

# LIVE WIRE

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Live Wire is a monthly newsletter published for members of Choptank Electric Cooperative, with a final publication of August 2019

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## Choptank Members Benefit From Cooperative Living Magazine

NEWSLETTER INSERTS WILL DISCONTINUE  
STARTING SEPTEMBER 30, 2019



As Choptank Electric Cooperative looks to engage members, we are transitioning from the Live Wire newsletter insert as of September 30, 2019, and will begin publishing our news in the Cooperative Living Magazine! With this new publication, Choptank Electric Cooperative will engage our members with more robust and authentic content that educates, inspires, informs, and brings joy.

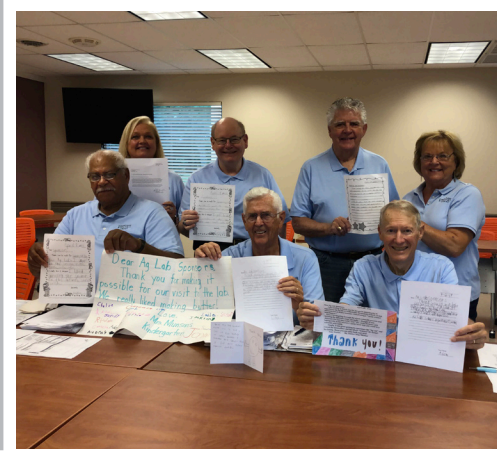
Members can expect the first Cooperative Living Magazine issue to be delivered in October 2019, just in time for Co-op Month. From regional to local content, members can expect to see an exclusive cover story and feature articles, reader submitted recipes and pictures, quizzes, contests, energy efficiency information, an events calendar, legislative guides and much more. Choptank Electric Cooperative specific information will be located between pages 18-30 in the magazine. This publication will be a separate mailing from the bill so be on the lookout for your copy of the magazine this fall!



### Huge 'Thank You' From Kindergarten Class to Choptank Trust Board

Mrs. Munson's kindergarten class at Sudlersville Elementary, showed their appreciation and gratitude to the Choptank Electric Trust Board by crafting creative letters, posters, and more for their funding of the Agricultural Mobile Science Lab which visited their school earlier this year.

Projects such as this are funded with the help of generous members who decide to donate the rounded up portions of their bills to the trust fund, which is then disbursed by the Trust Board, to various organizations and individuals on the Eastern Shore.



# Talented Advocate and Youth Tour Alumnus Joins Choptank Electric As Manager of Government Affairs

Choptank Electric Cooperative has hired a Manager of Government Affairs, Matt Tefteau, who began his duties on Monday, July 1, 2019.

Matt Tefteau is a lifelong Marylander and native of Preston, MD. After graduating from Salisbury University in 2010, he worked for Congressman Andy Harris (MD-01) on Capitol Hill as a Legislative Assistant, where he handled agricultural and natural resource issues. Developing a strong relationship with Maryland Farmers, he then began working for the Maryland Farm Bureau (MFB) as their assistant director of Government Relations. At the MFB, he advocated for Maryland farmers in the halls of Annapolis and worked with both political party members to pass common sense pieces of legislation.

Matt later answered the call to become a public servant when he joined the Maryland Department of Agriculture under the Hogan Administration. For three legislative sessions he had a 100% departmental bill passage rate and worked with leadership both in the House and Senate to mitigate potential harmful pieces of legislation.

Tefteau is also a 2017 graduate from the LEAD Maryland program, which is a two-year leadership development program that fosters emerging agriculture and natural resource advocates in Maryland. Most recently, Tefteau managed the State Public Affairs for a Trade Association in Washington D.C. known as the Responsible Industry for a Sound Environment (RISE).

His responsibilities took him across the country, ad-



vocating for agriculture, public health, and scientific research.

Tefteau was inspired to pursue politics and advocacy when he visited Washington D.C. during the 2005 National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Youth Tour his junior year of high school. He went on to intern at NRECA for two summers, during college, in their Government Relations department.

“We are very excited that Matt is coming to work at Choptank Electric,” said Mike Malandro, President and CEO of Choptank Electric Cooperative. “We are looking forward to building solid relationships with our local representatives and political leaders using Matt’s experience in Annapolis so that we can work towards the Co-op’s long term goals.”

Tefteau currently lives in Annapolis, MD with his four month old daughter Harriet.



## Employee Retires After 35 Years of Service

Dennis Grafton began his career with Choptank on April 9, 1984 as an Apprentice Lineman. He was later promoted to Serviceman in our Cambridge District office in July 2007 until his retirement on June 14, 2019.

Pictured is Senior Manager of Regional Operations for the Cambridge District office, Tom Filewicz giving Mr. Grafton a commemorative plaque for his many years of service. We wish Dennis a happy and relaxing retirement!



# Two Choptank Employees Take On New Responsibilities

As part of the many changes happening in the Member Service department, two new positions were awarded to Choptank Electric employees: Kris Amsel and Justus Gellert. Kris Amsel became the Key Accounts Specialist, a newly created position for the Cooperative, and Justus Gellert took over the position of Energy Program Coordinator after Thomas Tyndall was promoted to Member Service Administrator.

Amsel began his career as meter reader in June 2004 and worked his way up to Meter and Apparatus Technician. Amsel has a Bachelor of Science in Organizational Management from Wilmington University and completed the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Key Accounts training program. He is currently working on earning his Key Accounts Executive Certification and is enrolled to become a Building Performance Institute (BPI) Building Analyst.

Gellert, who started as a System Controller in March 2013, later became an Operations Technician I in April 2017, specializing in the collections process. Gellert recently received his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from University of Maryland University College, and like Amsel, is scheduled to be certified as a BPI Building Analyst to complement his new role as Energy Program Coordinator.



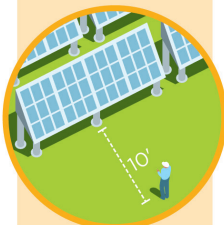
Kris Amsel



Justus Gellert

## SAFETY NEAR SOLAR

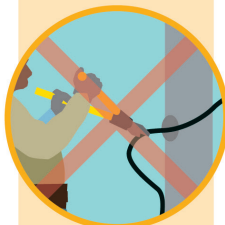
Like any other source of electricity, solar panels can pose potential hazards. Keep these safety tips in mind when you're near solar panels.



Stay at least 10 feet away from the installation.



Never walk on solar panels.



Never cut any wiring to the solar panels.



Never touch broken or damaged solar panels.

## Renewable Energy Credits (RECs)

Interested in renewable energy like solar or wind, but don't have the space or can't install on your home?

- Choptank Electric offers RECs for anyone who is interested in purchasing renewable energy without the hassle.



Hydro



Wind



Solar



Biomass



Geothermal & Heat Capture

- Purchase green power in blocks of 100 kWh for \$0.20 Cents each.
- RECs appear as an extra line item on your monthly bill for easy tracking.

Minimum purchase of 1 block required, and there is no maximum - buy as much renewable energy as you want! A one-year commitment applies.

Signing up is easy! Simply visit [www.choptankelectric.coop/renewable-energy-credits](http://www.choptankelectric.coop/renewable-energy-credits) and complete the form.

# 2019 Trust Scholarship Winners

- **Gavin Bunting**, Stephen Decatur High School  
**Attending:** University of MD College Park | Engineering [**Not pictured**]
- **Katelyn Hancock**, Stephen Decatur High School  
**Attending:** Salisbury University | History Secondary Education [**Not pictured**]
- **Jerri Lankford**, Holly Grove High School  
**Attending:** University of Connecticut | Biological Sciences/Pre-Med track [**Not pictured**]

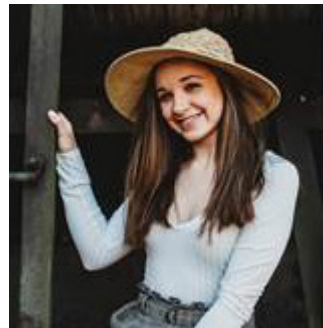
- **Abigail Robinson**, Cambridge South Dorchester  
**Attending:** Salisbury University | Business Mgt.
- **Jenny Tran**, Pocomoke High School  
**Attending:** University of MD College Park | Public Health/Nursing
- **Quinn Williams**, Queen Anne's High School  
**Attending:** University of MD College Park | Criminology/Criminal Justice
- **Jenny Yang**, Queen Anne's High School  
**Attending:** University of MD College Park | Accounting



Abigail Robinson



Jenny Tran



Quinn Williams



Jenny Yang

In observance of the Labor Day holiday, our offices will be closed Monday, September 2, 2019.

*Have a Fun and Safe Labor Day!*

We want to thank our members for over 20 years of news and information!

We are excited for our partnership with Cooperative Living, and members can expect to receive their first issue in October.

## June 2019 Trust Awards

- Camp Mardela - \$1,200
- New Beginnings - \$325 (Summer Program)
- Camp Wright - \$3,000
- Somerset Co. Historical Society - \$500
- Immanuel United Church of Christ - \$800
- Bethany UMC - \$1,000
- North Caroline HS Track and Field - \$2,000
- Coat's Lodge #102- \$1,150 (Restoration)
- Ocean Pines Golf Members Council - \$1,260
- Somerset Co. Dept. of Emerg. Svcs - \$750.00

- Kent Ag Center - \$800.00

The total of approved applications for June was \$36,024 which included \$23,239 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.**

