

The Spotlight



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December 2021

DIRECTOR ELECTION RESULTS

PIE&G held its 84th annual membership meeting on Friday, October 22 at the Posen High School. The following candidates were elected to three-year terms (2021-2024): **Sally Knopf** (incumbent, At-Large District), **Sandra Borowicz** (incumbent, Cheboygan District) and **Daryl Peterson** (incumbent, Montmorency District). The number of votes that each candidate received is listed below.



Sandra Borowicz



Daryl Peterson



Sally Knopf

Immediately following the meeting, the board of directors held their election of officers and the results are: **Chair – Allan Berg; Vice Chair – John Brown; Secretary – Sandra Borowicz; and Treasurer – Daryl Peterson.**

Charlene S. from Hillman won the drawing for the \$100 bill credit for voting by mail. In other business, members heard reports from the cooperative's auditor, counsel and the Chief Executive Officer, Thomas Sobeck.

Cheboygan District:
(One Vacancy)
Sandra Borowicz 1,378
Luanne Thomas 360

Montmorency District:
(One Vacancy)
Daryl Peterson 1,171
Curtis Render 573

At-Large Isle District:
(One Vacancy)

Sally Knopf	543
Dallas Hyde	483
Warren Kowalewsky	383
Kimberlee Pappas	353
Jesse Streich	134

SCHOLARSHIPS FOR GRADUATING SENIORS

Applications due March 1, 2022

The PIE&G Communities First Fund has been awarding scholarships to graduating high school seniors since 1999. The scholarship program includes all accredited colleges or universities located in Michigan. The award is \$1,000 and payable upon successful completion of the first semester. Two other scholarships are available – The A. Barkley Travis Memorial scholarship (\$500) and the Peterson Vocational School Scholarship (\$500).

Eligibility requirements and applications are available on-line at pieg.com or by contacting PIE&G at 800-423-6634 and select extension 1011. Completed applications with all supporting documentation must be received at PIE&G by close of business on Tuesday, March 1, 2022. Scholarships will be awarded by June 1st.



Happy Holidays!

Best wishes for health and happiness this holiday season.

We will be closed for Christmas on Friday, Dec. 24th and Monday, Dec. 27th.

For New Year's Day, we're closed on Friday, Dec. 31st.



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PIE&G CONNECT YEAR-END RECAP

We've made great progress in 2021 toward bringing access to reliable and affordable high-speed internet service to our communities. In February, we announced a grant of \$11.2 million from the Federal Communications Commission's Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) auction to support our efforts.



With this funding secured, PIE&G quickly began making our fiber broadband project happen: hiring contractors, getting estimates for construction, meeting with installers, and

setting fiber huts at our Phase I substations. Our employees have held weekly meetings to discuss all business functions including marketing strategy, pricing, and operations for our newly created division, PIE&G Connect.

After months of work behind the scenes, it was time to begin building our world-class fiber-to-the-home (FTTH) network. Make Ready Construction crews began the rearrangement of communications or power assets currently on PIE&G's utility poles. The next significant step - construction of the fiber network - is now underway since early November.

Currently, the project is in Phase I, where crews are building the fiber network around the City of Onaway, south towards Canada Creek and in Allis Township. We anticipate that our first members will be connected in April - May, 2022. The FTTH buildout will be completed in four phases with corresponding geographic areas, likely through the end of 2025.

We are working as quickly as possible to reach all of our electric members with fiber broadband. We'll continue to provide updates on Facebook, at www.pieg.com/fiber-internet, in The Spotlight and Country Lines as progress is made.

We appreciate everyone's patience as we continue our broadband journey and look forward to connecting thousands of members during Phase I in 2022!

HOME HEATING ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FOR THE 2021-2022 SEASON

The Winter Protection Plan (WPP) protects enrolled seniors and low-income members from service shut-offs and high utility bill payments during winter months. If you are eligible and you sign an agreement with us, your utility service will remain on (or restored with the WPP) from November 1 through March 31, as long as you:

- pay at least 7% of your estimated annual bill each month, **and**
- make equal monthly payments between the date you apply and the start of the next heating season on any past due bills.

When the protection period ends (March 31), you must begin to pay the full monthly bill, plus part of the amount you owe from the winter months when you did not pay the full bill. **Participation does not relieve customers from the responsibility of paying for electricity and natural gas usage, but does prevent shut-off during winter months as long as the scheduled payments are received by the due date.** You qualify for the plan if you meet at least one of the following requirements:

- age 65 or older,
- receive Department of Human Services cash assistance, including SSI,
- receive Food Assistance,
- receive Medicaid, or
- household income is at or below the 150% of poverty level*.

Seniors citizen members (65 or older) who enroll in the WPP are not required to make specific payments between Nov. 1 and March 31. Service for seniors can be restored without any payments.

Note: All members 65+ are eligible regardless of income. Members are responsible for all electricity and natural gas used. At the end of the protection period, participants must make arrangements with PIE&G to pay off any money owed before the next heating season. Seniors are encouraged to pay what they can over the winter to avoid large, unmanageable bills and shut off when the protection period ends.

***See pages 6-7 of your Nov-Dec Country Lines for details. Call PIE&G to enroll.**

Presque Isle Electric & Gas Co-op

19831 M-68 Hwy • P.O. Box 308 • Onaway, MI 49765 • 989-733-8515 • 800-423-6634 • www.pieg.com

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