

Michigan South Central Power Agency Presents:

The Spotlight



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With the first quarter of the year now behind us, it is time to start getting ready for what traditionally are the high energy usage months, that period of time called “summer”. We will be rebuilding our coal and limestone inventories as both were reduced significantly during the prolonged cold weather period. There is a great deal of scheduled maintenance that must be done to make sure that we can produce at maximum efficiency, and also a few improvement projects that are underway. It is going to be a busy spring! Once again, I want to thank everyone for their safe and dedicated efforts this winter.

Last week, I attended the APPA CEO conference where one of the presentations primarily dealt with energy resources on a global scale. When you step back and look at our whole planet, and realize that half of the earth's population is located in a relatively small circle that contains China and Indonesia, you begin to appreciate the abundance of resources that we in this area have access to, and more importantly, the need for us to manage those resources wisely. Our job is not only to supply power to our member communities, but also to educate the large number of people who believe that their electricity simply comes out of a wall socket. Today, intermittent resources such as wind and solar are popular, but it takes base load resources like coal, natural gas and nuclear to guarantee that energy will be available when it is needed. A little more common sense, a little less special interest hype, and a lot more effort into the development of new base load technologies, and this old world will do just fine.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Glen White". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Glen White, General Manager

New Employees

Four new employees started in the month of March. Please join me in welcoming the following: Micheal Binkley, FTF Attendant; James Knepler, FTF Attendant; Justin Pietrzak, FTF Operator and Joseph Snodgrass, FTF Attendant.

Member Cities and Villages Events

Turkeyville USA offers free samples of new menu items on April 5 from 11:00 AM until 5:00 PM. While you are enjoying delicious food, take a look around the store for great deals!

Schuler's Restaurant and Pub will host a Spring Wine Dinner on April 15 at 6:30 PM. Guests will enjoy a 5-course dinner and samplings of Guenoc Wines. Cost is \$75 for Tasters Guild members and \$85 for non-members. Click here for more details <http://www.schulersrestaurant.com/event/schulers-spring-wine-dinner/>

On April 19 the Dark Horse Brewing Co. will host its annual spring smoke-off to benefit Marshall Area Community Services (MACS), a local charity that provides help to needy families throughout the year. You can enter the competition as a pro or amateur, or you can just show up at 5:30 to purchase ribs, baby back ribs and/or brisket. If you are interested in competing, check out <http://www.darkhorsebrewery.com/events/>

Employee Spotlight: Chris Rose



Chris Rose began his MSCPA career in September 1997; he has worked as an Attendant, Oiler and has been a Materials Handler for the last 8 years. “My boys love that their dad gets to play in a big sandbox with real life Tonka toys.” he said.

Chris’s job responsibilities include: operates, controls and maintains the unloading, supplying and moving of coal, limestone and ash; operates coal hopper equipment, conveyor belts, coal crushers, magnetic iron removal equipment, bucket hoists, and ash

mixers; cleaning of equipment used and work areas; inspects belts for cuts and tears; maintains records.

Chris grew up in Hillsdale, but now lives in Litchfield with his wife of nearly 5 years (Amanda) and his children (Jacob, 15; Chase, 12; and Bryce, 2). Outside of work, he enjoys spending time with his wife and children, going to Silver Lake for 4-wheeling and Jeeping, and watching his sons play football or basketball.

- Chris’s Favorites:
- TV Shows: Walking Dead
 - Music: Country, especially Blake Shelton
 - Movie: Iron Man
 - Favorite Snack: Little Debbie Nutty Bars

Service awards

Marty Beebe	25 years
Harold Jenkins	16 years
Tom Henry	13 years
Leonard Patrick	7 years
Tom Shiery	7 years

Set Priorities to Avoid Work Pile Up

When there is too much to do and too little time to do it, working as quickly as possible would logically seem to be the best way to get everything done. Not so fast, however. When work piles up, it pays to pause to get into an organizational groove. Working efficiently rather than hastily can ensure that things get done right the first time.

To limit stress and make life manageable:

Make a plan: Each day, write down what needs to be done, listing the most important tasks first. This will help ensure that most of your energy is directed toward your daily priorities.

Break things down: Make large tasks less intimidating by breaking them down into smaller steps. Set aside a manageable block of time to work on the project each day. Check off accomplishments as you go along.

Don’t avoid unpleasant work: Delaying these tasks leads to stress. Rather than procrastinating, set aside 10 minutes to work on a task you have been dreading. Even if you do not complete it, it will be that much easier to pick up tomorrow.

Avoid overdoing it: Consider priorities before taking on more tasks. If the new project is not necessary, do not try to squeeze it in if your schedule is already full

Regroup: When unexpected situations arise, remember that life is not perfect. Rather than worrying, craft a plan for coping.

Set tech boundaries: Email and smartphones make it easy to catch up on work from home, but doing it can impair your ability to recover from the stress of work. If possible, set boundaries to give yourself a break from electronic ties to work. Let coworkers know when they can and cannot, expect you to reply to work-related communications outside of normal working hours.

Make time for healthy choices: Get enough sleep and set time aside for stress-relieving activities such as exercise, a hobby, and time with family and friends. This refreshes your focus and helps you complete your work more efficiently.

“Living Right - Find Your Groove: Don’t get frazzled or let projects unravel,” 2014

April birthdays

Kelly Atkins
Robert Hard
Carl Sykes
Ed Hughes