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THIS ISSUE:

- Ways to stay informed
- Serving your community
- Youth programs available
- Winter storm safety

**JANUARY
2026**

POWER UP YOUR FUTURE: COOPERATIVE SCHOLARSHIPS NOW AVAILABLE

As a proud member of our community, Slope Electric Cooperative is committed to supporting our local schools and empowering the next generation. As the school year continues, we want to remind you about cooperative scholarship opportunities Slope Electric is offering this year.

Each year, Slope Electric partners with one of our power suppliers, Basin Electric Power Cooperative (Basin Electric), to provide one high school senior with a monetary scholarship. This year, Basin Electric will be offering a \$2,500 scholarship to an area senior. We are excited to announce that in addition we are offering a \$1,500 scholarship which will be awarded to the second-place contestant from the Basin Electric Scholarship.

Additionally, as owners of 3C Construction and West Dakota Diesel and Hydraulics, we have a few other scholarship opportunities to share. These scholarships are geared towards those who are planning to pursue

technical career paths. A \$500 scholarship sponsored by 3C Construction will be awarded to a Slope Electric student pursuing a career as a lineworker. West Dakota Diesel and Hydraulics will award a \$500 scholarship to a Slope Electric student pursuing a career as a mechanic.

To further support educational pursuits, \$4,000 in Luck-of-the-Draw Scholarships will be awarded at our Annual Meeting on June 4, 2026 in Amidon. These Luck-of-the-Draw Scholarships are designed to support students of all ages as they further their education and pursue their career goals.

We believe in investing in the future, and these scholarships reflect our commitment to empowering the next generation of leaders. For more information and to apply for these scholarships, visit our website slopeelectric.coop or call our office and visit with Brooke. ■

SCHOLARSHIPS NOW AVAILABLE!

**THE APPLICATION DEADLINE
IS ON JAN. 30.**

Scan the QR code or visit
slopeelectric.coop for more
information and to apply.



MANAGER'S MESSAGE:

Easy ways to stay informed



Travis Kupper

Co-General Manager/CEO

Happy New Year! As we step into 2026, we want to take a moment to look at the many ways we stay connected to you, our members. Our goal is to make it simple and convenient for you to stay connected with what matters most. Whether it's a planned outage, severe weather response, board decisions or program updates, we offer several ways to keep you in the loop.

Website: Our website serves as an information hub for members. On our website, you can find information ranging from outage maps and payment options to cooperative news.

Social media: Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for real-time updates, outage alerts, and stories about our employees and community.

Print newsletter: Every month, members who receive a physical bill also receive our print newsletter, which highlights co-op news, programs and engaging infographics that spotlight the topics and issues you care about most. If you have paperless billing, you can also find the print newsletter in your SmartHub account.

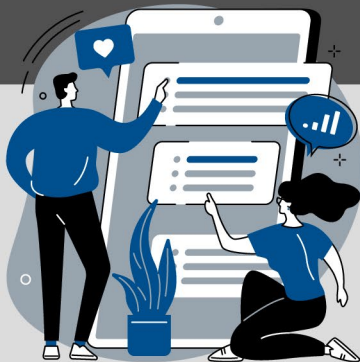
E-newsletter: Our monthly e-newsletter delivers cooperative news and helpful tips straight to your inbox! Our e-newsletter includes a member-focused

question-and-answer section, program updates, and relevant state and national news. If you are not currently receiving the e-newsletter, call our office to update your email or update it within SmartHub.

North Dakota Living and local pages: You may often see us refer to articles in *North Dakota Living* as our local pages. Starting on C1 in *North Dakota Living*, you'll find updates on what's happening at your cooperative from operations and member services, along with safety tips, board meeting highlights and member stories that celebrate our community.

SmartHub: Available on the web, smartphones and tablets, SmartHub lets you pay your bill, track your energy use and receive the latest co-op news right at your fingertips. Within SmartHub, you can also report an outage without ever having to make a call. Sign up for timely notifications about outages and planned maintenance through SmartHub.

Staying plugged in helps you get the most out of your membership, because this cooperative belongs to you. If you ever have questions or need assistance accessing any of these tools, please don't hesitate to reach out. We're always here to help. ■



WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU.

Your voice, your impact! Participate in our member satisfaction survey and play a vital role in shaping the future of our services. If you receive a paper statement, you will get your member survey in the February billing statement. More information regarding the survey will be available in February.

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD: Power in your hands



Angela Carlson
Board President

Serving on a local board like Slope Electric Cooperative is one of the most effective ways to make a lasting impact in your community. Your Slope Electric directors and I play a crucial role in shaping decisions that affect Slope Electric's members' lives every day.

At its core, serving as a board director means using your skills, experience and perspective to help Slope Electric achieve its mission.

Slope Electric's mission is: **To make electric energy available to its members at the lowest cost consistent with sound economy and good management.**

As directors we provide oversight, ensure accountability, and help set the strategic direction that guides Slope Electric's future.

Local leadership and transparency are the foundation of our success. That's why serving as a director is such an important role—and why I encourage anyone interested to consider running for a seat on our board. Directors play a direct part in shaping our cooperative's future and ensuring meeting our members' needs. As directors, we must always remember our role includes the following:

- **Understand the mission and goals:** Every action the board takes should align with the mission. When directors are grounded in the "why," they can make better choices about the "how."
- **Actively participate in monthly board meetings:** Regular attendance and participation in meetings are essential. An effective board member listens thoughtfully, contributes ideas, and supports collective decisions once they're made.
- **Represent Slope Electric in affiliated organizations:** Two directors regularly attend several meetings annually of other organizations owned by Slope Electric, ensuring our members' interests are represented. Directors also attend additional meetings and events.
- **Uphold fiduciary and ethical responsibilities:** Board directors are entrusted with overseeing Slope Electric's financial health and ensuring that resources are used responsibly. This includes understanding budgets, monitoring performance,

and maintaining transparency. Acting with integrity and avoiding conflicts of interest are central to earning our member's trust.

- **Support the executive leadership:** Strong boards work in partnership with Slope Electric's co-managers and staff. The board provides oversight and guidance, not day-to-day management. Respecting this boundary allows staff to lead effectively while ensuring accountability and support from the board.
- **Advocate and build connections:** Board members serve as ambassadors in the community. We share the Slope Electric's story, help build partnerships, and connect potential donors, volunteers and collaborators.
- **Commit to continuous learning:** The best directors never stop learning. Attend training sessions, stay informed about trends in governance and community issues, and be open to feedback. Growth and adaptability strengthen both the board and Slope Electric.

Directors typically dedicate approximately three days per month to their responsibilities. Slope Electric appreciates this commitment by reimbursing travel expenses and offering compensation for the time spent representing Slope Electric.

Before joining any board, it's important to understand what the role entails and how you can contribute effectively. This includes learning about the mission and governance structure, understanding your legal and ethical responsibilities and committing the time and energy needed to fulfill your duties. With preparation and passion, serving as a board director can be one of the most rewarding ways to give back and strengthen your community.

If you are interested, please attend one of our membership appreciation events and visit with your Slope Electric directors, or call the staff at our cooperative to learn more.

Please know that you—the members of Slope Electric—are at the heart of everything we do. This co-op was created for you, the members. I consider it an honor and a privilege to serve as one of your Slope Electric directors and I hope you will consider serving should you feel the call.

MESSAGE FROM MEMBER SERVICES: Join board of directors



Brooke Waltner

Chief of Staff/ Manager
of Member Relations

As we prepare for our 2026 annual meeting, we would like to share information about the board positions up for election within Slope Electric Cooperative's board of directors.

At the 2026 annual meeting, the following positions will be elected:

- District 1: Angela Carlson – Hettinger County
- District 1: Charlotte Meier – Hettinger County
- District 2: Steven Wegner – Adams County

As a potential board member, you will have the chance to contribute to Slope Electric's direction and decisions. Some of the responsibilities include:

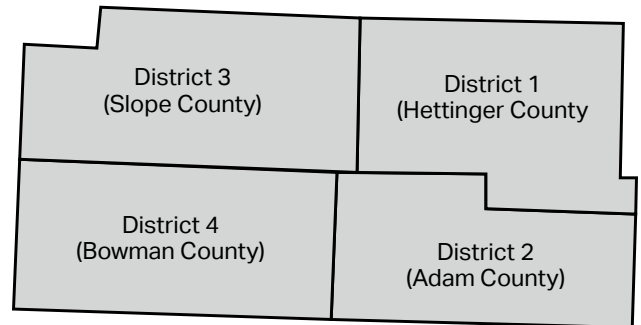
- **Monthly board meetings:** The board convenes once a month to discuss and decide on matters crucial to our cooperative's operations, development and growth.
- **Ongoing training opportunities:** Continuous learning is crucial. Board members have access to training sessions to enhance their knowledge and skills in governance and utility management.

A director's commitment to the cooperative is highly valued, so Slope Electric compensates directors for their time and travel expenses.

If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity or know someone who might be a perfect fit, we invite you to attend our upcoming membership appreciation events from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Jan. 29 in Mott and from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. on Feb. 26 in Reeder. These events will provide an excellent platform to meet with our current directors, ask questions, and gain a deeper understanding of the responsibilities and expectations associated with serving on the board.

Your engagement and participation are vital to the success and representation of all communities within Slope Electric. Join us in making an impactful difference for our cooperative and community.

For more details or inquiries, please contact Brooke Waltner at 701-579-4191, the Nominating Committee or current directors. ■



Slope Electric's district map

Join **MEMBER APPRECIATION** -US- **OPEN HOUSE**

Come enjoy a delicious meal on behalf of Slope Electric and visit with our board of directors, CEOs and staff as well as other members. Members will also receive a FREE gift.



**11:30 A.M.- 1 P.M. ON
JAN. 29**



**Can't make it? Join us in Reeder from
4:30- 6:30 p.m. on Feb. 26 at the
Dakota Prairie Enrichment Center**



KC HALL, MOTT



ENTER YOUR YOUTH TOUR ERA



WASHINGTON MONUMENT



#GETTYSBURG



JUNE 14-20, 2026

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.*

Learn more at ndyouthtour.com.

To enter the essay-writing contest:

- You must be a sophomore or junior in high school.
- You and your parents or guardian must be served by Slope Electric Cooperative.

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?

The application deadline is Jan. 16, 2026.

Questions? Please contact Brooke Waltner, Slope Electric Cooperative, at 701-579-2252 during regular business hours.

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.



MESSAGE FROM OPERATIONS: **Planned cooperative projects**



Andrew Sonsalla

Operations Manager

As we look ahead into 2026, Slope Electric Cooperative is committed to bringing additional reliability and safety to our system. A team of engineers and operations employees from Slope Electric have thoughtfully planned to ensure seamless execution of the upcoming projects.

A few of these projects include cooperative infrastructure upgrades and maintenance, technology installation and service upgrades.

SCADA acts as a remote monitoring and control system within our substations, allowing for enhanced service throughout Slope Electric's service area for isolating issues, outage detection and enhanced safety.

New services and upgrades

Throughout the year, our crews will continue to plan and install new services as well as complete service upgrades to meet member needs.

Whether you plan to build a new house, install a grain bin or have other plans that need electric services, be sure to call our office. By contacting us in the early stages of the planning process, we can help provide guidance and analyze your projected electric service requirements as well as service availability and potential costs.

Infrastructure upgrades and maintenance

In late 2025, pole testing contractors wrapped up testing 6,095 utility poles in Slope Electric's territory. Of the utility poles that were tested 217 need to be replaced. Crews will be working on replacing these utility poles throughout the coming months as weather allows.

Line crews will continue to patrol and maintain distribution and transmission lines and flag and update areas that need attention throughout the winter months.

Technology installation

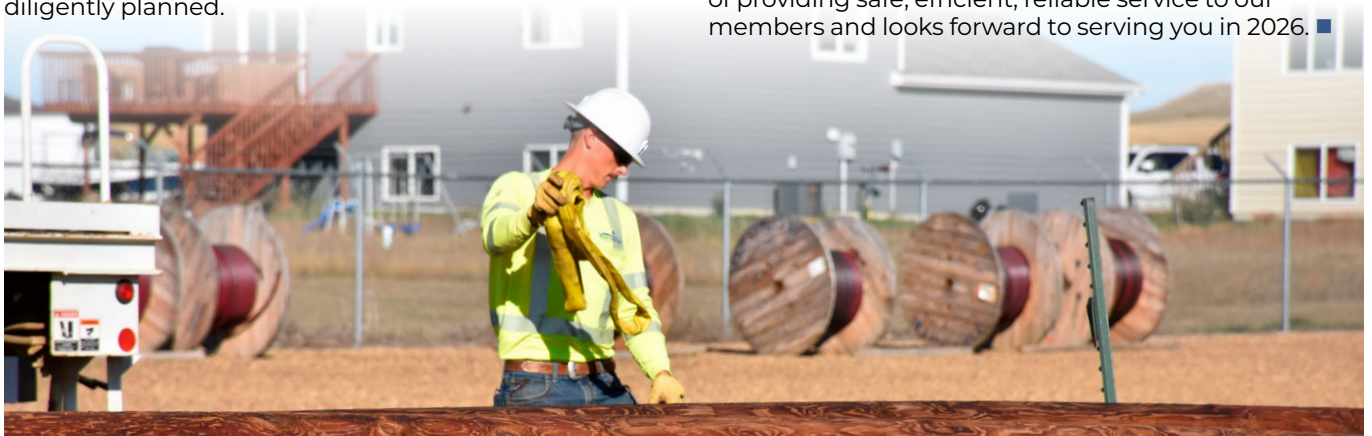
A plan to install supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) compatible technology within Slope Electric's substations has been diligently planned.

Substation maintenance

In the spring, Slope Electric plans to begin working on replacing 14 miles of aged three-phase overhead power line with three-phase underground cable out of the New England Substation. Additionally, crews are planning to install 4 miles of new underground tie lines in three different locations from the New England and Cedar Butte substations. This tie line installation will allow for nearly 13 miles of aged overhead power line to be retired. Installing underground cable from substations helps enhance reliability to the system and members.

We would like to remind members to report outages by calling 800-559-4191. This information helps us assess where the cause of the outage may have originated.

Slope Electric continues to focus on the goal of providing safe, efficient, reliable service to our members and looks forward to serving you in 2026. ■



SAFETY STARTS WITH ME: Winter storm safety



Mark Frank

Line Technician

Snow, ice and high winds are often an inevitable part of the winter on the prairie. These conditions can have an impact on our electric infrastructure, which may lead to power outages.

"When the weather turns rough and the lights go out, we know it can be unsettling," says Mark Frank, line technician. "Out here at Slope Electric Cooperative, our crew is geared up and ready to roll. We'll work around the clock to

get the power back on safely and as quickly as we can."

During uncertain times like power outages, it is important to be prepared and stay safe. Here are some tips to keep in mind before, during and after an outage.

- **Make a storm kit.** Having a few items on hand is better than nothing at all. Include items such as water, nonperishable foods, blankets, a first-aid kit, flashlights and extra batteries. Keep in mind

all households may be different and make the kit applicable to you. Place all items in a storage box, so all the items are in one place for easy access if the power goes out.

- **Report outages.** In the event of an outage, it is important all outages are reported. This helps cooperative employees understand the issue and send a crew to restore the outage. Report an outage by calling 800-559-4191.
- **Use generators safely.** If you plan to use a portable generator as a power source, be sure the generator is located outside your house for proper ventilation. It is also important to follow the manufacturer's directions for operating the generator.
- **Never approach or touch a downed power line.** Always assume all wires on the ground are electrically charged. Call us to report the downed power line immediately.

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. Additionally, rest assured knowing Slope Electric employees are working as efficiently and safely as they can to restore power to your home. ■

Statement of nondiscrimination

Slope Electric Cooperative is a recipient of federal assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). In accordance with federal civil rights law and USDA civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its agencies, offices, employees and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible

agency or USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD3027, found online at usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call 866-632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by:

1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave., SW Washington, DC 20250-9410

2) fax: 202-690-7442

3) email: program.intake@usda.gov

Slope Electric is an equal opportunity provider.



SLOPE ELECTRIC BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS OCT. 30

The regular meeting of the board of directors of Slope Electric Cooperative was held on Oct. 30 at the cooperative's office in New England. President Angela Carlson called the meeting to order at 8:03 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, Operations Manager Andrew Sonsalla, Member Relations Manager Brooke Waltner 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 Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Upper Missouri Power Cooperative, load expansion and other items. Several additional Basin Electric reports and board documents were available for review.

Department reports: Craigmile provided a financial report, which

included an executive summary and other items. Sonsalla provided an operations report that included updates on current crew projects, such as tree trimming, line maintenance, new service installations and other related tasks. Waltner provided a member relations report on cooperative programs and 2026 member meetings. Chief Information Officer Charlie Dunbar provided a written information technology report. Grosz provided a legal counsel report on the status of her projects.

Action items: The board reviewed and resolved various items.

Discussion/general information:

The board discussed the preliminary capital budget, upcoming National Rural Electric Cooperative Association programs and other items.

Executive session: The board entered an executive session during the meeting.

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 Jan. 29 in Mott. ■



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Fax: 701-579-4193

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comments@slopeelectric.coop
UNDERGROUND LINE LOCATES
800-795-0555 or 811

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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to learn timely co-op news!

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