



# Notice of CHELCO's 2025 Annual Meeting

**To: All members of Choctawhatchee Electric Cooperative, Inc.,**

You are hereby notified that the Annual Meeting of members of Choctawhatchee Electric Cooperative, Inc., will be held in accordance with the provisions of the bylaws at **Freeport High School, 12615 Business Highway 331, Freeport, FL, 32439, on Saturday, April 12, 2025.** (See map on page 3 for directions.)

Registration will begin at 9:00 AM and continue until 10:45 AM. The meeting will be called to order at 11:00 AM and will adjourn around noon.

**The 2025 Annual Meeting will be held to:**

1. Announce the results of the mail ballot election of three trustees to represent Districts 2, 4 and 6 for three-year terms.
2. Announce the results of the mail ballot bylaws revision vote.
3. Report on activities for the previous fiscal year and transact such other business as may come before the meeting.

**Gayle Hughes**  
**Secretary/Treasurer**  
**Board of Trustees**

## **CHELCO Bylaws**

### **Report on Review and Proposed Revisions**

CHELCO's Board of Trustees is recommending members to vote **"Yes, approve as revised"** on the revision of the Cooperative bylaws. On January 16, 2025, CHELCO's Board of Trustees completed a review and revision of the Cooperative's bylaws. Since the last revision in 2018, further organizational and procedural changes at CHELCO have caused parts of the bylaws to be in need of update. Again, **CHELCO's Board of Trustees is recommending approval of its revision of the Cooperative's bylaws.** Voting Yes for approval will adopt a complete set of bylaws as revised.

To view proposed bylaw changes in their entirety, visit

**<https://www.chelco.com/2025-proposed-bylaws-changes>**, scan the QR code below, or visit one of our six area offices Monday - Friday (excluding holidays) during regular business hours. [NOTE: Underlining indicates addition. Strike through indicates deletions.]

## **CHELCO Area Office Locations**

### **Auburn**

3097 Locke Lane, Crestview, FL 32536  
Hours: 8:00-11:30 AM, 12:00-4:00 PM

### **DeFuniak Springs Headquarters**

655 U.S. Hwy. 331 N., DeFuniak Springs, FL 32433  
Hours: 7:30 AM-4:00 PM

### **Baker**

1351 Georgia Avenue, Baker, FL 32531  
Hours: 7:30-11:00AM, 11:30AM-4:00PM

### **Freeport**

112 Highway 20 West, Freeport, FL 32439  
Hours: 8:00 AM-1:00 PM, 1:30-4:00 PM

### **Bluewater Bay**

1401 Cat-Mar Road, Niceville, FL 32578  
Hours: 7:30 AM-12:00 PM, 12:30-4:00 PM

### **Santa Rosa Beach**

3906 Hwy. 98 W., Santa Rosa Beach, FL 32459  
Hours: 7:30 AM-1:30 PM, 2:00-4:00 PM



**NOTE: The election is at-large, therefore, everyone is encouraged to vote for one candidate in each district, regardless of where you live or if they are unopposed. Voting members are asked to also vote either Yes to approve or No to disapprove the proposed bylaws revision.**

# VOTING INSTRUCTIONS

**No duplicate ballots will be issued, so please read the following instructions carefully before mailing your ballot.**

1. Read and sign the registration/certification card.
2. Mark the ballot. The election is at-large, therefore, everyone is encouraged to **vote for one candidate in each district**, regardless of where you live or if they are unopposed. Candidate biographies are on page 4 of this notice.
3. Mark the ballot. Everyone is encouraged to vote either Yes to approve or No to disapprove the bylaws revision. To view the proposed bylaws revision in its entirety, visit <https://www.chelco.com/2025-proposed-bylaws-changes>, scan the QR code on page 1, or visit one of our six area offices Monday - Friday during regular business hours.
4. Place the ballot and the signed registration/certification card in the business reply envelope.
5. Members must sign and return the registration card when voting to be eligible for prizes.
6. Seal the business reply envelope and place it in the U.S. mail. No postage is necessary. Your ballot will be counted only if received by the independent auditor on or before April 8, 2025.

**It is important that you vote and return your ballot so that a quorum is achieved as required by the bylaws.**

**Democratic Member Control**  
**one of the cooperative principles!**



**Should you have questions about the Annual Meeting (being held at Freeport High School, 12615 Business Highway 331, Freeport, FL 32439) or the voting process, please call (850) 892-2111, 7:30 AM to 4 PM Central Standard Time, Monday through Friday.**

## **Information on prizes and voting by mail**

1. It is important to vote for one (1) candidate from each district, regardless of the district you are in, even if candidates are unopposed. All voting will be conducted by mail.
2. This year, you are also asked to vote either Yes to approve or No to disapprove the bylaws revision, available in more detail at the bottom of page 1.
3. Your ballot must be received by the independent auditor no later than the close of business on April 8, 2025. A self-addressed, postage-paid reply envelope is provided for your convenience.
4. All members who complete and mail in their ballot will be entered to win one of four \$100 bill credits.
5. Members in attendance qualify for additional prizes. Drawings for prizes will be held immediately following the business meeting.



**Members must sign and return the registration/certification card when voting to be eligible for prizes.**

# Join us at CHELCO's Annual Meeting

## Freeport High School

### April 12, 2025

Spring is in the air, and there is no better way to celebrate than with free food, family fun, live entertainment, and thousands in scholarship and door prize giveaways at CHELCO's Annual Meeting on **Saturday, April 12, at Freeport High School, 12615 Business Highway 331, Freeport, FL 32439.**

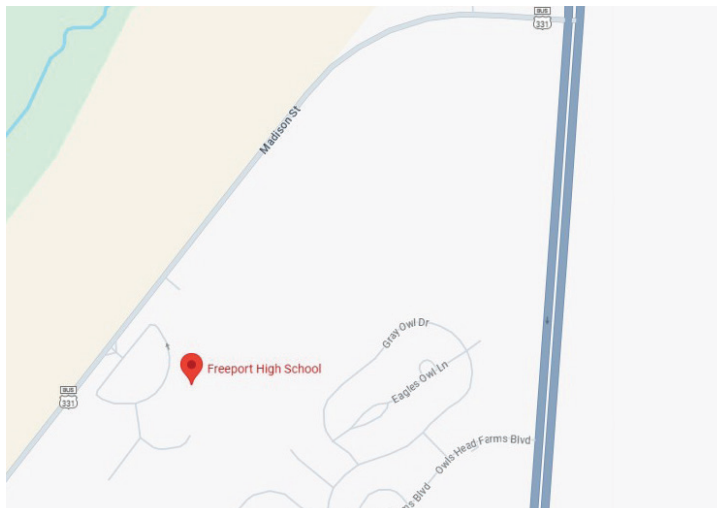
Registration begins at 9:00 AM, and there will be plenty to do before the business meeting, including the energy expo, live line safety demonstration, kids' bucket truck rides\*, rides on Touchstone Energy Cooperative's hot air balloon\*, bounce houses, live music by a former contestant on NBC's The Voice, complimentary breakfast and mobile coffee bar selections.

Each member in attendance will receive a 2024 Annual Report, gift bag and \$10 bill credit (limit one per household).

Beginning at 11:00 AM, the business meeting will include 2025 Board of Trustees and Bylaws Revisions results and updates from the CHELCO Board President, Treasurer, and Chief Executive Officer. Following the conclusion of the business meeting, CHELCO staff will draw 10 random winners of the CHELCO Scholarship and thousands of dollars in door prizes\*\*.

\*Kids' bucket truck rides and hot air balloon rides are subject to weather.

\*\*Members must be present to win scholarships and door prizes.



#### Entertainment & Energy Expo



#### Business Meeting



#### \$10,000 in Scholarship Drawings



#### Thousands in Prizes



**CHELCO ANNUAL MEETING LOCATION:**  
**Freeport High School, 12615 Business Hwy. 331**  
**Freeport, FL 32439**

#### Directions to Annual Meeting

**From the north:**

1. Traveling south on US-331 S, turn right onto U.S. 331 Bus/Madison St.
2. Freeport High School will be one mile on the left.

**From the south:**

1. Traveling north on US-331 S, turn left onto U.S. 331 Bus/Madison St.
2. Freeport High School will be one mile on the left.



# PROFILES FOR 2025 CHELCO TRUSTEE CANDIDATES

## DISTRICT 2

**1742 Bay Grove Rd., Freeport**

### **Terry Pilcher**



Terry J. Pilcher is the incumbent trustee from District 2 and was nominated by the Nominating Committee. He is a lifelong resident of Walton County and resides in Freeport, Florida. He is the Broker/Owner of Merrifield & Pilcher Realty. Terry is the Association Executive for the Emerald Coast Association of Realtors. Mr. Pilcher currently serves as President of the Florida Electric Cooperatives Association in Tallahassee. He was recently elected to the Board of Directors for Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange. He represents Region 2, covering Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina. He is currently the Honorary Commander of the 7th Special Forces Group. He is a member of the Northwest Florida All Sports Association where he is Past President. Mr. Pilcher graduated from Troy University with master's degrees in Criminal Justice Administration and Education. He completed his Leadership and Administration Program with the University of West Florida. After college, he worked for Troy University before teaching and coaching at Walton High School. He and his family are members of Good News Methodist Church in Santa Rosa Beach.

## DISTRICT 4

**1355 Bob McCaskill Dr., DeFuniak Springs**

### **Brady Bearden**



Brady Bearden is the incumbent Trustee from District 4 and was nominated by the Nominating Committee. Mr. Bearden currently serves as Vice President of the Board of Trustees and as a member of the Finance Committee. He has earned certification as a Credentialed Cooperative Director, the Board Leadership Certificate and the Director Gold Certificate with NRECA. He also serves as Chairman of the Board of Directors of Southland Utility Services Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of CHELCO. He serves on the Florida Electric Cooperatives Association Board of Directors as CHELCO's voting delegate. He has a bachelor's degree in Business Administration/Management. He is a retired U.S. Navy Officer and served as CHELCO's Director of Loss Control and Walton County's Director of Human Resources. He resides in DeFuniak Springs with his wife, Terry, and they have one daughter and three grandchildren. He is Baptist by faith.

## DISTRICT 6

**6060 Hwy. 85 N., Crestview**

### **Gerald Edmondson**



Gerald Edmondson is the incumbent trustee from District 6 and was nominated by the Nominating Committee. He currently serves as President of the Board of Trustees and is a Credentialed Cooperative Director. He has also earned a Board Leadership Certificate and a Director Gold Certification from NRECA. Mr. Edmondson earned a graduate degree in Agricultural Education and is retired as Extension Director Emeritus from UF and Okaloosa County. He is currently CHELCO's representative on the Board of Trustees at PowerSouth, CHELCO's generation and transmission cooperative in Andalusia, Alabama. At PowerSouth, he serves on the Corporate Planning and Power Supply Committee, Nominating Committee, and Engineering and Operations Committee. He currently serves on the Okaloosa Farm Bureau Federation Board, having recently served as secretary/treasurer. Mr. Edmondson and his wife, Claire, have two sons, Jeremy and Travis, and four grandchildren. They live in the Auburn community and are members of the First Baptist Church in Crestview. Edmondson enjoys spending time with his grandkids, gardening and fishing.

**NOTE: The election is at-large, therefore, everyone is encouraged to vote for one candidate in each district, regardless of where you live or if they are unopposed. Voting members are asked to also vote either Yes to approve or No to disapprove the proposed bylaws revision.**