

RETIREE LINE

SPRING 2017

Consumers Energy

Count on Us®

POPPE TO SPEAK AT FORERUNNERS ANNUAL MEETING

COME TO THE FORERUNNERS ANNUAL MEETING and Luncheon on Wednesday, September 20, and meet keynote speaker Patti Poppe, President and Chief Executive Officer of CMS Energy and Consumers Energy.

An energetic and personable leader, Poppe is the daughter of Consumers Energy retired engineer Bill Kessler. Before joining the company in 2011, she held management positions at GM and DTE Energy. In 2016, Crain's Detroit Business named Poppe to its list of "100 Most Influential Women."

The **Forerunners Annual Meeting and Luncheon** will be held at the historic Lakeview Banquet Center, 5942 Round Lake Rd., Laingsburg, 15 minutes northeast of Lansing.

Built in 1913 as Club Roma, the site once hosted big bands led by such greats as Tommy Dorsey and Benny Goodman, "The King of Swing."



Patti Poppe, President and Chief Executive Officer of CMS Energy and Consumers Energy

GOLF OUTING - SEPT. 19

The **Forerunners Annual Golf Outing** will be Tuesday, September 19, at Duck Lake Country Club, 2827 Country Club Way, Albion. Tee time is set for 11 a.m. The event includes 18 holes of golf, golf cart for two, morning coffee and

rolls, food at the turn, lunch afterward and prize money. Watch for more details in future newsletters, from chapter presidents and online at ConsumersEnergy.com/retiree.

Questions about the golf outing? Contact Kathy Gabriel, kathleengabrier@att.net or **517-783-5072**.



Retirees Mike Butchart (left) and David Mikelonis pose with Megan Mello at last year's EBG Chairman's Club Dinner. ➔

EBG MEMBERS Elect Retiree to Steering Committee

EMPLOYEES FOR BETTER GOVERNMENT (EBG) is CMS Energy/Consumers Energy's employee-run political action committee (PAC), which makes us very unique to other corporations.

"I have met with corporate PACs all over the country, and have never found one that operates like we do," said Megan Mello, EBG PAC and Grassroots Manager. "People are surprised to hear we let our members elect the Steering Committee representatives, instead of just letting our Governmental Affairs Department appoint them like most other PACs."

It's something EBG is very proud of – and has been since its founding 40 years ago when there were only 15 members on the committee. Today, there are 35 members representing every company location in Michigan, EnerBank (Utah), and now the Retiree Shareholder EBG members.

Retiree Mike Butchart has been serving on the EBG Steering Committee in an advisory capacity since 2004.



This year, he joins the other 34 representatives in the official Steering Committee elections.

"I enjoy the politics and expect the next couple of years to be interesting," Butchart said. "I am very aware that governing bodies make a major difference in our lives, so I feel strongly in voting to financially support the right person, not the party."

Butchart was elected by EBG members, but any retiree can reach out to him with legislative questions. Mello also is happy to help and can be reached at **517-788-0594** or **Megan.Mello@cmsenergy.com**.

Apply for SCHOLARSHIPS for High School Seniors

The Forerunners will award six scholarships valued at \$5,200 to eligible high school seniors graduating in 2017. The Forerunners will sponsor four \$800 scholarships. Plus, Richmond Brothers, based in Jackson, Mich., and Flynn Wealth Partners, based in East Lansing, Mich., will each sponsor a \$1,000 scholarship. Both firms offer retirement and financial planning services.

Applications are available at any Forerunners office, from chapter presidents, or online at the Consumers Energy website, ConsumersEnergy.com/retiree. The application and required academic information must be received on or before June 15, 2017.

To be eligible, students must be high school seniors with a grade-point average of 2.5 or above. After graduating from high school, they must enroll as full-time students at an accredited college, university or

trade school. The award can be used for tuition, books, fees and other academic expenses.

Scholarships are awarded to children, grandchildren, stepchildren, step-grandchildren, and other legal dependents of paid-up Forerunners members. A Forerunners member is eligible for only one award in any given year.

The first name drawn during the selection process in June will receive the \$1,000 Richmond Brothers Scholarship; the second name drawn will receive the \$1,000 Flynn Wealth Partners Scholarship. The next four names drawn each will receive an \$800 Forerunners Scholarship.

Award recipients are invited to attend the Forerunners Annual Meeting and Luncheon to accept their scholarships. This year's event will be Sept. 20 at the historic Lakeview Banquet Center, 5942 Round Lake Rd., Laingsburg, Mich., 15 minutes northeast of Lansing.



NEW BOOK Captures Consumers Energy History

DECEMBER MARKED CONSUMERS ENERGY'S 130th anniversary of providing Michigan with affordable, reliable energy.

As part of the celebration, the company created a new book to capture its long, proud history.

The 160-page, full-color book titled "Building for the Future: The Story of Consumers Energy, 1886-2016," features photographs and stories through the decades, from the company's founding in Jackson just after the Civil War to today's age of wind and solar farms and smart grid technology.

The book is the first comprehensive look at the company's history since "Future Builders" was published in 1973.

Retirees may request a book by completing the enclosed form and returning it by June 1. A limited number of copies will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis.

The book also will be available online at **cmsenergy.com**.

"Our goal was to bring to life the pivotal moments, people and stories that have shaped Consumers Energy, especially over the last 50 years," said David Mengebier, Senior Vice President for Governmental, Regulatory and Public Affairs. "One important purpose of the book will be to provide new employees a good grounding in the history of our company and how we got to where we are today."

The book was authored by veteran New Jersey-based writer Gina Shaw — who spent more than a year conducting interviews and research — and published by Essex Publishing, a St. Louis-based company that's also produced corporate history books for companies such as Airstream, Kohler, Ball and utilities Entergy, Edison International and Progress Energy.

"This book tells the story of how we've met Michigan's energy needs safely, while caring for the communities we serve and the environment we cherish," said Patti Poppe, President and Chief Executive Officer. "And you will understand how the lessons we've learned make us a stronger company — one striving for world-class performance that delivers hometown service."

Consumers Energy's Strategic Communications team managed the project, providing a variety of research, writing and design support.



Celebrate Consumers Energy's 130th anniversary with

"BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE: THE STORY OF CONSUMERS ENERGY, 1886-2016"

Retirees may request a book by mailing this completed form to:

**Forerunners
Company History Book
1945 W. Parnall Rd. P21-504
Jackson, MI 49201**

A limited number of copies are available on a first-come, first-served basis. The deadline for requests is **June 1, 2017**.

The book also will be available online at **cmsenergy.com**

Name: _____

Local retiree chapter: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

SENIOR VP REPORTS ON COMPANY PROGRESS

DAN MALONE, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF Energy Resources for Consumers Energy and CMS Energy, joined retirees and their guests on Feb. 24 for the Forerunners 60th annual Florida reunion. The event was held at the clubhouse of Country Aire Villages in Zephyrhills, 24 miles northwest of Lakeland.

A popular keynote speaker, Malone thanked retirees for supporting the company's energy policy.

"Thank you for all of your efforts over the course of more than two years," he said. "Retirees sent more than 10,854 letters to legislators, helping secure a Michigan-first energy policy that was signed into law. The legislation ensures reliable, affordable and clean energy for our customers."

Malone reported that parent company CMS Energy had another strong financial performance in 2016. The pension plan also is in good financial shape. In December 2016, the company made a \$100 million contribution to the pension fund.

Malone shared the company's new purpose: world-class performance delivering hometown service. The company's vision continues to be best in class, best value and proud to wear the colors. To achieve its vision, the company rolled out the **Consumers Energy Way (CE Way)**.

"**CE Way** is a lean operating system that strives to simultaneously improve safety, quality, cost delivery and employee morale," Malone said. "It focuses on our triple bottom line: people, planet and profit, underpinned by our unwavering commitment to world-class performance."

Malone noted that 2016 was the safest year in company history with 57 company locations reporting zero injuries.

In 2016, Consumers Energy:

- Installed 1.4 million upgraded electric meters and over 400,000 gas communication modules;
- Expanded energy efficiency and demand response programs;
- Offered 24/7 online customer support, becoming the first energy provider to do so;
- Awarded more than \$54,000 in Volunteer Investment Program grants to 109 different nonprofit organizations on behalf of retirees and offered "Caring for Communities," in which employees and retirees volunteer in groups of five or more and earn a grant for the nonprofit organization.



Jerry Ridner shows his oil painting of Whitefish Point and the Edmond Fitzgerald on Lake Superior at the Southeasters Chapter meeting in March. His work is titled "Fifteen Miles South of Forever."



CHAPTER NEWS & EVENTS

JACKSONIANS (JACKSON)

In April, recent retiree and former New Generation Manager Steve Wawro led chapter members on a tour of Consumers Energy's Jackson Generating Station, a 564-megawatt gas-fired plant. This year, members also attended a wine tasting event at the Grand Rapids Brewery and toured the historic downtown Michigan Theatre where they watched the film "St. Vincent" and snacked on popcorn.

LAKESIDERS (MUSKEGON)

The chapter needs enthusiastic retirees who want to build camaraderie among Muskegon-area retirees and have fun while doing it. If interested, contact Forerunners President Vonda Belanger at vondaleigh@msn.com or **517-376-6395**.

SOUTHEASTERS (MONROE)

Clarence (C.J.) Schwartz is the newly elected chapter president. The chapter holds periodic breakfast meetings at the Bedford Diner in

Temperance, Mich. At its February meeting, retirees received T-shirts commemorating the J.R. Whiting plant's 64 years of operation. Past President Jerry Ridner shared his painting, "Fifteen Miles South of Forever," and his years in the Navy at the March meeting.

SOUTHWEST ENERGY STARS (KALAMAZOO)

In November 2016, the Forerunners board voted to approve changing the chapter name of the Kalamazoo Clann to Southwest Energy Stars. Since Linda Marklin passed away in October 2016, the chapter has been without a president. If interested, contact Forerunners President Vonda Belanger at vondaleigh@msn.com or **517-376-6395**.

ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

The CMS Energy Corporation Annual Meeting of Shareholders will be held Friday, May 5, 2017, at 10 a.m. in One Energy Plaza, Room EP2-135. To attend, you must present photo ID and proof of CMS Energy stock ownership, such as an account statement. You can park in the Francis Street parking deck.



HAPPY RETIREMENT!

JANUARY 2017

Barnhill II, Robert T., Ionia
Barrera, Cathy S., Flint
Bauer, Jeffrey E., Bay City
Beldo, Clifford W., Manistee
Bishop, Daniel C., Mason
Bodrie, Dewayne D., Bay City
Bondarenko, Mary B., Jackson
Carson, Craig T., Bay City
DeBruler Jr., Charles, Jackson
Digon, Michael A., Parchment
Dillaha, Kenneth L., Garden City
Doan, Craig A., Hanover
Dorbeck, Eric A., Jackson
Eason, Kirby, New Bern, N.C.
Fabus, Toni P., Owosso
Feldpausch, Gene J., St. Johns
Fink, Douglas Lee, Pleasant Lake
Gerard, Richard G., Bay City
Hawkins, Sharon A., Michigan Center
Heard, Derrick A., Jackson
Higgins, Renee L., Alto
Hood, Keith A., Midland
Mannor, M. Kathleen, Jackson

Matthews, John K., Paw Paw
Moyer, Diane L., Jackson
Niezurawski, Jacquelyn L., Bay City
Nutt, Bradford A., Saginaw
Patton, Mark W., Kingsley
Peters, Scott G., Cassopolis
Randall, Charles B., Hesperia
Rogers, Gregory P., Ashley
Rygwelski, Joseph R., Auburn
Seidl, Dennis G., Jackson
Stitt, Michael D., Leslie
Sturtevant, Wayne R., Irons
Williams, John A., Shepherd
Williams, Michael J., Jackson

DECEMBER 2016

Babcock, Mark C., Holland
Bailey, Julie E., Pleasant Lake
Bourdon, Patrick J., N. Muskegon
Cooney, Mark L., Durand
Cunningham, Raymond M., Lake Orion
Dawson, Gary A., Onondaga

Devereaux, Mark T., Jackson
Gifford, Charles C., Muskegon
Hadaway, James B., Essexville
King, William A., Bay City
Manor, Phillip J., Ludington
Martinez, Pablo J., Adrian
Millard, Wayne M., Swartz Creek
Myers, Karen L., Milford
Siegrist, Edward G., Columbus
Welch, Victor R., Riverdale
Yang, John C., Marshall

NOVEMBER 2016

Caspar, Marsha J., Saugatuck
Doan, Thomas M., Climax
Eder, Linda M., Jackson
Edwards, Robert A., Hastings
Fannon, Cheryl A., Belmont
Grimm, Linda D., Jackson
Kroll, Charles J., Hamilton
Mick, Deborah G., Oxford
Parrott, Lance A., Fruitport
Thompson, Cecelia M., Jackson
Trombley, Eric R., Grandville

OCTOBER 2016

Anderson, Sandra J., Jackson
Bondarenko, Paul W., Jackson
Brennan, Jeffrey E., Perry
Deneke, Danny D., Hart
Halverson, Karen A., Jackson
Herbert, Timothy A., Fruitport
Johnson, Kevin S., Muskegon
Retter Jr., David M., Gaylord
Shaffer, David C., Davison
Vanochten, Paul R., Essexville
Wills, Kenneth C., Concord



DEATHS

JANUARY 2017

Agge, Roger W. Jan. 19 – Emmett
Biehler, Wayne C. Jan. 1 – Midland
Cote, William A. Jan. 2 – China
Derushia, David W. Jan. 14 – Alma
Dobberstein, Dale D. Jan. 17 – Muskegon
Fair, Flora L. Jan. 8 – Flint
Galbraith, George W. Jan. 2 – Monroe
Henry, Charles K. Jan. 9 – Jackson
Holwerda, Jerry F. Jan. 5 – Jackson
Johnson, Thelbert W. Jan. 20 – Jackson
Julian, Peggy W. Jan. 24 – Jackson
Kavanagh, Shirley B. Jan. 24 – Bay City
Lamb, Alfred D. Jan. 8 – Hillsdale
Loree, Joyce E. Jan. 17 – Spearfish, S.D.
Miller, Edward D. Jan. 24 – Lansing
Reckinger, Gerald J. Jan. 9 – White Lake
Taylor, Robert G. Jan. 7 – Bay City
Watkins, Winton M. Jan. 4 – Bancroft

DECEMBER 2016

Anderson, Dale D. Dec. 21 – White Pigeon
Bader, Barbara B. Dec. 30 – Mesa, Ariz.
Beutler, Ernest H. Dec. 18 – Traverse City
Blackburn, Kenneth C. Dec. 12 – Holt
Brockway, Ronald D. Dec. 16 – Grosse Pointe Park
Brown, Russell L. Dec. 16 – Burton
Bryan, Robert R. Dec. 18 – Royal Oak
Clark, Dennis I. Dec. 25 – Sparta, N.C.
Clark, Myron C. Dec. 22 – Hudson
Davis, Bob C. Dec. 11 – Lakeview
Derbyshire, Joseph M. Dec. 21 – Flint
Freiberg, Richard A. Dec. 13 – Dorr
Horrigths, James J. Dec. 15 – Springport
Huff, Vance L. Dec. 10 – Fenton
King, Kenneth A. Dec. 1 – Kalamazoo
Kohn, Gaylord E. Dec. 13 – Standish
Kolacz, John Dec. 28 – Bay City
Kren, Gerald N. Dec. 27 – Bay City
Layton, Jon L. Dec. 1 – Mason
Lillo, John C. Dec. 5 – Bay City
McClelland, Reid N. Dec. 4 – Grand Rapids
Morris, Richard L. Dec. 15 – Midland
Rasler, Ronald G. Dec. 6 – Parchment
Smock, Dennis J. Dec. 18 – Monroe
Sotzen, William H. Dec. 15 – Clawson
Thomas, Janice E. Dec. 20 – Jackson
Weber, Terry J. Dec. 16 – Boyne Falls



NOVEMBER 2016

Bouza, Steven A. Nov. 24 – Bay City
Fletcher, James S. Nov. 20 – Lillian, Ala.
Franks, Charles J. Nov. 4 – Mio
Hadley, Phyllis S. Nov. 27 – Jackson
Jones, Joyce M. Nov. 27 – Boca Raton, Fla.
Kadzban, Aloise A. Nov. 4 – Grandville
Meulenberg, C. W. Nov. 19 – Grand Rapids
Nickel, Delbert B. Nov. 4 – South Haven
Rediker, Reba K. Nov. 22 – Galesburg
Rennie II, Charles E. Nov. 23 – Traverse City
Spurr, Daniel E. Nov. 25 – Jackson
Surman, James R. Nov. 12 – Grand Rapids
Vecchio, Alexander V. Nov. 2 – Zeeland

OCTOBER 2016

Berry Jr., William H. Oct. 6 – McCormick, S.C.
Camp, Emmett N. Oct. 24 – Flint
Field, Earl C. Oct. 2 – Lansing
Ford, George W. Oct. 17 – Lake
Geyer Jr., Thomas S. Oct. 26 – Englewood, Fla.
Hanley, Robert D. Oct. 18 – Williamsburg
Harding, James Oct. 9 – Stratton, Maine
Marklin, Linda K. Oct. 25 – Gobles
Maves, Clifton L. Oct. 13 – Indian River
McNamara, Gerald J. Oct. 26 – Bridgeport
Nave, Edward C. Oct. 6 – Norton Shores
Snow, Charles R. Oct. 22 – Jackson
Thompson, Edward J. Oct. 12 – Mt. Airy, N.C.
VanderVeen, Edward J. Oct. 10 – West Olive
Whelton, Rosemary E. Oct. 15 – Saginaw
Yeiter, Lawrence F. Oct. 18 – Owosso

A monthly list of retirees who passed away is posted on the Consumers Energy website at ConsumersEnergy.com/retiree.



Contacts

FORERUNNERS OFFICERS

President: Vonda Belanger – vondaleigh@msn.com – 517-376-6395

Vice President: Sam Lalomia – slalomia@ameritech.net – 517-784-9043

Secretary: Nancy Miller – nancylou.miller@comcast.net – 517-764-4213

Treasurer: Kathy Gabriel – kathleengabrier@att.net – 517-783-5072

Past President & Scholarship Chair: Rhoda Tinkham – rmtinkham@gmail.com – 517-628-9740

FORERUNNERS CHAPTERS

Please call the appropriate chapter president if you want to be on the mailing list for club events.

Adrian – **Adrianites** – Alan Morgenthaler – 517-265-7539

Alma – **Grey Power** – Bob Divelbiss – 989-833-2403

Arizona – **Sun Runners** – John Ralph – 623-935-9772

Battle Creek – **Kilowatt Kreekers** – Margaret Skinner/Moody – 269-967-2263

Flint & Lapeer – **Easterners** – Tom Bollman – 810-444-9054

Florida – Bill Romoser (reunion only, winters) – 863-666-8021

Grand Rapids & Greenville – **Livewires** – Frank Zimmerman – 616-656-1147

Jackson – **Jacksonians** – Tom Heikkinen – 517-782-5281

Kalamazoo & Hastings – **Southwest Energy Stars** – Vacant

Lansing – **Capitaliers** – Sue Garland – 517-543-9488

Livonia & Howell – **Blue Flames** – Sue Breckenridge – 734-453-2251

Monroe County – **Southeasters** – C.J. Schwartz – 734-847-1516

Muskegon – **Lakesiders** – Vacant

Royal Oak & Pontiac – **Metro Region Pioneers** – Phyllis Leo – 586-677-9235

Saginaw, Bay City & Midland – **Wonder Watts** – Len Bobick – 989-893-2418

Tawas City – **Northeastern Lights** – Lee Lockman – 989-329-0325

Traverse City – **Northwesters** – Robert Gluszewski – 231-313-8344

OTHER IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Aetna – Medical: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday – Friday, 800-654-7248; <http://aetna.com>

Express Scripts Medco – Mail Order Prescriptions: 800-875-3147; <https://express-scripts.com>

Fidelity – Benefits, ALL Address Changes: 8:30 a.m. – midnight Monday – Friday (except New York Stock Exchange holidays), 800-260-4015; <http://netbenefits.fidelity.com>

Consumers Energy Employee Service Center: 800-272-4045

Consumers Energy Chapter Liaison: Chuck Moyer, crmoyer@cmsenergy.com, 517-788-1838

Consumers Energy Foundation: foundation@cmsenergy.com, toll-free 877-501-4952

RetireeLine News: Nancy Miller, nancylou.miller@comcast.net, 517-764-4213

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