



LIVE WIRE

Choptank Electric Cooperative, Inc. Vol. 11, No. 1

Inside

Find your legislator, p. 2

It's a wrap! p. 3

JANUARY 2006

Live Wire is a monthly newsletter published for members of Choptank Electric Cooperative, 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 Customer Service Line:
1-800-311-8556, toll free
410-479-4206
(Caroline Co.)

Internet site:
www.choptankelectric.coop

President and CEO
Frederick L. Hubbard

Board of Directors
Carl R. Widdowson
Chairman, Somerset Co.
David W. Bruning
Vice Chairman, Worcester Co.

William F. Schrader
Secretary-Treasurer, Cecil Co.

Olin S. Davis III
Kent Co.

Francis A. Callahan Jr.
Caroline Co.

W. Franklin Moore
Queen Anne's Co.

Jeffrey D. Rathell Sr.
Talbot Co.

Peggy D. Trader
Wicomico Co.

William L. Spicer
Dorchester Co.

Francis A. Ruffo Sr.
At-Large

An employee turns work "golden" after 50 co-op years

Modest as co-op employee Catherine Snow is, she doesn't think of herself as a rare breed - but she is.

Catherine has marked a milestone few can brag about: She has been an employee of the same company, Choptank Electric, for 50 years.

Statistics from the Employee Benefit Research Institute in Washington, D.C., show only 15 percent of Americans 65 and older are still working, and the average American retiring today has been with their employer 10 years.

According to the AARP, one in 10 older workers has been with his or her employer 12 months or less.

A native of Talbot County and resident of Cordova, Catherine graduated from Easton High School. Soon after graduation she submitted an application at Choptank, having heard of a possible opening from someone at a local business.

In October, Catherine was called for an interview by the co-op's office manager, Ruth Chambers. "At the interview Mrs. Chambers said 'you can start tomorrow or wait until Monday' and then it sunk in," she says. "A job! Once you start, you don't stop - so I decided to wait until Monday!" She was hired as a temporary employee and became full-time on January 1, 1956.

Her reckoning on that day set the tone for Catherine's work - once you start a job, you don't stop - and so 50 years later, she remains part of the backbone of Choptank Electric.

When she began at the co-op, there were four offices instead of the six that now exist, 75 employees (now there are 180) and Francis Yeoman was the manager.

In her first position as a general clerk she says, "I filed for days. . .it was piled up!" Catherine moved on to become a cashier on two separate occasions, the Denton district stenographer, coordinator of consumer inquiries and she has been an Office Specialist II since 1999.

In her present position she mails welcome letters to new members, updates memberships, handles even monthly billing, the winter heat program and posting

funds for energy assistance accounts.

She has worked under three general managers and describes the atmosphere in the early days as "very conservative. We didn't even have office chairs, just regular wooden chairs, and shared items like staplers and scissors."

One big change came with the computerization of member accounts in the early 1960s. "We key-punched for days and even had temporary help come in to get everything into the computer system. It certainly made it much faster to get member information."

One of the more exciting events Catherine recalls is when a helicopter landed on co-op property during an ice storm in the '60s.

"Lots of good things have happened" during her tenure at Choptank, Catherine says, and she has gotten to know many members along the way. She remains close friends with Ruth Chambers, who hired her "way back when."

One recent occurrence was a surprise gift from a grateful member she had assisted in getting a tree trimmed years ago. He promised Catherine he'd make something from the tree for her and this fall showed up with a hand-made coffee mill.

If she had the choice, would she do it again? "Yes," says Catherine, "and I'm not planning on quitting anytime soon."

And what does this 50-year employee do when she's not at Choptank Electric?

Catherine is a big country music fan and enjoys attending concerts. In warmer weather, you'll find her at another favorite pastime - taking in the sights at the many local fairs in Maryland and Delaware.



CATHERINE SNOW

Co-op moving toward start of new building

Steady progress is being made towards a start on the new Choptank headquarters in Denton.

Following final modifications to plans by Andrew Booth and Associates, architects, bids were sent out December 8. A pre-bid conference was held for interested contractors December 15 in Denton, and the tentative due date for interested bidders is January 19.

The footprint of the new building has been staked out on the property, which is located behind the present

cooperative headquarters at the intersection of Rts. 404 and 328 in Denton.

It is hoped the new facility will be completed in the spring of 2007.

A decision was made by the Choptank board of directors to build a new headquarters following a major fire in the Denton office in July of 2004.

The current building will be used as the Denton district office once the new building opens.

Happy New Year from Choptank Electric!!



How to contact your legislators

STATE SENATORS

J. Lowell Stoltzfus, R-38
Somerset, Wicomico,
Worcester
James Senate Office
Building, Room 423
110 College Ave.

Annapolis MD 21401-1991
1-800-492-7122, ext. 3645
e-mail: lowell_stoltzfus@senate.state.md.us
Member of Senate since 1992

Richard F. Colburn, R-37
Caroline, Dorchester, Talbot, Wicomico
James Senate Office Building, Room 315
110 College Ave.
Annapolis MD 21401-1991
1-800-492-7122, ext. 3590
e-mail: richard_colburn@senate.state.md.us
Member of Senate since 1995

Edward J. (E.J.) Pipkin, R-36
Caroline, Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's
James Senate Office Building, Room 416
110 College Ave.
Annapolis MD 21401-1991
1-800-492-7122, ext. 3639
e-mail: ej_pipkin@senate.state.md.us
Member of Senate since 2003

HOUSE OF DELEGATES

David Rudolph, D-34B
Cecil
Lowe House Office Building, Room 405
84 College Ave.
Annapolis MD 21401-1991
1-800-492-7122, ext. 3444
e-mail: david_rudolph@house.state.md.us
Member of House of Delegates since 1995

Mary Roe Walkup, R-36
Caroline, Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's
Lowe House Office Building, Room 217
84 College Ave.
Annapolis MD 21401-1991
1-800-492-7122, ext. 3449
e-mail: mary_roe_walkup@house.state.md.us
Member of House of Delegates since 1995

Michael D. Smigiel Sr., R-36
Caroline, Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's
Lowe House Office Building, Room 217

84 College Ave.
Annapolis MD 21401-1991
1-800-492-7122, ext. 3449
e-mail: michael_smigiel@house.state.md.us
Member of House of Delegates since 2003

Richard A. Sossi, R-36
Caroline, Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's
Lowe House Office Building, Room 217
84 College Ave.
Annapolis MD 21401-1991
1-800-492-7122, ext. 3543
e-mail: richard_sossi@house.state.md.us
Member of House of Delegates since 2003
Jeannie Haddaway, R-37B
Caroline, Dorchester, Talbot, Wicomico
Lowe House Office Building, Room 305
84 College Ave.
Annapolis MD 21401-1991
1-800-492-7122, ext. 3429
e-mail: jeannie_haddaway@house.state.md.us
Member of House of Delegates since 2003

Adelaide C. (Addie) Eckardt, R-37B
Caroline, Dorchester, Talbot, Wicomico
Lowe House Office Building, Room 308
84 College Ave.
Annapolis MD 21401-1991
1-800-492-7122, ext. 3343
e-mail: adelaide_eckardt@house.state.md.us
Member of House of Delegates since 1995

Rudolph C. Cane, D-37A
Dorchester, Wicomico
Lowe House Office Building, Room 414
84 College Ave.
Annapolis MD 21401-1991
1-800-492-7122, ext. 3427
e-mail: rudolph_cane@house.state.md.us
Member of House of Delegates since 1999

D. Page Elmore, R-38A
Somerset, Wicomico
Lowe House Office Building, Room 308
84 College Ave.
Annapolis MD 21401-1991
1-800-492-7122, ext. 3433
e-mail: page_elmore@house.state.md.us
Member of House of Delegates since 2003

Norman H. Conway, D-38B
Wicomico, Worcester
Lowe House Office Building, Room 413

84 College Ave.
Annapolis MD 21401-1991
1-800-492-7122, ext. 3431
e-mail: norman_conway@house.state.md.us
Member of House of Delegates since 1987

Bennett Bozman, D-38B
Wicomico, Worcester counties
Lowe House Office Building, Room 131
84 College Ave.
Annapolis MD 21401-1991
1-800-492-7122, ext. 3431
e-mail: bennett_bozman@house.state.md.us
Member of House of Delegates since 1991

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Sen. Barbara A. Mikulski, D-MD
503 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510
202-224-4654 or
Suite 1E, Building , 1201 Pemberton Drive
Salisbury MD 21801
410-546-7711
Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
Committee; Appropriations Committee;
Senate Select Committee on Intelligence

Sen. Paul Sarbanes, D-MD
309 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510
202-224-4524 or
110 W. Church St., Suite D
Salisbury MD 21801
410-860-2131
Ranking member, Senate Committee on
Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs;
Foreign Relations, Budget, and Joint
Economic Committees

Rep. Wayne Gilchrest, R-1st
2245 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington DC 20515
202-225-5311 or
315 High St. #105, Chestertown MD 21620
410-778-9407/410-758-4059 or 877-891-
9719
One Plaza East, Salisbury MD 21801
410-749-3184/410-376-3052
Chairman, House Subcommittee on
Fisheries and Oceans; House Resources and
House Transportation Committees

Keep small appliances safely out of small hands

Parents who plug protective covers into their home's outlets are taking the first step toward keeping their children safe from an electrical mishap. If your youngsters watch you plug those covers in, don't be surprised when they figure out how to pull them all out!

Parents are advised to limit their children's access to electrical appliances – even the ones that seem harmless. Children love to mimic their parents' activities. Keep that

in mind whenever you're using a heated electric appliance like an iron, or one with blades or other sharp objects like a blender or can opener.

Ironing, for example, can look fun to a child, but left unattended to discover how to turn the device on, a little one can suffer a severe burn or even start a fire.

Choptank Electric offers these tips for dealing with small appliances and small fry: Operate appliances when children are not

around;

- Store heated and sharp devices out of your children's reach;
- Search for appliances with child-proof "on" switches;
- Unplug sewing machines and other appliances when you're not using them;
- Install a lock on your oven door;
- When you do operate appliances in front of children, use them in a safe manner and teach youngsters how to use them safely.



IT'S A WRAP — Choptank got more visible as it unveiled a “wrapped” van recently. The vehicle, which shows a line crew at work, will be used for parades, fairs and festivals, as well as traveling to schools and other places for safety classes and career days. Bob Behlke, above, vice president of consumer affairs, said, “This is a great way to keep Choptank visible and is a cost-effective method of advertising. The van is available for functions throughout our service territory.” To arrange a visit from the Choptank van at an event or schedule a safety class, call 1-877-892-0001, ext. 3074.



NOMINATING COMMITTEE — The Nominating Committee for the Choptank Electric Board of Directors met in December and nominated the three incumbents for upcoming board elections. Standing, left to right: Davidson Coleman, Kent Co., Dan Shortall, Queen Anne’s Co., George Weaver, Caroline Co., Milton Malkus, Dorchester Co., Gordon Behrens, Talbot Co. Seated, left to right: Nathan Pearson, Worcester Co., Jack Elliott, Wicomico Co., Paul Bounds, Worcester Co., Virginia Davis, Cecil Co. Candidates nominated were William Spicer, Dorchester, Franklin Moore, Queen Anne’s and Olin Davis, Kent.

CHOPTANK SECURITY

Choptank Security offers the very best in wireless, supervised security technology, plus LifeGard, the personal home emergency system.

Yes, I am interested in a no cost home security/life safety analysis at my home. Please call me to set up an appointment:

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Best time to call _____

Send me information about Choptank Security’s maintenance program.

Send to: Choptank Security Systems, Attn: June Lederer
P.O. Box 310, Denton MD 21629



Recent outages on the co-op system

Earleville, 11/16, 55 min., 51 members, right of way problem
 Ocean Pines, 11/19, 4 hrs., 4,570 members, equipment fault
 Ocean Pines, 11/19, 1 hr. 30 min., 84 members, overload
 Ocean Pines, 11/19, 2 hrs. 45 min., 82 members, overload
 Ironshire, 11/22, 1 hr. 50 min., 191 members, right of way problem
 Airey, 11/24, 6 hrs., 102 members, wind caused problem with overhead
 Barclay, 11/24, 5 min., 1,264 members, power supplier
 Earleville, 11/24, 1 hr. 20 min., 624 members, wind; also 5 hrs., 23 members, right of way
 Church Hill, 11/24, 1,118, 5 min., power supplier
 Costen, 11/29, 55 min., 80 members, right of way
 Longwoods, 11/29, 4 hr. 50 min., 315 members, equipment fault underground
 Mardela Springs, 11.29, 45 min., 77 members, unknown
 Mount Olive, 11/30, 359 members, 5 min., contractor
 Ironshire, 12/2, 58 members, 20 min., unknown; 127 members, 30 min., unknown, 50 min., 192 members, right of way
 Ocean Pines, 12/4, 4 hr., 93 members, overhead transformer
 Kingston, 12/5, 6 hr. 10 min., 212 members; 7 hr. 55 min., 54 members, right of way
 Ironshire, 12/7, 25 min., 377 members, power supplier
 Hickman, 12/9, 1 hr. 20 min., 551 members; Hobbs, 12/9, 45 min., 936 members; West Denton, 40 min., 52 members; Williston, 50 min.-1 hr. 15 min., 1,345, problem in substation.
 Hillsboro, 12/11, 55 min., 96 members, unknown

Choptank Electric Trust awards for November

Faith SDA Church, Cambridge, \$3,000, accessible ramp
 Betterton Volunteer Fire Co., \$8,849, five sets of equipment for firefighters
 Worcester Co. G.O.L.D. program, \$1,500, materials to stock pantries for infants
 The McCready Foundation, Crisfield, \$9,238, equip new rehabilitation unit
 Caroline Co. Habitat for Humanity, \$2,975, cabinets and countertops for home in Denton
 Washington High School Booster/Baseball Organization, \$4,000 for equipment for baseball program
 Community of St. Francis, Cambridge, \$3,500, assist with vehicle for transportation
 Ridgely Elementary School PTA, \$100, Santa Shop for children

Pine Steppers Square Dance Club workshop every Wed., 7 p.m., Ocean Pines Community Hall. 410-835-3534 or 208-6777.

All-You-Can-Eat Country Breakfast Buffet, Crumpton Firehouse, sponsored by Ladies Auxiliary, 2nd Sun., 8-11 a.m.

Vietnam Vets of America, 1st Thurs., 7 p.m., Easton VFW. 410-943-1374. Lower Shore, 3rd Thurs., VFW 194, Salisbury. 410-651-0904.

Bay Country Chorus (barbershop), every Mon., 7 p.m., Miller Hall, behind Trinity Cathedral, Goldsborough St., Easton. 410-770-8262.

Bingo: Willards Fire Co., Thurs., 7 p.m., Lions Club Bldg., 410-835-8678; Pittsville Fire Co., Fri., 7 p.m. 410-835-2323; Federalsburg VFW 5246, Thurs., open 5:30 p.m., games 7:20 p.m. 410-754-5020. Hurlock Legion, Fri., 7:30 p.m., 410-943-8205; Denton Legion, Tues., 6 p.m., 410-479-2708; Redmen Lodge, Fruitland, Mon., 6:30 p.m. 410-742-6859; Willards Lions Club, Tues., 5 p.m., games 7 p.m. 410-835-2328;

Peninsulaires barbershop chorus, every Tues. 7:30 p.m., Wicomico Civic Ctr., Flanders Rm., Salisbury. 410-641-8927 or 410-543-8628.

Ocean Bay Chorus, Sweet Adelines, every Mon., 7 p.m., Wicomico Civic Center, Flanders Room, Salisbury. 410-749-0991.

Ocean Waves Square Dance Club workshop, every Tues., 7 p.m., Wicomico Civic Ctr., Salisbury. 410-742-2398 or 883-3723.

Delmarva Chorus, Sweet Adelines, every Mon., 7 p.m., Ocean Pines Community Center. 410-641-8088.

Disabled American Veterans Chap. 34, 4th Thurs., 1 p.m., Meuse VFW Post 194, Salisbury. 410-749-4518.

Chesapeake Christian Riders Chap. of CMA, 4th Sat., Golden Corral, Easton, 9-11. All welcome. 410-943-8325.

Pinochle Group, every Wed., 9:45 a.m., 410-641-8836, Bridge Club, every Wed., 10 a.m., 410-641-7667, Ocean Pines Yacht Club.

Pepper Steppers Square Dance, 2nd Sat., 8 p.m., First UM Church Hall, Chestertown. 410-758-1454 or 778-4578.

Wellness Community-Delmarva, weekly support groups for cancer patients/families, Talbot, Worcester, Wicomico. 888-806-0756.

Heartland Quilt Guild, 1st Thur., 7 p.m., Denton Library, 410-482-8131.

Women Supporting Women (breast cancer group), 3rd Wed., 7 p.m., Atlantic Business Ctr., Ste. 213, Berlin, 410-641-2849.

US Submarine Vets, 3rd Sat., Dover DE. 410-482-6994 or 302-945-2448.

TOPS weight loss: Tues., 6:30 p.m., 1st Baptist Church, Marydel, 410-482-2658; Christ UM Church, Salisbury, Thurs., 7 p.m. 410-749-9335 or 543-9039; Church of God, Washington St., Easton, Thurs., 6 p.m. 410-822-2630 or 673-2248.

Pine'er Craft Shop, Ocean Pines Community Center, 239 Ocean Parkway, open every Sat. & Sun., 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Line dance, Eastside Men's Club, Alexander Ave., Salisbury, every Fri. Beginner's lessons at 6 p.m. 410-749-1981.

National Assn. of Retired Federal Employees, 3rd Thurs., English's South, Rt. 13, Salisbury. 410-749-6635 or 742-8073.

Activity Singles Klub, Easton, 2nd Wed., 410-822-7468.

South Dorchester Folk Museum, 1st Wed., 7 p.m., Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge Visitors' Center, near Cambridge.

First Saturday Writers Group, Ocean Pines Branch, Worcester Public Library, all welcome. 410-641-5515.

Children's Health Program, for pregnant women & children to age 19. Kent, 410-778-7035, QA, 410-758-0720, Talbot, 410-819-5670.

Eastern Shore Stamp Club, 1st Tues., Wicomico Library, Salisbury, 6:30 p.m. 410-208-2929; Tidewater Stamp Club, 2nd & 4th Tue., 7 p.m., 14 S. Harrison St., 2nd fl., Easton. 410-822-6471.

First Monday, HIV/Aids support group in Salisbury, 1st & 3rd Mon. 5:30 p.m. 410-219-9000 ext. 101, 443-523-1745 or 443-523-1744.

Duplicate bridge: Riverside Homes, Salisbury, Mon., 7p.m. 410-835-8343; Tred Avon Club, Wed., noon, Chesapeake by Del Webb clubhouse, Dutchman's La., Easton. 410-226-5126.

Living with Cancer, 2nd, 3rd, 4th Thurs., 4-5:30 p.m., Kent & Queen Anne's Hospital, cafeteria meeting room. 410-778-5550.

Eastern Shore Writers' Assn., 2nd Sat., place TBA. 410-482-6736.

Queen Anne's Chapter, Barbershop Harmony Society, Wed., 7:30 p.m., Centreville UM Church, Rt. 213. 410-827-7993.

Lower Delmarva Genealogical Society, 116-1 N. Division St., Salisbury, open Wed., 1-4, help with family research. 410-749-6158.

All you can eat breakfast, Eldorado-Brookview Firehouse, 3rd Sun., 7:30-10:30 a.m. \$6. 410-943-0216.

Overeaters Anonymous, every Sat., 10 a.m., Christ UM Church, Ed. Bldg., Salisbury. 410-376-0164.

Friends of the Ocean Pines Library, 2nd Mon., 10 a.m., main mtg. room of library. 410-208-2760.

Merry Widows & Widowers Social Club, 3rd Tues., 2:30 p.m., Ocean Pines Community Hall. 410-208-6207.

Beach Singles social club for age 45+, last Tues, 6 p.m. For info./mtg. place, 410-208-3974.

M.O.P.S. (Mothers of Preschoolers), 1st Tues., 9 a.m., Greensboro Baptist Church, 401 Sunset Ave., through May. Free. 410-482-8601.

Coastal Hospice grief support, Ocean Pines Library, Jan. 12, 11 a.m. 410-742-8732.

Coastal Hospice luncheon, Plantation House, Jan. 19, 1-3. 410-208-6207.

John Cocuzzi Quintet "Swingin' and Burnin'", **Jan. 21**, Capitol Brass, **Jan. 27**, 7 p.m., Caroline Co. Library, 410-479-1343.

Coastal Hospice grief support, Ocean Pines Library, **Jan. 26**, 11 a.m. 410-742-8732.

East Coast Commercial Fishermen's & Aquaculture Expo, Ocean City Convention Ctr., **Jan. 27**, 11-6, **Jan. 28**, 10-6, **Jan. 29**, 10-4:30, Ocean City Convention Ctr. Seminars included. 800-421-9176.

Ocean City Hot Rod & Custom Car Show, **Feb. 10**, 4-8, **Feb. 11**, 10-8, **Feb. 12**, 10-4, Convention Center. 410-798-6304.

National Outdoor Show, **Feb. 24**, 5 p.m., **Feb. 25**, 10:30 a.m., South Dorchester K-8 School, Golden Hill.

Caroline Blues, Little Pink Anderson with Hansel Creech, **Feb. 25**, 7 p.m., Caroline Public Library, Denton. 410-479-1343.

Seaside Boat Show, **Feb. 17**, 12-8, **Feb. 18**, 10-8, **Feb. 19**, 11-5, Ocean City Convention Center, 410-632-3676.

Watt's the Answer?

Win a \$10 credit on your bill in our monthly trivia contest. Readers who send in the correct answer are entered in a drawing. Entries must be postmarked/dated by Feb. 5.

Watt's the Answer for January: President's Day is observed in February. So tell us what state can boast the homes of Presidents Garfield, Grant, Harding, Hayes and Taft?

Send to: Watt's the Answer? Choptank Electric, P.O. Box 430, Denton MD 21629 or annew@choptankelectric.coop. Please provide account or phone number.

The winner of the November contest is Iris Willis who knew feisty Oriole manager Earl Weaver got tossed from 91 games.

SEND EVENTS TO:

Shore Good to Know, Choptank Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 430, Denton, MD 21629; or annew@choptankelectric.coop two months prior to event if possible. Include phone number.