

APRIL
2024



CELEBRATING LINeworkERS:
Lineworker Appreciation
Day April 8

Slope Electric Cooperative Inc.

OUTLOOK

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

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LIGHTING THE WAY: **Recognizing our lineworkers**

National studies consistently rank lineworkers among the most hazardous occupations in the nation, and with good reason. Laboring above the ground, wearing heavy equipment and working directly with high voltage creates the perfect storm of a dangerous and unforgiving profession. Nonetheless, electric lineworkers rise to the challenge.

These courageous individuals are unwavering in their commitment to safety and the demands of their trade. Slope Electric Cooperative's lineworkers bear the responsibility of ensuring a continuous flow of power, regardless of holidays, vacations or family milestones.

Beyond the extensive training and apprenticeships, success as a lineworker demands inner strength and a steadfast dedication to the mission. Certainly, lineworkers epitomize stewardship, placing the welfare and maintenance of their service area as an important priority.

"Our lineworkers are the backbone for constructing, maintaining and operating the cooperative electrical system," says Operations Manager Dean Volk. "Their work is essential to continue the flow of reliable and safe electricity in our service area." ■

Get to know our dedicated lineworkers:



JEFF BOYNTON, Bowman foreman, 18 years

The job of a lineworker is... working in extreme weather conditions, but also satisfying and rewarding

What do you enjoy most about being a lineworker? Working outside and serving our members

Hobbies: Spending time with family, coaching wrestling, hunting, fishing, bowling and golfing

What is your go-to gas station snack and drink? Coffee, water and jerky

"I appreciate the cooperative is member-owned and our members have a voice."



CODY BRAATEN, Bowman journeyman lineworker, 14 years

What do you enjoy most about being a lineworker? The variety of machinery we work with

What do you appreciate about Slope Electric's members? Their willingness to help

Hobbies: Ranching



JON LAWHEAD, Bowman journeyman lineworker, 11 years

The job of a lineworker is... inspecting substations for problems

Hobbies: Watching my kids play sports

What is your go-to gas station snack or drink? Coffee



BRAD SCHMITT, Bowman journeyman lineworker, 3 years
The job of a lineworker is... rewarding and exciting
What do you appreciate about Slope Electric's members? They are understanding and patient during outages
Hobbies: Bowling, dirt car racing and spending time with my family
What is your go-to gas station snack and drink? Red Bull and pizza

"I enjoy being able to work outside and see places most people don't get to see. At the end of the day, I get to go home and be with my family."



ANDREW SONSALLA, New England journeyman lineworker, 18 years
The job of a lineworker is... to maintain the electrical system and help our members when problems arise
What do you enjoy most about being a lineworker? The great co-workers I work with every day. I also enjoy working with our members to provide them the best service we can.
Hobbies: Spending time with family, working in the fur shed, hunting and trapping
What is your go-to gas station snack and drink? Snickers and black coffee

"Our members are always willing to lend a helping hand, such as pulling us out when we are stuck in the middle of nowhere or pushing snow so we can access our lines with a truck."



DUSTY HOFF, New England foreman, 13 years
The job of a lineworker is... to maintain and ensure safe and reliable electric power for our members
What do you like most about working for an electric cooperative? The family-like atmosphere
Hobbies: Spending time with my family and trapping
What is your go-to gas station snack and drink? Twix and Pepsi

"Our members treat us like friends and neighbors, which I appreciate."



MARK FRANK, New England journeyman lineworker, 11 years
The job of a lineworker is... to build and maintain power lines
What do you appreciate about Slope Electric's members? I appreciate how friendly and appreciative our members are. It makes our job more enjoyable.
Hobbies: When I'm not working, I spend time with my wife and our dog hiking, biking or side-by-side riding in the summer and fall months. In the winter, I enjoy spending time in the mountains snowmobiling.
What is your go-to gas station snack and drink? Beef jerky and a Mountain Dew

"I enjoy working for Slope Electric, because I get to serve the community where I grew up and live."



SHAY OLSON, New England apprentice lineworker, 2 years
The job of a lineworker is... to connect or repair electricity for homes and businesses
What do you enjoy most about being a lineworker? Working outdoors with a good group of guys and restoring power to our members
Hobbies: Hunting, fishing and spending time with family and friends

"I like that we all work together and help other electric cooperatives when they are in need."

MANAGER'S MESSAGE:

Celebrating our lineworkers



Jason Bentz

When picturing our electric cooperative, the image of a dedicated lineworker typically springs to mind. These individuals embody our commitment to serving our members, working tirelessly day and night to ensure our community receives uninterrupted power. However, their role goes beyond maintenance. They are the unsung heroes who exemplify dedication,

bravery and a profound sense of service.

On April 8, let's take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude to our lineworkers for their exceptional service, as we celebrate National Lineworker Appreciation Day. When you see lineworkers in action, I encourage you to join me in thanking them for their dedication and bravery.

A lineworker's job: Ranked among the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the United States, a lineworker's responsibilities are far from easy. Working in close proximity to high-voltage power lines, they must perform intricate tasks in all weather conditions, often scaling heights of 40 feet while carrying heavy equipment. Despite the inherent risks and discomfort, they stay unwavering in their commitment to their duty and the members.

And behind every dedicated lineworker is a supportive family who plays an integral role in enabling their loved ones to serve the community. While lineworkers are in the field, sometimes working all night to restore power, their families take care of the home front, providing support and understanding during challenging times.

The heart of service and dedication: Becoming a lineworker is not merely a profession. It's a calling

that requires years of specialized training, ongoing education and a deep sense of service. It's about leaving the comfort of home to tackle challenging tasks when most are sheltering indoors. This dedication and sense of service to the community define the essence of our lineworkers and their indispensable role in our cooperative.

Recognizing the team behind the scenes:

While lineworkers are the most visible faces of our cooperative, it's essential to acknowledge the team of highly skilled professionals working tirelessly behind the scenes. From engineers providing invaluable expertise, to member service representatives fielding inquiries and information technology experts safeguarding sensitive data, each member of our cooperative family plays a vital role in ensuring the reliability of our services.

Expressing gratitude: To our lineworkers and the entire cooperative family, we extend our deepest appreciation for your tireless dedication and invaluable contributions. Your unwavering commitment to keeping our local service area powered and your willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty do not go unnoticed. We are grateful for your service and sacrifice.

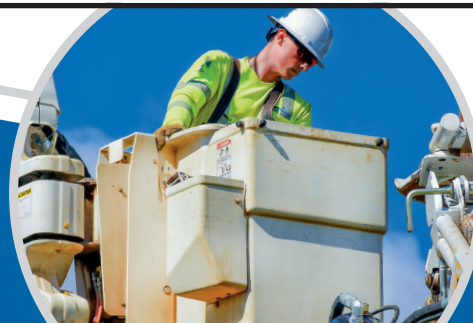
As we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day, let's honor our lineworkers for their unwavering commitment to service and sacrifice. Let's express our gratitude not only to them, but also to the entire cooperative family for their efforts in ensuring service reliability. ■



CELEBRATE

the Power Behind Your Power.

Lineworker Appreciation Day | April 8



SAFETY STARTS WITH ME: **Call before you dig**

As the weather warms and spring begins to appear, you may be planning your to-do list for the upcoming months. If those projects require digging, don't forget to call 811 before you start. Projects ranging from planting trees, building a house or installing a fence require a call.

"Underground utilities, such as electric, telephone, gas and water lines, can be a shovel thrust away from turning a project into a disaster," says Kennedy Frike, member services representative.

Even simple tasks, such as installing a new mailbox post, can damage utility lines and disrupt service to an entire neighborhood, harm diggers and potentially result in fines and repair costs.

Play it safe by dialing 811 or visiting www.ndonecall.com to find out where utility lines are located on your property.

Be prepared to share the following information about the project property to North Dakota One Call:

- Name and contact information
- Proposed digging date and time
- Legal description
- County, city and street address
- Nearest intersecting street
- The owner of the property
- Type of work planned and extent of work and depth

Within a few days, a locator will arrive to designate the approximate location of any underground lines,



pipes and cables. These areas will be marked with flags or paint, so you'll know what's below. That is when the safe digging can begin.

"Never assume the location or depth of underground utility lines," Frike says. "There's no need to assume, as the 811 service is free, prevents the inconvenience of having utilities interrupted and can help you avoid serious injury."

For more information about local services, visit www.ndonecall.com. ■

EMPOWERING FUTURES: **Slope Electric announces scholarships**

Slope Electric Cooperative is proud to announce there will be scholarships for full- and part-time students available at the annual meeting on June 6. Known as luck-of-the-draw scholarships, three \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to full-time students and two \$500 scholarships to either full- or part-time students. As a commitment to fostering education within our community, these scholarships are a testament to our dedication to supporting the academic pursuits of talented individuals.

"We believe in investing in the future, and this financial aid is a reflection of our commitment to empowering the next generation of leaders," says Manager of Member Relations Brooke Waltner. ■



ADDRESSES NEEDED: Unclaimed capital credits

Slope Electric Cooperative needs new addresses to mail members their capital credit allocation statements and/or capital credit check from last year. The following list of Slope Electric members and their current address on file (last known address) were mailed allocation statements and/or checks,

which 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 or 800-559-4191 or email comments@slopeelectric.coop. ■

Askerooth, Mark C.	Hagel, Fran	Kubista, Roger	Schmatlz, Peter
Aubrey, Steven	Hagen, Keith E.	Larson, Thomas E.	Schoeder, Dale
Auen, Rodger	Halleen, Bruce	Ledeman, David R.	Schramm, Garavonia
Bailey, Gary P.	Halls, Tim	Magelky, Lynn J.	Schultz, Eugene
Bernards, James	Hanson, Robert W.	Maliske, Gabriel	Schulz, Elaine
Blend, Wade P.	Haugen, Edward A.	Mattson, Joseph	Sequel Energy LLC
Bowman Auction Market	Heinrich, Lori	May, Susan	Skartved, John
Breen, Sheri L.	Hoherz, David W.	McCreery, Chelsea	SM Energy Company
Brown, Donald	Hollis, Donovan	Merwin, Brandy A.	Smolnikar, Dave
Burlington Resources	Holloway, Steve	Mesling, Betty Jean	Smolnikar, Tana
Cameron, Luckey	Holt, Chism	Miller, Joe	Stebbins, Jack
Carlson, James E.	Howe's Gardening; Cindy	Miller, Kari	Steier, Edith
Cassell, L.C.	Howe	Miller, Ronda	Stetzner, Leah
Chaparral Energy LLC	Howrey, Monte	Moen Farms	Strand, Cutris
Chase, Dorothy	Hughes, Neil	Nadel & Gussman Rockies	Streck, Jackie
Costa, Michael C.	Hultgren, Jeff C.	LLC	Stuber, Marth J.
Crawford, Robert W.	Ihle, Larry	Nelson, Victoria	Summers, D.
Crooker, L.D.	Ivey, Alton	Nelson Farms: Lelyn Nelson	The Dam Marina Grill
Daley, Mitchell	Jacobs, Jodee	Nordahl, Derek	Thom, Dr. R.C.
Doest, Debbie L.	Jacobs, Mark	Olson, Bruce W.	Thomas, Ross
Doll-Beckman, Wilma J.	James, Patrick	Olson, Denelle	Tomac, Allan
Dory's Antique Car Museum	Johnson, Denelle	Orcutt, Cathy	Tri State Comm Inc.
Eisenbarth, Jessica	Johnson, John L.	Paulson, Levi	United Site National
Encore Operating LP	Johnson, Willis E.	Penfield, Bert C.	Services
Erickson, Jonni B.	Jordan, Tonia	Peters, Helen	Urlacher, George A.
Eubanks, Daniel	Jordan, Tony L.	Pierce, Keith	Wahl, Brad
Evans, Mark D.	Jorgenson-Maliske, Kathy	Popp, Jerome J.	Wandler, Don
Foltz, David	Kadrmas, C.R.	Quamme, Florene L.	Wandler, Natalie
Forsch, Ruthella	Kaiser, Claire	Reiger, Marge	Westport Oil & Gas
Fossum Rentals,	Kalina, Dellroy	Reimer, Paul	Williams, Patricia M.
French, Autumn	Kerr, Harry	Roemmich, Louise	Wolf, Jay
Gaskell, Cindy	Kessel, John	Ruggles, Robert	Wyrick, H. J.
Getz Contracting	Klein, Bruce G.	Rustad, Jordan	Zahn, Jessie
Goldade, Josphe	Klein, Lloyd D.	Sayler, Steven	Zrowka, Shawn
Good Shield, Devin	Klingenberg, Jon	Schafer, Enrest	
Gruebele, Hilda	Kramer, Brett	Schatz, Lou A.	
Gunderson, Tom E.	Kramer, Deanna	Schlenvogt, Sandra	

These are unclaimed capital credits as of March 15.



Planning to build or upgrade? Give us a call

Whether you are looking to build a new structure or make changes to an existing structure, it is important to contact Slope Electric Cooperative in the early planning stages.

“Each year, we help our members with their construction upgrades and new builds,” says Operations Manager Dean Volk.

“Projects can range from pasture wells to grain storage, new outbuildings, houses and businesses,” Volk notes. “For projects of all sizes, it is important to contact your local cooperative.”

By doing so, you will be able to confirm the viability of your project.

“Our engineering department can verify whether we can serve additional load in your area and the availability and cost of equipment and materials,” Volk says.

Information you will need to share with the cooperative includes the type of upgrade or new build, location, timeline and power requirements.

“If you are unsure of this information, work with an electrician that can contact us,” Volk says.

Slope Electric wants to ensure your building project or upgrade goes as smoothly as possible, so it is important to call in the early stages of planning. ■



POWERING TOMORROW: Carlson elected NDAREC president

The North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives (NDAREC) announced the election of its new president, Angela Carlson, at the association’s 81st annual meeting in February.

Carlson has been a Slope Electric Cooperative director since 2015, and she currently serves as secretary. She

has represented Slope Electric on NDAREC’s board since 2018.

“Carlson’s dedication and leadership have earned her this esteemed position,” says co-General Manager/CEO Travis Kupper. “Under her guidance, the association will continue to thrive and serve our cooperatives with excellence.” ■

Slope Electric board meeting highlights: Jan. 25

The January meeting of the board of directors of Slope Electric Cooperative was held on Jan. 25 at the cooperative's headquarters in New England. President Steven Wegner called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. Slope Electric Legal Counsel Jennifer Grosz was designated as the meeting recorder. A board quorum was met. 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 Executive Assistant and Board Liaison Connie Hill. The meeting commenced with a review of the mission statement, followed by an invocation.

Consent agenda: Additions were proposed 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 youth programs and rates. A West Dakota Utility Services, 3C Construction and Basin Electric Power Cooperative report were also provided for the board to review.

Department reports: Craigmile provided the board with the December financial reports. Volk provided the board with additional details and updates regarding the operations report. Waltner provided a written member relations report. Grosz provided the board with an update on Basin Electric's Federal Energy Regulatory Commission proceeding hearing and other items found in her report. Chief Information Officer Charlie Dunbar provided a written report.

Action items: The board appointed a voting delegate to the National Rural Electric Cooperative PowerXchange. Agenda additions were discussed.

Discussion/general information: The board discussed the exposure control plan, donation requests and other topics.

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

Next meeting date: The next meeting date is set for 9:30 a.m. Feb. 29 in New England. ■



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Email us:
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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
Jerome Caron, Director
Dale Hande, Director
Lauren Klewin, Director
Charlotte Meier, Director

MANAGEMENT

Jason Bentz
CO-GM/CEO

Travis Kupper
CO-GM/CEO

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