



Choptank Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy[®] Cooperative 

Choptank Fiber

March 2022

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P.O. Box 430 | Denton, MD | 21629

Toll-Free: 1-877-892-0001

Outage Reporting: 1-800-410-4790

Automated Member Service: 1-866-999-4574



All Members are Welcome at the 84th Annual Meeting!

The Meeting will be on Thursday, April 28, 2022

Members are invited to join Choptank Electric Cooperative for our 84th Annual Meeting on Thursday, April 28, 2022, at the Wicomico Youth and Civic Center, located at 500 Glen Ave., Salisbury, MD 21804. Currently, we are planning a live meeting, but depending on COVID-19 restrictions and guidelines in effect at the time of the meeting, the Annual Meeting may be

conducted virtually. Choptank Electric Cooperative will keep members informed via social media and email as additional plans are made.

The business portion of the 2022 Annual Meeting will begin at 6 p.m. If we are able to hold the event in-person, registration and meal service will begin at 4:30 p.m.

As the Cooperative learns more, we may require members interested

in attending the meeting to RSVP in advance. If you would like Annual Meeting updates and do not follow us on social media or are not subscribed to our e-news, please call our Member Service Center to express your interest. You can RSVP a variety of ways:

- ✓ Call our Member Service Center at 1-877-892-0001
- ✓ Email annualmeeting@choptankelectric.coop



Have your name, account number, guests' names and number of guests ready when you contact us so that we can ensure you are registered appropriately. RSVP no later than Thursday, April 14, 2022.

Three Board members will be standing for re-election during the 2022 Annual Meeting.

- ✓ Amy Brandt, Caroline County representative
- ✓ Matthew Holloway, Wicomico County representative
- ✓ Donna West, Worcester County representative

Further information about each Director candidate is posted at Choptank Electric headquarters in Denton and is available at www.choptankelectric.coop. Their petitions 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 forego the balloting process. This saves the Cooperative and its members thousands of dollars in printing and mailing the ballots, along with the costs of other voting services.

The business meeting will begin with President and CEO Mike Malandro reporting on Co-op business during 2021. At the meeting's conclusion, the Luck of the Draw scholarships and door prizes will be awarded. The door prizes this year will be a variety of bill credits ranging from \$100 - \$500.

There will be ten \$1,000 Luck of the Draw scholarships awarded at the end of the Annual Meeting. For details about this scholarship, qualifications, and applications, please flip to the next page and/or visit our website. Under member benefits, click on scholarships.

For more information about the 2022 Annual Meeting, call our Member Service Center at 1-877-892-0001 or visit our website at www.choptankelectric.coop.



AMY BRANDT



MATTHEW HOLLOWAY



DONNA WEST

Scan to learn more about our board members up for re-election



Luck of the Draw Scholarships Awarded at Annual Meeting

The Luck of the Draw Scholarship is awarded by randomly selecting students from a live drawing at the end of our Annual Meeting. To enter the drawing, students must fill out a basic information application, read a Co-op article, and answer a ten-question quiz based off the Co-op article.

This year, the Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 28, 2022, at the Wicomico Youth and Civic Center. The Board of Directors will award ten \$1,000 scholarships to students who meet the following qualifications:

- Complete the Luck of the Draw Packet found on our website at www.choptankelectric.coop under Annual Meeting OR Scholarships. Submis-

sion directions can be found on the application, and you will receive a confirmation phone call/email when your packet has been processed.

- Submit this packet to the Co-op by April 21, 2022 by 3 p.m.;
- 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 2022 fall term;
- Winners of prior years, employees, and immediate family members of Choptank Electric are not eligible to participate.



We are not requiring students to attend the Annual Meeting this year due to COVID regulations, but students will still have to complete the application and submit before the appropriate date. Students will also be highly encouraged to watch the meeting via streaming options if they choose not to attend.

*Scholarships must be redeemed by 8/31/22



Helping Out “Snow” Matter What At home and in Virginia, Choptank Electric linemen shine.

By Elizabeth Hallett, Manager of Marketing & Communications



Choptank Fiber Connects Members on the Lower Shore



Ribbon cuttings for broadband connections were held in Worcester and Somerset Counties.

Choptank Fiber successfully installed gigabit-speed internet service in rural Worcester and Somerset Counties for the first time. To celebrate this milestone, we invited the community and elected officials for ribbon-cutting ceremonies held at Chesapeake Bay Dairy (Worcester County) and Hawks Corner (Somerset County).

Laura Holland, owner of Chesapeake Bay Dairy, said she was thrilled. “Since they connected our service, the kids haven’t stopped us-

ing it. I’ve been telling our neighbors how fast everything is when you get online, there is no waiting or spinning, items come up instantly.”

Mike Malandro, President and CEO, thanked members and staff of the Worcester County Commission. “This project is the start of internet connection for many unserved households on the lower Shore,” he explained. “Working together, we look forward to giving rural families and businesses, like the Hollands’ Dairy, access to reliable internet so their operation can

continue to develop here in Worcester County.”

Somerset County Commissioner President and Choptank Director Craig Mathies had this to say about the new fiber connection. “Broadband is vital to economic development and building our communities here in Somerset County... This will open up so many opportunities for our residents; this is what we need, and I want to thank all of you for your hard work.”

“We are pleased that we could serve other members in the region during Winter Storm Frida. Cooperatives helping other Cooperatives is at the core of how Co-ops do business.”

- Mike Malandro, President and CEO of Choptank Electric Cooperative

When Winter Storm Frida brought a blanket of ice and snow to the Eastern Shore on Monday, Jan. 3, Choptank Electric Cooperative was ready to serve its members immediately.

The outages were mostly concentrated in Talbot, Dorchester, Wicomico, and Caroline Counties with over 1,600 members without power

during the height of the storm. Throughout the course of the storm, there was a total of 2,571 members without power, but all members were restored before the day’s end.

After the storm ended, in an effort to assist other restoration efforts in our region, 10 linemen and two supervisors were sent to Rappahannock Electric Cooperative on

Wednesday, Jan. 5, to help restore power to 30,000 members.

Ten days later, they finally returned home on Thursday, January 13, after grueling 18-hour shifts. REC’s outages consisted mostly of downed power lines and poles caused by ice and trees, which takes time to rebuild, especially in the remote parts of their territory.

Choptank Electric Tariff Changes for the Irrigation Rate

As a Member - Regulated Cooperative, Choptank Electric's Board of Directors has the authority to establish and change rates created by the Cooperative. Here are a couple of recent changes for you to be aware of:

General Service-Irrigation (FI): effective with billings rendered on or after March 1, 2022

This is a revision of the current irrigation tariff. Demand charges no longer fluctuate based on the season, and a horsepower charge no longer applies. Each month,

when 500 kWh or less is consumed under this rate, only an energy (kWh) charge will apply. Both energy (kWh) and demand (kW) will be billed when consumption exceeds 500 kWh. Additionally, the applicability of the rate has been expanded.

Load Control Rider-Irrigation (LC-FI): effective with billings rendered on or after March 1, 2022

This is a voluntary rider that may be paired only with the General Service-Irrigation (FI) rate. Under this rider, members who curtail load

during specific peak periods are eligible for a curtailment credit.

An up-to-date version of the full Choptank tariff, which includes all rates, charges, and terms and conditions, is always available on the Rates page of the Cooperative website at www.choptankelectric.coop/rates under "Current Tariff."

Please email rates@choptankelectric.coop or call us at 1-877-892-0001 (ask for Rates Department) with questions.

A Legacy Committed to Safety and Training

Harvey retired after a 36-year career with the Co-op on November 30, 2021.



Jimmy Harvey
Manager of Safety,
Training, & Compliance

Over 36 years Jimmy Harvey, the Manager of Safety, Training, & Compliance, had seen and heard it all. The beginning of his career started at Choptank Electric Cooperative in 1985 as a dispatcher (now known as a system controller), where he soon entered into the apprentice lineman program. At 21 years of age, he was promoted to Chief Lineman after being a journeyman for three years, and eventually became the Manager of Operations of the Chestertown District office in 2000. After many years, he transitioned over to the safety training program and is retiring on that happy note.

Harvey's commitment to the safety of our crews and employees has always been his priority. "Some of my favorite memories were watching someone progress through the apprentice program, pass, become a journeyman, and then eventually get into management," Jimmy said. "It's a proud moment to watch those you mentored become everything they were capable of being."

He isn't letting retirement slow him down though. "I am looking forward to doing what I want, when I want, and how I want to do it," he chuckled. "I can finally concentrate on other pursuits, do some traveling, and just spend more time with my family."

Harvey retired on November 30, and we thank him for his many years of dedicated service!



Many Ways to Pay!

Options for every pocketbook

By Sarah M. Dahl, Vice President & General Counsel

At Choptank Electric Cooperative, members have many different payment methods to choose from. Did you know you had all these options? Read about how to pay your way at your Co-op.

PAY BY PHONE

1-866-999-4574
With our Automated Member Service Line, members can get account information and pay bills with a checking account or a credit card (no fee).

IN PERSON

Payments can be made with Check, Cash, or Money Order
Denton: 10384 River Road
Salisbury: 6520 Walston Switch Road

PAY BY MAIL

Mail in your payment stub with a check or money order. Please do not send cash. Write your account number on the check to ensure the credit is applied properly. Members can mail their payments to P.O. Box 430 Denton, MD 21629.

AUTO DRAFT

By filling out an authorization form, members are able to set up a recurring automatic monthly payment option. Forms are available online or by calling our Member Service Center 1-877-892-0001

PAY ONLINE



Paying online has never been easier with our secure billing system. SmartHub is easy, convenient, and simple. You can get billing notifications, report outages, pay your bill, view energy usage, go paperless, and much more. There are no fees for paying online.

MONEYGRAM

Pay your bill with cash in Walmart, CVS, or other locations. Posts payment same-day. \$1.50 fee.

DROPBOXES

Are available in these locations:
Denton: 24820 Meeting House Road
Salisbury: 6520 Walston Switch Road
Payments are posted on the next business day.

Board Chair Jeff Rathell Receives Board Leadership Certification

At the November Board Meeting, Jeff Rathell, Chairman of the Board, was presented with his Board Leadership Certification by Vice Chairman John Burke. This is an NRECA certification that recognizes directors that are committed to continuing their education beyond typical board education. This credential demonstrates their ongoing commitment to advancing knowledge and performing their fiduciary duty to the best of their ability. Congratulations, Jeff!



**“Christmas presents come and go
but the Christmas memories
will last a lifetime.” -Chris Gunther**



**Congratulations to Chris Gunther of Caroline County
for winning our 2021 Christmas Light Contest!**

Choptank Electric Trust Awards

The Choptank 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.

December 2021

- 4STEPS Therapeutic Riding Program - \$3,200
- Furnace Town Foundation - \$5,000
- Dorchester County Comm of Aging - \$8,000

The total of approved applications was \$30,047.02 which included \$13,847.00 for individual home and medical expenses.

January 2022

- Baywater Animal Rescue - \$1,902
- Betterton UMC - \$5,000

The total of approved applications was \$18,192.00 which included \$11,290.00 for individual home and medical expenses.



Choptank Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Choptank Electric, a Touchstone Energy Cooperative, is a not-for-profit, member-owned, electric distribution Co-op serving approximately 55,000 residential, commercial, and industrial members in all nine counties on Maryland's Eastern Shore.

President and CEO

Micheal E. Malandro

Board of Directors

Jeffrey D. Rathell Sr.
Chairman, Talbot Co.

John J. Burke Jr.
Vice Chairman, Cecil Co.

Douglas D. Scott
Treasurer, Dorchester Co.

Robert E. Arnold
Secretary, Queen Anne's Co.

Amy I. Brandt
Caroline Co.

Olin S. Davis III
Kent Co.

Matthew R. Holloway
Wicomico Co.

Robert B. Thompson
Ocean Pines District

Donna R. West
Worcester Co.

Craig N. Mathies Sr.
Somerset Co.



Choptank Fiber, LLC

Choptank Fiber, LLC is a wholly-owned broadband subsidiary of Choptank Electric Cooperative. Choptank Fiber's goal is to install true Gigabit broadband with no data caps one community at a time until we serve all our members on the Eastern Shore.