

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](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  
*Secretary-Treasurer, Dorchester Co.*

Robert E. Arnold  
*Queen Anne's Co.*

Donna R. West  
*Worcester Co.*

Francis A. Callahan Jr.  
*Caroline Co.*

Olin S. Davis, III  
*Kent Co.*

Matthew R. Holloway  
*Wicomico Co.*

Robert B. Thompson  
*Ocean Pines District*

Carl R. Widdowson  
*Somerset Co.*



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## All Members Are Invited to the Annual Meeting!



All members are invited to attend Choptank Electric Cooperative's 81<sup>st</sup> annual meeting on Thursday, April 25, 2019. This year the annual meeting will be held at The Milestone, located at 9630 Technology Drive, Easton, MD.

The event begins with registration and refreshments at 4:30 p.m., and the business meeting will start at 6 p.m. You may also:

- » Check-in for the Luck of the Draw Scholarship
- » Recycle old electronics including PC's, laptops, batteries, TV's, tablets, and cell phones
- » Vote to elect three Directors: one each from the Caroline County, Wicomico County, and Worcester County Director Districts
- » Listen to quick, keynote presentations from Co-op employees

There will also be various community service and business vendors, and state-of-the-art utility trucks and equipment on display. At 6 p.m. the business meeting will begin with the new President and CEO reporting on all Co-op business during 2018.

**See Annual Meeting**  
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## New Electric Vehicle Charger in Cambridge!



Choptank Electric Cooperative is taking steps to bring more environmentally-friendly power options to local members and visit-

ing tourists by partnering with the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Visitor Center, to install a Level 2 ChargePoint® electric vehicle charger in their campus parking lot.

On Friday, December 7, 2018, Choptank Electric employees spent a few hours educating state employees on the newly activated charger and electric vehicles. The Level 2 station provides AC at 240-volts and is available to any EV driver who has the ChargePoint network or app.

**See Electric Vehicle**  
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## Annual Meeting

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During the business meeting, the results of voting for the board of directors will be announced and at the meeting's conclusion, the Luck of the Draw scholarships and door prizes will be awarded.

During the month of March, members will be receiving a ballot, the annual meeting notice, and candidate biographies in the voting packet. This voting packet will be sent as a separate mailing or as an email for members who receive paperless billing. Members are asked to cast their vote in advance either via mail-in ballot or email, but if you cannot, you can also cast your vote at the annual meeting. If you are attending the annual meeting, please RSVP your attendance no later than Thursday, April 18,

2019. Members may call in their RSVP to the Member Service Center at 1.877.892.0001 or email at [2019annualmeeting@choptankelectric.coop](mailto:2019annualmeeting@choptankelectric.coop).

The annual meeting is an opportunity for you to exercise one of the greatest benefits of being a member of an electric co-op: voting for the upcoming year's board of directors. Unlike investor-owned utilities, Choptank Electric is run by a democratically elected board of directors – a board who is given the privilege to serve because of your vote. A democratic and open election is one of the Seven Cooperative Principles making our electric cooperative stand out from other utilities. We look forward to seeing you at the 81st Annual Meeting!

## How to Report Outages

Choptank Electric members can report outages in a few different ways. Members can report outages by either using SmartHub Web, or the SmartHub App. Once logged in just select "Report An Outage." It's that easy!

Additionally, members can also report outages by calling the Outage Reporting Number: 1-800-410-4790.

Members can call this number, day or night, 24/7 and report an outage with the automated system. If you have any questions on how to sign up for SmartHub or how to report outages, call our Member Service Center at 1-877-892-0001.



## Keep in touch with your Co-op!

Update your information today, including phone numbers and email addresses. Updating contact information will ensure you receive notifications about planned outages, callbacks for when power has been restored during power outages, communication updates and more. Call the Member Service Center at 1.877.892.0001 to update your information.



## Electric Vehicle

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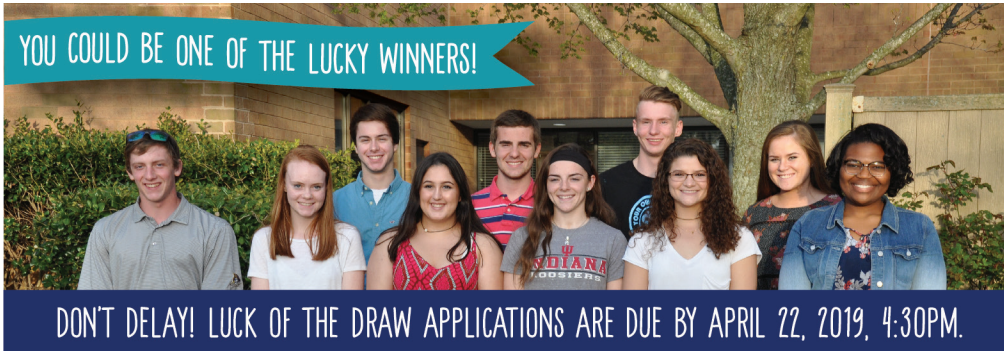
For some perspective, It takes a Level 2 charger 1 hour to give an EV approximately 26 miles of range.

“With this new EV charger, we hope to build a better future for electric vehicles on the Eastern Shore,” said Mike Wheatley, President and CEO of Choptank Electric Cooperative. “Partnering with the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Visitor Center was a perfect way to boost tourism and reduce range anxiety.”

This EV charger is the first of its kind to be installed in a Maryland State Park. Choptank Electric Cooperative looks forward to installing more chargers in other locations to encourage the use of EV vehicles in our local communities.



# Attend Annual Meeting and Win A Scholarship!



Choptank Electric will present ten \$1,000 educational scholarships at the close of its annual meeting to be held Thursday, April 25, 2019. In addition, the board will also be awarding a \$2,000 scholarship in honor of David Bruning, who retired in September as board member from Worcester County.

To apply for this scholarship, the application MUST be completed prior to the annual meeting, Applicants MUST meet the following qualifications:

- » Complete the new Luck of the Draw Packet found on our website at [www.choptankelectric.coop](http://www.choptankelectric.coop) under Annual Meeting OR Scholarships Submission directions can be found on the application and you will receive a confirmation phone call when your packet has been processed
- » Submit this packet to the Co-op by April 22, 2019 at 4:30pm
- » Be a graduating high school senior OR Co-op member
- » Be enrolled or planning to enroll at an accredited two or four year college, university, or a technical school for the 2019 fall term
- » The parent or legal guardian, who is an active Choptank Electric Cooperative member, must accompany the student to the annual meeting
- » Both the student and active member are present at the end of the Annual Meeting
- » Winners of prior years, employees, and dependents of Choptank Electric who are members, and Board of Directors and their dependents are not eligible to participate.

Applicants must check-in at the Luck of the Draw Scholarship table at the Annual Meeting with their active, registered, Choptank Electric member before 6 P.M. to be entered for the drawing. When you submit the application, either via email or mail, you will receive a confirmation that we received your completed packet. If you do not receive a confirmation that we received your packet, please follow up to ensure we have received the packet. Finally, you will also receive a phone call once your application has been processed.

## What is an active member?

An active member is the member whose name appears on the electric account. If your name does not appear on the bill, you are not considered an active member and you should consider adding your name to the account so that you can attend the Annual Meeting with the applicant.

*\*Scholarships must be redeemed by August 31, 2019.*

# Candidates Up for Election in 2019

For full biographies of all candidates running for election, please visit our website at [www.choptankelectric.coop](http://www.choptankelectric.coop), or call our Member Service Center at 1.877.892.0001. Members will also receive the biographies when the ballots are mailed or emailed to members.

## Caroline County

- » Amy I. Brandt
- » Jackie M. Keats
- » Glen E. Plutschak
- » Dean R. Voorhees
- » Robert L. Willey

## Wicomico County



Matthew R. Holloway

## Worcester County



Donna R. West



**Choptank Electric's Co-op Connections® program gives your business the opportunity to reach our membership.**

Interested?  
Scan the QR Code and complete the "Looking to become a business partner" form located at the bottom of the page.



# Space Heater Safety Tips

Space heaters are a great way to warm specific rooms in your home without having to crank up the thermostat, but using space heaters doesn't come without risk! Use the tips below to keep your home safe.

**DO:** Plug your space heater directly into the wall outlet.

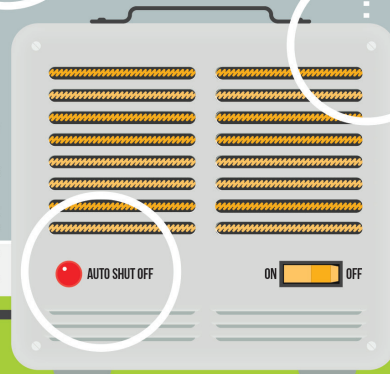


**DO:** Keep your space heater in low-moisture rooms.

**DO:** Keep your space heater at a safe distance (at least 3 feet) from kids, pets and flammable items.



**DO:** Buy a unit with an automatic shutoff in case the unit tips over, or you forget to shut it off.



**DO:** Always follow the directions and take a broken space heater to a qualified appliance service center.



**DON'T:** Leave your space heater unattended. Always unplug it before you leave the house or go to bed.



**DON'T:** Use an extension cord to plug in your space heater. It can cause the heater to over-heat, and can be a tripping hazard.

**DON'T:** Place your space heater near curtains, clothing, furniture or bedding.



**DON'T:** Try to repair a broken space heater yourself.



**DON'T:** Put your space heater in your bathroom. The moisture can damage the unit, which could cause it to malfunction.

## December 2018 Trust Awards

- Delmarva Council Boy Scouts of America - \$1,000 equipment
- Eastern Shore Rowers - \$400 life jackets
- Talbot Special Riders - \$1,100 animal care
- Delmarva Discovery Center - \$2,000 doors
- Mid shore Community Mediation Center - \$1,000 software
- Hickory Hornets - \$700 training
- Furnace Town Living Heritage Village - \$2,400

building maintenance

The total of approved applications for December was \$17,904.00 which included \$9,304.00 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.**

