

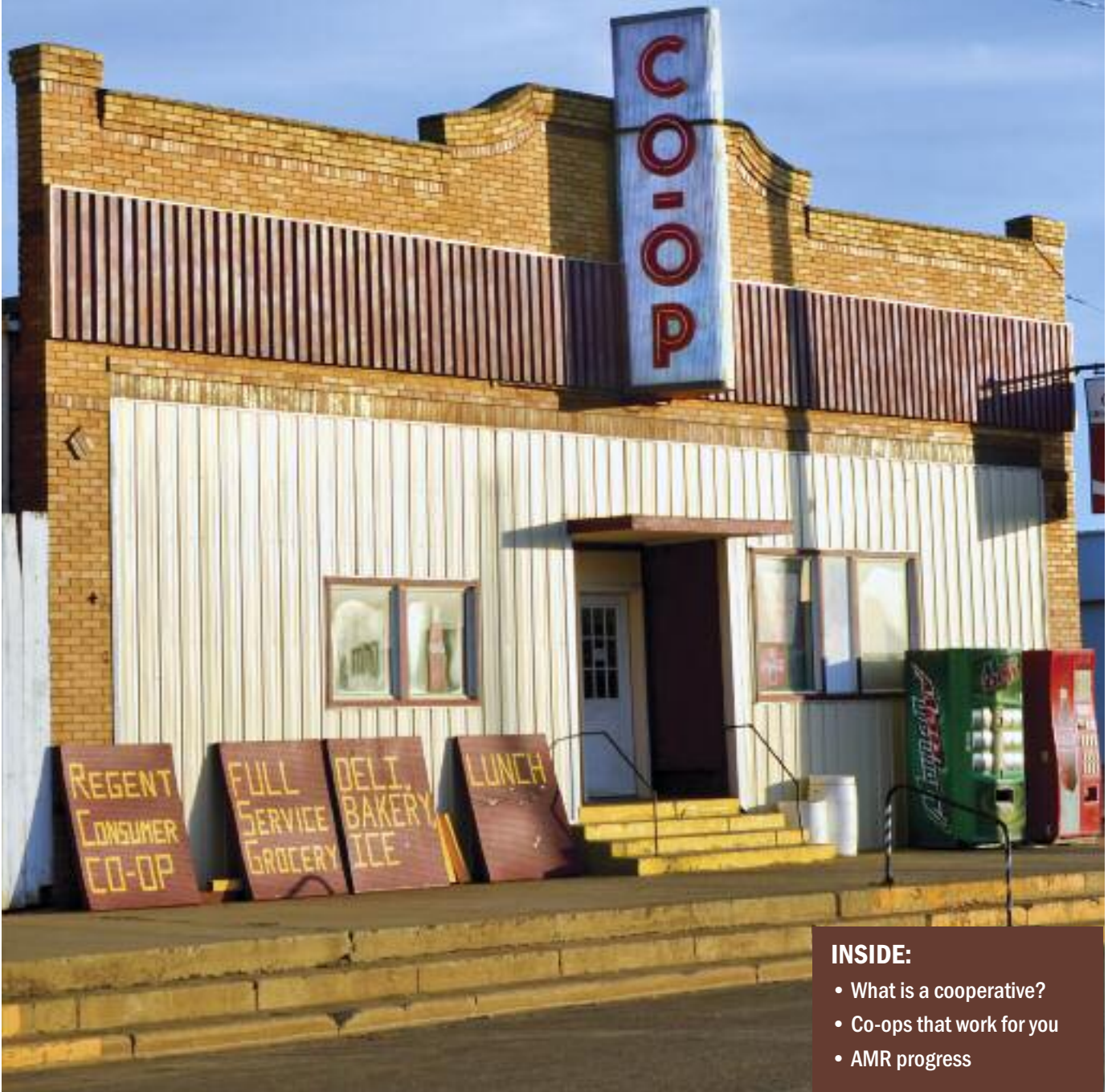
# OUTLOOK

SLOPE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

116 East 12th St. • New England, N.D. 58647

(701) 579-4191 • [www.slopeelectric.coop](http://www.slopeelectric.coop)

## OCTOBER IS CO-OP MONTH



### INSIDE:

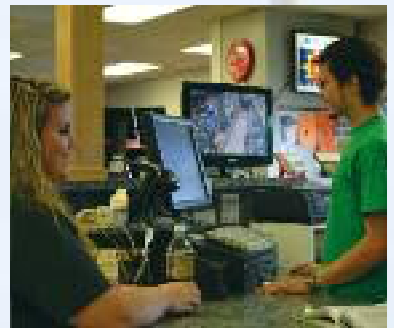
- What is a cooperative?
- Co-ops that work for you
- AMR progress



# CO-OPS...

*Working together  
to serve  
southwest  
North Dakota*





**CO-OPS WORKING TOGETHER:**

- Alliance Ag**  
New England, Regent, Hettinger
- Dakota Plains Credit Union**  
Hettinger and Lemmon, S.D.
- Dakota West Credit Union**  
Bowman, New England
- Farmers Union**  
Bowman, Rhame
- Mott Equity**
- Regent Co-op Store**
- Scranton Equity**
- Southwest Grain**  
Regent, New England, Reeder and Lemmon, S.D.



*The “trick” to making Halloween a treat is to think about safety during this day of make-believe.*

and long skirts or pants that could cause a child to fall.

- Children who will be trick-or-treating after dusk should have reflective tape on their costumes and should carry flashlights.
- Children should be fed a light meal before trick-or-treating, so they will not be tempted to eat from their treat bags. Insist that treats be brought home for inspection before anything is eaten. When in doubt, throw it out.
- Young trick-or-treaters should be accompanied by an adult or responsible older child. Only visit homes where the residents are known and which have outside lights turned on. Instruct your children to travel only in familiar areas and along an established route. Plan and discuss a route and establish a return time.
- Children should walk, not run, from house to house. Do not cross yards and lawns where unseen objects or the uneven terrain can present tripping hazards.

- Walk on sidewalks, not in the street. Walk on the left side of the road, facing traffic, if there are no sidewalks.

## Hex those Halloween hazards



**A**s little pirates and princesses prance through the neighborhood on Halloween, the excitement of the night can cause children to forget to be careful. The “trick” to making Halloween a treat is to think about safety during this day of make-believe.

Here are some safety ideas from the National Safety Council and the N.D. Department of Health:

### Trick-or-treaters

- Because they can obstruct a child’s vision, masks are not recommended. If a child wears makeup, parents should look for nontoxic, hypoallergenic kits.
- Costumes should be flame retardant and fit properly. Avoid oversized shoes, high heels

### Residents

- Residents should ready their home and yard for trick-or-treaters. Remove anything from the yard that could trip a child, make sure outdoor lights are working and remove wet leaves from sidewalks and steps. Pets should be brought indoors.

### Motorists

- Motorists should slow down on Halloween night and watch for children darting out from between parked cars. Enter and exit driveways and alleys carefully.

A SAFETY MESSAGE FROM  
Slope Electric Cooperative



*If your standby electricity generator has been in storage since last winter, now is the time to make sure it is still operating properly.*

## Is your standby generator **STANDING BY?**

If your standby electricity generator has been in storage since last winter, now is the time to make sure it is still operating properly—before an outage occurs.

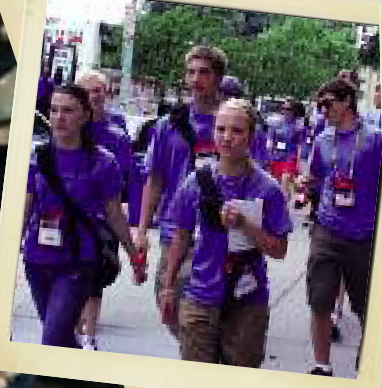
Test your generator now to make sure it's working, then operate it at intervals throughout the year. Regularly running your generator will also keep you familiar with the operating procedure.

The fuel should be fresh, battery charged, electrical connections good, filters clean and cooling system well-maintained. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions on engine maintenance.

"You also need to take into account electrical safety con-

siderations with a standby generator," says George Maher, an agricultural safety specialist with the North Dakota State University Extension Service. "Most important is the transfer switch that disconnects the farm or home from the power line and connects it to the generator. It must be a double-throw transfer switch which prevents the generator from feeding electricity back into the power line. This protects the linemen who may be working to restore your service."

Always follow the manufacturer's recommendations on how to use your generator. If you have additional questions, please call your electric cooperative. We will be glad to work with you to make sure your generator is used properly.



## October is CO-OP MONTH

### *Fast facts*

#### North Dakota's distribution cooperatives:

- Sixteen distribution cooperatives serve 250,000 North Dakotans through 147,000 meters
- Sell 50 percent of all retail electricity in North Dakota
- Own 61,000 miles of distribution power lines
- Invested \$1 billion in distribution facilities
- Employ more than 600 people
- All operate as nonprofit, member-owned enterprises

## *A matter of* PRINCIPLES

**Y**ou might be surprised by the number of co-ops around you. Co-ops have been formed to sell produce and electricity, offer financial and banking services, provide housing and health care, and much more.

So where did the bright idea for co-ops come from? It's a matter of principles (seven, to be exact). The modern movement traces its roots to a store started by weavers in the town of Rochdale in northern England in 1844. The group was guided by a set of principles drawn up by one of its members, Charles Howarth. When introduced into the United States by the National Grange in 1874, these "Rochdale Principles" fueled a cooperative explosion.

Although stated in many ways, the Rochdale Principles require that a cooperative must be open for anyone to join. Every member retains one voice, one vote. Electric co-ops hold member meetings annually, allowing members to elect fellow consumers to guide the co-op and have a say in how their utility is run.

There also have to be real member benefits. For example, members of electric co-ops often get money back (called capital credits or patronage refunds) when the co-op's in good financial shape. More than \$550 million has been returned to members by electric co-ops over the past seven decades – nothing to sneeze at.

Education remains another big focus. Electric co-ops provide safety information in schools, share ideas on how to make your home more energy efficient to keep electric bills affordable, and make sure elected officials and opinion leaders know about the co-op business model. Because there is strength in numbers, co-ops tend to stick together when tackling regional and national issues.

Perhaps most important of all, co-ops are independent and community-focused, not tied to the purse strings of far-flung investors. Co-ops help drive local economic development, fund scholarships, support local charities, and work to make life better in the areas they serve – the heart of the cooperative difference.

As we observe Co-op Month in October, electric cooperative members should be proud of the success of the cooperative business model and the spirit of cooperation that these organizations promote.

### THE COOPERATIVE PRINCIPLES ARE:

**1. Voluntary and open membership:** Cooperatives are open to anyone able to use their services and willing to accept the responsibilities of membership, without discrimination.

**2. Democratic member control:** Cooperatives are democratic organizations controlled by their members, who actively participate in setting policies and making decisions. The elected representatives are accountable to the membership. In primary cooperatives, members have equal voting rights (one member, one vote).

**3. Member economic participation:** Members contribute to, and democratically control, the capital of their cooperative. Part of that capital is the common property of the cooperative. Surplus capital is often returned to the members.

**4. Autonomy and independence:** Cooperatives are autonomous, self-help organizations controlled by their members. If they enter into agreements with other

organizations or raise capital from external sources, they do so on terms that ensure democratic control by their members and maintain their cooperative autonomy.

**5. Education, training and information:** Cooperatives provide education and training for their members, elected representatives, managers and employees so they can contribute effectively to the development of the cooperatives. They inform the general public, particularly young people and opinion leaders, about the nature and benefits of cooperation.

**6. Cooperation among cooperatives:** Cooperatives serve their members most effectively and strengthen the cooperative movement by working together through local, regional, national and international structures.

**7. Concern for community:** While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members.

# NATIONAL RURAL ELECTRIC YOUTH TOUR

High School Juniors and Seniors...

## WRITE A WINNING ESSAY AND WIN A TRIP OF A LIFETIME!

JUNE 16 to 22,  
2012

**And an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C.**

- ▶ To enter the essay-writing contest, you must be a junior or senior in high school in the fall of 2012.
- ▶ You and your parents or guardian must be served by Slope Electric Cooperative.
- ▶ Essay is not to exceed two standard 8½- by 11-inch typewritten, double-spaced pages on this topic: **What would your day be like without electricity?**
- ▶ Submit your essay in hard copy or electronic format to Slope Electric. Electronic submissions should conform to the two-page, double-spaced guideline described above. Include a cover page with your name, date of birth, school and grade in 2012, parent or guardian's name, address and telephone number.
- ▶ The deadline is **January 30, 2012**. E-mailed entries should be directed to Kathy Lentz at [klentz@slopeelectric.coop](mailto:klentz@slopeelectric.coop), and hard-copy entries mailed to: Youth Tour Essay Contest, Slope Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 338, New England, ND 58647-0338.
- ▶ If you have a question, contact Kathy Lentz, Slope Electric, at the address listed above, or call (701) 579-4191 during regular business hours.



### TOP 3 REASONS TO ENTER THE ESSAY-WRITING CONTEST

1. All-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., compliments of Slope Electric Cooperative.
2. A whole week to visit unforgettable historic monuments, museums and the U.S. Capitol.
3. A learning experience you'll never forget.

Check it out at

[www.ndyouthtour.com](http://www.ndyouthtour.com)  
and  
[www.youthtour.coop](http://www.youthtour.coop)



# AMR PROGRESS

On Oct. 1, the Mott substation became operational on the Automated Meter Reading (AMR) system. Members will receive an insert stating their meters are now live and their readings will be automatically posted through the AMR process. If members have been reading their meters in the past, there is no longer a space to record the reading on the stub.

Work also continues at the Rhame, Reeder, Amidon and Haynes substations. Slope Electric would like members to continue reading their meters until two things happen:

1. They receive a notifications insert that their location is live with AMR, and
2. Their bill no longer had a space to record their meter reading.

We encourage members to contact the office if there are questions and/or concerns.

**NOTICE:** If Slope Electric linemen have to read your meter, there is a \$10 fee for this service. So please read your meters.



Replace the batteries for your smoke alarms every fall or when the alarm "chirps" and then test the alarms every month.

## Test your alarm!

Your smoke alarm has the power to save your life. Or does it? If you haven't tested your smoke alarm lately, it may not be working. And that's a risk you can't afford to take. Working smoke alarms give us early warning of a fire, providing extra time to escape safely. Test all the smoke alarms in your home every month.

# ALWAYS CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

**One free, easy call gets your utility lines marked AND helps protect you from injury and expense.**

**Safe Digging Is No Accident:  
Always Call 811 Before You Dig**

Know what's below. Always call 811 before you dig.  
Visit [call811.com](http://call811.com) for more information.

**SLOPE  
ELECTRIC  
COOPERATIVE**

## SLOPE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.

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Lyle Narum .....	Bowman
Lauren Klewin .....	Amidon
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Rex Sadler .....	Chief of Staff
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LaWanna Wilhelm .....	Key Accounts Executive
Rodney Benz .....	AMR/SCADA Technician
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Beverly Braun .....	Bookkeeper/Consumer Accts. Rep.
Judy Kirschmann .....	Customer Service Rep., Slope Services
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Craig Turner .....	Line Technician
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Christopher Backhaus .....	Line Technician
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