difference is the fact that the organization is overseen by a board of directors who are democratically elected from among the cooperative's membership.

That means our members have a say in how their electric cooperative operates. That sets cooperatives such as GLE apart from other utility companies.

Each year, three of the nine seats on the Great Lakes Energy Board of Directors are open for election. If you are a GLE member in district 3, 4, or 5, please read about the candidates for your district inside the July/August issue of Country Lines magazine and cast your vote by the Aug. 17 deadline. For all other members, your opportunity to vote will come in 2024 or 2025.

Based on member feedback, for the first time this year we will be offering an online voting option. Members now have the option to either complete and return the mail-in ballot that accompanied their mailed issue of Country Lines, or follow the instructions printed on the ballot to use the online voting option. To ensure the election is conducted fairly and efficiently, all balloting will be administered by a third-party partner, Survey Balloting Systems. See the ballot for complete voting instructions.

GLE's ability to react intelligently and efficiently, and stay on course amid an ever-changing business landscape, is in many ways the responsibility of our board of directors. As we navigate reliability challenges, work through inflation and supply chain shortages, assess our cost-of-service sustainability, and every other hurdle in our path, GLE's board of directors serve to keep the best interest of our members at the heart of every decision we make.

2023: Districts By County

District 3 – Antrim County

District 4 – Crawford, Montmorency, Oscoda, and Otsego counties

District 5 – Grand Traverse, Kalkaska, Manistee, Missaukee, and Wexford counties

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Part of the value of being a cooperative member is that you, not Great Lakes Energy staff or other outside entities, determine who serves on your board to make decisions for your cooperative. As a member of a democratically controlled cooperative, you can play a vital role in shaping the way your co-op is run. Qualified members can run for a board seat, sign another candidate's nominating petition, or can simply vote. **And your vote truly counts.**

Every member's vote carries equal weight. Whether it's a business with several owners or a small home with a single owner, each has one membership and one vote. In the case of a married couple, their joint membership entitles them to a single vote.

We believe in the power of human connections and encourage your participation in the board election. If you live in districts 3, 4, or 5, please exercise your right to vote. It's the cooperative difference.



Amp Up Your Recycling Rewards with Energy Wise

Energy Wise offers members rebates on the purchase of qualifying new energy-efficient appliances and home systems. Members who take advantage of these rebates will not only enjoy some savings on the initial purchase, but also the long-term savings on their energy bills.

But for a few types of appliances, Energy Wise offers two more benefits: A day to recycle that old, inefficient appliance you just replaced and a rebate for doing so.

The 2023 appliance recycling drop-off day for GLE members will take place from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 5 at our offices in Boyne City, Newaygo, and Scottville. Appliances that will be accepted include refrigerators, freezers, air conditioners, and dehumidifiers.

The event offers multiple financial rewards. Not only does it offer a free means to get rid of that old, inefficient appliance – with no requirement that refrigerant be removed first, but the program also offers a rebate of \$25 per recycled appliance. Rebates are limited to two large (refrigerators and freezers) appliances and two small appliances (dehumidifiers and window air conditioners) per member household. Appliances to be dropped off should be in working order. Appliance pick up service is not offered through the Energy Wise program.



Pre-registration is required for members wishing to participate in the recycling drop-off event. Registration is available online at gtlakes.com/energy-wise/. Members can learn about all of the Energy Wise program offerings and submit rebate applications through the website as well. Information on the program is also available by calling **(888) 485-2537 ext. 8957**.



Pre-register for Appliance Drop-Off Day at <http://gtlakes.com/energy-wise/>.



Appliance Drop-Off Day • 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., Aug. 5, 2023

Boyne City Headquarters
1323 Boyne Avenue
Boyne City, MI 49712

Scottville Service Center
525 W. U.S. 10
Scottville, MI 49454

Newaygo Service Center
1 Cooperative Center Dr.
Newaygo, MI 49337



Headquarters:
1323 Boyne Avenue,
Boyne City, MI 49712

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