



The Future IS ON OUR LINES

Your local electric cooperative understands the value of education and inspiration in our communities, especially among our youth. Choptank Electric participates in many engagement activities *to connect with our future leaders.*

Through these events and tours, we teach electric and power line safety, about careers in the utility and broadband industries, how power gets to homes and businesses and provide hands-on interactions and demonstrations. Concern for Community and Education, Training and Information are two of the seven Cooperative Principles that we follow; both of which are modeled by our youth outreach efforts.

The future of our community and industry lies within the next generation, so we are investing resources to keep them prepared here on the Eastern Shore. Turn to the next page to see photos from our recent youth engagements and visit www.choptankelectric.coop to learn more about how we



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





Choptank Electric Cooperative and Choptank Fiber participated in the Junior Achievement Inspire Career Fair in Salisbury with over 4,500 local middle school students. Participants tried their skills at a pole-top hot stick switch, tabletop glove challenge and fiber splicing. This opened the conversation with students about careers in the electric utility, broadband and IT fields and how they are necessary and relevant in our area.





Choptank Electric Cooperative employees volunteered their time at the Perdue Henson Junior Achievement Center for a takeover day in March to lead Salisbury Middle School students through the JA Biztown program to learn about financial literacy and community economic development.



The Caroline County Public School's Next Gen Scholars visited our District building in Denton to learn about careers at the Co-op, see the various equipment and materials used in the utility industry, and watch a hotline demonstration.





Plug Into Safety

By McKayla Kiernan, Communications Specialist

May is National Electrical Safety Month. According to the Electrical Safety Foundation, each year thousands of people in the U.S. are critically injured and electrocuted because of electrical fires, accidents and electrocution in their own homes. Many of these accidents are preventable. At Choptank Electric Cooperative, safety is our No. 1 priority. This is not empty talk. Over

Following leading national safety standards

Working with electricity is an inherently dangerous job, especially for lineworkers. Choptank Electric Cooperative has a safety team whose focus is keeping employees and the community safe around electricity. We established and follow safety protocols based on leading national safety practices

As importantly, we encourage all our crews to speak up and hold each other accountable for safety. By cultivating a culture of openness and transparency, we promote problem-solving regarding safety. We examine the information and data gleaned from accident reports to discern patterns and use safety metrics to improve in those areas where we have fallen short. As appropriate, we brief contractors on our safety protocols and set expectations for their engagement.

Keeping the community safe

Because we live and work in the community we serve, we care about our neighbors. We strive to educate and inform our members on electrical safety so they are prepared year-round. We conduct electrical safety demonstrations in schools, at community events and share safety tips in our digital and printed publications.



MDOT staff receive training from Choptank at Salisbury University

time, Choptank Electric Cooperative has created a culture of safety by putting our employees' safety and that of the community above all else. At its essence, Choptank Electric Cooperative's mission is to provide safe, affordable and reliable electricity for our members. But equally as important, we want to return our workers home safely to their loved ones. Doing so requires ongoing focus, dedication and vigilance.

for the utility industry. We require our lineworkers to wear specialized equipment when working next to or with power lines. There are specific protocols that our lineworkers follow when dealing with electricity. Our safety team has regular meetings where they discuss upcoming projects from a safety perspective. They monitor and track near-misses of accidents to understand them, share "lessons learned," and improve in the future.

There are several things you can do to keep yourself and your community safe around electricity. Don't attempt electrical DIY projects or overload your outlets. Report downed power lines, unlocked substations or padmount transformers that look amiss. Pause and take the extra time to plug into safety to keep you and those around you safe. Visit www.choptankelectric.coop for additional electrical safety tips.



Save Money by Reducing Electric Use During Peak Periods

Sign up for Choptank Electric's Load Control Rider program

Cooperative members can receive credit for controlling their electric load during certain peak periods through our voluntary Load Control Rider program. Members billed under the General Service — Irrigation (FI) rate or a rate that includes a demand component (outlined below) can enroll in this free program. There is no penalty for not curtailing your use during the designated peak periods — but a big benefit if you can control your electric load!

Members will receive a \$6 payout for each kW curtailed during each PJM 5-High peak and a \$15 payout for each kW curtailed during the Transmission peak. Notice of peak periods will be issued by Choptank Electric via text message (members may opt in through SmartHub) and our website under “Your Power.”

LOAD CONTROL RIDER (LC)

- Can be paired with rates that include a demand component: Small Power (S), Medium Power

(M), and Primary (P) rates

- Must have a curtailable load of at least 50 kW

LOAD CONTROL RIDER – Irrigation (LC-FI)

- Can be paired only with General Service — Irrigation (FI) rate
- Must have a curtailable load of at least 25 kW

If you would like to enroll in the Load Control Rider program, give us a call at 877-892-0001.



\$3.5 Million Returned to You

A record-breaking capital credit retirement

By Katie Luckett, Director of Marketing, Communications & Education

We are proud to announce the capital credit general retirement this spring is the largest in Choptank Electric Cooperative's history, totaling \$3.5 million issued to our members.

The amount received during a capital credit retirement is based on the amount of electricity a member purchased during the retirement years; in this case 1995, 1996 and 2023. Eligible active members will not receive a check — you will be able to view the credit as a line item on your May bill that is either mailed to you or made available through Choptank's SmartHub portal or mobile app.

The average capital credit issued

will be \$79.89 per member. Newer members who were not served by Choptank Electric in 1995, 1996 or 2023 will also eventually receive capital credit, but it will take a few years.

“Your board of directors and the employees at Choptank Electric take the management and operation of the Cooperative very seriously,” shared Doug Scott, Chairman of the Board. “Members’ Economic Participation is one of the 7 Cooperative Principles we are dedicated to fulfilling. It is our goal to operate efficiently enough to have positive margins to retire to our stockholders.”

Capital credits are a return on the



investment in YOUR Co-op. Each month you pay your electric bill, you are contributing not only to the purchase and production of power, but improvements to the system that keep your lights on. The immediate payback is in the form of increased reliability and low rates.

Visit www.choptankelectric.coop/capital-credits to learn more about our capital credit retirement process and the benefit of your membership in Choptank Electric Cooperative.

Choptank Welcomes New Employees



Kim Behre
HR Specialist, Headquarters

Experience: Benedictine Programs and Services

Hobbies: Spending time with her children, online shopping, watching football, eating and traveling

Looking Forward To: Getting to know the team and culture at Choptank while contributing to an organization that gives back to the community



Zachery Christ
Transportation & Equipment Mechanic, Denton District

Experience: Town of Easton

Hobbies: Hunting, racing and fishing

Looking Forward To: Working and building good relationships with new co-workers



Congratulations to Craig N. Mathies Sr., our Board Member from Somerset County, for receiving his Gold Certification from NRECA. The Director Gold certificate demonstrates a director's ongoing commitment to advancing their knowledge and performing their fiduciary duty to the best of their ability. We appreciate your dedication to our Co-op, Craig!

AND CONGRATULATES Employee Promotions!!!

Tyler Parker

Apprentice Lineman 2nd Class

Brody Bennett

Apprentice Lineman 2nd Class

Brian Postles

Apprentice Lineman 3rd Class

Austin Peet

Apprentice Lineman 2nd Class

Scott Diem

Journeyman

Tyler Blackiston

Apprentice Lineman 2nd Class

Matt Breeding

Director of Operations

Nick Newnam

Manager of District Operations in Denton

Wayne Daubach

Manager of Operating Services



OUT IN THE FIELD

Choptank Electric crews repaired major damage to power lines and poles from a fallen tree caused by high winds on March 5. These lines go directly to the Ocean Pines substation, causing a large outage to our members during the storm. Thanks to the diligent work of many employees bringing materials, equipment and their skills in the heavy rain, power was restored to all quickly and safely.



Congratulations to our Management Program Graduates

Congratulations to Choptank Electric Cooperative employees Tiffany Trautman and Matt Breeding for graduating from NRECA's Management Internship Program (MIP). This is an intensive six-week program for emerging senior leaders to gain hands-on experience in all departments across electric co-ops, mentorship and strategic insights.

Tiffany is the Director of Finance and Accounting at Choptank Electric and completed the program in May of 2024. She participated to build leadership skills and get ideas for improving her department and the Cooperative.

"During my time in the MIP, I gained valuable knowledge of each facet

of electric cooperatives," said Tiffany. "The leadership and problem-solving methods taught in the program are extremely beneficial to my role here at Choptank Electric, and the networking is essential to staying informed so we can best serve our members."

Matt is the Director of Operations at Choptank Electric and completed the program in February of 2025. He participated to broaden his knowledge in every aspect of the Cooperative and learn best practices and leadership skills from other co-op employees.

"The networking was great, and I built a lot of close friendships,"



Tiffany Trautman
Director of Finance &
Accounting



Matthew Breeding
Director of Operations

shared Matt. "My classmates were from all over the country and each had their own unique challenges and obstacles at their home co-ops. With everyone's different experiences and backgrounds, the conversations in class were very constructive and informative. I am confident that these are people I can reach out to if Choptank comes across a challenge."

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,

Kudos — we were experiencing power failure to a mechanical system that a contractor advised this afternoon was a Choptank issue. I called Choptank around 4:20 to report the issue and TJ arrived about 15 minutes later. While TJ confirmed our meters were functional and the issue was, in fact, ours, I appreciated him showing up promptly, communicating clearly, as well as his interaction while on site.

*Thank you,
Matt Deeley*



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

February & March

- | | |
|--|---------|
| • Talbot Humane | \$2,500 |
| • Assateague Coastal Trust | \$365 |
| • Cecil County Ag Education | \$2,000 |
| • Critchlow Adkins Children's Center | \$3,800 |
| • TidalHealth Cancer Centers | \$1,400 |
| • Horizons of Kent and Queen Anne's County | \$4,850 |
| • Wiersberg Warriors Foundation. | \$1,000 |

The total of approved applications for February and March was \$36,071, including \$20,156 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.

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Choptank Fiber

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.