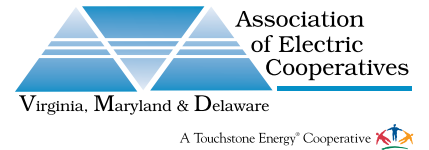
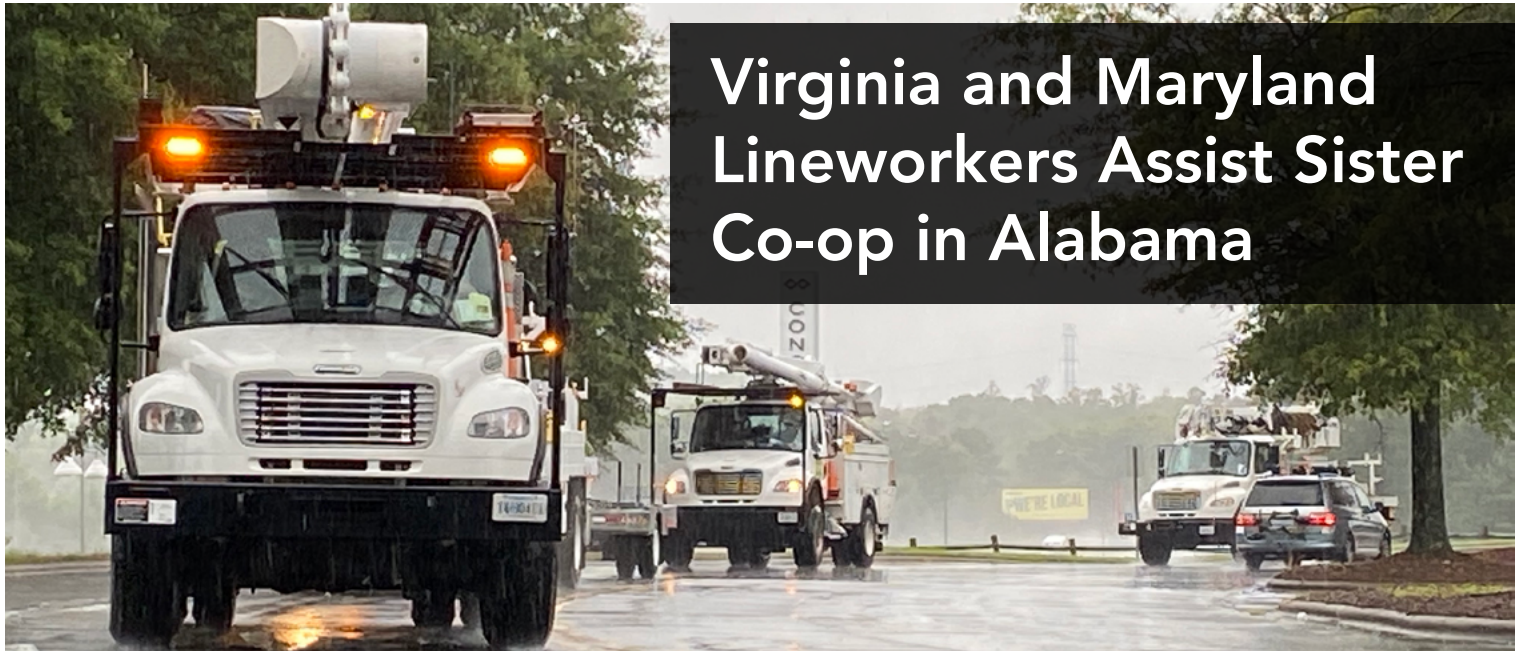


A regular update for leaders, members and friends of
the VA-MD-DE Association of Electric Cooperatives


from Richard G. Johnstone Jr. | President & CEO



COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES



Virginia and Maryland Lineworkers Assist Sister Co-op in Alabama

 On Sept. 17, electric cooperatives in Virginia and Maryland dispatched emergency teams of lineworkers to Alabama to help restore power in the aftermath of Hurricane Sally.

Seventy lineworkers from six electric cooperatives traveled through remnants of the storm to the Gulf Coast, where they spent several days in the service territory of Baldwin Electric Membership Corp.

Baldwin EMC had more than 78,000 members in the dark after Sally lashed the coast, destroying miles of power lines and thousands of power poles.

"We're looking for a lot of flooding, a lot of water and a lot of wind damage. It's going to be an obstacle," Kyle Hadley of Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative said as he headed to Alabama. "Our No. 1 goal is to work safely, get the power restored and help people out in a time of need."

Mecklenburg Electric convoy headed to Alabama through the storm.



BARC crew with an appreciative member of Baldwin EMC. The crew made a great impression on this member, who repeatedly praised them on social media. Her posts led to new friendships via Facebook with other co-op members in Virginia.



Standing by the Alabama shore is a four-man crew from Community Electric, the recipient of mutual aid just last month following Tropical Storm Isaias.

(Continued on
next page)

Virginia and Maryland Cooperatives providing assistance were:

- BARC Electric, Millboro, Va.: 10 crew members
- Choptank Electric, Denton, Md.: 22 crew members
- Community Electric, Windsor, Va.: 4 crew members
- Central Virginia Electric, Arrington, Va.: 4 crew members
- Mecklenburg Electric, Chase City, Va.: 14 crew members
- Shenandoah Valley Electric, Rockingham, Va.: 16 crew members

Baldwin EMC members found creative ways to show their appreciation co-op crews. A Choptank crew member received this Rice Krispies treat with a special note.



Restoring Power After Sally

(Continued from page 1)

The Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives coordinated the response. Phil Jarvis, manager of safety services for the association, said Alabama cooperatives estimated they needed at least 1,000 lineworkers to rebuild the ravaged electric system.

Phil noted that Alabama was in particular need of right-of-way crews, and BARC Electric responded with six from its in-house, right-of-way crews, as well as four lineworkers. It is the largest mutual-aid response from the VMD Association since Hurricane Irma in 2017.

"The response came together very quickly and we're committed to help get the lights back on in these hard-hit areas," Phil said. As of Friday, better than 90% of the Baldwin EMC system was restored. BARC and Choptank crews arrived home safely late Thursday evening, with the remaining crews released over the weekend.

– Report by Steven Johnson, Editor, Cooperative Living, and Jim Robertson, Creative Services Specialist, VMDEAC.



Choptank Electric crews gathered at the Gateswood Volunteer Fire Department in Baldwin County, Ala.



A Central Virginia Electric crew works around debris and fallen trees to restore power.



The Shenandoah Valley Electric 16-man crew prior to departing for southern Alabama on the morning of Sept. 17.



In Memoriam:

John Manley Garber

'The man who brought electricity to Prince William County'



Virginia lost one of its most remarkable native sons when John Manley Garber died at age 95 on Sept. 13, 2020. NOVEC's longest-serving board director brought electric service, economic development, compassion, and joy to much of Northern Virginia.

"Manley was unique," says Stan C. Feuerberg, NOVEC's president and CEO. "He possessed a heart of gold for those less fortunate, yet remained objective about what was best for NOVEC and its members. He was the voice of reason in the boardroom time-and-time again. He will be missed."

Former Virginia Delegate Scott Lingamfelter called Manley "the man who brought electricity to Prince William County" because when the investor-owned electric utility refused to serve addresses off main roads in the 1940s, Manley worked to expand the new Prince William Electric Cooperative (PWEC) so all county residents would have power. PWEC members awarded Manley's efforts by electing him to the co-op's board of directors in 1950 when Manley was 25.

As board president, Manley oversaw PWEC's consolidation with Tri-County Electric Cooperative to form Northern Virginia Electric Cooperative in 1983. Manley was resoundingly elected as NOVEC's first board chairman — a role he retained until 2008 before retiring as director emeritus in 2018. Manley's 68 years of dedicated service made him the longest-serving electric cooperative board director in U.S. history.

Manley's 50 years on the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives' board, including two stints as chairman, earned him the prestigious Cooperative Leadership Award in 1996.

"It would be difficult, if not impossible, to overstate the importance of Manley's leadership of our three-state association, or the positive impact he had on all 15 of our member systems," says Richard Johnstone, VMDAEC president and CEO.

Manley said in 2012, "Serving on these boards has been the most rewarding thing I've done in my life, helping people get quality electric service at reasonable rates."

In appreciation of his work, NOVEC nominated Manley for the Prince William Chamber of Commerce's Charles J. Colgan Visionary Award in 2018. He won.

Farmer and Entrepreneur

Manley, born with his twin brother in the Shenandoah Valley in 1925, moved with his family to a Woodbridge farm in 1932 during the Great Depression. He said, "Life was very hard without electricity. We had to bring in firewood for the kitchen stove and heating stove. We used kerosene for our lamps and refrigerator. We washed our clothes by hand and hung them on the lines to dry. We raised almost everything we ate."

Manley started raising hogs on the family farm in high school. He expanded commerce by starting a waste-management company and mobile home park. He sold camper-trailers and everything from boxes to bulldozers in his surplus business. While running his enterprises, the entrepreneur bought, sold, and leased thousands of acres of land and commercial property.

Legendary Civic Servant

In addition to helping the co-ops, Manley served on the boards of Prince William Hospital, First Manassas Bank, Commonwealth Savings and Loan, Bridgewater College, and Woodbridge's Church of the Brethren. Manley's son Dan said

in 2018, "On Easter, Dad still gets up at 4:45 a.m. to make fresh sausage gravy for the entire church family."

To help prevent birth defects and infant deaths, Manley raised more than \$130,000 from 2002 to 2016 for the March of Dimes. His efforts helped NOVEC become one of the organization's top fundraising companies.

When it snowed, the duty doer would rev up his tractor and plow his neighbors' driveways and shopping center parking lots. Manley said with delight, "The cab has a heater and stereo to keep me happy."

Manley liked this saying, "It's nice to be important but it's more important to be nice."

When the rural Renaissance man reflected on his life, he said, "I was born when cars and airplanes were just arriving. The roads weren't good. We had no electricity, no TVs, no computers. Life was hard, simple, but rewarding. After a lifetime of working, raising a family, and serving my community, I feel like I'm one of the most fortunate persons in the world."

Manley's wife of 52 years, Jeannette Minnick Garber, preceded him in death, as well as his sister and two brothers. Manley is survived by his wife, Kay Kim Garber, four children, 11 grandchildren, and more than two dozen great- and great-great grandchildren.

— Report by Priscilla Knight,
Senior Communications
Specialist, NOVEC.



COOPERATIVE LEADERSHIP



Mike Malandro Named One of Maryland's Most Admired CEOs

"I am truly humbled by the recognition. I want to be a positive influence here on the Eastern Shore, and I cannot wait to do that with our broadband project."

– Mike Malandro, President and CEO, Choptank Electric Cooperative

Choptank Electric Cooperative President and CEO Mike Malandro has been named by The Daily Record as one of Maryland's 2020 Most Admired CEOs.

The Daily Record created the Most Admired CEOs awards program to recognize talented business CEOs and nonprofit executive directors throughout Maryland for their leadership and vision. The winners were selected based on professional accomplishments, community service and letters of reference submitted by co-workers, board members and community leaders showing the CEO's leadership and vision.

"This year's Most Admired CEOs are known for their integrity, values, drive and commitment to excellence," said Suzanne Fischer-Huettnner, group publisher of The Daily Record. "They are trendsetters, good listeners and agents of change who want to empower those who work for them, those they work with on community boards and those they mentor. The Daily Record is pleased to recognize them."

The winners will be honored Nov. 2 at a virtual celebration from 6 to 7 p.m. at thedailyrecord.com/most_admired_ceos.



Choptank Electric Cooperative

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative



All of the winners will be celebrated for their achievements through video storytelling. Guests will have the opportunity to participate in the program with their congratulations and cheers using social media platforms from their homes or offices. Reserve tickets [here](#). The event hashtag is #TDRevents.

Winners will be profiled in a special magazine that will be inserted into the Nov. 3 issue of The Daily Record and will be available online at TheDailyRecord.com.

Celebration Sponsors of the 2020 Most Admired CEOs are Epsilon Registration and VPC, Inc.

For more information about sponsorships and tickets for The Daily Record's 2020 Most Admired CEOs, visit TheDailyRecord.com.

– Report by Beth Hallet, Manager of Marketing and Communications, Choptank Electric Cooperative.

Broadband Expansion for Rockbridge County Moving Forward

Revised VATI grant project area will connect unserved residences and businesses in Rockbridge County

In January 2020 Virginia Governor Ralph Northam announced more than \$18.3 million in grants through the Virginia Telecommunication Initiative to support 12 projects across Virginia. These awards included funding for a project submitted by the Central Shenandoah Planning District Commission. After working through incumbent carrier challenges to the original project submission, the project areas were revised in order that the project could move ahead to broadband construction and deployment.

In today's economy, the need for unserved communities to have access to high-speed Internet is greater than ever. The revised CSPDC project will bring broadband access to 492 unserved homes and businesses in Rockbridge County, as well as over 280 additional units.

In partnership with Rockbridge County and BARC Electric Cooperative, the \$2.2 million grant award will be used to provide fiber infrastructure to help bridge the digital divide to four project areas located in Rockbridge County. These areas include BARC's Cornwall East-South River-Vesuvius electric circuit, a portion of the Big Hill circuit, the Effinger-Glasgow circuit, and the South Buffalo circuit.* The overall project will have a total cost of \$4.4 million dollars and will result in approximately 111 miles of gigabit last mile fiber infrastructure. This project was funded and supported in collaboration with the Commonwealth of Virginia's Telecommunication Initiative.

*BARC will also deploy fiber on the North Buffalo electric circuit at the same time as South Buffalo, but it is not part of the VATI grant project.

– Report by Tish Blackwell, Communications Specialist, BARC Electric Cooperative.



COOPERATIVE ANNUAL MEETINGS

Powell Valley Electric Holds Scaled-Down Annual Meeting

Powell Valley Electric Cooperative held a scaled-down version of its annual meeting on Sept. 19, in response to health and safety concerns associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. While PVEC annual meetings are almost always held at area high schools, this one was held at the cooperative's office in New Tazewell, Tenn., with limited attendance.

Among the precautions that PVEC took were conducting director elections via early voting for the five-day period preceding the annual meeting. No voting was conducted at the meeting. Additionally, attendance was limited to one person representing each membership, with each attendee required to wear a mask and encouraged to practice social distancing.

PVEC General Manager/CEO Randell Meyers said the cooperative regretted having to postpone or cancel many of the events associated with the annual meeting, but hoped that the health fair, lunches, door prizes and gift bags can be resumed in 2021. "The program is as close to normal as we could plan it and still look out for your health and well-being," he told meeting participants.

In his general manager's report, Randell said some good news has come out of the difficult situation. The Tennessee Valley Authority, PVEC's power supplier, has approved a \$200 million pandemic relief credit to help communities and businesses recover more quickly. A 2.5% base rate credit to the wholesale power bill will be applied beginning in October and continuing through the end of fiscal year 2021, he noted.

Central Virginia Electric Hosts Successful Annual Meeting

The COVID-19 pandemic pushed back Central Virginia Electric Cooperative's annual meeting and narrowed its scope. But the cooperative had a successful meeting on Sept. 23 through limited in-person attendance and a live stream under the title, "Persevering in an Unusual Year."

The meeting was held under a truck shed outside the cooperative headquarters in Nelson County without the usual food and door prizes. However, the voting member of each household could attend the business meeting and cast a ballot in the election for directors, maintaining proper social distancing and safety guidelines.

Kinckle Robinson, chairman of the CVEC board, called the meeting to order, while Director H.T. Brown Jr. delivered the invocation and led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Kinckle said CVEC is in excellent condition in its financial condition, reliability and power supply, adding that the board authorized retirement of capital credits for the 10th year in a row. The amount of \$1.2 million pushed overall retirements to nearly \$19 million, he noted.

"Our leadership team has done an outstanding job of maintaining a safe work environment," Kinckle said.

Treasurer Brian Bates said financials for 2019 indicated a 3.7% decrease in kilowatt-hour sales, primarily because of the weather. However, operating revenue was up to about \$99.5 million from \$94.7 million in 2018. That includes a grant to the Firefly Fiber Broadband subsidiary, which is connecting all



PVEC General Manager and CEO Randell Meyers delivers remarks to members.

"Your board of directors has made the decision to pass this credit directly to our members," Randell said. "More good news is that our 10-year forecast does not show that we will need any kind of rate increase."

Randell also reported positive action on fiber deployment for broadband and has been working with Scott County Telephone Company to provide broadband for members in targeted areas. "Dependable broadband is even more necessary now for our members, as more people work from home and our children are being educated at home," he said. "It will take a few years to reach all members. PVEC is pursuing all avenues to provide reliable, high-speed internet."

In director elections, three seats were up. Bill J. Surber III won the election to Board District 6, a seat held by incumbent Dale McNiel. Mikel Sharp was reelected in District 1 and Judith Robertson was reelected in District 3.

Congratulations to PVEC for holding a successful meeting in trying times.



CVEC President and CEO Gary Wood addresses a smaller-than-normal and socially distanced audience at the co-op's annual meeting.

of CVEC's 37,000 members to high-speed internet service.

President and CEO Gary Wood said CVEC continues to emphasize safety and excellence in all its operations, adding that a balanced portfolio enables the cooperative to avoid dependence on any single fuel source.

Gary added that Firefly is moving at a brisk clip, with service available to an estimated 15,000 members by year's end. The 4,000-mile system is scheduled for completion by July 2022.

"In summary, your cooperative had an excellent year in 2019. Whether it was the challenges in 2019 of the big fiber build, or working through the pandemic in 2020, the team at CVEC has continued to be focused on delivering the services that you need in our rural area," Gary said.

Reelected to three-year terms on the board of directors were Kinckle Robinson of the South District, George Goin of the East District and Jace Goodling of the West District.

Congratulations to CVEC on a successful annual meeting and year.

— Reports by Steven Johnson, Editor, Cooperative Living.

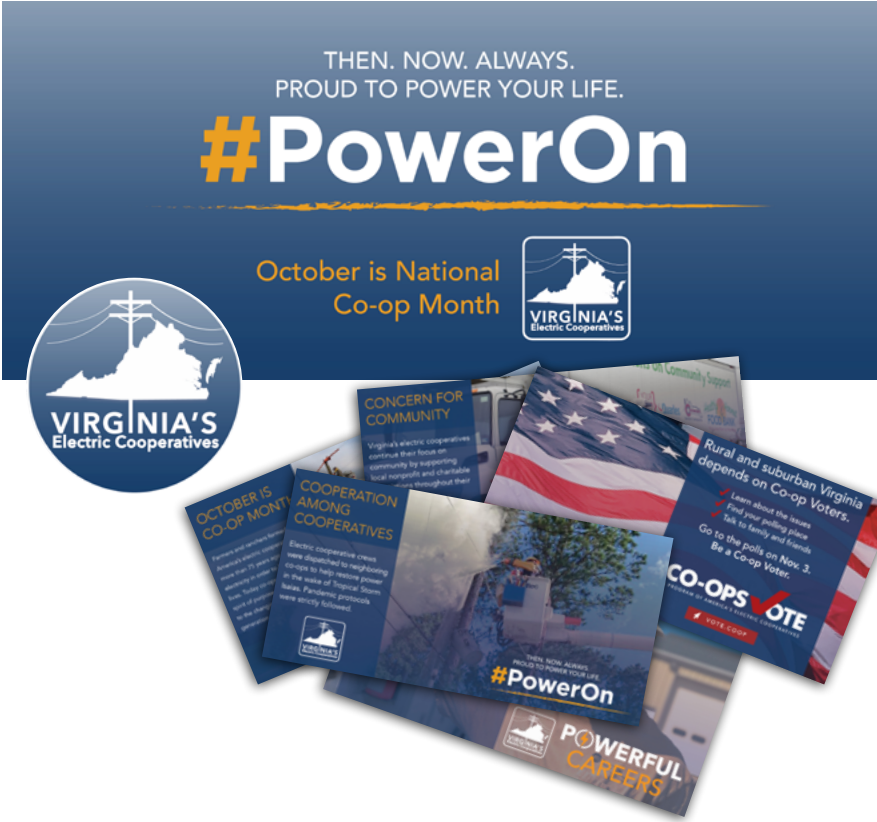
Powerful Messaging Coming in October

Social media has become a powerful tool of engagement, when used correctly. Effective October 1, look for some exciting changes to our Virginia’s Electric Cooperatives Facebook page. Be on the lookout for a revamped appearance, stronger content, and better engagement with our member cooperatives, legislators and professional organizations.


Kicking off the campaign in October is National Co-op Month, Fire Prevention, Careers in Energy Week, Co-ops Vote and more.

Our goal is to eventually add Instagram to the mix and become more involved with a VMDAEC LinkedIn platform, as well. If you’re not already following us on Facebook, please search “Virginia’s Electric Cooperatives” and come along for the ride. Help us grow our audience by liking and sharing our content.

– Report by Jim Robertson, Creative Services Specialist, VMDAEC.



Click below to learn more about VMDAEC’s Platinum Associate Members.



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