



CHOPTANK ELECTRIC *Cooperative Living*

Choptank Electric journeyman
Todd Anderson climbing at the
International Lineman's Rodeo in
Overland Park, Kansas, last fall.

PHOTO BY JIM ROBERTSON



For changes of address, please contact Choptank Electric Cooperative.



LINeworkERS ARE WIRED FOR SERVICE

In the quiet hours before dawn breaks, while many of us are still nestled in our beds, lineworkers begin their day. Often dressed in flame-resistant clothing, hard hats, layered leather and rubber gloves, and heavy boots, they are the individuals who epitomize dedication

to service in the purest form. As we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 14, this is an important moment to reflect on the essential role they play in our daily lives.

Amid long power lines and towering utility poles, lineworkers exhibit a strength that goes far beyond physical. Whether battling inclement weather, troubleshooting technical problems or navigating treacherous heights, lineworkers demonstrate resilience and a quiet determination to keep our lights on, our homes comfortable and our communities connected.

Choptank Electric Cooperative's crews travel across our nine-county service territory, building,

maintaining and repairing parts of our local system. Their extraordinary skills ensure our homes are connected to the grid, businesses stay operational and emergency services remain accessible — a lifeline that connects us all.

In moments of crisis, when the lights go out and we find ourselves in the dark, lineworkers emerge as beacons of hope. Their swift response restores normalcy, offering reassurance in times of uncertainty. Whether repairing storm-ravaged power lines or ensuring continuity during emergencies, their unwavering commitment illuminates life when we need it most.

Choptank Electric Cooperative's lineworkers also answer the call beyond the boundaries of home. Our crews travel to fellow co-ops, near or far, when widespread outages occur and additional support is needed. Cooperation Among Cooperatives is one of our seven guiding principles, and no one embodies this core commitment better than lineworkers.

This month, as we celebrate the remarkable men and women who ensure reliable power, let's recognize their unwavering dedication to the local communities they serve. The next time you flip a switch, please take a moment to remember and thank our lineworkers who make it possible.



Sincerely,

*Mike Malandro,
President and CEO
Choptank Electric Co-op*



**Choptank Electric
Cooperative**

A Touchstone Energy
Cooperative

**Choptank
Fiber**

P.O. Box 430 | Denton, MD | 21629

Member Service Center: 1-877-892-0001

Automated Member Service: 1-844-975-2746

Electric Outage Reporting: 1-800-410-4790 and select option 1

Fiber Outage Reporting: 1-800-410-4790 and select option 2

Use SmartHub to Manage Account,

Track Usage and Report Outages →

WWW.CHOPTANKELECTRIC.COOP





CAPITAL CREDIT BENEFICIARY DESIGNATION FORM

FORM 307BD

MEMBER NAME _____ SOCIAL SECURITY # _____
 ADDRESS _____ CITY, STATE, ZIP _____
 CUSTOMER # _____

- IMPORTANT INFORMATION**
- The purpose of this form is to designate a beneficiary entitled to receive any capital credits due to a member after the member's death. The beneficiary (or contingent beneficiary, if applicable) will receive all capital credits for all accounts payable to the deceased member, at a discounted rate.
 - This designation will remain in effect until amended or revoked, in writing, by the member. This form revokes all previous beneficiary designations.
 - It is the duty of the member to update any change to beneficiary designation and/or beneficiary contact information.

PRIMARY BENEFICIARY

Beneficiary Name _____

Date of Birth _____ (Beneficiary must be 18 or older)

Mailing Address _____

Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

Relationship to Member _____

CONTINGENT BENEFICIARY (optional)
(Contingent beneficiary will only receive funds if the primary beneficiary is deceased)

Contingent Beneficiary Name _____

Date of Birth _____ (Beneficiary must be 18 or older)

Mailing Address _____

Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

Relationship to Member _____

I HEREBY CERTIFY under penalty of perjury that the below is the true and genuine signature of the member

SIGNATURE OF MEMBER **DATE**

PRINTED NAME

EMAIL ADDRESS **PHONE NUMBER**

EMPLOYEE NAME _____

Submit completed form to Choptank Electric Cooperative by email:
memberservices@choptankelectric.coop or by mail: P.O. Box 430 Denton, MD 21629.

Early Capital Credit Retirement

As a non-profit member-owned utility, any margins (profits) above the cost of service are allocated back to our member-owners based on how much electricity each member purchased during the year.

The Choptank Electric Board of Directors voted to retire capital credits early this year to help members after an extremely cold winter. Capital credit notice for active members will show on their April 2025 electric bill in the left message area above the bill stub. Inactive members with 2024 electricity billings will be mailed a separate notice.

The Co-op portion of capital credits is reviewed by the Board of Directors each year and they determine how and when to repay the amounts

allocated. Their decision is based on a variety of factors, including the overall financial condition of the Cooperative.

If you have questions about your capital credits, please contact our Member Service Center at 1-877-892-0001 and have your account number available.

Members are now able to designate a beneficiary to receive any capital credits after the member's death. Please detach and fill out the form to the left and mail it to Choptank Electric Cooperative at P.O. Box 430 Denton, MD 21629 or visit www.choptankelectric.coop/capital-credits to download a fillable version of the form that can be emailed to memberservices@choptankelectric.coop.



**CHOPTANK
ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE
87TH**

**ANNUAL
MEETING**

**THE FOUNTAINS
WEDDING &
CONFERENCE CENTER**
1800 Sweetbay Drive in
Salisbury, Maryland

THURSDAY, APRIL 24
Doors open at 4:30 p.m.
Business meeting begins
at 6 p.m.

Meal and goodies for
members who attend

**10 Luck of the Draw
Scholarships will be
awarded!**

[www.choptankelectric.coop/
annual-meeting-0](http://www.choptankelectric.coop/annual-meeting-0)

**HAPPY EASTER
TO OUR MEMBERS!**

*Our offices will be closed
in observance
of Good Friday
on April 18, 2025.*



447th Session of the Maryland General Assembly

By Valerie Connelly, Vice President Government Affairs & Public Relations

The Maryland General Assembly convened its annual 90-day session on January 11 and will conclude on April 7 at midnight. The top two issues of debate for legislators this year are budget and energy policy. This puts Choptank on high alert and has us watching very closely to make sure new ideas do not result in higher bills for Choptank members.

The budget discussion revolves around the \$3 billion state deficit. Maryland's constitution requires a balanced budget to be submitted by the Governor and passed by the Legislature. To bring spending in line with anticipated revenues, Governor Wes Moore proposed changes to personal and business income tax and delays to many projects, including the Blueprint for Education.

There are rumors that a special

session of the General Assembly will be called over the summer to further adjust the budget as changes are made to programs and workforce numbers at the federal level.

On the energy front, a combination of supply challenges regionally, high winter electric bills for customers of Delmarva Power and BGE, and disputes over land use for high voltage transmission lines and solar projects have erupted into more than 90 different bills for reform. Legislators are debating how to incentivize nuclear generation, whether data centers should be allowed to co-locate and disrupt the traditional flow of energy onto the distribution grid, who should pay for upgrades to the grid, how to secure battery storage for peak energy demand and what role local governments

should play in the siting of new facilities.

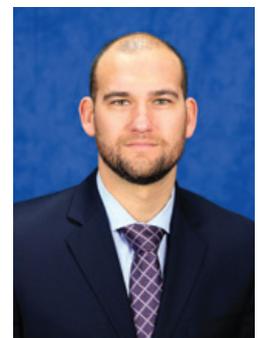
Many legislative leaders are also calling into question state renewable energy goals of the last decade, which are shutting down fossil fuel facilities before replacement generation is available. This was most apparent when the regional grid manager, PJM, saw a nine-fold increase in the cost of electricity in its annual capacity market auction.

As a member-owned electric cooperative, Choptank's priorities in Annapolis are protecting our members from rate impacts and ensuring efficient electric distribution throughout our service territory. We are working to balance the need for energy efficiency and renewables while maintaining reliable, dispatchable electricity for the peaks on frigid winter mornings and hot summer afternoons.

To check the final results of the 90-day session, log on to the Maryland General Assembly website at <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov/mgawebsite/>.



Valerie Connelly
Vice President
Government Affairs &
Public Relations



Matthew Tefteau
Manager of
Government Affairs and
Economic Development

April is Safe Digging Month!

Whether you're planting shrubs or installing new fence posts, remember to dial 811 before you dig to locate buried lines. It's free, easy and helps protect our environment and infrastructure.

Here's how the process works:

After you call 811, all affected utilities will be notified of your intent to dig. It may take the utilities a few days to get to your request, so please be patient. The affected utilities will send someone out to mark the buried lines with paint or flags. Before you break ground, confirm that all the utilities have responded to your request. Use the process explained by your 811 call center representative or refer to your 811 center ticket to confirm everything.

With more than 60% of Choptank Electric's lines running underground, disrupting an underground line can interrupt service, cause injuries and cost money to repair. Let's work together to keep our communities connected and prevent damage to our utilities by calling 811 first and knowing what's below. Visit www.choptankelectric.coop/you-dig-miss-utility for more information.



5 STEPS FOR SAFE DIGGING

Working on an outdoor project? Careless digging poses a threat to people, pipelines and underground facilities. Always call 8-1-1 first. Here are five easy steps for safe digging:



1. NOTIFY

Call 8-1-1 or make a request online two to three days before your work begins. The operator will notify the utilities affected by your project.

2. WAIT

Wait two to three days for affected utilities to respond to your request. They will send a locator to mark any underground utility lines.

2-3

3. CONFIRM

Confirm that all affected utilities have responded to your request by comparing the marks to the list of utilities the 8-1-1 call center notified.



4. RESPECT

Respect the markers provided by the affected utilities. The markers are your guide for the duration of your project.



5. DIG CAREFULLY

If you can't avoid digging near the markers (within 18-24 inches on all sides, depending on state laws), consider moving your project location.



Introducing

CHOPTANK FIBER MOBILE

AND MYBUNDLE STREAMING SERVICES!

We brought high-speed broadband internet to the Shore, and now we are offering mobile phone and streaming services! Add our cellular service to any Choptank Fiber internet package today! Plans start at \$20/month per line.



for more information > www.choptankfiber.com



Thank you for voting for us!

Choptank Electric Cooperative

BUZZ

Choptank Congratulates Employee Promotions!!!



Ben Cunningham

Apprentice Lineman 3rd Class

Hunter Absher

Apprentice Lineman 3rd Class

Luke Turner

Apprentice Lineman 3rd Class

Camden Stinson

Apprentice Lineman 3rd Class

Katie Luckett

Director of Marketing, Communications and Education

Colby Benton

Apprentice Lineman 3rd Class

Hunter Rodgers

Apprentice Lineman 4th Class

Dylan Kinnamon

Administrator of Fleet Operations

Daniela Hernandez

Member Service Specialist 3rd Class

Colby Gebhardt

Apprentice Lineman 5th Class

Linnie Vann

Apprentice Lineman 2nd Class

Judi White

Member Service Specialist 3rd Class

Choptank

IN THE **OUT** FIELD

Assisting Southside Electric Cooperative in Crew, Va.

Choptank Electric Cooperative had 16 employees travel to Southside Electric Cooperative in Crew, Va., from February 13-18 to assist with restoring power after Winter Storm Harlow. They helped repair damage to poles and lines from ice-laden trees caused by snow and freezing rain, followed by high winds a few days later that extended these outages.

“While some were sharing a nice dinner or chocolates with a loved one on Valentine’s Day, our volunteers were assisting a fellow Virginia cooperative with their power restoration efforts,” said Lance Lockerman, VP of Operations at Choptank Electric. “We are always proud of the work our teams put in everyday, but it’s especially satisfying when we can depend on them to step up when devastation strikes.”



Thank you to our employees who traveled to Virginia: Wade Harris, Tyler Parker, Paul Miles, Brody Bennett, Scott Smart, Scott Diem, Ethan Wallace, Gabe Dennis, Jeff Thomas, Kevin Collier, Brandon Thompson, Hunter Absher, Nick Newman, Hunter Rodgers, Dean Samuel and Mason Johnson. Southside Electric Cooperative experienced a total of 1,460 outages at 63,292 service locations during Winter Storm Harlow.

Worcester County February Snow Storm

A Choptank Electric crew worked in the winter storm on February 11 to repair a low line across the road in Worcester County before heavy snowfall caused it to sag further. This preventative measure ensured no damage to vehicles below and no power outages. Thank you to our member who called us to report this low line.



MEMBER'S NOTES

Our members are the reason Choptank Electric Cooperative exists. Whether on social media, by phone, or through handwritten letters, we appreciate when members let us know that we are doing a good job! **Thank you, all!**



Dear Choptank Elec. Co-op,

On behalf of all the families of Talbot Figure Skating Club, we would like to thank you for your generous donation to our ice skating team. Your donation helps with much needed ice time for all of our 50 talented skaters this season to prepare for upcoming competitions and shows!

Thank you!

Hannah & Brianna Cawley

Choptank Electric Trust Awards



The Choptank Electric Trust is a 501(c)(3) charitable foundation funded by Operation Round Up donations from members of Choptank Electric. Funds from the Trust are distributed in all nine counties of MD's Eastern Shore.

To apply, or to find out more about this program:

> www.choptankelectric.coop/operation-round-trust-fund

January 2025

- Believe in Tomorrow Children's Foundation \$8,000
- Reids Grove United Methodist Church \$1,370
- Talbot Hospice \$5,820
- North Carolina Hurricane Relief \$2,500

The total of approved applications for January was \$25,890, including \$8,200 for individual home and medical expenses.



Choptank Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

Choptank Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Choptank Electric, a Touchstone Energy Cooperative, is a not-for-profit, member-owned, electric distribution co-op serving approximately 56,000 residential, commercial and industrial members in all nine counties on Maryland's Eastern Shore.

President & CEO

Micheal E. Malandro

Board of Directors

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Treasurer, Cecil Co.

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Talbot Co.

Robert B. Thompson
Ocean Pines District

Donna R. West
Worcester Co.



Choptank Fiber, LLC

Choptank Fiber, LLC, is a wholly owned broadband subsidiary of Choptank Electric Cooperative. Choptank Fiber's goal is to install true gigabit broadband with no data caps one community at a time until we serve all of our unserved members on the Eastern Shore.