

First Virtual Annual Meeting a success



Due to COVID-19, the Annual Meeting originally scheduled for April 18 at Freeport High School was reformatted to meet guidelines laid out by the CDC and Florida Governor Ron DeSantis.

More than 200 viewers tuned into our first-ever Virtual Annual Meeting in a challenging turn of events caused by COVID-19 concerns. The meeting originally scheduled for April 18 at Freeport High School was reformatted to meet guidelines laid out by the CDC and Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, prohibiting large gatherings of more than 10 people.

Steve Rhodes said he is very pleased with how quickly we were able to adjust our plans to host a very unique and unexpected version of the Annual Meeting.

"Our teams have been scrambling on short notice to make this event happen," Steve said. "I can assure you that it was not easy, and I appreciate all that they have done behind the scenes."

During the meeting, it was announced that the three incumbent Board Trustees who had been unopposed on the ballots were

re-elected: **Jim Bishop, District 3; Ronnie Jones, District 5; and Gayle Hughes, District 8.** Six scholarship winners were chosen and prizes were drawn for those who voted in the Board of Trustees election.

Following the business meeting, the Board of Trustees met in a re-organizational meeting and elected the following officers: President Gerald Edmondson; Vice President Brady Bearden; Secretary/Treasurer Gayle Hughes; and Assistant Secretary/Treasurer Bert Prutzman.

In closing, Steve reiterated a promise to our members that we've kept for many years.

"We'll keep our noses to the grindstone, and we'll do our very best to keep your rates affordable and your electric service top notch," Steve said. "We're excited about the future of CHELCO, and we look forward to the challenges that lie ahead."

Executive Update

May all-employee meeting postponed

The all-employee meeting originally scheduled for May has been postponed until a tentative date of July 9. If needed, the schedule will again be adjusted to comply with any health guidelines or other circumstances beyond our control.

PTO Updates - COVID-19

Employees may now use paid time off in a limited capacity, two days within ten business days. All PTO requests must be supervisor approved.

Reopen date still uncertain

As of May 1, our target date to reopen our offices to the public is uncertain. Our original date of May 11 is still being considered, but we are monitoring business trends and CDC recommendations to make the safest choices for our members and employees.

Kudos

Tyler Jackson sends kudos to **Kisha Brinson**. "She has gone above and beyond to help things run smoothly during our adjusted working conditions due to COVID-19," Tyler said. "She is always willing to help no matter what, and she has such a positive attitude while doing it."

Elise Heald and Lyvonnica Green send kudos to the **IT**

Department. "We know they have had a lot of additional work to do," Elise said. "On top of their regular duties, they have been helping to move the offices around and set us all up in different places. They are rounding up extra office equipment to make things work for us. We appreciate them and wanted to say thank you!"

Pam Finch sends kudos to **Rolan Hernandez** for creating an office closure sign in Spanish. "Rolan is always so kind and willing to help us communicate with our Spanish-speaking members," Pam said. "He is a blessing to us all, and a great asset to CHELCO."

Cheryl Alberson and Lynn Touchton would like to recognize and thank **CHELCO's Executive Team** for everything they have done for employees and the community during the time of crisis. "CHELCO is to be applauded for helping our community through this unprecedented event," Lynn said.

Josh Rigby sends kudos to **Heather Bowness** for bringing breakfast to the Baker office after he and Lee Williams worked late the previous night. "Mrs. Heather went before work and picked up breakfast from Chick-fil-A for all of us at the Baker office, and it really just changed my whole outlook on the day for the good!" Josh said.

Promotions



Ray Lytle was recently promoted to IT Project Engineer. He was previously an IT Support Specialist. Congratulations, Ray!



Shane Boone recently completed his final Apprentice Line Technician test and was promoted to Line Technician in March. Congratulations, Shane!

Rhodes Scholarship winners announced

Each year, Steve Rhodes and his wife, Tami, sponsor up to three \$500 scholarships for CHELCO employees' children who are seniors in high school, plan to attend college in the fall and have a GPA of at least 2.5. This year, the winners are **Blakely Campbell**, daughter of Kevin Campbell; **Nate Hernandez**, son of Rolan Hernandez; and **Case Wilkerson**, son of Kevin Wilkerson. Congratulations to our 2020 Rhodes Scholarship winners!



Blakely Campbell



Nate Hernandez



Case Wilkerson

CHELCO Family



Ryan Jaycocks (left), son of Joanne Day, was named the 2019 Communications Officer of the Year at the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office. Last year, he completed all the requirements of the Communications Career Development Center and has been selected as an assistant shift supervisor. He has been with the Okaloosa County Sheriff's Office since 2006. Congratulations, Ryan!

Head Down, Chin Up



Audrey Bronk



Bonnie Whitfield



Brian "Bean" King



Brittany Augustine



Cody Dickey



Dana Godwin



Joanne Day



Kisha Brinson



Larry Tankersley



Michel Armbruster



Michelle Schack



Mike Kapotsy

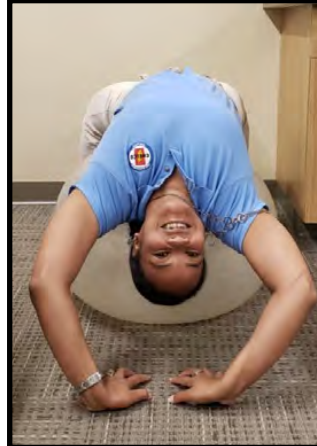
Head Down, Chin Up



Linda Sinwelski



Melissa Rose



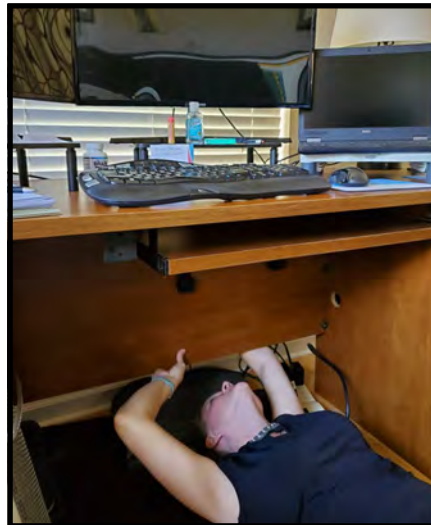
Natasha Bock



Amie Buggs



Beverly Robinson



Ruth Edwards



Shane Schiller



Suzan Love



Aaron "Turtle" Bracewell



Tyler Wood

CHELCO supports local restaurants, first responders during COVID-19



"Thank you, CHELCO, for supporting local businesses!"
-Fannin's Family Restaurant



"We appreciate you all for thinking about us."
-DeFuniak Springs Fire Department



"I have to say a huge thank you to CHELCO for supporting us."
-That Pizza Place



"Thank you so much. We really appreciate all that you do."
-Maggie, DFSPD Dispatcher

Beginning March 27, CHELCO and Southland initiated a weekly program to support locally-owned restaurants during the coronavirus pandemic, and we have gotten nothing but kind words and appreciation from those we've supported with our generosity.

As of May 1, CHELCO has supported 14 local restaurants with our Jeans Friday fundraiser and employee lunches. Understandably, business has been greatly reduced for each of these

restaurants, and CHELCO's support has helped keep their business flowing each week. Several of them have expressed their thanks on social media.

In our combined efforts as of May 1, CHELCO, Southland, Steve and Tami Rhodes, and our employees have contributed over \$7,000 through lunches and donations. Thank you to everyone who has donated, tipped and provided support for this great initiative!

If you see anything that has been affected by COVID-19, such as a restaurant doing takeout only, take a picture and send it to twood@chelco.com.

We're compiling a photo log of this time in our co-op's history, much like we would do during a hurricane, so snap a shot, send it in and we'll add it to the file.

Milestones

Birthdays

Mike Kapotsy	May 5
Lee Williams	May 11
Ruth Edwards	May 11
Bonnie Whitfield	May 12
Shane Boone	May 19
Audrey Bronk	May 22
Chase Weimorts	May 29

Service Anniversaries

Amie Howard	2 years, May 2
Lee Williams	34 years, May 5
Tina Rushing	25 years, May 8
Mike Brazile	33 years, May 22
Clint Dillon	7 years, May 30
Joanne Day	14 years, May 31

Employee Spotlight



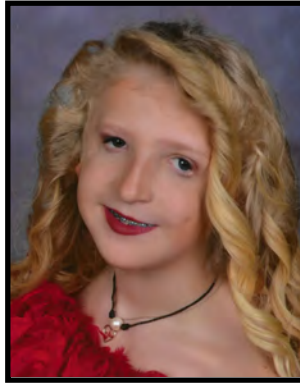
Clay Tolbert recently completed his Associate's degree from Northwest Florida State College. Congratulations, Clay!

Raving Fans

Donald Day and **Glenn Garrett** created a raving fan on April 13. Mr. Andy Dula of Crestview encountered an issue with his voltage, and Donald and Glenn responded to the report. "They went beyond the norm and cut off vines in the power line that I could not reach," Mr. Dula said. "Plus, just good work explaining how my long service line attributed to lower voltage. Thanks, and be proud of such a great company."

Allen Ward, Clint Fowler, Derek Tabor, Clay Tolbert, Chase Horton, AJ Coker, Tyler Matthews and Jason Cruse created a raving fan for the job they completed on Eglin Golf Course. "The guys did a terrific job," said Jim Seger with Infinite Energy Construction (IEC).

Congrats, Grads!



Jasmine Burnham, daughter of Anita Massey, graduates from Freeport High School this year. After graduation, she plans to become a flight attendant.



Ali Carter, daughter of Kevin Carter and granddaughter of Joe Hollington, graduates from Freeport High School this year. She plans to attend Northwest Florida State College and study environmental science.



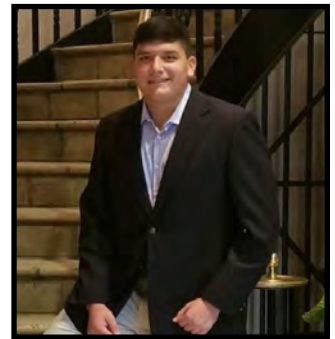
Blakely Campbell, daughter of Kevin Campbell, graduates from Walton High School this year. She plans to attend Northwest Florida State College and study nursing.



Olivia Mixon, granddaughter of Lynn Touchton, graduates from Freeport High School this year. Olivia will attend the University of West Florida and will pursue a career as a pediatric physician's assistant.



Case Wilkerson, son of Kevin Wilkerson, graduates from Walton High School this year. He will attend Northwest Florida State College and study engineering.



Nate Hernandez, son of Rolan Hernandez, graduates from Crestview High School this year. He will be studying history and political science at the University of West Florida on a full academic scholarship.

**DAYS SINCE LAST
LOST TIME INJURY 270**

**AS OF
May 1, 2020**

Safety team members: Matthew Mitchell, Betty Sims, Jason Price, Joe Hollington, Joe Spaid, Matt Rushing, Melissa Rose, Tim Marlow, Ricky Brassell, Kevin Wilkerson, Susan Wilkinson, Gary Towery and Scott Cromartie.

PLUGGED IN