

CHELCO NEWS

POWERED *by* YOU

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A Touchstone Energy®
Cooperative 

CHELCO assists neighboring co-ops



CHELCO's Baldwin EMC restoration crew

Hurricane Sally left our area with significant damage and flooding, but within two days of Sally's landfall as a Category 2, all CHELCO members whose homes and businesses could receive power were restored. A few weeks later, we closely watched as another Category 2, Hurricane Delta, formed and eventually made landfall in Louisiana.

Sadly for our neighbors to the west, both hurricanes destroyed property and left thousands of people without power for weeks. Following both storms, CHELCO answered the call and sent crews to assist in restoration, first at Baldwin EMC in Alabama, then at DEMCO in Louisiana.

CHELCO Operations Supervisor Chance Pitts said that helping neighboring co-ops means more than just doing a job.

"Being part of a cooperative is a way of life," Pitts said. "We help our

brothers in need, and they help us when we are in need."

Fulfilling the sixth cooperative principle, Cooperation Among Cooperatives, CHELCO and other neighboring co-ops came together to help Baldwin EMC and DEMCO restore power to their members following both devastating storms.

Line Technician Dusty Taylor was one of the linemen who were chosen to assist Baldwin with storm restoration following Hurricane Sally.

"It's just a cooperative kind of thing, a co-op family," Taylor said. "To be able to go next door and help your neighboring co-ops, and everybody coming together to get the lights on for the folks over there, it's a humbling experience."



Wearing pink hard hats in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, CHELCO's crew worked hard to help DEMCO restore power to its members.

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Holiday Closures

CHELCO's offices will be closed Thursday and Friday, Nov. 26-27, for Thanksgiving. Offices will also be closed Dec. 24-25 for Christmas.



CEO Insights: Giving back to our community

We know that our core job is to keep the lights on, but our passion is our community. We live and work here too, and we want to make it a better place for all. This is one of the principles that sets cooperatives apart from other types of utilities and businesses, and we've always taken this mission and responsibility to heart.

Over the past few months, like so many of you, our organization and employees have made efforts to rise to new challenges and strengthen the safety net for our community. For example, in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, our employees gave generously each week through weekly fundraisers to help local restaurants that were struggling to bring in revenue. After weekly meals and matches by CHELCO and our subsidiary, Southland Utility Services, more than \$25,000 was distributed to locally-owned restaurants.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we've made numerous adjustments to programs and operations to maintain business continuity while staying focused on the bigger

mission of helping our consumer-members through difficult times.

Now, with the holidays fast approaching, these recent events have made me pause and think about the role we play in our community. While our purpose is to provide safe and reliable energy, we have a greater mission--to be a catalyst for good.

In January 2019, we introduced our Operation Round Up program in which we accept donations from generous members like you who have "rounded up" the amount due on their electric bill to help give back to charitable organizations in our community.

For years, CHELCO has strongly supported local students through the Youth Tour program, where we take promising young students to Washington, D.C., for a week-long immersion to experience democracy in action. In addition to Youth Tour, CHELCO also distributes six scholarships each year to students who live on CHELCO's lines. We also provide funding for up to three scholarships at Northwest Florida State College.

CHELCO invests in the economic development of the community through an active role in both the Walton and Okaloosa County EDC. We've held community events in our meeting rooms at the Technology Center, such as the First Friday Veteran's Breakfast each November. We also have a strong presence in events like Relay for Life and Heart Walk, helping raise money for the American Cancer Society and American Heart Association.

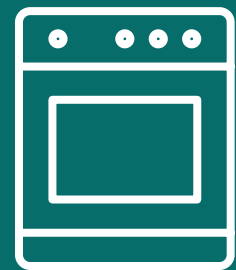
In their personal time, you'll see our employees serving on local boards, coaching youth sports, volunteering at charitable events and getting involved in the community, because when you work at a co-op, you understand how important a strong community is.

Concern for community is the heart and soul of who we are. No matter what the future brings, you can count on CHELCO to care about you.

Steve Rhodes,
Chief Executive Officer

Tips to Save Energy in the Kitchen this Holiday Season

- 1) When possible, cook with smaller appliances.
- 2) Use your dishwasher efficiently (only run full loads).
- 3) Unplug appliances that draw phantom energy load such as the coffee maker, microwave and toaster oven.
- 4) Try a tasty, no-bake dessert recipe.



Youth Tour 2021 around the corner



CHELCO's 2020 Youth Tour participants visited the State Capitol in Tallahassee in February.

CHELCO is gearing up for Youth Tour 2021! High school juniors who live on CHELCO lines are invited to apply. Two students from each high school in our service area will spend two days in February touring Tallahassee and will compete for a free weeklong trip to Washington,

D.C., in June. For more information, students are encouraged to visit CHELCO.com or contact their guidance counselor or Youth Tour coordinator Bonnie Whitfield at bwhitfield@chelco.com. Students are selected by their schools.



CHELCO CEO Steve Rhodes (middle) and Energy Advisor Tina Rushing (right) present Col. Kevin Osborne of Eglin AFB with a capital credit check of over \$135,000. As part of the 50-year Utility Privatization contract, CHELCO services Eglin AFB's electric distribution system.

CHELCO is governed by a nine-member board of trustees: Lee Perry, District 1; Terry Pilcher, District 2; Jim Bishop, 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; Burt Cosson, District 9.

'Thank a Lineman' FL license plates now available for pre-sale



Beginning Oct. 16, Floridians across the state can show their support for the lineworkers who work tirelessly to keep our lights on. Purchase Florida's "Thank a Lineman" license plate as a way to proudly display the profession and salute the thousands in the electric industry that help to power Florida.

The "Thank a Lineman" tag must pre-sell 3,000 license plate vouchers before the state begins manufacturing the plate. Once the 3,000 vouchers are sold, the plates become available for distribution.

The voucher fee is \$33, which includes the specialty license plate \$5 processing fee and a \$3 service fee and branch fee. \$25 will go directly to the Lake Sumter State College Foundation to fund scholarships in their electrical training program. To purchase a voucher, visit your local tax collector's office.

Not all EVs are the same



The newest addition to CHELCO's vehicle lineup is all electric! Our 2019 Nissan LEAF EV has a range of approximately 150 miles and can fully charge in 8 hours, or 50 minutes with rapid-charging.

Today, there are four main types of vehicles on the roadways (discussed below), three of which are at least partially electrically powered. Although electric vehicles (EVs) have been around for over 100 years, it is in the last 10 years that EV popularity has surged. This is due in large part to improvements in technology, such as advancements in battery technologies and power electronics. Electric vehicles require very little maintenance, are low cost to operate, have come down significantly in cost to purchase in recent years and are very reliable.

Until recent years, most vehicles on the road were powered by **internal combustion engines (ICE)**. These vehicles operate on gasoline or diesel fuel, require regular maintenance and are usually more expensive to fuel than EVs.

One type of EV is a **hybrid electric vehicle (HEV)**. These vehicles have both a gasoline engine and an electric motor with batteries. Hybrid vehicle batteries "charge"

by operating the vehicle. The electric motor and battery help to reduce the amount of gasoline used to fuel the vehicle.

Another type of electric vehicle is a **plug-in hybrid electric vehicle (PHEV)**. These vehicles operate the same as hybrid EVs, but plug in to an electric source to charge the battery. The vehicle initially operates on battery power before switching to gasoline once the battery depletes.

The third type of electric vehicle is a **battery electric vehicle (BEV)**. These vehicles have a much longer range than the other types of EVs and operate solely on electricity stored in the battery. Once the battery is exhausted, the vehicle is plugged into an electric charger for anywhere from 30 minutes to 12 hours, depending on the type of charger.

For more information about electric vehicles, please reach out to our EV authority, Tyler Jackson, at (850) 307-1123.

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:

Acupuncture Spa
(850) 399-1149
327 S. City Hwy. 393 Suite G.
Santa Rosa Beach
\$10 off any treatment \$80+

Body-B-Healthy
(850) 682-8893
2227 S. Ferdon Blvd, Crestview
15% off vitamins and supplements

Rent-A-Center
(850) 892-0440
1030-H Freeport Hwy, DeFuniak
50% off first month's lease payment, or 20% off cash price

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.

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