

Community Connections You Can Count On



Shaun Lamp

President & Chief Executive Officer

For the past few months, we've used the pages of Michigan Country Lines to highlight how Great Lakes Energy's sense of belonging drives us to work hard every day to improve the lives of our members and our communities.

This commitment and connection to our community is nothing new for GLE. As your member-owned not-for-profit electric cooperative, "Concern for Community" is one of the seven cooperative principles that guide us in all we do.

Here's a quick recap of some of the programs we've featured.

Youth

We know fostering education is a key element in the continual improvement of our organization and in the communities we serve. That's why we offer a scholarship program for students pursuing degrees in electrical engineering, information technology, or electrical linework training. It's also why we have awarded **more than \$302,000** through our Classroom Grant program since 2012 to support innovative educational programs in the schools that serve our members' children.



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Energy savings

We offer our members many ways to reduce their energy consumption. One great example is our Energy Wise program, which offers members rebates for purchasing qualifying new energy-efficient appliances, equipment, and home systems. Also, our new consumer analytics tools allow our members to take even more control of their energy use by analyzing their home's electric use patterns. Both programs allow members to reduce their electric bills and carbon footprint.

Nonprofit support

One of the best ways we can help improve our communities is by supporting the efforts of local nonprofit organizations that make a difference in people's lives. Thanks to the generosity of our members who agree to have their monthly electric bills rounded up to the next whole dollar, we've awarded **more than \$4.6 million** in People Fund grants to nonprofit organizations since 1999. We've also partnered with CoBank, one of our lenders, to award **\$57,000** in grants to nonprofits in our service area in the past three years through the Community Grant Giveaway program.

Perhaps one of the best illustrations of GLE's connection to our community is through our employees. Many of them apply the same community-minded spirit that drives them to provide the best possible service for our members to make positive contributions to their community through their volunteer efforts outside of work.

Last year, to both celebrate and support our employees' volunteer efforts, we initiated a program called "The Energy of Giving." The program encourages employees to track and report their volunteer hours and offers a forum for employees to share volunteer opportunities that are available in their communities.

From Aug. 1 to April 25, our employees have submitted **2,267 volunteer hours** through the Energy of Giving Program. However, I suspect the actual number of hours employees are volunteering is probably much higher.

The Energy of Giving program has reinforced something that I've known for a long time: GLE has some of the best employees around. I'm proud to work with people who place a high priority on making a positive impact on the community, both on and off the job.



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. These ballots will also include instructions on how members can cast their votes online.

Three board positions, each for three years, will need to be filled. Qualifying GLE members who reside in districts 1, 2, or 7 can seek election to the board and will be listed on the member's respective ballots.

COUNTIES BY DISTRICT ARE:

District 1 - Emmet County

District 2 - Charlevoix and Cheboygan counties

District 7 - Muskegon and Oceana counties



David Coveyou

Mark Carson

Paul Byl

The terms of directors David Coveyou of Petoskey (District 1), Mark Carson of Boyne City (District 2), and Paul Byl of Shelby (District 7) 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 1, 2, and 7. 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. 21, 2024, at the cooperative's annual business meeting.**

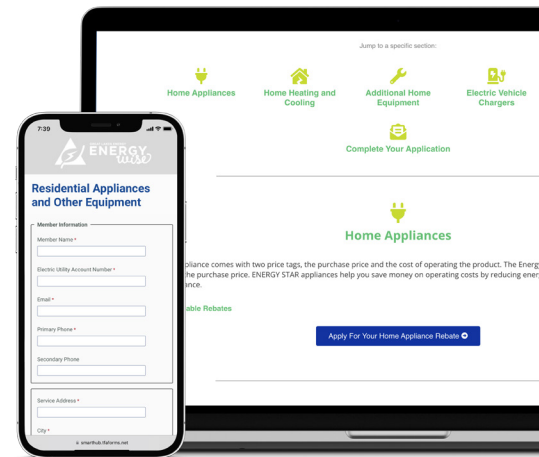
Convenience is key

We've recently made it even easier for GLE members to take advantage of the many energy-saving incentives available through the Energy Wise program.

Now, members can submit their applications for residential Energy Wise rebates directly through our website at gtlakes.com/energy-wise. With this enhancement, members no longer need to print out forms, fill them out by hand, and mail them back to us. With the new system, just click or tap on the type of residential rebate you are applying for, then select the "Begin Your Application" button and you'll be redirected to the appropriate application submission page.

The application process is especially handy when using a smartphone, which you can use to capture and upload images of the receipts needed for the application.

The new online rebate application process not only makes it easier for members to submit their Energy Wise applications but also allows for faster processing times. That means members will see their rebate bill credits or checks sooner.



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