

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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 Ocean Pines District

Carl R. Widdowson
 Somerset Co.



Your secure, online
 bill payment system

Co-op Connections Card Has an App for that!

Choptank Electric Cooperative began the Co-op Connections Card program in 2011 to provide value to our members and our community. All



of these great discounts and benefits, once offered only in-store or on the www.connections.coop website, can now be found using the new Co-op Connections app!

Members can download the app by going to their App Store or Google Play and typing in "Co-op Connections." Create an account, and start saving right away!

Members can save on:

- » Healthy savings discounts for prescriptions at the pharmacy, dental and more
- » Cash Back online shopping at over 3,000 retailers
- » Hotels savings at over 400,000 hotels
- » Save 10% on all concerts, sports events, and theaters
- » Insurance savings to protect your family
- » National discounts to help you save money wherever you travel

Members who do not want to use the app can still get the discounts using the card and the website at www.connections.coop.

Find more details about the app and discounts you can receive, visit our website at www.choptankelectric.coop/co-op-connections-card.



Robert P. Behlke Retires after 44 years of Service



After 44 years of dedicated service to Choptank Electric Cooperative, Mr. Robert P. Behlke, Vice President of Member Affairs, retired on Friday, January 4, 2019.

Mr. Behlke began his career at Choptank Electric Cooperative in 1974 as an Engineering Aide. Throughout the years, he worked his way through the Co-op, beginning with lineman training in 1977, to Journeyman Lineman in 1980.

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Behlke

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He was also elected President of the Local Union 1707 from 1982 - 1984.

In 1987, he became a Serviceman and was promoted to Denton District Manager in 1991 where he managed the operations, construction, and member services for the entire Denton District. He was appointed to be the Special Projects Manager in 1991 where he was responsible for overseeing subsidiary business projects, such as Choptank Security and cell phone sales, as deregulation came to Maryland. Mr. Behlke was appointed to Vice President of Consumer Affairs in 2001 which oversaw the entire Member Services department which included the Member Service Center, marketing and communi-

cations, energy efficiency programs, key accounts, and government and legislative affairs. Finally, in 2010 his title was changed to Vice President of Member Affairs.

“I am so fortunate to have worked my entire career at Choptank Electric Cooperative. This company has afforded me many opportunities which I will forever be grateful for,” said Bob Behlke as he reminisced about his career. “While I am sad to be leaving my Member Services Team, I am looking forward to enjoying the next part of my life with my wife, Debbie, children, and grandchildren.”

“Choptank Electric Cooperative thanks Bob for all of his hard work and dedication to the Cooperative and its members throughout all the years. The Co-op would not be where it is today without him,” said Mike Wheatley, President and CEO of Choptank Electric Cooperative. “He is leaving behind a legacy that won’t be forgotten.”



New SmartHub Feature: Change kWh to Cost

Another new feature has been added to SmartHub called the usage and cost toggle. This feature allows members to see their usage based on kWh or based on dollar amount. This feature could help members better understand how much energy they are using

day-to-day and assist with building budgets.

Call our Member Service Center at 1-877-892-0001 if you need any help finding this new feature!



In SmartHub Web, this feature can be found in the “My Usage” Tab, under, “Usage Explorer,” and in the SmartHub app it can be found in the “Daily Usage” page, under the gear box “Settings.”

Call our Member Service Center at 1-877-892-0001 if you need any help finding this new feature!

\$2,000 Scholarship Opportunity for High School Seniors!



If you are a high school or home school senior whose parents or guardians are members or employees of Choptank Electric Cooperative, you could be eligible to apply for the Choptank Electric Trust Scholarship which is distributed by the Choptank Electric Trust Board, a 501-c-3 organization. Applicants must be entering a post high school

educational institution as a freshman in the fall of 2019.

The Choptank Electric Trust Board distributes seven \$2,000 scholarships every May and 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 I have chosen to pursue a higher education degree and how this scholarship will assist me.”

Reference letters are required with a maximum of three per student. Reference letters may be from school administrators, teachers, civic leaders, clergy or neighbors, but may not be submitted from relatives.

The Academic Information Section of the application must be completed by your guidance counselor or other appropriate school official. Please submit the completed application to:

Choptank Electric Trust Scholarship
Attn: Laurie Bireley
P.O. Box 426
Denton MD 21629

Any incomplete applications will not be considered. The application must be postmarked no later than, or hand-delivered to the Denton or Salisbury District offices, by 4:30 p.m. by end of business on Monday, March 11, 2019. Applications postmarked after this date will not be eligible for consideration. For additional information and the application, please call Laurie Bireley, 1.877.892.0001, ext. 7733 or visit our website at www.choptankelectric.coop and under Member Benefits, click on Scholarships.



BE PREPARED BEFORE A STORM STRIKES

In the event of a power outage, be prepared by keeping the following items in an easy-to-find emergency supply kit.



■ WATER

Three-day supply, one gallon per person per day.



■ TOOLS

Flashlight, extra batteries, manual can opener, battery-powered or hand-crank radio, NOAA Weather Radio with tone alert.



■ FIRST AID KIT AND PRESCRIPTIONS

First aid supplies, hand sanitizer and at least one week's supply of prescriptions and medications for the family.

Learn more at
www.ready.gov



Source: American Red Cross, Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Choptank Electric Supports Food For Learning

To support a worthy cause, Choptank Electric Cooperative employees sold over 1,000 raffle tickets to the local community to support the Food for Learning program in Caroline County. These sales raised \$2,500 for the Food for Learning program.

Food for Learning is a group of volunteers who work



in the Caroline County School system to solve the food insecurity issues

plaguing many children throughout Caroline County. In Caroline County, according to the Maryland State

Department of Education, 53.7% of students in kindergarten through 12th grade are enrolled in a free or reduced lunch program. This group facilitates fundraising which provides food on weekends for food insecure children in the school system who might otherwise go hungry.

The winner of the raffle, Jenni Lewis, was awarded a 2 minute Wal-Mart shopping spree which she generously donated back to the community.



**HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS!
APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2019
YOUTH TOUR PROGRAM ARE DUE:
JANUARY 31**



October 2018

Trust Awards

- Salvation Army - \$250 food
- Centerville UMC - \$500 food pantry
- National Outdoor Foundation - \$250 tables
- Brian's Song - \$500 music

The total of approved applications for October was

\$27,265.46 which included \$24,442.46 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.



November 2018

Trust Awards

- Betterton Fire Company - \$2,500 gas detection meters
- Little Sisters of Jesus and Mary - \$1,300 copier
- Critchlow Adkins Children's Centers - \$500 play-ground equipment

- Queen Anne's Chorale - \$500 keyboard
- Maryland FFA Assoc. - \$500 convention fees
- Haven Ministries - \$750 supplies
- Caroline Optimist - \$500 shop with a cop

The total of approved applications for November was \$26,625.00 which included \$20,075.00 for individual home and medical expenses.