

# LIVE WIRE

Celebrating  
**80**  
1938 2018  
Years of Service



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**DECEMBER 2018**

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,  
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## Calling All High School Juniors!



Choptank Electric Cooperative is now accepting applications for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) 2019 Youth Tour program which will take place June 16 - 20, 2019 in Washington, D.C. We are looking for five current high school juniors who are interested in continuing their education through higher education like college or through a trade school.

Youth Tour representatives are selected by Choptank Electric based on an application, 90 second first-round self-produced video, 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 Thursday, January 31, 2019 by end of business at 4:30pm.

This amazing experience includes the opportunity to meet congressman 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, candidates will meet over 1,500 other co-op member students from all across the country. All expenses and transportation are paid for by Choptank Electric Cooperative.

Applications are now available online at Choptank Electric's website at [www.choptankelectric.coop](http://www.choptankelectric.coop) under Member Benefits, Youth Tour or call the Member Service Center at 1-877-892-0001.



## Straight Talk with your CEO

by Mike Wheatley

### SmartHub Offers new Feature for Members

As 2018 comes to an end, we want to continually make SmartHub the one-stop-shop for doing business with us. As we look for new features that could benefit our members, we have recently added a new feature that alerts members to their energy usage.

This new feature is called "Power Usage Alerts." This feature allows members to receive threshold notifications based on certain energy usage parameters. Members can set up a minimum threshold of kWh notification and a maximum threshold of kWh notification. Members can set up these threshold alerts to be notified when their hourly usage or daily usage minimally hits a certain amount or exceeds a certain amount. If a member has more than one account, the member can set up alerts for each account or for specific accounts.

See SmartHub  
Continued on Page 2

# Board Approves \$2.1 Million in Capital Credits

The Choptank Electric Cooperative Board of Directors voted to return \$2.1 million to its members during the month of December.

Of the \$2.1 million to be returned, approximately 60 percent will be paid to long-time members who have Choptank Electric capital credits owed to them from 1992 and 1993. The other 40 percent will be paid to members who have been allocated Choptank Electric capital credits from 1994 through 2017.

Any active member who has accrued capital credits less than \$35 will receive the amount credited directly to their December bill. Active members who have accrued more than \$35 in capital credits will receive a check in the mail. For any member who is inactive, you must accrue \$35 before a check is

sent. **Inactive members must have a good address listed at the co-op to receive their check.** The checks are scheduled to be mailed by mid-December.

From the moment you signed up to receive electric service from Choptank Electric, you became a member of Choptank Electric, not a customer. While investor-owned utilities return a portion of any profits back to their

shareholders, electric co-ops operate on an at-cost basis. Co-ops return their profits to its members. Choptank Electric allocates and periodically retires capital credits to its members. The amount received is based on how much electricity the member purchased during a year.

That's the cooperative difference, where members are first, every day.



## SmartHub

Continued from Page 1

These threshold notifications can be set up to notify you either by text message, email, or both. The alerts will go out every day at 4:00pm EST for the previous day's usage.

This could be useful for members who might want to create a budget for their electric bill, monitor their accounts closely for higher than normal usage, or if you have recently installed a new appliance in your home and want to see how it affects your energy usage.

If, at any time, you wish to discontinue your SmartHub Power Usage Alerts, you can discontinue them at any time by visiting your SmartHub account online at [www.choptankelectric.coop](http://www.choptankelectric.coop).

SmartHub is just another way we think about our members being first!

### Edit Power Usage Alert Subscriptions

Use the left side of the window to select the options for your subscription. These options will limit what notifications get sent to you as you will only receive notifications that fit the criteria of your options. Once you have entered in your options, choose how you want to be contacted and click "Save Subscription >>" to save your options. Once saved, they will appear in the selected options. To remove a subscription, click the red "X" for that subscription.

Add New Options	Currently Selected Options
Account Number: <input type="text" value="Select Account(s)"/>	
Meter ID: <input type="text" value="Select Meter(s)"/>	
Hourly High Usage Threshold (kWh): <input type="text"/>	
Hourly Low Usage Threshold (kWh): <input type="text"/>	
Daily High Usage Threshold (kWh): <input type="text"/>	
Daily Low Usage Threshold (kWh): <input type="text"/>	
Contacts: <input type="text" value="sharonc@choptankelectric.coop (E-Mail)"/>	

Click a contact to select it for your subscription. To choose multiple contacts, hold "Ctrl" and click.

# Crews Restore Power to VA Members After Hurricane Michael



Hurricane Michael wrought damage throughout the southern Virginia territory, causing massive power outages to over 80,000 members located throughout Virginia; with Mecklenburg, Northern Neck, and Southside Electric Cooperatives hit hardest.

Once the hurricane had passed, Choptank Electric Cooperative crews leapt into action to aid other regional members who were without power. Four crews were sent to Southside Electric Cooperative to begin restoration efforts on Friday, October 12 and three crews left Saturday,



October 13, to aid Northern Neck Electric Cooperative.

For five days, both crews worked long hours removing massive trees and rebuilding damaged lines. Jimmy Harvey, Crew Supervisor for our Southside crews, said, "The damage was

unbelievable. Many poles were broken from toppled trees and flooding made it difficult to restore service."

But our crews were up to the challenge of restoring power as quickly and safely as possible for our sis-



ter co-ops in Virginia. Working 16 hour days, they stayed until the last member was restored.

"The members were so appreciative of us," said Jason Gaskill, Crew Supervisor for our Northern Neck crews. "We had a member anonymously pay for our entire group's lunch one day. Every-

one would stop and tell us 'thank you.' We are just glad we could offer our help and restore power to other members."



Our own members showed their support for our crews efforts in VA on social media. Daniel Burt said, "Be Safe!!! Thank you for all you guys do! Awesome Team!!" and Penny Sherwood said, "Praying for the safety of our wonderful Choptank Crews! You guys are the BEST!!!"

As our sixth Cooperative Principle, "Cooperation Among Cooperatives" is part of what makes us a Co-op.

# A big "Thank You" to all of our crews who volunteered to restore power to members in Virginia!



## Closing Soon!

Our Cambridge Kiosk will no longer be in service after end of business on Monday, December 31, 2018.

We are working with MoneyGram so that we can provide additional payment options for our members so stay tuned for more details!



**Holiday Office Hours Correction!**  
Our offices will be closed on Monday, Dec. 24, Tuesday, Dec. 25, & Tuesday, January 1, 2019 for the holiday season.

## September 2018

### Trust Awards

- Nause Waiwash Band of Indians - \$1,000 roof
- Pocomoke Little League - \$2,000 electric supplies/work
- Queen Anne's Make A Difference Day - \$900 Mobile dentist
- Salisbury JayCees - \$250 Christmas shopping event
- Home Ports - \$500 tent rental/printing
- Drug Free Queen Anne's Co. Coalition - \$500

lights

The total of approved applications for September was \$26,284.07 which included \$19,122.34 for individual home and medical expenses.

**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.**

