



Notice of CHELCO's 2026 Annual Meeting

To: All members of Choctawhatchee Electric Cooperative, Inc.,

You are hereby notified that the Annual Meeting of members of Choctawhatchee Electric Cooperative, Inc., will be held in accordance with the provisions of the bylaws at **Freeport High School, 12615 Business Highway 331, Freeport, FL, 32439, on Saturday, April 18, 2026.** (See map on page 3 for directions.)

Registration will begin at 8:00 AM and continue until 9:45 AM. The meeting will be called to order at 10:00 AM and will adjourn around 11:00 AM.

The 2026 Annual Meeting will be held to:

1. Announce the results of the mail ballot election of three trustees to represent Districts 3, 5 and 8 for three-year terms.
2. Report on activities for the previous fiscal year and transact such other business as may come before the meeting.

Gayle Hughes
Secretary/Treasurer
Board of Trustees

Information on prizes and voting by mail

1. It is important to vote for one (1) candidate from each district, regardless of the district you are in, even if candidates are unopposed. Members who vote will be entered in a drawing to win prizes.
2. All voting will be conducted by mail.
3. Your ballot must be received by the independent auditor no later than close of business April 13, 2026. A self-addressed, postage-paid envelope is provided for your convenience.
4. All members who mail-in vote will be entered to win one of four \$100 bill credits. Members in attendance qualify for additional prizes.
5. Prize drawings for those in attendance will be held immediately following the business session.

CHELCO Offices

Auburn

3097 Locke Lane, Crestview, FL 32536

DeFuniak Springs Headquarters

655 U.S. Hwy. 331 N., DeFuniak Springs, FL 32433

Baker

1351 Georgia Avenue, Baker, FL 32531

Freeport

112 Highway 20 West, Freeport, FL 32439

Bluewater Bay

1401 Cat-Mar Road, Niceville, FL 32578

Santa Rosa Beach

3906 Hwy. 98 W., Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459



Connect With Us

Phone

(850) 892-2111

Toll-Free

(800) 342-0990

Email

memberbilling@chelco.com

Social Media

@MyCHELCO

NOTE: The election is at-large, therefore, everyone is encouraged to vote for one candidate in each district, regardless of the district in which you live or if candidates are unopposed.

VOTING INSTRUCTIONS

No duplicate ballots will be issued, so please read the following instructions carefully before mailing your ballot.

1. Read and sign the registration/certification card. Members must sign and return the registration card when voting to be eligible for prizes.
2. Mark the ballot. The election is at-large, therefore, everyone is encouraged to **vote for one candidate in each district**, regardless of where you live or if they are unopposed. Candidate biographies are on page 4 of this notice.
3. Place the ballot and the signed registration/certification card in the business reply envelope provided.
4. Seal the postage-paid reply envelope and place it in U.S. Mail. Your ballot will be counted only if received by the independent auditor on or before April 13, 2026.

It is important that you vote and return your ballot so that a quorum is achieved as required by the bylaws.

**Democratic Member Control -
one of the Seven Cooperative Principles!**



Should you have questions about the Annual Meeting (being held at Freeport High School, 12615 Business Highway 331, Freeport, FL 32439) or the voting process, please call (850) 892-2111, 7:30 AM to 4:30 PM Central Standard Time, Monday through Thursday.

Information on prizes and voting by mail

1. It is important to vote for one (1) candidate from each district, regardless of the district you are in, even if candidates are unopposed. All voting will be conducted by mail.
2. Your ballot must be received by the independent auditor no later than the close of business on April 13, 2026. A self-addressed, postage-paid reply envelope is provided for your convenience.
3. All members who complete and mail in their ballot will be entered to win one of four \$100 bill credits.
4. Members in attendance qualify for additional prizes. Drawings for prizes will be held immediately following the business meeting.



YETI Roadie®



Amazon Echo Show 11



Ticketmaster Gift Card

Members must sign and return the registration/certification card when voting to be eligible for prizes.

Join us at CHELCO's Annual Meeting

Freeport High School

April 18, 2026

Spring is in the air, and there is no better way to celebrate than with free food, family fun, live entertainment, and thousands in scholarship and door prize giveaways at CHELCO's Annual Meeting on **Saturday, April 18, at Freeport High School, 12615 Business Highway 331, Freeport, FL 32439.**

Registration begins at 8:00 AM, and there will be plenty to do before the business meeting, including the energy expo, live line safety demonstration, kids' bucket truck rides*, bounce houses, complimentary breakfast and mobile coffee bar selections.

Each member in attendance will receive a 2025 Annual Report, CHELCO gift and \$10 bill credit (limit one per household).

Beginning at 10:00 AM, the business meeting will include 2026 Board of Trustees election results and updates from the CHELCO Board President, Treasurer, and Chief Executive Officer. Following the conclusion of the business meeting, CHELCO staff will draw 10 random winners of the CHELCO Scholarship and thousands of dollars in door prizes**.

**All outdoor activities are subject to weather.*

***Members must be present to win scholarships and door prizes.*

Entertainment & Energy Expo



Business Meeting



\$10,000 in Scholarship Drawings



Thousands in Prizes



CHELCO ANNUAL MEETING LOCATION:
Freeport High School, 12615 Business Hwy. 331
Freeport, FL 32439

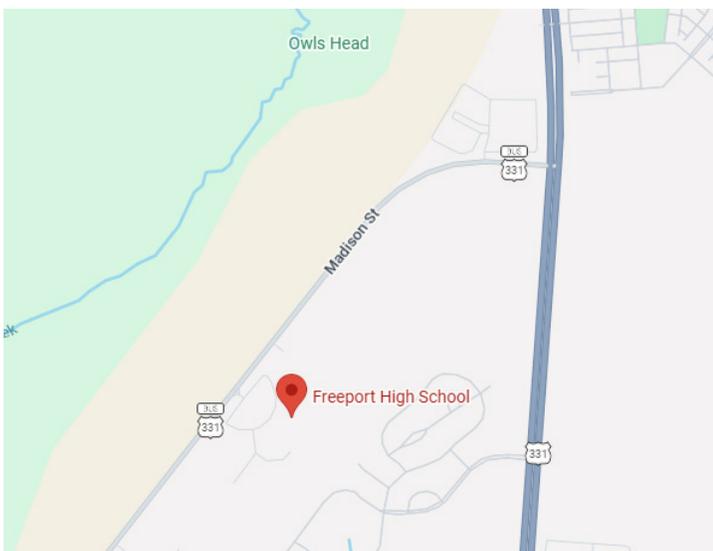
Directions to Annual Meeting

From the north:

1. Traveling south on US-331 S, turn right onto U.S. 331 Bus/Madison St.
2. Freeport High School will be one mile on the left.

From the south:

1. Traveling north on US-331 S, turn left onto U.S. 331 Bus/Madison St.
2. Freeport High School will be one mile on the left.



PROFILES FOR 2026 CHELCO TRUSTEE CANDIDATES

DISTRICT 3



Tim Braddock

48 Milestone Drive, Unit B, Inlet Beach

Tim Braddock is running for the District 3 seat on the Board of Trustees and was nominated by the Nominating Committee. He is a small business owner and community leader. He owns Bay Breeze Bait & Tackle and hosted the Real Fishing Report on ESPN 104.3, supporting the local fishing industry and advocating for responsible growth in our community. Prior to entrepreneurship, he spent over a decade in the electrical supply industry, serving as Sales Manager for ILSCO (2012-2025). He led Super Regional and Strategic National Accounts and served on the company's advisory and senior integration committees. Mr. Braddock is deeply committed to service. He has led church mission trips to Mexico, Romania, and Bulgaria, participated in multiple hurricane relief efforts, and volunteers locally by providing fishing instruction at community events hosted by Friends of Camp Helen. He and his wife, Andrea, live in the district with their son, Sawyer.



Brantlee Lawrence

72 Apple Court, Santa Rosa Beach

Brantlee Lawrence is running for the District 3 seat on the Board of Trustees and was nominated by the Nominating Committee. He earned his business degree from the University of West Florida and has more than 30 years of professional experience in the crop production and insurance industries. Since 2015, Mr. Lawrence has worked in the insurance field, helping individuals and families navigate the complexities of Florida's insurance market. His background includes agency ownership, startup operations, and regional sales development, with a proven track record of building successful businesses, fostering strong relationships, and driving sustainable growth. Mr. Lawrence has been married to his wife, Ramsey, for 29 years, and together they have raised four children — Lawson, Logan, Clay, and Evelyn. He is an active member of Good News Methodist Church, committed to serving his community, and brings a practical, people-focused perspective to his candidacy for the CHELCO Board of Trustees.

DISTRICT 5



Ronald "Ronnie" Jones

125 Jones Road, DeFuniak Springs

Ronald "Ronnie" Jones is the incumbent Trustee from District 5 and was nominated by the Nominating Committee. Jones has served on the CHELCO Board of Trustees since 1981. He serves as the director of doctoral programs in the School of Business, Technology and Healthcare Administration at Capella University. Jones has a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and Management from the University of West Florida; a Master's in Business Administration from Liberty University; and a Doctorate in Business Administration from Walden University. Jones is a lifelong resident of Walton County and is a member of the First Baptist Church of Mossy Head. He and his wife, Dianne, have two daughters and four grandchildren.

DISTRICT 8



Gayle Hughes

1427 John Steinbeck Drive, Niceville

Gayle Hughes is the incumbent trustee from District 8 and was nominated by the Nominating Committee. She has served on the Board of Trustees since 1999 and currently serves as Secretary/Treasurer of the Board and Chairperson of the Finance Committee. She also serves as the Treasurer of the co-op's charitable "CHELCO Foundation." She earned her Credentialed Cooperative Director Certification in 2000 and Board Leadership Certification in 2003. She was awarded Gold Director status in 2015. Hughes has a Bachelor of Science in Business from the University of Maryland and has done graduate work at Maryland and Johns Hopkins University. She retired from Westinghouse Electric Corp., Defense Group, after a 25-year career in human resource management. Hughes and her husband, Michael, a retired military officer and educator, live in Bluewater Bay. She is a member of the Episcopal Church.



Shane Weddle

825 Saint Kitts Cove, Niceville

Shane Weddle is running for the District 8 seat on the Board of Trustees and was nominated by the Nominating Committee. He is the owner and franchisee of FASTSIGNS of Fort Walton Beach/Destin and a senior operations executive with over 20 years of experience. He earned his degree in Business Administration from Indiana Institute of Technology and is a licensed Electrical Sign Specialist. Originally from Indiana with family ties to Florida, he moved to the Emerald Coast in 2021 with his wife, Ashley, and their daughter, Ava. Mr. Weddle is a veteran of the U.S. Navy and Army National Guard. He serves on the Executive Board and Board of Directors of the Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce and represents the Chamber on regional defense initiatives. He has also served as an honorary commander with Eglin AFB and Army Special Forces and participates in advocacy efforts in Washington, D.C.