

LIVE WIRE

Celebrating
1938 **80** 2018
Years of Service



Vol. 23, No. 8

AUGUST 2018

Live Wire is a monthly newsletter published for members of Choptank Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 430, Denton, MD 21629

Toll Free:
1-877-892-0001

Outage Reporting:
1-800-410-4790,
toll free,
24 hours/day,
7 days/week.

Automated Member
Service Line:
1-866-999-4574, toll free

www.choptankelectric.coop

President and CEO
Michael I. Wheatley

Board of Directors
Jeffrey D. Rathell Sr.
Chairman, Talbot Co.

John J. Burke Jr.
Vice Chairman, Cecil Co.

Douglas D. Scott
Secretary-Treasurer, Dorchester Co.

Robert E. Arnold
Queen Anne's Co.

David W. Bruning, Sr.
Worcester Co.

Francis A. Callahan Jr.
Caroline Co.

Olin S. Davis, III
Kent Co.

Matthew R. Holloway
Wicomico Co.

Robert B. Thompson
Ocean Pines District

Carl R. Widdowson
Somerset Co.



Your secure, online bill payment system

Youth Tour Leadership Program was a Success!



Youth Tour students and chaperones visit the nation's Capitol in Washington D.C. to meet with Rep. Harris, and aides of U.S. Senator Ben Cardin and U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen to learn more about government and politics.

(Left to Right) Kevin Wright, Senior Regional Member Service Manager for Choptank Electric & Chaperone; Emily Malinowski, Carey Hickman, Elizabeth Criss, Brandon Foy, Quinn Williams, and Elizabeth Gertsch, Manager of Marketing, Communications, and Member Engagement & Chaperone.

Choptank Electric Cooperative sent five rising high school seniors from its service territory to enjoy an all-expenses paid trip to Washington, D.C. from June 10-14 as part of the 54th National Rural Electric Cooperative (NRECA) annual Youth Tour. The students were Elizabeth Criss, North Caroline High School; Brandon Foy, St. Michaels High School; Carey Hickman, Holly Grove Christian School; Emily Malinowski, Stephan Decatur High School; and Quinn Williams, Queen Anne's County High School.

See Youth Tour
Continued on Page 2



Straight Talk with your CEO

by Mike Wheatley

We're Plugging into your Future

Choptank Electric recently unveiled at its Annual Meeting a new addition to our vehicle fleet: a 2018 Chevrolet Bolt.

This all-electric vehicle (EV) offers an EPA-estimated 238 miles of range on a single charge, which makes it perfect for driving distances throughout the Eastern Shore. When compared to the Chevrolet Cruise, which gets an average 35 MPG and costs \$41.00 for a fill up at the pump, the Bolt gets an average 119 MPGE (Equivalent) and costs \$1.35 a "fill up" at electricity costs of 15 cents per kWh.

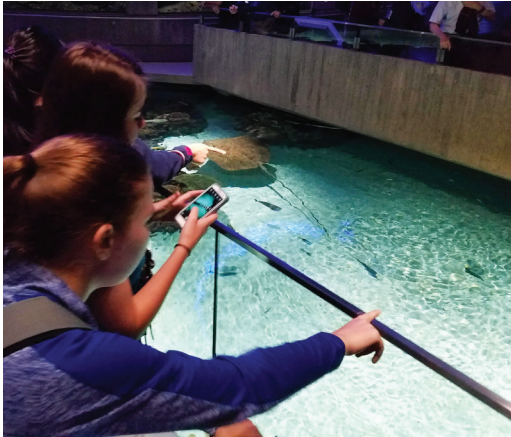
In addition to the long term cost savings of the Bolt, the Coop wanted to get a first-hand education of what our members are experiencing as they are starting to purchase EV's throughout the Shore. The Cooperative is preparing for the system impacts of the additional load brought on by EV home charging. Down the road there is even talk of using and paying our members for the electricity stored in the EV batteries.

See Bolt
Continued on Page 2

Youth Tour

Continued from Page 1

The students toured Capitol Hill and met with U.S. Rep. Andy Harris and aides of U.S. Senator Ben Cardin and U.S. Senator Chris Van Hollen. They also visited historical and cultural sites around the nation's capital, including the Newseum, Arlington National Cemetery, and Fort McHenry.



Among fun activities the students enjoyed were a twilight cruise on the Potomac, a Baltimore Orioles baseball game, a live performance of "The Scottsboro Boys," and a visit to the National Aquarium.

As part of NRECA-sponsored National Youth Day on June 11, all of the state groups convened to learn from inspirational speakers. This year's agenda included Mike Schlappi, a four-time Paralympic Medalist



and two-time world champion in wheelchair basketball, who shared his inspiring message, "Just because you can't stand up, doesn't mean you can't stand out!"

Since 1964, cooperatives from all across the country have

sponsored more than 70,000 high school juniors and seniors to visit their U.S. congressional delegations, learn about their nation's history, and sight see in Washington, D.C.

"Youth Tour was amazing," said Brandon Foy, who was chosen to represent Maryland as part of NRECA's Youth Leadership Council. "It was so educational and helpful meeting with our elected officials and learning about how politics work. We made new friends from all across the country that will last a lifetime, and I will never forget this great experience. Choptank Electric is helping me achieve my goals and I am so grateful for this opportunity."



"The Co-op is proud that it can invest time and money into the local youth and their futures," said Beth Gertsch, Manager of Marketing, Communications, and Member Engagement who served as one of the students' chaperones. "To keep communities strong, we need to make that commitment our youth."



For more information about Choptank Electric Cooperative's Youth Tour Leadership Program, visit www.choptankelectric.coop/content/youth-tour-0.

Bolt

Continued from Page 1

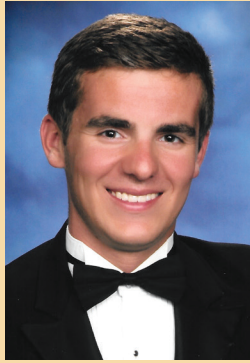


For those of considering an EV purchase and concerned about charging stations, there are downloadable charging station apps for smartphones. We will also assist you if you have questions about the electrical needs for your home charger. At Choptank Electric we keep the Bolt charged by plugging it into an available 240-volt/32-amp charging unit. When we are done for the day we plug it in and it's ready to go by the next morning even if it's been fully depleted. We have found the all-electric vehicle to be cost-effective for the Co-op and its proving to be very valuable in educating us as we keep an eye on the future.

Choptank Electric Trust Scholarship Recipients



Ryleigh Paskoski from The Gunston School will be attending Salisbury University Scholars Program where she will major in Nursing.



Bryce Bond of Mardela High School will be pursuing a degree in Intelligence and National Securities from Coastal Carolina University in their Honors Program.



Emily Mank from Colonel Richardson High School will be attending Florida State University where she plans to study Engineering.



Kristen Gittings of Bennett High School will be attending Towson University this fall.



Isis Broussard from North Caroline High School is looking forward to attending UMBC.

Not Pictured:

Laila Mirza graduated from Stephen Decatur High School.

Michael Wooten graduated from Stephen Decatur High School.

The Choptank Electric Trust Scholarship, awarded by the Choptank Electric Trust, Inc., is given to high school seniors whose parents or guardians are members of Choptank Electric Cooperative. The scholarship is worth \$2,000 and the scholarship recipients are selected based on a combination of the following criteria: financial need, academic achievement, extracurricular and community activities, references, and personal essay.

New Human Resources Specialist



Choptank Electric Cooperative welcomed Samantha Towers to her new role as Human Resources Specialist on December 11, 2017.

Originally hired in May 2016, Towers started out as a Member Service Specialist in the Call Center. She moved briefly to Operations where she was a Systems Control Operator and after a retirement in Human Resources, she was selected to be the new Human Resources Specialist. Towers graduated from Chesapeake College in December 2017 with her Associates in Accounting and is enrolled at Wilmington University so she can continue to pursue her Bachelors degree in Human Resources.

A local, she is looking forward to getting married in September and enjoys traveling, and the outdoors.

Congratulations Samantha!

Renewable Energy without the Hassle

Are you interested in renewable energy but can't put a solar array or a wind turbine on your property? We have the answer! Choptank Electric offers Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) for anyone who is interested in purchasing renewable energy without the hassle.

Since 2009, Choptank Electric has offered RECs for anyone interested in reducing their carbon footprint and supporting green power. Co-op members may purchase this green power in blocks of 100 kWh that costs 20 cents per block. For example, to

purchase four blocks of green energy, or 400 kWh, that means it will cost the member 80 cents. This charge will appear as an additional line item on your monthly bill.

While there is a minimum purchase of one block, there is no maximum. This purchase requires a one-year commitment and this purchase will automatically renew unless cancelled.

To sign up, visit our website at www.choptankelectric.coop and under Energy Efficiency, click on Renewable Energy Credits.

2017 Capital Credit Allocation

Choptank Electric Cooperative is 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.

This allocation is done after the final 2017 financial statements have been reviewed and audited. The 2017 Capital Credit Allocation was processed in July 2018. As in past years, the 2017 capital credit allocation notice for active members will be shown on the August 2018 electric bill in the left message area above the bill stub. Inactive members with 2017 electricity billings will be mailed a separate allocation notice.

The capital credits (margins) allocated to members' accounts for 2017 totals \$15,770,614. This is divided between allocations for Choptank Electric

(Co-op), which totals \$13,242,574, and Old Dominion Electric Cooperative (ODEC), Choptank's energy supplier, which totals \$2,528,040.

The Choptank Electric Board of Directors reviews the Co-op portion of capital credits each year and decides 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. Any decision to repay the ODEC portion of capital credits would be entirely contingent upon refunds received from Choptank's energy supplier.

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

June 2018 Trust Awards

- Dorchester YMCA - \$500 bowling trip
- Chamber Music By The Sea - \$500 program expenses
- Sink or Swim - \$500 shirts
- Somerset County Historical Society - \$525 program expenses
- Mt. Zion Historical Society - \$500 air conditioner
- Worcester Co. Library Foundation - \$877 computer
- Calvary Baptist Church - \$500 basketball equipment
- Kitty City Rescue - \$159 air conditioners

- Tilghman Area Youth Assoc. - \$500 aquatic lab
- Camp Mardela - \$800 food program
- Swim Ocean City - \$1,000 kayak rental
- McArdel School - \$1,000 white board

The total of approved applications for June was \$31,193.61 which included \$23,832.61 for individual home and medical expenses.

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 Maryland's Eastern Shore.

