



CHOPTANK ELECTRIC
Cooperative *Living*



**CHOPTANK
BRINGS HOME
GAFF-N-GO 2024
TOP AWARD!**

PAGE 16



Dear Members,

We held our 86th Annual Member Meeting on April 25 at The Fountains Wedding and Conference Center in Salisbury. I was honored to spend the evening and share in celebrating with more than 300 of you and your families.



We celebrated the Cooperative's dedication to rural members by providing broadband services through Choptank Fiber. I am happy to share that we have passed over 11,000



homes by building infrastructure and connecting customers faster than any other internet provider on the Shore.



After a delicious dinner and time networking with our staff, associations and partners, the annual meeting kicked off. I was proud to highlight the work done by your Cooperative in 2023 to balance the supply chain,

The evening concluded with bill credit drawings and our Luck of the Draw Scholarship drawing, awarding \$12,000 in scholarships to student members who had applied and attended the meeting (see winners on the next page).



keep expenses for members as low as possible and prepare for the future with youth education and training.

Thank you for being engaged member-owners of your Cooperative. We look forward to seeing you out at community events and fairs this summer!



Members re-elected the following uncontested Board members during the annual meeting to another three-year term: Bob Arnold of Queen Anne's County, Kristen Nickerson of Kent County and Doug Scott of Dorchester County.



Mike Malandro,
President & CEO
Choptank Electric Co-op

* A full recap of the Co-op in 2023 can be found online at www.choptankelectric.coop/financial-information

JULY 2024



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: 1-866-999-4574
Electric Outage Reporting: 1-800-410-4790 option 1
Fiber Outage Reporting: 1-800-410-4790 option 2
Use SmartHub to Manage Account,
Track Usage and Report Outages —>



WWW.CHOPTANKELECTRIC.COOP



GUADALUPE DUARTE ARELLANO
Kent County High School
College: University of Maryland



IVEN CHEN
Easton High School
College: Vanderbilt University



SARAH GROSS
Holly Grove Christian School
College: Liberty University



JOSHUA LANKFORD
Crisfield High School
College: University of Maryland



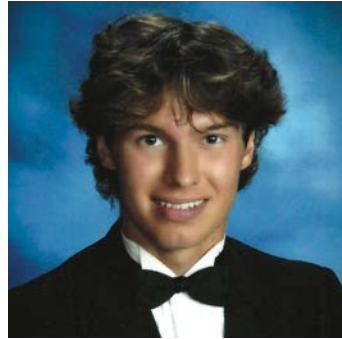
Each receiving
**\$2,000 to further
their continued
education,**
These are the 2024
**Choptank
Electric Trust
Scholarship
Winners!**



MANDY CHAU
Pocomoke High School
College: University of Maryland



JULIA CREIGHTON
North Dorchester High School
College: University of Maryland



ANTHONY HULSLANDER
Snow Hill High School
College: University of Maryland



KATELYN TRIBBITT
North Caroline High School
College: Washington College



MAGGIE HUBBARD
North Dorchester High School
College: DE Tech Comm College



BETHANY NICHOLSON
Queen Anne's County High School
College: Salisbury University

Spotlighting our Scholars

\$36,000 in scholarships awarded to local students

We are committed to providing opportunities for our young members across the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Choptank Electric Cooperative, with the Choptank Electric Trust Board and the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives, awarded 25 scholarships totaling \$36,000 to students attending college or university in the fall of 2024.



2024 LUCK OF THE DRAW SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Choptank Electric's Luck of the Draw Scholarship awarded ten \$1,000 scholarships and one \$2,000 scholarship in honor of Olin Davis who recently retired from the Choptank Electric Board of Directors after 34 years of dedicated service. Students were drawn from those who applied and attended the Annual Meeting on April 25. (left to right, top to bottom)

Julianna Torre of Wicomico County, **Isabella Jobeck** of Talbot County, **Lukas Maloney** of Caroline County, **Logan Hurney** of Worcester County, **Caitlyn Grager** of Wicomico County, **Rylie Kirby** of Worcester County, **Damian Kunie** of Wicomico County, **William O'Donnell** of Talbot County, **Mia Nielson** of Caroline County, **Riley Walstrum** of Caroline County, **Hayden Jackson** of Caroline County

THE VMDAEC \$1,000 SCHOLARSHIP was awarded to four Choptank Electric Cooperative students this year. The recipients are:

- **Mandy Chau** of Worcester County, Pocomoke High School
- **Iven Chen** of Talbot County, Easton High School
- **Anthony Hulslander** of Worcester County, Snow Hill High School
- **Logan Hurney** of Worcester County, Snow Hill High School, W.V. University

Keep an eye out this fall for information on our 2025 scholarship opportunities at www.choptankelectric.coop/scholarships.



CHOPTANK WINS 2024 GAFF-N-GO RODEO TOP AWARD

By Katie Lockett, Marketing, Communications & Education Manager



The winning Journeyman team and Apprentice with President & CEO Mike Malandro. (L to R) Scott Smart, Mike Malandro, Josh McCafferty, Patrick Helgason and Todd Anderson.

Choptank Electric Cooperative received the top award at the 20th Annual Gaff-n-Go Lineworker's Rodeo of Overall Journeyman Team Winner. Choptank also brought home the C.T. Bryant Overall Cooperative Winner Award, T-Shirt Design Winner, 1st Place Armor Rod Challenge, 3rd Place Primary Dead End Transfer and 3rd Place Apprentice Written Test.

"I am so proud of these linemen and their hard work to receive these prestigious awards," said Mike Malandro, President & CEO of Choptank Electric. "They showed true determination and teamwork in the rain as they went up against the top lineworkers in the region. We are humbled to have such skilled linemen on our Cooperative's lines."

The Gaff-n-Go Rodeo was held May 17-18, 2024, in Doswell, Va. The annual event attracts the best lineworkers from the east coast to compete

in traditional lineworker tasks. More than 300 lineworkers representing 11 states from cooperatives, investor-owned utilities, municipals and contractors competed in different events during the Rodeo. Apprentices competed individually while Journeymen competed in teams of three. Lineworkers are judged on speed, accuracy and safety during all competitive events.

The winning Overall Journeyman team consisted of Choptank Electric linemen Todd Anderson, Josh McCafferty and Scott Smart. This team also took home the C.T. Bryant Overall Cooperative Winner Award and 3rd Place in the Primary Dead End Transfer. Lineman Cole Herr won 1st Place in the Armor Rod Challenge with the fastest time of 32 seconds. Lineman Scott Smart designed the winning T-Shirt with the theme "Lighting up the Eastern Shore." Lineman Patrick Helgason placed third in

the Apprentice Written Test. "Team Choptank did an amazing job at the Gaff-n-Go Rodeo," said Wayne Daubach, Manager of Regional Operations. "With more than 30 lineworkers competing or judging and nearly 100 staff, Board members, family and friends in attendance to support, I am proud to be a part of Choptank Electric Cooperative and look forward to what comes next for our Rodeo teams."



With some help from a tiger cub, Choptank's Clint Mills, Mike Schroeder, Paul Miles and Wade Harris showed off their BBQ skills at this year's Gaff-n-Grill!

Choptank Electric also competed in the Gaff-n-Grill and Equipment Operator competitions during the Rodeo. The Grill team, Macked Out BBQ, prepared wings, ribs, pork butt and blue crab salad on a cracker in the "anything but butts" category. The Equipment Operator team showcased their skills on the mini-excavator, digger derrick and bucket truck in obstacle courses, pole-top cutout changes and rescues.

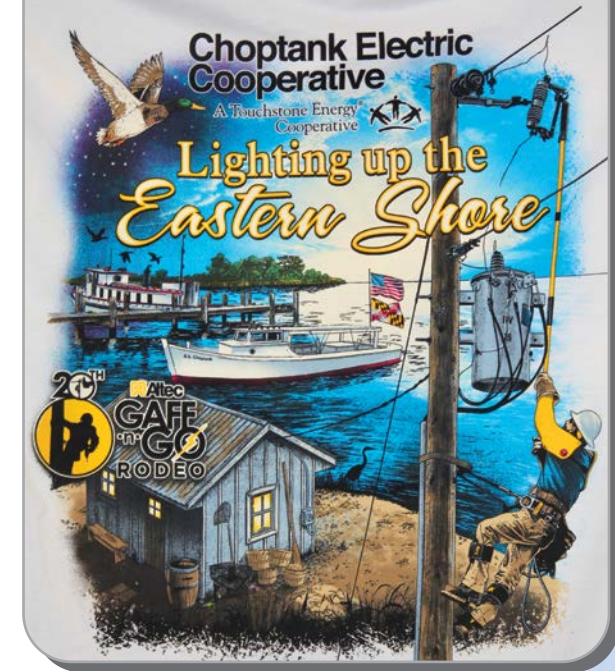
"Besides the great competitions and how hard our linemen competed, the enduring memories for me will be the team spirit and family involvement I witnessed," added Doug Scott, Choptank Electric Board Chair. "Whether it was how the competitors were

"They showed true determination and teamwork in the rain as they went up against the top lineworkers in the region. We are humbled to have such skilled linemen on our Cooperative's lines."

- Mike Malandro, Choptank CEO & President

all in for one another, the spirit of togetherness, or how the guys would help and advise the apprentices on best techniques; it was satisfying to witness."

To learn more about the Gaff-n-Go Rodeo, visit > www.vmdaec.swoogo.com/gaffngo.



The Rodeo's WINNING SHIRT is available for a limited time!

Just scan the QR code below to order



Monsoon conditions didn't stop our guys from bringing home the 2024 Gaff-n-Go top Award! (l to r) Scott Smart, Josh McCafferty and Todd Anderson during the capacitor change out event.



Choptank Electric Lineman Cole Herr after winning the Armor Rod Challenge.

⚡ Congratulations to **Dean Samuel**, who has been promoted to the Serviceman position at the Cambridge District. Dean's new duties began in April.

⚡ Congratulations to **Tina Dennis**, who has been promoted to Member Service Specialist 3rd Class in April.

⚡ Congratulations to **Jacob Murphy**, who has been promoted to Apprentice Lineman 2nd Class. Jacob's new duties began in April.

⚡ Congratulations to **Nancy Nagel**, who has been promoted to the Staff Accountant position. Nancy's new duties began in May.

⚡ Congratulations to **Bobby Hunt**, who has been promoted to the Manager Information Technology Support position in May.

⚡ Congratulations to **JP Watson**, who has been promoted to the Lead Information Technology Support Technician position in May.

⚡ Congratulations to **Chris Moorefield**, who has been promoted to the Apprentice Lineman position. Chris' new duties began in May.

⚡ Congratulations to **Zachary Ellis**, who has been promoted to the Information Technology Support Technician II position in May.

Choptank Welcomes New Employee



Kayla Coursey Legal & Regulatory Specialist

Experience: Braden, Thompson, Mundy & McQueeney, LLP
Hobbies: boating, offshore fishing and reading
Looking Forward To: learning more about the Cooperative and how it operates



System Control Has the Power Celebrating Control Room Workers Day

By Katie Luckett, Manager of Marketing, Communications and Education

Choptank Electric Co-op's Control Room is the only desk that's staffed around the clock, 24/7, 365 days a year. Referred to as our System Control Operators, these eight dedicated employees monitor our electric grid, all 40 substations and proactively prevent outages. The Operators are highly specialized and trained professionals with proficiency in a wide variety of tasks and functions, certified as System Operators through the Northwest Lineman's College.

Choptank's System Control Operators receive your outage calls, texts and SmartHub alerts and remotely operate electronic equipment in the field to assist linemen in outage restoration. Direct communication between the control

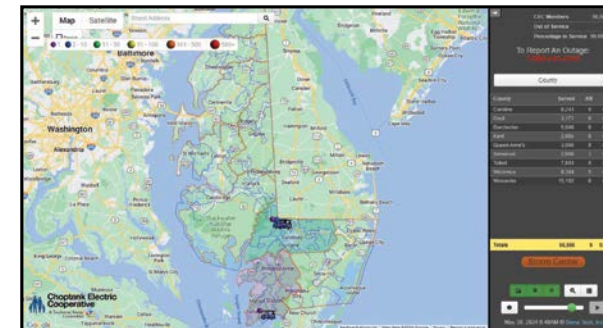
room and lineworkers is essential for both safety and efficiency. They repeat all orders with crews in the field three times before making any changes to the electric grid.

Operators are responsible for dispatching servicemen and linemen during an outage, provide those in the field with specific details and real-time updates about the outage and track the progress made. They also update our public outage map online, text updates to members who have opted in to receive outage alerts and input information into our internal Outage Management System.

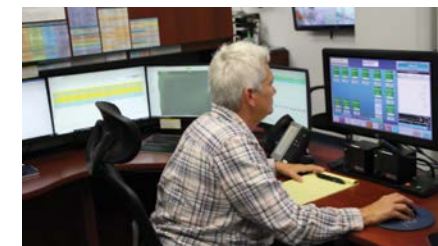
Aside from outages, our Operators assist all other departments at the Cooperative, monitor gate traffic and security at our buildings and handle contractor requests for tagging poles, logging data, etc. If you step inside our Control Room, you will see each Operator has 10 desktop screens in front of them open with various programs and cameras to monitor systems, radios, maps and storm channels. They work closely with local and state police, fire, EMS, SHA, and other utilities to communicate how emergencies may

affect our powerlines.

If you get the chance, don't forget to thank our System Control Operators who work 24/7 to keep your lights on alongside our linemen!



Our outage map is updated by System Control and can be viewed by members at www.choptankelectric.coop/outage-map.



System Control Operator Jay Brooks during his shift.



The 10 monitors System Control operates every day.



STORM PREPARATION TIPS

>>> WWW.CHOPTANKELECTRIC.COOP/PREPARE

> BEFORE THE STORM

Hurricane season is upon us and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration predicts an above-normal 2024 Atlantic hurricane season. One of the first steps you can take to be prepared for a natural disaster such as a hurricane is to gather the Red Cross Emergency Kit Essentials. If you and your family experience a power outage, it can range from minutes to hours without power. Having the following essentials can make this situation more bearable.

Food and Water: The food should be nonperishable and easy to prepare. During an extended outage, there should be at least one gallon of water per person available. Here are some other essentials to have on hand:

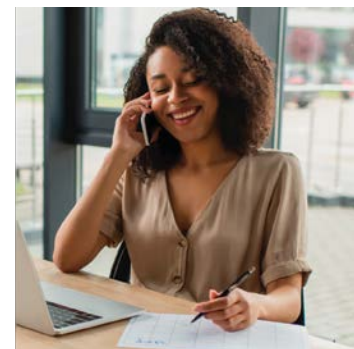
- First-Aid Kit
- Flashlights
- Medications
- Battery-operated radio
- Whistle
- Personal hygiene items
- Cellphone and charger (charged and/or portable)
- Coolers and ice to preserve food
- Safe alternative heating or cooling source
- Extra batteries

> DURING THE STORM

Tune into the TV and radio for additional information about the current conditions, if possible. Avoid using your cellphone, unless there is an emergency. Battery preservation is essential in any situation. Unplug appliances if instructed to do so.

> AFTER THE STORM

Stay clear of loose/dangling power lines or downed poles and report them immediately to Choptank Electric Cooperative. Avoid flood water, as it may be electrically charged and active from underground. Drive only if necessary and always avoid flooded areas — turn around, don't drown. When using a generator, NEVER run it inside your home or garage.



Choptank Fiber

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Now offering SmartBiz™ from Choptank Fiber.

www.choptankfiber.com
1-877-892-0001



NOTES FROM MEMBERS

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 Annemarie and all at Choptank Electric, Thanks to all for your donation to Ronald McDonald House Maryland. Our families loved those coloring books and crayons. When kids don't feel well, there is nothing better than a new toy or craft activity!! Anything that they can do that takes minds off of their medical issues is a true gift to the parents and the children! Thank you so much for your donation and support!!!
 Your Friends at RMHC

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.

April 2024

- Affiliated Sante Group \$2,492
- Calvary-Asbury U.M. Church. \$2,000
- Chester River Chorale \$1,502
- Coast Kids Assateague \$419
- Quilters by the Sea \$500
- Team 360..... \$1,500
- St. Martins Community \$599

May 2024

- YMCA of the Chesapeake...\$1,542
- Downtown Denton Main... \$3,000
- The Mary Mac Foundation.. \$1,200
- St. George U.M. Church.. \$10,000
- Project Linus of Lower DelMarVa \$1,604
- St. Paul U.M. Church \$5,089
- Swim Ocean City..... \$1,426

The total of approved applications for April and May was \$60,359, which included \$27,486 for individual home and medical expenses.



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.

President & CEO

Micheal E. Malandro

Board of Directors

Douglas D. Scott
Chairman, Dorchester Co.

Robert E. Arnold
Vice Chairman, Queen Anne's Co.

John J. Burke Jr.
Treasurer, Cecil Co.

Matthew R. Holloway
Secretary, Wicomico Co.

Amy I. Brandt
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Somerset Co.

Kristen E. Nickerson
Kent Co.

Jeffrey D. Rathell Sr.
Talbot Co.

Robert B. Thompson
Ocean Pines District

Donna R. West
Worcester Co.



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.