



Co-op Employees Assist Foodbank with Backpack Program

Lighting the Way recently packed more than 450 bags of food for the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia and the Eastern Shore's Backpack Program.

The Backpack Program helps support local students who suffer from severe food insecurity.

This nationally recognized program distributes nutritious food to children

at the end of the school day, before weekends and/or school breaks.

Students are identified by school personnel as being food insecure by a variety of criteria. More than 93,000 children in the regional Foodbank's area are eligible to receive free or reduced-price school lunches — a reliable indicator that hunger and food insecurity regularly threaten their respective lives.

At present, the regional Foodbank serves 53 elementary schools in our area including schools in Hampton Roads and on the Eastern Shore. This year, the Foodbank distributed over 65,000 bags to over 3,400 students through this program.

The program consists of bags/backpacks filled with food that children take home on weekends. Food is child-friendly, nonperishable and easily consumed. Bags/backpacks are discreetly distributed to children on the last day before the weekend or holiday vacation.

The Backpack Program concept was developed at the Arkansas Rice Depot, after a school nurse asked for help because hungry students were coming to her with stomachaches and dizziness. The local



food bank began to provide the school children with groceries in nondescript backpacks to carry home.

The Backpack Program became a pilot program in 1995. The National Council of Feeding America approved the Backpack Program as an official national program of the Network in July 2006.

Locally, the Foodbank piloted a Backpack Program for the first time on the Eastern Shore in 2008. The program received positive feedback and was wildly successful, spawning the establishment of a regionwide Backpack Program.

Lighting the Way is A&N Electric Cooperative's employee nonprofit organization. The group has been partnering with the Foodbank of the Eastern Shore by coordinating monthly volunteer packing days for over four years.

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Local Youth Tour Delegates Announced



Eliza Ballon



DeVaughn Henry



Layla Jones

This year's Cooperative Youth Tour delegates, who will represent A&N Electric Cooperative, have been selected. These students will tour the nation's capital, while learning about the electric cooperatives that serve their communities and others like them.

This year's A&N Electric Cooperative Youth Tour delegates are:

- Eliza Ballon (Home school)
- DeVaughn Henry (Arcadia)
- Layla Jones (Nandua)

Every June, as many as 1,500 high school students from across the country spend a week in the nation's capital as part of the Cooperative Youth Tour. The students are sponsored by electric cooperatives — cooperatives that are committed to educating America's rural youth about our country and the role electric cooperatives play in developing strong rural communities.

This year's local Washington Youth Tour representatives will take part in:

- A sunset Potomac River Boat cruise
- A tour of Arlington National Cemetery
- Guided monument tours
- A visit to the National Zoo
- A theater production at the Kennedy Center
- An electric cooperative tour
- A Capitol tour, including a meeting with local U.S.

Rep. Jen Kiggans

Each year the cooperative holds an essay contest to determine its Youth Tour delegates. Essays are graded anonymously by an independent judge who selects a winner to represent each participating high school. The essay contest is open to all high school and home school juniors living in the cooperative's service area. A student from each area high school was eligible to attend the Youth Tour. Essay guidelines are shared with each school and the contest is advertised through a number of cooperative communication channels.





Drummond Receives Director Gold Credentials

A&N Electric Cooperative Board Director E. Garrison Drummond recently received his Director Gold credentials.

NRECA's Director Certificate Programs are specifically designed to help electric cooperative directors, at every stage of their service, understand their roles and responsibilities, stay up-to-date on the key issues and trends in the industry and prepare them to meet the challenges facing electric cooperatives now and in the future.

NRECA offers director education courses throughout the year in conjunction with a variety of NRECA educational conferences and events across the country, in partnership with statewide associations and onsite at individual cooperatives.

The Director Gold credential recognizes directors committed to continuing their education beyond the Credentialed Cooperative Director and The Board Leadership Certificate, and who desire a tangible credential that demonstrates their ongoing commitment to advancing their knowledge and performing their fiduciary duty to the best of their ability.

Memorial Day Office Closure

The cooperative's Tasley office will be closed in observance of Memorial Day on Monday, May 29th. If you experience an outage or electrical emergency during this time, please report it using our SmartHub app or by calling 757-787-9750.

A Safe, Happy House

Four Easy Ways to Boost Electrical Safety at Home

DON'T
place flammable items, like potholders, napkins or dish towels near the stove while cooking.

DO
keep electrical devices away from water to prevent electric shock.

DO
ensure you're using the correct wattage in all light fixtures.

DON'T
overload electrical outlets with more devices than the circuit can handle.

May is National Electrical Safety Month.

May is recognized as Electrical Safety Month, and the cooperative will be sharing safety tips and reminders throughout the month to help raise awareness about the hazards associated with electricity. We all depend on electricity to power our lives, but accidents can happen when electricity is used improperly.

Safety is a top priority at A&N Electric Cooperative. And that concern for safety extends beyond our employees. We care deeply about the safety of our members and we encourage you to plug into safety.

According to the Electrical Safety Foundation International, thousands of people in the United States are

critically injured and electrocuted as a result of electrical fires, accidents and electrocution in their own homes.

To promote safety education in our local communities, we typically speak with local civic organizations, school groups and are available at many community events throughout the year.

We frequently provide electrical safety content in *Cooperative Living* magazine, and we encourage the public to contact us if they see a downed power line or any other type of dangerous electrical situation.

We are committed to provide our communities with safe, reliable and affordable electricity and to serve as your trusted energy advisor, now and well into the future.

Arbor Day Foundation Awards Recognition to A&N Electric Cooperative as 2023 Tree Line USA Utility

A&N Electric Cooperative earns the Tree Line USA recognition for their commitment to urban forestry in its community

A &N Electric Cooperative was named a 2023 Tree Line USA by the Arbor Day Foundation to recognize its dedication to proper urban forest management in the provider's service area.

Tree Line USA, a partnership between the Arbor Day Foundation and the National Association of State Foresters, recognizes public and private utilities for pursuing best practices that protect and cultivate America's urban tree canopy. In addition, Tree Line USA promotes delivering safe and reliable electricity while maintaining healthy community forests.

"Trees are essential to creating more urban green spaces in communities across the United States," said Dan Lambe, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation. "In addition, they provide important benefits to residents, including clean air, clean water, and vital tree shade. Service providers like A & N Electric Cooperative demonstrate how easily trees and utilities can coexist for the benefit of communities and residents."

By joining the Tree Line USA program, service providers benefit from lowering line-clearance costs due to proper pruning. As a result of those properly pruned and maintained trees, the people benefit from increased reliability of service because those trees will have healthy root systems that decay less, have less structural weakness, and ultimately result in fewer downed lines during storms.



A&N Electric Cooperative achieved the Tree Line USA recognition by meeting five program standards: quality tree care, annual worker training, tree planting and public education, a formal tree-based energy conservation, and a sponsorship of or participation in an Arbor Day celebration.

More information about Tree Line USA can be found at arborday.org/TreeLineUSA.

ABOUT THE ARBOR DAY FOUNDATION

Founded in 1972, the Arbor Day Foundation has grown to become the largest nonprofit membership organization dedicated to planting trees, with more than 1 million members, supporters and valued partners. Since 1972, almost 500 million Arbor Day Foundation trees have been planted in neighborhoods, communities, cities and forests throughout the world. Our vision is to lead toward a world where trees are used to solve issues critical to survival.

As one of the world's largest operating conservation foundations, the Arbor Day Foundation, through its members, partners and programs, educates and engages stakeholders and communities across the globe to involve themselves in its mission of planting, nurturing and celebrating trees. More information is available at arborday.org.



Support Members Helping Members

Members Helping Members is one way to help those community members who are struggling financially.

Members Helping Members, Inc. is a community nonprofit organization and was established to assist families needing assistance in paying their electric service bills.

Over 2,500 members are currently contributing about \$3,000 monthly in amounts ranging from under \$1, with the program's round-up option, to as much as \$20.

Members who are eligible to receive funding from Members Helping Members should contact their county's Department of Social Services.

Applicants may be eligible for up to \$300 in assistance. Applicants do not need to be in the Social Services system to apply for this program.

A&N Electric Cooperative, in cooperation with Members Helping Members Inc., secures funding through voluntary donations through the cooperative's electric service bills. Members of the cooperative who would like to donate to the program can check the Members Helping Members box on their electric service bills. Cooperative members can also log onto anec.com, search "Members Helping Members" and fill out the online form there. Eligibility requirements are also listed. Donations to the program are tax deductible and all funding goes to members in need.

Over \$414,000 have been applied to the electric bills of co-op members in need since 2009.



Energy-Efficiency Tip of the Month

The location of your thermostat can impact your HVAC system's ability to maintain an ideal indoor temperature. For maximum accuracy, thermostats should be placed in the center of the home, away from air vents, plumbing pipes and exterior doors.

Avoid placing items like lamps and televisions near your thermostat, which can cause the HVAC to run longer than necessary. Avoid installing thermostats in rooms that tend to feel warmer or colder than the rest of the home. Do not place furniture in front of the thermostat, which can block air flow and result in inaccurate readings.

Check GovDeals for Office Equipment Auctions



A&N Electric Cooperative utilizes GovDeals, an online auction site, to list and sell surplus items.

The cooperative periodically lists items on GovDeals, which include, but are not limited to, office equipment and other miscellaneous supplies. All bids are placed online.

To bid on an item, you must register at govdeals.com and search "A&N Electric Cooperative."

Cooperative Vehicle Auctions listed on JJ Kane



The cooperative now sells its lighter vehicles through JJ Kane Auctions along with its heavier line equipment. Heavy- and light-duty pickup trucks, vans and some other vehicles are now included.

The cooperative will periodically list these items on JJ Kane Auctions. Go to jjkane.com for more information on setting up an account and viewing any available vehicle auction.



May is Military Appreciation Month

SERVICE. MISSION. COUNTRY.

You likely identified immediately (and correctly) that these three words describe our nation's veterans. They also succinctly describe a core co-op ethos.

While veterans are innately motivated to serve, in a similar vein, electric co-ops are guided by foundational principles that put their community first. After all, electric co-ops were founded to bring electricity to rural areas where there was none. In doing so, they powered local economies and helped them to thrive. We believe this close connection to an essential mission is why there are so many veterans in the utility industry and why they are such a great fit for electric co-ops.

Today's veterans are highly skilled because everyone who joins the military is either trained in a tech career field or exposed to advanced technology during their years of service. Many veterans have skills in advanced disciplines such as engineering, electronics or mechanics, which are all beneficial for the utility industry. A&N Electric Cooperative is proud to employ five veterans, and we're especially grateful for their contributions to the co-op and to our community.

LEADERSHIP AND TEAMBUILDING SKILLS

Our veteran colleagues joined the co-op equipped with training in leadership and teamwork. That's because while on active duty within their units, servicemen work closely together because they know their lives depend on each other's actions. This fosters a high level of self-discipline, sense of personal responsibility, and passion for excellence.

The utility industry is increasingly complex and undergoing profound transformation. While there is the traditional engineering and vegetation-management aspect of the utility industry, it now also encompasses technology, cybersecurity and the electrification of the transportation sector and other

areas of the economy. Veterans are adept at responding to changing conditions and learning and adapting to new technologies, which are essential in our evolving industry.

MISSION-ORIENTED OUTLOOK

Working for an electric co-op is more than a job. There is a clear mission in the work — to help our members and the community. When you work so closely with the community, you can't help but feel a sense of commitment and responsibility to our members. It's similar to the sense of duty and responsibility that veterans experience in the military. They feel deep, personal responsibility and commitment to their co-op team members and to the members we serve. Veterans are trustworthy, goal-oriented, wanting to do right for their co-op and their community.

May is Military Appreciation Month, and at A&N Electric Cooperative we are grateful to have veterans within our ranks and are proud to serve them and their families within our community. But beyond our gratitude, we demonstrate our deep appreciation through our actions and ongoing commitment to veterans and their families.

At the national level, electric co-ops support the "Vets Power Us" program, which is aimed at employing and honoring veterans and their families. This effort involves partnering with other electric co-ops across the country along with the Department of Labor, the Department of Defense, the Veterans Administration and others to hire veterans in the energy industry.

May is Military Appreciation Month, and we hope you'll join us in recognizing the sacrifices veterans have made to our great country — and the many contributions they continue to make to our wonderful community. Veterans, we salute you!



ODEC Announces Construction Timeline for Wallops-Chincoteague Rebuild Project

Old Dominion Electric Cooperative, wholesale power supplier for A&N Electric Cooperative, announced the construction timeline for rebuilding a half-mile portion of the Wallops-Chincoteague transmission line along State Route 175 (Chincoteague Road) in Accomack County. It begins 1/4 mile north of the Wallops Island National Wildlife Refuge sign on Route 175 and travels northeast ending 1/4 mile southwest of NASA Wallops Flight Facility Visitor Center.

The Wallops-Chincoteague Rebuild Project replaces aging transmission poles to ensure continued reliable electric service to ANEC members. The project also moves some of the transmission line underground and to a new route directly parallel to Chincoteague Road. The first phase of construction involves the creation of a protective underground duct bank, which is a structure with multiple conduits encased in concrete to house electric lines. This plan accommodates new pole height regulations for the Wallops Flight Facility runway and minimizes environmental impacts to the Simoneaston Bay.

“ODEC is committed to being a good neighbor and cares about protecting the environment in Accomack County,” says ODEC Senior Vice President of Power Supply Chris Cosby. “We are minimizing local disruptions by pausing construction during the high tourism season and moving the route away from the marsh of Simoneaston Bay.”

WALLOPS-CHINCOTEAGUE REBUILD PROJECT CONSTRUCTION TIMELINE:

- **January 2023:** Construction began
- **May 2023:** Construction pauses before Memorial Day Weekend and for the summer vacation season; Right-of-way restored and seeded
- **September 2023:** Construction resumes following Labor Day Weekend
- **December 2023:** Remove existing transmission poles; Construction complete

The Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity was approved by the State Corporation Commission in June 2021. These lines will be within the existing and new right-of-way in Accomack County.