

## Virginia Law Enforcement Torch Run to benefit Special Olympics Virginia

by Laura Emery, Field Editor

“He’s a hugger,” says Terry Thomas, retired investigator for the Northampton County Sheriff’s Office. “Max is a special human being.”

Max Everton has Down syndrome and was an athlete participating in Special Olympics Virginia.

But, more importantly, Thomas credits Everton with sparking a passion in him for the Virginia Law Enforcement Torch Run to benefit Special Olympics Virginia.

Special Olympics was started in 1968 by Eunice Kennedy Shriver (JFK’s sister) and is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

It’s a year-round program of sports training and athletic competition for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, at no cost to them or their families.

“The program gives the athletes continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in the sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes, and the

community,” explains Thomas.

Thomas, a 27-year veteran of law enforcement, became friends with Everton when he attended a state conference in the early 2000s. “It was then that it became a passion for me, after meeting and getting to know Max. I got to see why I was participating in the Law Enforcement Torch Run, which is something we’ve always embraced here on the Eastern Shore,” says Thomas.

Each summer, law enforcement officers from across Virginia escort the Flame of Hope on assigned legs throughout their local communities on a 1,900-mile journey to the Opening Ceremony in Richmond. The eight-day Torch Run involves more than 2,000 law enforcement officers and personnel representing more than 200 law enforcement agencies.

Since meeting Everton, Thomas has served as regional director/liaison for Special Olympics Virginia Region 13 Law Enforcement Torch Run, chairman of his local torch run committee, and director for the Virginia Law Enforcement Torch Run Executive Council. “I’m involved because it matters to me. We want to open the hearts and minds of every citizen to the value and ability of persons with intellectual disabilities,” he explains.

“We set goals and try to break them — it’s very satisfying. We run the torch from Chincoteague all the way down the Eastern Shore. There were 100 runners last year. We cover Chincoteague all the way to Virginia Beach in about 8 hours. There are



PHOTOS COURTESY OF TERRY THOMAS

From left, Terry Thomas and Max Everton, who Thomas credits for his passion in participating in the Law Enforcement Torch Run.

11 legs total, up to 7 miles,” says Thomas.

It doesn’t take long to realize Thomas fell in love with the Special Olympics athletes, the heart and soul of both Special Olympics Virginia and the Virginia Law Enforcement Torch Run. “I’ve met so many amazing athletes over the years. Special Olympics has games fit for any ability. It’s quite amazing and emotional at the same time.” He says, “It grew on me . . . seeing the joy on the athletes’ faces. I fell in love with the athletes.”

After a pause, he says quietly, “It brings out the heart of a police officer.”

Over the years, Region 13 (Eastern Shore of Virginia) has fluctuated between \$4,000 and \$15,000 in annual fundraising. “It is basically what you make it. The more fundraisers you have, the more money you will bring in. Fundraising ideas are only



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limited by the imagination. Anything and everything will raise money ... you just need volunteers to make it happen,” explains Thomas. He says popular fundraising efforts have included “Tip A Cop” and “Dunk A Cop.”

“Special Olympics Virginia is a cause that A&N Electric Cooperative has proudly supported for years,” says Jay Diem, communications specialist for the cooperative.

In January 2019, Thomas stepped down as region director liaison upon his retirement from the Northampton County Sheriff's Office after 27 years. Thomas passed the torch to Deputy Kim Kilman. “Kim took over the local job of region director liaison, but I have continued my membership and involvement on the state level, remaining on the board with the Torch Run Executive Council. After being involved for two decades, it would have been very hard to leave it entirely. After so long, of course, it becomes a part of you,” Thomas explains.

Northampton County Sheriff David Doughty, Region 13 director of the Virginia Torch Run, says, “Terry was truly an asset to our department for many years. He was very dedicated to the Torch Run to benefit Special Olympics Virginia and put in a lot of hours. Special Olympics Virginia is a great organization and the Northampton County Sheriff's Office enjoys participating in fundraisers every year to raise funds to support such a great cause.”

For those interested in volunteering at the summer fundraisers, call the Northampton Sheriff's Office at (757) 678-0495. Or, for more information on Special Olympics Virginia, visit [specialolympicsva.org](http://specialolympicsva.org).

Top left: In January 2019, Thomas stepped down as region director liaison upon his retirement from the Northampton County Sheriff's Office after 27 years. He passed the torch to Deputy Kim Kilman (pictured). Left: At the 2018 Torch Run Kick-off Ceremony & Luncheon Thomas presented a check for \$5,561 to King George County Sheriff Steve Dempsey, who chaired the 2018 run, on behalf of the Eastern Shore. Above, right and below: Scenes from the 2018 Virginia Law Enforcement Torch Run to benefit Special Olympics Virginia.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF TERRY THOMAS



**OFFICE CLOSING**  
 A&N Electric Cooperative will be closed **Monday, May 27<sup>th</sup>**, in observance of Memorial Day.  
 If you experience an outage or power emergency during this time, please report it by calling **757-787-9750**.

# Youth Tour Attendees Announced



The winners of the annual essay contest to determine which local students represent A&N Electric Cooperative at the annual NRECA Youth Tour have been selected. Students were graded anonymously by a panel of judges who selected a winner to represent each participating high school. The winners are (left, from top):

Wynn Neville (Northampton High School), Matthew Parks (Tangier Combined School), McKaley Parks (Nandua High School), Alexa Cobb (Broadwater Academy) and Robbie Sterling (Arcadia High School).

The essay contest is open to all high school and homeschool juniors living in the cooperative's service area. A student from each area high school was eligible to attend the Youth Tour.

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 National Rural Electric 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 tour of the Pentagon;
- A sunset Potomac River boat cruise;
- A tour of Fort McHenry, the National Aquarium and Baltimore's Inner Harbor;
- A tour of Arlington National Cemetery;
- A tour of the Lincoln/World War II/Vietnam/Korean/Martin Luther King memorials;
- Theater production at the Kennedy Center;
- A Washington Nationals baseball game; and
- A Capitol tour, including a meeting with local U.S. Rep. Elaine Luria.

## Help equalize your electric bills with the Budget Billing plan

If you've experienced a higher-than-normal bill due to severe temperatures in winter or summer, A&N Electric Cooperative's Budget Billing plan could help equalize your monthly bills. The plan is available to residential co-op members.

A co-op member on the Budget Billing plan will not make the same payment each month, but monthly payments should not vary by a large amount. In the Budget Billing plan, your monthly bill will be the average of your previous 11 months of energy use, plus your current month. With each new bill, the oldest month's energy use will be dropped from the average and your current month will be added.

"Our Budget Billing program is a great way for members to help equalize their energy bills," says Lori Shreaves, A&N Electric Cooperative's director of member services. "Instead of paying larger bills during months of higher energy use, each payment is an average of the past 12 months' bills. This makes it easier for our members to budget for their electric bills monthly, rather than being faced with an unexpected expense due to extreme weather."

To qualify, a member must live at their current location for at least the past 12 months and have established good credit with the cooperative. You may not have more than two late payments in the past 12 months and a member's current account balance must be \$0, although exceptions may apply.

If you are interested in Budget Billing, return the Budget Billing Application Form ([anec.com/content/programs-and-services](http://anec.com/content/programs-and-services)) to the cooperative or contact us for more information. Our member services representatives will be glad to review your account for consideration.

# Director Election

**A**&N Electric Cooperative directors are elected from the membership to represent you on the Board. Those interested in running for a Board seat can be nominated through the following methods:

(1) The Nominating Committee, representing the areas to elect directors, is appointed. The Nominating Committee will select a slate of candidates to be placed on the ballot at the Cooperative's Annual Meeting. This year's Nominating Committee is scheduled to meet on May 9, 2019. A public notice for nominations was published in the March-April edition of *Cooperative Living* magazine; the deadline for nominations was May 1, 2019.

(2) Member Petition Nominations. Members may nominate additional individuals to run for election for any director position for which members are scheduled to vote at any member meeting ("member petition nominations"). Members may make member petition nominations by delivering them to the secretary at least seventy-five (75) days prior to the member meeting in writing for each member petition nomination ("member petition").

After verifying that the member petition complies with this Bylaw, the Cooperative shall post the member petition nomination in approximately the same location as the Nominating Committee nominations. All nomination petitions were due by May 1, 2019.

No nominations shall be made from the floor at the Annual Member Meeting. Please visit our website for the complete version of A&N Electric Cooperative's Bylaws.

## Nominating Committee Members:

Jacqueline V. Davis 21145 Mill Street Cape Charles, VA 23310	Bill Sterling Jr. P.O. Box 145 Craddockville, VA 23341	Durbin Roach P.O. Box 298 Accomac, VA 23301
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Michelle Marsh 63 Kerr Street Onancock, VA 23417	H. Bruce Richardson Jr. P.O. Box 85 Capeville, VA 23313	Phillip R. Custis P.O. Box 94 Franktown, VA 23354
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Joseph Thornton 5149 Woodland Drive Chincoteague, VA 23336	Bruce E. Freeman 21419 Fair Oaks Road Melfa, VA 23410	Denny Crockett P.O. Box 232 Tangier, VA 23440
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## MESSAGES FROM YOUR CO-OP

- ▶ Visit us at [facebook.com/ANElectricCoop](https://www.facebook.com/ANElectricCoop) and "like" us.
- ▶ Visit [anec.com](https://www.anec.com) to sign up to receive Beat the Peak emails or text-message alerts.
- ▶ The **Touchstone Energy® Co-op Connections® Card** is **FREE to all ANEC members**. The card offers discounts at participating local and nationwide businesses, including prescription drug discounts.



## A&N ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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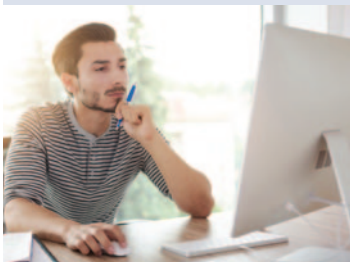
Office Hours: M-F, 7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
[anec.com](https://www.anec.com)

Payments: 1-855-386-9921

President & CEO  
Butch Williamson

Local Pages Editor  
Jay Diem

*A&N Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*



## 2019 online member survey coming soon

To better serve your needs, your electric cooperative needs your input. Look for a link to take the survey — which collects information about your energy usage — to arrive in mid-May. It should only take about 5-10 minutes to complete.

Since the survey is only conducted online, please make sure your cooperative has your current email address on file.

### What types of questions are asked?

The survey covers a variety of topics, including questions about the construction of your home, types and ages of your heating and cooling systems, the amount and ages of your appliances, and your internet connection.

### How are responses used?

Your input matters, in fact, it can impact both existing and new programs and products offered by your electric cooperative. All answers are strictly confidential, unless you have a specific question or issue you would like your cooperative to address. Thank you in advance for sharing your feedback.

# Solar Made Easy





**COOPERATIVE  
SUNSHARE™**

Cooperative Sunshare gives ANEC members the power to embrace even more clean, renewable energy.



 Looking to take advantage of solar energy, but can't install panels on your property? Are the upfront and ongoing maintenance costs of a personal solar array holding you back? Cooperative Sunshare is designed for you.

 Through Cooperative Sunshare, residential members may purchase 50-kilowatt-hour (kWh) blocks of solar energy.

 A 50-kWh block is \$5.42, plus delivery costs. While higher than standard electricity, solar blocks will remain the same price for 3 years and are not subject to Power Cost Adjustments.

 Log onto [www.anec.com](http://www.anec.com) or call us at 787-9750 to learn more.

**Subscribe Today!**

# AMI Update

**A** &N Electric Cooperative is in the process of upgrading its metering system to improve the reliability and efficiency of the existing electric distribution system.

The pilot phase of about 1,300 new meters has been installed in the Onancock, Onley and Melfa areas. The cooperative will now focus on the test phase of the pilot program. The system will be fully tested and must be accepted before full deployment of the project can begin.

The upgraded meter system will enable the cooperative to perform several functions remotely, such as reading meters and reconnecting power, and will support additional value-added services for our members.



## BENEFITS OF TREE TRIMMING

Clearing trees and overgrown vegetation is vital to provide safe, reliable power to our co-op members.

We clear certain areas in our service territory, known as rights of way, to:

- Keep power lines clear of tree limbs
- Restore power outages more quickly
- Keep crews and members of our community safe
- Reduce unexpected costs for repairs

**Vegetation management improves service reliability for you – our members!**



## Putting The Power In Your Hands



**SmartHub makes it easy to manage and track your A&N Electric Cooperative account from your smartphone or mobile device.**



- Pay your bill
- Set bill reminders
- Schedule payments
- Report outages
- Check your daily and monthly energy use
- View your payment history



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