



LIVE WIRE

Choptank Electric Cooperative, Inc. Vol. 17, NO.1

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JANUARY 2012

Live Wire is a monthly newsletter published for members of Choptank Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 430, Denton, MD 21629

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1-800-410-4790,

toll free,

24 hours/day,

7 days/week.

Automated Customer

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1-800-311-8556, toll free

410-479-4206

(Caroline Co.)

www.choptankelectric.coop

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A Touchstone Energy®
Cooperative



Choptank Electric's management team prepares to celebrate the International Year of Cooperatives.

2012 is International Year of Cooperatives!

Electric cooperatives and other members of the co-op family take center stage globally in 2012, which has been designated the International Year of Cooperatives.

The year's theme, "Cooperative Enterprises Build a Better World," resonates with co-ops in the electric, banking, food, retail, housing, and marketing arenas.

"We're surrounded by a diverse mix of cooperatives," said Mike Wheatley, President and CEO of Choptank Electric. "No matter what kind of co-op you belong to, two things are clear: We put people first, and we are innovators. By getting neighbors and communities to work together, co-op members build a better world."

"We share a common set of business principles and values like self-help and democracy," said Mr. Wheatley. "Each co-op exists to meet the needs of its members."

According to the National Cooperative Business Association (NCBA), more than 29,200 cooperatives nationally employ 2 million Americans. One in every four Americans is a co-op member, but the scope of the cooperative network doesn't stop at the border.

More than 1 billion co-op members exist worldwide,

and co-ops generate 100 million jobs globally.

Cooperatives strive for sustainable development of communities through member-driven policies, with co-op leaders elected by members.

"As a member, you have a voice in how your co-op operates. That keeps the co-op's focus on you and how best to meet your needs," noted Mr. Wheatley.

The innovative practices of co-ops provide consumer-focused solutions that can adapt quickly to change. Unlike competitive, profit-driven businesses, co-ops cooperate with each other to fashion programs that improve service. For example, food co-ops introduced food nutrition labels long before they were federally required in 1994.

Electric cooperatives like Choptank Electric are leaders, delivering power and light to 42 million consumers in 47 states covering more than 75 percent of the nation's landmass. Choptank, founded in Denton in 1938, serves over 52,000 members in portions of all nine counties of Maryland's Eastern Shore.

In the coming issues of "Live Wire," we will take a look at the seven principles all cooperatives follow and how they relate to Choptank Electric and its members.

Arnold named to co-op board

Robert E. Arnold became the newest member of the Choptank Electric Cooperative Board of Directors in November 2011 as the representative for Queen Anne's County.

Mr. Arnold was named by the Choptank board to fill the unexpired term of Franklin Moore, who resigned in September after 24 years of service to the co-op.

Mr. Arnold and his wife, Sarah, reside on Double Creek Point



Board president Carl Widdowson welcomes Robert Arnold to board.

Road in Queen Anne's County. He is the owner of Arnold Farms LLC, a vegetable growing business, and has been a Choptank member since 1988.

Pocomoke operations office closing

The co-op's Pocomoke operations facility will close on or before Feb. 1 without any reduction in work force, according to President and CEO Mike Wheatley.

"Our long-term goal is to provide the same or better quality of service to members at a reduced cost," he said. "The workload in the Pocomoke District has diminished over time. There are not a lot of new connects and not a lot of calls for service. As the quality of our system has improved we have been able to reduce many of our service calls."

Pocomoke employees will be reassigned to the Berlin and Salisbury offices and the serviceman now assigned to the Pocomoke area will remain the same. "We are continuing to migrate to a mobile workforce where employees are dispatched from their vehicles. Mobile work force helps to get jobs done more quickly and efficiently," Mr. Wheatley said.

Mr. Wheatley announced Pocomoke Operations Manager Tom Aydelotte will become the co-op Facilities Manager for the cooperative.

Continued on page 2

Know your legislators

STATE SENATORS

All addresses are:
James Senate Office Building,
11 Bladen St.,
Annapolis MD 21401-1991 plus
room no.
James N. Mathias, Jr., D-38
Somerset, Wicomico, Worcester
Room 410; 410-841-3645
james.mathias@senate.state.md.us
Member since 2011
Richard F. Colburn, R-37
Caroline, Dorchester, Talbot,
Wicomico
Room 315; 410-841-3590
richard.colburn@senate.state.md.us
Member since 1995
Edward J. (E.J.) Pipkin, R-36
Caroline, Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's
Room 416; 410-841-3639
ej.pipkin@senate.state.md.us
Member since 2003

HOUSE OF DELEGATES

All addresses are:
House Office Building, 6 Bladen St.,
Annapolis MD 21401-1991
plus room no.
David D. Rudolph, D-34B
Cecil
Room 231; 410-841-3444
david.rudolph@house.state.md.us
Member since 1995
Jay A. Jacobs, R-36
Caroline, Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's
Room 215; 410-841-3449
jay.jacobs@house.state.md.us
Member since 2011
Michael D. Smigiel Sr., R-36
Caroline, Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's
Room 323; 410-841-3555
michael.smigiel@house.state.md.us
Member since 2003
Stephen S. Hershey Jr., R-36
Caroline, Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's
Room 215; 410-841-3543
steve.hershey@house.state.md.us
Member since 2011
Jeannie Haddaway, R-37B
Caroline, Dorchester, Talbot,
Wicomico
Room 216; 410-841-3429
jeannie.haddaway@house.state.md.us
Member since 2003

Adelaide C. (Addie) Eckardt, R-37B
Caroline, Dorchester, Talbot,
Wicomico
Room 213; Ext. 3343
adelaide.eckardt@house.state.md.us
Member since 1995
Chair, Eastern Shore Delegation
Rudolph C. Cane, D-37A
Dorchester, Wicomico
Room 364; Ext. 3427
rudolph.cane@house.state.md.us
Member since 1999
Charles J. Otto, R-38A
Somerset, Wicomico
Room 216; 410-841-3343
charles.otto@house.state.md.us
Member since 2011
Norman H. Conway, D-38B
Wicomico, Worcester
Room 121; Ext. 3407
norman.conway@house.state.md.us
Member since 1987
Michael A. McDermott, R-38B
Wicomico, Worcester counties
Room 323; 410-841-3431
mike.mcdermott@house.state.md.us
Member since 2011

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Sen. Barbara A. Mikulski, D-MD
503 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510
202-224-4654
Salisbury Office
Gallery Plaza Building
212 W. Main St., Suite 200
Salisbury MD 21801
410-546-7711
Sen. Benjamin L. Cardin, D-MD
509 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510
202-224-4524
Salisbury Office
129 E. Main St.
Salisbury MD 21801
410-546-4250
Rep. Andrew P. Harris, R-1st
506 Cannon House Office Building
Washington DC 20515
202-225-5311
Centreville Office
102 Turpins Lane
Centreville, MD 21617
443-262-9136

Watt's the Answer?

Watt's the Answer for January: What woman was the only U.S. athlete to win a gold medal at the 1968 Winter Olympics?

Win a \$10 credit on your electric bill by entering our monthly trivia contest! Send name, account and phone number to: Watt's the Answer, Choptank Electric, P.O. Box 430, Denton MD 21629 or annew@choptankelectric.coop by Feb. 5; winner will be announced in March.

Why did we think anything in which the government got involved was going to be simple? In the November "Live Wire" we asked, "Which U.S. president formally proclaimed the last Thursday of November as the day to celebrate Thanksgiving nationwide?"

It kind of turned out to be a "trick question" even though that was not our intention. And the question actually has two answers. An explanation is in order:

In the middle of the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national Thanksgiving Day, to be celebrated on the final Thursday in November 1863.

Lincoln's successors as president followed his example of annually declaring the final Thursday in November to be Thanksgiving. In 1939, President Franklin D. Roosevelt broke with this tradition. November had five Thursdays that year (instead of the usual four), and FDR declared the fourth Thursday as Thanksgiving rather than the fifth. With the country still in the midst of The Great Depression, he thought an earlier Thanksgiving would give merchants a longer period to sell goods before Christmas.

Republicans called this an affront to the memory of Lincoln. People began referring to Nov. 30 as the "Republican Thanksgiving" and Nov. 23 as the "Democratic Thanksgiving". Since a presidential declaration was not legally binding, FDR's change was widely disregarded. Twenty-three states went along with it, 22 did not, and some, like Texas, could not decide and took both days as government holidays.

On Oct. 6, 1941, both houses of Congress passed a joint resolution fixing the traditional last-Thursday date beginning in 1942. However, in December of that year the Senate passed an amendment that split the difference by requiring Thanksgiving be observed on the fourth Thursday of November, which was sometimes the last Thursday and sometimes (less frequently) the next to last. (Are you totally confused now?)

On Dec. 26, 1941 President Roosevelt signed this bill, for the first time making the date of Thanksgiving a matter of federal law and fixing the day as the fourth Thursday of November.

So, to be fair, and also because we just about gave up on this one, we selected two winning answers for our Thanksgiving question: Abraham Lincoln and Franklin Roosevelt.

And now (drum roll please), the winners of the November contest are:

Donna Lane of Preston whose answer was FDR and Ken de Groot of Crystal Beach who answered Abraham Lincoln.



The "Keeping Delmarva Warm" annual winter coat drive sponsored by Choptank Electric and WMDT-TV is open until Jan. 31. Collection sites are located at co-op offices in Berlin, Salisbury and Denton, plus WMDT and the Centre at Salisbury. Thank you!!

Pocomoke

Cont. from p1

The payment drop box located at the Pocomoke office will be closed as of February 1 as well. Co-op members may pay bills by mail, by calling the member service center toll-free at 877-892-0001 or online through a secure site at www.choptankelectric.coop.

Mr. Wheatley said plans are to put the Choptank office and warehouse located at Rt. 13 and Dividing Creek Road up for sale.

Dear Choptank Electric Cooperative Member:

The Action Committee for Rural Electrification® (ACRE)® is the political action committee (PAC) of the nation’s electric cooperatives. Founded in 1966 by the approximately 1,000 cooperatives of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA), it supports candidates for state and federal office – those in office now and running for office – who will speak for and protect the interests of electric cooperatives and their member-owners.

Issues affecting electric cooperatives and the price co-op members pay for electricity come before our national and state legislators every week. If electric co-ops don’t contact our elected representatives and explain how these issues can hurt or help our members, no one else will.

Electric co-ops are facing many legislative issues that will affect the future operations of the cooperative and the rates paid by co-op members. One way you can help is by joining the ACRE Co-op Owners for Political Action (COPA) program, which provides a convenient way for member-owners to participate in the political affairs of their co-op. The participation of member-owners helps ensure the voice of electric cooperatives remains strong and effective in the political arena.

More than 33,000 employees and boards of directors across the country are helping their electric co-ops as ACRE members. Member-owners can help by joining COPA to participate in a nationwide grassroots community with a strong collective voice working on behalf of electric cooperatives and their members. By joining, members will receive current information on legislative and political issues affecting local electric cooperatives and their members, including the ACRE Newsletter, and receive a membership pin.

Contributions are used to help educate elected representatives about issues affecting your co-op and you, and to explain how proposed legislation could harm or help rural electric consumers and their cooperatives. For more information, please contact Vice President of Consumer Affairs, Robert Behlke, at 877-892-0001 ext. 8553 or bobbe@choptankelectric.coop.

COPA is our best tool to get the attention of decision makers in Maryland and across the country, and to ensure the cooperative business model thrives. Just \$25 a year makes you part of this voice for electric cooperatives. There are two easy ways to participate: Through your monthly electric bill at \$2.08 per month or mail a \$25 check and send it in along with your form to: COPA, Choptank Electric Cooperative, PO Box 430, Denton MD 21629.

You may return the completed form below with your next bill payment or go to www.choptankelectric.coop and click on **COPA Form** to print the form in pdf format.

Sincerely,



Robert P. Behlke
Vice President, Consumer Affairs

What is a Political Action Committee?

The law allows individuals with common interests to pool their resources using PACs in order to make political contributions to candidates for state and federal office. Candidates who receive a substantial contribution from ACRE get an important message about your interest in your local community’s electric cooperative.

Are Contributions Tax-Deductible?

The IRS has ruled all political contributions, such as those to COPA, are not tax deductible.

Where Does My Contribution Go?

With the exception of a small federal tax payment of less than 1%, all contributions to COPA go directly to the campaigns of candidates for political office. A portion of your contribution (about half) may be refunded to your state electric cooperative PAC to support candidates for state office.

Who Determines How These Contributions Are Made?

Factors that determine financial support include the candidate’s position on issues critical to electric co-ops, as well as votes and public statements on these issues; the candidate’s committee assignments and leadership positions and his or her relative importance to cooperatives; and a candidate’s financial need and the strength of his or her opponent. The political affiliation is never taken into account.

YES! I want to help keep the voice of rural electric cooperatives heard in the state and national political process by participating in Co-op Owners for Political Action. Please add the following amount to my monthly electric bill:

- Regular COPA Member: \$2.08 per month (\$25 per year)
- Century Club Member: \$8.03 per month
- President’s Club Member: \$41.60 per month (\$500 per year)*
- Other \$ _____

I affirm that my contribution has been made with non-corporate funds:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Account #: _____ Signature: _____

E-Mail address: _____

Return to: COPA, c/o Choptank Electric, P.O. Box 430, Denton MD 21629

* Federal Election Law requires the following information for contributions equal to or exceeding \$200:

Employer: _____ Occupation: _____

DANCE: Pine Steppers, Wed., 7 p.m., Ocean Pines Comm. Ctr., 410-208-6777; Pepper Steppers, 2nd Sat., 8 p.m., 1st UM Church hall, Chestertown, 410-810-0926/778-4578; Dorchester Swingers, Maple Elem., Cambridge, 8-10, 1st Fri., 410-221-1978; Line, Fri., Loyal Order Eagles, Salisbury, beginners 6 p.m., 410-749-1981

BINGO: Willards VFC, Th., 7 p.m., Lions Bldg., 410-835-8678; Pittsville VFC, Fri., 7 p.m. 410-835-2323; Fedsbg. VFW, Th., 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, Fruitland, Mon., 6:30 p.m. 410-742-6859; Willards Lions, Tues., 7 p.m. 410-835-2328; Denton VFC, Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Holy Saviour, Ocean City, Fri., 7-10, 410-524-7004; OC Elks 2645, Wed., 5:30, 410-250-2645; OC Am. Legion, Th. 7 p.m., 410-289-3166; Westover Moose, Fri., 7pm. 410-651-0360

MUSIC: Peninsulaires, Tues. 7:30 p.m., Faith Comm. Church, Salisbury, 410-251-0780; Ocean Bay Sweet Adelines, Mon., 7 p.m., Wicomico Presb. Church Annex, Salisbury, 410-749-1194; Delmarva Sweet Adelines, Mon., 7 p.m., Ocean Pines Comm. Ctr. 410-641-6876; QA Barbershop, Wed., 6:30 p.m., Ches. Coll., Wye Mills. 410-827-7993; Bay Country Chorus, Mon., 7 p.m., 400 Brookletts Rd., Easton, 410-820-7813; E. Shore Bluegrass, 2nd Sun., 1 p.m., Marydel Fire Co. 302-674-3149 or 410-648-5366

VETS: Vietnam Vets., 1st Th., 7 p.m., Easton VFW, 410-943-1374; 3rd Th., VFW 194, Salisbury, 410-651-0904; Dis. Am. Vets 34, 4th Th., 1 p.m., VFW 194, Salisbury. 410-749-4518; Am. Legion 166, Ocean City, 2nd/4th Mon. 7 p.m. 410-289-3166

Chesapeake Christian Riders CMA 453, 1st Th., Bob Evans Rest., Easton, 6 p.m. 410-943-8325

Mid-Shore A.B.A.T.E., 2nd Th., 7:30 p.m., Easton VFW. www.mid-shoreabate.com

CANCER SUPPORT: Women Supp. Women, 3rd Wed., 6:30 p.m., 10026 Old Ocean City Blvd., #4. 410-641-2849; Shore Cancer Ctr., Easton, 888-806-0756 - patients/survivors, Th., 5 p.m., Daytimers, 1st/3rd Wed., 10:30 p.m., family/caregivers, 1st/3rd Wed., 5:30-7; Lymphedema, 2nd Tues., 11-12, Avery Hall Ed. Ctr., PRMC. 410-548-7880

SELF-HELP: Denton AA, 105 Gay St., Th., 8 p.m.; Co-Dependents, Sun., 6:30 p.m., Christ UM, Salisbury, 410-376-0164; Dual Recovery, Wor. Lib., Pocomoke, Mon., 7 p.m.; Overeaters, Sat., 10 a.m., Christ UM, Salisbury, 410-376-0164, Buckingham Presb., Berlin, 410-251-1974, Mon. 5:15 p.m., Th., 5:30 p.m., Health Ed., Mem. Hosp., Easton, Fri. noon, St. Mark's UM, Easton, 410-820-0006; TOPS, Tues., 6 p.m., Wor. Health Dept., Th., 6:30 p.m., Christ UMC, Salisbury, 410-749-9619/443-944-1299, Talbot Sr. Ctr., Easton, 6 p.m. 410-822-2630/673-2248; Families Anonymous, 12-step recovery from affects of a loved one's addictions, Comm. Church Ocean Pines, Rm. 38, Tues., 7 p.m., 410-208-4515.

SINGLES CLUBS: Widows & Widowers, 3rd Tues., 2:15 p.m., The Woodlands at Ocean Pines, lunch 1 p.m., 410-208-0430; Beach Singles 45+, 302-436-9577; Delmarva Singles 50+, 1st Wed., 6 p.m. 410-742-8310; Activity Singles, Easton, 2nd Wed., 410-822-7468

Nat. Assn. Active/Retired Fed. Empl. 1261, Salisbury, 3rd Th., 410-896-2671; Wor. Co. 2274, 4th Th., The Woodlands, Ocean Pines, 11:30 a.m., 410-641-5570

AARP Ocean Pines Chap., 1st Mon., Assateague Rm., OPA Comm. Ctr., 10 a.m. Social 9:30. aarpnewsletter@mchsi.com

BRIDGE: Riverside Homes, Salisbury, Mon., 7 p.m., 410-835-8343; Tred Avon, Wed., 11:30 a.m., Talbot Sr. Ctr., Easton, 410-226-5126; Ocean Pines, duplicate, ACBL, Mon., 12:30 p.m., comm. hall, Tues., 10 a.m., comm. hall, Wed. & Fri., 10 a.m., OPCC, 410-641-8071.

Ocean Pines Camera Club, 2nd Mon., 7 p.m., library. 410-208-2555
Master Gardeners Plant Clinic, OP Library, Tues., 1-4. 410-641-5570

Writers Bloc, 3rd Sat., Rm. 3, Wic. Co. Library, Salisbury, 1 p.m.

Friends of OP Library, 2nd Mon., 10 a.m., 410-208-2760

Sons of Confed. Vets Maj. Gen. Elzey Camp, 3rd Wed., 7 p.m., Am. Legion 64, Rt. 50W, Salisbury. 410-641-9305
Preston Vol. Fire Co., AUCE breakfast, 1st Sun., 7-10, \$7.
S/Sgt. Cohee Detachment/Marine Corps League, 2nd Wed., 7, American Legion 64, Salisbury. 410-341-4616

Beginner's knitting, 3rd Tues., 1-2, Women Supporting Women, 106 W. Circle Ave., Suite 101, Salisbury. Free.

Heartland Quilt Guild, 1st Thurs., 7 p.m., Choptank Electric district office, Denton. 410-479-4296

Military families, Delmarva Blue Star Mothers, 2nd Sat., 2 p.m., call for locations. 410-438-2911 or 410-376-0354

Star Charities, All Volunteers in Action, 1st Fri., 10 a.m., Ocean Pines Library. 410-641-7667

STAMPS: ES Club, 3rd Tues., 6:30 p.m., Am. Legion, Rt. 50, W. Salisbury. 410-422-1492. Tidewater Club, 2nd & 4th Tues., 7:30 p.m., Easton Town Hall, 2nd fl. 410-745-0270

MD Children's Health (to age 19), Families & Children, Primary Adult Care (ages 19-64): Kent 410-778-7035, QA 410-758-0720, Tal. 410-819-5690, Car. 410-479-8004.

PARKINSON'S SUPPORT: 2nd Th., 1:30 p.m., Woodlands, 1135 Ocean Pkwy. 410-208-9001/641-0539; 3rd Wed., 2 p.m., 909 Progress Cr., Salisbury, 410-749-8511

Salisbury Chess Club, Wed., 5:30-9:30 p.m., Th., 7 p.m.- close, Lighthouse Diner, 1502 S. Salisbury Blvd. 410-430-9343

Alzheimers Support by Comm. Church Ocean Pines, 1st Wed., 5 p.m., OP Library; 3rd Mon. at church. 410-208-1701

Worcester Co. Garden Club, 2nd Mon., 410-208-6558

Free diabetes services Som. Co. Health Dept., 443-523-1760.

Book list of Lower Delmarva Genealogical Society available, call 410-749-6158 or write PO Box 3602, Salisbury MD 21802.

Student Art Show, thru Jan. 28, Artworks Gallery & Chestertown Arts League's Studio Gallery, 306 Park Row, Chestertown. 410-778-6300 or www.artworkschestertown.org

Brown Bag Lunch, Feb. 6, noon, Tal. Co. Free Library, St. Michaels, speaker Jill Titus on "Brown's Battleground." Bring lunch; coffee/desserts provided. Free. 410-745-5877

Invitational karate tournament by the Associated Shotokan karate Clubs of the E. Shore, sponsored by Eastern Sun karate, Feb. 25, 9-3, Fretterd Community Ctr., 4th St., Denton. Benefits www.honorflight.org.

Maryland Mid-Shore AARP Tax-Aide program will be available to prepare taxes for low and moderate-income taxpayers, Feb. 1 - April 14, at these locations. Appointments encouraged.

Caroline Co. Library: Denton, Mon. 5-7, 410-479-1343; Federalsburg, Mon. 10:30-2:30, 410-754-8397; Greensboro, Wed. 3-7, 410-482-2173; Kent Co. Library, Thur. 9-3, 419-778-2564; Amy Ferris Adult Activity Ctr., Sat. 9-1, 419-778-2564; Kramer Sr. Ctr., Fri. 9-3, 410-758-0848; Sudlersville Sr. Ctr., to be determined, 410-438-3159; Grasonville Sr. Ctr., Tues. 8:30-4, 410-827-6010; Stevensville Sr. Ctr., Fri. 9-3, 410-758-0848; Easton VFD Annex, Thur. 9-3, 410-822-1444; Oxford Muni. Bdg., Fri. 9:30-11:30, 410-226-5122; Tilghman Library, to be determined, 410-822-1444; St. Michaels Library, Fri. 9:30-1:30 410-822-1444.

Best wishes to all of our members for a healthy & safe 2012. Thank you for your support and remember: We're Looking Out for You!

SEND EVENTS: Shore Good to Know, Choptank Electric, P.O. Box 430, Denton, MD 21629; or annew@choptankelectric.coop two months prior to event if possible. Please include phone #.