



**Choptank Electric  
Cooperative**

A Touchstone Energy®  
Cooperative 

# November | December

**Members First. Every day.**



On behalf of Choptank Electric Cooperative, we want to wish all of our members a joyous holiday season and happy new year. **This combined November-December edition will be the last of 2020.** We look forward to bringing our members more co-op news and information in 2021!



**“Locally owned and controlled by all of us – that is the cooperative business model simply stated,”**

Mike E. Malandro, President and CEO.

Watch our CEO deliver these words and more, by scanning the QR code to view the 82nd Annual Meeting recording.





By Elizabeth Hallett  
Manager of Marketing & Communications

# Get Ready for Youth Tour 2021!

**Attending Youth Tour is what your high school resume needs to shine.**

Choptank Electric is now accepting applications for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) 2021 Youth Tour program, which will take place June 20-24, 2021, in Washington, D.C.

Historically, Choptank Electric has sent five high school juniors, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the juniors who were selected for the 2020 Youth Tour were offered the 2021 slots and four have expressed their desire to attend. This leaves one slot available for a high school junior in 2021.

The 2020 students who are attending the 2021 Youth Tour are:

- **Alyssa Boltz,**  
*Mardela High School*
- **Thomas Connolley,**  
*Bohemia Manor High School*
- **Quinn Handel,**  
*The Salisbury School*
- **Lauren Kang,**  
*The Salisbury School*

Youth Tour is a once-in-a-lifetime trip to Washington, D.C., to meet congressmen and senators, visit the U.S. Capitol Visitor's Center, tour the Capitol building, visit local memorials and museums,

and other historic sites. In previous Youth Tour trips, students have attended Nationals baseball games, the Kennedy Center, and the Pentagon. In addition, selected students will meet over 1,800



video, a short essay, and, if applicable, a second-round interview. To qualify for this opportunity, students must be juniors whose parents or guardians are Choptank Electric members. Applications are due by 4:30 p.m. Friday, January 15, 2021. All expenses are paid for by Choptank Electric.

Members can find applications online at [www.choptankelectric.coop](http://www.choptankelectric.coop) under Member Benefits, Commitment to Community, Youth Tour, or call the Member Service Center at 1-877-892-0001 for a mailed application.

other students from across the country. With this opportunity, our candidates can also gain exclusive leadership training and opportunities that build connections and skills that assist in their future career paths.

Youth Tour representatives are selected by Choptank Electric based on an application, a 90-second first-round, self-produced

**Could this be you?**



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

# Tropical Storm Isaias Challenging, Not Impossible

*Choptank Electric crews worked against the clock to restore power.*

After Tropical Storm Isaias hit in the beginning of August, our crews worked diligently and quickly to repair damage caused by tornadoes, fallen trees, heavy rains, and wind damage to our system. More than 20,000 members were without power during the height of damage, but our linemen, with the assistance of Adams Electric Cooperative in Pennsylvania, restored all of our members in just 36 hours! “Our members are also our family, friends and neighbors, so we understand the challenges they face after losing their electricity. Luckily, we have a team of talented men and women who are ready and willing to get out there day or night, and do what it takes to get the power restored,” said Lance Lockerman, Vice President of Operations.

Our members recognized our efforts and showed their appreciation on social media — along with letters and emails. We can’t thank our employees enough for stepping up to meet the challenge Tropical Storm Isaias turned into, but also thank our members for their patience and unwavering support while we restored power!



**Sara W.**

Y'all are incredible, both with your communication and response time!!! Bravo, and thanks, to each and every one of the folks that keep Choptank running!! 🙌🙌🙌

**Cat B.**

Thank you all! [...] in the end, you guys came through as always. Thank you all at Choptank for your hard work, dedication, and perseverance[...] You guys and Gals rocks!



# 2021 Notice of Election of the Board of Directors

**Members, now is the time to apply and make a difference.**

In conjunction with the 2021 Annual Meeting of Choptank Electric Cooperative, Inc. there will be held an election of directors for Dorchester County, Kent County, and Queen Anne's County. If you are interested in being a candidate for one of these positions, please complete, sign, and deliver a 2021 Petition for Nomination of Candidate for Director by 4 p.m. on Monday, December 28, 2020.

The completed petition must be delivered to the attention of the Credentials & Election Committee, c/o Dawn Bowie, Choptank Electric Cooperative either: (a) by hand delivery or courier to the headquarters office, 10384 River Road, Denton, MD 21629; (b) by mail to P.O. Box 430, Denton, MD 21629; or (c) by email to Dawn Bowie at [dawnb@choptankelectric.coop](mailto:dawnb@choptankelectric.coop). Any applications received after Monday, December 28, 2020, will not be reviewed by the committee.

Members can find a copy of the 2021 Petition for Nomination of Candidate for Director and the Bylaws on our website at [www.choptankelectric.coop](http://www.choptankelectric.coop) (Member Benefits, Annual Meeting) or by calling our Member Ser-

vice Center at 1-877-892-0001 and request a mailed copy.

Please review the Bylaws for additional requirements regarding Board of Director positions. The election results will be announced at the 2021 annual member meeting, which will be held on Thursday, April 29, 2021, at the Choptank Electric Regional Service Center, located at 6520 Walston Switch Road, Salisbury, MD 21804.



## This November, Make the Co-op Vote Matter

**Co-ops Vote campaign emphasizes the importance of member engagement and voting.**



By **Matthew Tefteau**  
Manager of Government Affairs

**“Voting is the foundation stone for political action.”  
Martin Luther King**

During the last election, the rural parts of our country turned out in record numbers at the polls. This trend has continued leading up to this November's election. Following the success of NRECA's Co-ops Vote campaign in 2016, this non-partisan project was designed to inform cooperative members on the key issues facing

electric Co-ops. Co-ops Vote does not focus on things like endorsing or recommending any candidate for election, but rather, educates members about three very important issues during this election year:

- Expanding broadband coverage throughout rural America;
- Ensuring continued access to reliable electricity;
- Promoting the work of co-ops within the communities they serve.

Choptank Electric Cooperative members demonstrate time and again the importance of voting, most recently during the broadband through member regulation

campaign. Overwhelmingly, members made their voices heard and voted YES for broadband through member regulation. In the coming week, Choptank Electric Cooperative encourages members to make their voices heard again.

Exercising your right to vote is imperative to our families, our neighbors, and our communities. As we move forward with our broadband deployment efforts it is equally important that we elect public officials who can be champions for our rural communities and will help us support our efforts.

To learn more about Co-ops Vote campaign please visit [www.vote.coop](http://www.vote.coop).

# 2020 Aero Dividends Received

*An example of how your Co-op invests responsibly and brings home dividends!*



Pictured left to right: Jeff Rathell, Chairman of the Board and Talbot County Director, and Mike Malandro, President and CEO.

Choptank Electric Cooperative CEO Mike Malandro and Board Chairman Jeff Rathell accepted a dividend during the MACS/Aero Board meeting in September, on behalf of the membership.

Choptank Services Corporation is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Choptank Electric Cooperative.



In contrast, Mid-Atlantic Cooperative Solutions, Inc. (MACS), doing business as Aero Energy, specializes in propane, heating oil, HVAC, plumbing, electrical, and generator products. Choptank Electric holds a 37% stake in the company.

# Employee Receives Presidential Award for Volunteering

*Mike Johnson volunteered in Coniri, Bolivia, alongside fellow linemen.*

Mike Johnson, a Chief Lineman from our Chestertown District Office, was recently presented the President's Volunteer Service Award for his work to help bring power to the region of Coniri, Bolivia, for the first time.

Chairman of the Board, Jeff Rathell, and Mike Malandro, President and CEO, proudly presented the award to Johnson during the August Board meeting.

Johnson spent two weeks alongside fellow linemen from the co-op community, to bring electricity for the first time to 52 households across five communities in the Oruro region of the South American nation. **Read the original article at <https://choptankelectric.com/committed-community>, or scan the QR code.**



# The VMDAEC Scholarship is Accepting Applications

**High school or homeschooled seniors graduating in spring 2021 are eligible.**

Electric cooperatives in Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware are preparing to accept applications for their popular scholarships 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 totaling more than \$740,000 to graduating high school students.

“This program has helped hundreds of students advance their education and demonstrates once again how electric cooperatives are committed to their member-consumers and the communities they serve,” said Richard G. Johnstone Jr., president and CEO of the VMD Association.

The open date for applications is Sunday, November 1, 2020, while the application deadline is Friday, February 19, 2021. Award recipients will be notified no later than June 1, 2021. The online application and additional information is posted at [www.vmdaec.com/scholarship](http://www.vmdaec.com/scholarship).

Any high school or homeschooled senior graduating in spring 2021, and whose primary residence is served by a VMD member 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 2021. Scholarship funds, which will be sent directly to the educational institu-



tion, 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.

If a student’s ability to take a test has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, special arrangements may be made.

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

ment at 20%.

Questions about donations and the application process should be directed to Sam Brumberg, scholarship program coordinator, at [sbrumberg@vmdaec.com](mailto:sbrumberg@vmdaec.com).



# Ocean Pines 'Light Up the Pines' Contest

*Ocean Pines members are welcome to participate!*



Choptank Electric wants to invite our Ocean Pines members to participate in the Ocean Pines Association's annual "Light Up the Pines" outdoor display event.

Instead of winners, the first 20 people who register this year will receive Choptank Electric holiday gift baskets. The deadline is Friday, December 4, but anyone who wants to participate after this date may still have their homes included in the "Ocean Pines Holiday

Parade of Homes."

Beginning Monday, November 16, any member residents interested in registering may do so by submitting a name, address, and phone number via email to [info@oceanpines.org](mailto:info@oceanpines.org) or by calling 410-641-7717.

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***Happy Holidays to all of our Ocean Pines members!***

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## Working on your holiday list?

Remember that Choptank Electric members can save big by using their Co-op Connections® App!

**Download today by scanning the QR code!  
Available in the App Store and Google Play.**



In observance of the  
Christmas & New Year  
holidays, our offices will be  
closed: Thursday, December  
24, 2020, Friday, December  
25, 2020, and  
Friday, January 1, 2021.

*Merry Christmas &  
Happy New Year!*

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Keep cold air out to save energy. Seal air leaks around pipes and any gaps around chimneys and unfinished spaces behind cupboards and closets.

Source: [www.energy.gov](http://www.energy.gov)



# Member Notes

Our members are the reason Choptank Electric Cooperative exists. Without their support, it would be hard for us to move forward with current or new initiatives. Whether on social media, on the phone, or via old-fashioned letters sent along with their paper bills, our members love to let us know when their Co-op is doing a good job!



Norris and Laura B. said of the **Annual Meeting**: “Thank you so much for the \$300 [prize] we won at the Member’s Meeting. What a wonderful surprise! Thank you also for the delicious meal, the [camping] chair, the \$10 credit on our next electric bill, and the little goodies in our welcome bag.”

Lloyd and Ruth S. said of our **restoration efforts during Tropical Storm Isaias**: “Thank you so much for working so hard to restore power to so many! God bless you!”



## 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  
Secretary-Treasurer, Dorchester Co.

Robert E. Arnold  
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 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.

## August 2020

- Adkins Arboretum - \$1,645.25 (diesel tank install)
- Eldorado Brookview VFC - \$4,000 (golf tournament)
- Mid Shore Pro Bono Inc. - \$3,000 (new computers)
- Historic Easton Inc. - \$5,000 (renovations)
- Caroline County Family YMCA - \$299.20 (materials for YMCA Welcoming Week)

**The total of approved applications was \$26,664.69, which included \$12,720.24 for individual home and medical expenses.**

