



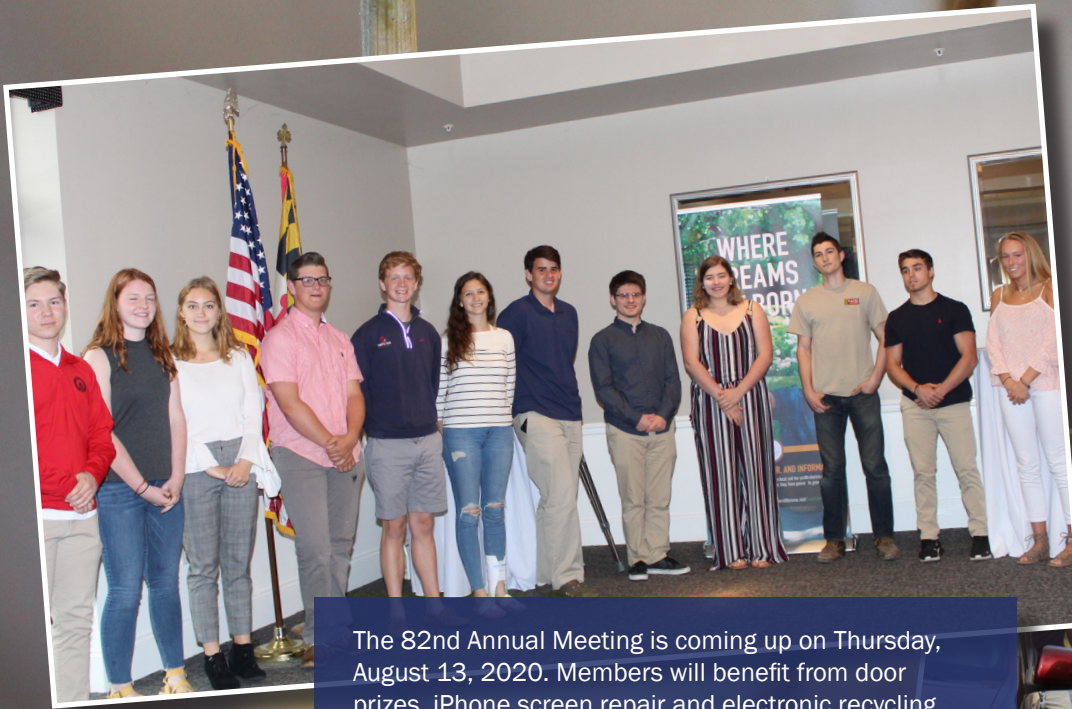
Choptank Electric
Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy®
Cooperative



AUGUST 2020

Members First. Every Day.



The 82nd Annual Meeting is coming up on Thursday, August 13, 2020. Members will benefit from door prizes, iPhone screen repair and electronic recycling services, and the drawing of the 2020 Luck of the Draw scholarships! We hope to see you there!
(2019 winners pictured above)

Our employees are gearing up to see our members in August!





By Elizabeth Hallett
Manager of Marketing & Communications

Choptank Electric Cooperative (CEC) employees, Board members, and Trust Board members helped distribute food to local families on behalf of the Salvation Army on Wednesday, June 10, 2020 in Salisbury and Friday, June 19, 2020 at Mt. Olive AME Church in Worton. The Choptank Electric Trust Board sought out food banks that were in need during the COVID-19 crisis, and these were just a few locations.

“We do this to help others in the community. Helping our members and others is part of what makes us a Co-op. Principle No. 7 is ‘Concern for Community’ and we exemplify that here at Choptank.”

Jeffrey Rathell, Chairman and Talbot County Director.

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HELPING OUR LOCAL PARTNERS

The Choptank Electric Trust Board puts “Concern for Community” into action



(From left to right) Bob Thompson, Ocean Pines Director, Jeff Rathell, Chairman of the Board and Talbot Co. Director, Donna West Richardson, Worcester Co. Director, Sherry Baker, CEC Member Services, Latoya Ward, Social Services Director, Anne Chouinard, CEC Member Services, Matt Tefteau, CEC Government Affairs, Tom Terry, Vice Chair of the Trust Board and Worcester Co. Representative, and Myeisha Batson, Social Services Assistant.



Kent County Board Director Olin Davis moves boxes for transport.

Choptank Electric CEO Mike Malandro helps load boxes into cars.



P.O. Box 430 | Denton MD | 21629

Toll-Free: 1-877-892-0001

Outage Reporting: 1-800-410-4790

Automated Member Service: 1-866-999-4574

Investing in the Eastern Shore's Future

Scholarships awarded to local students will enable them to pursue higher education



By Elizabeth Hallett

Manager of Marketing & Communications

Choptank Electric Cooperative has always devoted resources to the local students across the Eastern Shore, and we have many programs that students can take advantage of like Youth Tour, educational programs, and our annual scholarships.

The Cooperative has three different scholarship programs that are exclusive to our members. One of the scholarships is through the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives, and another is through the Choptank Electric Trust and our Operation Round Up program.

2020 VMDAEC Scholarship Winners

The Education Scholarship Foundation of the VMDAEC selected six Choptank Electric member-students to receive the \$1,000 scholarships. The recipients are:

- **Madison Birckett**,
Stephen Decatur High School
- **Adrianna DiSilvestro**,
St. Michaels High School
- **Anna Hubbard**,
North Dorchester High School
- **Jake Hurley**,
Cambridge South Dorchester High School
- **Kyla Lynch**,
North Dorchester High School
- **Ilsa Naseer**,
North Caroline High School



Madison Birckett, Stephen Decatur H.S.
*University of Pennsylvania,
Finance*



Autumn Conley, Queen Anne's County H.S.
*Shepherd University,
Environmental Studies*



Eric Gwin, Stephen Decatur High School
*Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute,
Civil Engineering*



Anna Hubbard, North Dorchester H.S.
*Hood College,
Nursing*



Kyla Lynch, North Dorchester High School
*Alvernia University,
Social Work*



Ilsa Naseer, North Caroline High School
*University of Maryland, College Park
Psychology*

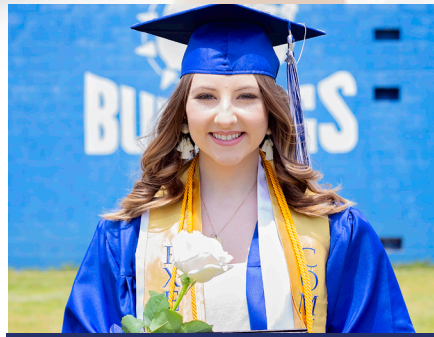
These students were selected based on academic achievement, community involvement, and financial need.

"We commend these students on their outstanding academic achievements," said Russell

G. "Rusty" Brown, chair of the VMDAEC Education Scholarship Foundation Committee and Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors at Northern Neck Electric Cooperative. "Our electric cooperatives are delighted to provide support to these worthy students, as they



Adrianna DiSilvestro, St. Michaels H.S.
St. Andrews University,
Biology/Equine Science



Kolby Downes, North Caroline High School
Chesapeake College
Applied Sciences



Jake Hurley, Cambridge South Dorchester H.S.
University of Maryland, College Park
Engineering



Benjamin Jackson, Snow Hill High School
Salisbury University,
Mathematics/Secondary Education



Caitlin Pfeiffer, Queen Anne's County H.S.
Allegheny College



Julia Smith, Queen Anne's County H.S.
Gettysburg College,
Health Sciences/Bio-Med

represent a future generation of leaders in their communities.”

2020 Choptank Electric Trust Scholarship Winners

The Choptank Electric Trust, through the Operation Round Up program, selects nine worthy

students every May to receive their \$2,000 scholarship. This year's winners are:

- **Madison Birckett**, Stephen Decatur High School
- **Autumn Conley**, Queen Anne's County High School

- **Kolby Downes**, North Caroline High School
- **Eric Gwin**, Stephen Decatur High School
- **Jake Hurley**, Cambridge South Dorchester High School
- **Benjamin Jackson**, Snow Hill High School
- **Ilsa Naseer**, North Caroline High School
- **Caitlin Pfeiffer**, Queen Anne's County High School
- **Julia Smith**, Queen Anne's County High School

“The students selected are based on financial need, academic achievement, extracurricular and community activities, and their references. It's a rigorous process,” said John Roschy, Chairman of the Trust Board and Queen Anne's County representative. “These scholarship opportunities are important because it helps alleviate the financial burden of attending college for our best and brightest youth.”

To qualify for this scholarship, you must be a high school or home school senior, a member or employee of Choptank Electric Cooperative, and be entering a post-high school educational institution as a freshman in the fall of 2020.

“Our member-students work hard for their accomplishments and we are honored to be part of their higher education journey,” said Mike Malandro, President and CEO of Choptank Electric Cooperative. “We wish them all good luck this fall as they pursue their futures.”

Congratulations!!

Regional Virtual Forums Deliver Answers to Members

Co-op leadership discussed broadband through member regulation in detail



By Valerie Connelly

Vice President of Government Affairs and Public Relations

Like so many other activities that were changed due to the COVID-19 precautions, Choptank Electric Cooperative's regional member forums were held virtually in June. The advertised topic of discussion was Member Regulation and our ballot initiative. But the most popular issue was broadband. Members want to know when it is coming.

Members joined the webinar over the internet or by calling in. Pre-registrations for the June 10th event had 107 members logging in. The June 11th meeting registered over 130 members.

Between the two, more than 100

different questions were asked and answered live.

The Board of Directors listened in both nights to make sure they fully understand member priorities. Members of our management team, including CEO Mike Malandro; General Counsel Sarah Dahl; VPs Tim McGaha and Valerie Connelly; and Manager of Government Affairs, Matt Teffeau, talked through slides that explained member regulation, broadband and next steps.

The forums are just one of the requirements set forth in the legislation passed this year to allow Choptank to become a "member regulated" cooperative (HB 999). The change will eliminate duplicative regulation by the Public Service Commission and, more importantly, allow Choptank to

develop a broadband subsidiary that can use economies-of-scale to offer internet service to rural members.

In addition to the forums, Choptank Electric must hold a member vote, which is currently underway. The mandated Special Meeting of Members will be held on August 13th, when the final vote count will be announced.

To watch the forum presentations, read through the Top 30 Questions Asked & Answered, and to get updates on our broadband project, check out the Broadband tab on our website at www.choptankelectric.coop/broadband.



The Luck of the Draw

Scholarship deadline is almost here! Apply to receive one of the ten \$1,000 scholarships and one \$2,000 honorary scholarship by Monday, August 10, 2020.



Our offices will be closed Monday, September 7, 2020 in observance of Labor Day.

Have a Fun and Safe Labor Day!

David Lewis and David Milligan Retire from the Co-op

Dedication and professionalism define the pair's combined 50 years of service



David Lewis
34 Years of Service

David Lewis, Manager of our Regional Service Center since August 2016, retired on July 10, 2020. Lewis began working with the Cooperative in January 1986 as an Operations Field Helper. In August of the same

year he entered into the Apprentice Lineman program and became a Journeyman Lineman in February 1989. Lewis has also held the title of Chief Lineman (May 1995), Serviceman (August 1999), and Manager of Regional Operations in Berlin (October 2004).

David Milligan, Engineering Fieldman since March 2004, will be retiring on August 13, 2020.

Milligan began working with the Cooperative in August of 1985 as an Apprentice Tree Trimmer.

In June 1986, he entered the Apprentice Lineman program and became a Journeyman

Lineman in December 1988.

In March of 2003, Milligan entered the Engineering Fieldman program as Engineering Fieldman 4th Class.



David Milligan
16 Years of Service

Employee Milestones

Congratulations to the following employees for earning promotions effective July 11



Curtis Short
Manager of District Operations
(Cambridge and St. Michaels)



Tom Filewicz
Manager of District Operations
(Salisbury)



Jason Gaskill
Manager of District Operations
(Pocomoke/Berlin)



The Reverend Monique Upshur Davis, Pastor of Mount Olive AME Church in Worton, thanked the Choptank Electric Board and staff for volunteering at the food pantry to serve over 50 families on June 19th.

The Choptank Electric Trust's donation filled a two-month gap in grant money that allows the church to operate a year-round food drop-off/pick-up program in coordination with the Maryland Food Bank.

Rose Taylor, Community and Donor Relations Manager for the Salvation Army in Salisbury, said they fed over 500 families from all over Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester counties with the donations from the Choptank Electric Trust.

Residential Generators

WHAT TO KNOW BEFORE YOU BUY

INSTALLATION TYPE	PRICE	OPERATION ¹	CAPACITY	LENGTH OF OPERATION ³
<i>permanent</i>	<i>expensive</i>	<i>automatic</i>	<i>whole house</i>	<i>can be indefinite</i>
<i>portable</i>	<i>more affordable</i>	<i>manual</i>	<i>typically partial ²</i>	<i>depends on fuel tank size</i>



¹ Permanent generators start upon loss of grid power. They also exercise themselves automatically.

² Frequently powered: refrigerator, pumps (well, sump, septic), furnace, some lights, stove.

³ Permanent generators use propane or natural gas, portable use gasoline. Permanent models offer significantly longer operating times.

Image of portable generator provided by SafeElectricity.org

Member Notes

Our members are the reason Choptank Electric Cooperative exists. Without their support, it would be hard for us to move forward with current or new initiatives. Whether on social media, on the phone, or via old-fashioned letters sent along with their paper bills, our members love to let us know when their Co-op is doing a good job!

Comment about our broadband initiative:

Excited to finally get broadband! Thank you for helping us in the RURAL area.

Stark & Sue McLaughlin
Caroline County

Comment about Capital Credit return:

Best electric bill I've seen during my 55 years with Choptank!

Teddy & Connie Poole
Caroline County

Comment about Capital Credit return:

I want to thank Choptank Electric for my capital credit refund. This was a great help!

Margaret Kimble
Queen Anne's County

Choptank Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Choptank Electric, a Touchstone Energy Cooperative, is a not-for-profit, member-owned, electric distribution Co-op serving approximately 54,000 residential, commercial, and industrial members in all nine counties on Maryland's Eastern Shore.

President and CEO

Micheal E. Malandro

Board of Directors

Jeffrey D. Rathell Sr.
Chairman, Talbot Co.

John J. Burke Jr.
Vice Chairman, Cecil Co.

Douglas D. Scott
Secretary-Treasurer, Dorchester Co.

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Wicomico Co.

Robert B. Thompson
Ocean Pines District

Donna R. West
Worcester Co.

Craig N. Mathies Sr.
Somerset Co.

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 Maryland's Eastern Shore.

June 2020

- Rock Hall Police Dept. - \$600.00 (Body armor)
- Talbot Paramedics Foundation, Inc. - \$1,400.00 (Semi-automatic defibrillator)
- Maryland Community for Life - \$643.00 (Service to senior citizen community)
- Men for Change - \$1,500.00 (Helping at-risk youth)
- Rackliffe House Trust Inc. - \$750.00 (Maintenance on gravel lane)
- Claiborne Association, Inc. - \$500.00 (Electrical work)

The total of approved applications was \$15,703.24, which included \$10,310.24 for individual home and medical expenses.