

The Spotlight



A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

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December 2011

ANNUAL MEETING ELECTION RESULTS

The 74th Annual Meeting was held on Friday, October 28th at Posen High School.

Elections are held each year for three positions on the Board of Directors. The winners of the 2011 election are incumbents, John Brown (Cheboygan District), David Smith (Montmorency District), and Allan Berg (Presque Isle District). Each were re-elected for a three-year term. Below are the vote counts for each candidate.

Officers for the upcoming year are: John Brown-Chairman; Allen Barr-Vice Chairman; David Smith-Secretary; and Daryl Peterson-Treasurer.



CHEBOYGAN DISTRICT

John Brown 1283

Elizabeth Apking 482



MONTMORENCY DISTRICT

David Smith 1137

Earl Elowsky 657



PRESQUE ISLE DISTRICT

Allan Berg 1182

Wayne Vermilya 480, Edward Teckman 378

Congratulations to Richard Podgorski of Lewiston who was the winner of the \$100 EnerGift Certificate for voting by mail.

2011-2012 Home Heating Assistance Programs – Be Winter Wise

The **Winter Protection Plan** protects eligible senior and low-income customers from service shut-offs and high utility bill payments during the winter months (Nov 1 – Mar 31). You may enroll if you are an eligible low income customer, if you pay at least 7% of your estimated annual bill each month, and make equal monthly payments of 1/12 of any past due bills.

When the protection period ends (Mar 31), participants in the plan must begin to pay the full monthly bill and plus pay any money owed from winter months before the next heating season. **Participation does not relieve customers from the responsibility of paying for electricity and natural gas usage, but does prevent shut-off during winter months.** To qualify you must meet at least one of the following requirements: you are age 65 or older; you receive DHS cash assistance, including SSO; you receive Food Stamps; you receive Medicaid; or your household income is at or below 150% of poverty level guidelines. Senior citizens (65 or older) who participate are not required to make specific payments, but are encouraged to pay what they can to avoid large unmanageable bills when the protection period ends. Call us at **800-423-6634** for more information on this and other programs or see page 20 of your Nov-Dec Country Lines magazine.

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12 Days of Holiday Safety

It's easy to make safety a part of your holiday with these tips. Tackle one a day and you're well on your way to a safe New Year!



ESFi
Electrical Safety Foundation International

Day 1 What's that noise? Test your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. Make sure everyone knows what to do if they hear them.

Day 5 Ouch! Prevent trips and falls by keeping cords safely along walls and out of doorways and high traffic areas.

Day 9 Nice and warm. Keep space heaters at least 3 feet away from anything that can burn—decorations, trees, gifts, and curtains.

Day 2 What a shocker! Before use, inspect all electrical lights, decorations, and extension cords for damage.

Day 6 Kids eat the darndest things! Avoid putting lights, metal hooks, breakable ornaments, and other small decorations within reach of young children.

Day 10 Can't touch this! Consider installing tamper-resistant outlets/receptacles to prevent kids from inserting objects into the slots.

Day 3 Two's company, three's a crowd. Do not overload outlets with too many decorations or devices.

Day 7 Thirsty? Keep your Christmas tree stand full of water. A fresh, green tree poses less of a fire hazard than a dry tree.

Day 11 Escape Route: Share your family fire escape plan with overnight guests.

Day 4 Is it working? Test your ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) and arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) to make sure they're protecting you.

Day 8 Make a wish! Blow out the candles before leaving a room or going to bed.

Day 12 Hot stuff! Keep children away from cooking areas; use back burners and turn pot handles in away from little hands.

There's no greater gift you can give your family than a safe and happy holiday! Learn more at holidaysafety.org.

Residential Rate Comparison For MPSC-Regulated Gas Utilities



As of November 1, 2011	100 ccf Monthly Bill
UTILITY	
MichCon/DTE	\$ 98.34
PIE&G	\$124.12
Aurora Gas*	\$126.75
Propane Equivalent**	\$272.16

*Not set by the MPSC; based on \$10.75/mo. Minimum plus \$1.16/ccf
 **Not set by the MPSC; 112 gal. propane equivalent to 100 ccf natural gas
 112 gallons of propane equivalent to 100 ccf natural gas.

Source: Michigan Public Service Commission
www.dleg.state.mi.us/mpsc/electric/download/rates2.pdf

2010 - 2011 EO TARGETS MET

PROGRAMS SUSPENDED UNTIL 2012

Thanks to all of you who participated and helped us achieve our Energy Optimization program targets this year! All programs have now been closed until early 2012. Watch for more information on future EO programs in The Spotlight, Country Lines, and at pieg.com and Michigan-energy.org.

Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op

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