

Thank you, lineworkers!

National studies consistently rank power line workers among the most dangerous jobs in the country, and for good reason. Laboring high in the air, wearing heavy equipment and working directly with high voltage creates the perfect storm of a dangerous and unforgiving profession. But electric lineworkers are up to the task.

These brave people are committed to safety and the challenges of the job. Slope Electric Cooperative's lineworkers are responsible for keeping power flowing day and night, regardless of national holidays, vacations, birthdays or other important family milestones. Beyond the years of specialized training and apprenticeships, it takes internal fortitude and a mission-oriented outlook to be a good lineworker. In fact, this service-oriented mentality is a hallmark characteristic of lineworkers. The job requires lineworkers to set aside their personal priorities to better serve their local community.

Get to know our dedicated lineworkers:

Jeff Boynton, outpost foreman, 16 years



His words to characterize a lineworker: Outgoing, hardworking, adventurous

Why he likes working for Slope Electric: I enjoy getting the power restored and working in adverse weather at times

Hobbies: Coaching wrestling, bowling, golfing, hunting, fishing, spending time with family

"The cooperative is member owned and operated, and is there to help the communities and schools."

Cody Braaten, lineworker, 12 years



His words to characterize a lineworker: Rebellious

Why he likes working for Slope Electric: I like keeping the power on for the members

Hobbies: Ranching

"I appreciate how understanding the members are."

continued on next page

Slope Electric Cooperative Inc.

OUTLOOK

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

In this issue:

- The power behind your power
- Serve your community
- Grants available

continued from previous page

Mark Frank, line technician, 10 years



His words to characterize a lineworker: Hardworking, dedicated, relentless
Why he likes working for Slope Electric: I like working for Slope Electric, because he gets to serve the community where he grew up and lives
Hobbies: Spending time with his wife and dog hiking, biking or side-by-side riding in the summer/fall months, spending time in the mountains snowmobiling

"I appreciate how friendly and appreciative our members are. It makes our job more enjoyable."

Shay Olson, apprentice lineworker, 9 months



His words to characterize a lineworker: Hardworking, devoted, united
Why he likes working for Slope Electric: I like working with a great group of guys in a good environment, getting to meet the local people and working with other co-ops
Hobbies: Spending time with family, hunting, fishing, camping, woodworking/metalworking

"I appreciate the hospitality of the members moving snow and using equipment to help us get to the areas that need to be fixed."

Dusty Hoff, working foreman, 12 years



His words to characterize a lineworker: Resilient, tough, versatile
Why he likes working for Slope Electric: I enjoy the variety of work and the family atmosphere
Hobbies: Spending time with family, trapping and snaring

"I appreciate the hospitality the members show us by treating us like friends and neighbors."

Jon Lawhead, journeyman lineworker, 10 years



His words to characterize a lineworker: Risk taker
Why he likes working for Slope Electric: They are great
Hobbies: Watching his kids' sports and ranching

Brad Schmitt, apprentice lineworker, 2 years



His words to characterize a lineworker: Hard working, dedicated
Why he likes working for Slope Electric: I enjoy getting to be outdoors and all the great benefits.

"I like working outdoors and the membership is very understanding."

Andrew Sonsalla, journeyman lineworker, 17 years



His words to characterize a lineworker: Devoted, driven, creative
Why he likes working for Slope Electric: I appreciate the great co-workers and members he has the chance to work with every day.
Hobbies: Spending time with family, hunting and trapping, making fur mittens and hats

"I like working outdoors and being able to help our members when problems arise."

Manager's message:

The power behind your power



Travis Kupper

As April arrives, it brings the showers that produce spring flowers. It also heralds the beginning of a potentially stormy season that can inherently include power outages. While Slope Electric Cooperative strives to provide reliable electricity to our members, there are times when Mother

Nature has other plans. Most of us can ride out a storm from the comfort and convenience of our homes. However, there is a group of professionals who spring into action when the weather takes a turn for the worst – co-op lineworkers.

A dangerous job

Braving stormy weather and other challenging conditions, lineworkers often must climb 40 or more feet into the air, carrying heavy equipment, to restore power. Listed as one of the 10 most dangerous jobs in the United States, lineworkers must perform detailed tasks next to high-voltage power lines. To help keep them safe, lineworkers wear specialized protective clothing and equipment at all times when on the job. This includes special fire-resistant clothing that will self-extinguish, limiting potential injuries from burns and sparks. Insulated and rubber gloves are worn in tandem to protect them from electrical shock. While the gear performs a critical function, it also adds additional weight and bulk, making the job more complex.

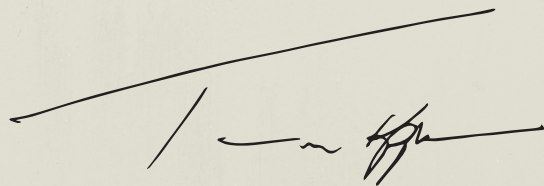
In addition to the highly visible tasks lineworkers perform, their job today goes far beyond climbing to the top of a pole to repair a wire. They are also information experts who can pinpoint an outage from miles away and restore power remotely. Line crews use their laptops and

cellphones to map outages, take photos of the work they have done and troubleshoot problems. In our community, Slope Electric lineworkers are responsible for keeping 3,143 miles of line across four counties working to bring power to your home and our local community 24/7, regardless of the weather, holidays or personal considerations.

While lineworkers may be the most visible employees at Slope Electric, it's important to note there is a team of highly skilled professionals working behind the scenes. Engineers provide ongoing expertise and guidance on the operations side of the co-op. Member service representatives are always standing by to take your calls and answer your questions. Our information technology experts are continuously monitoring our system to help safeguard sensitive data. And these are just a few of the folks who work together to ensure we can deliver the service and reliability you expect and deserve. Without them, our lineworkers wouldn't be able to "bring the light" to our community.

Our dedicated lineworkers are proud to represent Slope Electric, and they deserve all the appreciation and accolades that come their way on Lineworker Appreciation Day.

On April 10, and any time you see a lineworker, I hope you'll join me in thanking them for their exceptional service. I also hope you'll remember you have a dedicated team of professionals working behind the scenes at the co-op whose commitment to service runs just as deep. ■



Safety Starts with ME: Brad Schmitt

Spring is upon us. As the weather gets warmer and days get longer, we can't help but think of the landscaping projects we've been dreaming about during the cold, winter months.

"If any of your spring projects require digging, such as planting trees or shrubs or setting posts, remember to dial 811 first," said Brad Schmitt, a line technician for Slope Electric Cooperative.

From gas lines to water and electric lines, one wrong plow, harrow or shovel into the ground can lead to disaster and set your project timeline back significantly. Here are the steps to take when dialing 811:

Call – Upon dialing 811, you will be routed to a local "one call" center.

Provide information – Tell the operator where you're planning to dig and what type of project you are working on. By doing this, the affected local utilities will be notified of this information.

Wait – Within a few days after the initial call, a locator will come to the site and mark any underground lines, pipes and cables. This designated person will mark these areas with flags or paint.

Time to dig – After this process is complete, you may start your digging to achieve your landscaping dreams!

"Do-it-yourself projects are great and fun, as long as you do it right," Schmitt said. "Many homeowners are aware of the significance in calling before you dig. However, many do not take advantage of it."

A national survey showed that only 50% of homeowners called to have their lines marked before starting digging projects, according to the Common Ground Alliance (CGA). CGA data also shows that an underground utility line is damaged every six minutes in the United States.

The simplest of tasks can damage underground lines, causing outages, damaging



utility lines, harming diggers and possibly resulting in repair costs and fines, which is why it is so important to play it safe and dial 811 beforehand.

Slope Electric wants to not only keep underground utilities safe, but most importantly, keep you safe, too. ■

Help us with safety at Slope Electric

Did you know members also play a key role in keeping our system safe? At times, you are our eyes in the sky and on the ground. Should you see a power line issue that may need Slope Electric Cooperative's attention, please call the office or send us an email at safety@slopeelectric.coop with your concern. This correspondence should include the description of the location, your name and complete contact information, and a photo if possible. Working together helps ensure the safety of all!



Unclaimed capital credits

Co-op member addresses needed

Slope Electric Cooperative needs new addresses to mail members their capital credit allocation statements and/or capital credit check written last year. The following list of Slope Electric Cooperative members at their current address on file (last known address) were mailed allocation statements and/or checks that were returned from the post office, because it was “not a deliverable address,” “unable to forward” or “attempted not known.” If you know of a current address, please call the Slope Electric Cooperative office at 701-579-4191, 800-559-4191 or email comments @slopeelectric.coop.

Allan Tomac, Buffalo, S.D.
Alton Ivey, Regent
Best Assets Inc., Minneapolis, Minn.
Brad Wahl, Huntington
Beach, Calif.
Brett Kramer, Langford, S.D.
Bruce G. Klein, Garrison
Bruce Halleen, Scranton
Bruce W. Olson, Minot
Burnell Lutz, Lenexa, Kan.
C.R. Kadrmas, Fargo
Cathy Orcutt, Bowman
Chaparral Energy LLC,
Oklahoma, Okla.
Chelsea McCreery, Kiowa, Kan.
Chism Holt, Cordel, Okla.
David Foltz, Mott
David Kono, Rhame
Deanna Kramer, Langford, S.D.
Debbie L. Doest, Bowman
Dellroy Kalina, Yuma, Ariz.
Denelle Olson, Bowman
Derek Nordahl, Dickinson
Devin Good Shield, Bowman
Donovan Hollis, Soap Lake, Wash.
Doris M. Preiss, Amidon
Dorothy Chase, Scranton
Douglas Abrahamson, Bowman
Dr. R.C. Thom, Bowman
Edith Steier, Dickinson
Edward A. Haugen, Sturgis, S.D.
Encore Operating LP, Baker, Mont.
Enr st Schafer, New Leipzig
Eugene Schultz, Wickenburg, Ariz.
Eva M. Nyberg, Lemmon, S.D.
Forrest D. Lanchbury, Sedona, Ariz.
Fossum Rentals, Bowman

Fran Hagel, North Platte, Neb.
Gabriel Maliscke, Fargo
Gary White, Reeder
Getz Contracting, Bowman
Hilda Gruebele, Bismarck
Jacki Price, Hettinger
James Bernards, Big Sky, Mont.
Jay Wolf, Spearfish, S.D.
Jess Howard, Wibaux, Mont.
Jodee Jacobs, Bowman
Joe Carpenter, Hobson, Mont.
John L. Johnson, Bowman
John Skartved, Hettinger
Jordan Rustad, Bowman
Joseph Goldade, Lemmon, S.D.
Judy Howard, Wibaux
Kathleen R. Walsh, Larimore
Keith E. Hagen, Scranton
Keith O. Pierce, Scranton
L.C. Cassell, Bowman
L.D. Crooker, Rapid City, S.D.
Larry Ihle, Moffit
Lawrence J. Luger Jr., Hettinger
Linda Blee, Bowman
Loren E. Mayer, Minot
Lorine Huber, Bentley
Louis D. Hafele, Beach
Luckey Cameron, Sheridan, Wyo.
Martha J. Stuber, Bowman
Michael C. Costa, Reeder
Michael D. Merwin, Hettinger
Nadel & Gussman Rockies LLC,
Tulsa, Okla.
Nelson Farms, c/o Lelyn Nelson,
Spokane, Wash.
Pat Kochel, Lemmon, S.D.
Patrick James, Lebanon, Ind.

Paul Reimer, Bowman
Ragna Mesling, Bismarck
Ralph F. Messmer, Mott
Robert E. Shuck, Rhame
Robert E. Shear, Scranton
Robert G. Pastula, Allen, Texas
Robert W. Crawford, Prescott
Valley, Ariz.
Robert W. Hanson, Rozet, Wyo.
Robert Warbis, Hettinger
Ronda Miller, Bowman
Sandra May Scranton
Sequel Energy LLC, Billings, Mont.
Shawn Zrowka, Morristown, S.D.
Sheri L. Breen, Bowman
Steve Holloway, Bottineau
Steven Aubrey, West Plains, Mo.
Steven J. Saylor, Bowman
The Dam Marina Grill, Bowman
Thomas E. Larson, Reiles Acres
Todd Wentz, Sheridan, Wyo.
Tom E. Gunderson, Pollock, S.D.
Tri State Comm Inc., Bismarck
Victoria Nelson, Rapid City, S.D.
Westport Oil & Gas, Dallas, Texas
Wilma J. Doll-Beckman,
New Salem

Celebrating 75 years of electric service!

October 22, 1948 was a day that everyone at Slope Electric was waiting for. On that day at noon, the Haynes substation was energized and the Gaylord Olson farm located three miles northwest of the Haynes substation, which was the first to receive electricity.

For 75 years, the history serving our membership has developed and we at Slope Electric cannot wait to reflect and share with you. Each week, Slope Electric is posting historical information on our Facebook and Instagram with posts entitled, "Opening the Archives." See a few below!

In addition, join us in June at our Annual Meeting while we celebrate the past 75 years!



Opening The Archives

June 2, 1966 | Slope Electric Joins Basin Electric



Wegner

Carlson

Meier

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee met On Feb. 27 to make nominations. Names to be placed on the annual meeting ballot include:

- Adams County:** Steve Wegner
- Hettinger County:** Angela Carlson
- Hettinger County:** Charlotte Meier

Petition nominees are due at the New England office by April 8th. For more information please go to our website at www.slopeelectric.coop/annual-meeting.



Rural Development Finance Corporation

GROWING COMMUNITIES

RDFC announces grant opportunities

The Rural Development Finance Corporation (RDFC) is a North Dakota nonprofit finance and development corporation whose member-owners are all the North Dakota electric cooperatives, nine of the North Dakota telecommunication cooperatives and the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives.

RDFC has approved a 2023 grant allotment of \$3,000 per member-cooperative to be used to support community-owned entities, nonprofits and community-based projects.

Eligible projects are community-owned businesses (cafe, grocery store, motel, other); community facilities (ambulance services, fire

districts, recreation, hospital/clinic, community center, other); or community-based projects (school/youth projects, other) that benefit rural areas and lead to community betterment.

Please note that RDFC does not provide funds for medical fundraisers or general operating costs.

RDFC requires \$4 of other funds to every \$1 of RDFC funds.

The minimum grant amount is \$500; the maximum is \$3,000.

Applications may be found a www.slopeelectric.coop or by calling the office. Please return applications to Slope Electric, Attn: Brooke Waltner.



HAPPY EASTER!

In observance of the Easter holiday,
Slope Electric Cooperative will be
closed on Monday, April 10.

*Line crews will be available
in case of an emergency outage.*

Slope Electric makes saving money easy!



Slope Electric is now making it even easier to save on your electric bill! All members who only receive paperless statements will receive a \$1 credit for each month enrolled. In addition, members who sign up for an automatic withdrawal through their bank account will also receive a \$1 credit for each month enrolled. The savings will show up once a year on your bill.

To learn more about the benefits of SmartHub, visit slopeelectric.coop/ways-pay.



116 E. 12th St. - PO Box 338
New England, ND 58647-0338

Phone: 701-579-4191

or 800-559-4191

Fax: 701-579-4193

Email us:

comments@slopeelectric.coop

UNDERGROUND LINE LOCATES
800-795-0555 or 811

SLOPE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Steven Wegner, President
Anthony Larson, Vice President
Angela Carlson, Secretary
Henry "Chip" Fischer, Treasurer
Lauren Klewin, Director
Jerome Caron, Director
Dale Hande, Director
Charlotte Meier, Director

MANAGEMENT

Jason Bentz
CO-GM/CEO

Travis Kupper
CO-GM/CEO

www.slopeelectric.coop



Become a fan of Slope Electric Cooperative to learn timely co-op news!

Slope Electric Cooperative Inc. is an equal opportunity provider.

Report from THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Regular meeting held at the Slope Electric office in New England

- Approved agenda
- Approved minutes from previous meeting on Jan. 26
- Heard co-general managers/CEO update
- Heard Basin Electric Cooperative updates
- Heard CFO report
- Heard operations report
- Heard member relations summary
- Heard the attorney report
- Reviewed board member reports