



Choptank Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Choptank Fiber

Nov-Dec 2021

Apply for Youth Tour!
Pg. 18

Thomas Tyndall Retires
Pg. 19



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



Elevate Your High School Career

Youth Tour is an exclusive opportunity available to dependents of Choptank Electric members.

By Elizabeth Hallett, Manager of Marketing & Communications

Choptank Electric is now accepting applications for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's 2022 Youth Tour program, which will take place June 20-24, 2022, in Washington, D.C.

This year, Choptank Electric will be accepting applications from junior and senior students, opening the program to students who were juniors last year and missed out on the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

Youth Tour is an exclusive experience taking place in Washington, D.C., which includes meeting congressmen and senators, visiting the U.S. Capitol Visitor's Center and the Capitol building, local memorials and museums, and other historic sites. In previous years, students have attended Nationals' baseball games, the Kennedy Center, and the Pentagon. In addition, selected students

will meet over 1,800 other co-op member students from across the country. Students can also gain exclusive leadership training and opportunities that build connections and skills assisting in their future career paths.

Youth Tour representatives are selected by Choptank Electric based on an application, a 90-second first-round, self-produced video, a short essay, and, if applicable, a second-round interview. To qualify for this opportunity, students must be juniors or seniors whose parents or guardians are Choptank Electric members. Applications are due by 4:30 p.m. Friday, January 14, 2022. All expenses are paid for by Choptank Electric.

Members can find applications online at Choptank Electric's website at 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.

Scan the QR code below to visit the Youth Tour portal on our website. You can find more information about the program, as well as download the form to apply!



A 36-Year Definition of Member Service

Thomas Tyndall reflects on his years of service with the Cooperative.



Thomas S. Tyndall III
Vice President,
Member Services

Like linemen or transformers, Thomas Tyndall has been an integral part of the Cooperative. As a member service leader at Choptank Electric Cooperative, he dedicated his life to our Member Service department in different capacities over 36 years, eventually becoming Vice President of Member Services. As the head of both the Member Services department and the Choptank Fiber broadband installation team, he strives to ensure that his team delivers a “white-glove” service to every single member they assist. Retiring on November 30, read his retelling of a long and successful career at Choptank Electric:

“When I started working at Choptank Electric Cooperative more than 35 years ago as a Meter Reader/Cable Locator, I did not fully understand the business model of cooperatives and what it meant to be member-owned. The importance of “Putting the Members First” became clear to me

and that meant keeping the lights on, offering a fair price for the power delivered, and supporting the member-owners at the best level possible regarding customer service. My career progressed working in various positions including the warehouse, inventory, Apprentice Lineman for a couple of years, and eventually the Member Services department, ultimately leading to the position of Vice President of Member Services, the pinnacle of my professional career with the Cooperative.

I have been extremely fortunate to work with an incredibly talented, experienced, and supportive group of professionals. The Member Services Team we built over the years valued and upheld the commitment to meet, and often exceeded the customer service expectations of our members. I am most appreciative of the opportunity to personally meet so very many wonderful members of the Cooperative. Some became friends over the many years of employment.

Member Services for me has not been about getting from point A to point B in the shortest period of time with the least amount of resistance. It’s more about the journey from point A to B and not

perceiving obstacles and resistance as an impediment, but how it adds color, interest, emotion, and value to the story. The cliché “moving on to the next chapter of your life” is true when contemplating retirement and I certainly am looking forward to many years of good health, happiness, and spending time with my family.

I have enjoyed an extremely rewarding career with Choptank



Electric Cooperative, most affectionately in Member Services, and I leave my employment knowing I made a positive impact in the lives of many member-owners, and I have the great pleasure here of thanking all of you for letting me be of service. Take Care.”



Sarah Dahl Promoted to Vice President

Dahl will continue to serve as General Counsel as she takes on new duties.



Sarah M. Dahl
Vice President &
General Counsel

Sarah Dahl was promoted to Vice President and General Counsel on November 1, 2021. As part of her new role, Dahl will oversee the Member Services and Legal/Regulatory Departments.

Dahl was hired in 2018 to fill the newly created position of General Counsel, overseeing legal matters for the Cooperative, and assisting with regulatory and government affairs.

Dahl changed how Choptank Electric worked with regulatory organizations like the Maryland Public Service Commission, as well as assisting with legislative efforts for the Co-op to become member-regulated.

Dahl graduated from Clemson University and the University of Richmond School of Law and is licensed to practice law in Maryland and Virginia.

A History of Service

Tim Boyd retires after a successful 34-year run with the Co-op.



Tim Boyd
Engineering Fieldman

A proud Greensboro native, Tim Boyd sought a position with Choptank Electric because of the great things he had heard from other employees in his community. Thirty-four years later, he is sad to leave his working family but looks forward to stressing less and spending time with his family even more. Read his retelling of a long and successful career at Choptank Electric:

"I have had the opportunity to work with great people in the last 34 years at Choptank Electric – people I truly consider my friends.

I started at the Co-op in January of 1988, as a Communications Clerk, and to this day, I still thank Mr. Fred Hubbard (past President and CEO) for giving me the opportunity to work here. Mr. Hubbard also encouraged me to pursue a position within the Miss Utility Board, where I served as Vice President. During the early part of my career at the Co-op, I filled multiple positions within the Operations department, from Storeroom Attendant, to Operations Field Helper. In 2005, I joined the Engineering department

as an Engineering Fieldman 4th Class. To this day, I remain an Engineering Fieldman and couldn't be prouder of my achievement. Working for an electric co-op, I had my fair share of writing and completing work orders. By far, the most challenging work order I processed was the Pocomoke River Crossing. This project impacted Maryland State Property, included a rigorous permit process to bore under the Pocomoke River, coordination with third party contractors, and more.

I am looking forward to living a stress-free life, one that involves spending time with my family and attending sporting events with my grandson, Jase. My family is very supportive and was a major part in my decision to retire. I thank everyone that has worked alongside me for their friendship and their knowledge."

2021 Fairs and Festivals Season: Our Best Yet!

Members visited with us during this fairs and festival season in record numbers.

Whether the reason that so many members and non-members attended summer fairs this season is that they were ready to be out after a year of restrictions and cancellations, or that they simply craved a funnel cake, we are happy to say that over 1,300 people visited our booths at events and fairs located across the Shore, including Dorchester, Kent, Talbot, Queen Anne's, and Wicomico counties.

Cheers for a strong welcome back to the community!



Our offices will be closed for the following holidays:

- November 25 and 26 for Thanksgiving*
- December 24 and 27 for Christmas*
- December 31 for New Year's*

Happy Holidays!



Proposed Changes to FI Rate

Notice to Members of Proposed Farm Irrigation (FI) Rate Changes

By Sarah M. Dahl, Vice President and General Counsel

At its meeting on January 19, 2022, the Board of Directors plans to vote on the adoption of a revised Irrigation (FI) rate. The full text of the proposed tariff will be available in mid-December on the Rates page of the Cooperative website at <https://choptankelectric.coop/rates> under “Proposed Tariff Changes.”

Members will have the opportunity to comment on the proposed changes and to attend the portion of the meeting in which the Board votes on the proposed changes.

Stay tuned for future communication from Choptank Electric for details on how to submit comments/questions or register to attend the meeting!

Welcome to the Choptank Electric Team!

Meet Alyssa Kendall, Scott Murray, and Jordan Watson.

New faces can be found around our Choptank Electric offices; Alyssa Kendall joins the Member Service department as a Member Service Specialist; Scott Murray joins Technical Services as an AMI Endpoint Smart Grid Technician; and Jordan Watson joins the Operations department as an Apprentice Lineman 6th class.



Alyssa Kendall
Member Service Specialist

“Ready to start my career with a great company like Choptank Electric Cooperative!”



Scott Murray
AMI Endpoint Smart Grid Tech

“I am excited to advance my skillset alongside a capable team like Technical Services.”



Jordan Watson
Apprentice Lineman 6th class

“I am glad to have the opportunity to start a career that impacts so many around me.”

Light Up the Pines Contest

Ocean Pines members can brighten their community through this holiday event!

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


The first 25 people who register this year will receive some of the most popular Choptank Electric and Choptank Fiber goodies. The deadline to register is Friday, December 3, but anyone who wants to participate after this date may still have their homes included in the "Ocean Pines Holiday Parade of Homes." In addition, three lucky winners will receive \$50 Choptank Electric bill certificates.

- Members can begin registering their homes starting Monday, November 15.
- Any members interested in registering may do so by submitting a name, address, and phone number via email to info@oceanpines.org or by calling 410-641-7717.

Happy Holidays to all of our Ocean Pines members!

Celebrate Holiday Joy with LEDs!

LEDs can make your holidays more joyful, and save energy through the season.



Holiday lights and decorations can make your home brighter and full of cheer, but it's important to decorate safely and efficiently. Here's what you should and shouldn't do when it comes to decorating this year.

Dazzling lighting displays bring a lot of holiday cheer, but the energy costs can leave you with a real post-season letdown. Decorate with energy-efficient LEDs and brighten your energy budget.

Merry, bright, and safe

- Energy Star®-certified LED decorative light strings use 75% less energy than standard incandescent lights and last up to 10 times longer. With LEDs, you'll save energy this season and for years to come.
- LEDs do cost a little more than conventional bulbs, but prices are coming down and the lower energy costs and longer life of LEDs make the extra investment more than worth it.
- Today's LED decorative lights provide a bright, vivid light, and they come in a variety of shapes and sizes. That means you've got plenty of options when it comes to decorating your home, inside and out. Also, LEDs are cool to the touch, making them safer to use than conventional bulbs.

More ways to save

Turn off your decorative display late at night or when you're away. Add convenience by plugging lights into a timer that automatically turns off lights according to your schedule.

Make handmade decorations, such as a wreath for your door. It's a great way to get your entire family involved and save on energy costs.

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!

Ronald R. from Ocean Pines sent a great thank you note, “Thanks for helping me out! I have always received good service and respect from Choptank Electric Co-op. Thank you for working with me. I can see that as a co-op, caring about your members is a priority.”

Matthew J. from Suddlersville sent us an awesome message via Facebook, “The workers that came here worked their tails off and were professional and respectful. I would like to tell their manager to recognize them as outstanding workers. They never stopped until the job was done. Please give them a raise for working so hard during this heat.”

Well done, Tom Simpson, Clint Mills, Wade Harris from our Chestertown District office!



**Daylight Saving Time
Ends Sunday,
November 7, 2021.**

*Clock moves
back one (1) hour.*

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.

September 2021

- Queen Anne's County Make a Difference Day - \$2,000
- Burrsville Ruritan Club - \$3,800
- Rotary Club of Salisbury - \$5,000
- Galena Volunteer Fire Dept - \$3,500

The total of approved applications was \$25,243 which included \$10,943 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

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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.