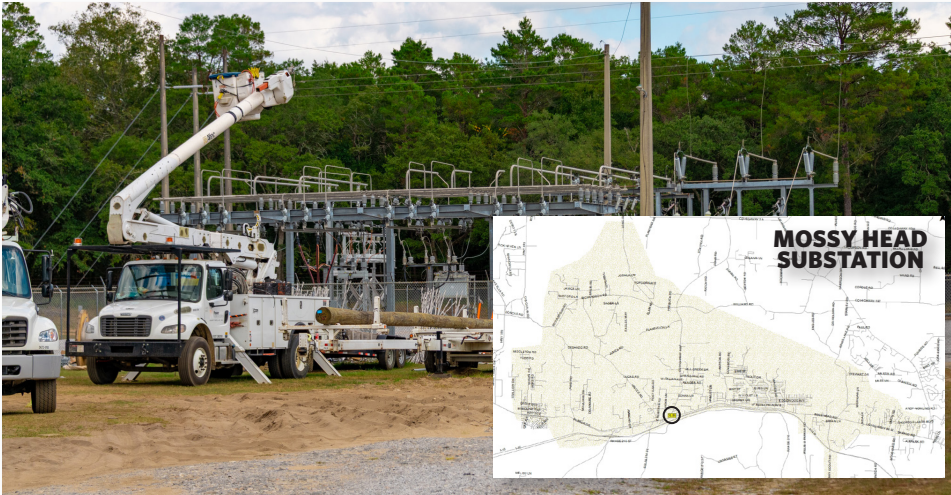


CHELCO NEWS

POWERED *by* YOU

NOVEMBER 2025 | VOL. 30, NO. 11

Mossy Head substation upgrades underway, PowerSouth mobile sub keeps power flowing



To continue improving reliability and meet growing energy needs, CHELCO, in partnership with our generation and transmission partner, PowerSouth Energy Cooperative, has begun major upgrades at the Mossy Head substation. This project will expand the substation's capacity to accommodate the significant growth in the area.

Currently, the Mossy Head substation serves more than 4,000 meters, including the rapidly developing industrial park. During construction, PowerSouth will provide a mobile substation unit to help carry the electric load and ensure members continue receiving reliable power throughout the upgrade process.

"This is a major upgrade for our members in Mossy Head," said CHELCO SVP of Engineering and Operations Matthew Avery. "These proactive improvements are part of

our long-term effort to meet growing energy demand and build a stronger, more resilient system for our members."

The upgrades, much like those underway on our Auburn substation, will include new equipment and enhanced technology to improve efficiency, reduce outages and allow CHELCO to better manage electric load during peak times. Once completed, the project will increase capacity to serve new members and ensure the community is well prepared for future growth.

Looking ahead, PowerSouth plans to add a new transformer in 2026, adding 20 megawatts of capacity to the Mossy Head substation. By planning ahead and working closely with PowerSouth, CHELCO is ensuring Mossy Head members can count on safe, dependable power for years to come.



A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFO

STAY IN THE KNOW

Ensure your phone number, email address and mailing address are up to date so you can enjoy the benefits of staying connected.



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ENSURE YOUR CONTACT
INFO IS UP-TO-DATE



CEO Insights: Thankful for our team's community involvement

As we enter the season of Thanksgiving, I am reminded how many things there are to be thankful for. Personally, I am thankful for my family, good health and many other blessings that are too numerous to count. I am also thankful for many things specific to my role as CEO, most importantly, for the people who make our co-op what it is: our members, Board of Trustees, employees and retirees.

I've spent most of my adult life with cooperatives, and one thing I have always appreciated is their deep roots within their communities. Now in my 13th year with CHELCO, I have seen many changes as the electric utility industry and society continually evolve. However, one thing that hasn't changed – not in my time at CHELCO, nor in the 85 years of its existence – is our co-op's strong support for our community, and a stroll through our offices offers living proof. You may see a plaque that reads "Relay for Life: Top Fundraiser" from years past. You may see a picture of a CHELCO volunteer team proudly displayed in an employee's office. You may even see a trophy case full of wins for good

causes. Today, our team continues to live up to the standards established by those who came before us.

Aligning Values

Cooperative values guide our decisions every day, and I'm thankful that we have a team whose personal values closely align with those of our cooperative. From serving as Little League coaches in their personal time to participating in volunteer events with CHELCO, many of our folks spend countless hours of their lives making our communities a better place.

Recent Community Involvement

Just last month, our team had a hand in several community-facing events. On Oct. 3, a team of CHELCO ladies took advantage of our volunteer time off program to participate in the Habitat for Humanity of Walton County Women's Build event, where the team tackled various construction projects for the newest home in the Habitat Village in DeFuniak Springs. Kudos, ladies!

That same day, we were happy to have several CHELCO departments represented at Bluewater

Elementary's Career Day, where employees shared various career opportunities available at our co-op, answered students' questions and even gave a bucket truck demo.

In late September, CHELCO was proud to sponsor the Home Runs for Heroes softball tournament hosted by our generation and transmission cooperative, PowerSouth. The event raised \$71,450 to support fallen and injured linemen and their families, another example of cooperative values in action. I'm proud to share that our team, Shock 'N Awe, took home the trophy for winning the Silver Bracket.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

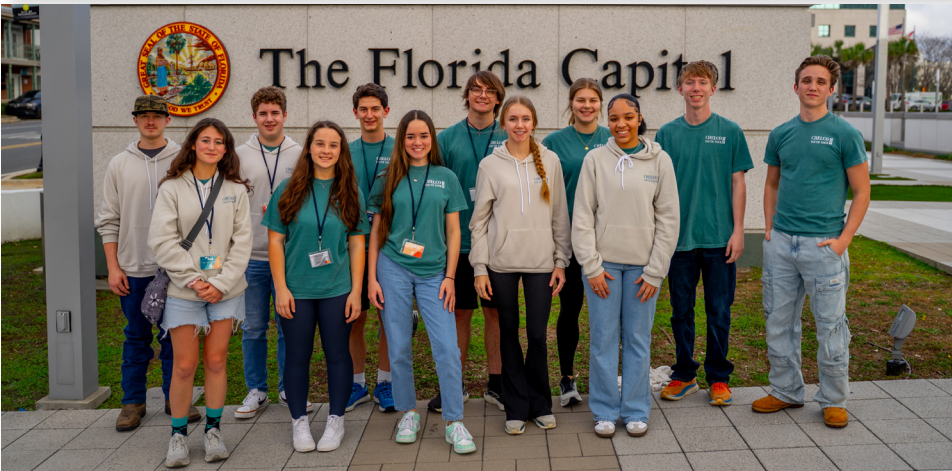
As we reflect on our many blessings during the Thanksgiving season, I am thankful for the opportunity to serve with an organization made up of individuals that are dedicated to their families, to their communities, and to you, our members.

I hope you enjoy your time with family and friends this Thanksgiving season.

Steve Rhodes,
Chief Executive Officer



Juniors: Apply now for the trip of a lifetime!



CHELCO's 2025 Youth Tour delegates enjoyed a two-day trip to Tallahassee, where they visited the State Capitol, learned about electric co-ops and made lasting memories.

Are you a high school junior living within CHELCO's service area? If so, you're eligible to apply for Youth Tour!

What is Youth Tour?

Youth Tour is a leadership experience sponsored by CHELCO that gives high school juniors a firsthand look at how electric cooperatives and government work.

This two-day, all-expenses-paid trip in February takes students to Tallahassee, where they'll meet state officials and connect with other co-op students from across Florida.

Everyone who participates in the Tallahassee trip will have the chance to compete for a free, weeklong trip to Washington, D.C., in June. Winners will explore our nation's capital, learn more about the history of electric cooperatives, and sharpen their leadership skills.

How to Participate

Each high school may select up to two representatives to attend Youth Tour



2025 CHELCO Delegates at White House

with CHELCO. If you're interested in this exciting opportunity, talk to your guidance counselor for details.

How are D.C. winners selected?

Students who attend the Tallahassee trip may enter the competition for the Washington, D.C., tour. Participants will submit a 2-4 minute video highlighting their Youth Tour experience, extracurricular activities, and future goals. The videos will be judged by three impartial judges, and the top four scorers will represent CHELCO in Washington, D.C.

What's next?

If you'd like to be part of Youth Tour, contact your guidance counselor for an application packet or visit CHELCO.com/Youth-Tour to learn more about this incredible leadership program.

IMPORTANT DATES

Dec. 19, 2025
Application Deadline

Feb. 4-5, 2026
Tallahassee Youth Tour

June 15-20, 2026
Washington, D.C., Youth Tour

Questions? Contact CHELCO Youth Tour Coordinator Tyler Wood.
(850) 307-1121 • twood@chelco.com

America's Electric Cooperatives PAC

America's Electric Cooperatives Political Action Committee (AEC PAC) is a grassroots PAC that supports and advocates for co-ops nationwide. AEC PAC helps co-ops, like CHELCO, implement policies at the state and federal levels that benefit cooperatives and their members.

AEC PAC is non-partisan and supports candidates who support cooperatives.

Nearly 40,000 eligible members across 47 states back AEC PAC contributions to candidates.

Visit electric.coop/PAC for more information and to learn how you can get involved to ensure that your co-op is fairly represented in office.



Energy Efficiency Tips for Cooler Months

- Set your thermostat to around 68 °F when home and lower it a few degrees when away.
- Seal doors and windows to prevent warm air from escaping.
- Reverse ceiling fans to push warm air downward.
- Open curtains during sunny days and close them at night.
- Replace your HVAC filters regularly for better efficiency.

CHELCO Proud to Power Eglin Air Force Base



CHELCO Eglin AFB Staff

As we celebrate **Veterans Day** this November, CHELCO proudly recognizes the men and women who have served and continue to serve our country. Their courage, sacrifice and dedication are an inspiration to us all, and we are honored to support them—not only in spirit but also through the work we do every day.

CHELCO is a Proud Mission Partner of Eglin Air Force Base, and since 2017, we have owned and maintained the electric distribution infrastructure on base, ensuring that Eglin's critical missions are powered safely and reliably. Serving those who serve our nation is a privilege we take seriously, and we are grateful for the trust placed in us to keep the lights on for those serving on base.

From all of us at CHELCO, **thank you to all who have served and continue to serve.** Your dedication and sacrifice make our freedom—and our work—possible.

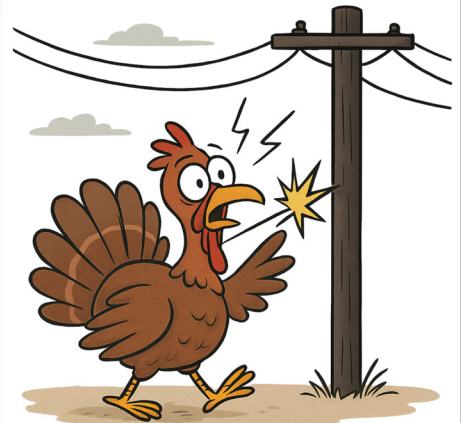
Holiday Office Schedule

Our offices will be closed the following days as 2025 comes to an end and we prepare for another new year

Offices Closed:

Nov. 27-28: Thanksgiving
Dec. 11: All-Employee Training
Dec. 24-25: Christmas
Jan. 1: New Year's Day

NO FOWL PLAY



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