

CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY



INVESTING IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES: Co-op awards grants

One of the core values of Slope Electric Cooperative is commitment to the communities and members it serves, through sponsorships, grants and participation in community events.

The Rural Development Finance Corporation (RDFC) grant demonstrates the true meaning of commitment by awarding funds to local cooperatives, such as Slope Electric, which are then passed on to community entities.

Earlier this year, Slope Electric received a \$3,000 grant allocation from RDFC to benefit its service area. Slope Electric awarded funds to the City of Bowman, Lemmon Lions Club, Mott Lions Club and Slope County Economic Development Corporation.

City of Bowman

Bowman is home to around 1,470 residents and is a busy rural community from high school events to the county fair. A busy community such as this needs a responsive team of fire, ambulance and

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Slope Electric Cooperative Inc.

OUTLOOK

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

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police departments. With the RDCF funds, the city of Bowman plans to purchase Statewide Interoperable Radio Network (SIRN) compliant radios for safe, rapid communication between the city workforce and responders.

"The SIRN system will be our best form of communication with North Dakota State Radio and will help make response time quicker for our police officers," says Peggy Allen, Bowman City Financial Auditor. "This updated technology will help contribute to our community's safety."

Within the next year, emergency response teams will have to update their systems to adhere to SIRN compliance. The other radio channels currently used will not be available for state communication.

Lemmon Lions Club

Lemmon is a rural town with helpful organizations such as the Lemmon Lions Club. The Lemmon Lions Club works with Delta Dental of South Dakota to bring a mobile dental office to Lemmon. This gives children an opportunity to be seen by a dentist and get X-rays, cleanings and fillings addressed. In March, children were seen and received necessary treatments by the mobile dental office. RDCF funds will be used toward funding the mobile dental office.

Mott Lions Club

Lions Clubs are community pillars in various communities across the nation. The sole purpose of a Lions Club is to serve its community. A resounding example is the Mott Lions Club. Each year, the club puts together holiday food baskets to help those in need within the Mott community. RDCF funds will be used toward purchasing food for the baskets.

"The club has been putting together these baskets for over 25 years," says Mott Lions Club member Maggie Banyai. "It started with a few items per basket

and has grown over time."

The baskets this year will contain kitchen basics such as sugar, flour and other nonperishable items. They also aim to include a protein in the basket as well. The number of baskets created depends on the amount of funds the Mott Lions Club raises.

The club checks with the school, churches and other community members to choose recipient families. Those who receive baskets are grateful.

Banyai says a majority of the notes they receive say, "Thank you for thinking of us."

Slope County Economic Development Corporation

Marmarth is nestled in the southwestern part of the state and is Slope County's largest town. The town has a rich history of dinosaurs to the railroad. The Slope County Economic Development Corporation (EDC) is planning an upgrade to the Marmarth City Park. RDCF funds will help get the project going, says Brandi Marum, Slope County economic developer.

"Our first goal is to reseed," Marum says. "We have a group who has volunteered to help us with the landscaping."

Other projects that may be incorporated as the project progresses are a picnic area, updated signage and playground equipment.

"The park used to be so well utilized by the town, and we want to make it the main focus again," Marum says.

RDCF grant funds are awarded to electric cooperatives in the spring of the year and applications are gathered by the cooperative. The cooperative board of directors then reviews the applications before the applications are approved by RDCF. To learn more about the RDCF grant process, visit <https://slopeelectric.coop/rdfc>. ■



Congratulations

Anthony Larson was recently elected to the Basin Electric Power Cooperative board of directors, representing Slope Electric Cooperative's power supplier, Upper Missouri Power Cooperative. He has been a Slope Electric board director since 2010 and currently serves as vice president. Help us congratulate Anthony on his position to Basin Electric's board of directors!

MANAGER'S MESSAGE: Reflecting on 2024



Jason Bentz
Co-General Manager/
CEO

As December unfolds and we approach the end of the year, it's a fitting time to pause and reflect on the past months. This year has been one of growth, challenges and achievements, and we are deeply grateful for your continued support and partnership.

In a year filled with both triumphs and trials, your unwavering trust and engagement have been the cornerstone of our success. Because of you, our dedicated members, we can continue to provide reliable service and work toward a brighter future. Your involvement in our cooperative, whether through feedback, participation in events or simply being a valued

member, makes a significant difference in our journey.

We also want to extend our gratitude to our dedicated team members who work tirelessly behind the scenes. Their commitment and hard work ensure we meet our goals and address your needs with the utmost care and professionalism.

Looking ahead to the new year, we remain committed to serving you with dedication and enthusiasm. May this season bring you joy, peace and time to enjoy with loved ones. Thank you for being an essential part of our cooperative family. Your trust and support mean more to us than words can express.

We wish you a wonderful holiday season and a bright start to the new year. ■



Board director **Chip HJ Fischer** visits with member at the annual meeting.

Slope Electric Cooperative will be hosting two member appreciation meetings in 2025.

- Jan. 22 in Bowman at the 4 Seasons Pavilion
- Feb. 6 in Hettinger at the Armory

More information will be available soon.

MESSAGE FROM MEMBER RELATIONS: Join Nominating/Resolutions Committee



Brooke Waltner
Manager of Member Relations

At the upcoming Dec. 19 Slope Electric Cooperative board meeting, directors will appoint the Slope Electric Nominating/Resolutions Committee. This is your chance to play an active role in your cooperative's decision-making process!

Here's what you need to know

Representation: Each director appoints one member from his or her 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 January 2025 local pages of *North Dakota Living*.

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

The first meeting, scheduled at 10:30 a.m. Jan. 21, 2025, will provide insights into the committee's functions, including the policies that guide us in nominating qualified members. The second meeting, at 9 a.m. Feb. 27, 2025, is when the committee members 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 before Dec. 17. You can contact our office at 701-579-4191 or email us at comments@slopeelectric.coop. ■



ENTER YOUR YOUTH TOUR ERA

JUNE 15-21, 2025

1,800 students. 7 days. 1 unforgettable trip.

Join us on the adventure of a lifetime. On the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, you'll do it all. You'll explore monuments and museums, meet with members of Congress and get an up-close look at where our country's laws are crafted. You'll stand on the Gettysburg Battlefield, walk the halls of George Washington's iconic 18th-century mansion and witness ceremonies honoring the men and women who fought in uniform for this great nation. For one jam-packed week, you'll be immersed in the cooperative spirit that built and sustains our great nation. And **all expenses are paid** by your local electric cooperative!

Yeah, Youth Tour hits different.




HONORING @WWII MEMORIAL



Learn more at
slopeelectric.coop/youth-tour



2025 SCHOLARSHIPS

DEADLINE: JAN. 31, 2025

**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.

**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.

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.



**Applications can be filled out online at slopeelectric.coop
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.

MESSAGE FROM OPERATIONS: Review of 2024



Dean Volk

*Chief of Staff/
Operations Manager*

Throughout 2024, Slope Electric Cooperative crews worked to improve system reliability by maintaining and upgrading electrical infrastructure, such as poles and substations. Before work begins each year, the engineering staff at the Innovative Energy Alliance Cooperative, a cooperative we are member-owners of, develops a work plan using historical information from pole testing and line patrol as well as priorities from our operations team.

This year, crews changed out poles, installed new services and conducted substation maintenance.

At the start of the year, Slope Electric line technicians conducted line patrol and made preparations for spring construction. In addition, crews were available for storm restoration or mutual aid. We were able to assist other cooperatives during the new year, as Slope Electric sent a few lineworkers to assist Dakota Valley Electric Cooperative and KEM Electric Cooperative in the southeastern part of the state after an extreme ice storm.

Once the ground thawed in the spring, crews began to change out hundreds of poles identified as needing to be replaced due to factors such as age and clearance issues. Spring and summer are a busy time for crews, as they also work to upgrade and install services for homes, pasture wells, grain storage and oil production. To ensure substations receive, transform and distribute electrical services in a safe, efficient manner across the service territory, inspections, testing and maintenance were also completed.

With the dry summer and fall, the Slope Electric crews had minimal summer outages due to thunderstorms, but did have a few fire restoration projects. Due to the extremely dry conditions, crews took extra precautions to prevent fires while out working around the service area. Each cooperative vehicle, including the line trucks, are equipped with fire suppression gear and line crews are informed about its use.



*Operations Manager **Dean Volk** (left) and **Jeff Boynton**, outpost working foreman, collaborate at a job site.*

As we look to the next few weeks of 2024, you may spot Slope Electric line crews conducting annual line inspections. If you see them, feel free to give them a wave or say hello, but keep a safe distance, as they may be working on energized line.

Also, as a friendly reminder, if you see any cooperative equipment that looks unsafe and should be assessed by the cooperative, be sure to give the office a call at 701-579-4191 or 800-559-4191. We hope outages are few and far between this winter, but we want to encourage you to report outages through SmartHub or by calling the office.

Thank you for your support throughout 2024. We look forward to ensuring safe and reliable electric services for you all in 2025! ■

SAFETY STARTS WITH ME: Holiday safety

As the holiday season progresses, we will soon be joining our family and friends to celebrate the final holidays of the year. This time of year brings joy and warmth, but as the weather gets cooler and we spend more time indoors, the holidays can also bring increased energy use and a higher risk of electrical and fire hazards.

“As your local electric cooperative, our team at Slope Electric Cooperative cares about your wellbeing,” says Mark Frank, a line technician. “With that in mind, here are a few practical tips to help you stay safe and efficient during the holiday season.”

Safety first

- Before decorating begins, remember to always check electrical cords and light strands to make sure they aren't frayed or damaged.
- It is recommended to double check the holiday lights used outside are rated for outdoor use.
- Remember to test your smoke alarms often due to increased cooking and candle enjoyment this time of year.

'Tis the season for savings

- The thermostat is one of the best places for savings, since heating and cooling make up the majority of home energy consumption. Lower the thermostat a few degrees, especially when you have family or friends stopping by.



- Decorate with LED holiday lights. LEDs are the most energy-efficient lighting options available, and they last much longer than traditional bulbs.
- When cooking this holiday season, remember smaller countertop appliances, such as air fryers and slow cookers, consume a fraction of the energy used to heat an oven.

From your friends at Slope Electric, we hope your holiday season is merry and bright. ■

Heading south for the winter?



Are you planning on spending the winter in the sun? Be sure to sign up for SmartHub and complete the notification section to receive important cooperative updates, such as planned power outages and bill reminders, while you are away!

By doing so, 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 tab 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 Cooperative has your current contact information. To verify your telephone number or email address, or request an update, call us at 800-559-4191. You can also update your account information on SmartHub.

Slope Electric also has a Facebook and Instagram page. Please like and follow to stay up to date on timely cooperative and community news. Thank you for staying in touch and helping us keep you informed.

SLOPE ELECTRIC BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS: SEPT. 26

The regular meeting of the board of directors of Slope Electric Cooperative was held on Sept. 26 at the cooperative's headquarters in New England. President Steven Wegner called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. A quorum was present. Slope Electric 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/Operations Manager Dean Volk, Member Relations Manager Brooke Waltner and Board Liaison Connie Hill. Alison Deelstra with National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) was present as a guest.

Consent agenda: There were several proposed amendments to the consent agenda. The consent agenda was approved as amended.

Strategic/action: Bentz and Kupper presented the co-general managers' report, which included updates on the North Dakota Industry Summit, Basin Electric Power Cooperative's Region

5-6 meeting and more. Several Basin Electric reports, and West Dakota Utility Services and 3C Construction updates were available for review.

Department reports: Craigmile provided a financial and statistical report. Volk provided a report, including new projects on which the crews have been working and maintenance. Waltner provided a report, including member applications and annual meeting information. Chief Information Officer Charlie Dunbar provided a written report for the board. Grosz provided a legal report.

Action items: Action items were reviewed and resolved.

Discussion/general information: Deelstra presented a CFC update to the board. The board conducted an annual review of board policy and discussed strategic planning.

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

Next meeting date: The next meeting is at 10 a.m. on Dec. 19 in New England. ■



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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

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