

COOPERATIVE MONTH



OCTOBER
2024



Slope Electric Cooperative Inc.

OUTLOOK

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

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MANAGER'S MESSAGE:

Celebrating Cooperative Month



Jason Bentz

Co-General Manager/
CEO

As we celebrate Cooperative Month this October, we reflect on the remarkable strength that comes from working together. This month, we not only honor the cooperative principles that define our service, but also recognize the collaborative spirit that enhances our operations.

Slope Electric Cooperative is an owner of the Innovative Energy Alliance Cooperative, which stands as a testament to the power of partnership.

Four cooperatives stand

together for shared services, as we embrace the cooperative model to streamline operations, share resources and maximize efficiency. This collaborative approach ensures we provide you with the highest quality service, while maintaining our commitment to affordability and reliability.

Working together with other cooperatives allows us to leverage collective expertise and innovations that benefit all our members. By combining resources and knowledge, we enhance our ability to address challenges and seize opportunities more effectively than we could alone. This unity of purpose strengthens our capacity to serve you better and fosters a sense of community that extends beyond our individual cooperatives.

Cooperative Month is a time to celebrate the unique value of our model, where mutual support and shared goals drive us forward. Your involvement and support are crucial to our success. Together, we create a cooperative environment that prioritizes your needs, values transparency and reinvests in our community.

We invite you to join us in celebrating Cooperative Month by participating in our upcoming events and activities. Experience firsthand how our collaborative efforts enhance our service and demonstrate the true spirit of cooperation.

Thank you for being an essential part of our cooperative family. Your support and engagement make our collective achievements possible and help us build a brighter future for all. ■



HAPPY COOPERATIVE MONTH!

PROUDLY BUILT, LED AND SHAPED BY OUR MEMBERS.



ENTER YOUR YOUTH TOUR ERA



FIRED UP @ GETTYSBURG!



HONORING HEROES @ WWI MEMORIAL



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.

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:

Why is it important to be involved in your community, and how does that prepare you to be a future leader?

The application deadline is Jan. 17, 2025.

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



Learn more at
slopeelectric.coop/youth-tour

MESSAGE FROM MEMBER RELATIONS:

Need help with your energy bills?



Brooke Waltner

*Manager of Member
Relations*

As autumn arrives, Slope Electric Cooperative members are faced with cooling temperatures, and even colder temperatures in the coming months. For some, anticipation of the winter months causes stress and anxiety, as they wonder how to make ends meet. Thankfully, there are programs to help members.

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) can help low-income and eligible individuals with assistance when it comes to heating and insulation costs in the winter. Through the N.D. Department of Human Services, human service zone offices and Community Options, individuals can be helped with a variety of services when it comes to home energy assistance, including heating.

Services offered

LIHEAP offers a variety of service assistance. Not only can the program help curb the costs of your heating and cooling bills, but it also helps households with weatherization services to make homes more energy efficient.

The assistance program may also help with the costs of furnace and chimney cleaning, emergency assistance and for devices to reduce energy costs. Homeowners and renters are eligible to apply for assistance.

Apply for LIHEAP

LIHEAP eligible members can apply from Oct. 1 through May 31, 2025.

Upon applying for LIHEAP, an outreach specialist will enter your home and assist in gathering necessary documentation for the service. From there, an application will be sent to the state for review and the results will be provided within a few weeks.

Check with your local human service office for more information regarding these services.

Application can be found online at www.applyforhelp.nd.gov or by request at the local human service zone office or Community Options. ■



Additional resources

Southwest Dakota Human Service Zone:

Serving Adams, Bowman and Slope counties

Adams County

609 Second Ave. N., Suite 2, Hettinger, ND 58639
Phone: 701-567-2967 or 711

Slope and Bowman County

104 First St. NW, Suite 8, Bowman, ND 58623
Phone: 701-523-3285 or 711

North Human Service Zones:

Serving Billings, Dunn, Golden Valley, Hettinger and Stark counties

Hettinger County

309 Millionaire Ave., Mott, ND 58646
Phone: 701-824-3276

MESSAGE FROM OPERATIONS: **Celebrating collaboration between cooperatives**



Dean Volk

*Chief of Staff/
Operations Manager*

Collaboration and coordination are two important aspects of what make a cooperative a cooperative. In October, we celebrate Cooperative Month, and I would like to highlight some of the collaborative efforts we have utilized to become more efficient at Slope Electric Cooperative.

It takes a team to ensure our system is reliable and continuous electric service is flowing to homes, farms and businesses in

our communities. Slope Electric is part of a larger cooperative network that brings additional value, tools and knowledge that benefit you, the cooperative members.

Throughout the year, we meet with various partners to develop and execute maintenance and construction plans for our systems. Some of these include the Innovative Energy Alliance (IEA) Cooperative, Maintenance Solutions Cooperative (MSC) and 3C Construction, all of which Slope Electric is a member-owner.

Power of collaboration

Summer is a busy time at the cooperative, with installing new services, inspecting existing infrastructure and conducting maintenance and upgrades according to the work plan. In addition to these projects, we also manage essential daily tasks, such as responding to member inquiries and handling outage restoration. These situations often necessitate seeking additional support. Working with industry professionals at IEA, MSC and 3C Construction helps ensure we can work efficiently to complete various projects across our service territory.

This summer, IEA's information and technology department, along with the engineering department, assisted our crews with supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) upgrades, the 2025 construction work plan and new service load evaluations.

SCADA allows us to have real-time data at our

fingertips, which will assist in more efficient system load switching and outage restoration. Being prepared for the 2025 construction season helps us budget, plan and assess our needs for the coming year for tools, equipment and having enough service load for the projects.

While in our service territory, MSC conducted substation maintenance, meter installation inspection and meter testing. Slope Electric's members' meters are inspected every one to two years and tested every four to five years. Meter inspections and testing ensure accurate readings of energy consumption. MSC has the expertise and equipment to efficiently assist in projects such as these.

3C Construction assisted with pole changeouts, line maintenance and retirements, and storm damage repairs in areas. Power poles in our service area are tested on a nine-year cycle, and the data from the tests is analyzed to determine which power poles need to be changed. From there, the Slope Electric team comes up with a plan and 3C Construction assists in performing the maintenance projects.

The assistance of these partners helps the crews at Slope Electric focus on members' service changes, outage restorations, new service installation and line maintenance. Slope Electric's ability to tap into this network and access tools, products, resources and leading practices from across our member ownership ultimately makes our co-op and our community stronger. ■

SAFETY STARTS WITH ME: **Safety around substations**

The electric grid is a complex system of power plants, transmission lines, substations and distribution lines that transmits electric power from the place where it's generated all the way to members at the end of the line.

When you are outdoors, keep a safe distance from power lines, substations and other electrical equipment Slope Electric Cooperative uses to send electricity to your home.

Slope Electric urges members to follow these tips to stay safe around substations:

- **Keep a safe distance:** Always maintain a safe distance from the substation. Substations are fenced for a reason, and only authorized personnel should enter. Teach children never to play near or attempt to enter a substation.
- **Report suspicious activity:** If you notice anyone in an unmarked vehicle or someone not wearing high-visibility clothing tampering with equipment or trying to enter the substation, report it to local authorities and Slope Electric immediately. Unauthorized access can be extremely dangerous.
- **Stay clear during storms:** After severe weather, avoid substations, since damaged power lines or equipment could pose significant risks. Wait for Slope Electric crews to assess and repair any damage.
- **Do not touch downed power lines:** If you see a downed power line near a substation, assume it is live and dangerous. Stay far away and contact emergency services and Slope Electric to report it.



"Substations are crucial in ensuring reliable power to our members," says Brad Schmitt, journeyman line technician. "Keeping in mind the risks they pose when outdoors helps members take a part in ensuring electric services can continue to flow to homes and businesses in our community."

Remember if you see anything suspicious around any electric equipment, please call local authorities or our office as soon as possible at 701-579-4191 or 800-559-4191. ■



ELECTRICAL SUBSTATION SAFETY TIPS



Keep a safe distance.



Report suspicious activity.



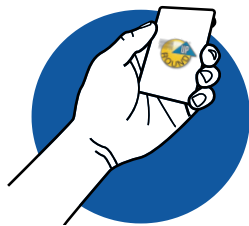
Stay clear during storms.

OPERATION ROUND UP

TURN YOUR COINS *into* CHANGE

Operation Round Up is a program of voluntary contributions through rounding up electric bills to the next dollar.

Funds are disbursed in the general service area of Slope Electric solely for medical, educational, charitable, safety and scientific purposes.



How do I apply?

Applications can be completed by individuals, non-profit organizations or charity groups. If you know of someone in need, have them apply.



Call Slope Electric at 800-559-4191



Download the appropriate application at slopeelectric.coop/operation-round



SLOPE ELECTRIC BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS: JULY 23

The regular meeting of the board of directors of Slope Electric Cooperative was held on July 23 at the cooperative's outpost in Bowman. President Steven Wegner called the meeting to order at 9:02 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, Chief Financial Officer Alex Craigmile, Operations Manager Dean Volk and Member Relations Manager Brooke Waltner.

Consent agenda: There were a few 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 Basin Electric Power Cooperative Class A managers meeting, Guy Wire Marking Committee and more. Several Basin Electric reports, and

West Dakota Utility Services and 3C Construction updates were available for review.

Department reports: Craigmile provided the financial reports. Volk's written report for the board was provided, including new projects the crews have been working on and maintenance. Waltner provided a report and reported on planning 2025 events. 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: There were no other items to be addressed.

Executive session: The board entered into an executive session.

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

Next meeting date: The next meeting is at 9 a.m. Oct. 31 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
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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