



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

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1-800-410-4790,
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Choptank Electric Hires Grassroots Veteran to Engage Membership



Choptank Electric Cooperative has hired Valerie Connelly as the new Vice President of Government Affairs and Public Relations, who will begin her duties on Monday, July 1, 2019.

Prior to this new position, Connelly was the Executive Director for the Maryland Farm Bureau, which is a grassroots organization that promotes the policies and views of its members at the local, state, and federal levels of government on behalf of more than 26,000 farm and rural families.

Serving on staff with the Maryland Farm Bureau since May of 1995, Connelly served as Executive Director for the Maryland Farm Bureau since November 2013. Her extensive experience includes serving as the Legislative Director for three mem-

See Grassroots Veteran
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The Choptank Trust Board Remembers Jack Wegener

Looking back over the past 15 years, the Choptank Trust Board has been very fortunate to have great volunteers join the board. These previous board members laid the ground work for establishing a brand-new way of giving back to our communities through Operation Round Up, and spent long hours creating by-laws, policies, and applications.

We lost one of those people recently, Jack Wegener. Wegener served in the US Army during World War II, and graduated from the University of Pennsylvania, The Wharton School, in 1952. As an entrepreneur and inventor, Wegener owned 13 patents ranging from telescopes to medical devices.

As the Caroline County representative, Wegener was the first board member to advocate about the power of the penny. He often gave trust board members rolls of pennies, to reinforce how the combined value of pennies could make such a difference.

We learned so much from Wegener and he will be missed.

Seasoned Litigator Sworn In As New Board Attorney



On Thursday, April 25, 2019 after the 81st Annual Meeting, Justin B. Aronson was sworn in as the new Choptank Electric Cooperative Board attorney, succeeding Michael Hickson who retired.

Mr. Aronson is a partner at the law firm of Coon & Cole, LLC in Easton, MD where he specializes in the handling of construction contract drafting and negotiation, complex commercial litigation, construction litigation, municipal litigation, and family law.

Justin is a 2008 graduate of the Syracuse University College of Law, where he served as a Research Assistant to Legal Research and Writing Professor Richard S. Risman. He is also the author of a published scholarly article entitled Lessons for the United Kingdom: How Registration and Prospectus Requirements Have Inhibited Condo-Hotel Investment Offerings, 35 *Syr. J. Int'l Law & Com.* 95 (2007). He is admitted to practice before the State courts of Maryland and Florida, the United States District Court for the District of Maryland, and the United States District Court for the Middle District of Florida.

Justin proudly serves on the Board of Directors of The Assistance Fund, a non-profit patient assistance organization. He resides in Easton with his wife Kristen and their two children. In his free time, he enjoys golf, cycling and spending time with his family.

“We are looking forward to Justin joining the Choptank Electric team,” said Jeffrey Rathell, Chairman of the Board at Choptank Electric Cooperative. “We interviewed many candidates and thought he would make a perfect addition to help our board make sound legal decisions for our members.”

Meet Thomas Tyndall: Member Service Administrator

Thomas Tyndall was recently awarded the position of Member Services Administrator, after the retirement of Robert P. Behlke, who served as the Vice President of Member Services. As Member Services Administrator, Tyndall will lead the Member Services division, including the call center, key accounts program, energy efficiency program, and will oversee regional member service management.

Mr. Tyndall has seen both the operations and member service sides of the cooperative. He joined Choptank Electric on July 24, 1986 as an Operations Field Helper. Four years later, Tyndall made a move to the Member Service department on May 1, 1990 as a Member Service Advisor. In 2008, he stepped into the emerging field of energy efficiency, as Choptank Electric's official Energy Program Coordinator. He became increasingly proficient in providing members the guidance needed to tackle home improvement projects that would help them make their homes

as efficient as possible, with the help of energy efficiency programs such as the Water Heater program, which Tyndall helped pioneer.

“I am most excited about leading a strong team of experienced and dedicated professionals in Member Services and advancing many objectives that will enhance the positive relationship the Cooperative has with our diverse residential, agricultural, business and industrial/commercial members” said Tyndall.

Since his appointment in January, Tyndall has made important changes that are reshaping the Member Service department, by hiring from within for two key positions: Kris Amsel as Key Accounts Specialist and Justus Gellert as Energy Efficiency Coordinator.



Three Things You Probably Didn't Know About Generator Safety

If you own a generator, chances are you could be at risk of electrocution, fire injury, property damage, or carbon monoxide poisoning if you do not follow the necessary safety rules. When the power goes out, make sure you know these guidelines before using your generator:

- ✓ **Never connect a generator directly to your home's wiring unless your home has been wired for generator use.** This can cause backfeeding along power lines and electrocute anyone coming in contact with them, including lineworkers making repairs. Have a licensed electrician install the equipment necessary to safely connect emergency generators to your home.
- ✓ **Always plug appliances directly into generators.** Connecting the generator to your home's circuits or wiring must be done by a qualified, licensed electrician who will install a transfer switch to prevent backfeeding.
- ✓ **Use heavy-duty, outdoor-rated extension cords.** Make sure extension cords are free of cuts or tears and the plug has three prongs. Overloaded cords can cause fires or equipment damage.

Want even more generator safety tips? Keep reading:

- Ensure your generator is properly grounded.
- Never overload a generator. A portable generator should only be used when necessary to power essential equipment or appliances.
- Turn off all equipment powered by the generator before shutting it down.
- Keep the generator dry. Operate it on a dry surface under an open structure.
- Always have a fully charged fire extinguisher nearby.
- Never fuel a generator while it is operating.
- Read and adhere to the manufacturer's instructions for safe operation. Never cut corners when it comes to safety.

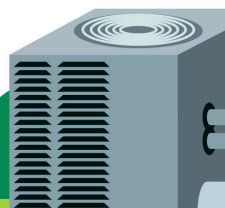
We encourage you to protect the well-being and safety of your family during outages, and safeguard those who come to your aid during emergency situations. When we work together for safety and the good of our communities, we all benefit.

3-Step HVAC Test

As summer temperatures rise, so do electric bills. Follow these steps to test the efficiency of your HVAC unit.

The outdoor temperature should be above 80 degrees, and you should set your thermostat well below the room temperature to ensure the system runs long enough for this test.

1. Using a digital probe thermometer (about \$12), measure the temperature of the air being pulled into your HVAC filter.
2. Measure the temperature of the air blowing out of your A/C vent.
3. Subtract the A/C vent temperature from the HVAC filter temperature. You should see a difference of about 17 to 20 degrees. If the difference is less than 17 degrees, you may need a licensed technician to check the coolant. If the difference is greater than 20 degrees, your ductwork may need to be inspected for airflow restrictions.



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Grassroots Veteran

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bers of the House of Representatives on Capitol Hill for 10 years, and she served as primary staff contact for the Energy & Commerce Committee, the Banking & Financial Services Committee, and the Judiciary Committee.

In addition, she served on the Governor's Commission on Migratory and Seasonal Farm Labor, has served as 1st Vice Chair of the FORVM for Rural Maryland and as a member of the Maryland Air Quality Control Advisory Council.

She has also been a member of the Department of Agriculture's Nutrient Management Advisory Committee, the Task Force on Agricultural Land Preservation and the American Farm Bureau Federation's Gen-

eral Counsel Advisory Committee. Currently, Valerie serves on the steering committee to implement the Maryland Agricultural Commission's Strategic Plan for Agriculture and is on the board of the LEAD Maryland Foundation. Valerie holds a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Political Science from American University.

"We are very pleased that Valerie is joining the Choptank Electric team," said Mike Malandro, President and CEO of Choptank Electric Cooperative. "We are looking forward to engaging with our local representatives, political leaders, and our members to bring about positive change."

She resides in Cecil County, Maryland with her husband, Steve.

2018 Capital Credit Allocation

Choptank Electric Cooperative is a non-profit member-owned utility. Any margins (profits) above the cost of service are allocated back to our member/owners based on how much electricity each member purchased during the year.

The 2018 capital credit allocation was processed in June 2019, after the 2018 financial statements were reviewed and audited. The 2018 capital credit allocation notice for active members will be shown on the July 2019 electric bill in the left message area above the bill stub. Inactive members with 2018 electricity billings will be mailed a separate allocation notice.

The capital credits (margins) allocated to members' accounts for 2018 totals \$13,286,307. This is allocated between Choptank Electric Cooperative, which

totals \$12,021,677 and Old Dominion Electric Cooperative (ODEC), Choptank's energy supplier, which totals \$1,264,630.

The Choptank Electric Board of Directors reviews the Co-op portion of capital credits each year and decides how and when to repay the amounts allocated. Their decision is based on a variety of factors including the overall financial condition of the Cooperative. Any decision to repay the ODEC portion of capital credits would be entirely contingent upon refunds received from Choptank's energy supplier.

If you have questions about your capital credits, please contact our Member Service Center at 1-877-892-0001. Please have your account number available when you call.

May 2019 Trust Awards

- Worcester County Gold - \$500 (Computer)
- Tilghman Area Youth Association - \$585 (Mobile Science Lab)
- Preston VFC - \$500 (Vehicle Modifications)
- Community Fire Co. of Millington - \$500
- Team 360 - \$455
- Great Pocomoke Fair - \$2,500
- Rackliffe House Trust - \$1,000

- Upper Shore Aging - \$1,450 (Meals on Wheels)
- Swim OC - \$2,500

The total of approved applications for May was \$27,283.99 which included \$16,968.99 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.

