

Live Wire is a monthly newsletter published for members of Choptank Electric Cooperative,

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

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Concern For Community Takes Center Stage at The 81st Annual Meeting



On Thursday, April 25, 2019 Choptank Electric Cooperative members and Board of Directors assembled at The Milestone in Easton, MD to conduct the 81st Choptank Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting. The doors opened at 4:30pm and members took advantage of various vendor booths including the electronic recycling station and Choptank Electric's electric vehicle display, learned new Coop information, asked questions to the Choptank Electric employees, and enjoyed light refreshments.

Various vendors on site included: the Choptank Electric Energy Efficiency display, Lineman Challenge demonstration, SmartHub and solar display, Old Dominion Electric Cooperative (ODEC), vegetation management display, Aero Energy, Asplundh, and additional Co-op information.

The business meeting began at 6:00pm with Mr. Jeffrey Rathell, Chairman of the Board, introduc-

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Operation Round Up: 15 Years of Giving!

The Choptank Electric Trust is celebrating its 15th year after starting its tradition of giving in January 2004. Members who are Operation Round Up participants deserve all the credit for the program's success, by allowing Choptank Electric to round up their electric bill to the next whole dollar. These pennies in turn, go into a trust fund for grants approved by a volunteer grant review board, with representation from each of the nine counties on Maryland's Eastern Shore.

Because all administrative and accounting functions for this program are performed by Choptank Electric staff, every penny collected is used exclusively for grants in our local communities. To date, Operation Round Up has given back over \$4,000,000 to benefit numerous individuals and organizations in our service territory.



The 2019 Hurricane Season Is Upon Us

Be prepared now for the 2019's hurricane season which begins June 1 and ends November 30. Be ready by:

Before the Storm:

- Signing up for SmartHub to report outages or use our Outage Reporting Number: 1-800-410-4790
- Updating your account's contact information for call back notifications and outage updates.
- Putting together an emergency kit and plan. Fill your kit with a flashlight, batteries, cash, first aid supplies, medications, and copies of your critical information if you need to evacuate.
- Knowing the elevation level of your property and whether the land is flood-prone. This will help you prepare for the storm surge and any tidal flooding.
- Securing your home: cover all windows with either storm shutters or boards, clear loose and clogged rain gutters, and bring all outdoor furniture indoors.
- Learning about your community's hurricane evacuation routes.

During the Storm:

- Listening to the radio or TV for information, if possible.
- Avoiding using the phone, unless there is an emergency.
- Turning off utilities if instructed to do so. Otherwise keep the refrigerator thermostat on the coldest setting and keep the doors closed.



After the Storm:

- Staying away from loose or dangling power lines and report them immediately to Choptank Electric Cooperative.
- Avoiding flood water as it may be electrically charged from underground or downed power lines and may hide dangerous debris or places where the ground is washed away.
- Driving only if necessary and avoid flooded roads. Watch out for fallen objects, downed power lines, and weakened walls, bridges, or sidewalks.
- NEVER using a generator inside homes, garages, crawlspaces, sheds, or similar areas. Deadly levels of carbon monoxide can quickly build up in these areas.

For more tips on planning before, during, and after the storm, visit www.ready.gov/hurricanes.



Soak up the sun and the savings!



Enjoy Summer with Co-op Connections:

Travel



Hotel Stays



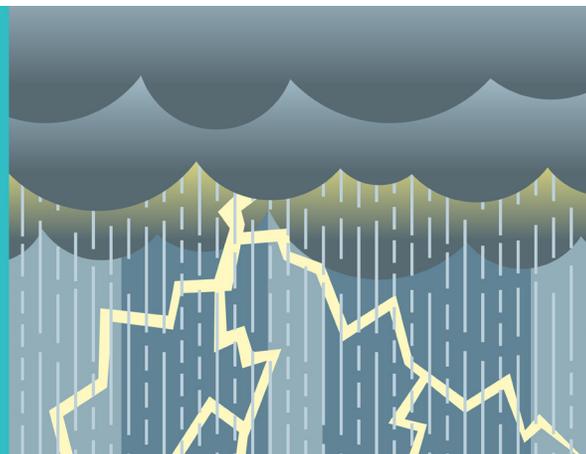
Entertainment



When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!

Seek shelter indoors or in a hard-topped vehicle. If you can't get to shelter:

- avoid open fields and hilltops.
- stay away from tall, isolated trees and objects.
- spread out (if you're in a group).



What You Learn Next Could Shock You!



It's finally here: the pool is open! Family and friends are gathered around, ready to take a refreshing swim and enjoy your famous BBQ. However, something seems to dampen the mood, as some of your guests are complaining of experiencing a tingling shock when they contact the pool's hand rails as they get out of the water, or when sitting on the pool deck with their feet in the water. What could be causing this? Assuming the "shocks" are not the result of faulty wiring or equipment, they are most likely the result of Neutral-to-Earth Voltage (NEV). NEVs are natural, and normally exists between the

grounded equipment or "conductor", and local earth or metal structure around the pool that is not grounded. However certain conditions, such as the pool's wiring not meeting national standards, corroded parts due to salt or chlorine exposure, or even a piece of equipment that is not properly grounded can aggravate the situation, translating into those annoying shocks.

Additional settings where NEV shocks (also known as stray voltage) may occur include hot tubs, sink faucets, outside hose faucets, boat decks, and street light poles. Even farm animals making contact with farmstead milking, feeding, or watering equipment can experience these tingling shocks.

At the end of the day, the best way to prevent NEV shocks is to have qualified, licensed electrician perform any kind of electrical work at your home, farm, or business, and perform regular maintenance on your electrical systems. If you believe you are experiencing issues due to NEVs, contact the Choptank Electric Cooperative Member Service Center at 1-877-892-0001 for additional information regarding NEV testing and NEVs in general.

In observance of the 4th of July holiday, our offices will be closed Thursday, July 4th, 2019.

Have a Fun and Safe Independence Day!

Father's Day is

June 16th

Happy Father's day to all of our Co-op dads!

PCA to Increase Members' Bills

Choptank Electric has proposed to the Maryland Public Service Commission an increase in the Power Cost Adjustment (PCA). Upon approval from the Commission, the increase would go into effect July 1, 2019.

A residential member using 1,000 kilowatt hours (kWh) per month will see an increase of \$7.11 per month. The PCA is currently a credit of \$0.00308/kWh. The proposed PCA, effective with the July 1st billing, will be a charge of \$0.00403.

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.

Concern For Community

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ing special guests, including Senator Adelaide Eckardt (R) from District 37, Delegate Johnny Mautz (R) from District 37B who also addressed the membership at the beginning of the meeting. Mr. Rathell also introduced Brandon Foy, Choptank Electric Cooperative's 2018 Youth Leader-

ship Council Representative, who spoke to the crowd about his experience with Youth Tour and how it would propel him into the future, where he will be enlisting in the Marine Corps. The Credentials and Elections Committee Chair, William Edwards, later announced that Mrs. Amy Brandt was elected to be the new Board of Director for Caroline County with 984 votes. Mr. Matthew Holloway, Board of Director for Wicomico County, and Ms. Donna Richardson West, Board of Director for Worcester County, were re-elected to the board to represent their respective counties.

A total of 2,332 members voted this year in the elec-



Luck Of The Draw winners (not in order): Bradley Cruikshank, Lydia Shreves, Brandon Foy, Jack Blakelock, Alexis Jones, Carey Hickman, Benjamin Rieck, Ryan Bauer, Jacob Ricketts, Wyatt Sperry, Elizabeth Harris, and Emily Conlon.

tion, with 743 votes made electronically, and 1,590 by mail.

Micheal Malandro, the new President and CEO of Choptank Electric Cooperative, reported to the membership about the Co-op's plans for the future regarding broadband and how we, the Co-op, can better serve its members.

The business meeting ended with the drawing

for door prizes that were bill credits ranging from \$75-\$500 and the Luck of the Draw Scholarship drawing, which awarded ten \$1,000 scholarships, and two \$2,000 scholarships, one in honor of David Bruning, who retired in September as board member from Worcester County and the other for Francis "Sonny" Callahan Jr., who will retired in March. There were 42 members who submitted their name for the scholarships.

The Annual Meeting was a huge success and Choptank Electric is looking forward to the 82nd Annual Meeting which will be announced in the 2019-2020 Member Guide.

- Somerset Co. Sheriff's Office - \$1,000
- St. Michaels Travel Club - \$1,000
- Vienna VFC - \$1,500

The total of approved applications for April was \$42,191.20 which included \$23,965.00 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.



April 2019 Trust Awards

- Atlantic Symphony Orchestra - \$500
- Bayside Breeze 10u Callahan - \$585
- Bayside Quilters of The Eastern Shore - \$500
- Ben's Red Swings - \$500
- Boy Scouts Troop #77 - \$455
- Caroline County Humane Society - \$2,500
- Chesapeake Charities Judy Center Queen Anne's - \$1,000
- Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence - \$1,450
- NCHS Educators Rising - \$2,500
- Snow Hill Christian Nursery School - \$337