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JULY  
2026



## Take a southwestern North Dakota road trip this summer

North Dakota has breathtaking scenery and exciting venues for visitors. Summer is a great time to explore new sites. As you plan a trip, discover some gems right here in southwestern North Dakota. From the Badlands to historic sites to antiques and everything in-between, as well as discovering the welcoming communities along the way, there is something everyone can enjoy.

### Enjoy a hike (or a car ride!)

The weather is all part of an enjoyable North Dakota summer. The warm sun accompanied by the vast prairie views make exploring exciting. Whether you enjoy a scenic hike or drive, there is no shortage of sites to see.

- **White Butte, Amidon:** Known as the highest point

in the state, this view showcases southwestern North Dakota. It is searchable on maps by typing "White Butte Trailhead."

- **Enchanted Highway, Regent:** This 32-mile stretch of highway features seven unique metal sculptures. Stop at the Enchanted Highway Gift Shop for souvenirs, ice cream, coffee and more on your way through Regent, and visit the Enchanted Castle to see the latest sculpture on the grounds.
- **Theodore Roosevelt National Park:** Found in North Dakota's Badlands, the park is home to vast terrain and various animals, including bison, wild horses and more. The South Unit is a 36-mile drive where wild horses, bison and prairie dogs can be spotted.
- **Burning Coal Vein Campground:** A remote

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*The Enchanted Highway is 32-mile stretch of highway featuring seven unique metal sculptures.*

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campground which is also the trailhead of the Maah Daah Hey. The campground is near Amidon and White Butte.

- **Last Great Buffalo Hunt Site, Hettinger:** This is a historic site where the last free-ranging buffalo herds made their last stand. The site includes a roadside display overlooking one of the last great buffalo hunts.
- **Fort Dilts State Historical Site, Rhame:** The historic site marker tells a story of an 80-wagon party enroute to Montana.
- **Old Highway 16:** This is a historic drive from Golva to Marmarth. While you're in Marmarth, eat at Past Time and check out the Unique Antique Auto Museum, Mystic Theatre and more.

## Exploring southwest attractions

North Dakota is filled with rich American history that can also be explored through museums. These museums have been carefully curated to tell the stories of North Dakota settlers and more.

- **Pioneer Trails Regional Museum, Bowman:** Home to regional and natural history of southwestern North Dakota, this museum has a little bit for everyone from anthropology to botany, genealogy and more.
- **Dakota Buttes Historical Society & Museum, Hettinger:** Newly redesigned and renovated buildings along with outdoor exhibits showcase

more than a century of history of Adams County and more.

- **Unique Antique Auto Museum, Marmarth:** Explore antique automobiles as well as auto-related collections.
- **Hettinger County Historical Society Museum, Regent:** At the end of the Enchanted Highway, this museum includes Doc Hill's office, a drugstore, pioneer town and home.
- **Mott Gallery of History and Art, Mott:** In Mott, this museum features history of area business, military, homesteaders and much more.
- **Mystic Theater, Marmarth:** By appointment only, the oldest theater in the state can be explored.
- **Pedal Tractor Museum and The Tractor Room, Mott:** Over 220 unique pedal tractors, along with a collection of over 2,000 1/16th scale tractor toys, are featured here. Tours arranged by appointment only. Keep in mind, hours of operations through the summer and weekends may vary for these sites.

We are excited to showcase the vast beauty and interesting history our region holds. Whether you are looking for a day trip or planning an extended stay, we hope you visit our communities and see what makes southwestern North Dakota special. ■

## MANAGER'S MESSAGE:

# Cybersecurity tips for safer digital world



**Travis Kupper**

Co-General Manager/CEO

Did you know the average household with internet access owns about 17 connected devices? That figure covers a wide range of electronics, including smartphones, computers, streaming devices, smart speakers, home assistants and more. Given our increasing reliance on internet-connected technologies, the likelihood of new cyber threats is ever-present.

Slope Electric Cooperative is deeply committed to ensuring our local system is safe and secure. We routinely monitor and manage cyber risks, and we work together with other co-ops to share the latest advancements in cybersecurity measures that make us stronger. But you can help, too.

When we all work together to stay safe online, we lower the risk of cyber threats to our systems, online accounts and sensitive data.

### **Learn how to spot and report phishing attempts.**

Phishing occurs when criminals use phony emails, direct messages or other types of digital communications that lure you to click an unsafe link or download a malicious attachment. If you receive

a suspicious email or message that includes urgent language, offers that seem too good to be true, generic greetings, poor grammar or an unusual sender address, it could be a phishing attempt. If you spot one, report it as soon as possible, and don't forget to block the sender.

**Create strong, unique passwords.** When it comes to passwords, remember length trumps complexity. Strong passwords contain at least 12 characters and include a mix of letters, numbers and symbols.

**Enable multi-factor authentication when available.** Multi-factor authentication (also known as two-factor authentication) adds an extra layer of security to your online accounts. These extra security steps can include facial recognition, fingerprint access or one-time codes sent to your email or phone.

**Update software regularly.** Software and internet-connected devices, including personal computers, smartphones and tablets, should always be current on updates to reduce the risk of infection from ransomware and malware.

Let's all do our part to stay cyber smart and create a safer digital world for all. ■



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The SmartHub mobile app puts your cooperative in the palm of your hand – giving you more convenience and control.





President **Angela Carlson** opens the meeting, with the board members in the front row.

## Cooperative members gather for Annual Meeting



Cooperative members visit before the business meeting.

Slope Electric Cooperative members gathered in Amidon for the cooperative's Annual Meeting on June 4. Upon registration, members were given a thank you gift and were welcomed to visit with Slope Electric's CEOs, Board Directors and staff as well as other members.

Slope Electric Board President Angela Carlson welcomed and thanked members for attending the annual meeting. Taylor and Riley Sonsalla performed the national anthem. The membership voted to fill District 1 board position with Charlotte Meier and Angela Carlson, both from Regent, and the District 2 board position with Steven Wegner, Reeder, who were elected by the membership. Additionally, the membership voted to accept the audited 2025 financial statements, approve the 2025 Annual



Retired Slope Electric Director **Lauren Klewin** visits with Member Relations Manager **Brooke Waltner**.

Meeting Minutes and various by-law amendments.

Co-General Manager's Jason Bentz and Travis Kupper along with Carlson took part in a panel where they discussed the importance of member engagement, factors that impact members rates and various other topics. Thank you Josh Kramer, NDaREC Executive Vice President & General Manager, for facilitating the panel.

Students were also recognized for being awarded scholarships and as well as the Youth Tour delegate. Slope Electric also awarded five Luck-of-the-Draw Scholarships to Livia Bowman, Clarie Burke and Brady Mathern, who each received a \$1,000 scholarship, and Karady Evans and Jonah Njos, who each received a \$500 scholarship.

After the business meeting, members enjoyed a complimentary meal served by the Amidon First Responders, assisted by the Slope Slickers 4-H Club. Members were welcome to stay for rounds of bingo and to win various prizes.

The Board of Directors, co-general managers and staff at Slope Electric wish to thank members for participating in the Annual Meeting of the membership and look forward to meeting your electric needs in the future. ■



Slope Electric Director, **Charlotte Meier** (right) congratulates Luck-of-the-Draw Scholarship winners (left to right), **Brady Mathern, Jonah Njos, Livia Bowman, Claire Burke and Karady Evans**.



Even Slope Electric's youngest members enjoys a bag filled with a paper bucket truck, coloring book, bingo cards and other items.

## MESSAGE FROM OPERATIONS: **Summer storm safety**



**Andrew Sonsalla**

*Operations Manager*

Now that summer is in full swing, many of us find ourselves outdoors, enjoying the warmer weather.

Summertime brings grilling with family and friends, afternoons on the water and simply slowing down a bit to enjoy life.

But summer months also create conditions for dangerous storms, especially tornadoes across the state.

These potential weather events can cause destruction

to our electric system, but Slope Electric Cooperative crews are ready to respond should power outages occur in our area.

When major storms knock out power, our line crews take all necessary precautions before they start working on any downed lines. Members can also take steps to practice safety and preparedness during major storms and extended outages.

- Stock your pantry with a supply of nonperishable food, such as canned goods, energy bars, peanut butter, powdered milk, instant coffee, water and other essentials, such as toiletries.
- Have adequate hygiene supplies, including towelettes, soap and hand sanitizer.
- Ensure your first-aid kit is stocked with pain relievers, bandages and other medical essentials.
- Set aside basic household items you will need, including chargers, flashlights, batteries and a

battery-powered radio or TV.

- Stay away from downed power lines. Always assume all wires on the ground are electrically charged. Call us to report the downed power line immediately.
- Organize emergency supplies so they are easily accessible in one location.

In the event of power interruptions or power outages, turn off major appliances, TVs, computers and other sensitive electronics. This will help reduce damage from a power surge and will also help prevent overloading the circuits during power restoration. It is helpful to leave one light on, so you will know when power is restored. If you plan to use a generator, make sure it's rated to handle the amount of power you will need, and wired to state and national electrical codes. Always review the manufacturer's instructions to operate it safely.

Listen to local news or a NOAA Weather Radio for storm and emergency information. Check Slope Electric's Facebook page for power restoration updates and visit [slopeelectric.coop](http://slopeelectric.coop) to view an outage map. Outages can be reported by calling our office at 800-559-4191 or by using the SmartHub app.

Advance planning for severe storms or other emergencies can reduce stress and anxiety caused by the weather event and can lessen the impact of the storm's effects.

We hope we don't experience severe storms this summer, but we can never predict Mother Nature's plans. There is power in planning. We hope you have a safe and enjoyable summer. ■



## **THE BLACKBOARD COFFEE HOUSE**

An exciting new business is coming to Amidon. Find the Blackboard Coffee House in the old schoolhouse. They will feature fresh coffee, specialty drinks, lunch options and homemade treats! Visit The Blackboard Coffee House on Facebook for the most up-to-date information.

## SAFETY STARTS WITH ME: Tips to reduce wildfire risks



**Cody Braaten**

Journeyman  
Lineworker

While much-needed rainfall has brought relief to many of our drought-impacted areas and has reduced the immediate risk of wildfires, Slope Electric Cooperative remains committed to fire mitigation. Weather conditions can change quickly, and we prioritize taking precautions to ensure safety for our employees, members and communities.

As Slope Electric employees work across the service territory, everyone is equipped with fire mitigation

knowledge and equipment. Equipment includes a water tank and fire extinguisher on each co-op vehicle.

Cooperative employees are also briefed with the fire mitigation plan to ensure they can respond accurately to an emergency while working in the field. Through regular vegetation management and grid maintenance and hardening practices, Slope Electric is proactively working to reduce risks and improve the reliability of our local system.

As a member of Slope Electric, there are steps you can take to prevent wildfires as well.

- **Follow local fire regulations.** Always check for burn bans or restrictions in your area before burning anything or using open flames outdoors.
- **Don't burn on windy days.** Avoid outdoor burning when it's windy or dry, as embers can easily spread and ignite surrounding areas.
- **Use equipment safely.** Tools like lawnmowers or chainsaws can spark fires. Use them during cooler times of the day and keep them in good working condition.
- **Clear vegetation and debris.** Maintain a defensible space around your home by removing dry leaves, dead branches and other flammable materials.
- **Properly extinguish campfires.** Always douse your campfire with water, stir the ashes and ensure everything is cool to the touch before leaving the area.

Let's all work together to make this summer memorable and do what we can to ensure safety across our service area. ■

## Sign up for text message notifications!

Use SmartHub to update your email and/or text notification preferences regarding outages, and more! Visit SmartHub to learn more.



## 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 Brunch 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 APRIL 23

The regular meeting of the board of directors of Slope Electric Cooperative was held on April 23 at the New England office. President Angela Carlson called the meeting to order at 8 a.m. A quorum was present. Slope Electric's General Counsel Jennifer Grosz was appointed recorder for the meeting. Also present were Slope Electric 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. Innovative Energy Alliance Cooperative Manager of Member Support Anne Hansen attended a portion of the meeting.

**Co-general managers' report:** Bentz and Kupper presented the co-general managers' report, which included updates on items such as unclaimed capital credits, Upper Missouri Power Cooperative meetings and other matters.

**Department reports:** Craigmile provided a financial report and highlighted key items in the

executive summary. Sonsalla provided an operations report that included updates on line patrol and inspections as well as other construction projects. Waltner provided a member relations report covering annual meeting details and member service and communication efforts for the month. Waltner also provided a chief of staff report that included updates on staff training, job postings and project progress. Chief Information Officer Charlie Dunbar provided a written information technology report. Grosz provided a legal counsel report, providing project status updates.

**Action items:** The board reviewed and approved capital credit estate retirements, special equipment capitalization, margin allocations and other items.

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

**Next meeting date:** The next meeting is at 8 a.m. on July 21 in New England. ■



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### SLOPE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Angela Carlson, President  
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  
CO-GM/CEO

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**Our board of director meeting minutes are moving!**  
**Starting in August, you will find the meeting minutes from our monthly meeting on our website under the "Governance" tab.**