



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

CHELCO NEWS

Choctawhatchee Electric Cooperative, Inc.

VOL. 16, Number 3

May/June 2011



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CHELCO Board President Robert Jones updated members on the state of the cooperative at the 70th Annual Meeting of Members in April.

Members attend CHELCO's 70th Annual Meeting

The state of the cooperative from the Board President ...

Board of Trustees President Ronald Jones welcomed members to the Annual Meeting and thanked them for participating in the co-op's business. He continued by thanking CHELCO members for voting in the 2011 election of trustees, which saw the three incumbents re-elected. He also thanked members for their overwhelming support to revise and update the bylaws.

"When you mail in your voting card, you are deciding who will oversee your interest," Jones said. "Your participation is not only appreciated, it is essential to the co-op way of life."

Jones stated that 2010 was a good year for CHELCO because the price of electricity was more stable than several prior years. He attributed this to PowerSouth's efforts to stabilize fuel prices through long-term fuel contracts and a risk management program that includes future hedging of

natural gas. PowerSouth is CHELCO's wholesale power provider.

He reminded attendees that approximately 70 cents of every dollar CHELCO collects is used to pay for wholesale power, and that about 70 cents of every dollar PowerSouth collects is used to pay for coal and natural gas. Stabilizing fuel prices is the primary driver in keeping electric rates from spiking.

Jones cited another good year for CHELCO without a hurricane and commented that the right of way clearing has helped the system hold up better during normal storms.

CHELCO has also fared well in the face of a slow economy. While growth was at a slower pace than in years past, CHELCO did grow some in membership.

Three new substations will help handle future growth and boost reliability in the areas they will serve. The Hammock Bay substation was energized just a few weeks ago, while the Point Washington substation will

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ADMINISTRATION

Leigh V. Grantham
Chief Executive Officer

Wayne Thompson
Chief Financial Officer

Mike Richards
Vice President of Corporate Services

Aaron Bradshaw
Vice President of Member & Administrative Services

J. Matthew Avery, P.E.
Vice President of Engineering

Donny Fugate
Vice President of Operations

TRUSTEES (BY DISTRICT)

Pat A. Carlyle 1
Terry Pilcher 2
Jim Bishop 3
Dewyne Douglass 4
Ronald Jones 5
Gerald Edmondson 6
Don McKnight 7
Gayle Hughes 8
Burt Cosson 9
The Board of Trustees normally meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. at the headquarters in DeFuniak Springs.

EDITORIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

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1350 W. Baldwin Ave.
DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435-0512

RATES RESIDENTIAL

Customer Charge
Single Phase \$24.00; Three Phase \$34.60

Energy Charge
7.046 cents per KWH + or - Wholesale
Power Adjustment

GENERAL SERVICE NON-DEMAND

Customer Charge
Single Phase \$24.00; Three Phase \$34.60

Energy Charge
6.459 cents per KWH + or - Wholesale
Power Adjustment

GENERAL SERVICE DEMAND

Customer Charge
Single Phase \$35.00; Three Phase \$40.00

Energy Charge
4.265 cents per KWH

Demand Charge
50-499 KW bill at \$6.22 per KWH + or -
Wholesale Power Adjustment
Other applicable taxes, charges and fees
may apply.

TERMS OF PAYMENT

If a member's account becomes delinquent for non-payment of a final bill, all cost incurred in the collection of the account including, but not limited to attorney's fees, court cost and fees charged by a collection agency, shall be paid by the member.

To report power outages or other electrical problems Call 1-800-342-0990 or 892-2111

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In Brief...

Two holidays have offices closing

CHELCO offices will be closed Monday, May 30, for the Memorial Day holiday. Offices will also be closed Monday, July 4, for the Independence Day holiday. Remember to buckle up and drive safely.

Members elect trustees and pass bylaw revision

CHELCO members voted to retain the three incumbent Trustees up for re-election. The Trustees who were re-elected are Jim Bishop, District 3; Ronnie Jones, District 5; and Gayle Hughes, District 8. Read more about Annual Meeting inside this issue. Thanks go to the CHELCO members who expressed an interest in the co-op's business and chose to run for a board position this year.

In addition, the bylaw revision was also accepted by CHELCO members. Thanks to all CHELCO members who voted in the 2011 voting process.

CHELCO financial info available

CHELCO's 2010 financial information is included in this issue of *CHELCO News*. If you would like a complete annual report, you may pick up a copy at any CHELCO area office.

Crew assists North Alabama co-op

A crew consisting of CHELCO and CSI employees left April 28 to assist in restoration efforts, following the devastating tornadoes in Alabama. They went to the aid of Arab Electric Cooperative in Arab, Ala.

The CHELCO crew consisted of Larry Tankersley, Jerry Nelson, Joseph Gates, Cody Dickey, Glenn Garrett, Jesse Nolin, Johnny Lightner, Allen Ward and Chase Weimorts. Additionally, Donald Cawthon

and Dannie Brown from CHELCO Services Inc. (CSI) completed the crew.

Paying online saves more than postage, it saves time

If you want to save time and stamps, you may sign up to pay your bill online by check or credit card. To set up this option, you'll need to have your current bill. Information from the bill is needed to complete the registration process. Once registered, you'll no longer need the bill since all your billing information will be online. Please log on to billing.chelco.com. Do not type www before the address. A link is located on the left side of the CHELCO Web site, www.chelco.com. Look for the "My Account" box.

Once you complete the process, you'll receive an email from "Customercare." If you elect to use your credit card, a convenience fee will apply because payments go through a third party. If you use an E-check, there is no additional charge.

CHELCO program allows members to help members

CHELCO's Members Helping Members program has now been helping families pay their bills for one year. In the first quarter of 2011, \$1,779.71 helped eight Okaloosa County CHELCO members pay their electric bills. In Walton County, 13 members received a total of \$2,806.61.

Members Helping Members was designed to allow CHELCO members to help other members who need help paying their power bills. The program is administered by the Salvation Army in both counties. Members may choose their level of giving, and participation is voluntary.

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to CHELCO News, P.O. Box 512, DeFuniak Springs, FL 32435. The magazine keeps members informed on CHELCO news and events, available services and local happenings. Comments about the magazine should be directed to Kathy Morrow at kmorrow@chelco.com or 892-5069, ext. 105.

Co-op Connections Card brings businesses and members together

CHELCO would like to thank the businesses that have joined us in the cooperative spirit by offering discounts to members who show their cards when doing business. Check out the list below for local businesses. National incentives can be found at www.connections.coop.

DEFUNIAK SPRINGS

Twin Lakes Supermarket & Deli

Groceries, Fresh Meat Market, Deli
1814 HWY 90 West | 850-892-3022
10% off select items with additional purchase of \$25

Aidmore Animal Clinic

Veterinary Clinic
450 Baldwin Ave | 850-892-5435
10% off dental cleaning or health screen with annual visit

Ali's Family Child Care

24 hour Childcare Monday-Friday.
227 W. Seneca Drive | 850-951-0905
10% off services

April Cleaning Service

Personalized, professional and reliable House Cleaning service
54 Vanjulyn Lane | 850-892-0500
10% off a general or deep clean house cleaning

B-B Cut & Sew

Alterations, Hemming, Take in/out, Rips, Buttons, etc...
1299 US Hwy 90 W Suite 2 | 850-891-7813
10% off ticket

Bass Style Shop

Family Hair Care
858 Baldwin Ave | 850-892-5389
5% off all chemical services or permanent makeup

Best Western Crossroads Inn Hotel

2343 US Hwy 331 S | 850-892-5111
10% off rack rate

Bogey's Bar & Restaurant

Restaurant and Full Bar/Serving Lunch & Dinner, Casual Fine Cuisine
17 South 8th St | 850-951-2233
10% off entire check

Busy Bee Cafe

Lunch cafe offering specialty sandwiches, salads, and burgers.
35 S. 7th Street | 850-520-4638
15% off entire ticket

Carchex Detail & Tint

Full service professional detail shop and Carwash,
575 US Hwy 90 West | 850-892-4847
10% off complete window tinting package; 10% off deluxe detail package.

Colortyme Sales & Lease

Sales and lease of furniture, electronics and appliances
1030 H Freeport Rd | 850-892-0440
50% off 1st months lease payment or 20% off cash price

Comfort Inn & Suites of DeFuniak Springs Hotel

326 Coy Burgess Loop | 850-951-2225
10% off one night's stay

Crazy Carl's

Powersports, Sales, Service, ATV's, Motorcycles
1578 Hwy 83 | 850-951-2525
5% off any purchase

D&A Landscaping Materials

Landscaping materials: top soil, rock, gravel, etc
1251 Hwy 90 W | 850-892-4468
10% off on purchases of \$50 or greater

Dixie Trucking

Sitework such as land clearing, bushhogging, dozerwork, stone & gravel
234 Mossy Lane | 850-259-7225
10% discount on all services

Drews Computer Repair

Onsite computer repair
199 Rachels Road | 850-401-1541
10% discount on all services provided

Evans Carpet City

Carpet, Tile & Flooring
24 South 9th St | 850-892-0839
10% off Mill ends

Express Health & Fitness

Fitness Center - Full Service Health Club
1045 A Hwy 331 S | 850-520-4659
12 mos @ \$34.95 a month, \$315.00 in full

Fancy Nails of DeFuniak Springs

Nail salon services
931 US Hwy 331 S | 850-892-0466
10% off services totaling \$15.00 or more

Garrett Small Engine Repair

Small Engine Repair Shop
1771 US Hwy 90 E | 850-520-4681
5% off current monthly special

Genesis Automotive

Car Dealership
20 Shoemaker Drive | 850-892-9145
Free detail with purchase of a vehicle

Goff's Ready to Wear, Inc.

Goff's Ready to Wear is a woman's specialty shop.
434 North 9th Street | 850-892-3514
10% off apparel. Offer good on Wednesday's only.

Gulf Coast Insulation, LLC

Innovative insulation installation company
63 S Stagecoach Road | 850-685-9709
\$100 off spray foam (upgrade), \$50 off cellulose (upgrade), \$75 off new



Hungry Howies

Pizza, Subs and Salads
1030 US Hwy 331 S | 850-951-0484
10% off your order

I Fix Computers

Computer Repair, Business Networking, Sales, Service, Website Design and Hosting.
886 Baldwin Ave | 850-892-0977
15% off total service-related charges (parts excluded)

K B Carts

Golf Cart Sales, Service and Accessories; Pickup and Delivery Available. Over 20 years experience.
11078-A Hwy 90 W | 850-974-0312
Free diagnosis of cart service needs w/10% off parts & labor

L & H Automotive & Collision Center

Automotive repair facility and collision center. We also have a full service engine machine shop
1050 West Nelson Ave | 850-892-3164
10% off parts & labor

Lily's Cafe

Hometown cafe with "The best breakfast in town."
7700 Highway 90 West | 850-892-3363
10% off menu items

McLeans Florist & Gifts

Retail Florist and Gifts
161 State Hwy 83 North | 850-892-3432
10% off single gift item purchase over \$50

Nature's Health Food Store of DFS, Inc.

Nature's Health Food Store
760 Baldwin Ave. | 850-892-2356
10% off regular price

Nook & Cranny Consignment

Consignment (home) and Coffee Shop
676 Baldwin Ave. | 850-865-2976
Free drink from coffee shop with purchase

Northwest Florida Golf Cars

Golf Cart Sales, Service and Parts
2310 Hwy 90 West | 850-892-0881
10% off Annual Golf Cart Service

Parrotlce Cafe

American and Tex Mex Cuisine Restaurant.
100A US HWY 90 East | 850-892-2400
10% of any menu items

Quality Glass of Walton County

Retail Glass shop.
1652 US Hwy 90 West | 850-892-4929
10% off invoices between \$50 and \$2,500

Rhodes Jewelers, Inc.

Retail Jewelry & gift store. Jewelry and watch repair.

42 South 9th Street | 850-892-3621
20% off regular priced items

Scooters Lawn & Garden, Inc

Repair Service for small engines
1328 Hwy 90 West | 850-951-4849
10% off blades, belts and air filters

Simply Good BBQ

BBQ Restaurant
12496 US HWY 90 W | 850-892-4494
10% off any order over \$15

So Clean Car Care

Auto detailing and car care
75 Charlie Brown Road | 850-892-0277
\$5 off car wash and detail

Stella's Florist & Boutique

Flourist and Boutique Store; Tuxedo Rentals
766 Baldwin Ave. | 850-520-4623
10% off boutique items excluding tuxedos & flowers

Sweeney's Lock and Key

Lock and Key Locksmith Service
73 O'Daniel Way | 850-865-1212
10% off total bill

Taco City

Mexican Food Restaurant
915 Hwy 90 West | 850-520-4611
10% off order of \$10 or more.

That Pizza Place

Italian Restaurant
11078 Hwy 90 West | 850-520-4505
10% off excluding Beer & Wine

Triangle Chevrolet Buick Oldsmobile

Auto Dealership - New and Used Cars
475 E US Hwy 90 | 850-892-2151
Free Detail with purchase of a front end alignment

Walton Music

Musical instruments, lessons, accessories, etc.
756 A Baldwin Ave | 850-892-7073
10% off any one regular priced item

BAKER

Baker Farm Center

Feed & Seed
5847 Hwy 189 North | 850-537-3661
Free 50 lb bag Livestock Feed with \$150 purchase

Blooms Over Baker Flowers and Gifts

Flowers and Gifts
5794 Hwy 4 | 850-723-5313
5% off Tuxedo Rentals

Debbie's Leather Works & Repair

Custom leather work and repair
5788 Highway 4 | 850-537-3300
10% off on all Tack in store, 10% off all custom orders

CRESTVIEW

Angels Touch Pool Service, LLC

Swimming pool cleaning service
PO Box 1153 | 850-682-7290
\$50 off of regular monthly pool service price (4 visits per month)

Ava's Jewelry Boutique

Fashion Jewelry, Authentic Vintage Jewelry & More
763 N Ferdon Blvd | 850-689-2222
15% off single item excluding vintage jewelry.

Azteca Mexican Restaurant

Delicious Mexican Cuisine in a family freindly environment.
789 N Ferdon Blvd | 850-682-8206
10% discount off of total bill excluding any other discounts

Gordon Air Conditioning

HVAC, Service & Repair, replacement and new construction.
3182 E James Lee Blvd | 850-682-5214
10% off Service & Repair Costs

Panhandle Shooting Sports

Firearms, Archery, Hunting & Outdoors.
4381 S Ferdon Blvd | 850-398-8367
10% discount on all accessories with purchase of Gun or Bow

Possum Ridge BBQ

Take out BBQ: Ribs, Chicken, Pork, Beef Brisket.
852 N Ferdon Blvd | 850-826-3465
20% to all card holders on Wednesday's.

Red Raspberry Boutique & Bridal

Boutique & Bridal Shop
296 North Main Street | 850-682-2446
10% off purchase

Studio One 80 Salon & Spa

Full service Salon & Spa
265 N Main St | 850-398-8004
50% off your first Massage or Facial

DESTIN

Himes Signs Corp.

Any type of custom signage, electric, architectural, vinyl, LED, etc...
4 Commerce Street | 850-837-1159
5-20% off on related products/services. Contact office for specific detail

FORT WALTON BEACH

Mills Heating & Air

Heating, Cooling, Ductwork, Duct cleaning, Dryer Vent Cleaning
225 Green Acres Rd | 850-862-4796
10% discount on repairs or new installation

Visionary Technologies & Design, Inc.

Web Design Services, Hosting, Consulting,
1780 Old Ranch Road | 850-314-0269
10% off initial website design or redesign services

FREEPORT

Emerald Coast Flowers & Gifts

Florist
172 E Hwy 20
10% discount

The Prissy Hen

Boutique-Jewelry- Fashion Accessories- Gifts
131 Hwy 20 West | 850-880-6511
10% off all items

Yards N Yarn, LLC

Fabric, Notions, Yarn, and Thread
901 St HWY 20 E suite 1 | 850-880-6404
5% off with card or mention of ad

MIRAMAR BEACH

Fusion Spa Salon @ Grand Boulevard

Fusion Spa Salon is an Aveda lifestyle salon and spa.
600 Grand Blvd | 850-654-2444
10% off any spa or salon service on Wednesdays

NICEVILLE

Ed's Hometown Seafood & Steaks Restaurant

1027 John Sims Pkwy | 850-678-5072
15% off purchase on Tuesdays

It's A Girl Thing

Boutique specializing in Purses, Jewelry, Mariana, vintage and fashion, candles and Christian gifts.
1016-B John Sims Parkway | 850-897-4475
10% off entire purchase

SANTA ROSA BEACH

Bruno's Pizza

Traditional pizza joint serving specialty pizzas and more
3723 E Co. HWY 30A | 850-231-1452
25% off menu items

Sunny Days Bikes & Kayaks

Rental and Repairs of Bikes and Kayaks
5311 East Co. HWY 30A | 850-231-1974
10% off all sales, repairs and rentals

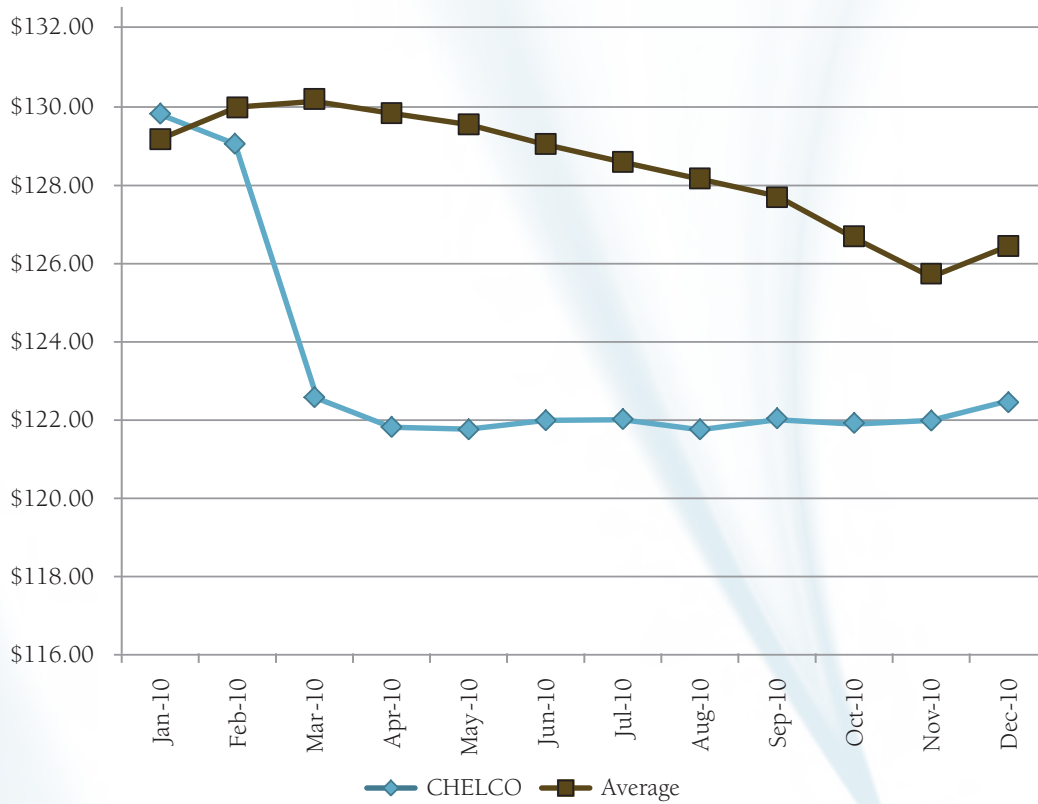
Sunny Days Bikes & Kayaks

Rental and Repairs of Bikes and Kayaks
2129 South Co. HWY 83 unit B | 850-267-0040
10% off all sales, repairs and rentals

If your business would like to be a part of the Co-op Connections Card program, please contact CHELCO's Marketing Department at 892-5069, ext. 120.

CHELCO vs. State Average

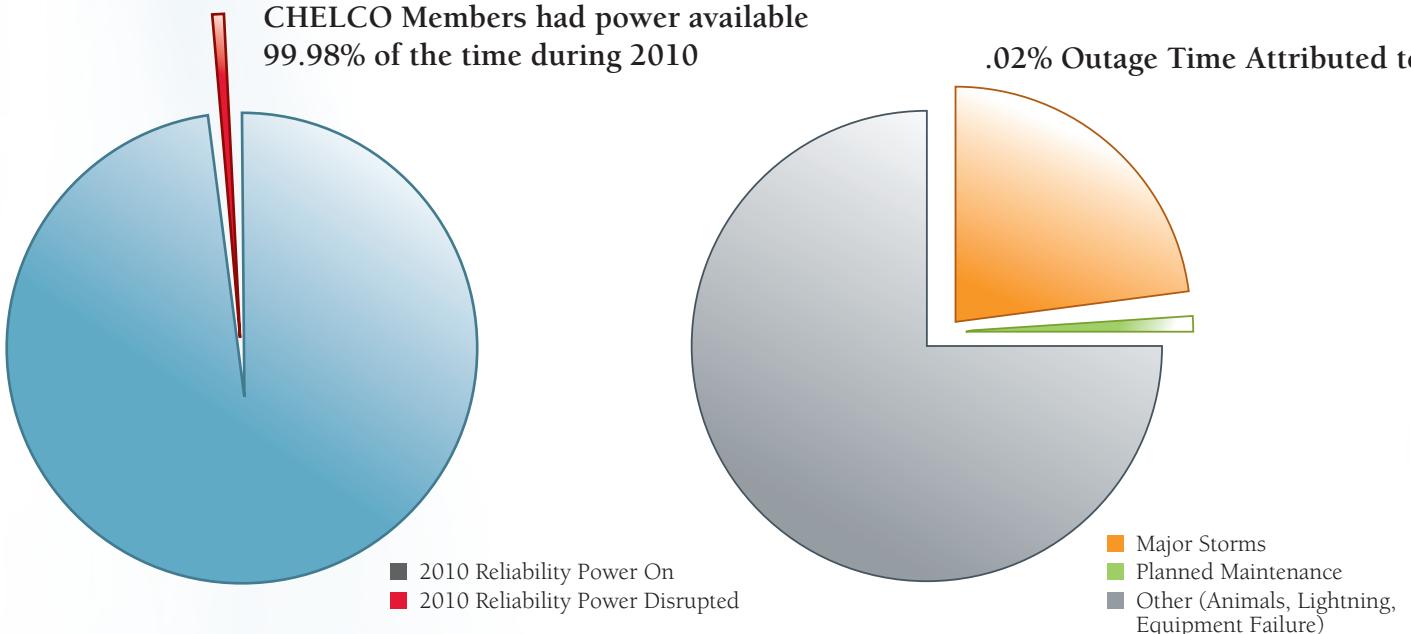
Cost of electricity based on 1,000 kWh



2010 Reliability

CHELCO Members had power available
99.98% of the time during 2010

.02% Outage Time Attributed to:



Total average outage duration for CHELCO members in 2010 – **83.76 minutes**
 Total average outage duration nationally – **186.76 minutes**

**Information is based on preliminary 2010 outage data collected from cooperatives across the country.*

CHOCTAWHATCHEE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

BALANCE SHEETS December 31, 2010 and 2009

ASSETS

	2010	2009
Utility Plant		
Distribution Plant in Service	\$ 149,351,021	\$ 143,846,953
Construction Work in Progress	814,261	1,028,155
	150,165,282	144,875,108
Accumulated Provision for Depreciation	(38,017,949)	(35,551,073)
Net Distribution Plant	112,147,333	109,324,035
Long Term Assets		
Patronage Capital of Associated Cooperatives	25,150,277	22,187,202
Other Long Term Assets	83,183	209,987
Total Long Term Assets	25,233,460	22,397,189
Current Assets		
Net Accounts Receivable	9,058,247	10,535,927
Cash and Cash Equivalents	935,009	287,363
Materials and Supplies	2,454,460	2,313,825
Other Current Assets	217,899	134,861
Total Current Assets	12,665,615	13,271,976
Deferred Debits	48,273	49,923
Total Assets	\$ 150,094,681	\$ 145,039,123

EQUITIES AND LIABILITIES

	2010	2009
Equities		
Memberships	\$ 177,705	\$ 175,205
Patronage Capital	59,523,559	56,348,070
Total Equities	59,701,264	56,523,275
Long Term Debt	63,637,754	65,507,508
Current Liabilities		
Current Portion of Long Term Debt	1,838,070	1,819,462
Line of Credit	10,220,671	6,508,097
Accounts Payable	6,641,488	5,717,789
Consumer Deposits	3,030,658	2,896,896
Other Current Liabilities	2,149,820	1,565,763
	23,880,707	18,508,007
Deferred Credits	2,874,956	4,500,333
Total Equities and Liabilities	<u>\$ 150,094,681</u>	<u>\$ 145,039,123</u>

Auditor's Findings

At the direction of your Board of Trustees, CHELCO's financial records are subjected to an annual audit performed by an independent Certified Public Accounting firm. The Board is responsible for the selection of this firm and mandates that it be changed periodically to ensure independence and accuracy. After examining the financial records for 2010, CHELCO's auditors rendered an opinion without qualification which means the financial reports they examined presented fairly, in all material respects the finances of CHELCO and that the accounting practices were in conformity with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles. A condensed version of the Income Report and the Balance Sheet are presented in this report.

be energized in August. The Hewett substation should be complete in about a year.

Upon completing his remarks, Jones commented that the past year confirmed that Leigh Grantham was the right choice to lead CHELCO. Last year's annual meeting was her first as the cooperative's new Chief Executive Officer.

And from the Chief Executive Officer ...

Grantham began her address to the membership by congratulating Jones on his 30th service anniversary with CHELCO and thanking the Board for giving her the opportunity to serve as CHELCO's Chief Executive Officer.

She continued by thanking CHELCO employees for the energy and enthusiasm they bring to making the cooperative successful.

Grantham told members that CHELCO worked hard in 2010 on the two things that are most important to them – keeping the lights on and keeping bills low.

“You need to know that you can rely on your lights and other electric-powered devices to come on when you flip the switch,” she said. In 2010, CHELCO power was available to you 99.98 percent of the time.”

In other words, out of 8,760 hours in 2010, CHELCO power was available 8,758 and ¼ hours. She directed members to look at the graph on page 7 of the 2010 annual report, which was handed out at the meeting.

“The report reflects that the CHELCO average was more than 100 minutes better than the national average,” Grantham said.

The chart also lists the leading causes of outages, with animal-related outages and lightning at the top.

“I think you'll agree that our reliability numbers are outstanding,” she said. “This record really reflects the hard work of our employee team in

designing the electrical system to meet your electric power needs, constructing and maintaining that system properly, and restoring power quickly following outages.”

Grantham cited a new tool that is helping CHELCO keep the lights on – Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition system, also known as SCADA.

SCADA allows employees to

Another practice important to keeping lights on is the right-of-way cutting program. CHELCO's policy is to trim 10 feet on either side of the power lines from ground to sky every five years to prevent outages from trees and limbs.

A storm on April 4 caused the worst damage to CHELCO's system since Hurricane Ivan. About 8,500 CHELCO services were affected as a result of this



Photos by Sinder Perring

diagnose problems from the office and even fix some of those problems from the office by remotely operating equipment. This is easier and less expensive than sending employees out to find the problem and fix it.

“Earlier this month, our Energy Control Center detected a possible outage and dispatched a line technician to respond to the affected area before anyone called,” Grantham said. “The lineman found a downed power line, repaired it and restored power before anyone reported their lights out.”

storm that had winds up to 70 mph.

“I'm happy to report that your cooperative personnel were able to restore everyone's power well within a 24-hour period,” Grantham said. “This was made possible not only by our hard-working and talented employees, but also by our responsible right-of-way program.”

As for keeping bills low, Grantham again cited a graph on page 7 of the annual report that compares the cost of 1,000 kilowatt hours (kWh) from CHELCO to the average purchase

price in Florida. She pointed out that CHELCO's rates compare favorably to other electricity providers.

Grantham said 1,000 kWh cost less in March 2011 than it did in March 2010. "These lower bills are due to lower wholesale power costs and continued diligent budgeting on the part of your CHELCO team," she said.

She continued by mentioning several proposed regulations that have the

potential to make electricity prices skyrocket. They include Hazardous Air Pollutants – Maximum Achievable Control Technology, Clean Air Transport Rule, Coal Combustion Residuals, Carbon Dioxide, and Water Quality effluent regulations.

Grantham referred to a diagram of all the proposed regulations that could cause bills to go higher as the "train wreck diagram" because they would

be disastrous to our electric bills if they all came to pass as they have been presented.

She asked members to stay tuned to what's happening by reading CHELCO News and by checking the Web site. Members will stay informed of what they may need to do to help influence policy that could affect what they pay for electricity.

Grantham recounted all the rate options members have, including pre-paid metering, which allows users to pay for electricity as you go, and time of use rates, which allows users to benefit by paying less for using electricity during non-peak hours. In addition, the traditional payment options include levelized billing, paying by bank draft, online or by credit card.

The most exciting new benefit is the introduction of the Co-op Connections Card that adds value to your wallet because it's a money-saving tool with many, many discounts on a wide variety of items.

"The card is one more way CHELCO is partnering with you to make your life better," she said.

At the meeting's end, Grantham thanked the members in attendance for their participation in the governance of CHELCO, as well as their time, support and attention.



Annual Meeting prize winners

Drawing for members who sent in ballots

- Color TV valued at \$250 – *Darlene Isenhower*
- \$100 Wal-Mart gift card – *Murray Jones*

Drawing for members in attendance

- Surge protection package – *Catherine Combs*
- \$500 power bill credit – *Danny Bell*
- \$750 cash – *Annis Wilkins*



April storm knocks out power to CHELCO members

A severe line of thunderstorms moved through our area late in the evening of April 4 and caused extensive damage to CHELCO's system. The storm also left 8,509 members without power.

CHELCO began mobilizing response crews around 11:30 p.m. that evening, and crews continued to work for the next 22 hours restoring power.

The outages, which marked the path of the storm, began in Holt and continued to Baker, DeFuniak Springs, Red Bay, Paxton, and Glendale. According to Donny Fugate, Vice President of Operations, falling trees downed power lines and snapped poles and cross arms throughout a large

part of the system. "This storm impacted our system more severely than anything in a long time," Fugate says. "It caused damage much like a tropical storm, but it moved through much quicker."

According to Fugate, the outages occurred in one hour as the storm blew through with winds that topped 70 mph. Six power poles were broken, 800 feet of line was knocked down and three transformers had to be replaced.

"We appreciate the patience of our members, following the storm," Fugate says. "It took quite a while to make all the repairs and get everyone back on, but we did it as quickly and safely as we could."

Trustees give one day of work to Camp Boggy Creek

At the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) annual meeting in March, attendees were offered an opportunity to volunteer at Camp Boggy Creek, a camp for seriously ill children in Eustis, Fla.

CHELCO Trustee Terry Pilcher said when he saw the camp's flyer in his registration packet, he knew he wanted to help. He asked fellow Trustee Pat Carlyle if she wanted to join him, and she said yes.

The Touchstone Energy Community Service Project gathered about 100 volunteers who helped weatherize the camp's cabins and install solar panels to heat the pool.

Pilcher said the work the group did in one day would normally take five days to complete.

Carlyle said it's important to get information out about the camp so people in our area can take advantage of the many benefits it offers children with a wide variety of illnesses.

Camp Boggy Creek is a Hole in the Wall Camp, which was started by Paul Newman. The camp is Florida's only Hole in the Wall Camp and is a year-round facility for children ages 7 through 16 with chronic or life threatening illnesses. It has 44 cracker-style buildings on 232 acres and includes a medical center, theater, swim center, dining hall, recreation center, equestrian center and camper cabins.



Pat Carlyle

Photo By: Luis Gomez Photos



Terry Pilcher

Photo By: Luis Gomez Photos

Week-long camping sessions continue all year, and each week of camp is designated for a particular illness. Children spend a week at camp with other children in their situation.

In addition, the camp hosts several family retreat weekends.

Campers and family members do not pay to attend Camp Boggy Creek.

If you know a child who would like to go to camp, if you would like to volunteer or if you would like to make a contribution, call 866-Go-Boggy (462-6449) or go to www.BoggyCreek.org.

In Brief...

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Co-op Connections Card now has iTunes app

Touchstone Energy has developed a free iTunes app for the Co-op Connections Card. The app will work on iPhone or iPad, and a version for the Droid is coming soon. To download the app, go to <http://itunes.apple.com/us/app/co-op-connections/id425692910?mt=8>.

You will need:

- 12 flat bottom tortilla shells/chips
- ½ cup salsa
- ½ lb. shrimp, cooked in your favorite seasoning, coarsely chopped
- ½ cup white beans, drained
- ½ cup pepper jack cheese
- 2 green onions, sliced
- ¼ small red pepper, thinly sliced

Mini-meal recipe easy enough for kids to cook



SHRIMP SHELLS

Emily Gordon

Line bottom of microwave-safe serving dish with shells. Evenly spoon salsa into shells. Layer shrimp, beans, cheese, green onions and red pepper. Microwave on high for one minute until hot and bubbly.

Save energy and stay comfortable this summer

Just as you can cut back on driving to save energy, you can also limit the amount of electricity you use at home by cutting waste. Here are nine ways to reduce your energy consumption this summer without feeling uncomfortable:

1. Replace your old, manual thermostat with an electronic model. New thermostats have automatic settings that can slightly change indoor temperatures at strategic times of the day. For example, you can program your thermostat to move the temperature a little higher right after the family leaves the house in the morning, and to lower it again just before everyone gets home

2. Schedule a tune-up of your air conditioning system. A licensed a/c tech will check the levels of refrigerant in the system and determine whether any of its parts are wearing out or running inefficiently. The better you

maintain your system, the less it will cost you to operate it.

3. Close the blinds during the hours when direct sunlight hits your house. The less sun that shines into your home, the cooler it will stay. That means your air conditioning won't need to kick on as often.

4. Run your dishwasher, washing machine and clothes dryer after dark. Most people do all of that during the day, so demand for electricity soars when they're also running their air conditioners all day. The result: Electricity costs more during peak hours. If cutting back a little during peak times suits your lifestyle, call CHELCO to see if the special Time-of-Use Rate will benefit you. This rate offers you the chance to save while helping the cooperative reduce costs as well.

5. Turn off the lights, computer, TV and battery chargers. Don't waste

electricity by allowing your appliances to use it when you're not using your appliances.

6. Replace incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent light bulbs, which use less energy, last longer and emit less heat.

7. Air-dry your laundry. Hang clothes outside on a clothesline when the weather is nice. They'll dry quicker and smell better than they do when you dry them in a clothes dryer.

8. Microwave your dinner. A microwave oven uses less energy to cook the same food as the cook top or the oven.

9. Shop smart. If you're replacing any of your home's appliances this summer, choose Energy Star-rated models. They're guaranteed to be more energy-efficient than appliances that don't qualify for the label.



Is \$50 Yours?

If your account number is below, sign this page and mail it in with your bill to CHELCO or drop it off at any office. You'll win a \$50 credit on your next bill.

Bobbie Van Dyke - 32811903 | Phyllis Tedesco - 206065450

Start at local libraries to measure energy consumption

Local libraries offer more these days than books and videos. You can also check out a Kill-a-Watt device to monitor the energy consumption of your household appliances.



DeFuniak Springs Library patron Bethany Shaw checks out a Kill-a-Watt from Kathy Smith. Baby Rayghan Canody looks on. Library Director Dan Owens says the Kill-a-Watt devices are very popular.

The devices are so popular at the DeFuniak Springs Library, that Library Director Dan Owens says he can't keep them on the shelves. "People find it interesting," he says. "We have sixteen units, and they're always out."

CHELCO gave Kill-a-Watts to local libraries in January and the devices have since been checked out 40 times at the DeFuniak location, according to Owens.

All libraries in Walton County and the Crestview and Niceville libraries in Okaloosa County have Kill-a-Watts to loan.

The Kill-a-Watt measures energy consumption of household appliances by the kilowatt hour – the same unit

of measure that is on power bills. The device will show how much it costs to leave things like phone chargers, computers, televisions and the like plugged in.

An appliance is plugged into the Kill-a-Watt, and the Kill-a-Watt is then plugged into a wall outlet. For accuracy, it should stay plugged in for 24 hours.

The idea behind putting Kill-a-Watts in libraries is to make them readily accessible to consumers, whether they are CHELCO members or not, so they can measure their energy consumption and become more knowledgeable about what adds to their power bills.

The Kill-a-Watt is a great educational tool, according to CHELCO Manager of Marketing Christopher Cherenzia. "Members will quickly see how much energy can be wasted by leaving things plugged in," he says. "The term 'vampire electronics' will take on new meaning after using a Kill-a-Watt. Some appliances truly have their fangs in your wallet."



Energy Services Supervisor Bryan Gilbert (right) gives Library Director Dan Owens additional Kill-a-Watt devices for Walton County libraries.