

Building communities is in our blood



Shaun Lamp
President & Chief Executive Officer

Whether it's providing a new electric service to a home under construction, upgrading a service to a growing business, updating our infrastructure to be ready and reliable for the future, or building a fiber internet network that is expanding opportunities for many people, GLE is constantly working to help build a better future for our members.

But these efforts don't stop at providing reliable electric and internet service and they don't stop with our members. They reach out into the whole community.

"Concern for community," is among the seven guiding principles that all cooperatives, including GLE, follow. With the help of many partners, we put this principle into practice in a wide variety of ways.



One of our most important partners in making a difference in communities is you, our members.

Through the People Fund program, members agree to have their monthly electric bill rounded up to the next whole dollar. These extra cents are pooled with those of other participating members and used to fund two rounds of grants each year to non-profit or charitable organizations that serve our 26-county service area. Since its inception in 1999, the People Fund has awarded more than \$4.3 million in grants.

Other examples of GLE's concern for community include:

- ▶ Annual scholarships for students pursuing degrees in electrical engineering, information technology and those enrolled in a lineworker training program
- ▶ Classroom grants of up to \$2,000 each to help fund innovative educational programing in our schools
- ▶ The Energy Wise program which offers members rebates on the purchase of qualifying energy efficient products
- ▶ Economic development assistance offered through two USDA loan programs
- ▶ Sponsorships for many school, community, and non-profit events and programs
- ▶ The Pathways Program for members who may be struggling to pay their electric bills.

Finally, no list of our care for community would be complete without highlighting the many GLE employees who regularly volunteer their time and talents to make a meaningful difference in their communities.



I'm proud to be part of an organization that is making a positive impact in the community both in our day-to-day business and through our many community outreach programs.



IT'S TIME TO VOTE

For a Board Member

Next month, Great Lakes Energy members in three director districts will receive a mail-in ballot with their July/August issue of Michigan Country Lines. New this year, ballots will also include instructions on how members can vote online.

Three board positions, each for three years, will need to be filled. Qualifying GLE members who reside in districts 3, 4, or 5 can seek election to the board and will be listed on the member's respective ballots.

COUNTIES BY DISTRICT ARE:

District 3 - Antrim County

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

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



Ric Evans

Shelly Pinkelman

Dale Farrier

The terms of directors Ric Evans, of Ellsworth (District 3), Shelly Pinkelman of Frederic (District 4), and Dale Farrier, of Kalkaska (District 5) expire this year. All three incumbents plan to seek re-election.

In addition to the mail-in ballot and online voting instructions, the candidates' profiles will appear in the July/August election issue that will be sent to members in Districts 3, 4, and 5. Profiles will also be available in the online version of the July/August issue which will be available at countrylines.com/my-co-op/great-lakes/.

▶ **Winners will be announced on Wednesday, Aug. 23, 2023, at the cooperative's annual business meeting.**

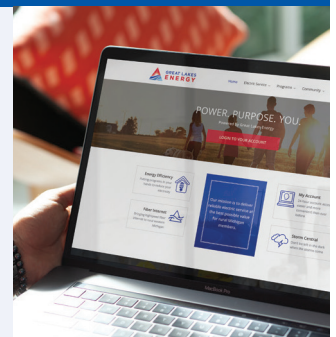
Auto Pay is going paperless!

Great Lakes Energy offers an easy way to help save time, money, and the environment all at the same time: paperless billing. To reduce paper and postage costs, all members enrolled in Auto Pay with an email address on file will convert to paperless billing effective June 1. Moving forward, a bill notification will be sent monthly by email. To opt-out, please call us at 888-485-2537.

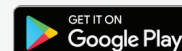
GO ONLINE TO SAVE MORE!

Take control of your electric use. Monitor your weekly electric consumption, setup alerts for high or low usage, sign up for AutoPay or Budget Billing, enroll in the People Fund, or report an outage.

▶ **The power is in your hands at gtlakes.com.**



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