

CHELCO NEWS

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CHELCO supports community in 2021



Employees dress up as Dr. Seuss-themed characters for Halloween fundraiser.

Another new year is upon us, and we hope to finally return to hosting our usual events this year after a two-year break due to COVID-19. We have a lot planned for 2022, but we also accomplished quite a bit in 2021.

Through internal fundraisers and automatic paycheck deductions, CHELCO employees donated more than \$20,000 out of their own pockets to nonprofits that make a big impact on our communities.

In May, we held the CHELCO Charity Golf Tournament at Blackstone Golf Course and raised over \$11,000 to benefit the American Heart Association, American Cancer Society and Emerald Coast Autism Center.

Our members played a very significant role in our support for the community through our Operation Round Up program. CHELCO distributed over \$51,000 to nonprofit organizations in our service territory in 2021, which would not have been

possible without our members enrolled in Operation Round Up.

CHELCO continued to support education in 2021, with six \$1,000 scholarships awarded to CHELCO members or member dependents pursuing their degrees. We hope to return to our usual school events such as career day, Safety City presentations and Live Line demos in 2022.

Our support also extended to the military through our Eglin Utility Privatization (UP) Contract. CHELCO presented at the 2021 Air Force Contracting Summit, explaining our role in serving Eglin AFB and owning and maintaining all electrical distribution infrastructure on base. In other military support, CHELCO sponsored the Walton Area Chamber of Commerce's First Friday Veterans Breakfast on Nov. 5.

We look forward to serving our community in 2022, and we hope that you and your family have a great year ahead of you!



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Cooperative 

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Did you know...

CHELCO was formed in 1940 with the support of the Federal Rural Electrification Administration. Later that year, CHELCO members met with 10 other electric co-ops and formed Alabama Electric Cooperative (now PowerSouth, our generation and transmission cooperative). Membership, then and now, costs \$5.00.



CEO Insights: Saying goodbye to 1350 Baldwin Avenue

“All good things must come to an end” is a proverb dating back to the 1300s, and I think it is a fitting way to commemorate the many years we’ve had at our Baldwin Avenue campus. While it has been a pleasure to serve our members from the red brick building, as it has been informally nicknamed for years, it’s time for a new chapter in CHELCO’s history.

The move to our West DeFuniak Springs campus will help us adjust to a rapidly-growing membership and workforce while providing a much-needed upgrade in technology offered in our new building. The majority of the company will now work more closely with each other at one location, improving efficiency, communication and professional

relationships. But as excited as we all are to move into our new offices and get a fresh start, it feels somewhat bittersweet to leave the place we’ve known for so long.

My office is in the Headquarters building behind our red brick building, where I’ve come to work for the last nine years. As we look forward to moving into a new building, I can’t help but think of the thousands of members that we have served at 1350 Baldwin Avenue – from the earliest members coming in to pay their bills in the 1940s and ‘50s to the members we see today.

CHELCO purchased the property at 1350 Baldwin Avenue from the W.B. Harbeson Lumber Company in 1946. In 1987, CHELCO opened the

headquarters building directly behind the brick building. Of the changes we’ve made to our offices over the years, none are as significant as the move to our new campus in the coming weeks.

While our time is winding down and we get closer to the transition, there are inevitably some mixed emotions. Much like a family moving out of their childhood home, we are excited for a change. We know that our new building will serve us with new capabilities for years to come. But as we move on to the next chapter, we’ll never forget our time at 1350 Baldwin Avenue.

Steve Rhodes,
Chief Executive Officer



After 44 years of service, Tankersley retires



Larry passes the American flag up a pole for a National Anthem video.

CHELCO Manager of Operations Larry Tankersley has had a long and dedicated career at CHELCO, and after 44 years of service to the co-op, he retired to a new chapter of his life on Dec. 28.

Tankersley joined CHELCO in 1977 as a Groundman and served in several roles before he was promoted in 2018 to his most recent position as the Manager of Operations. Tankersley said he's seen tremendous growth and improvements to technology in his time at CHELCO.

"When I started at CHELCO, there were only two bucket trucks on the whole system," Tankersley said.

CEO Steve Rhodes said that Tankersley has been a long-serving and invaluable part of the CHELCO team throughout his 44-year career.

"Larry's contributions to the co-op and its members are greatly appreciated, and we wish him nothing but the best in his well-earned retirement," Rhodes said.

Tankersley said he enjoyed his career at CHELCO, and he's now looking forward to the next chapter in his life.

"I'm proud of where I started and where I got to go in my career," Tankersley said. "There were a lot of good people that helped me along the way."

Save the Date - Annual Meeting 2022

CHELCO's 2022 Annual Meeting is scheduled for April 9, 2022, at Freeport High School. At the Annual Meeting, we will announce the board election results, draw six scholarship winners and provide updates on our co-op. Plus, we'll have live entertainment for the whole family!

Due to the uncertainty around COVID-19, this meeting is subject to be reformatted to a virtual-only event. Stay tuned for more information by following our Facebook page, @MyCHELCO, or by checking future editions of CHELCO News.

Scholarships open through March 18

CHELCO members or member dependents who plan to attend college or trade school as undergraduate students in the 2022-23 school year are eligible to apply for the CHELCO Scholarship. Applicants must have at least a 2.5 GPA and be in good standing with their school.

The deadline to apply for scholarships is March 18. Winners will be announced at the 2022 Annual Meeting at Freeport High School on April 9, and applicants must be in attendance in order to win. If the Annual Meeting is reformatted to virtual-only due to COVID-19, there will be no attendance requirement.

Visit [CHELCO.com/scholarships](https://www.chelco.com/scholarships) or contact your guidance counselor to learn more about CHELCO Scholarships.

Recipe of the Month



Squash Puppies

Visit [CHELCO.com/recipes](https://www.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.

CHELCO's board election season is here



Democratic member control is one of the seven cooperative principles that separates CHELCO from investor-owned utilities. Each member has a vote, and members are elected to represent their district on the Board of Trustees that governs CHELCO.

Each year, three of the nine positions on CHELCO's Board of Trustees are up for election. This year, members will elect trustees representing **Districts 2, 4 and 6** through mail-in balloting. All members may vote in the election regardless of their membership district. Results will be announced at our **Annual Meeting on April 9**.

Each trustee represents a geographic area of CHELCO's service territory, and they must live in the district they represent. Trustee election application packets are available online at CHELCO.com or at any CHELCO office.

A nominating committee reviews the applications and selects candidates.

Members may also use a petition process, which is described in the bylaws on our website, to become a candidate.

Your district number can be found on your bill to see if you are eligible to run this year.

Important Dates to Remember

Jan. 27: Applications due by 5 p.m.

Feb. 1: Nominating committee meetings

Feb. 8: Candidates posted in lobbies of CHELCO offices

Feb. 18: Petitions due

March 4: Notices/Ballots mailed

April 4: Ballots due to return

April 9: Annual Meeting and announcement of election results

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:

A Healing Massage

66 Dalton Dr., Santa Rosa Beach
1-hour massage for \$49 (regularly \$70)

Acupuncture Spa

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

Bruno's Pizza

3723 E. County Hwy. 30A,
Santa Rosa Beach
(850) 231-1452
15% off menu items

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.

Burnes - 9000077393

To find unclaimed capital credits, visit CHELCO.com/capital-credits.