

Slope Electric recognized for contributions



PHOTO BY KAIA LEHMAN, JOURNALISM STUDENT AT BISMARCK STATE COLLEGE

Slope Electric Cooperative Chief of Staff **Dean Volk** accepts the plaque of recognition.

Each year, the Bismarck State College (BSC) Foundation hosts financial supporters for its President's Club Dinner. This year, Slope Electric Cooperative received the Honor of Silver from the BSC Foundation. The BSC Foundation works to recognize individuals and businesses that have helped make an impact on BSC students through the foundation. ■

Slope Electric Cooperative Inc.

OUTLOOK

116 E. 12th St. • New England, ND 58647 | 701-579-4191 • www.slopeelectric.coop

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EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES: **Slope Electric sparks change with grant funds**

BY SAMANTHA VANGSNES



The Slope County Fair is the longest continuous fair in North Dakota.

One of the core values of Slope Electric Cooperative is commitment to its service area, whether through sponsorships, grants or participation in events. The Rural Development Finance Corporation (RDFC) grant helps demonstrate the true meaning of commitment.

Slope Electric received grant funding from RDFC to benefit its service area. The funds are allocated directly to Slope Electric, and entities apply for the grant funds. The applications are then reviewed by the RDFC committee before funding is awarded. Slope Electric was able to assist two entities in 2023 within its service area with the RDFC funds, including the Slope Farmers Fair Association and the New England Ambulance.

Slope Farmers Fair Association

The Slope Farmers Fair Association hosts the Slope County Farmers Fair each August in Amidon. This fair is the longest continuous fair in North Dakota, beginning in 1920.

The fair association applied for funds to complete an American Disability Association (ADA) compliant concession stand at the fairgrounds. “The upgrade will allow the concession stand to be more user-friendly, centrally located and accessible for all,” says Lynelle Jacobson, treasurer for the Slope Farmers Fair Association. The Slope County Farmers Fair list of events includes 4-H shows, rodeo and homemade pie to name a few activities. “We are blessed to have such

a giving community to help with projects such as this,” notes Jacobson.

New England Ambulance

The New England Ambulance was looking to upgrade its equipment to better serve the community. The New England Ambulance requested funds to purchase a power load cot for its ambulance.

Lifting patients into the ambulance isn’t an easy task and the purchase of a power load cot would make times of distress flow smoother.

“The power cots will make it easier and safer for both the patient and crew in times of emergency,” notes Twig Zahn, a driver for the New England Ambulance.

RDFC is a North Dakota nonprofit finance and development corporation whose member-owners are all the North Dakota electric cooperatives, nine North Dakota telecommunications cooperatives, the Broadband Association of North Dakota and the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives. RDFC was founded in 1994 with a desire to invest in rural communities. Almost 30 years later, its mission remains the same. RDFC’s grant allotment included funds to member-cooperatives to support community-owned entities, nonprofits and community-based projects. ■



One of the recipients of the Rural Development Finance Corporation grants was the New England Ambulance.



MANAGER'S MESSAGE: A look to 2024



Jason Bentz

As we approach the most wonderful time of the year, we wanted to take a moment to extend our warmest holiday

Electric Cooperative will be sharing more information about the nomination and election process. I encourage you to reach out to current board members if you have any questions or would like to learn more about what it entails. Whether you decide to run for the board or support your fellow members in their pursuit, your engagement in this process is vital to our collective success.

greetings to each and every one of you. The Christmas season is a time for reflection, gratitude and joy, and I hope you find the space to enjoy these moments with your loved ones.

As we celebrate the holiday season and prepare to welcome the new year, I want to express my gratitude to the current directors and our employees on their hard work, dedication and unwavering commitment to our cooperative. Your contributions are what make us a great team. I have no doubt we will continue to achieve remarkable things in the year ahead.

This holiday season also marks the beginning of a new year, filled with fresh possibilities and exciting opportunities. As we embrace the festive spirit and bid farewell to this year, let's also look forward to the challenges and achievements awaiting us in the next.

May this holiday season be filled with laughter and cherished moments, and may the coming year bring us all the success and growth for which we aim. We look forward to what lies ahead and the incredible journey we will embark on together.

In the coming year, we will have the chance to make a significant impact on our organization by selecting members for our board of directors. Our board plays a crucial role in shaping the direction of our cooperative, and I encourage you to consider taking on this important responsibility.

Warmest wishes for a merry Christmas and a happy New Year! ■

Serving on the board of directors is not only a great way to contribute to the growth and success of our organization, but it's also an excellent opportunity to develop leadership skills, broaden your horizons and work closely with a dedicated group of individuals who share your passion for our mission.

In the weeks ahead, Slope

POWERING ON:

SLOPE ELECTRIC'S CALENDAR

DECEMBER 2023

HEATING ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE
LIHEAP APPLICATIONS OPEN NOW THROUGH MAY 31, 2024. SCAN THE QR CODE FOR MORE INFORMATION.



DEC. 16

POPCORN NIGHT
MOTT-REGENT HS VS. LEMMON HS BASKETBALL GAME
5 P.M. AT MOTT-REGENT HIGH SCHOOL

DEC. 19

POPCORN NIGHT
LEMMON HS VS. HETTINGER-SCRANTON BASKETBALL GAME
6:30 P.M. AT THE LEMMON ARMORY



DEC. 25

SLOPE ELECTRIC OFFICE CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF CHRISTMAS.
THE LINE CREWS WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE CASE OF AN EMERGENCY.



JANUARY 1, 2024

SLOPE ELECTRIC OFFICE CLOSED IN OBSERVANCE OF NEW YEAR'S DAY.
THE LINE CREWS WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE CASE OF AN EMERGENCY.



JAN. 5

POPCORN NIGHT
HETTINGER- SCRANTON VS. BOWMAN COUNTY BASKETBALL GAME
7 P.M. AT SCRANTON HIGH SCHOOL



JAN. 16

NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEETING
10: 30 A.M. AT THE NERW ENGLAND OFFICE

JAN. 18

OPERATION ROUND UP DEADLINE
SCAN QR CODE FOR MORE INFORMATION



JAN. 19

YOUTH TOUR APPLICATION DEADLINE
SCAN QR CODE FOR MORE INFORMATION



JAN. 24

MEMBER APPRECIATION EVENING
SLOPE COUNTY FAIRGROUND, AMIDON

JAN. 31

SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE
SCAN THE QR CODE FOR MORE INFORMATION



FEBRUARY 15

MEMBER APPRECIATION EVENING
SENIOR CENTER, REGENT

FEBRUARY 15

NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEETING
9 A.M. AT THE NEW ENGLAND OFFICE



2024 SCHOLARSHIPS

DEADLINE: JAN. 31, 2024

Download Application



\$1,000 Basin Electric Power Cooperative scholarship

Slope Electric will award a \$1,000 scholarship sponsored by Basin Electric. The scholarship will be awarded to a high school senior or college freshman already enrolled or planning to enroll in a full-time graduate or undergraduate program, and who is a dependent of a Slope Electric member. The student must attend an accredited two- or four-year program, university or vocational/tech school. A completed application is required.

Luck-of-the-draw scholarship

Slope Electric will award two \$500 and three \$1,000 luck-of-the-draw scholarships at the annual meeting. Anyone enrolled or planning to enroll

part time or full time at an accredited two- or four-year program, university or vocational/tech school and is in attendance at the annual meeting is eligible. If a student is under 18 years old, his or her parent or guardian, who is a Slope Electric member, must be in attendance.

Lineworker scholarship from 3C Construction

Slope Electric will award a \$500 scholarship sponsored by 3C Construction. Eligible students are high school seniors who are enrolled in a certified vocational or technical school pursuing a career as a lineworker and who are dependents of a Slope Electric member. A completed application is required.

Mechanic scholarship from West Dakota Utility Services

Slope Electric will award a \$500 scholarship sponsored by WDUS. Eligible students are high school seniors who are enrolled or planning to enroll in a certified vocational or technical school pursuing a career as a mechanic, and who are dependents of a Slope Electric member. A completed application is required.



**Applications can be filled out online and emailed to comments@slopeelectric.coop, or printed and mailed to:
Slope Electric Cooperative
Attn: Scholarship Committee, 116 East 12th St, P.O. Box 338
New England, ND 58647**

All applicants must have a parent or guardian who is a Slope Electric member.



BE SAFE while clearing snow

When winter blankets the state in snow, North Dakotans use shovels, snowblowers or snowplows to clear the white stuff from driveways and other areas around homes, farmyards or businesses.

This winter, Slope Electric Cooperative urges you to be safe during snow-clearing chores.

FIRST, be aware of where electrical equipment is located. Avoid plowing into pad-mounted transformers, cabinets, poles and guy wires while moving snow. Mark electrical equipment near driveways and sidewalks with flags or posts to avoid

hitting the equipment with a plow when the snow gets deep.

THEN, please keep equipment clear of snow and accessible for lineworkers. Shovel by hand around power equipment to avoid contact. In the event of an outage, clearing snow around utility equipment will make it easier for lineworkers to restore power. The National Electrical Code requires at least a 10-foot clearance in front of power equipment and 3 feet on the sides and back for lineworkers to be able to access the area during an emergency.

WHILE ground-level equipment is important to avoid, remember to look up, too. Be aware of overhead power lines, especially when removing snow from your roof or piling snow in an area. Pile snow away from power lines where equipment may come into contact with the lines or where children might play.

IF you see a downed power line, do not touch it. Always assume fallen power lines are energized. Call Slope Electric Cooperative to report a downed line or other damaged equipment immediately. ■

Help shape the future of Slope Electric

At the upcoming Dec. 15 board of directors meeting, Slope Electric Cooperative board of directors will appoint the Nominating/Resolutions Committee. This is your chance to play an active role in our cooperative's decision-making process!

Here's what you need to know

- **Representation:** Directors will appoint one member from their district, ensuring a range of perspectives. Additionally, we'll select up to two more committee members from districts with director elections.
- **Visibility:** Your commitment will be recognized as we publish the committee member names in Slope Electric's local pages of *North Dakota Living*.

- **Compensation:** We value your time and effort. That's why we offer per diem and mileage reimbursement for both committee meetings.

The first meeting, scheduled for Jan. 16, 2024, at 10:30 a.m., will provide insights into the committee's functions, including the policies that guide us in nominating qualified members. The second meeting, Feb. 29, 2024, at 9 a.m., is when the committee will roll up their sleeves to make official nominations for the cooperative's annual meeting.

If you're enthusiastic about shaping the cooperative's future or know someone who is, please reach out to us. You can contact our office at 701-579-4191 or email us at comments@slopeelectric.coop. ■

SAFETY STARTS WITH ME: Holiday lighting tips

Amid the cheer that defines the holiday season, holiday lighting is one tradition bringing warmth and radiance to our homes. As we prepare to deck the halls and string those festive lights, it's vital to remember safety is the true star of the show.

"We know this is an exciting time for people to get ready for the holidays, but we want members to take a couple of things into account when decorating, including safety and light selection," says Mark Frank, line technician at Slope Electric Cooperative.

Most holiday decorations involve some installation at heights, so it is important to keep the following in mind while decorating indoors and outside:

1. Have a ground crew (one or two people) to steady your ladder and pass up the decoration, which is an invaluable part of safety and to keep you supplied with untangled light strings, fasteners and encouragement.
2. Remember to keep a safe distance from your overhead electric service.
3. Don't overreach. If you cannot get to a point with your body completely centered between the sides of the ladder, get down and relocate the ladder.
4. Don't overextend the ladder. If your ladder is too short, rent or borrow a longer one. A ladder extended beyond its working limits is dangerous, as is standing on rungs too close to the top.
5. Do not overload circuits by stringing more light sets together than the manufacturer recommends. Check the packaging for details.
6. Check your wires for breaks and cracks in the insulation that can lead to shorts.



Safety Starts with ME (and YOU)!

Make this holiday season unforgettable with your lighting inside and out, while staying safe for you and your family and making memories all will cherish for years to come. During this holiday season, Slope Electric wants to thank you for being a part of our cooperative family and hope you and your loved ones have a merry Christmas and happy New Year! ■

Planning to soak in the sun this winter?

Be sure to sign up for SmartHub and complete the notification section to receive important cooperative updates, like planned power outages, while you are away!

You will receive a notification of important information related to your electric service. If you do not have a SmartHub account, set one up by going to www.slopeelectric.coop and select the SmartHub link in the top right corner. From there, you will be able to sign up as a new user.

Now is a good time to also make sure Slope Electric has your current contact information. To verify your telephone number or email address, or request an update, call 701-579-4191 or 800-559-4191. Members can also login to their SmartHub account to update your information.

Slope Electric also has a Facebook page. Please like and follow to learn timely cooperative and community news. Members, thank you for staying in touch and helping us keep you informed. ■

APPLY FOR A TRIP OF A LIFETIME

WHAT IS YOUTH TOUR?

- An all-expense-paid trips to Washington, D.C., paid for by Slope Electric Cooperative.
- A week of visiting historic monuments, touring world class museums, learning about electric cooperatives and meeting elected officials.
- Developing lifelong friendships with delegates from across the country!



JUNE 15 TO 21, 2024

TWO ALL-EXPENSE-PAID TRIPS TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

ESSAY QUESTION

If chosen as a Youth Tour delegate, you will be traveling to Washington, D.C., to experience and learn about America's rich history. What moment in American history do you wish you had been a part of and what would you have contributed?

HOW TO APPLY

- To enter the essay-writing contest, you must be a sophomore or junior in high school, and you and your parents or guardian must be served by Slope Electric Cooperative.
- Email entries to Brooke Waltner at bwaltner@slopeelectric.coop or mail a hard copy to: Youth Tour Essay Contest, 116 E. 12th St., P.O. Box 338, New England, ND, 58647-0338.
- Questions? Call Brooke at 701-579-2252 during regular business hours.
- **The deadline is Jan. 19, 2024.**

EMPOWER



LEARN MORE AT NDYOUTHTOUR.COM



LOOK

Slope Electric board meeting highlights: Sept. 28, 2023

The September meeting of the board of directors of Slope Electric Cooperative was held on Sept. 28 at the cooperative's headquarters in New England. President Steven Wegner called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. Slope Electric's Legal Counsel Jennifer Grosz was designated as the meeting recorder. Board quorum was met. Also present were Slope Electric's Co-General Managers/CEOs Travis Kupper and Jason Bentz, Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Alex Craigmile, Operations Manager Dean Volk, Manager of Member Relations Brooke Waltner, and Executive Assistant and Board Liaison Connie Hill. The meeting commenced with a review of the mission statement, followed by an invocation.

Consent agenda: There was an addition to the consent agenda. The agenda was approved as amended. The Aug. 24 meeting minutes were also approved.

Strategic/action: Bentz and Kupper presented the co-general managers' report, which included an update from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Region 5-6 meeting and updates from Basin Electric Power Cooperative and Upper Missouri Power Cooperative. Reports from West Dakota Utility Services, 3C Construction and Basin Electric's CEO were also presented.

Department reports: Craigmile reviewed the August financial reports and is working on the 2024 budget. Volk provided a report with details on line maintenance, new service requests and service heavy-ups occurring in the service area. Waltner presented a report, including a discussion on Rural Development Finance Corporation grant applications and the N.D. REC Foundation scholarship program. Waltner reviewed member engagement events and the 2024 annual meeting. Grosz gave a legal counsel report, which included projects she is working on for the cooperative. Chief Information Officer Charlie Dunbar provided a report, which was also reviewed.

Action items: The board reviewed and approved the 2024 capital budget and annual financial items.

Discussion/general information: Upcoming meetings and events were shared.

The board then entered into an executive session.

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

Next meeting date: The next meeting date was set for Oct. 25 at the cooperative's headquarters in New England. ■



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800-795-0555 or 811

SLOPE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Steven Wegner, President
Anthony Larson, Vice President
Angela Carlson, Secretary
Henry "Chip" Fischer, Treasurer
Jerome Caron, Director
Dale Hande, Director
Lauren Klewin, Director
Charlotte Meier, Director

MANAGEMENT

Jason Bentz
CO-GM/CEO

Travis Kupper
CO-GM/CEO

www.slopeelectric.coop



Become a fan of Slope Electric Cooperative to learn timely co-op news!

*Slope Electric Cooperative Inc.
is an equal opportunity provider.*

You're Invited

MEMBER APPRECIATION OPEN HOUSE



At Slope Electric, we believe in the power of membership and this event is a way for us to say "Thank you" for being part of ours.

Come enjoy food and visit with our board of directors, CEOs, staff as well as other members. **Members will also receive a FREE gift.**



5 - 7 P.M. ON JAN. 24, 2024



SLOPE COUNTY FAIRGROUND, AMIDON

