

# CHELCO NEWS



CHELCO trucks working Hurricane Michael relief at Tyndall AFB.

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## INSIDE

### PAGE 2

Lower that peak and save yourself some cash.

### PAGE 3

You are more than a customer.

### PAGE 4

2019 CHELCO college scholarships now available.

## Operation Round Up underway



Operation Round Up started Jan. 1 when participating members had their bills rounded up to the next dollar.

Round Up is the new CHELCO program that will fund investments in building a better community. When the electric bills are rounded up to the next dollar, the extra change will go into a fund to provide donations to non-profit groups that help those in need.

When a bill is rounded up, the member contribution will average about \$6 per year per participant.

CHELCO has historically made contributions to community organizations to support building communities and helping those in

need. This new program allows our members to band together to back organizations that impact our community in a positive way.

"Participation by our members can make a huge difference in the lives of those in need in our community," said Steve Wolfrom, vice president of member services. "A part of my job is community outreach, and I see the good that our investment in community groups can do. I signed up for the program, and I encourage you to do the same. Our small contributions each month can build into a wave of giving that can reach so many in our community."

You can complete a form found on CHELCO.com or simply call (800) 342-0990.

## 2019 election season is here

Democratic member control is one of the seven cooperative principles that separates CHELCO from privately owned businesses. Each member has a vote, and members are elected to represent their district on the Board of Trustees that governs CHELCO. The Board of Trustees establishes CHELCO policies and rates.

Each year, three of the nine positions on CHELCO's Board of Trustees are open for election. This year, members will elect trustees representing Districts 2, 4 and 6 through mail-in balloting. All members may vote in the election regardless of their membership district. Results will be announced at our annual meeting, which is Saturday, April 27, at Freeport High School.

Each trustee represents a geographic area of CHELCO's service territory. The trustees must live in the district they represent. Those interested in running for trustee may pick

up a trustee election application packet at any CHELCO office or access it at CHELCO.com. A nominating committee will review applications and select candidates. Members may also use a petition process, which is described in the bylaws on the website, to become a candidate. You can find your district number on your bill to see if this is the year you are eligible to be a candidate. The deadline for applications is Feb. 7.

### Important Dates:

**Feb. 7:** Applications to CHELCO by 5 p.m.

**Feb. 18:** Candidates' names posted in offices

**March 7:** Deadline for nominating by petition

**March 22:** Election ballots mailed

**April 22:** Ballots must be returned

**April 27:** Annual meeting

## ONLINE NOW

All members can view CHELCO outages and storm tips on our website or get the CHELCO Connect app.



A Touchstone Energy Cooperative



## IN BRIEF

### Sign up for paperless billing

Paperless billing offers a wide range of benefits, such as convenience, cost reduction and reducing personal clutter in your home. It is also environmentally friendly.

Paperless billing can help alleviate some of the disorganization and chaos that comes with paper statements. For example, digital files take up less space than paper files, are more accessible and allow you to access your information faster. Paperless billing can also save you time by eliminating the need to sort through bills. Paperless billing also reduces cost, which is then passed on to members.

Make the switch to paperless billing today by calling one of our member service representatives at 850-892-2111 or sign up online at CHELCO.com.

### Employee pledge to United Way

CHELCO employees pledged \$24,061 to United Way of Okaloosa and Walton Counties for 2019. United Way fights for the health, education and financial stability of every person in every community.

### CHELCO closed for MLK Jr. Day

CHELCO offices will be closed Monday, Jan. 21, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.



## Lower that peak and save yourself some cash

You can help keep power costs stable this winter by participating in two CHELCO programs: Switch to Save and Beat the Peak.

When final calculations are in, CHELCO will save more than \$1.2 million in wholesale power cost in 2018 by reducing peak demand for power.

Both of these programs contribute to lower the cost of the wholesale power CHELCO buys from PowerSouth, which is a not-for-profit co-op just like CHELCO. Any savings achieved through these programs are shared through the Wholesale Power Cost Adjustment on members' bills.

### Switch to Save

CHELCO offers a \$75 bill credit to members who allow the co-op to turn off the power to the elements of an electric water heater. You still have hot water for the few hours the elements are off, but by allowing CHELCO to do this, it reduces demand during peak times. These times occur on the very coldest and very hottest days of the year. The power is usually off about two hours, for example, on mornings when the temperature dips well below freezing. It could also occur on a mid-summer afternoon when it is over 90 degrees and the tourist season is in full swing. Reducing demand at peak times lowers CHELCO's wholesale power cost.

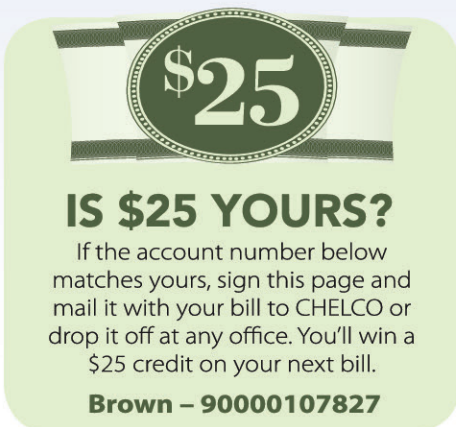
In addition to the one-time \$75 payment, participants receive bill credits of \$3 in the months of December, January and February, plus June, July and August as long as they keep the switch.

Call 850-307-1122 for more information on Switch to Save. Or you can visit CHELCO.com under Energy Programs and Savings to complete an online form.

### Beat the Peak

You can also lower peak demand by responding to telephone calls that let members know we are anticipating high usage. The phone message will provide suggestions on conserving power, and it will tell the hours when member participation is appreciated.

If you get a call in the evening in winter about a possible peak the next morning, jot yourself a note as a reminder to postpone activities that use hot water and turn the thermostat down a degree or two when you go to bed. Then wait to turn the thermostat back up until after 8 a.m. Peak periods in winter start before sunrise when it is still cold and members are getting ready for their day.





## You're more than a customer

Author Anthony J. D'Angelo observed that, "Without a sense of caring, there can be no sense of community."

To a large degree, this reflects CHELCO's philosophy toward our consumer-members and the broader service territory that we serve. As a cooperative, we have a different "bottom line." While our priority is always to provide affordable, reliable and safe energy, there is another equally important part of this equation. Your well-being and that of the larger community that we serve are of paramount concern.

To us, you are not just a customer; you are a member of our co-op and without you, we would not exist.

In 1940, CHELCO was founded to fulfill a vital need in our community that would not have otherwise been met. Concerned local leaders came together to build this co-op and bring electricity where there was none.

At that time, members of the community understood we were different because they likely knew someone who helped to create

CHELCO. For most people, our founding and its circumstances have been long forgotten. Over time, folks in the community may have come to think of us as simply another energy provider. But we are not. We are a co-op that is constantly evolving to meet the needs of the communities we serve, and we are able to do this because of members like you.

Since our inception, we have sought feedback and engagement from you and that of the larger community to guide our long-term decisions. This is why we hold annual meetings and other events, such as member appreciation days, member satisfaction surveys and presentations to community groups throughout the year. We sincerely want to engage with you and obtain your feedback.

We strive to find new ways to help you use energy more efficiently. We're always looking to explore more options that will help you manage your energy use such as Switch to Save, Beat the Peak, energy auditor, on-line calculators and emails when your usage changes significantly. In short, we are always seeking to keep pace

with the changing energy environment, evolving technology and shifting consumer expectations.

As a local business, we have a stake in the community. That's why we have supported local charitable organizations and recently initiated Operation Round Up (see article on page 1). When you contribute your spare change to Operation Round Up, you are supporting the community and making it a better place for everyone.

While the times may have changed, our mission and outlook have not. We view our role as a catalyst for good. Working together, we can accomplish great things for our community now and in the future.



### Tip of the Month

Is your hot water tank warm to the touch? Consider insulating it to save 7 to 16 percent annually on water heating costs. Follow the manufacturer's recommendations.

# ENERGY CONSERVATION TIPS FOR KIDS!



**Energy Explorers**

Did you know there are small things you can do to help your family conserve energy at home? Fill in the blanks below to learn how you can help. Use the word bank below if you need a hint!

- 1 Turn the \_\_\_\_\_ off while you're brushing your teeth. You can save several gallons a month just by taking this simple step.
- 2 Any time you leave a room, remember to turn off the \_\_\_\_\_. Ask your parents if they use LED lights, which save the most energy!
- 3 With the help of your parents, \_\_\_\_\_ glass, plastic, paper and aluminum items.
- 4 When the heat or air conditioning is running, always keep \_\_\_\_\_ to the outside closed.
- 5 Take short \_\_\_\_\_ instead of baths to conserve water use.

## Word Bank

Showers

Water

Lights

Doors

Recycle

## 2019 CHELCO college scholarship applications now available

The 2019 CHELCO scholarship program is back! Three \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to three students in May.

The CHELCO scholarship program was started in 2015 as a continuation of our commitment to community. Adults, current college students and high school seniors can apply. All applicants must be a CHELCO member or the dependent of a member. Applicants must live on CHELCO's lines.

Applicants will be evaluated on academic achievement, school and community activities, financial need and the ability to communicate in writing and an interview. Judges from area colleges will evaluate the applicants.

CHELCO will accept applications Jan. 1 through Feb. 15. Applications and rules can be downloaded from [CHELCO.com](http://CHELCO.com)

