



Power for Generations: Members attend 2022 annual meeting

Members gathered and enjoyed live music, a pulled pork supper and the company of one another at the Slope County fairgrounds for the 2022 annual meeting.

“We were founded when neighbors worked together to bring electricity to our rural and underserved areas. Back then, there were frequent meetings among neighbors to discuss the formation of the cooperative, and once established, annual meetings were the must-attend event of the year,” Travis Kupper, co-general manager, noted in his address to the membership.

This year, over 200 people were in attendance which included 96 registered members. After enjoying a complimentary meal provided by the Amidon First Responders, members attended the annual business meeting, during which directors were elected, bylaw changes were made and prizes were won!

Board elections, reports

Slope Electric depends on the guidance and perspective of its members and board to help set priorities for the co-op and guide governance decisions. At the annual meeting, Slope Electric raised issues for voting consideration by the general membership.

Slope Electric Cooperative Inc.

OUTLOOK

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The board of directors is comprised of members who live and work in our service area, and they are in a position to know where community investments are most needed. The membership fulfilled cooperative principle No. 2, democratic member control, by voting to fill the board positions held by Anthony Larson from Adams County, Jerry Caron from Bowman County and Chip Fischer from Bowman County.

The members also approved a bylaw amendment.

Chief Financial Officer Alex Craigmile presented the financial report to the membership. He said Brady Martz & Associates P.C. audited the 2021 financial statements of Slope Electric, and presented their report to the board of directors.

“As we look to the future, we are confident in our ability to serve our members. As we continue to see our world become more electrified, we

are prepared to power future generations, as our overall energy consumption grows,” Kupper said during the cooperative update.

Giving back to the membership

Laurie Braaten shared what Operation Round Up accomplished in 2021. Through the Operation Round Up program, Slope Electric members can voluntarily choose to round up their monthly utility bills to the next dollar and donate their pennies. The Operation Round Up board members, who are also Slope Electric members, meet and disburse funds in the form of grants. Braaten noted Operation Round Up has awarded grants to worthy nonprofit corporations, organizations and agencies in the Slope Electric service area. Braaten encouraged members to apply or let other nonprofits know about the opportunity.

In addition to Operation Round Up, Slope



also gives back to local high school seniors with scholarships.

“Slope Electric is dedicated to the development of young leaders within our service area. Slope Electric annually awards one \$500 scholarship to a graduating senior from each of the high schools within its service area, whose parents are members of Slope Electric,” said Brooke Waltner, manager of member relations. Waltner recognized the following scholarship winners, who were chosen by faculty members from each respective school:

- Bowman County High School: Andrea Rodakowski
- Mott-Regent High School: Teegan Nelson
- Hettinger High School: Cassie Kindsfater
- New England High School: Chevy Dhamers
- Lemmon High School: Cord Beer
- Scranton High School: Brian Bartholmy

In addition, the \$1,000 scholarship sponsored

by Basin Electric Power Cooperative was awarded to Madison Wilson.

At the end of the meeting, Slope Electric awarded two luck-of-the-draw student scholarships to students who had registered for the meeting and attended with a parent. The goal of these scholarships is to encourage the younger generation to attend and learn about the cooperative business model of one member, one vote – and to show how their voices and votes will count. Recipients included Dhamers and Wilson.

The board of directors, co-general managers and staff at Slope Electric Cooperative wish to thank our members for participating in the annual meeting of the membership and look forward to meeting your electrical needs in the future. ■

Slope Electric awards scholarships to graduates

Slope Electric Cooperative is pleased to announce the 2021-22 student scholarship winners, whose families are member-owners of Slope Electric. In the spirit of the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives value of commitment to community, Slope Electric is proud to offer yearly scholarships to assist in developing rural leadership in our region.

Slope Electric/Basin Electric scholarship

The winner of the Basin Electric Power Cooperative/ Slope Electric scholarship award is **Madison Wilson**. She will receive a \$1,000 scholarship in the fall of 2022. Madison is the daughter of Wayne and Jodi Wilson. Madison will be attending the University of North Dakota.

Slope Electric high school scholarships

As part of our commitment to community and area youth, Slope Electric is pleased to also award one \$500 scholarship to a graduating senior from each of the high schools within our service area:

- Bowman County High School chose **Andrea Rodakowski**, daughter of Luke and Angie Rodakowski. Andrea will be attending Bismarck State College (BSC) to pursue an elementary education degree..
- Mott-Regent High School chose **Teegan Nelson**, daughter of Justin Nelson and Dawn Parkin-Nelson. Teegan will be attending Dickinson State University to pursue a nursing degree.
- Hettinger High School chose **Cassie Kindsfater**, daughter of Kortney and Katy Kindsfater. Cassie will be attending BSC to pursue a diagnostic medical sonography degree.
- New England High School chose **Chevy Dhamers**, son of Justin and Tracy Dhamers. Chevy will be attending BSC to pursue an education degree..
- Lemmon High School chose **Cord Beer**, son of Ryan and Jacki Beer. Cord will be attending



Madison Wilson



Andrea Rodakowski



Teegan Nelson



Cassie Kindsfater



Chevy Dhamers



Cord Beer

Southern Utah University to pursue a career as a commercial helicopter pilot. Scranton High School chose **Brian Bartholmy**, son of Roger Bartholmy. Brian will be attending Valley City State University to pursue a degree in exercise science.



Brian Bartholmy

3C Construction and West Dakota Utility Services generously extended a \$500 scholarship to each of its owners this year, including Slope Electric. The intention of the scholarship is to provide support to students entering into a lineworker program or mechanic program at a certified vocational or technical school. We have incorporated this scholarship into our current scholarship program, which allows Slope to offer two more scholarship awards to our member-dependents. No qualifying applications were submitted.

Thank you to all the students who took the time to apply, and congratulations to this year's winners! Slope Electric is proud to play a small role in supporting your educations and careers. ■

Manager's message:

Electricity brings value every day



Travis Kupper

Even though I work in the energy industry, like most people, I still don't think much about the electricity I use. I expect the lights to turn on when I flip the switch and the coffeemaker to work each morning. Because electricity is so abundant, we don't think much about it. The only time we really think about electricity is

when the power goes out or perhaps when the monthly bill arrives.

Given how electricity powers our modern lifestyle every day, it's a great value, especially when compared to other common services and expenses. For example, think back to the cost of a gallon of gasoline 20 years ago. Consider the cost of groceries or a cup of your favorite specialty coffee from a few years ago. In comparison, the cost of electricity has remained largely flat, unlike most other consumer goods.

Like many of you, I have a cellphone to stay connected, and I subscribe to cable channels so I can enjoy more viewing options. Many of us consider these necessities for modern life. We can see what we're getting for our money, and we pay the price for those services. In contrast, when we use electricity, we don't necessarily "see" all that we're getting for our money.

But considering what electricity does for us,

it's a tremendous value for our quality of life and our budgets. For comparison, consider that the average rent increase was nearly 4% (from 2014-19) according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index (CPI). The cost of medical care was increased 3% during this time, and education was not too far behind at 2.6%. So, where did electricity rank? According to the CPI, electricity increased by less than half a percentage point, 0.4%.

The bottom line: Electricity brings value every day. Considering electricity is something we all use around the clock, I'm very proud of our track record. At the same time, we are striving to increase our service reliability, reduce those brief interruptions and reduce costs. We are continually working to improve our operations to ensure a smarter grid and are exploring more renewable energy options where possible.

Slope Electric Cooperative provides the reliable service you expect and deserve as valued members of the co-op. And as your trusted energy advisor, we want to help you save you energy and save money.

If you have questions about your account or are looking for ways to save energy at home, please give us a call. Slope Electric is your electric co-op and our sole purpose is to serve you and the needs of our community. That's every-day value. ■

Report from **THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Regular meeting held at the Slope Electric office in New England

- Approved agenda
- Approved minutes from previous meeting
- Heard co-general managers/CEOs update
- Heard CFO report
- Approved audited financial report
- Heard the attorney report
- Reviewed Basin Electric Power Cooperative report
- Reviewed board member reports
- Heard operation report, including storm damage update
- Heard member relations summary
- Discussed strategic planning

Safety Starts with ME: **Dusty Hoff**

“Agriculture is the backbone of our country, and our livelihood greatly depends on the crops provided by American farmers,” said Dusty Hoff, area foreman. “In addition to being one of the most labor-intensive professions, farming is also considered one of the most dangerous jobs in the United States.”

The hard work and exhaustive labor are tough, but rushing the job to save time can be extremely dangerous – even deadly – when farming near electrical equipment. Every year, we see collisions where tractors and other farming equipment accidentally collide with utility poles and power lines, causing injuries and power outages.

“One critical part of safety around electricity is awareness,” Hoff explained. “It’s important to remember that farm machinery is vulnerable to hitting power lines, because of its large size, height and extensions. Being aware of the location of overhead power lines and planning a safe equipment route can help reduce accidents.”

If you’re preparing for harvest season, please keep the following safety tips in mind:

- Maintain a 10-foot clearance around all utility equipment in all directions.
- Use a spotter and deployed flags to maintain safe distances from power lines and other electrical equipment when working in the field.
- If your equipment comes into contact with an energized or downed power line, contact 911 immediately and remain inside the vehicle



until the power line is deenergized. In case of smoke or fire, exit the cab by making a solid jump out of the cab (without touching it), and hop away to safety.

- Consider equipment and cargo extensions of your vehicle. Lumber, hay, tree limbs, irrigation pipes and even bulk materials can conduct electricity, so keep them out of contact with electrical equipment.

We hope you never find yourself in a situation where farming equipment contacts power lines or poles, but if you do, we hope you’ll remember these safety tips. ■

Protect your livelihood – and your life!

Stacking hay under electrical lines can be dangerous, potentially deadly and could send your cattle’s feed up in smoke.

When stacking hay, it is best practice not to do so under a power line. If you must, be sure there is over 10 feet of clearance between the

neutral line and the top of your hay bales. Due to the warmer weather, lines are more likely to sag, making it more likely to come into contact.

If you back your equipment into a guy wire and a pole bends or breaks, or if you hit an overhead line with the loader, the line could fall on the hay

and ignite. The hay you need to feed your cattle – and the provisions you made to feed your family – just went up in smoke.

And that could be the best-case scenario. If you or your equipment comes into contact with a power line, you could receive an electric shock that could cause injury and even death. Not to mention that having hay too close to a power line could be dangerous if children are climbing on top of the bales.

Protect your livelihood and your life and stay away from power lines and poles. If you do make

contact with a power line, call 911. Remain seated, warn others to stay away, and wait for Slope Electric Cooperative lineworkers to deenergize the lines. Do not move from the equipment.

To report system damage that is not in need of immediate repair, call Slope Electric Cooperative at 800-559-4191 or email safety@SlopeElectric.coop. If you send an email, please include the location, your name and contact information, and a photo if possible.

Members, your safety matters. Working together helps ensure the safety of all! ■

RDFC grant awarded to Adams County Rodeo



Each year, \$2,000 is allotted to Slope Electric Cooperative from the Rural Development Finance Corporation (RDFC) to be used to support community-owned entities, nonprofits and community-based projects.

In 2021, four community organizations received funds, including the Hettinger Area Chamber of Commerce, which received \$500 to make necessary improvements to the Adams County Rodeo grounds. Additions included panels and gates to improve the flow of rodeo livestock and participants, and to improve the safety of the rodeo volunteers.

“For over 10 years, we have been making changes to improve our rodeo,” said Jacki Price, rodeo volunteer. “Piece-by-piece, we are making improvements, and the back pens are the last

piece of the puzzle.”

For years, the Hettinger Chamber of Commerce has hired a contractor who drove to Hettinger, set up the back panels, then took them down.

“Without the appropriate panels, we are unable to host rodeos,” said Jasmin Fosheim, executive director at the Hettinger Chamber of Commerce. Thankfully, the Chamber ensured funding to help purchase the panels.

“We are so grateful for the support of the organizations who have given to this project, including Slope Electric,” she said.

The Adams County Rodeo will take place Aug. 6. ■





Explore it, adore it and save!

In partnership with the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation, Slope Electric Cooperative is once again making excursions to Medora more affordable for families.

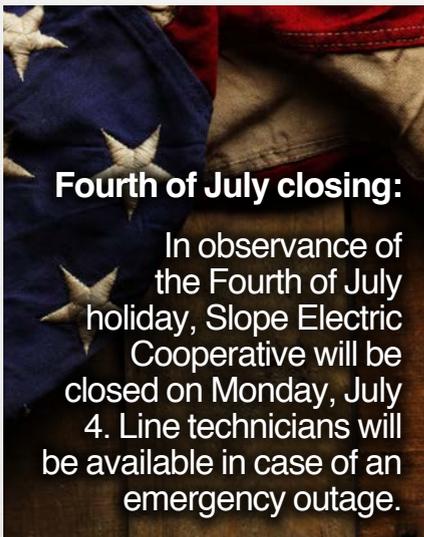
This summer, our members are eligible for a 15% discount off the following reservations:

- Tickets to the Medora Musical
- Pitchfork Steak Fondue
- Bully Pulpit Golf Course

Lodging at any of the following:

- Elkhorn Quarters
- Badlands Motel
- Rough Riders Hotel

To make your reservations and claim your savings, call **1-800-MEDORA-1** and provide the discount code: **Touch2022**.



Fourth of July closing:

In observance of the Fourth of July holiday, Slope Electric Cooperative will be closed on Monday, July 4. Line technicians will be available in case of an emergency outage.

**KX/CO-OP DAY
at the N.D. State Fair
July 27 in Minot**

If you plan to attend the North Dakota State Fair on July 27, you are eligible to receive reduced-price tickets for \$1 off gate admission, \$5 off daily unlimited-ride wristbands for carnival rides, and \$1 off Ranch Rodeo admission and a free ice cream social at 2 p.m. at the KX/co-op tent. Give us a call at the office at 701-663-0297, 701-597-3301 or 1-800-750-8212, and we will hook you up with tickets!



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- Angela Carlson, Secretary
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- Lauren Klewin, Director
- Jerome Caron, Director
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