

## EMPOWERING RURAL YOUTH: **McKitrick selected for Youth Tour**

BY ISABELLA FILIPI

Each year, Slope Electric Cooperative looks forward to announcing the high school sophomore or junior who has been selected to attend the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in Washington, D.C. This opportunity provides these blossoming students with the chance to explore our nation's capital and build relationships with fellow students from across the United States.

Sen. Lyndon Johnson inspired the Youth Tour when he addressed the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association annual meeting in 1957. He envisioned the trip as a chance to broaden the horizons of high school students living in rural areas and further educate them about America's system of government.

Now, this weeklong trip awards students with firsthand exposure to some of the best historical monuments in Washington, D.C., and a better understanding of the structure and importance of electric cooperatives, all while establishing new and lasting friendships.

Slope Electric is proud to sponsor one of the 1,800 participating students from across rural America on this all-expense-paid trip annually. Congratulations to Landon McKitrick for being named the Youth Tour winner from Slope Electric. Read his winning essay here and on Slope Electric's website. A feature story



**Landon McKitrick**

in the August issue of *North Dakota Living* will delve into his unforgettable journey.

### **Meet Landon**

The son of Slope Electric members Joe and Carrie McKitrick, Landon is a sophomore at Bowman County High School. He enjoys helping his family on the farm, running cross-country, fishing, hunting and traveling to western Montana.

This is Landon's first trip to Washington, D.C., and he is "excited to see it all." Landon was prompted to apply for the Youth Tour by his dad and was further encouraged by the testimony of a previous Youth Tour winner who runs cross-country with him. Intrigued by the chance to delve deeper into American

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Slope Electric Cooperative Inc.

# OUTLOOK

116 E. 12th St. • New England, ND 58647 | 701-579-4191 • [www.slopeelectric.coop](http://www.slopeelectric.coop)

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history, Landon chose to focus his essay on the Industrial Revolution.

“I picked the Industrial Revolution, because seeing large operations and big advances in history are interesting and motivating to me,” he says.

### **Landon’s winning essay**

*If I could go back to one moment in American history, it would be the Industrial Revolution. The Industrial Revolution is a period between the late 19th and early 20th centuries when industrial advancements were made, such as technological innovations, factory-based production, expansion of industries, transportation revolution, an impact on agriculture and economic growth.*

*This topic is very intriguing, considering the amount of time I spend on the farm using numerous amounts of machinery in my everyday life. This machinery enables my family and I to complete our everyday chores faster, more efficiently and, most importantly, safer. Doing these daily tasks manually, which is what people had done prior to the historical inventions of the Industrial Revolution, is hard to imagine.*

*The inventions and improvements made during this time helped the country grow into the leading producer of much of the world’s commodities and created the infrastructure of our nation. Agriculture has never been so mechanically and technology driven as it is presently, and this can all be traced back to the intellects and entrepreneurs behind the Industrial Revolution.*

*I could have contributed to many things in that period if I had the opportunity, education and resources to do so. The first contribution I could have made would have been lending the manual labor to develop the advancements. Presently in my daily life, I enjoy working on the equipment we have on our place. I know with my high level of mechanical and electrical skills, along with my understanding of manuals and directions, would have made me a valuable asset to those inventors and entrepreneurs. Helping contribute to building and developing*

*equipment would have been an area where I would have thrived.*

*The second thing I feel I could have contributed to would have to be the actual blueprinting and development of the machines. I have always been fascinated with the thought process of designing these mechanisms and making them into reality. The complexity of seeing a need and creating a solution for that need has always driven me, and I believe I could have helped contribute ideas in this area based off my experience with taking apart and redesigning machinery to make them more efficient for our operation.*

*Being a part of such an industrial and economic growth period would have been honorable. The improvements in people’s way of life, especially farmers, is hard to measure. Farmers and ranchers were once looked down upon for the instability and speed of their occupations. However, toward the end of the revolution, tractors and other equipment were made, beginning with the portable steam engine and eventually the gas engine. Tractors that start every morning across this nation by farmers and ranchers to feed and clothe the world had their origins in the Industrial Revolution.*

*Farmers and ranchers were not only given the tools to plant, fertilize and harvest crops and care for livestock more efficiently, but they were also given a way to get them to market and manufacture those raw materials into consumer goods, advancing the country’s place in the world market.*

*To summarize, the Industrial Revolution was one of the most influential and inspiring periods of history and still has an impact to this day. It would have been an honor to be able to contribute to such an important part of history. As I worked on writing this essay, I got a sense of pride for being raised in rural North Dakota, because as I thought about all I would of wanted to contribute back then, I realized the industry and technology continue to evolve. I am excited to be part of its future and the impact it will continue to have on my family’s farm and my community. ■*

# Slope Electric announces scholarship winner

Each year, Slope Electric Cooperative awards outstanding high school seniors with scholarships toward their post-secondary educational pursuits. This is just one of the many ways Slope Electric embodies the commitment to giving back to our cooperative family and service area.

Slope Electric recognizes the personal and academic achievements of these students are made possible by their hard work, sacrifices and dedication to their goals. We believe these accomplishments deserve to be recognized and celebrated.

## Basin Electric/Slope Electric scholarship recipient

The winner of the \$1,000 scholarship provided by Basin Electric Power Cooperative is Bailey Urlacher, the daughter of Mary and Gregg Urlacher from Regent. Bailey is a senior at New England High School and plans to attend North Dakota State University for



*Bailey Urlacher*

agriculture education.

Congratulations, Bailey, and thank you to all students who applied for this year's scholarships. ■

## INVESTING IN SCHOLARS: Luck-of-the-Draw Scholarships



Students, there is still an opportunity to receive a scholarship from Slope Electric Cooperative! Prepare to elevate your educational journey with Slope Electric's Luck-of-the-Draw Scholarships! As we gather for Slope electric's Annual Meeting on June 6, we are excited to announce five scholarships will be awarded to students within our service area. Three deserving full-time students will each receive a \$1,000 scholarship, while two full- or part-time students will be awarded \$500 each.

### Who may be eligible?

- High school students enrolled in courses for college credits
- Individuals enrolled in part-time classes, such as online

- Students attending classes full time or part time in the fall

### Eligibility requirements

- The eligible attendee must be a Slope Electric member or dependent of a Slope Electric member.
- Must attend the annual meeting on June 6. If the qualifying student is a dependent of a Slope Electric member, he or she must be accompanied by the parent or guardian who is a member.
- Sign up for the scholarship when you arrive at the Annual Meeting.

As a commitment to fostering education within our service area, these scholarships are a testament to Slope Electric's dedication to supporting the academic pursuits of individuals.

"We believe in investing in the future, and these financial aids reflect our commitment to empowering the next generation of leaders," says Manager of Member Relations Brooke Waltner. "The Luck-of-the-Draw scholarships extend an invitation to all students, traditional or otherwise, offering support on their educational journey."

For more information, visit our website, [www.slopeelectric.coop/scholarships](http://www.slopeelectric.coop/scholarships). ■

## MANAGER'S MESSAGE:

# Make your voice heard at the 2024 Annual Meeting



**Travis Kupper**

Slope Electric Cooperative is excited to extend an invitation to our upcoming Annual Meeting, a cornerstone event that highlights the essence of our cooperative model and the impact of member engagement on our community. Each year, we look forward to Slope Electric's Annual Meeting. You, the members we serve, always bring value to the discussion, and I know our cooperative

team is energized by these interactions.

We are not just an ordinary utility company. We are a cooperative deeply rooted in serving our members and the communities we call home. Our core purpose is to provide safe, reliable and affordable electric service, but our mission goes beyond electricity.

We are driven by a commitment to our members. If you've never attended the Annual Meeting, I'd encourage you to participate. Why? Because input from members like you matters and helps drive the direction of the cooperative. At the Annual Meeting, we report on current initiatives and discuss the financial health and priorities for the coming years. And, equally important, this is an opportunity for Slope Electric to hear from you.

### You have the power

This is also a time to vote for new directors who will represent you and our community's interests on the cooperative's board. As a member of Slope Electric, you have the power to help shape our community's energy future.

Electric cooperatives are democratically controlled by the members we serve, which means you have a say in who governs our cooperative. By voting in the annual director election, you can select the leaders who will make important decisions about the future of the cooperative and our local energy needs.

Slope Electric's board of directors are community-

mindful individuals with different skillsets. We rely on them to help us make more informed decisions on long-term priorities and investments. Slope Electric has eight directors who live in the cooperative's service area. We consider them the eyes and ears of the community, because they provide their unique perspective on various local issues.

### 2024 candidates

The following Slope Electric Cooperative members are candidates for the 2024 director election. The names are listed in the order they will appear on the ballot.

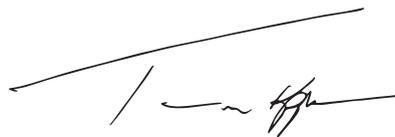
#### District 3 (Slope County):

- **Scott Bachmeier**
- **Ryan Jacobson**
- **Cheryl Van Daele**

We want to make voting as convenient as possible for our members, so we offer a variety of ways for you to participate. We hope you'll join us at the Annual Meeting on June 6, when you can cast your vote in person. If you're unable to attend, you can vote online or by mail.

If you've never been to our Annual Meeting or it's been a while, we invite you to stop by. We'll have fun activities for all ages, including bingo, so we hope to see you and your family there. Join us for food, fun, door prizes and more. All members who attend the event will receive an appreciation gift.

Your Slope Electric team will be ready to answer any energy-related questions you may have, from electric vehicle options to ways to manage your home energy use. We look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting at 5 p.m. Thursday, June 6, at the New England Public School. ■



# HOW TO READ YOUR NEW BILLING STATEMENT

- A** Informational and account level messaging can be found here. Examples include the message listed in this bill sample, annual meeting dates and other important information.
- B** The total account balance bubble features an account balance as well as the due date, or autopay date.
- C** The bill summary contains the billing date, when the current charges are due, the previous balance, when a payment was received, any past due balance, the current charges for this billing period and the total account balance.
- D** This table details specific meter information, including which rate class the meter is in, the meter number, reading dates, the previous kWh reading, current kWh reading, multiplier and the usage for the billing period.
- E** A demand reading on an electric bill indicates the highest amount of power (kW) used by a member during a specific time, often measured in 15- or 30-minute intervals.
- F** This chart details the past 13 months of usage and the monthly high and low temperatures throughout those months. Usage is represented with the gray and blue bars, and temperature is shown as red (high) and blue (low) lines.
- G** Here, you'll discover information about your current service, including a breakdown of charges.
- H** A new, key feature of the bill is the energy usage timeline that details the kWh usage and the number of days calculated for this month. In the next bubble, members can compare their usage quickly with how much kWh they used last month, and then a yearly comparison with this month last year.
- I** If you're paying by check, tear off and send in this section so a member services representative knows which account to credit.

**Important Messages**  
 HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY! Please complete and return the enclosed survey for a chance to win a set of high-quality jumper cables! -- Please use our IVR number 1-844-241-0261 to make Credit Card or Check Payments by phone. Thank you.

**Total Due**  
**\$159.00**  
 Due Date: 02/25/2024

Rate	Meter No.	Reading Dates From	To	Readings Previous	Present	Multiplier	kWh Usage	Demand Usage kW
124	S00000	12/31/2023	02/07/2024	94595	97478	1	2,581	9.681

Current Service Detail	
Meter #S 15093 HOME	
kWh Charge	2,581 kWh @ 0.1070 \$276.17
Base Charge	\$50.00
Operation Roundup Donation	\$0.10
<b>Total This Service</b>	<b>\$326.27</b>
<b>Total Current Charges</b>	<b>\$326.27</b>

**Energy Usage Comparison**

- This Month: 2,581 kWh 36 days
- Last Month: 1,766 kWh 31 days
- This Month Last Year: 1,220 kWh 31 days
- Avg Daily Use: 68 kWh
- Avg Daily Cost: \$9.59
- Avg Daily High: 21°F

Account Number	123456
Billing Date	02/10/2024
Total Due 02/25/2024	\$159.00

Visit us at: [www.slopeelectric.coop](http://www.slopeelectric.coop) 8:00 - 4:30 CT Mon-Fri  
 Email Address: [comments@slopeelectric.coop](mailto:comments@slopeelectric.coop)  
 Check here if your contact information has changed and make changes on the back

JOHN DOE  
 123 ANYWHERE ST  
 READER ND 00000-0000

The above example bill is subject to minor changes.

More information and details can be found on your SmartHub account.



JOIN US:

## Slope Electric's Annual Meeting

Slope Electric Cooperative is gearing up for an entertaining and fun 2024 Annual Meeting. The business meeting will begin at 5 p.m. MT with registration opening at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, June 6, at the New England Public School in New England.

There is a little something for the whole family! Enjoy a meal, see the bucket truck our lineworkers use and the equipment they are required to wear, play bingo and much more! The Annual Meeting is a special time for cooperative members to gather, share experiences, hear from cooperative leadership and, perhaps most importantly, vote to elect your board members.

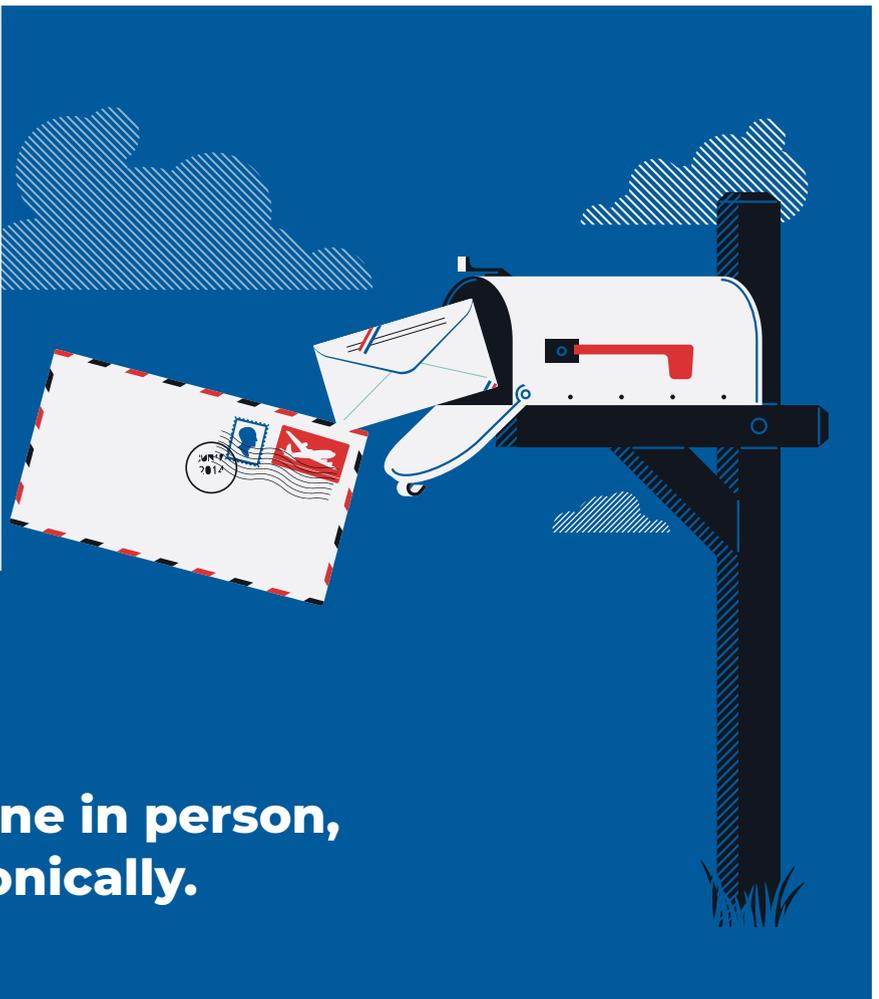
### Director candidates announced

The Nominating Committee met on Feb. 29 to make nominations. Names to be placed on the Annual Meeting ballot include:

#### District 3 (Slope County):

- **Scott Bachmeier**, Rhame
- **Ryan Jacobson**, Rhame
- **Cheryl Van Daele**, Rhame ■

Slope Electric's Annual Report and information on how you can vote will be arriving in your mailbox in mid-May.



**Voting can be done in person,  
by mail or electronically.**

# SAFETY STARTS WITH ME:

## Tree trimming

Overgrown trees and branches pose a significant risk to the reliability of our power supply and can often result in unplanned outages. Slope Electric Cooperative strives to balance maintaining natural beauty with ensuring a reliable power supply. Through clearing of power lines in rights of way, our proactive vegetation management serves to safeguard safety, reliability and affordability for our cooperative members.

### Safety

Overgrown vegetation and trees present a significant risk to power lines. If trees are touching power lines in our members' yards, they can pose grave danger to families. For instance, if children have access to these trees, they may inadvertently enter a danger zone by climbing them. This situation can be very dangerous, because electricity can arc or jump from a power line to nearby conductors like trees, heightening the risk of accidents and injuries.

### Reliability

Of course, one of the biggest benefits of a smart vegetation management program is reliability. Strategic tree trimming reduces the frequency of downed lines causing power outages. Generally, healthy trees don't fall on power lines, and clear lines don't cause problems. Proactive trimming and pruning keep lines clear to promote reliability.

"At Slope Electric, we take a proactive approach to tree trimming, which also helps us diminish the chances of fallen branches or trees during severe weather events that make it more complicated and dangerous for lineworkers to restore power," said Bowman Foreman Jeff Boynton.

### Affordability

Slope Electric is a not-for-profit cooperative, which means we strive to control our costs to keep our rates affordable. This extends to our approach to vegetation management. If trees grow too close to power lines, the potential for expensive repairs also increases. Effective tree trimming and other vegetation management efforts keep costs lower for everyone.

### Here is what YOU can do

There are ways you can help Slope Electric limit tree trimming.

By planting trees in the right place from the start



based on their expected height, you can help reduce the need to trim trees near overhead power lines. If you're planting shrubs, bushes or other vegetation near transformers, remember to plant at least 4 feet away from the transformer sides and at least 10 feet away from the transformer door.

Our community is a special place. We appreciate the beauty trees afford, but we also know our community depends on us to provide reliable energy. If you spot an overgrown tree or branch dangerously close to power lines, let us know by calling 701-579-4191 or 800-559-4191. Through vegetation management, we are better able to keep the power lines clear, prepare for future weather events and help ensure reliability. ■



**PLANNING TO BUILD OR UPGRADE THIS YEAR?  
GIVE US A CALL AT 701-579-4191.**

## Slope Electric board meeting highlights: **Feb. 29**

The regular meeting of the board of directors of Slope Electric Cooperative was held on Feb. 29 at the cooperative's headquarters in New England. President Steven Wegner called the meeting to order at 9:39 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, CFO Alex Craigmile, Operations Manager Dean Volk and Member Relations Manager Brooke Waltner.

**Consent agenda:** There were no proposed amendments to the consent agenda. The consent agenda was approved as presented.

**Strategic/action:** Bentz and Kupper presented the Co-General Managers' report. The report included summaries from Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Innovative Energy Alliance's annual meeting and the North Dakota winter managers meeting. Bentz and Kupper also presented the January reports for West Dakota Utility Services, 3C Construction and Basin Electric Power Cooperative.

**Department reports:** Craigmile presented the January financial reports to the board. Volk provided an operations report and Waltner reviewed the member relations report with the board. Chief Information Officer Charlie Dunbar provided a written report, which was reviewed by the board. Grosz provided a legal counsel report.

**Action items:** The board approved as presented the Director Compensation Policy for 2024.

**Discussion/general information:** The board discussed the fire mitigation plan, Cooperative Family Fund, director evaluations, legal evaluation, the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association International Program and a Financial Committee meeting.

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

**The next meeting dates and locations are as follows:**

- March meeting is set for March 21, at 9:00 a.m. MT in New England
- April meeting is set for April 25, at 9:00 a.m. MT New England
- May meeting is set for May 30, at 9:00 a.m. MT New England ■



## Discounts offered for Medora vacation

**Slope Electric Cooperative is able to offer its members a discount by being a Touchstone Energy® member. Simply call 1-800-MEDORA-1 and give the discount code of "TOUCH2024" for a 15% discount on all of the following during any night of the season.**

*The code is good for reservations over the phone, website or in person. A green fees discount will be applied at check-in for a tee time at the golf course.*

**THINGS TO DO:**

- Medora Musical
- Pitchfork steak fondue
- Bully Pulpit Golf Course
- Gospel Bruch tickets
- Old Town Theater shows

**LODGING AT ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:**

- Elkhorn Quarters
- Badlands Motel
- Rough Riders Hotel
- Medora Campground



**Slope Electric**  
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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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**UNDERGROUND LINE LOCATES**  
800-795-0555 or 811

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**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

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**MANAGEMENT**

Jason Bentz  
CO-GM/CEO

Travis Kupper  
CO-GM/CEO

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