



**Choptank Electric Cooperative**

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative 

**Choptank Fiber**

*Jan - Feb 2022*

College Scholarships  
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MD General Assembly  
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# Scholarship Season has Begun

Two scholarships are now available for the Fall 2022 school year.

By Elizabeth Hallett, Manager of Marketing & Communications



If you are a high school or homeschool senior whose parent or guardian is a member or employee of Choptank Electric Cooperative, you are eligible to apply to compete 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 or technical/trade school as a freshman in the fall of 2022.

The Choptank Electric Trust Board distributes nine \$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 continue my education and how this scholarship will assist me.”

## Choptank Electric Trust Scholarship



Reference letters are required. Letters may be from school administrators, teachers, civic leaders, clergy or neighbors. Please limit to three references. Letters 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. Applications postmarked after the date will not be eligible for consideration. For additional information and the application, please call, 1.877.892.0001, ext. 8660 or visit our website at [www.choptankelectric.coop](http://www.choptankelectric.coop) and under Member Benefits, click on Scholarships.

**You must submit the completed application to:**

**Choptank Electric Trust Scholarship**

**Attn: Trust**

**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 office, by 4:30 p.m. on Friday, March 11, 2022.**



## The VMDAEC Education Scholarship

are committed to their member-consumers and the communities they serve,” says Brian Mosier, president and CEO of the VMD Association.

The application opens Tuesday, February 1, with the application deadline on Friday, April 1, 2022. Award recipients will be notified no later than May. The online application and information is posted at [vmdaec.com/scholarship](http://vmdaec.com/scholarship).

Any high school or homeschooled senior graduating in spring 2022, and whose primary residence is served by Choptank Electric Cooperative, is eligible to apply for a \$1,000 scholarship to be applied to a two or four year college or trade school.

An applicant must be entering his or her first semester at a post-secondary or technical/trade school in the fall of 2022. Scholarship funds, which will be sent directly to the educational institution, must be used toward tuition, student fees, room and board, or textbooks.

To be considered complete, SAT and/or ACT score reports must come from the College

Board. A score report must be uploaded by the student in the online application system. Scores listed on transcripts do not qualify. If a student has taken the SAT more than once, he or she can take the best score from each test (“Super Score”), but both tests must be submitted in the package to qualify.

The Foundation’s board of directors will select recipients based on these weighted criteria: financial need at 40%, academic achievement at 40% and personal statement at 20%.

The scholarships are named in honor of Hudson, the Foundation’s first chairman and former chairman of the board of directors of Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative in Chase City, VA.

Questions about donations and the application process should be directed to:

[scholarship@vmdaec.com](mailto:scholarship@vmdaec.com).

**E**lectric cooperatives in Virginia, Maryland and Delaware are preparing to accept applications for their popular scholarship from high school seniors who intend to pursue higher education studies.

The scholarships are awarded by the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives’ (VMDAEC) Education Scholarship Foundation which, since 2001, has provided almost 800 scholarships to graduating high school students totaling more than \$800,000.

“This program has helped hundreds of students advance their education and demonstrates once again how electric cooperatives



**Choptank Electric Trust  
Scholarship Information**



**The VMDAEC  
Scholarship Information**

# A History of Service to the Co-op

Wood retired on October 7, 2021 after 32 years of service.

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Phil Wood  
Workorder &  
Material Coordinator

Phil Wood is a man of few words, but we wish him well as he enters retirement and starts to pursue other activities which include traveling and spending time with his grandchildren.

Beginning his career at Choptank Electric Cooperative in 1989 as a Communications Clerk which is known today as a System Control Operator, he entered the Apprentice Lineman program in 1990. He became a Chief Lineman in 2007, and then finished his career as a Workorder & Material Coordinator.

When asked about what his best advice was for future linemen at Choptank Electric, he said, *“If you choose to become a lineman and stick with it as a career, know that it’s hard and dangerous work, but it’s so rewarding.”*

While he loves all of his fellow employees and appreciates Choptank Electric Cooperative being able to supply a good living for himself and his family, he says he is ready. *“My family has been supportive of this choice, and I can’t wait to see what the future holds.”*

# Serving Members & the Co-op

Collins retired after a 29-year career with the Co-op on November 30, 2021.

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Kenny Collins  
Operations Technician II

Kenny Collins has worked at Choptank Electric Cooperative for 29 years. Read his short but sweet farewell to Choptank Electric and his fellow employees:

*I started my journey at Choptank Electric on May 11, 1992. I was hired as a Meter Reader, and years later transitioned to an Operations Technician II, which is how I will end my journey here at Choptank Electric Cooperative.*

*I am looking forward to retirement though, and I am planning on visiting places such as museums and Niagara Falls, doing lots of hunting and fishing, cruising around in my 1969 Camaro, and going to car shows.*

*My family is very supportive, and they are excited for me to retire. They want me to finally relax and take some time for myself.*

*Choptank Electric is a great place to work. Throughout the years I have met a lot of people who I can now call friends, and they will truly be missed.*





# Getting Back to “Normal” at the Maryland General Assembly

## 2022 session features new leadership

By Valerie Connelly, Vice President of Government Affairs & Public Relations



The Maryland General Assembly begins the 443rd Legislative Session on the second Wednesday in January. Much of pre-COVID public participation will be restored this year. Legislators will meet in person with citizens and advocates permitted to participate live in daily activities. During the 90-day session, 188 elected officials will consider almost 3,000 bills. The 2022 session occurs during an election year and is expected to be dominated by discussion of legislative re-districting and spending programs.

The 2022 session will also

feature new leadership on the Economic Matters Committee, the House Committee with jurisdiction over most bills that impact energy, electricity and the laws that guide the Cooperative.

Long-serving Chairman Derek

Davis has been selected by the Legislature to become the next State Treasurer, replacing Nancy Kopp, who announced her retirement in October.

Delegate C.T. Wilson, of Charles County in southern Maryland, is the new Chairman of the Committee he has served on since 2015. Chairman Wilson was first elected to the House of Delegates in 2010. He is an Army veteran and a practicing attorney. He is familiar with the operation of electric cooperatives as SMECO serves his constituents in Charles County.

Choptank Electric Cooperative will monitor all the bills introduced to identify those that may have an impact on the service we provide to cooperative members. Our goal continues to be affordable, reliable service to members.

We will continue to work closely with the Eastern Shore Delegation. These 16 legislators, who serve on various committees, caucus every Friday morning during session to protect the interests of the Eastern Shore. You can monitor bills that are introduced and watch Committee hearings on the MGA website at <https://mgaleg.maryland.gov>.



Valerie Connelly  
VP, Government  
Affairs & PR



Matthew Teffeau  
Manager,  
Government Affairs

### Youth Tour 2022 is June 20-24

### Applications due by Friday, January 14, 2022!

# Experience & Exemplary Service to Members

After 18 years with the Co-op, Shermer retired on November 19, 2021.



John Shermer  
Engineering Fieldman

John Shermer started his career as a lineman with Philadelphia Electric, where he worked for 16 years. Looking for a change, he applied to Choptank Electric Cooperative and was hired as a journeyman lineman in 2003.

In 2016, he transitioned to an engineering fieldman, and he is looking forward to leaving Choptank Electric on a good note. One of his proudest moments at Choptank Electric was winning the fastest pole-top rescue during a lineman rodeo competition. *“I was 45 years old, and winning that event was a sweet win!”* He also spoke fondly of crew events with Andy Kauffman, Mark Nicolle, and David Brown. *“I am glad I had the opportunity to work with some great people!”*

In retirement he hopes to pursue boating, fishing, hunting, riding motorcycles, and camping. His family can’t be any happier about his choice to retire. *“I have three daughters and seven grandchildren in three states — Texas, Pennsylvania, and Maryland. I am looking*

*forward to spending more time together for sure.”*

Some parting advice he gave was,

*“Whether you think you can, or you think you can’t — you’re right!”* – Henry Ford.

## Welcome to the Choptank Electric Team!

Meet John Watson and Mason Johnson.



John Watson  
Information Technology  
Support Technician

*“I am excited to join the CEC Team. I am looking forward to getting to know everyone, and ready to tackle new challenges and bring new insights.”*

*Welcome to  
the Team!*

New faces can be found around our Choptank Electric offices: John Watson joins Technical Services as an Information Technology Support Technician; and Mason Johnson joins the Operations Department as an Apprentice Lineman 6th class in our Cambridge District.



Mason Johnson  
Apprentice Lineman

*“I’m excited to start a career with a company that will allow me to serve the people as well as take pride in supplying power to not just my friends and family but also to the members of our tight knit community and go home feeling accomplished every night.”*



# Get Ready for Winter Storms

Are you prepared for possible winter storms? Prep now!



As winter brings her blustering winds and freezing temperatures, are you prepared? Here are some helpful tips to prepare your home, your travels, and your loved ones.

## TIPS TO PREPARE YOUR HOME

- ✓ Insulate any water lines that run along exterior walls so your water supply will be less likely to freeze.
- ✓ Caulk and weather strip doors and windows.
- ✓ Insulate walls and attic.
- ✓ Install storm or thermal-pane windows or cover windows with plastic from the inside.
- ✓ Repair roof leaks and cut away tree branches that could fall on your home or other structure during a storm.

## TIPS TO KEEP YOU AND YOUR FAMILY SAFE

- ✓ Stay off roads if at all possible. If trapped in your car, then stay inside.
- ✓ Limit your time outside. If you need to go outside, then wear layers of warm clothing.
- ✓ Watch for signs of frostbite and hypothermia.
- ✓ Reduce the risk of a heart attack by avoiding overexertion when shoveling snow and walking in the snow.
- ✓ Learn the signs and treatments for frostbite and hypothermia.

## TIPS TO PREPARE YOUR VEHICLE

*Here is what you can add to your emergency car kit to stay prepared in case you are stranded in your vehicle.*

- ✓ Cell phone, portable charger, and extra batteries
- ✓ Items to stay warm such as extra hats, coats, mittens, and blankets
- ✓ Windshield scraper, shovel and hazard or other reflectors
- ✓ Booster cables with fully charged battery or jumper cables
- ✓ Battery-powered radio with extra batteries
- ✓ Flashlight with extra batteries
- ✓ Road maps, water and snacks
- ✓ First-aid kit with any necessary medications and a pocket knife
- ✓ Bright-colored flag or help signs, emergency distress flag, and/or emergency flares
- ✓ Waterproof matches and a can to melt snow for water

## HAVE AN OUTAGE? PLEASE REPORT IT

Using These Three Services

**1. Use your SmartHub app**

**2. Call our Outage Reporting Number at 1-800-410-4790**

**3. Text CHOPTANK to 1-800-410-4790**

Visit our Storm Center during outages for more helpful information.



For more helpful information, visit [www.Ready.gov/winter-weather](http://www.Ready.gov/winter-weather).

# Member Notes

Our members are the reason Choptank Electric Cooperative exists. Without their participation and support, it would be hard for us to make an impact in the communities we live in and have the pleasure to serve. From time to time, whether via social media, by phone call, or by sending old-fashioned letters and photos with their paper bills, our members love to let us know they are proud to belong to our Co-op!

**A member passed along this comment about our Ocean Pines crew,**  
*“Thank you Everyone!!! Before I could even look up the phone number for Choptank, they were ‘On It.’... The Choptank crewmen were awesome. I gave them bottles of cold water. But would really love to tell their supervisor how kind and efficient they were. Thanks OP Neighbors. And Thank You Choptank!”*

Thank  
you

## 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.

### October 2021

- Queen Anne’s County Advocates for Youth - \$1,500
- Salisbury Jaycees Foundation, Inc. - \$250
- YMCA of the Chesapeake - \$1,000
- Skipjack Heritage - \$5,000
- Horizons of Kent and Queen Anne’s County - \$800
- Beach to Bay Heritage Area - \$500

The total of approved applications was \$20,671.93 which included \$11,621.93 for individual home and medical expenses.

### November 2021

- Chesapeake Development Unit, Inc. - \$2,500
- Eastern Shore Community Rowers - \$698
- Wreaths Across America - \$500
- Worcester County Veterans - \$1,500
- Samaritan Ministries - \$5,000

The total of approved applications was \$31,318.53 which included \$21,120.53 for individual home and medical expenses.



Choptank Electric  
Cooperative

### 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.

#### 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.