

CHELCO NEWS

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A Touchstone Energy®
Cooperative 

Lineman Appreciation Day is April 11



Above: CHELCO line crew prepares to depart for storm restoration efforts.

You've probably seen CHELCO's crews out and about, working on power lines and other electrical equipment in our community. It's no secret that a lineman's (or woman's) job is tough, but it's an essential job that must be done, often in very challenging conditions.

This month, as we celebrate Lineman Appreciation Day on April 11, let's acknowledge just a few of the many things they do to keep our power on.

First off, the work can be heavy in more ways than one. Did you know the equipment that a lineman carries while climbing a utility pole can weigh over 50 pounds? That's the equivalent of carrying six gallons of water up a pole anywhere from 30 to 120 feet tall.

Additionally, linemen must be dedicated to their careers. The long

hours and ever-present danger can truly take a toll. In fact, being a lineman is listed as one of the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the U.S. Plus, graduating an apprenticeship and becoming a journeyman lineman takes four years of training. Additionally, linemen often work in extreme weather conditions and through all hours of the day and night.

"I get to work with a great group of linemen who are dedicated to their craft," said Kevin Wilkerson, CHELCO Manager of Operations. "I'm proud of the work we do each day to serve our members and community."

On April 11, please join us in thanking all linemen for their commitment to providing top-notch service to their members and customers.

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New payment center now open

CHELCO's new payment center in DeFuniak Springs is located at 655 U.S. Hwy. 331 N. Our former payment center located at 1350 Baldwin Avenue is no longer in service. Visit [CHELCO.com](https://www.chelco.com) or follow us on Facebook, @MyCHELCO, for more information.



CEO Insights: Welcome to CHELCO's new headquarters!

After years of planning and preparing, we have finally completed construction at our new campus in DeFuniak Springs! In March, we began transitioning from our Baldwin Avenue office to our new headquarters, and we are excited to serve you from our new location at 655 U.S. Hwy. 331 N. in DeFuniak Springs.

I hope this column answers any questions you may have about our move. If it doesn't, please call us, and we'll be happy to help! Below are a few things you might want to know about our new facilities.

Member Services

If you're reading this, there's a strong likelihood that you want to know where to pay your bill now that our Baldwin Avenue campus is no longer in service. Our new headquarters is home to the payment center, which will be your one-stop shop for bill payments and other general inquiries, such as updating contact

information, setting up service and more.

Here, you'll also be able to meet with Engineering, Energy Services and other departments relevant to your needs. Essentially, our entire operation will now take place at this new headquarters building. Don't worry, though. If you still pay your bill at any of our payment offices located throughout our service territory (Auburn, Baker, Bluewater Bay, Freeport or Santa Rosa), those will still be there to serve you!

Improved Capabilities

Moving from our former facilities across town to our new location provides our team with many new opportunities and capabilities. Primarily, almost all of our employees will now be working together at one campus. Of course, it goes without saying how much this improves working relationships, efficiency and convenience. All of our departments work hand-in-hand

daily, and being at one location benefits our entire team's ability to serve our members.

The move also gives us some much-needed additional space. Just as our membership has grown significantly over the past few years, our team of employees is growing, too. Our new Headquarters takes that growth into account.

No rate increase!

I've said this many times before, but it's important to me and the rest of the team that we constructed this new building with no change in rates for our members. Over the past few years, our cost-saving efforts have placed us in a strong financial position.

As we move into a new chapter in CHELCO's history, I look forward to the many years of service we will provide from our new campus.

Steve Rhodes,

Chief Executive Officer



An artist's rendering of the Administrative Wing at the new CHELCO Headquarters, located at 655 U.S. Hwy. 331 N.

Board Trustees honored for years of service



Above: At the February Board Meeting, CEO Steve Rhodes (right) presented Trustees Brady Bearden (left) and Ronnie Jones (center) certificates for their years of service. Mr. Bearden has served as a trustee for five years, while Mr. Jones has served on the board for 40 years.



Left: Also, Secretary/Treasurer Gayle Hughes was honored for completing the NRECA's Director Gold Certification, which recognizes trustees for their ongoing commitment to advancing their knowledge and performing their fiduciary duty to the best of their abilities.

Thank you to our Board of Trustees for your service to CHELCO!

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Spring is a great time to service your air conditioner unit to ensure that it is ready for the summer. Easy maintenance, such as routinely replacing your air filters, can lower your cooling system's energy consumption significantly. Make sure to check and clean your evaporator coil at least once a year to ensure your system is performing at optimal levels.



CHELCO Charity Golf Tournament is May 20

The annual CHELCO Charity Golf Tournament will be held Friday, May 20, at Blackstone Golf Course in Mossy Head. All proceeds will benefit the American Heart Association, American Cancer Society and Emerald Coast Autism Center.

The team entry fee is \$350 and will be a four-person scramble. All participants will receive a golf goodie bag, breakfast and lunch, and there will be prizes for the top three placing teams. Sponsorships are also available at various levels from \$100 to \$1,500.

Visit [CHELCO.com/golf](https://chelco.com/golf) to register to play in or sponsor the 2022 CHELCO Charity Golf Tournament. Contact the Communications Department at communications@chelco.com

Recipe of the Month



Key Lime Pie

Visit [CHELCO.com/recipes](https://chelco.com/recipes) to learn this recipe!

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 to look for when purchasing an EV



As the demand and popularity of electric vehicles (EVs) continue to grow, more and more people may find themselves in the market for one. Auto manufacturers are starting to develop EVs that appeal to more people. Many EVs now have longer range, more room, and some electric trucks are hitting the market with impressive towing capabilities. Consider these three questions when shopping around for a new EV: Does the vehicle meet my needs? How will I charge it? How long will I own the vehicle?

When considering an electric vehicle, you will want to check the range. The range is the distance that the vehicle can be driven on a full charge. If the range of the vehicle you are considering does not meet your typical driving needs, ask the dealer if they offer a larger battery or look into a different model.

Another thing to consider is where you will charge the vehicle. The majority of people install level two chargers at their homes, which allows them to charge the vehicle overnight and have a full battery in the morning. If charging at home is

not an option, then you will need to consider the cost and time to charge the vehicle at a public charger.

Finally, think about how long you plan to own your EV before making a purchase. One major advantage of owning an electric vehicle is the limited need for service and maintenance. Talk to the manufacturer about the battery life and cost of the vehicle's batteries. Eventually, they will need to be replaced, and this alone will add a significant monetary investment to the vehicle. Research which dealerships in your area have the training and capabilities necessary to work on the EV you are purchasing.

As electric vehicles are becoming more present on the roads, more car dealerships understand the benefits, along with some obstacles, and can help you make the right decision. Our experts at CHELCO are also here to assist. For more information or questions about EVs, please reach out to our electric vehicle authority, Tyler Jackson, at (850) 307-1123.

To find unclaimed capital credits, visit [CHELCO.com/capital-credits](https://www.chelco.com/capital-credits).

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:

CRC Data Technologies
4014 Commons Drive West
Suite 122, Destin
20% off services

Walton Music
756A Baldwin Ave
DeFuniak Springs
(850) 892-7073
10% off one regular priced item

First Command Financial Planning, Inc.
6760 Corporate Dr., Suite 100
Colorado Springs, CO
719-465-5555
40% discount off 1 year of comprehensive family financial planning services

For more information, visit [CHELCO.com](https://www.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.

Felton - 9000076353