

CHELCO NEWS

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A Touchstone Energy®
Cooperative 

Non-profits grateful for Operation Round Up



CHELCO's Operation Round Up program has impacted countless lives since its inception in 2019, and many organizations are thankful for the CHELCO members who make monthly contributions.

Food For Thought Outreach, based in Santa Rosa Beach, received a \$5,000 grant through Operation Round Up in July 2020. Their mission is to help bridge the gap between school meals on weekends and on extended breaks like summer break.

"The average food insecure child that we serve is going to miss 110 meals over summer break from school," said Tiffanie Nelson, the organization's founder and CEO. "With [the community's] support, we can fulfill our mission and bridge the meal gap for the students who need us the most."

Through the Operation Round Up program, CHELCO members have also helped fund Habitat for Humanity, which partners with people in our community, and all over the world, to help them build or improve a place they call home.

"We're thankful that we have thousands of CHELCO members willing to round up their monthly electric bill to help fund some great organizations," said Emily Cowan, CHELCO Vice President of Member Services and External Affairs. "We're also glad to see that so many of these organizations have heard about Operation Round Up and have given us lots of great causes to support."

Operation Round Up is growing quickly and we are excited to find new organizations to support. We encourage local non-profits to visit CHELCO.com to apply today!

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Track Outages

Hurricane season officially began June 1. We're all hoping for a quiet season, but we're preparing like we do each year. You can prepare by downloading the CHELCO Connect app or by becoming familiar with our outage tracker on CHELCO.com. There, you can monitor outages and estimated restoration times.



CEO Insights: Take a minute to unplug this summer

“Almost everything will work again if you unplug it for a few minutes, including you.” Author Anne Lamott cleverly captures the benefits of unplugging in today’s device-driven, multi-tasking world. Keeping up with work, family and school activities or the latest trends on social media makes most of us feel compelled to constantly check our devices.

My wife and I recently took a road trip to Georgia after the pandemic restrictions eased. We stayed in a cabin and enjoyed being with one another and hiking through nature with little to no cellphone signal. We sometimes forget how nice it is to unplug from our devices and give our eyes a break from the screen.

Summer is a great time to enjoy the great outdoors with family and friends. Research has shown that we all need downtime after a busy day

to recharge—even though we may resist it. Take a moment to slow down and enjoy some peaceful hours away from technology.

While you’re unplugging from your devices, take a look around your home to identify electronics that consume energy even when they are not in use (this is known as “vampire” energy loss). TVs, gaming consoles, phone chargers and computers are some of the biggest culprits.

If your summer plans include a staycation, take time to recharge your relationships and be more present with those you love. Enjoy an adventure with your family, play a round of golf with your buddies or take a walk through nature to enjoy the beautiful world around us.

Save energy by keeping warm summer air outside where it belongs.

Add caulk or weather stripping to seal air leaks around doors and windows. You can also employ a programmable thermostat to adjust the settings a few degrees higher when no one is home.

In our connected world, we have forgotten how to slow down. We multitask and text. We check email, then voicemail, then Facebook. Do yourself and your family a favor. Put down the device and smell the fresh air.

While CHELCO can’t help you recharge your relationships, we can help you save money and energy by connecting you with our energy-saving programs and services. When you do plug back in, we’re just a call or click away.

Steve Rhodes,
Chief Executive Officer

Davis joins CHELCO Board; Cosson's years of service appreciated



Dwayne Davis, District 9 Trustee

Dwayne Davis was elected to the CHELCO Board of Trustees in the board elections held in March and April, and announced at the CHELCO Virtual Annual Meeting on April 17. He will represent District 9, which includes the Freeport and Red Bay area.

Davis has been associated with the power generation and distribution field for over 30 years. He started his career with CHELCO, and worked with the construction management team at Exxon Mobile and China Light & Power in Hong Kong.

Davis defeated incumbent District 9 trustee Burt Cosson, who had served on the CHELCO Board of Trustees since 2009.

CEO Steve Rhodes said he appreciates Cosson’s time on the board, and he looks forward to working with Davis.

“Speaking on behalf of CHELCO, we appreciate Mr. Cosson’s many years of service and wish him the best. His attention to cost control was an asset to our co-op,” Rhodes said. “I look forward to working with Mr. Davis, and I trust that he will represent our members in District 9 well.”

CHELCO golf tournament raises thousands



The 2021 CHELCO Charity Golf Tournament, held May 20 at Blackstone Golf Course, raised more than \$11,000 to benefit three worthy causes: The American Heart Association, American Cancer Society and Friends for Autism Awareness.

Communications and Community Affairs Supervisor Bonnie Whitfield said that this event raised more than any in recent history.

“With the pandemic, we haven’t been able to host many of our usual fundraising events,” Whitfield said. “I’m thankful to our employees who volunteered and for all of our sponsors who made our tournament a huge success. In fact, we raised

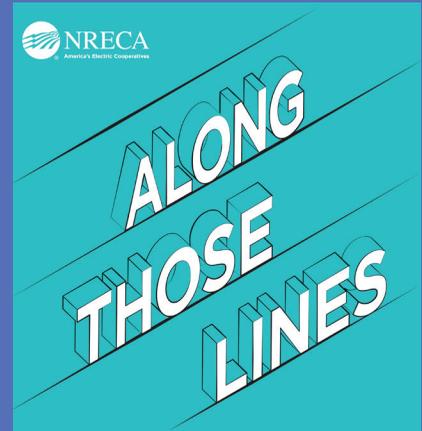
more money than ever to benefit three great causes.”

CHELCO would like to thank the tournament’s sponsors who helped raised money for these great causes, with a special thank you to our Gold level sponsors: Ritz Stores, Majors Financial Group, Tri-State Utility Products and Clary-Glenn Funeral Homes. We would also like to thank the staff of Blackstone Golf Course for allowing us to host this great event.

As pandemic restrictions continue to be lifted, visit CHELCO.com and follow us on social media, **@MyCHELCO** on all platforms, to stay up-to-date on all upcoming community events.

Thank you to all of our sponsors, teams, volunteers and the staff of Blackstone Golf Course for helping us make this event a success!

Need a new podcast? Check this one out!



In recent years, podcasts have become increasingly popular, and listeners can tune in on just about any device. From true crime to entertainment to news and more, there are countless topics to explore.

“Along Those Lines” is a podcast focused on the important stories from co-ops around the country and the issues that matter most to rural America and the energy industry.

This monthly podcast covers a variety of energy topics, such as the history of electric co-ops, stories from behind the scenes of cooperatives, energy news and much more.

Tune in to “Along Those Lines” each month wherever you listen to your podcasts, or visit electric.coop/podcast for more information.

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.

What exactly is a power blink?



Squirrels, birds and limbs are the most common culprits of power blinks.

In today's modern household, there are many electronic devices to keep protected, and a momentary blink in power is enough to disrupt our everyday needs and activities.

When members experience a power blink, it can be frustrating, but that's CHELCO's protective system in action. Although it is often a very quick process, blinking may cause lights to flicker and digital clocks to reset.

CHELCO's system will blink to allow a fault to correct itself and to limit prolonged outages. For example, if a tree limb falls on a line, power will blink up to three times to give the limb a chance to fall. If the

obstruction remains on the line, it will be de-energized to protect equipment from damage and to ensure safety. At this point, a crew will be dispatched to remove the obstruction to safely restore power.

At the same time, our system will isolate the outage to minimize the number of members impacted. The cause of a fault can range from a vehicle accident to a squirrel, bird or branch.

The next time you experience a power blink in your own home, remember that CHELCO's protective system is working exactly how it should.

Connections Corner

The Co-op Connections discount program is another benefit of being a CHELCO member. Local businesses, participating pharmacies and thousands nationally offer discounts to co-op members. Don't forget to download the Co-op Connections app!

This month, we highlight and thank the following businesses:

Nook & Cranny Consignment
676 Baldwin Ave., DeFuniak Spgs.
(850) 865-2976
Free drink from coffee shop with purchase

Rhodes Jewelers, Inc.
42 S. 9th St., DeFuniak Spgs.
(850) 892-3621
20% off regular priced items

SoWal Crossfit at NWFL Fitness
262 WRM Cir., Santa Rosa Beach
(850) 830-3530/(850) 830-6385
10% off monthly membership for new members' first year

For more information, visit CHELCO.com, email energyservices@chelco.com or call CHELCO's Energy Services department at (850) 307-1122.

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.

Gardner - 202005856



CORRECTION: In the May edition of CHELCO News, our new DCA rate figures were transposed. The new DCA rate will be \$0.00153.