On Thursday, April 25, 2019 Choptank Electric Cooperative members and Board of Directors assembled at The Milestone in Easton, MD to conduct the 81st Choptank Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting. The doors opened at 4:30pm and members took advantage of various vendor booths including the electronic recycling station and Choptank Electric’s electric vehicle display, learned new Co-op information, asked questions to the Choptank Electric employees, and enjoyed light refreshments.

Various vendors on site included: the Choptank Electric Energy Efficiency display, Lineman Challenge demonstration, SmartHub and solar display, Old Dominion Electric Cooperative (ODEC), vegetation management display, Aero Energy, Asplundh, and additional Co-op information.

The business meeting began at 6:00pm with Mr. Jeffrey Rathell, Chairman of the Board, introduc-
The 2019 Hurricane Season Is Upon Us

Be prepared now for the 2019’s hurricane season which begins June 1 and ends November 30. Be ready by:

**Before the Storm:**
- Signing up for SmartHub to report outages or use our Outage Reporting Number: 1-800-410-4790
- Updating your account’s contact information for call back notifications and outage updates.
- Putting together an emergency kit and plan. Fill your kit with a flashlight, batteries, cash, first aid supplies, medications, and copies of your critical information if you need to evacuate.
- Knowing the elevation level of your property and whether the land is flood-prone. This will help you prepare for the storm surge and any tidal flooding.
- Securing your home: cover all windows with either storm shutters or boards, clear loose and clogged rain gutters, and bring all outdoor furniture indoors.
- Learning about your community’s hurricane evacuation routes.

**During the Storm:**
- Listening to the radio or TV for information, if possible.
- Avoiding using the phone, unless there is an emergency.
- Turning off utilities if instructed to do so. Otherwise keep the refrigerator thermostat on the coldest setting and keep the doors closed.

**After the Storm:**
- Staying away from loose or dangling power lines and report them immediately to Choptank Electric Cooperative.
- Avoiding flood water as it may be electrically charged from underground or downed power lines and may hide dangerous debris or places where the ground is washed away.
- Driving only if necessary and avoid flooded roads. Watch out for fallen objects, downed power lines, and weakened walls, bridges, or sidewalks.
- NEVER using a generator inside homes, garages, crawlspaces, sheds, or similar areas. Deadly levels of carbon monoxide can quickly build up in these areas.

For more tips on planning before, during, and after the storm, visit [www.ready.gov/hurricanes](http://www.ready.gov/hurricanes).
It’s finally here: the pool is open! Family and friends are gathered around, ready to take a refreshing swim and enjoy your famous BBQ. However, something seems to dampen the mood, as some of your guests are complaining of experiencing a tingling shock when they contact the pool’s hand rails as they get out of the water, or when sitting on the pool deck with their feet in the water.

What could be causing this? Assuming the “shocks” are not the result of faulty wiring or equipment, they are most likely the result of Neutral-to-Earth Voltage (NEV). NEVs are natural, and normally exists between the grounded equipment or “conductor”, and local earth or metal structure around the pool that is not grounded. However certain conditions, such as the pool’s wiring not meeting national standards, corroded parts due to salt or chlorine exposure, or even a piece of equipment that is not properly grounded can aggravate the situation, translating into those annoying shocks.

Additional settings where NEV shocks (also known as stray voltage) may occur include hot tubs, sink faucets, outside hose faucets, boat decks, and street light poles. Even farm animals making contact with farmstead milking, feeding, or watering equipment can experience these tingling shocks.

At the end of the day, the best way to prevent NEV shocks is to have qualified, licensed electrician perform any kind of electrical work at your home, farm, or business, and perform regular maintenance on your electrical systems. If you believe you are experiencing issues due to NEVs, contact the Choptank Electric Cooperative Member Service Center at 1-877-892-0001 for additional information regarding NEV testing and NEVs in general.

In observance of the 4th of July holiday, our offices will be closed Thursday, July 4th, 2019.

Have a Fun and Safe Independence Day!

Father’s Day is

June 16th

Happy Father’s Day to all of our Co-op dads!

PCA to Increase Members’ Bills

Choptank Electric has proposed to the Maryland Public Service Commission an increase in the Power Cost Adjustment (PCA). Upon approval from the Commission, the increase would go into effect July 1, 2019.

A residential member using 1,000 kilowatt hours (kWh) per month will see an increase of $7.11 per month. The PCA is currently a credit of $0.00308/kWh. The proposed PCA, effective with the July 1st billing, will be a charge of $0.00403.

The PCA is a separate line item on each Choptank Electric bill which reflects the increases or decreases in the Co-op’s cost of wholesale power purchased from Old Dominion Electric Cooperative (ODEC). Any fluctuation in the PCA is mainly caused by changes in the cost of purchased power driven by the fuel used to generate electricity.

ODEC continues to work diligently to produce and procure the power required by its members with affordability and reliability as their primary concerns. Without Power Cost Adjustments, utility base rates would be constantly changing to reflect increases and decreases in the cost of power.
April 2019

Trust Awards

- Atlantic Symphony Orchestra - $500
- Bayside Breeze 10u Callahan - $585
- Bayside Quilters of The Eastern Shore - $500
- Ben’s Red Swings - $500
- Boy Scouts Troop #77 - $455
- Caroline County Humane Society - $2,500
- Chesapeake Charities Judy Center Queen Anne’s - $1,000
- Mid-Shore Council on Family Violence - $1,450
- NCHS Educators Rising - $2,500
- Snow Hill Christian Nursery School - $337
- Somerset Co. Sheriff’s Office - $1,000
- St. Michaels Travel Club - $1,000
- Vienna VFC - $1,500

The total of approved applications for April was $42,191.20 which included $23,965.00 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.