



THIS TIME, IT'S

All Members Are Welcome to the 82nd Annual Meeting!

Join Choptank Electric Cooperative in celebrating the 82nd Annual Meeting on Thursday, April 30, 2020, at our Regional Service Center, located at 6520 Walston Switch Rd., Salisbury, MD 21804.

The 2020 Annual Meeting is bound to excite everyone with a variety of vendors, food, truck displays, and more! Registration and meal service will begin at 4:30 p.m., with the business meeting beginning at 6:00 p.m. The hearty menu will include: chicken leg quarters, roast beef with au jus on the side, mac n' cheese, green beans, redskin potato salad, wet cornbread, and a variety of desserts and drinks.

While the meal is being served, members will have the opportunity to visit a variety of Cooperative vendors, chat with employees and staff, mingle with legislators and Board members, and much more! View state-of-the-art utility trucks and equipment that will be on display and get your questions answered by our very own linemen.

Recycle old electronics including PCs, laptops, batteries, TVs, tablets, and cell phones with our Recycling Station which will be set up outside for easy off-loading. Have old papers that need shredding? Bring them! There will be a mobile shredding unit on-site that will be capable of shredding papers, books, and even CDs. As an additional bene-



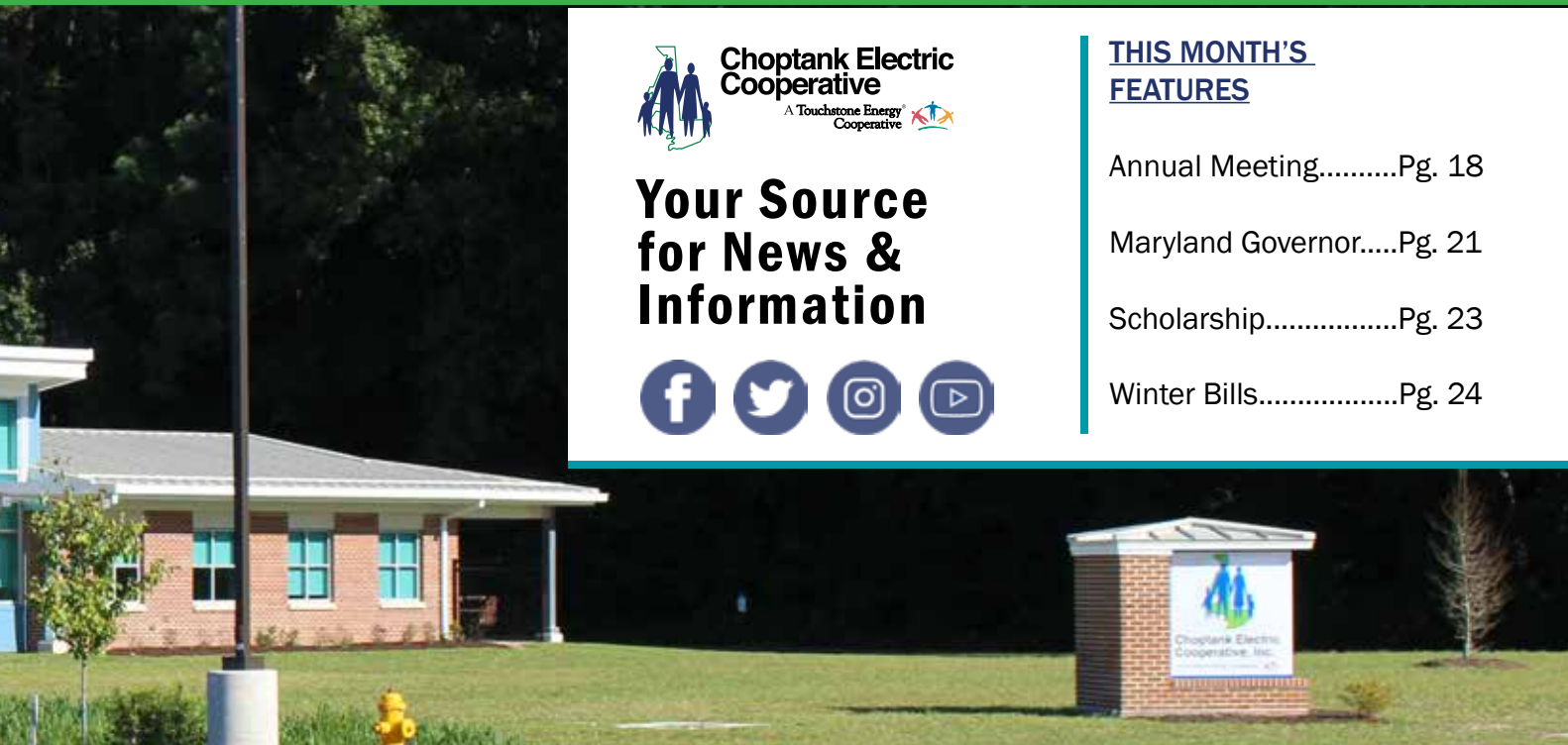


Your Source for News & Information



THIS MONTH'S FEATURES

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ON THE HOUSE



fit, we will also be hosting iPhone screen repair services at no cost to members. It will be on a first-come, first-serve basis, so schedule your appointment in advance via email at communications@choptankelectric.coop by Thursday, April 16, to reserve your spot. In addition to all the services and fun being provided, there will be ten \$1,000 Luck of the Draw scholarships and one \$2,000 scholarship

awarded at the end of the Annual Meeting this year. The \$2,000 scholarship is in honor of Carl R. Widdowson's retirement from his Somerset Board seat in August 2019. For details about this scholarship, qualifications, and applications, please visit our website at www.choptankelectric.coop. The business meeting will begin with President and CEO, Mike Malandro reporting on all Co-op

Members will enjoy:

- **Shredding services**
- **Electronics recycling**
- **iPhone repair service**
- **\$100 - \$500 door prizes**
- **Scholarships**
- **Full meal**
- **Camping chair gift**
- **And much more!**

82nd Annual Meeting

business during 2019. At the meeting's conclusion, the Luck of the Draw scholarships, door prizes, and the annual meeting gift will be awarded. The door prizes this year will be a variety of bill credits ranging from \$100 - \$500, and the annual meeting gift will be a camping chair that will be given out as one chair per account.

The Director seats that are up for re-election during the 2020 Annual Meeting are John Burke, Vice Chair-



Speak with our qualified staff about energy-efficiency questions and products.



Attendees enjoy the "Lineman Challenge," a fun activity in which participants try their hand at conducting lineman tasks with real equipment.

man and Cecil County representative; Craig Mathies, Sr., Somerset County representative; Jeffrey Rathell, Chairman and Talbot County representative; and Robert Thompson, Ocean Pines District representative. RSVP no later than Thursday, April 16, 2020, to reserve your seat!

Members may call in their RSVP to the Member Service Center at 1-877-892-0001 or email at 2020annual-meeting@choptankelectric.coop.



Board Directors serve and connect with members during the Annual Meeting.

Maryland Governor Unveils New Energy Plan

Governor Larry Hogan has proposed the Clean and Renewable Energy Standard (CARES) to set Maryland on a path to 100% clean electricity by 2040. The proposal continues the Hogan administration's commitment to affordable clean energy, addressing climate change, and greenhouse gas emissions reductions.

The CARES plan goes beyond a proposal passed by the General Assembly in 2019.



Governor Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr.

“Our CARES legislation is a cleaner, smarter, and cheaper plan that protects Maryland jobs,” said Governor Hogan. “CARES will deliver on the promise of 100% clean electricity by 2040. It is a balanced and bold strategy that underscores our commitment to aggressively address climate change while setting an example of strong environmental leadership.”

CARES builds upon Maryland's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) to provide a strategy for Maryland to achieve better environmental results through clean energy. It expands the eligibility of credits for clean energy resources to encourage competition and cost-effectiveness for the benefit of Maryland ratepayers.

CARES is a key component of Maryland's comprehensive, economy-wide strategy to achieve its climate goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by more than 40% by 2030 — a goal that is substantially greater than the commitment to reduce emissions under the Paris Agreement.

CARES embraces Maryland's clean and renewable energy resources and increases the RPS requirement of 50% by 2030 to 100% clean electricity by 2040. Key elements include:

- Increasing the strategic use of zero- and low-carbon clean and renewable energy sources.
- Recognizing the clean and safe aspects of nuclear energy by making new nuclear energy facilities, such as small modular reactors built utilizing developing technology, eligible for clean energy credits.
- Supporting hydropower, coupled directly with maintaining environmental stewardship.
- Providing incentives for carbon capture, utilization, and storage, making Maryland the first state to do so.
- Encouraging energy-efficient combined heat and power systems by making new facilities eligible for credit.

CARES provides the means to vastly enhance the production of low carbon and carbon-free energy in Maryland and highlights the environmental stewardship of the Hogan administration in our energy sector while providing Marylanders with affordable, reliable, and cleaner energy.

Choptank Electric Cooperative's legislative team in Annapolis will study the CARES plan during the course of the 90-day session to identify impacts to our electric distribution business.



Company Retirements



Wayne Knox
January 2

Wayne Knox began working at the Cooperative in 1985 as a Communications Clerk. As his career progressed, he took on other positions such as Apprentice Lineman 6th class and Operations Field Helper. He moved to the Engineering Department in 1987 as an Engineering Fieldman 4th Class and became an Engineering Fieldman in 1989.



Mike Woodward
January 2

Mike Woodward, currently Choptank Electric's Administrator of Safety, Compliance & Safety Culture, began his career as an Apprentice Lineman 6th class in 1984. He worked his way through lineman training until he was awarded Chief

Lineman in 1990. In 1997, Woodward became the Superintendent of Regional Operations, later being awarded Sr. Manager Regional Operations (2006), and Manager Regional Operations (2011).



William (Bill) Short
January 20

Bill Short, Jr. began working at Choptank Electric in 1989 as an Apprentice Lineman 6th class and worked his way through to Journeyman Lineman in 1992. He became a Chief Lineman in 2007 at our Cambridge District Office.



Doug Hunter
January 31

Like many of our linemen, Doug Hunter began his journey as an Apprentice Lineman 6th class in 1991 at the Berlin office. He was

awarded the position of Journeyman Lineman in 1994, and later became Chief Lineman in 2004 at the Salisbury District Office. He moved back to the Berlin District office as Journeyman in 2005, and was awarded Chief that same year. He took his current position as Serviceman in 2007 at the Berlin District Office.



Francis Knussman
February 3

Francis Knussman joined Choptank Electric in September of 1985 as a Communications Clerk. After a year Knussman became a Storeroom Attendant, prior to being awarded the position of Apprentice Lineman in 1986. He worked his way to Journeyman Lineman in 1989, and Electronics Technician in 1991. His position was changed to Communications & Relay Tech in 2005.

On behalf of our Board of Directors, Executive Staff, and employees at Choptank Electric, we thank each one of these dedicated employees for their years of service to the Co-op and its members. You will be sorely missed!

Attend the Annual Meeting And Win A Scholarship

Choptank Electric will present ten \$1,000 educational scholarships at the close of its annual meeting to be held Thursday, April 30, 2020. In addition a \$2,000 scholarship will be awarded in honor of the retired Board member from Somerset County, Carl Widdowson.

To apply for this scholarship, the application **MUST** be completed prior to the annual meeting, and there are other qualifications that applicants must meet.

Applicants MUST meet the following qualifications:

- Complete the new Luck of the Draw Packet found on our website at www.choptankelectric.coop under Annual Meeting OR Scholarships. Submission directions can be found on the application and you will receive a confirmation phone call when your packet has been processed.
- Submit this packet to the Co-op by April 27, 2020, at 4:30 p.m.
- Be a graduating high school senior OR Co-op member.
- Be enrolled or planning to enroll at an accredited two-or four-year college, university, or a technical school for the 2020 fall term.
- The parent or legal guardian, who is an active Choptank Electric Cooperative member, must accompany the student to the Annual Meeting.

- Both the student and active member must be present at the end of the Annual Meeting
- Winners of prior years, employees and dependents of Choptank Electric who are members, and Board of Directors and their dependents are not eligible to participate.

Applicants must check-in at the Luck of the Draw Scholarship table at the Annual Meeting with their active, registered, Choptank Electric member before 6:00 p.m. to be entered for the drawing. When you submit the application, either via email or mail, you will receive a confirmation that we received your completed packet. If you do not receive a confirmation that we received your packet, we encourage you to follow up. Finally, you will also receive a phone call once your application has been processed.

What is an active member?

An active member is a member whose name appears on the electric account. If your name does not appear on the bill, you are not considered an active member and you should consider adding your name to the account so that you can attend the Annual Meeting with the applicant.

*Scholarships must be redeemed by August 31, 2020.

October 2019 Trust Awards

- Berlin Intermediate School - \$838.85
- Wreaths Across America - \$1,000
- Museum of Eastern Shore Life - \$1,000
- Queen Anne's County 4H Marksmanship Club - \$1,577
- HomePorts, Inc. - \$500
- Queen Anne's County Make a Difference Day - \$1,065.75
- Mid Shore Pro Bono, Inc. - \$509.03
- Toys for Tots - \$500
- St. Luke's United Methodist Church - \$1,000
- MD Natural Resources Police Officer Assoc. - \$1,500
- Little Sisters of Jesus and Mary/Joseph House - \$950

- National Outdoor Foundation, Inc. - \$300
- 4 Steps Therapeutic Riding Program - \$750

The total of approved applications for October was \$24,683.63, which included \$13,193 for individual home and medical expenses.

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 Maryland's Eastern Shore.



Winter Bills vs. Summer Bills – Think it Through

Did you know that Marylanders often face winters that are more demanding than the summers in terms of energy consumption? The common misconception of energy consumption is that energy bills are higher in the summertime than in the winter.

This does not mean you are using less energy in the winter, it just means you may be using less provided by Choptank Electric.

If your electric bills are higher in the summer, ask

yourself what heat source(s) do you use in the winter? If you are not heating with 100% electric in the winter as you are cooling with 100% electric in the summer, you must factor the additional expenses to find your true “total energy bill.”

For example, which energy bill is higher?

- A \$250 monthly electric bill in the summer when you are using all electric appliances to cool your home?
- A \$150 monthly electric bill in the winter plus \$800 to fill the propane tank at the beginning of the season for heat?

At first glance, the \$250 summer bill looks larger. However, we must factor other sources of energy during the winter when other sources are used. A \$150 bill per month along with the \$800 propane bill averaged over 4 months equates to a \$350 total energy bill in the winter. As you can see here, the home actually uses more energy in the winter but the total energy bill is spread throughout multiple bills creating the illusion that the bills are lower.

Questions about your energy consumption this winter? Ask our Energy Program Coordinator, Justus Gellert, 1-877-892-0001, for more information.



Space Heater Safety Tips

DO: Plug your space heater directly into the wall outlet.

DO: Buy a unit with an automatic shutoff in case the unit tips over, or you forget to shut it off.

DO: Keep your space heater in low-moisture rooms.

DO: Keep your space heater at a safe distance (at least 3 feet) from kids, pets and flammable items.

DO: Always follow the directions and take a broken space heater to a qualified appliance service center.

About Choptank Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Choptank Electric, a Touchstone Energy Cooperative, is a not-for-profit, member-owned, electric distribution Co-op serving approximately 54,000 residential, commercial, and industrial members in all nine counties on Maryland's Eastern Shore.

P.O. Box 430,
Denton, MD 21629

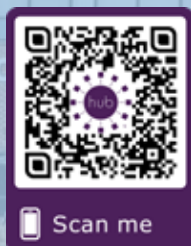
Toll Free:
1-877-892-0001

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
Micheal E. Malandro



Board of Directors

Jeffrey D. Rathell Sr.
Chairman, Talbot Co.

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

Douglas D. Scott
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Matthew R. Holloway
Wicomico Co.

Robert B. Thompson
Ocean Pines District

Donna R. West
Worcester Co.

Craig N. Mathies, Sr.
Somerset Co.

Remain vigilant about scams



Members should be aware that Choptank Electric will never request **credit card information over the phone or in person** to process payments. Members needing to make payments over the phone are immediately transferred to the Automated Member Service line (IVR). Likewise, members visiting our Denton or Salisbury offices are prompted to use a card reader.

PCA Adjustment to Members' Bills

Choptank Electric will adjust its Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) on member bills beginning Feb. 1, 2020.

The adjusted PCA, effective with the Feb. 1, 2020 billing, will be a credit of \$0.00296/kWh. Prior to Feb. 1, 2020 the PCA was a charge of \$0.00403/kWh. This change will result in an overall decrease of \$6.99 for a residential member using 1,000 kWh per month.

The PCA is a separate line item on each Choptank Electric bill which reflects the increases or decreases in the Co-op's cost of wholesale power purchased from Old Dominion Electric Cooperative (ODEC). Any fluctuation in the PCA is mainly caused by changes in the cost of purchased power driven by the fuel used to generate electricity. ODEC continues to work diligently to produce and procure the power required by its members with affordability and reliability as their primary concerns.

Without Power Cost Adjustments, utility base rates would be constantly changing to reflect increases and decreases in the cost of power.