



Choptank Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative



JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2023

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CHOPTANK ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

P.O. Box 430 | Denton, MD | 21629

Member Service Center: 1-877-892-0001

Automated Member Service: 1-866-999-4574

Automated Outage Reporting: 1-800-410-4790

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Scholarship Season is Here

Two scholarships available for fall 2023 school year

By Katie Lockett, Marketing, Communications, Education Manager

Choptank Electric Trust Scholarship

The Choptank Electric Trust Board is pleased to announce that our annual scholarship program will begin accepting applications on January 2, 2023. The Choptank Electric Trust Scholarship awards nine \$2,000 scholarships every May to high school or home-schooled seniors, graduating juniors, or first-semester graduating seniors whose parent or legal guardian is a current member or employee of Choptank Electric Cooperative. Applicants must enter a post-high school educational institution or technical/trade school as a freshman in the fall of 2023.

Scholarship recipients are selected based on a combination of the following criteria:

- ✓ Financial need
- ✓ Academic achievement
- ✓ Extracurricular and community activities
- ✓ References
- ✓ Personal essay

The required essay should be limited to two typed, double-spaced pages on the following topic: "Why have I chose to continue my education and how will this scholarship assist me?"

Letters of reference are required and may be from school administrators, teachers, civic leaders, clergy or neighbors (not from relatives). Please limit to three references. The Academic Information section of the application must be completed by the student's guidance counselor or



other appropriate school official.

Applications postmarked after March 15 will not be eligible for consideration. For additional information and to download the application, please visit:

choptankelectric.coop/scholarships

Please submit the completed application

To:

**Choptank Electric Trust Scholarship
Attn: Trust
P.O. Box 426
Denton, MD 21629**

The application must be postmarked no later than, or hand-delivered to the Denton or Salisbury office, by 4:30 p.m. on March 15. Any incomplete applications will not be considered.

The VMDAEC Education Scholarship



Electric cooperatives in Virginia, Maryland and Delaware are preparing to accept scholarship applications for high school seniors who intend to pursue higher education studies. These \$1,000 scholarships are awarded by the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives Education Scholarship Foundation, which has provided nearly 1,000 scholarships to graduating high school students since 2001, totaling more than \$900,000.

“This program has helped hundreds of students advance their education and demonstrates, once again, how electric cooperatives are committed to their members and the communities they serve,” says Brian Mosier, president and CEO of VMDAEC

The application opens on January 30, 2023, with the application deadline on April 3. Award recipients will be notified no later than June 1. The

online application and additional information can be found at vmdaec.com/scholarship.

Any high school or home-schooled senior graduating in spring 2023, and whose primary residence is served by Choptank Electric Cooperative, is eligible to apply for a \$1,000 scholarship toward a two or four-year college or trade school.

An applicant must be entering his or her first semester at a post-secondary or technical/trade school in the fall of 2023. Scholarship funds will be sent directly to the educational institution and must be used toward tuition, student fees, room and board, or textbooks.

The Foundation’s board of directors will select recipients based on these weighted criteria: financial need at 40%, academic achievement at 40%, and personal statement at 20%. Questions about donations and the application process should be directed to: scholarship@vmdaec.com.



**Choptank Electric Trust
Scholarship Information**



**The VMDAEC
Scholarship Information**

**No need to
wait for the mail.**

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APPLE STORE



GOOGLE PLAY





“This innovative addition to our Regional Service Center training facility has provided sustainable development for our communities on the Eastern Shore.”

- Mike Malandro,
President and CEO of
Choptank Electric Cooperative

Training Facility Addition Brings Innovative Approach

Our training facility in Salisbury, Maryland provides lineworker crews with real-life scenarios in a safe and controlled environment. Built on site at our Regional Service Center, Choptank Electric crews and other cooperatives’ crews use our training grounds to practice and hone their skills and to learn new techniques.

Our newest addition to the training yard is our “Smurf Lines.” This innovative construction allows lineworkers to perform tasks at a safer level while still providing real-world situations. By having trainees at a lower height, it allows better verbal communication with instructors and maximizes training sessions.

“This innovative addition to our Regional

Service Center training facility has provided sustainable development for our communities on the Eastern Shore,” says Mike Malandro, President and CEO of Choptank Electric Cooperative. “Concern for Community is one of the seven cooperative principles we follow, and our facility keeps our crew and future lineworkers local, rather than having them travel to Virginia to receive instruction.”

Practice makes perfect, and perfect is what we need to be when serving our members. Keep an eye out for future news regarding our growing training facility program.



Choptank Welcomes Valuable New Employees



MCKAYLA KIERNAN
MEMBER SERVICE SPECIALIST

Your future outlook with the co-op?

To become a well-rounded member service specialist, and to grow within the co-op.

What motivates you? Any hobbies?

Learning new things and overcoming challenges. Yes, I love animals, and riding horses is my biggest hobby!



KATIE LUCKETT
**MARKETING, COMMUNICATIONS,
EDUCATION MANAGER**

Your future outlook with the co-op?

Looking forward to sharing stories of inspiration from our members and supporting the Eastern Shore.

What motivates you? Any hobbies?

Giving back to my community and making a positive impact. Yes, being with family and friends at the beach, on the water and Clemson football.



TINA DENNIS
MEMBER SERVICE SPECIALIST

Your future outlook with the co-op?

To grow and contribute to the co-op, continue to learn and take on more responsibilities.

What motivates you? Any hobbies?

Knowing my hard work will equal success. Yes, watching my husband Brandon race at the track and spending time with my boys, Bradley and Bryson, and family.

Choptank Electric Supports *Beacon of Hope*

By Bobby Schaller, MultiMedia Manager

Harriet Tubman's new statue, *Beacon of Hope*, is a beautiful dedication to a woman who dedicated her life to, and became a world-wide symbol of, human rights, strength and freedom. Created by artist Wesley Wofford and erected just miles from where Harriet Tubman was born, the monument's official dedication was this past September. Choptank Electric Cooperative is extremely proud to take part in, and help support, what turned into a community-wide effort in immortalizing Harriet Tubman. This effort is important so that future generations know and understand the strong role and responsibility she took in our rich American History.

Escaping slavery in 1849, Harriet Tubman spent the next decade helping other slaves escape. She then worked for the Union Army during the Civil War and would be the first woman to lead an armed expedition, liberating more than 700 slaves during that time.

Her sculpture was installed at the Dorchester County Courthouse in Cambridge, MD. A meaningful location as the courthouse was once the site of slave auctions, as well as the site of the first escape engineered by Harriet Tubman. Members can visit *Beacon of Hope* in person at 206 High Street in Cambridge, MD.



The Choptank Electric Cooperative Trust granted \$3,716 towards the Harriet Tubman 'Beacon of Hope' monument, newly installed outside of the Cambridge MD, Courthouse.



Winter Storms

Winter is here and with last year bringing a steady flow of freezing temperatures, snow and ice, we ask members to always be prepared for winter weather and subsequent outages. This includes having an emergency kit ready.

In addition, please stay away from downed wires or damaged electric

equipment. Touching energized wires can cause serious injury or death. If you see downed wires, call 911 immediately.

When using a generator, **NEVER** run it inside your home or garage. They produce carbon monoxide fumes, which can be deadly.

> choptankelectric.coop/prepare

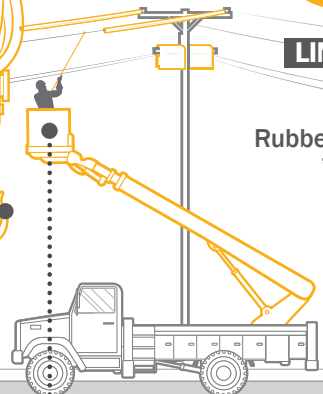
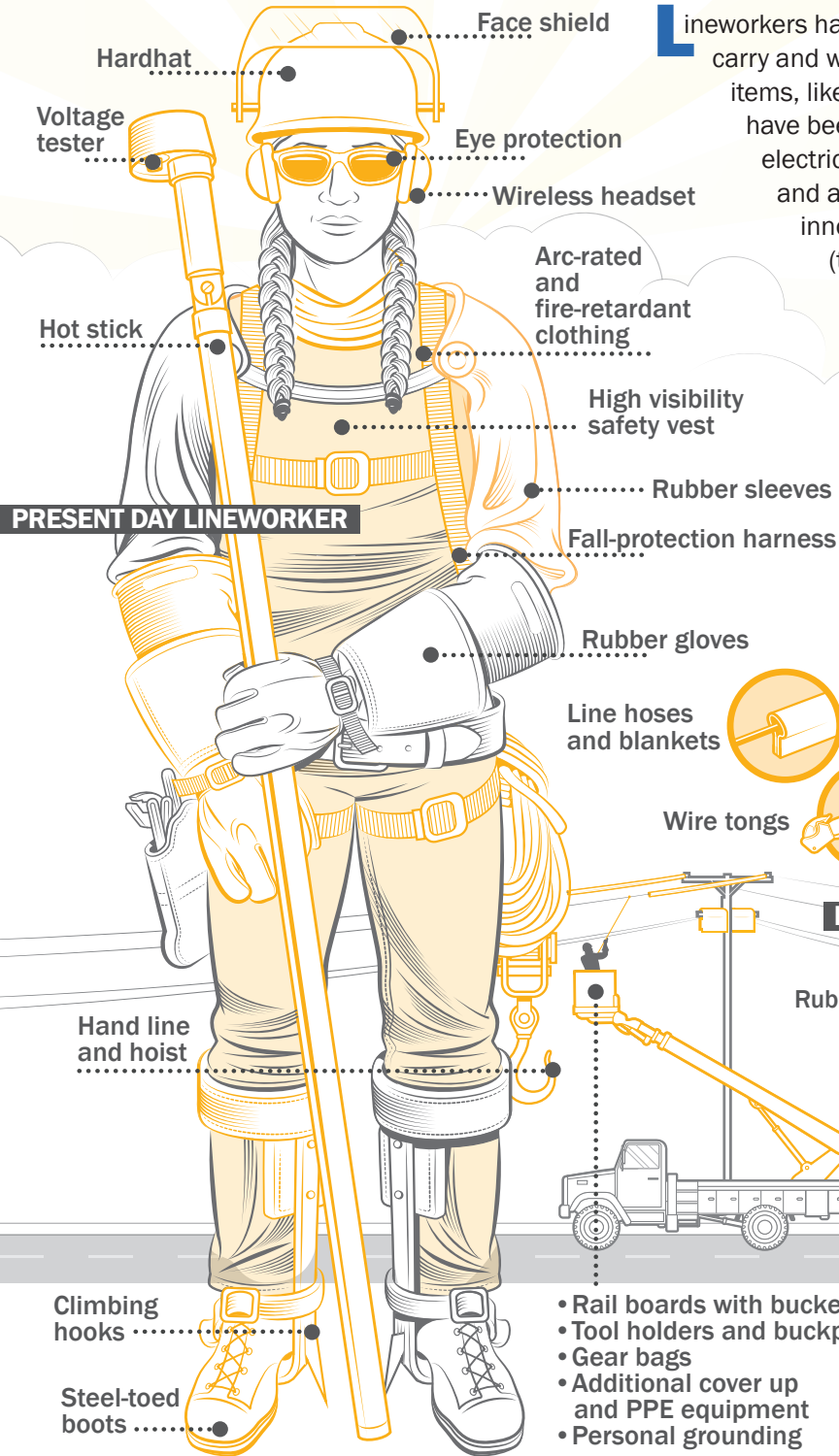
RED CROSS EMERGENCY KIT ESSENTIALS

- Water—1 gallon per person, per day
- Food—non-perishable, easy to prepare
- First-aid kit and flashlights
- Medications (7-day supply) and medical items
- Battery-powered or hand-crank radio
- Extra batteries and multipurpose tool
- Sanitation and personal hygiene items
- Cellphone with charger
- Family and emergency contacts
- Coolers and ice to preserve food
- Safe alternative heat source

Lineworker Safety, Then and Now

100+ Years of Safety Innovation

Lineworkers have a dizzying array of gear they carry and wear to safely do their jobs. Some items, like climbing hooks and hot sticks, have been around since the early days of electricity. Others, like wireless headsets and arc-rated clothing, are more modern innovations. Here's a comprehensive (though not exhaustive) look at the tools line crews use to stay safe.





2023 Maryland General Assembly Underway

By Valerie Connelly, VP Government Affairs and Public Relations

The Maryland General Assembly begins the 444th Legislative Session on the second Wednesday in January. The recent General Election yielded a new Governor, almost a dozen new Senators and almost 30 new Delegates. Governor Wes Moore will officially be sworn into office on the third Wednesday – January 18, 2023. From that point on, the leadership of the General Assembly will follow his lead on key issues such as budget, education, energy, healthcare and transportation.

During the 90-day session, 188 elected officials will consider almost 3,000 bills. We can expect a lot of briefings and “get to know the issues” meetings in Committees over the first month. Leadership is expected to rebalance committee assignments to assure adequate representation of regions on each major committee.

Going into the session, revenues in Maryland are higher than anticipated. This will give appropriators extra cash to divvy up among priorities, such as education



Maryland voters elected Wes Moore as our new governor.

reform, social programs and, hopefully, broadband construction.

Voters also passed the constitutional amendment to allow the use of recreational marijuana in the state. The General Assembly will craft the rules for growing, distributing and selling the product during this session.

As a member-owned electric cooperative, Choptank will educate legislators about unique grid upgrades needed in rural areas to accommodate new standards for electric vehicles and other green

energy initiatives. We will monitor all bills introduced to identify those that may have an impact on the services we provide to cooperative members. Our goal continues to be affordable and reliable energy and broadband options for members.

We will work closely with the Eastern Shore Delegation. These 16 legislators, who serve on various committees, caucus every Friday morning during session to protect the interests of the Eastern Shore. You can monitor bills that are introduced and watch Committee hearings on the MGA website at:

> www.mgaleg.maryland.gov



Valerie Connelly
VP, Government Affairs & PR



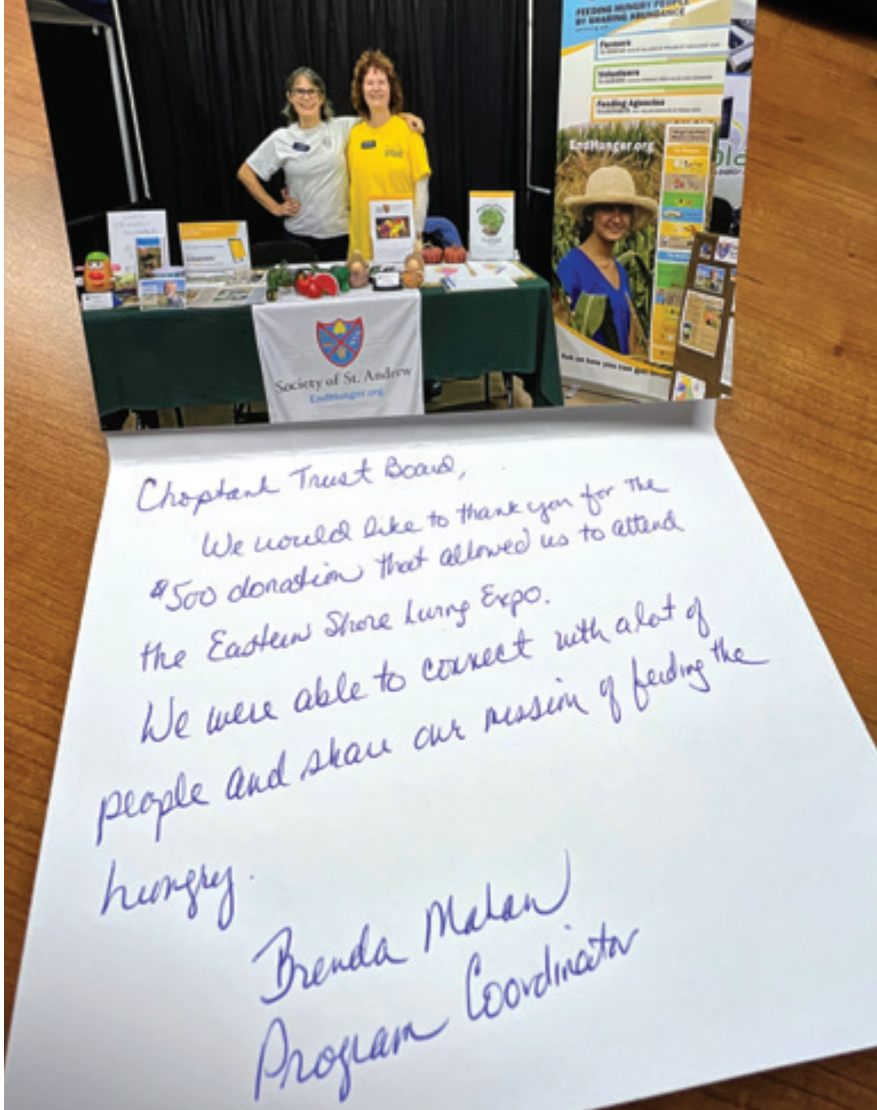
Matthew Teffeau
Manager, Government Affairs

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS AND SENIORS

YOUTH TOUR 2023!

The trip of a lifetime is back in our Nation's Capitol!
Scan for more information and to apply.

JUNE 14 - 18 www.choptankelectric.coop/youth-tour



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

October 2022

- Society of St. Andrew - \$500
- Chesapeake College - \$7,000
- Christian Shelter - \$1,986
- LEAD MD Foundation - \$5,000
- Caroline County FFA - \$1,950
- Kinera Foundation - \$7,205
- Salisbury Jaycees - \$300
- Queen Anne's County Make a Difference Day - \$1,000
- Salisbury Urban Ministries - \$2,350
- Queen Anne's Choral - \$399
- Tidalhealth - \$1,000

November 2022

- Salisbury Neighborhood - \$1,250
- Wreaths Across America - \$510
- Mid Shore Meals 'til Monday - \$1,000
- Mid Shore Community Radio - \$1,000

The total of approved applications for October and November was \$65,108 which included \$31,813 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 55,500 residential, commercial, and industrial members in all nine counties on Maryland's Eastern Shore.

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Micheal E. Malandro

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Somerset 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 our members on the Eastern Shore.