

# CHELCO NEWS

## POWERED *by* YOU

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### CHELCO continues October Pink Out tradition



Lineman Dan Duncan wears a pink hat for Breast Cancer Awareness.

For the fourth consecutive year, CHELCO employees will be wearing pink hard hats in the field to honor Breast Cancer Awareness month in October.

According to the National Breast Cancer Foundation, 1 in 8 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in her lifetime.

Vice President of Member Services and External Affairs Emily Cowan said that CHELCO supports those fighting cancer of any kind.

“Nearly all of us know someone who has fought cancer, and we’re proud to stand with survivors and those still fighting their battles,” Cowan said. “Both my mother and my sister have had breast cancer, so this cause is near to my heart.”

Each month, CHELCO has a Jeans Friday fundraiser in which employees

may donate \$5 and wear jeans for the day. One-third of all donations received go directly to the American Cancer Society to help fund life-saving research.

“We all love to see the willingness and participation of our employees during Pink Out month,” Cowan said.



BJ Ealum and Steven Rodriguez



A Touchstone Energy®  
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### Did you know...

It's important to make sure CHELCO has your most recent contact information to reach you for outage information, capital credits and more. To update your contact info, visit the member portal online, call us at (850) 892-2111, download the CHELCO Connect app, or send an email to [memberservices@chelco.com](mailto:memberservices@chelco.com).



## CEO Insights: Cooler weather is finally approaching

There's nothing quite like waking up on a Saturday morning in the fall and stepping outside to feel the crisp, cool air. To me, that feeling is unlike any other. The comfortable weather, changing colors and memorable traditions make fall a time I look forward to every year. And of course, in the South (and where I'm from in the Midwest), we can't forget about football season. Let's take a look at some of the best things that come with fall as we welcome the new season.

### Comfort and Savings

I've been a resident of the Florida Panhandle for the past nine years, and I've learned to eagerly await fall for the comfort and relief from the Florida heat that cooler weather

brings. Sometimes, as most Floridians know, that wait is beyond the official start of fall, but it does eventually come.

Along with the comfort that cooler weather brings, you can also look forward to lower energy bills. Air conditioning accounts for nearly half of all energy use in our region, and cooler weather will cause much less work for your system.

One of the best savings tips I follow in the fall is to bump up the thermostat a few degrees and utilize ceiling fans. On top of that, once the weather becomes cool enough, opening the windows in your home and turning off your A/C unit altogether will shrink your bills even more.

### Fall Football

This is the big one. Friday night lights, college football on Saturdays and the NFL on Sundays make our weekends one big football party. If you've been reading my columns for a while, you may have seen me mention in previous editions that I'm a pretty big Ohio State fan. I know there isn't much love for the Buckeyes in this neck of the woods, but I think most football fans can agree on one thing: football season is a special time of year.

So, as we approach the season of cooler weather, lower energy bills and the great gridiron game of football, I hope that you and your family have a good month.

**Steve Rhodes,**  
Chief Executive Officer

## CHELCO connects with members and community at Baker Football Game



On Sept. 9, CHELCO partnered with the Baker Gators to host a member appreciation event at the football game against Bozeman High School. Thank you to all of our members who came out to see us, and thank you to Baker High School for having us out. We had a blast!



## Why is it important to maintain the right-of-way?

We clear certain areas in our service territory, known as rights of way, to:

- Keep power lines clear of tree limbs
- Restore power outages more quickly
- Reduce unexpected costs for repairs



Maintaining rights of way improves service reliability for you - our members!

## Linemen to bring power to Guatemalan village



Ricky Brassell



Jason Price



Derek Tabor

Three CHELCO linemen will depart for Guatemala in late November to help bring power to the remote village of Guishoro, roughly two hours east of Guatemala City. From Nov. 30 through Dec. 17, Ricky Brassell, Jason Price and Derek Tabor will help build a two-mile stretch of line that will serve more than 30 homes that currently do not have access to electricity.

In total, 12 linemen from electric co-ops in Florida are teaming up for this beneficial electrification project. This project is part of the larger NRECA International program, which was established in 1962 and allows America's electric cooperatives to donate their leadership, skills and time to help deliver electricity to rural areas in developing countries. Florida's Project Guatemala has been scheduled since 2019, but due to two years of COVID-19, the trip was delayed until this year.

## Remembering a Friend and Colleague



It is with great sadness that we remember the life of our dear friend and colleague Lyvonnica Green, who we tragically lost in an auto accident on Sept. 13. Lyvonnica was an integral part of the CHELCO team and had been with the co-op since 2007. She served as a Lead Member Service Representative, and she had a passion for serving our members. Our thoughts and prayers are with Lyvonnica's family during this difficult time.

## Recipe of the Month



### Pumpkin Cheesecake

Are you excited about Fall? We sure are, and one of the main reasons is because of great fall treats like this! Learn this recipe and more at [CHELCO.com/recipes](https://www.chelco.com/recipes).

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

## PowerSouth adding 80MW of solar to energy mix



CHELCO's wholesale power provider, PowerSouth Energy Cooperative, is purchasing a portion of the power generated at a new solar site in Wing, Alabama, scheduled to come online in 2023.

The Power Purchase Agreement will add 80 megawatts to our generation mix, which is enough to serve a portion of the needs of about 13,000 homes annually. Adding solar as a power generation source has been a CHELCO and PowerSouth priority for several years.

### What is an Energy Mix?

Your power is sourced by a mix of many different types of energy called an "energy mix." PowerSouth is adding solar to their energy mix of natural gas (87%), coal (8.4%), hydro (3.5%) and nuclear energy (0.4%). By 2030, renewables are projected to take up 3% of their mix.

### What does this mean for CHELCO members?

By diversifying your energy mix, we help ensure that your power remains

reliable and affordable. Pooling our resources and gaining economies of scale lowers the cost of energy for everyone.

### What about rooftop solar?

CHELCO supports renewable energy, including rooftop solar. However, it's important to understand the upfront capital investment and maintenance costs associated with putting rooftop solar on your home.

Many solar vendors will go door-to-door, sometimes claiming they are working with CHELCO directly. CHELCO is not in the business of selling solar arrays, but we do have excellent resources on CHELCO.com that can help you decide if rooftop solar is a wise investment for your home.

Our Energy Advisors are also available to offer their recommendations and options for your family if you are interested in renewable energy. Email [energyservices@chelco.com](mailto:energyservices@chelco.com) or call (850) 307-1122 with your questions.

## Florida Special Needs Registry available now

The Florida Department of Health has developed a registry for those with special needs to register with their local emergency management agency to receive assistance during a disaster. The statewide registry provides first responders with valuable information to prepare for disasters or other emergencies. Visit [FloridaDisaster.org](http://FloridaDisaster.org) for more information or to register.

## Download Co-op Connections App

Starting this month, we're discontinuing highlighting specific businesses in this section. Instead, we'll remind you to download the Co-op Connections app, where you can find hundreds of deals for local and nationwide products, businesses, pharmacies and more.

To download the Co-op Connections app, simply search for "Co-op Connections" in your smart phone's app store.

## Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

In the Florida panhandle, October can mean several things. It can be hot, it can be cool, it can bring hurricanes or it can give us beautiful sunny days. Regardless of which type of October we get, this month is a great time to do some essential prep work to make sure your home is ready for winter.

Sealing cracks, leaks and drafts will contribute to significant savings in the months to come. Even here, heating accounts for just as much in energy costs as cooling most years. By weatherstripping and caulking the gaps in your doors and windows, you'll be ready for whatever winter brings your way.

## 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.

**Siler - 205075591**

For unclaimed capital credits, visit [CHELCO.com/capital-credits](http://CHELCO.com/capital-credits).