



Okaloosa County Beach

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## ONLINE NOW

Don't forget to download the CHELCO Connect app. Pay your bill, report an outage and send emails.



A Touchstone Energy<sup>®</sup> Cooperative



# Heads Up for Operation Round Up!

Join the hundreds of CHELCO members who are participating in Operation Round Up, the new program that benefits non-profit organizations in our communities.

### Feel good!

Have you ever heard the expression, "Give until it ...feels good!"? Many of our members are looking for easy ways to support organizations that make our region better by supporting worthwhile causes. It does not get much easier than Operation Round Up.

If you join Operation Round Up, your CHELCO bill is rounded up to the next dollar. The extra change is placed in a fund that is



administered according to CHELCO's donation policy. Non-profits make application for the funds, and money is granted based on availability of funds and adherence to the policy. The average member will donate \$6 per year.

### Simple sign up

Volunteering to join Operation Round Up is as simple as filling out a form on CHELCO.com, calling our office at (800) 342-0990 or emailing memberbilling@chelco.com with your name and account number.

CHELCO will be announcing recipients of grants periodically.

## Install a switch and receive \$75

*Help CHELCO control wholesale power costs and collect rewards!*

CHELCO offers members a \$75 payment, plus bill credits worth \$18 per year, for participating in our Switch to Save program.

### Here is how the program works:

CHELCO will install a switch on a member's electric water heater for free. When demand for power is high on the very coldest and very hottest days of the year, CHELCO will turn off the tank's heating elements for a few hours.

Because the tank is full of hot water, members have hot water to go about their daily lives. Our tests and decades of experience show that members seldom notice the elements are off.

By reducing demand for power at peak times, CHELCO saves money on its wholesale power bill. We pass along the power cost savings to all members through the wholesale power cost adjustment. Also, members who have a switch installed receive a one-time payment

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# Steve Wolfrom retiring after 32 years

Steve Wolfrom, vice president of member services for CHELCO, is retiring in March after 32 years working for electric cooperatives.

"I feel so fortunate to have made a career transition in 1986 to join with such a wonderful and caring group of people who work at cooperatives," Wolfrom said. "The cooperatives themselves felt like a family, and that feeling extended to all the other cooperatives in the country who share a common bond in service to members."

Wolfrom's division includes member services, credit, call center, marketing, communications, community relations, economic development and legislative affairs.

He joined the cooperative world in 1986 as director of marketing and communications at Hancock-Wood

Electric, North Baltimore, OH. In 2000, he was named CEO of Holmes-Wayne Electric Cooperative in Millersburg, OH, before managing marketing and communications at Central Alabama Electric Cooperative, Prattville, AL

Wolfrom became CEO of Henry County REMC, New Castle, IN, from 2006-2013 before coming to CHELCO in May 2013.

"When I was asked to come check out this position by my friend, Steve Rhodes, CEO, it gave me pause. But as I added up all the positives, I knew it was going to be a great opportunity for my family and me," said Wolfrom. "We love this region, and we are staying right here."

He graduated from Bowling Green State University in Ohio with a journalism degree. He is a graduate of the NRECA Management Internship

Program and earned the Certified Cooperative Communicator (CCC) and Certified Key Account Executive designations.

Wolfrom has always been active in the community and economic development in his positions. He earned the National Association of Community Leadership award for distinguished leadership in 1994. He recently served as the chair of the Walton Area Chamber of Commerce and also recently left the Walton County Economic Development Authority board.

As a communicator at Hancock-Wood, he won NRECA Spotlight on Excellence Awards nine consecutive years for various projects. He served as a portfolio judge for the CCC program and wrote a guide on portfolio preparation that was used by NRECA.

## IN BRIEF

### CHELCO member photos

CHELCO is asking members to send in their photos so we can showcase our beautiful community in our publications. Photos can be historical, landscapes, nature or easily identifiable places within our area. We will not be able to use photos of people unless they are part of a public event. Please email your photo entries to [communications@chelco.com](mailto:communications@chelco.com).

### Know what's below

Whether it's a simple deck addition or a landscaping masterpiece, spring weather is great for outdoor improvements. If the planned project includes digging, remember to call. Utility representatives will arrive and designate the approximate location of underground utilities, so you know what's below.



**Know what's below.  
Call before you dig.**



## Go paperless billing

Cut the clutter and make handling your bills easier with paperless billing. We will send you an email that your bill is ready...just a click away. It's especially helpful to those who pay online or those who have autodraft.

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

Call CHELCO at (850) 892-2111 for more information.  
If you sign up at [chelco.com](http://chelco.com), make sure your email address is correct.



## CHELCO annual meeting and Board of Trustees election

It's that time of year when CHELCO members can participate in two of the great traditions of electric cooperatives: election of the Board of Trustees and the annual meeting.

Election packets and annual meeting publicity will be mailed March 22. The envelope includes a ballot and information on CHELCO's annual meeting, Saturday, April 27, at Freeport High School, 12615 Business Highway 331, in Freeport.

The deadline to vote is April 22. The independent auditor must receive ballots by the close of business on that date. It is important for you to participate in the democratic process and to ensure that the cooperative reaches a quorum for annual meeting.

Ballots count toward the number of members participating in annual meeting.

### Here are a few tips:

**TIP NO. 1:** Be sure to mail in your ballot and the blue card in the prepaid postage envelope included. Also, be sure to vote for a candidate in each district.

**TIP NO. 2:** By voting, you not only help us meet quorum, but you are entered into a drawing for door prizes.

Northwest Florida State College Soundstations Show Choir will perform at 10 a.m. We also have exhibits and an area with activities for kids in kindergarten through six grade.

Registration begins at 9 a.m., and there will be plenty to do prior to the business meeting. The business meeting begins at 11 a.m. and includes reports from Chairman Gerald Edmondson and myself.

**TIP No. 3:** Be sure to stay till the end. We're giving away more than \$2,000 in door prizes, but you must be present to win.

Hope to see you there!

## CHELCO will mail ballot packages this month

The 2019 Board of Trustees election ballots will be mailed March 22. Please keep an eye out for yours.

Members will elect trustees for Districts 2, 4, and 6 through mail-in balloting. Elections are at-large, so please vote for one candidate from each district, regardless of your district, even if that candidate is unopposed.

The ballot packet will include a copy of CHELCO's bylaws with proposed changes, a certification card and a self-addressed, postage-paid envelope to make voting easy and convenient. All ballots must be received no later than April 22, and the election results will be announced at the annual meeting

on Saturday, April 27, at Freeport High School. All voting will be conducted by mail.

**IMPORTANT:** Members must return BOTH registration card and ballot for the vote to be counted. Members who vote will be entered in drawings for a prize and bill credits.

Then join CHELCO for food, fun and prizes at our 78th annual meeting Saturday, April 27 at Freeport High School.

## Switch to Save *from page 1*

of \$75, and they get \$3 bill credits during the six months when the switches are most likely to be activated (June, July, August, December, January and February).

You can call (850) 307-1122 if you have questions or fill out the online sign-up form at CHELCO.com.

# 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.

#### **Bruno's Pizza**

- (850) 231-1452
- Santa Rosa Beach
- 15% off menu items

#### **C&C Construction of Northwest Florida, LLC**

- (850) 547-1001
- Florida, Southern Alabama and Southwest Georgia
- \$50 off any roof purchase

#### **Emerald Coast Energy Solutions**

- (850) 588-2870
- Santa Rosa Beach
- Free energy inspections; \$75 off radiant barrier installation; \$50 off blown-in insulation

For more information, or, if you own a business and want to sign-up to offer CHELCO's 50,000+ member accounts a discount, 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](http://CHELCO.com) or download the Co-op Connections app.



## **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.

**Anderson - 202098547**

## **Three easy DIY projects to save energy**

Spring is just around the corner, making it the perfect time to tackle a few DIY efficiency projects for your home. The good news: You don't have to be an energy expert to do this!

There are several easy ways to save energy, but if you're willing to take a hands-on approach, here are three projects you can do now to start saving.

### **Make the most of your water heater.**

Let's start with one of the easiest projects: insulating your water heater. Insulating a water heater that's warm to the touch can save 7 to 16 percent annually on your water heating bills. If your water heater is new, it is likely already insulated. But if your water heater is warm to the touch, it needs additional insulation. You can purchase a pre-cut jacket or blanket for about \$20. You'll also need two people for this project. If you have an electric water heater, do not set the thermostat above 130 degrees, which can cause overheating.

### **Seal air leaks with caulk.**

The average American family spends \$2,000 annually on energy bills, but unfortunately, much of that money is wasted through air leaks in the home. Applying caulk around windows, doors, electrical wiring and plumbing can save energy and money. There are many different types of caulking compounds available, but the most popular choice is silicone. Silicone caulk is waterproof, flexible and won't shrink or crack.

### **Weather strip exterior doors.**

One of the best ways to seal air leaks is to weather strip exterior doors, which can keep out drafts and help you control energy costs.

When choosing weather stripping materials, make sure it can withstand temperature changes, friction and the general "wear and tear" for the location of the door. Keep in mind, you will need separate materials for the door sweep (at the bottom of the door) and the top and sides.

By completing these simple efficiency projects, you can save energy (and money!) while increasing the comfort level of your home. And you can impress your family and friends with your savvy energy-saving skills.

## **Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month**

Spring is nearly here! Now is the perfect time to test your A/C and ensure it's ready for summer. Remember to check the evaporator coil, which should be cleaned annually for optimal efficiency.

Source: [energy.gov](http://energy.gov)

