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**APRIL**  
2025

## Celebrating National Lineworker Appreciation Day

As we approach National Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 14, we would like to highlight our lineworkers and the crucial work they do at Slope Electric Cooperative.

Our crews maintain and repair electrical infrastructure in all weather conditions for our members from Mott to Marmarth. Their dedication

and knowledge ensure our rural communities have the power to live, work and thrive 24/7/365.

You have probably seen, or even know a crew member or two from the Slope Electric team, but we would like to share a bit more about each of our lineworkers. If you see them working, feel free to wave and say hello. ■

*"The job of a lineworker is rewarding."*



**JEFF BOYNTON**, outpost working foreman, 19 years

**What interested you about becoming a lineworker?** Working outside

**What do you enjoy about being a lineworker?** Keeping the lights on

**What do you appreciate about Slope Electric members?** Their involvement with the communities

**What are you doing when you are not working?** Hanging out with family and friends

**If you had to eat the same meal every day, what would it be?** Beef

*"The job of a lineworker is fantastic."*



**CODY BRAATEN**, journeyman line technician, 14 years

**What do you enjoy about being a lineworker?** Being outside

**What do you appreciate about Slope Electric members?** Their willingness to help out

**What are you doing when you are not working?** Ranching

**If you had to eat the same meal every day, what would it be?** Chicken-fried steak

*"I like the variety of different work we do daily."*



**MARK FRANK**, journeyman line technician, 12 years

The job of a lineworker is exciting.

**What interested you about becoming a lineworker?** Working with electricity

**What do you appreciate about Slope Electric members?** I appreciate how friendly and appreciative our members are.

**What are you doing when you are not working?** Spending time with my wife and son

**If you had to eat the same meal every day, what would it be?** Pizza

*"The job of a lineworker is fun."*



**BRAD SCHMITT**, journeyman line technician, 4 years

**What are you doing when you are not working?** Working on other things

**If you had to eat the same meal every day, what would it be?** Subway food

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*"I enjoy the variety of work being a lineworker and the problem-solving."*



**DUSTY HOFF**, working foreman, 14 years

The job of a lineworker is providing and maintaining reliable electric power.  
**What interested you about becoming a lineworker?** I have always had an interest in electricity, and I enjoy the outdoors.

**What do you appreciate about Slope Electric members?** They treat us like friends and neighbors

**What are you doing when you are not working?** Spending time with my wife and kids

**If you had to eat the same meal every day, what would it be?** Sauerkraut and sausage

*"The job of a lineworker is maintain, fix and build power lines."*



**JON LAWHEAD**, journeyman line technician, 13 years

**What do you enjoy about being a lineworker?** Doing different jobs

**What are you doing when you are not working?** Watching my kids' sports

**If you had to eat the same meal every day, what would it be?** Ribeye steak, bacon, eggs, chocolate milk

*"Working outdoors and with other lineworkers interested me in the field."*



**SHAY OLSON**, apprentice line technician, 2 years

The job of a lineworker is to install, maintain and repair electrical power lines.

**What do you enjoy about being a lineworker?** Working outdoors and working with other lineworkers

**What do you appreciate about Slope Electric members?** Being a member means you have access to member discounts and deals and the ability to directly influence the business through voting rights.

**What are you doing when you are not working?** Enjoying time with loved ones, hunting and fishing

**If you had to eat the same meal every day, what would it be?** Food at HuHot Mongolian Grill

*"Working outdoors and having a good job close to home interested me in becoming a lineworker."*



**ANDREW SONSALLA**, senior staking technician, 18 years

The job of a lineworker is to maintain the co-op's electrical system and respond to outages when they occur.

**What do you enjoy about being a lineworker?** The great co-workers I have a chance to work with, and the satisfaction of restoring power when outages occur

**What do you appreciate about Slope Electric members?** Their willingness to always assist the line crews whenever help is needed, and their understanding during extended outages

**What are you doing when you are not working?** Spending time with my family, hunting, trapping and spending time outdoors

**If you had to eat the same meal every day, what would it be?** Leftover lasagna and buffalo chicken dip

## MANAGER'S MESSAGE:

# The power behind your power



**Jason Bentz**

Co-General Manager/  
CEO

You've likely noticed Slope Electric Cooperative's crews out and about, working on power lines and other electrical equipment in our community. It's no secret a lineworker's job is tough, but it's essential and must often be done in challenging conditions. This month, as we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day April 14, I thought I would share some interesting facts about electric lineworkers.

The work can be heavy, in more ways than one. Did you

know the equipment and tools a lineworker carries while climbing a utility pole can weigh up to 50 pounds? That's the same as carrying 6 gallons of water.

And lineworkers are required to climb poles ranging anywhere from 30 to 120 feet tall. If you have a fear of heights, this likely isn't the career path for you.

Lineworkers must be committed to their career, because it's not just a job. It's a lifestyle. The long hours and ever-present danger can truly take a toll. In fact, being a lineworker is listed among the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the United States.

Lineworkers often work non-traditional hours in difficult conditions outdoors. While the job does not require a college degree, it does require technical skills, years of training and hands-on learning. Did you know becoming a journeyman lineworker can take more than 7,000 hours of training or about four years? That's because working with high-voltage equipment requires specialized skills, experience and an ongoing mental toughness. Shortcuts are not an option, and there is no room for error in this line of work.

Despite the many challenges, Slope Electric's lineworkers are committed to powering our local community. During severe weather events that bring major power outages, lineworkers are among the first ones called. They must be ready to leave the comfort of their home and families unexpectedly, and they don't return until the job is done, often days later. That's why the lineworker's family is also dedicated to service. They understand the importance of the job to the community.

Nationwide, there are approximately 120,000 electric

lineworkers. Slope Electric has eight lineworkers who are responsible for keeping power flowing 24/7/365. To do this, they maintain 3,106 miles of power lines across three counties and 4,500 square miles.

In addition to the highly visible tasks lineworkers perform, their job today goes far beyond climbing utility poles to repair a wire. Today's lineworkers are information experts who can pinpoint power outages from miles away. Line crews now use laptops, tablets, drones and other technologies to map outages, survey damage and troubleshoot problems.

Being a lineworker may not seem like a glamorous job, but it is absolutely essential to the life of our community. Without the exceptional dedication and commitment of these hardworking men and women, we simply would not have the reliable electricity we need for everyday life.

While lineworkers are the most visible faces of our cooperative, it's essential to acknowledge the team of highly skilled professionals working tirelessly behind the scenes. From engineers providing invaluable expertise, to member service representatives fielding inquiries and IT experts safeguarding sensitive data, each member of our cooperative family plays a vital role in ensuring the reliability of our services.

So, the next time you see our lineworkers, please thank them for the work they do to keep power flowing, regardless of the time of day or weather conditions. After all, lineworkers are the power behind your power. ■



## EMPOWERING FUTURES:

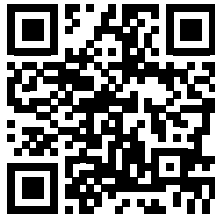
# Slope Electric announces scholarships

Slope Electric Cooperative is proud to announce scholarships for full-time and part-time students that will be available at the Annual Meeting June 5 in Bowman.

Three \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to full-time students and two \$500 scholarships to either full-time or part-time students.

As a commitment to fostering education within our community, these scholarships are a testament to our dedication to supporting the academic pursuits of talented individuals. ■

For more  
information, call our  
office at 701-579-4191  
or 800-559-4191  
or visit  
[www.slopeelectric.coop/scholarships](http://www.slopeelectric.coop/scholarships).



## Cooperative directors earn certificates

Cooperatives adhere to seven cooperative principles, and our board of directors works to uphold those principles inside the boardroom as well as in their communities and everyday life. Through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, our board engages in ongoing education and training to uphold one of the seven cooperative principles – education, training and information.

Throughout directors' terms, they must attend and maintain certain education certificates to ensure they are staying current and informed on the industry.

We recognize directors Charlotte Meier and Chip H.J. Fischer for earning their Director Gold Certificate. Meier and Fischer earned this certificate by completing approved educational courses and attending conferences. ■



**Charlotte Meier**



**Chip Fischer**



## MESSAGE FROM MEMBER RELATIONS: Unclaimed capital credits



**Brooke Waltner**  
Manager of Member  
Relations

Slope Electric Cooperative is looking for updated addresses to mail members' capital credit allocation statements and/or capital credit checks from last year. The following Slope Electric members, with

their last known address on file, were mailed allocation statements and/or checks, which were returned from the post office because it was "not a deliverable address," "unable to forward" or "attempted not known."

If you know of a current address for someone on this list, please call the Slope Electric office at 701-579-4191 or 800-559-4191 or email [comments@slopeelectric.coop](mailto:comments@slopeelectric.coop). ■

David Adams.....Casper, Wyo.  
Donna Adams.....Casper, Wyo.  
Steven Aubrey ..West Plains, Mo.  
Gary P. Bailey.....Williams, Minn.  
James Bernards...Big Sky, Mont.  
M.L. Blickensderfer..... Rapid  
City, S.D.  
Bowman Auction  
Market..... Bowman  
Sheri L. Breen..... Bowman  
Alton Bruce.....Regent  
Luckey Cameron Sheridan, Wyo.  
Michael D. Carroll ..... Hettinger  
L.C. Cassell..... Bowman  
Chaparral Energy LLC .....  
Oklahoma, Okla.  
Michael C. Costa.....Reeder  
Robert W. Crawford..... Prescott  
Valley, Ariz.  
L.D. Crooker..... Rapid City, S.D.  
Ivabelle Dahl.....Jamestown  
Kevin Dangerud. Rapid City, S.D.  
Lois Dewey..... Buffalo, Wyo.  
Debbie L. Doest..... Bowman  
Jessica Eisenbarth.....  
New England  
Encore Energy Partners  
Operating LLC .....  
Houston, Texas  
Encore Operating LP .....  
Baker, Mont.  
Lynn E. Erickson ..... Hettinger  
Jonni B. Erickson ..New England  
Mark and Sue Erickson.....  
Bismarck  
Daniel Eubanks..... Starkweather  
Mark D. Evans ..... Lemmon, S.D.  
David Foltz.....Mott

Ruthella Forsch.....Dickinson  
Fossum Rentals..... Bowman  
Autumn French...Carlsbad, Calif.  
Getz Contracting ..... Bowman  
Glacier Resources..... Mobile, Ala.  
Josph Goldade.... Lemmon, S.D.  
Devin Good Shield..... Bowman  
Hilda Gruebele .....Bismarck  
Tom E. Gunderson...Pollock, S.D.  
Lorraine Habiger..... Fargo  
Fran Hagel..... North Platte, Neb.  
Bruce Halleen .....Bismarck  
Tim Halls.....Amidon  
Robert W. Hanson ...Rozet, Wyo.  
Edward A. Haugen ..Sturgis, S.D.  
E.B. Himebaugh Jr.....  
Arlington, Wash.  
Donovan Hollis.....  
Soap Lake, Wash.  
Chism Holt.....Cordell, Okla.  
C.J. Horner.....Wasilla, Alaska  
KMonte Howrey.....Vale, S.D.  
Wilma M. Huber.....Carson  
Neil Hughes.....Pendleton, Ore.  
Jeff C. Hultgren..Lakeville, Minn.  
Larry Ihle.....Moffit  
Alton Ivey .....Regent  
Mark Jacobs.....Hanover, Md.  
Jodee Jacobs..... Bowman  
Patrick James ..... Lebanon, Ind.  
Denelle Johnson..... Bowman  
John L. Johnson..... Bowman  
Tonia Jordan .....Williston  
Tony L. Jordan.....Williston  
Kathy Jorgenson-Maliske.....  
Fargo  
C.R. Kadrmaz..... Fargo  
Claire Kaiser.....St. Louis, Mo.  
Dellroy Kalina .....Yuma, Ariz.  
Ken Do Ag Rental..... Bowman  
Harry Kerr..... Bowman  
John Kessel.....Belfield  
Bruce G. Klein .....Garrison  
Brett Kramer.....Langford, S.D.  
Deanna Kramer ....Langford, S.D.

Dolly Krause .....Rhame  
Roger Kubista .Carnation, Wash.  
Gene Langlee..... Bowman  
Jeff Larry ..... Mobile, Ala.  
David R. Ledeman ..... Bowman  
Gary Lewton..... Bowman  
Lynn J. Magelky ....Buckeye, Ariz.  
Gabriel Maliske..... Fargo  
Blair Matheson..... Bowman  
Joseph Mattson ...Littleton, Colo.  
Susan May .....Scranton  
Chelsea McCreery ....Kiowa, Kan.  
Lois Merkel.....Amidon  
Mike Merwin..... Hettinger  
Brandy Dee Dee Merwin .....  
Hettinger  
Betty Jean Mesling.....Bismarck  
Joe Miller..... Fargo  
Kari Miller..... Fargo  
Moen Farms Moen Farms .....  
Lemmon, S.D.  
Elmer Morland .....New England  
Nadel & Gussman Rockies LLC ..  
Tulsa, Okla.  
Ashley Nelson ..... Bowman  
Victoria Nelson.... Rapid City, .SD.  
Nelson Farms c/o Lelyn Nelson .  
Spokane, Wash.  
Derek Nordahl.....Dickinson  
Bruce W. Olson ..... Minot  
Denelle Olson ..... Bowman  
Joseph M. Omodt..... Fargo  
Cathy Orcutt..... Fargo  
Kimball Parker.....Orem, Utah  
Helen Peters....Woodbury, Minn.  
Peterson Orlando and Joyce  
Revocable Trust..... Hettinger  
Marge Reiger.....Scranton  
Paul Reimer..... Bowman  
Edward A. Reisenauer..... New  
England  
Louise Roemmich .....  
Pipestone, Minn.  
Jordan Rustad ..... Bowman

Melissa Rustan .....Big  
Timber, Mont.  
Steven Sayler..... Bowman  
Ernest Schafer ..... New Leipzig  
Sandra Schlenvogt ..... San  
Jose, Calif.  
Peter Schmatz ..... Baker, Mont.  
Dale Schoeder .....Reeder  
Sequel Energy LLC .....  
Billings, Mont.  
John Skartved..... Hettinger  
SM Energy Company .....  
Denver, Colo.  
Edith Steier.....Dickinson  
Leah Stetzner ..... Carlsbad, Calif.  
Leah Stetzner ...Centennial, Colo  
Cutris Strand.....  
Anchorage, Alaska.  
Jackie Streck.....Marshall, Okla.  
James Streck.....Marshall, Okla.  
Marth J. Stuber ..... Bowman  
James Sullivan.....Dickinson  
D. Summers.....Dickinson  
Norma G. Swenson..... Hettinger  
The Dam Marina Grill... Bowman  
Richard Theurer..... Bowman  
Ross Thomas .....Dickinson  
Allan Tomac.....Buffalo  
Tri State Comm Inc. ....Bismarck  
Twin Butte Liquor ..... Bowman  
United Site National Services ....  
Miami, Fla.  
George A. Urlacher .....Dickinson  
Brad Wahl.....Huntington  
Beach, Calif.  
Don Wandler .....Racine, Wis.  
Natalie Wandler .....Dickinson  
Westport Oil & Gas .Dallas, Texas  
Patricia M. Williams .....  
Quincy, Wash.  
Jay Wolf.....Spearfish, S.D.  
Jessie Zahn.....Dickinson  
Shawn Zrowka..Morristown, S.D.

## MESSAGE FROM OPERATIONS: **National Safe Digging Month**



**Dean Volk**

Chief of Staff/  
Operations Manager

April is recognized as National Safe Digging Month, and we remind members to call 811 before digging, no matter how big or small the project may be. Even small tasks like planting a tree or bush may cause damage to utility lines, which can disrupt service to an entire neighborhood and potentially result in fines and repair costs. Play it safe by dialing 811 to find out where utility lines are located on your property.

Be prepared to share the following information about the project property to North Dakota One Call:

- Name and contact information
- Proposed digging date and time
- Legal description
- County, city, street address
- Nearest intersecting street
- Name of the property owner
- Type of work planned as well as extent of work and depth

Within a few days, a locator will arrive to designate the location of any underground lines, pipes and cables. These areas will be marked with flags or paint, so you'll know what's below. That is when the safe digging can begin.

Keep in mind, utilities are not required to mark any private lines, such as sprinkler systems and pool heaters, as well as any electrical, propane or natural gas lines that are after the meter.

For more information about local services, visit [www.ndonecall.com](http://www.ndonecall.com). ■

## JOIN SLOPE ELECTRIC FOR THE CAREER TOUR

AUGUST 5-6

**FROM COAL MINES TO POWER PLANTS AND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES  
YOUTH ARE INVITED TO DIVE INTO THE HEART OF NORTH DAKOTA'S ENERGY SECTOR.**

Limited spots available. Learn more by scanning the QR code or visiting: [www.slopeelectric.coop](http://www.slopeelectric.coop).

**Application deadline is April 25.**



## SAFETY STARTS WITH ME: Planting safety tips

Agriculture is the backbone of rural communities across our service area. Soon, wheels will begin to turn for spring planting.

Farming equipment has increased in size over the years, so those operating machinery need to take extra precautions when moving equipment down the road or planting in fields with overhead lines nearby. Staying alert, focused and knowledgeable about potential hazards and safety procedures is crucial.

"Planting is a busy time for everyone in our rural communities," says Andrew Sonsalla, a senior staking technician. "It is important to always be aware of your surroundings, even if you are frequenting a familiar place."

To help ensure a safe planting season, here are a few tips while in the farmyard, traveling on the road and working in the field.

- **Use spotters when operating large machinery near power lines.** Ensure the spotters do not touch the machinery while it is moving near power lines. An 18-foot clearance is recommended under power lines.
- **Be aware of the clearance of equipment extensions and materials you are hauling before moving or transporting.** Do not raise equipment, such as ladders, poles or rods, into power lines. Remember, nonmetallic materials, such as lumber, tree limbs, ropes and hay, can conduct electricity, especially when damp, dusty or dirty.
- **Never attempt to raise or move power lines to clear a path.** Doing so could result in electric shock or death. If you need power lines to be raised or moved to help with moving large machinery this season, give our office a call at 701-579-4191 or 800-559-4191 so we can safely assist you. Remember, if your equipment comes into contact



with an energized or downed power line, call 911 immediately. Stay inside the vehicle until the power line is de-energized. If there is smoke or fire, exit by jumping clear of the cab without touching the equipment and hop away to safety. We also urge you to contact your electric cooperative for additional assistance.

We know spring is an exciting and busy time, but we hope you will take a few extra minutes to check that you and your surroundings are clear to ensure a safe planting season. On behalf of all of us at Slope Electric, we wish you all a safe and prosperous planting season. ■

## JOIN US AT OUR 2025 ANNUAL MEETING

JUNE 5, FOUR SEASONS PAVILLON,  
BOWMAN

Registration opens at 4:30 p.m. with the business meeting starting at 5 p.m. and followed by dinner and bingo.





## SLOPE ELECTRIC BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS: JAN. 30

The regular meeting of the board of directors of Slope Electric Cooperative was held on Jan. 30 at the cooperative's headquarters in New England. President Steven Wegner called the meeting to order at 10 a.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/Operations Manager Dean Volk, Member Relations Manager Brooke Waltner and Board Liaison Connie Hill. Guests included engineers Trisha Samuelson and Jordan Kleppen and auditor Lance Rambousek.

**Consent agenda:** The consent agenda was approved as presented.

**Strategic/action:** Bentz and Kupper presented the co-general managers' report, which included updates on a meeting with a Western Area Power Administration representative, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association managers meeting and a Basin

Electric Power Cooperative district meeting. The co-general managers also reviewed several bills being discussed during this year's legislative session. Several Basin Electric], West Dakota Utility Services and 3C Construction reports were available for review.

**Department reports:** Craigmile provided a financial and statistical report. Volk provided a report on projects. Waltner provided a report including a member meeting update, youth scholarship applications and other programs. Grosz provided a legal report.

**Action items:** The board reviewed and resolved various items, including the construction work plan for 2025-29.

**Discussion/general information:** The board discussed the upcoming audit as well as other items.

The meeting concluded with the adjournment. Secretary Angela Carlson certified the accuracy of the minutes.

**Next meeting date:** The next meeting is at 9 a.m. April 24 in New England. ■

## Operation Round Up deadline approaching May 21

For more information scan the QR code or visit our website at [www.slopeelectric.coop/operation-round](http://www.slopeelectric.coop/operation-round).



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Fax: 701-579-4193

Email us:  
[comments@slopeelectric.coop](mailto:comments@slopeelectric.coop)  
UNDERGROUND LINE LOCATES  
800-795-0555 or 811

## SLOPE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Steven Wegner, President  
Anthony Larson, Vice President  
Angela Carlson, Secretary  
Chip HJ Fischer, Treasurer  
Jerome Caron, Director  
Ryan Jacobson, Director  
Charlotte Meier, Director  
Cheryl Van Daele, Director

## MANAGEMENT

Jason Bentz  
CO-GM/CEO

Travis Kupper  
CO-GM/CEO

[www.slopeelectric.coop](http://www.slopeelectric.coop)



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