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Sarsland selected as Youth Tour representative

Each June, students are immersed in a one-of-a-kind experience in Washington, D.C., through the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.

Slope Electric Cooperative chose one local applicant as its delegate on the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. Applicants were asked to answer an essay question: "As member-owned organizations, electric cooperatives are always seeking new ways to engage their members. What are some ways electric cooperatives can better communicate and connect, especially with students and young adults?"

Slope Electric announces Anna Sarsland, the daughter of Curt and Jennifer Sarsland, will represent Slope Electric on the exciting weeklong trip. Anna is a sophomore at Bowman County High School, where she is active in cross-country, track and drama. She is also involved in the Lutheran Youth Organization.

Anna isn't the first Sarsland chosen to represent Slope Electric on the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. Her siblings, Caleb (2022) and Julie (2023), also

were selected to travel to Washington, D.C., for a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Both siblings were motivators for Anna to apply.

"They encouraged me a lot," Anna says. "I went with to pick them up for their trips and they always shared fun stories."

Anna is looking forward to the trip, especially an opportunity to see the White House and learn more about Washington, D.C.

Anna and other North Dakota electric cooperative representatives will take the trip in June. You can follow Anna's journey on Slope Electric's Facebook and Instagram. ■



Anna with her siblings (left to right), **Julie**, herself, **Caleb** and **Gabe**.

Read Anna Sarsland's winning essay by scanning the QR code or visiting our website!



MANAGER'S MESSAGE: **Wildfire mitigation and planning**



Travis Kupper

Co-General Manager/CEO

Across the United States, the threat of wildfire has increased significantly in recent years. For electric utilities, the danger is all too real, as a power line contact can easily ignite dry vegetation, and high winds can accelerate the spread of wildfire.

As wildfire threats increase, electric cooperatives are creating detailed mitigation plans, which include strategic vegetation management, infrastructure and

equipment upgrades, and sometimes public safety power shutoffs.

Safety is our top priority. We've trained our crews to respond quickly and safely during emergency situations, and we're closely coordinating with local fire departments and emergency managers. We're also using mapping technology and weather monitoring tools to stay ahead of changing conditions.

Electric cooperatives are also utilizing new and developing technologies to safeguard their local grids.

Some technologies help reduce the risk of fire and minimize structural damage if a fire does ignite.

Our cooperative has been using advanced technology and specialized contractors to identify potential hotspots. We also employ infrared cameras at our substations to detect areas of abnormal heating before they become problems. In addition, our cooperative strategically deploys TripSaver and circuit reclosers during periods of elevated wildfire risk to enhance system protection and reduce the chance of a fire.

Slope Electric Cooperative was built on the values of reliability, service and community. By taking proactive steps today, we're working to ensure your power stays on and your family stays safe, no matter what challenges fire season may bring.

Thank you for your continued trust and support. ■



View Slope Electric Cooperative's fire mitigation plan on our website or by scanning the QR code.



MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD: **Your cooperative, your voice**



Angela Carlson

President

As the president of Slope Electric Cooperative's board of directors, I have represented the cooperative's members for 11 years. I want to personally share our board's commitment to supporting our member-owners.

Every decision we make is guided by what is best for the people and communities we serve. As a cooperative, we are proud to be locally governed, with neighbors working for neighbors and focused

on maintaining reliable service, making thoughtful investments in our system, and keeping our members informed and involved.

I would like to personally invite all members and their families to attend the 2026 Slope Electric Annual Meeting, which will be held at the Slope County Fairgrounds in Amidon on Thursday, June 4, beginning at 4:30 p.m. This event is a wonderful opportunity to connect with your cooperative and learn more about

the work we are doing on your behalf.

At the meeting, you will have the chance to visit with directors and employees, ask questions and hear reports about how Slope Electric is investing in our electric system to improve the reliability of our service. Transparency and communication are important to us, and this is your opportunity to stay informed.

You will also be able to participate in the election of three director positions and several bylaw changes, an important part of ensuring strong leadership for the future of our cooperative. Voting can also be done by mail or online. Your involvement truly makes a difference and we appreciate you!

In addition to the business portion of the meeting, we will enjoy a great meal together and a fun, rousing games of bingo with friends and neighbors. I encourage you to join us for this meaningful and enjoyable evening. I look forward to seeing you there and visiting with you in person. ■

Angela Carlson



EMPOWERING OUR FUTURE: Co-op awards scholarships

Slope Electric Cooperative fuels the future by awarding scholarships to high school seniors within our service area. This year, a \$2,500 Basin Electric Power Cooperative scholarship and a \$1,500 Slope Electric scholarship were available. These initiatives embody our cooperative's unwavering commitment to the future of our members and communities.

Karady Evans, the daughter of Chad and Kacie Evans, New England, is the recipient of the \$2,500 Basin Electric scholarship. Karady is a graduate of Scranton Public School and currently attends Black Hills State University (BHSU), pursuing a degree in elementary education and middle school math.

While studying at BHSU, Karady is active in Turning Point USA, Lutheran Campus Ministry, Future Teachers Association and community service activities.

Casey Kindsfater, the son of Kortney Kindsfater and Pamela Burch, is the recipient of the \$1,500 Slope Electric scholarship. Casey is a senior at Hettinger Public School and plans to attend South Dakota School of Mines and Technology in pursuit of a mechanical engineering degree.



Karady Evans



Casey Kindsfater

Casey is active in football, track and field, Future Business Leaders of America, FFA and many other activities. He also works on his family's ranch and volunteers throughout the community.

Congratulations to our winners and best of luck in your future endeavors. ■

Join us on June 4 in Amidon for our Annual Meeting!

Members will soon receive an Annual Meeting packet in the mail. The packet includes meeting details and voting instructions. Below is a preview of the board of director candidates. Scan the QR code or visit our website to learn more about each candidate.



DISTRICT 1
Angela Carlson,
Regent



DISTRICT 1
William Gion,
Regent



DISTRICT 1
Charlotte Meier,
Regent



DISTRICT 2
Steven Wegner,
Reeder

Scan the QR code below or visit our website to watch an introduction video on each candidate.



Luck-of-the-Draw Scholarships available

As our Annual Meeting approaches on June 4 in Amidon, we are excited to share additional scholarship opportunities. This year, we will have five Luck-of-the-Draw Scholarships for members and dependents of members.

Three \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to full-

time students and two \$500 scholarships to full- or part-time students.

Whether you are a non-traditional student taking online courses or a high school student taking college credits, you qualify to register for the Luck-of-the-Draw Scholarship. ■

FAQ

Who is eligible? Slope Electric Cooperative members and dependents of members enrolled in full- or part-time college courses.

How do I sign up? Join us at our Annual Meeting on June 4 in Amidon and sign up there!

Do I have to be present to sign up and receive a scholarship? Yes, you must be present at the Annual Meeting on June 4 to register and qualify for the Luck-of-the-Draw Scholarship. If you are a dependent of a member, you and the member must be present.

If you have any further questions, call our office at 701-579-4191 or 800-559-4191 and visit with Brooke.



MESSAGE FROM OPERATIONS: **Spring projects update**



Andrew Sonsalla

Operations Manager

As Slope Electric Cooperative crews begin to prepare for summer construction projects across the service area, we'd like to share about the projects keeping our line crews busy. The mild weather has helped line crews advance various projects, such as pole changeouts and installing outage mitigation technology.

Infrastructure maintenance

Annually, Slope Electric crews perform line patrol. Line patrol is an inspection of cooperative infrastructure across the service area which allows the cooperative to identify and make repairs before further issues arise. During line patrol, crews note if something needs maintenance or immediate assistance and make the necessary repairs.

Due to the mild weather, crews have been able to complete any maintenance they find along the way. These repairs include fixing broken conductor strands and loose or missing hardware, as well as installing new anchors and installing guy markers.

With assistance from 3C Construction, crews were busy changing out power poles throughout the winter. These power poles were identified to be replaced during line patrol or through pole testing, which was conducted late last year.

Additionally, Slope Electric crews recently completed biannual voltage regulator inspections. Voltage regulator inspection ensures the cooperative is providing stable voltage to members' services.

Outage mitigation

Along with line patrol, crews have been installing ReliaWrap on any pole that has a transformer, protective device or underground cable riser attached. These poles are normally where animal contacts occur. ReliaWrap is a smooth, black plastic wrap attached around the pole to prevent animals from climbing the power poles. Small animals, such as squirrels and raccoons, are some of the leading causes of power disruptions, so this technology will have a substantial impact on the reduction of outages caused by small animal contacts.

Earlier this year, contractors completed tree

trimming across our service area. Tree trimming is an important outage mitigation practice the cooperative proactively conducts. Through line inspection or by member notification, the cooperative develops a list of areas where vegetation needs attention. Trimming trees can assist in reducing blinks and outages on windy days and is part of Slope Electric's wildfire mitigation plan.

With mild weather throughout most of the winter, Slope Electric crews and contractors were able to perform work that would normally wait until the spring and summer. Being able to complete these projects now allows the cooperative to focus on projects planned for the summer months.

As we continue to work across the service area, we encourage you to report any issues you may see on Slope Electric's infrastructure by using our form online or calling the office at 701-579-4191. If possible, photos help our operations department identify the issues and be better able to respond. ■



Line crews install ReliaWrap technology to poles.

SAFETY STARTS WITH ME: Electrical Safety Month



Shay Olson

Journeyman Lineworker

Working in the rural electric industry Slope Electric Cooperative employees understand the dangers and risks associated with the industry. During National Electrical Safety Month, we want to ensure you are aware of the risks and understand what you can do to prevent injuries and outages.

“Safety is a top priority at Slope Electric,” says Shay Olson, a journeyman lineworker. “We work hard to do our part to keep our

communities safely powered, but when it comes to electrical safety, everyone has a part to play.”

Here are a few key reminders to help keep you safe:

- **Look up and look out.** Always be aware of overhead

power lines when using ladders, moving grain augers or operating large equipment. Contact with power lines can be deadly.

- **Call before you dig.** Whether you’re installing a fence, planting trees or starting a new building project, contacting 811 before you dig can prevent accidentally hitting underground utilities.
- **Don’t approach or touch downed power lines.** If you see a downed power line, stay far away and report it to Slope Electric immediately. Never assume a line is dead, even after severe weather.
- **Use equipment safely.** Check cords, outlets and tools for damage before use. Replace frayed wires and never overload outlets, especially in older buildings or barns.

Slope Electric is committed to providing safe, reliable electric services, but electrical safety starts with each of us. Keeping these tips in mind, whether at home, in the shop or in a business, helps keep our communities safe and connected. ■



Discounts offered for Medora vacation

Slope Electric Cooperative is able to offer its members a discount by being a Touchstone Energy® member. Simply call 1-800-MEDORA-1 and give the discount code of “TOUCH2026” for a 15% discount on all of the following during any night of the season.

- Medora Musical
- Pitchfork steak fondue
- Bully Pulpit Golf Course
- Gospel Bruch tickets
- Old Town Hall Theater shows

LODGING AT ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

- Elkhorn Quarters
- Badlands Motel
- Rough Riders Hotel
- Hotel 1883

The code is good for reservations over the phone, online or in person. A green fees discount will be applied at check-in for a tee time at the golf course.





SLOPE ELECTRIC BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS FEB. 26

The regular meeting of the board of directors of Slope Electric Cooperative was held on Feb. 26 at the Dakota Prairie Enrichment Center in Reeder. President Angela Carlson called the meeting to order at 1 p.m. A quorum was present. Slope Electric's General Counsel Jennifer Grosz was appointed recorder for the meeting. Also present were Slope Electric's co-General Managers/CEOs Travis Kupper and Jason Bentz, Chief Financial Officer Alex Craigmile, Chief of Staff/Member Relations Manager Brooke Waltner, Operations Manager Andrew Sonsalla and Board Liaison Connie Hill.

Consent agenda: Amendments were proposed to the consent agenda. The consent agenda was approved as amended.

Strategic items: Bentz and Kupper presented the co-general managers' report, which included updates on a Basin Electric Power Cooperative district managers meeting, an Upper Missouri Power Cooperative (UMPC) managers meeting, grant fund requests and other items. Carlson received her National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Director Gold credential. Several additional Basin Electric reports and board documents were available for review.

Department reports: Craigmile provided a financial report that included an executive summary, operating revenue, balance sheet and other items. Sonsalla provided an operations report, which included

updates on line crew projects, line inspection technology and project plans for the coming months. Waltner provided a member relations report on youth programs, member meetings, a member survey and community support items. Waltner also provided a chief of staff report, which included staff training, job postings and project progress. Chief Information Officer Charlie Dunbar provided a written information technology report. Grosz provided a legal counsel report on the status of projects, updates on federal projects and policy discussion.

Action items: The board appointed UMPC annual meeting delegates, approved an electric service agreement between a new member and Slope Electric, approved a general retirement of capital credits, approved to prepare the minutes in accordance with the most recent version of Robert's Rules of Order and approved changes to the wildfire mitigation plan.

Discussion/general information:

The board discussed board reimbursement, investments, sweep options, rural and economic development, AI policies and board meeting decorum.

The meeting concluded with adjournment. Secretary Charlotte Meier certified the accuracy of the Jan. 29 minutes.

Next meeting date: The next meeting is at 8 a.m. on May 28 in New England. ■



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Anthony Larson, Vice President
Charlotte Meier, Secretary
Chip HJ Fischer, Treasurer
Ryan Jacobson, Director
Kevin Thompson, Director
Cheryl Van Daele, Director
Steven Wegner, Director

MANAGEMENT

Jason Bentz
CO-GM/CEO

Travis Kupper
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