

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

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Choptank Electric Board Names Mike Malandro New President and CEO



The Choptank Electric Cooperative Board of Directors has selected Mike Malandro as the next President and CEO of Choptank Electric Cooperative. He will succeed President and CEO Mike Wheatley, who will retire March 31, 2019, after 25 years of dedicated service to the Cooperative.

Mike has served as President and CEO of Prince George Electric Cooperative in Waverly, Virginia for the last four years, while also leading the cooperative's broadband business, "Ruralband" for the last two years. The broadband project has been recognized throughout the nation and state as an innovative approach to a rural broadband solution.

See Malandro
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Homeschool Groups Learn Electrical Safety



Choptank Electric hosted several homeschool classes and their families on Friday, January 25, 2019 at our Regional Service Center in Salisbury. Electrical safety, energy conservation, and renewable energy were just some of the classroom topics discussed while the linemen also demonstrated the use of linemen tools, trucks, and equipment.

See Homeschool Collage
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Malandro

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Mike's ability to work with local governments and utilize partnerships with local non-profits, state, and local governments to strengthen economic prosperity for rural Virginia has been highly popular with Co-op members and leaders alike. He has demonstrated leadership and supports regionalism to spur employment and capital investment within the communities the Co-op serves.

Mike is a Professional Engineer licensed in the states of Virginia and Maryland. He holds a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from West Virginia University, and completed NRECA's prestigious Robert I. Kabat Management Program. He is a Veteran of the U.S. Army and West Virginia National Guard. In addition, Mike currently serves as director on numerous organization boards including, the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative (NRTC), Old Dominion Electric Cooperative (ODEC), Virginia Maryland Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives (VMDAEC), Virginia Gateway Region EDO, and Girls Scouts of

the Commonwealth of Virginia.

"Executing a strong vision requires leadership, innovative thinking, and relationship skills," said Malandro about his leadership style. "My passion for the cooperative business model and serving the rural communities will continue to ensure long term value for Choptank Electric's membership. I am excited to be coming to Maryland's Eastern Shore and I look forward to working closely with our Board, employees and members to lead Choptank Electric into the future."

Malandro is slated to start April 1, 2019. "The Board of Directors and I are pleased with our selection and we feel that Choptank Electric is in good hands with Mr. Malandro," said Jeffrey Rathell, Chairman of the Board at Choptank Electric, "he has the experience and leadership Choptank Electric needs to continue being the local Co-op that brings excellent overall service to our communities."

Pay your Bill with MoneyGram



Members can now pay their electric bills at any MoneyGram® locations like Wal-mart, or CVS.



MoneyGram®
money transfer

To pay your bill through MoneyGram, all you will need is our company name, Choptank Electric Cooperative, your account number, and your credit /debit card information or cash when paying in person.

Members will have to pay MoneyGram a \$1.50 transaction fee, to use this service, and the pay-

ment will post to the member's account within a few minutes, seven days a week, between 7am - 9pm.

To find all MoneyGram locations, you can visit their website at [MoneyGram.com](https://www.MoneyGram.com) and use your zip code to find the closest station. It's just one more way we are making paying your bill more convenient!

Share Your Thoughts, Shape What's Ahead: 2019 online member survey coming this spring

Every other year, Choptank Electric Cooperative conducts a survey of its residential members on a variety of topics. This survey is designed to provide information that can be used to better serve our members' needs. Using the responses, Choptank Electric can modify existing programs to meet changing needs, add new programs, enhance communications with you, and more!

The survey will ask you about the construction of your home, the types and age of your heating and cooling systems, the number and age of appliances, how you connect to the Internet, and a variety of other topics. Unlike quizzes and tests in school, there is nothing you need to study or prepare for in advance. Just sit back, relax, and answer the questions to the best of your ability.

This year the survey will be conducted entirely online. The rationale for this approach is straightforward:

- Online surveying saves resources, no paper used or postage required.
- It is easy to complete and doesn't pick up stains from your coffee cup.
- It eliminates data entry errors.

Of course, the logical follow-up question is, "What if I don't have internet access or completing things online is difficult for me?"

Fortunately, there are a number of simple solutions. If your internet access is limited, try using a PC at your local library or at a family member/friend's home. Make an event of it and enjoy some good company while you provide input to help your cooperative deliver greater value. The survey also works very well on a tablet or smart phone.

As with all surveys, more is better so please, be sure to take a few minutes to provide your input. All answers are confidential unless you have a question or issue you would like your cooperative to contact you about. Just enter that request in the comment box at the end of the survey.

In mid-May, you will be sent a survey link via email. Please complete the survey as soon as you can. The goal is to have the data analyzed and a report prepared by August.

That's it. We all get barraged by survey requests when we are online. Many of those are designed to tailor online ads in your browser to tempt you to buy something. This survey is designed to equip your cooperative to add value to your service. So please, if possible, complete it. Thank you in advance for helping us!

Does your co-op have your current email address?

In order to participate in the survey your cooperative will need your current email address. Please send it to them in the near future so your input can become part of the results. Like all your account information, it is safe and secure with the cooperative.

Buy Discounted LEDs Through SmartHub!



Choptank Electric Cooperative's partnership with Cree Lighting and 1000Bulbs.com gives members a discounted price on a 4-pack of Cree Better Light LED 60-watt equivalent bulbs or a 3-pack of Cree LED bulbs for 6-inch recessed cans.

To order these discounted light-bulbs, all you have to do is log into your SmartHub account. If you are not signed up for SmartHub, it only takes a few minutes to create an account. It's easy!

These LEDs come with a 10-year 100% satisfaction guarantee, true all-around lighting, longer LED lifetime lasting 27+ years, and are fully dimmable. And they are ENERGY STAR® qualified. For discount details, log into your SmartHub account and click on the CREE banner.

You can order up to 5 packs, any combination, and only pay a total of \$4.00 shipping! *

**There is a limited quantity available during this promotional offer, so we must limit the purchase to no more than 5 packs total, any combination, per member.*

Homeschool Collage

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The event drew more than 60 students and parents who enjoyed the interactive displays. A crowd favorite was the Hotline Demonstration, which shows how electricity works, and reinforces electrical safety with hot dogs and tree limbs. We think we saw a couple future linemen in the group! Can you spot them?



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Spring is nearly here! Now is the perfect time to test your A/C and ensure it's ready for summer. Remember to check the evaporator coil, which should be cleaned annually for optimal efficiency.

Source: energy.gov



**Daylight saving time begins at
2:00 AM on Sunday, March 10!**

In observance of the Easter holiday, our offices
will be closed on Friday, April 19, 2019.

Happy Easter!



January 2018 Trust Awards

- Sudlersville Middle School 7th Grade - \$2,500 bus expenses for field trip
- Hope and Life Outreach (HALO) - \$2,000 mattresses
- Lifetime Wells - \$700 T-shirts

The total of approved applications for January was

\$16,933.88 which included \$11,733.88 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.

