

Compliance with the Governor's orders and CDC guidance in response to the COVID-19 crisis will make it impossible to achieve a quorum at the Cooperative's Annual Member Meeting. As such, the meeting will be adjourned from April 30, 2020, until August 13, 2020.

If subsequent guidance or administrative orders from federal or state authorities preclude the Annual Member Meeting from going forward in August, the meeting will be adjourned until the next available time when such a meeting can be conducted.

The Choptank Board of Directors wants its members to know that your safety is our primary concern. Please stay safe and thank you for your understanding and patience as we continue our mission of delivering power to the rural communities of Maryland's Eastern Shore.

Mike Malandro, CEO

82ND ANNUAL MEETING

Update Your Calendars! The 82 Annual Meeting Has a

The change of date and location does not mean less fun for our members! The annual meeting, now scheduled for Thursday, August 13th at the Wicomico Youth & Civic Center located at 500 Glenn Avenue in Salisbury, will have a variety of vendors, food, truck displays, and more! Registration and meal service will begin at 4:30 p.m., with the business meeting beginning at 6:00 p.m. The menu will be robust, and includes: Fried chicken, a roast beef carving station, white vegetarian lasagna, mac 'n' cheese, green beans, a variety of rolls, side salad, and apple pie and lemon cake for dessert.

All the same amenities will be available to our members during the annual meeting:

- Chat with employees and staff
- Mingle with legislators and your Board members
- View state-of-the-art utility trucks and equipment with our very own linemen
- Recycle old electronics including PCs, laptops, batteries, TVs, tablets, and cellphones with our Recycling Station
- Shred old documents with our mobile shredding unit that will be capable of shredding papers, books, and even CDs
- Repair your iPhone screen at no cost to members. It will be on a first-come, first-served basis, so schedule your appointment by Thursday, August 6, to reserve your spot.





Your Source for News & Information

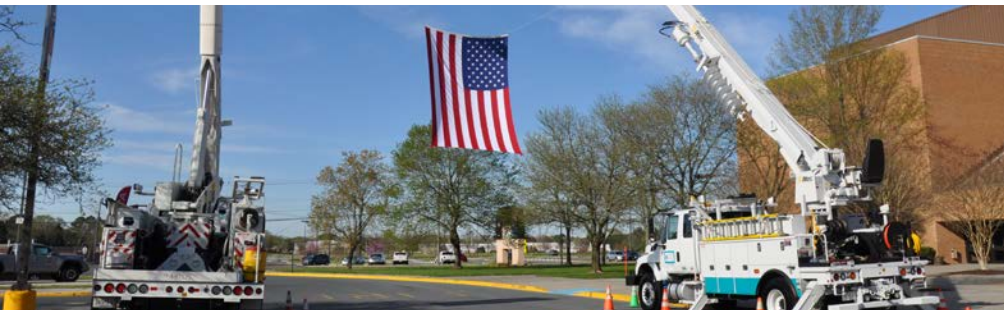


THIS MONTH'S FEATURES

- Annual Meeting.....Pg.18
- Special Meeting.....Pg.20
- The Census Matters!..Pg.22
- Hurricane Season.....Pg.23

ADJOURNED UNTIL AUG. 13

New Time and Place.



In addition to all the services and fun activities, there will be 10 \$1,000 Luck of the Draw scholarships and one \$2,000 scholarship awarded at the end of the Annual Meeting. The \$2,000 scholarship is in honor of Carl R. Widdowson's retirement from his Somerset Board seat in September 2019. For details about this scholarship, qualifications, and applications, please visit our website at www.choptankelectric.coop.

[choptankelectric.coop](http://www.choptankelectric.coop).

The business meeting will begin with President and CEO Mike Malandro reporting on all Co-op business during 2019. During the business meeting, board election results will be announced. At the meeting's conclusion, the Luck of the Draw scholarships and door prizes will be given away, followed by our annual meeting gift to members. The door prizes this year will be a variety of



Members will enjoy:

- Shredding services
- Electronics recycling
- iPhone repair service
- \$100 - \$500 door prizes
- Scholarships
- Full meal
- Camping chair gift
- And much more!

82nd Annual Meeting

bill credits ranging from \$100-\$500, and the annual meeting gift will be a deluxe camping chair, limited one per member number.

Further information about each Director Candidate is posted at Choptank Electric headquarters in Denton and is available at <https://choptankelectric.com/board-directors>.

The petitions for each of the four incumbent candidates have been approved by the Credentials and Elections Committee. Because there is only one approved Director candidate for each district, the Committee has invoked Bylaws section 4.06(b). This section states that in the event of an uncontested election, Choptank Electric may forgo the balloting process.

RSVP no later than Thursday, August 6, 2020, to reserve your seat! Members may call in their RSVP to the Member Service Center at 1-877-892-0001 or email at 2020annualmeeting@choptankelectric.coop.

A Special Meeting of Members

Following the business meeting, there will be a special meeting of members to consider the Cooperative's initiative to become member regulated. Members should have received an official notice about the meeting and the vote with a ballot in May. Our broadband plans are dependent upon the outcome of this vote.

Currently, Choptank Electric is regulated by the Maryland Public Service Commission and governed by our democratically elected Board of Directors. This duplicative regulation is costly and limits our reaction time to changes that could be beneficial to our membership — like broadband.

We encourage members to attend the following regional meetings to discuss member regulation and what it means to the Cooperative. Currently, meetings are scheduled from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.:

- **Wednesday, June 10, Choptank Electric Cooperative's Denton District Office, 24820 Meeting House Rd., Denton, MD 21629.**
- **Thursday, June 11, Choptank Electric Cooperative's Regional Service Center, 6520 Walston Switch Rd., Salisbury, MD 21804.**

Additional meeting dates and locations will be added through the month of July. Please check our website for the current list and to learn more about our broadband effort.

We look forward to seeing members at the regional meetings leading up to our annual and special meetings in August. If you have any questions, please call our Member Service Center at 1-877-892-0001 or visit our website at www.choptankelectric.coop.



Save Everywhere with Co-op Connections®

The Co-op Connections® Card is a free discount card exclusively for our members that provides discounts on everyday expenses that could help you save! Either with the card or the Co-op Connections App, you can find local, regional, and national deals to save money in and around your community.

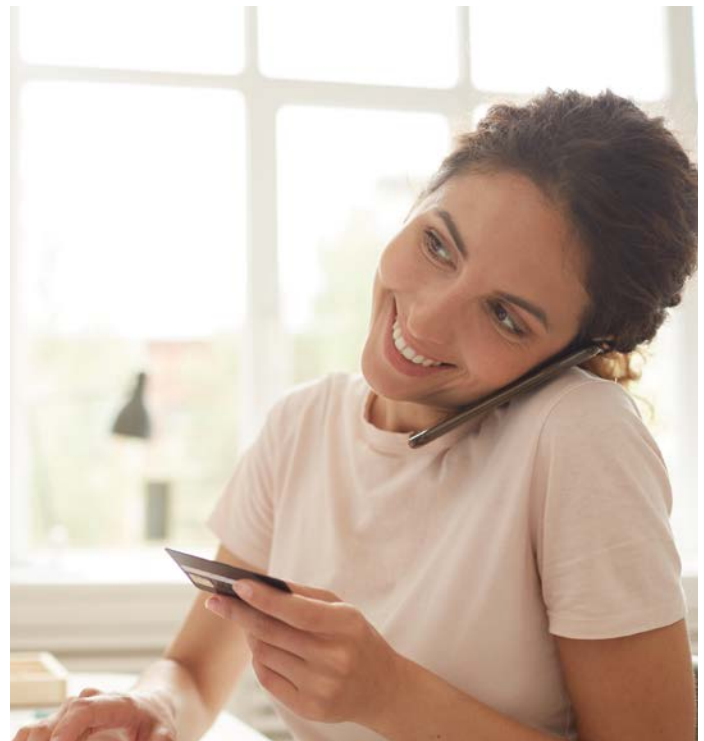
What kind of discounts can you find? All different kinds, which include:

- Healthy savings discounts for prescriptions, dental and more. You can potentially save up to 85% on lab testing and prescriptions, MRI and CT scans, diabetic supplies, chiropractor visits, receive discounts on Amplifon hearing aids, dental work, even at your vision provider.
- Cash Back Shopping means earning up to 20% cash back when you shop at over 3,000 online retailers nationwide.
- Free grocery coupons to use at your favorite stores.
- Hotel savings at over 400,000 locations.
- Save 10% on all concerts, sports events, and theaters.
- Insurance savings to protect your family.
- 24-Hour Roadside Assistance with towing, emergency fuel or supplies, tire change, lockout & jumpstart services for a convenient flat fee.

You can download the app in your Google Play or IOS store, and if apps aren't for you, members can still get the discounts using 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.

Want to try the Co-op Connections App right now? Scan the QR code below:



Find cash back offers, national retailer discounts, and more when you use the Co-op Connections App.



Download grocery coupons to save while shopping online or in-store.

Your 2020 Census Submission Matters

Did you know that federal and state funding depends on accurate information taken from the Census? The 2020 Census provides information to federal agencies for many different resources such as:

- Healthcare including vaccines, hospitals, clinics & emergency services
- SNAP/WIC
- School lunches, Head Start, before and aftercare programs
- Medicaid, Medicare & Children’s Health Program funding
- Water and waste disposal systems
- Roads and transportation
- Student loans
- Pell grants
- Section 8 housing vouchers
- Senior centers, health centers
- Rural broadband expansion
- Smart-grid infrastructure upgrades
- Rural development programs

Based upon the 2010 Census undercount, Maryland missed out on close to \$1 billion in federal funding, which breaks down to approximately **\$18,250** per per-

son over 10 years (or \$1,825 per person, per year) in missed federal funding. This is why we are asking our members to go online, call in, or complete the 2020 Census via traditional paper questionnaire so that the Eastern Shore gets the funding we desperately need for many of our programs (which could include your Co-op’s new broadband business).

Your responses are secure and confidential and cannot be shared outside of the Census Bureau, including with any law enforcement agencies such as ICE or FBI. The current deadline to complete the Census is July 31, 2020. For more information, please visit census.maryland.gov and you can complete the Census at my2020Census.gov.



Maryland missed out on close to \$1 billion in federal funding, which breaks down to approximately \$18,250 per person over 10 years.

Cecil Criss Retires After 27 Years of Service



Cecil Criss began working for Choptank Electric Cooperative in March of 1993 as a Distribution Engineer. He was promoted to Sr. Electrical Engineer in 1995.

“Choptank Electric has been a great place to work for the past 27 years. When you’re part of a co-op, it becomes an extended family. The brotherhood and camaraderie have been enjoyable — I have gained lots of good friends and acquaintances to last a lifetime!

The most rewarding part is a combination of the many challenges I faced over the years, and being able to meet our members’ needs. It is rarely a slow day and the challenges are sufficiently different to keep one from getting bored or stuck in a rut. Pretty much every situation is different, even situations that come up year after year.

I won’t be fully retiring. I look at it as a slow-down to prepare before full retirement. I like challenges and am looking forward to mastering the next one.”

The Cooperative would like to thank Cecil for his 27 years of dedicated service! And we wish Cecil good luck on his next endeavor.

Stay Safe While Staying In: The 2020 Hurricane Season

Be prepared now for the 2020 hurricane season that begins June 1 and ends November 30.
Be ready by:

Before the Storm:

- ✓ Signing up for SmartHub to report outages or use our Outage Reporting Number: 1-800-410-4790.
- ✓ Updating your account's contact information for call-back notifications and outage updates.
- ✓ Putting together an emergency kit and plan. Fill your kit with a flashlight, batteries, cash, first-aid supplies, medications, and copies of your critical information if you need to evacuate.
- ✓ Knowing the elevation level of your property and whether the land is flood-prone. This will help you prepare for the storm surge and any tidal flooding.
- ✓ Securing your home: Cover all windows with either storm shutters or boards, clear loose and clogged rain gutters, and bring all outdoor furniture indoors.
- ✓ Learning about your community's hurricane evacuation routes.

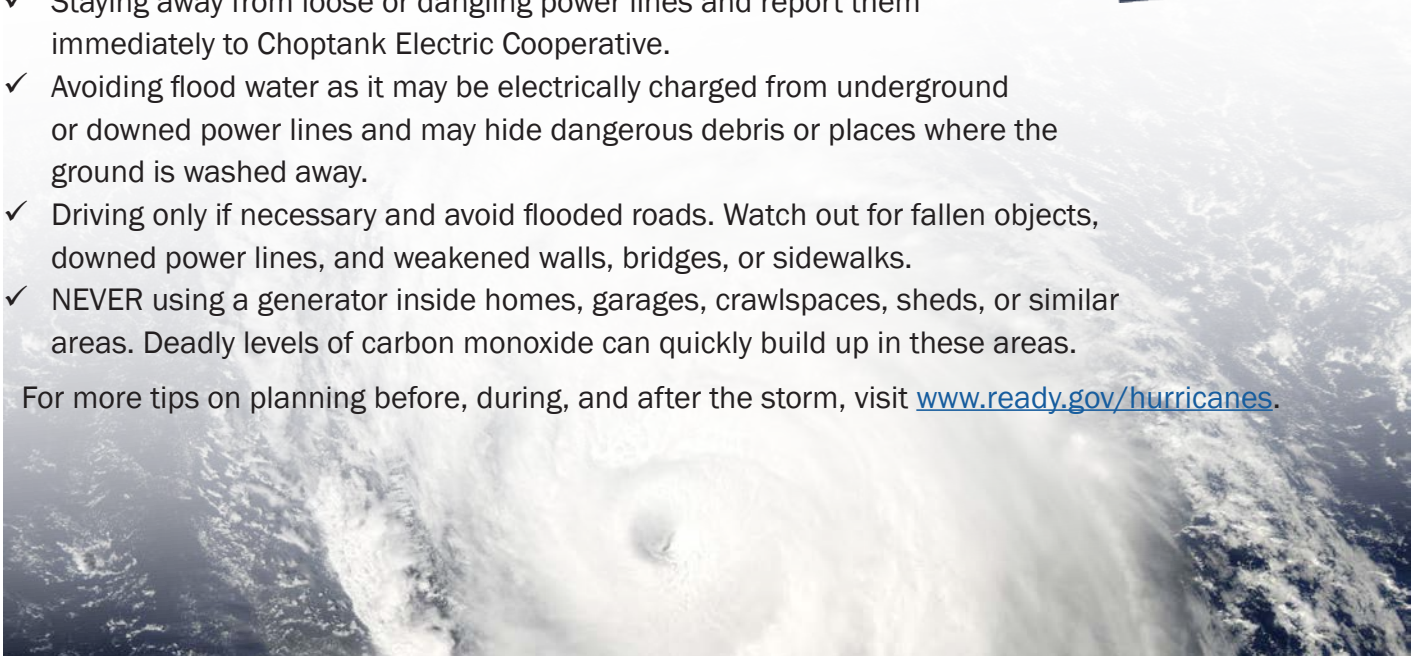
During the Storm:

- ✓ Listening to the radio or TV for information, if possible.
- ✓ Avoiding using the phone, unless there is an emergency.
- ✓ Turning off utilities if instructed to do so. Otherwise keep the refrigerator thermostat on the coldest setting and keep the doors closed.

After the Storm:

- ✓ Staying away from loose or dangling power lines and report them immediately to Choptank Electric Cooperative.
- ✓ Avoiding flood water as it may be electrically charged from underground or downed power lines and may hide dangerous debris or places where the ground is washed away.
- ✓ Driving only if necessary and avoid flooded roads. Watch out for fallen objects, downed power lines, and weakened walls, bridges, or sidewalks.
- ✓ NEVER using a generator inside homes, garages, crawlspaces, sheds, or similar areas. Deadly levels of carbon monoxide can quickly build up in these areas.

For more tips on planning before, during, and after the storm, visit www.ready.gov/hurricanes.



PCA Credit to Decrease Members' Bills

Choptank Electric has proposed to the Maryland Public Service Commission a change in the Power Cost Adjustment (PCA). Upon approval from the Commission, the new PCA will go into effect July 1, 2020.

A residential member using 1,000 kilowatt hours (kWh) per month will see a decrease of \$0.84 per month. The PCA is currently a credit of \$0.00296/kWh. The proposed PCA, effective with the July 1st billing, will be a credit of \$0.00380/kWh.

The PCA is a separate line item on each Choptank Electric bill that reflects the increases or decreases in the Co-op's cost of wholesale power purchased from Old Dominion Electric Cooperative (ODEC).

Any fluctuation in the PCA is mainly caused by changes in the cost of purchased power driven by the fuel used to generate electricity.

ODEC continues to work diligently to produce and procure the power required by its members with affordability and reliability as their primary concerns. Without Power Cost Adjustments, utility base rates would be constantly changing to reflect increases and decreases in the cost of power.



Board of Directors Approves \$4 Million in Capital Credits

During this turbulent time, the Choptank Electric Cooperative Board of Directors wants to help by giving back. In an effort to relieve financial stress on members caused by the COVID-19 crisis, the Board voted on Friday, May 1, 2020, to retire \$4 million in capital credits.

The unprecedented \$4 million will be returned to anyone who was a member during 2018. "We know that every dollar helps, and we want to be here for our members during this time of crisis," said Jeff Rathell, Chairman of the Board at Choptank Electric Cooperative. "We are activating this equity return six months in advance to benefit Co-op members when they most need it."

To make this as convenient as possible, the funds will be returned to members as a credit directly on June electric bills. The amount received during any capital credit retirement is based on the amount of electricity the member purchased during the retirement year.

"The average residential bill last June was \$130," explained Doug Scott, Secretary-Treasurer of the Board. "We expect the average credit generated by the Board action to be around \$77 per member, which is a huge help particularly for those who are experiencing financial uncertainty during the pandemic."



Choptank Electric Cooperative delivers electricity to rural homes and businesses in nine counties on Maryland's Eastern Shore. When someone signs up to receive electric service from Choptank Electric, they become a "member" of the Cooperative, not a customer. While investor-owned utilities seek to generate profits that can be returned to their shareholders, electric co-ops operate on an "at-cost basis." Co-ops return profits to their members. Choptank Electric Cooperative annually allocates and periodically retires capital credits to its members. That is the Cooperative difference, where members are first, every day.

About 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.

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

President and CEO
Micheal E. Malandro



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REMAIN VIGILANT! Common Scams During a Crisis

-  **Undelivered goods:** Online sellers claim they have in-demand products, and when you place an order, you never receive your shipment.
-  **Fake charities:** When a major health event — like the Corona-virus — happens, you might be looking for ways to help.
-  **Fake emails, texts and phishing:** Scammers use fake emails or texts to get you to share valuable personal information — like account numbers, Social Security numbers, or your login IDs and passwords.
-  **Misinformation and rumors:** Scammers, and sometimes well-meaning people, share information that hasn't been verified.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Home cooling makes up a large portion of your energy bills. Try to keep the difference between the temperature of your thermostat setting and the outside temperature to a minimum. The smaller the difference, the more energy you will save.

