

# power talk

A SUPPLEMENT TO MICHIGAN COUNTRY LINES



## An unprecedented storm response



**Shaun Lamp**

President & Chief Executive Officer

The first weeks of April have shown me a lot about the adaptability, fortitude, and resiliency of our employees, our members, and the communities we serve.

Following the ice storms that caused massive damage to the infrastructure in the northern portions of our service area and left tens of thousands of our members without power and fiber internet service, we've frequently used the word "unprecedented."

Although it's a word that sometimes is over-used, it's really the best way to describe so much about what happened and how we responded.

Never before have we experienced this level of damage to our infrastructure or this amount of prolonged impact on our members, employees, and the community.

It has truly been a time full of firsts. I'd like to share a few of them with you.

We've responded to major storms in the past, but nothing on this scale. In addition to our dedicated crews and field managers, we had help from other cooperatives and contract crews from all over the country. With more than 1,600 field staff working long hours, there weren't nearly enough hotel rooms in the area to house them all. So, for the first time in our history, we established a Storm Camp in partnership with our neighboring co-op, Presque Isle Electric & Gas Cooperative at the Otsego County Fairgrounds. The camp not only provided food, lodging, and laundry services for field crews, but it also helped free up area hotel rooms for members who were without power.

The scope of this response also prompted other firsts, such as establishing an emergency operations center at our Boyne City headquarters, bringing tanker trucks to staging areas to expedite vehicle fueling, and bringing staff from other co-ops into areas other than operations, including our dispatch, warehouse, and communications departments, to assist in the all-hands-on-deck work.

Many of our staff took on other behind-the-scenes tasks outside of their usual roles. It was truly an 'all-hands-on-deck' approach to ensure member calls were answered, materials were readily available to field crews, and field crews from outside our area were guided to the right locations, among many other tasks. The dedication and teamwork displayed were truly remarkable.

Finally, the level of support – both in words and deeds – that we have received from our members, employees and their families, contractors, other co-ops, and the community in the wake of these storms is nothing short of unprecedented. For this, I and the GLE board of directors extend our heartfelt thanks!

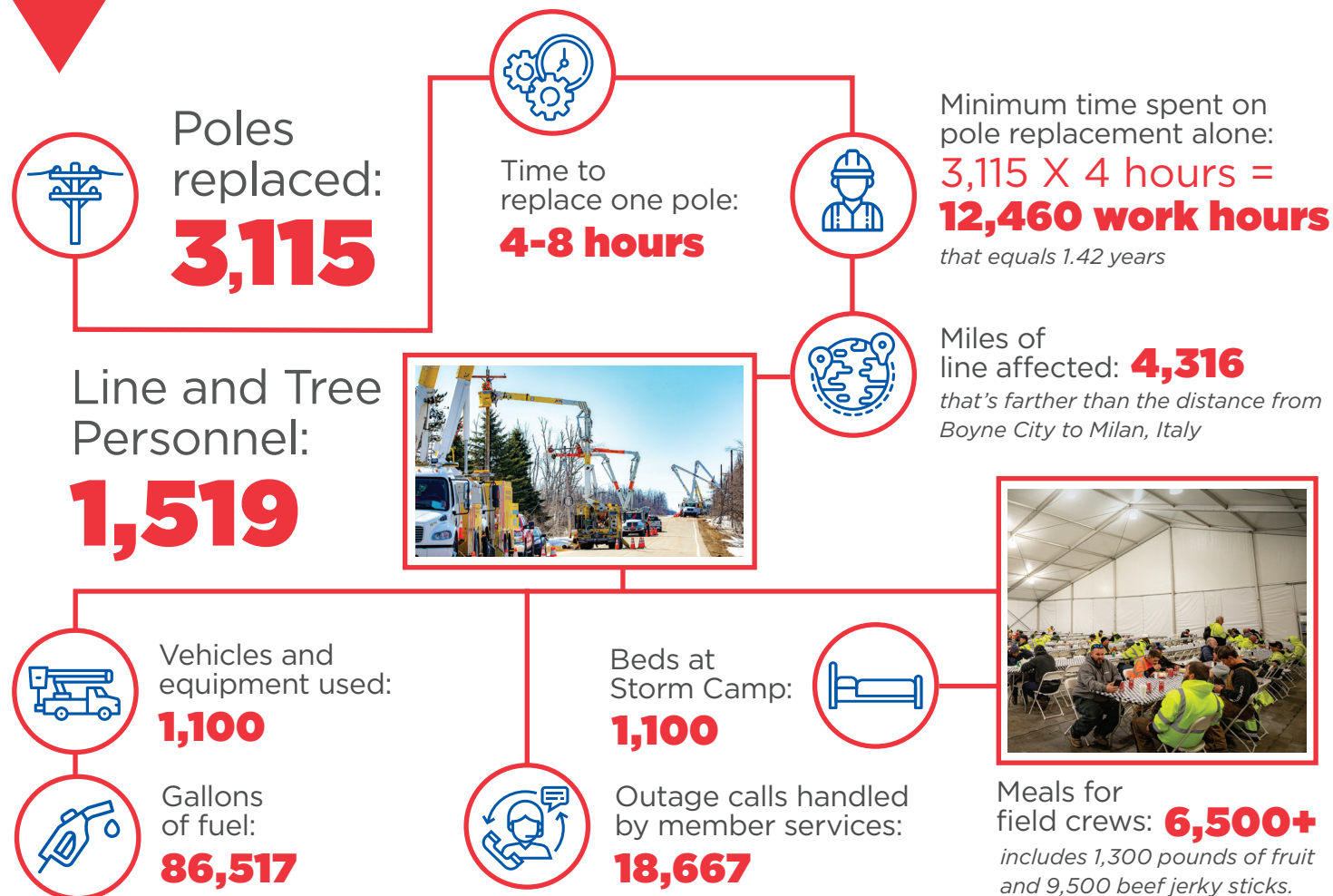
While the impacts of these storms will be felt here at GLE and within our communities for a long time to come, so will our sense of pride in being part of a cooperative and community that is able to respond in troubled times with grit, determination, and caring.

# Ice Storm 2025\*

Members  
restored:

**66,708**

*Recovery Efforts Ongoing*



\*The above data was current as of April 17



Headquarters:  
1323 Boyne Avenue,  
Boyne City, MI 49712

 [gtlakes.com](http://gtlakes.com)

 [facebook.com/greatlakesenergy](https://facebook.com/greatlakesenergy)

 [truestreamfiber.com](http://truestreamfiber.com)

 [facebook.com/jointruestream](https://facebook.com/jointruestream)

 (888) 485-2537

 [glenergy@glenergy.com](mailto:glenergy@glenergy.com)

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