

# LIVE WIRE

Celebrating  
**80**  
1938 2018  
Years of Service



**Choptank Electric Cooperative**

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative



## We are Your Cooperative!

### ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES ARE



COMMUNITY  
BORN

COMMUNITY  
LED

FOCUSED ON  
YOU

### OCTOBER IS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH

Dramatic changes are transforming all aspects of the energy industry. Interest in renewable energy is at an all-time high, and ultimately consumers want greater control over their energy use and payment methods. The prevalence of smart-phone apps and “smart” technology for the home is increasing, and consumers and businesses are showing greater interest in electric vehicles. There’s no denying it: electric utilities will have to make changes to the way they provide energy to accommodate these trends. Luckily, Choptank Electric Cooperative is uniquely positioned to meet these changing energy needs because we are a cooperative.

#### Co-ops are community-led.

October is National Co-op Month, which is the perfect time to highlight the many ways electric cooperatives are unique.

Cooperatives are locally governed, looking out for the long-term needs of their consumer-members. Mike Wheatley, President & CEO of Choptank Electric Cooperative

explains that, “Electric cooperatives belong to the communities they serve. This heightened community focus allows us to quickly adapt to evolving consumer expectations. Our closeness to the community ensures a better response to these needs because we are led by the people that we serve.”

#### Co-ops are a catalyst for good.

Electric co-ops, like Choptank Electric Cooperative, are a catalyst for good in their communities. Co-ops engage their consumer-members to do things that might otherwise be impossible or difficult, like more than 75 years ago when electric co-ops brought power to areas where other utilities did not find it economically feasible. Today, it means providing school & community educational programs, youth programs such as Youth Tour, scholarship opportunities, energy efficiency programs, a variety of different ways to pay your bill, and so much more.

See Your Co-op  
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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](http://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  
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Robert B. Thompson  
Ocean Pines District

Carl R. Widdowson  
Somerset Co.



Your secure, online bill payment system

## Your Co-op

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Cooperatives exist to meet a need that was previously unmet in the community, and they are ever striving to anticipate and plan for the future needs of their consumer-members.

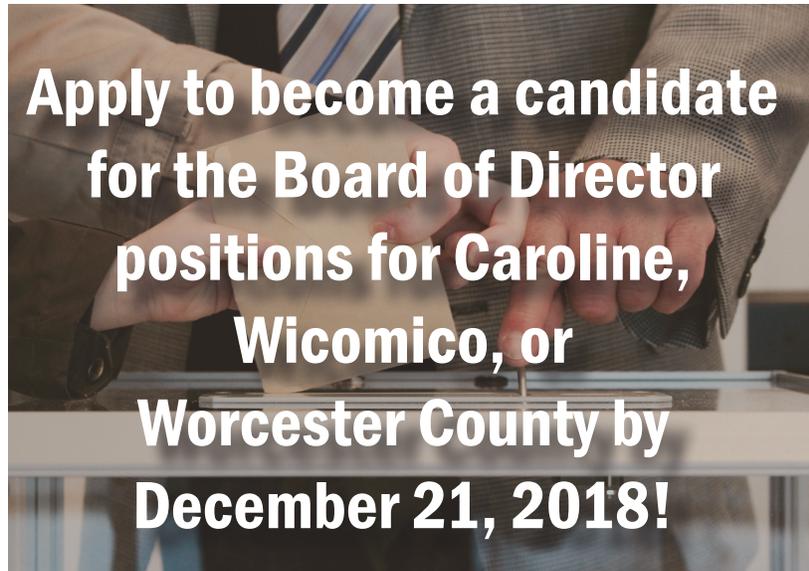
The co-op business model is unique. It is pragmatic, mission-oriented and puts people first. Co-ops strive

to be a trusted voice in their communities. Co-ops have earned that trust because, while not perfect, they always have their members' best interest at heart and are determined to enrich the lives of those living and working in the communities they serve--now and in the future.

## Notice of Election of the Board of Directors for the 2019 Election

In conjunction with the 2019 Choptank Electric Cooperative, Inc. annual meeting, a member of the Cooperative who is a resident of one of the following Director Districts will be elected to the Board of Directors from each of the following Director Districts: Caroline County, Wicomico County, and Worcester County (not including Ocean Pines). **To become a candidate for election to one of these Director positions, your completed and signed 2019 Petition for Nomination of Candidate for Director must be received at one of the following addresses on or before Friday, December 21, 2018.**

The completed petition must be sent and delivered to the attention of the Credentials & Election Committee, c/o Dawn Bowie, Choptank Electric



Cooperative either: (a) by hand delivery or courier to the headquarters office, 10384 River Road, Denton, MD 21629; (b) by mail to P.O. Box 430, Denton, MD 21629; or (c) by email to Dawn Bowie at dawnb@choptankelectric.coop.

Members can find a copy of the 2019 Petition for Nomination of Candidate

for Director and the Bylaws on our website at [www.choptankelectric.coop/Member Benefits/Annual Meeting](http://www.choptankelectric.coop/MemberBenefits/AnnualMeeting), or you may call our Member Service Center at 1.877.892.0001 and request a mailed copy.

Please review the Bylaws for additional requirements regarding Board of Directors' positions. The election results will be announced at the 2019 annual member meeting which will be held on Thursday, April 25, 2019 at The Milestone, located at 9630 Technology Dr. Easton, MD 21601.



## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Cooler temps are just around the corner! Is your home's heating system ready? Remember to replace furnace filters once a month or as recommended. If you heat your home with warm-air registers, baseboard heaters or radiators, remember to clean them regularly to increase efficiency.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)



# Choptank Electric Announces CEO Succession Plan

Choptank Electric Cooperative's Board of Directors' Search Committee has selected the nationally recognized firm of CarterBaldwin Executive Search to assist in the identification, evaluation, and transition of the next CEO. Current CEO, Mike Wheatley, will be retiring in March of 2019 after an eight-year tenure.

"Mike has served Choptank well, not only as CEO for the past eight years but as an employee for the past 25 years. We greatly appreciate his service," said Jeffrey Rathell, Chairman of the Board.

"As a Board, we are now faced with the challenge of selecting the next CEO and leader, one that will lead us forward in a technologically advanced future," states Olin Davis, Chairman of the Search Committee. "Choptank is a fiscally and operationally strong organization with great employees. We are confident that with CarterBaldwin's assistance, we will attract the kind of talent that is needed to make a good selection that provides more value and services to our members," added Davis.

CarterBaldwin's Partner, Chris Guiney, leads the firm's energy and infrastructure practice and will lead the CEO search effort on behalf of the Choptank Board of Directors. Chris' clients include energy, power, utilities, communications and infrastructure businesses as well as professional services firms. For over 25 years, Chris has assisted companies with critical team building initiatives including executive search, succession planning, executive effectiveness and organizational design.

Guiney states, "We are thrilled that we were selected to assist the Board in identifying the leader of the future for Choptank Electric."

For more information about the Choptank Electric CEO succession plan, please contact Mr. Guiney at 678-448-0017 or [cguiney@carterbaldwin.com](mailto:cguiney@carterbaldwin.com). Learn more about about CarterBaldwin at [www.carterbaldwin.com](http://www.carterbaldwin.com).

## Co-op Connections®

*A benefit of your Choptank Electric Cooperative membership that gives you discounts on everyday purchases.*



### Event Tickets

Save on Sports, Concerts, and Shows. Input discount code "Bennie" to save.



### Local Deals

Experience all the 2 for 1 offers in: Dining, Shopping & Services, and Things to Do.



### Healthy Savings

Prescriptions, Vision, Dental, Chiropractic, and more. Your one stop for all things health!

# Thank You Members!



The Choptank Electric Trust, Inc., funded by Choptank Electric Cooperative and its members through Operation Round Up®, reached its' \$4 million donation milestone this past spring. The Choptank Electric Trust distributes funds raised by members back into local communities here on Maryland's Eastern Shore.

"Since 2004, the goal of Operation Round Up is to help individuals, families, charitable, and cultural organizations in our communities address unmet needs in the areas of health, education, and emergency needs such as food, shelter, clothing and equipment, to name just a few," said Deborah Carter, President of the Trust Board and representative from Cecil County. "Operation Round-Up funds are also used to award seven \$2,000 scholarships annually to outstanding graduating seniors in our communities."

The success of the Choptank Electric Trust and Operation RoundUp® program is solely based on the amount of members who participate in the program. "We are so grateful for our members' generous and continued support," said Mike Wheatley, President and CEO of Choptank Electric. "Ninety one percent of our members participate in this program and they have made it possible for our Trust Board to reach this historic milestone."

# Employees Enjoy Educating Local Students



Paula Bishop with her 7<sup>th</sup> graders at Lockerman Middle School

As part of our Commitment to Community and Education and Training Principles, the Co-op encourages its employees to get involved in their local communities. Some of our employees continue to participate in Junior Achievement of the Eastern Shore



Kim Bilbrough with her 3<sup>rd</sup> graders at Denton Elementary

in conjunction with Caroline Co. Public Schools this past spring.

In this program, Nikki Welzel, Disbursements Control Accountant, Kim Bilbrough, an Office Specialist, Paula Bishop, Vice President of Human Resources, and Barbie Faulkner, Manager of Accounting, taught

**Local people serving local communities. That is what Co-ops do.**

third and seventh graders at Denton Elementary, Federalsburg Elementary, and Lockerman Middle School about basic finance and business.

Junior Achievement is a nonprofit organization dedicated to educating youth, grades K-12 both public and private, on financial literacy, work readiness, and entrepreneurship. The hands on, age appropriate programs inspire youth to live within their means, prepare for the world of work, and understand the free enterprise system. This program enhances what students learn in school and directly



Nikki Welzel with her 3<sup>rd</sup> graders at Federalsburg Elementary

applies to real life applications, making school relevant, and increasing the students' engagement in the classroom.

"It's a wonderful way to interact with our local community and directly impact the future of the Eastern Shore," said Nikki Welzel. "I hope I can participate again next year."

Choptank Electric is looking forward to supporting the program in the future and congratulates all of our participating employees on a job well done.

## July 2018 Trust Awards

- Friendship UMC - \$500 stove
- Somerset Co. Dept of Emergency Services - \$1,500 lights
- A Pet For Life - \$300 vet expenses
- Bethesda UMC - \$800 heating
- Nanticoke Historic Preservation Alliance - \$500 cell audio technology
- Talbot Extension Advisory Council - \$740 Clover project

- Adkins Arboretum - \$249 table

The total of approved applications for July was \$24,643.20 which included \$14,656.20 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.**

