

## INSIDE

**PAGE 2**  
**CHELCO**  
**District 1 board**  
**member Lee**  
**Perry**

**PAGE 3**  
**CEO Column:**  
**Electric co-ops**  
**are engines to**  
**economic**  
**development**

**PAGE 4**  
**Cooler weather**  
**means a change**  
**to your energy**  
**saving habits**

## ONLINE NOW

You can join the thousands of CHELCO members who are participating in Operation Round Up by signing up at CHELCO.com.



A Touchstone Energy  
Cooperative



## Remembering Pat: CHELCO board member Patricia "Pat" Carlyle passes away

CHELCO Trustee Patricia "Pat" Carlyle passed away Aug. 6 after a brief illness.

Carlyle served on the CHELCO Board of Trustees for 13 years.

"We have lost a great board member," said CHELCO Board President Gerald Edmondson. "Pat was dedicated to her position. Her knowledge and perspectives were a great asset to the board. Pat always studied issues thoroughly, and made all of her decisions for our members after careful consideration about how they would be affected. She was admired for sticking to her values and will be greatly missed."

"Those who knew Pat well at CHELCO, had the honor of experiencing the passion she had for taking care of our members. She wanted a bright future for the cooperative and our communities," said CEO Steve Rhodes. "Her memory will live on in the projects she helped build a foundation for at CHELCO. Pat was an encouraging supporter of the cooperative's solar project."



**CHELCO Board of Trustee Ronald Jones recognizes Pat Carlyle for 10 years of service in 2016.**



**CHELCO Board of Trustees in 2017. From left to right: Gayle Hughes, Brady Bearden, Ronald Jones, Bruce Cosson, Pat Carlyle, Terry Pilcher, Gerald Edmondson, Bert Prutzman and Jim Bishop.**

## CHELCO District 1 board member Lee Perry

Mikel Lee Perry was appointed as the District 1 Board member in July after Pat Carlyle retired due to illness.

Perry graduated from Auburn University with a degree in finance. Upon graduation, he took the Florida Real Estate exam and began working in realty. Perry became a broker, co-founded Palmetto Properties and owned his own business before deciding to go into development.

After the down turn in the market in 2008, Perry developed Azland Mining, LLC, which supplies materials for construction. He also designed the first class three, lined landfill in

Northwest Florida. It is designed to have zero ground water contamination.

Perry has served on the Walton County Planning Commission since 2009. He formed the Citizens Against Tolls Political Action Committee to promote a one cent sales tax versus a toll for Walton County.

Perry lives in Grayton Beach with his wife Margie.

CEO Steve Rhodes said, "I look forward to getting to know Mr. Perry and have no doubt he will be an asset to the board of trustees and will represent our members well."



Lee Perry

## IN BRIEF

### Report nonworking street lights

CHELCO appreciates members' help identifying non-working CHELCO streetlights. To report a non-working CHELCO streetlight, call (850) 307-1213 anytime and leave a message; email [lighting@chelco.com](mailto:lighting@chelco.com), visit [CHELCO.com](http://CHELCO.com) or download the CHELCO Connect app. Include the streetlight number, which is on the pole, if possible.

### We haven't moved, but our payment process center is changing

The return mailing address on your bill will be changing to a new location in November, but don't worry, we haven't gone anywhere. To increase efficiencies with our payment process, CHELCO will be using a lockbox

payment service located in Birmingham, Ala. More information on the change will be in the October edition of CHELCO News.

### Sign up for bank draft for a chance to win one of five \$50 bill credits

Sign up for CHELCO's bank draft payment plan for a chance to win one of five \$50 bill credits. All participants in the program will be eligible to win as of Sept. 30. With bank draft, the payment is automatically deducted from your checking account. To sign up for the program, call (850) 892-2111. The form is also available at [CHELCO.com](http://CHELCO.com) by searching bank draft. If you have a CHELCO online account, log on and select Draft Payment Options for autopay.

## CHELCO appoints Whitfield Communications and Community Affairs Supervisor

Bonnie Whitfield was recently promoted to Communications and Community Affairs Supervisor. Bonnie started with CHELCO in 2011 and has worked in various communications and marketing roles.

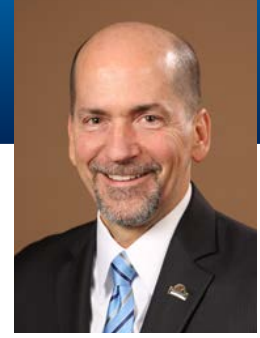
Bonnie will be responsible for providing coordination for CHELCO's communications and community affairs programs including all design, development, production and distribution of internal and external communications.

Bonnie received her bachelor of arts in communication arts/public relations from the University of West Florida. Bonnie is also a Certified Cooperative Communicator through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association.

Bonnie is the current chairperson for the United Way of Okaloosa and Walton counties' marketing committee and a 2017 graduate of Leadership Walton. Bonnie lives in Baker with her husband, Michael, and their two children.



Bonnie Whitfield



## Electric co-ops are engines to economic development

CHELCO is deeply committed to providing affordable and reliable electricity to our consumer-members and empowering the communities that we serve. This means being more than just an electricity provider; it means being a partner in economic development and other activities that improve the lives of our members.

But have you ever stopped to wonder what kind of an impact the nation's roughly 900 electric co-ops have across the United States?

A new report on this very topic shows that electric co-ops supported nearly 612,000 American jobs and contributed \$440 billion in U.S. GDP from 2013 to 2017, or \$88 billion annually. Those are some big numbers.

The study, "The Economic Impact of America's Electric Cooperatives," was conducted by FTI Consulting for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association and the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation.

The report quantifies what many rural American families and businesses know well—electric cooperatives are powerful engines of economic development in their local communities. Affordable and reliable electricity is a key ingredient for a successful economy. Because electric co-ops were built by, belong to and are rooted in the communities they serve, they play a vibrant role as economic cornerstones for millions of American families, businesses and workers.

Access to electricity was a vital component of economic development and diversification in the mid-20th century,

and that remains true today. Roughly one in eight residents nationwide are served by an electric co-op, meaning direct co-op employment and investments can ripple throughout the economy and create additional economic value for local communities, regions and the country.

From 2013 to 2017, electric co-ops contributed \$881 billion in U.S. sales output, \$200 billion in labor income and \$112 billion in federal, state and local tax revenues.

Nationally, electric co-ops spent \$359 billion on goods and services across the economy, including \$274 billion on operational expenditures, \$60 billion on capital investments, \$20 billion on maintenance and \$5 billion on credits retired and paid to members under the membership structure of cooperatives.

In conducting its analysis, FTI Consulting used data from 815 distribution cooperatives and 57 generation and transmission cooperatives as inputs into a national model to simulate the economic effects from the direct expenditures by co-ops. The model also calculates the indirect effects throughout the industrial supply chain and the induced effects from consumer spending by the employees of co-ops and their suppliers.

The result of all this effort is a first-of-its-kind study that reveals electric cooperatives to be economic anchors all across rural America. And it demonstrates on a macroeconomic scale one of the seven guiding cooperative principles: Concern for Community.

## POWERFUL CONNECTIONS

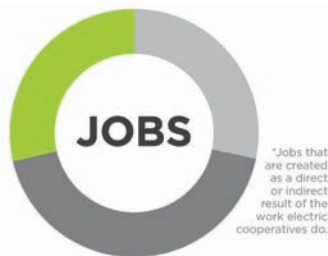
The Economic Impact of America's Electric Cooperatives

In 2017, electric cooperatives...

Supported  
**611,600**

American jobs.

- 165,800 direct jobs
- 170,900 indirect jobs
- 274,900 induced jobs\*



Contributed  
**\$88.4 billion**  
to U.S. GDP, including  
**\$40.4 billion**  
in labor income to  
American workers.



CHELCO is governed by a nine-member board of trustees: Lee Perry, District 1; Terry Pilcher, District 2; Jim Bishop, Vice President, District 3; Brady Bearden, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer, District 4; Ronald Jones, District 5; Gerald Edmondson, President, District 6; Bert Prutzman, District 7; Gayle Hughes, Secretary/Treasurer, District 8; Burt Cosson, District 9.

## CONNECTIONS CORNER

The Co-op Connections discount program is another benefit of being a CHELCO member. Dozens of local businesses, plus thousands nationally, offer discounts to co-op members. There are also discounts available on prescriptions at participating pharmacies. Don't forget to download the Co-op Connections app.

This month, we highlight and thank the following businesses.

### Gulf Coast Insulation, LLC

(850) 685-9709  
DeFuniak Springs  
*\$100 off spray foam (upgrade),  
\$50 off cellulose (upgrade or  
\$75 off new insulation.*

### Joyce's Puppy Love

(850) 267-1643  
Santa Rosa Beach  
*10% off self serve dog wash*

### Nonie's Ark Animal Encounters

(850) 862-9588  
Fort Walton Beach  
*25% off Hostess Party or 10% off  
one-hour animal presentation.*

**For more information, or, if you own a business and want to sign-up to offer discounts to CHELCO's 52,000 member accounts, email [marketingservices@chelco.com](mailto:marketingservices@chelco.com), or call CHELCO's marketing department at (850) 307-1122.** You can find all the local and national deals by searching co-op connections at CHELCO.com or download the Co-op Connections app.



## Cooler weather means a change to your energy saving habits

Sept. 23 is the first day of Fall, which means we will soon enjoy cooler weather and a break from the summer heat. Because of the change in the weather, your home will require a slight change in your energy-saving habits.

**Check for cracks, leaks and drafts.** It is a good time to look for unnoticed leaks in your home. Before it gets colder, check your doors and windows for drafty chills that could keep your heater running overtime. If your front or back door has space between it and the floor or you can see light streaming in around the sides, add weather stripping. This will prevent excess heat from escaping and could keep your heater from running up your energy bill.

**Reverse the spin of ceiling fans.** Your ceiling fans can easily keep you cool, but they can also help keep you warm. If you reverse the direction to clockwise, your ceiling fans will push warm air down. It will also redistribute the warm air from your heating system, making sure pockets of cold air don't settle in the corners of rooms.

**Did you know you can lose heat through your electrical outlets, light switches and lighting fixtures?** Consider installing foam gaskets behind these outlets and switches to reduce heat loss in your home.

**Make sure your heating vents aren't blocked by furniture or drapes and the dampers are open.** Vacuum out dust from the supply air registers and the central air return for your equipment so your heating system runs more efficiently.

**IS \$25 YOURS?**

If the account number below matches yours, sign this page and mail it with your bill to CHELCO or drop it off at any office. You'll win a \$25 credit on your next bill.

**Schindler - 204165377**

## CHELCO Charity Bass Tournament

Florida electric cooperatives are teaming up to bring electricity to a remote village in Guatemala with support from the NRECA international program. To be part of the initiative, we need to raise money to send two linemen to be part of the crew in Guatemala, which will take place sometime in late 2020.

Our employees are holding a Charity Bass Tournament on Oct. 5 at Black Creek Lodge to raise money for the cause. Visit [CHELCO.com](http://CHELCO.com) for more information.