

**COOPERATIVE MONTH**



Slope Electric Cooperative Inc.

**OUTLOOK**

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



**During Cooperative Month, members have a chance to win a Patriot Cooler and Bill Credit.**

To enter, scan this QR code or visit our website!

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## DOUBLE JJ OUTFITTERS: **Preserving tradition and wildlife**

BY SAMANTHA VANGSNESS

In North Dakota, the flip of the calendar to October signals the eagerly anticipated hunting season, a cherished pastime that unites generations throughout the state. For Dave Ouellette, Brian Mortensen and John Stang, owners of Double JJ Outfitters, it marks the onset of a busy season full of pheasant hunts and the creation of lasting memories for their clients.

Although the pheasant season opens Oct. 7, clients of Double JJ have been anticipating their hunt since their reservation nearly a year in advance. These clients, who come from areas across the country and many walks of life, keep the guides busy from opening day to Christmas. As a fully guided, all-inclusive North Dakota pheasant hunting experience, Double JJ has

properties south of New England and east of Dickinson to guide clients on their hunting journey.

### **Hunting, friendship and business**

After Double JJ Outfitters was founded, Mortensen and Stang acquired the business. Some years later, Ouellette joined the partnership. Over the years, they worked to grow and enhance Double JJ to what it is now, a pheasant hunting experience in North Dakota like no other. The three men all grew up hunting around the area and eventually found themselves in the same hunting group, became friends and then business partners.

“Hunting is a passion of all of ours and that’s



how we got to know one another,” Ouellette said. “We really enjoy taking groups out and being a part of the clients’ pheasant hunting experience in North Dakota.”

As some of the familiar faces in the groups get older, they have started to bring their kids and grandkids on the journey, aspiring to pass down the tradition of hunting at Double JJ.

Ouellette says one of the exciting parts is seeing families and friends have fun and the groups grow.

“It’s not just seeing the familiar faces, but also seeing birddogs learn and grow over the years,” he said.

A popular stay is around three days filled with pheasant hunting and fun, with ranges from eight to 20 hunters. After the hunt, the hunters are invited to stay in the guides’ main lodge in New England. The lodge includes other activities for guests, such as cornhole, pool and more. Ouellette notes people are usually tired by the time they get back from hunting, so guests mostly just like to stay in, warm up and relax.

Although the fun is had in the fall and winter, Mortenson, Stang and Ouellette remain busy year-round to give their clients the best wild

pheasants they can.

“We work to promote the habitat to help the birds thrive and nest in the summer and grow the population,” Ouellette said.

That work includes assessing and planting different food crops and the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) to help with nesting and attracting wildlife. They also take note of the shelterbelts and see if any additional trees need to be planted, which will help with the bird habitat not just now, but down the road.

“We are working to do anything we can do to give the birds a better environment for the fall,” Ouellette said.

All their hard work pays off when they see the awe on the clients’ faces during hunting season.

“It is really cool to see the excitement and awe on people’s faces when they see the quality and quantity of wild pheasant we have to offer,” Ouellette said. “That’s what drives us.”

To inquire about hunting or for more information about Double JJ Outfitters, visit [www.doublejjoutiftters.com](http://www.doublejjoutiftters.com). ■



## Manager's message: Celebrating membership



**Jason Bentz**

Fall is a busy time, and October is a particularly eventful month, with school, community and sports activities in full swing. It's also when all cooperatives celebrate National Co-op Month.

When I say Slope Electric Cooperative celebrates Co-op Month, it really means we are celebrating you! After all, our co-op

wouldn't exist without you, our members.

Our core business purpose is to serve as your electricity provider, but the larger mission of the co-op is to help make our corner of the world a better place. "Concern for community" is one of seven guiding principles all co-ops share.

Similar to how our wires run through our service territory, our concern for community flows through all of our decisions, because being a co-op means being a responsible partner and good neighbor.

Slope Electric works to help our community thrive through initiatives led by our employees and local board that's comprised of neighbors who live right here in our community.

We're proud to support local youth through our Youth Tour and scholarship programs. With your help, we offer Operation Round Up to provide assistance to our community.

The word "cooperative" is close to "cooperation," meaning people working together toward a common goal, mutually benefiting one another and the larger area. That's the essence of the cooperative spirit. Our employees and member-elected board members are invested in the community where they live and serve.

Above all, as a co-op, we put our members' priorities first. As your trusted energy partner, we know saving energy and money is important to you. We want to empower you to manage energy use at home. If you haven't already, I

encourage you to take a moment and download our SmartHub app. Through the app, you can conveniently monitor and manage your energy use. And we're here to help, so give us a call if you have questions about your energy bills.

Slope Electric is continuously examining ways to operate more efficiently, while continuing to provide the highest level of friendly, reliable service you expect and deserve. After all, we're your local co-op. We were built by the members we serve. ■



### Join us in celebrating Cooperative Month with Slope Electric Cooperative!

We're excited to share the cooperative spirit with you, and as a token of our appreciation, we'll be giving each person a special something at these events. Plus, for our members, there will be an opportunity to enter into an exciting drawing!

Mark your calendars and join us at the football field concession stands on the following dates and locations:

- **September 30th in Bowman**
- **October 6th in New England**
- **October 14th in Hettinger**

For more information, visit our Facebook Page.



# APPLY FOR A TRIP OF A LIFETIME

## WHAT IS YOUTH TOUR?

- An all-expense-paid trips to Washington, D.C., paid for by Slope Electric Cooperative.
- A week of visiting historic monuments, touring world class museums, learning about electric cooperatives and meeting elected officials.
- Developing lifelong friendships with delegates from across the country!



# JUNE 15 TO 21, 2024

TWO ALL-EXPENSE-PAID TRIPS TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

## ESSAY QUESTION

If chosen as a Youth Tour delegate, you will be traveling to Washington, D.C., to experience and learn about America's rich history. What moment in American history do you wish you had been a part of and what would you have contributed?

## HOW TO APPLY

- To enter the essay-writing contest, you must be a sophomore or junior in high school, and you and your parents or guardian must be served by Slope Electric Cooperative.
- Email entries to Brooke Waltner at [bwaltner@slopeelectric.coop](mailto: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? Call Brooke at 701-579-2252 during regular business hours.
- **The deadline is Jan. 19, 2024.**

# EMPOWER



LEARN MORE AT [NDYOUTHTOUR.COM](http://NDYOUTHTOUR.COM)



## Safety Starts with ME: Use caution near cooperative equipment

Although the fall season has brought cooler temperatures, the weather is inviting us to spend time outside and enjoy the changing foliage, pumpkin patches, corn mazes and hayrides. While enjoying the cool, crisp weather, Slope Electric Cooperative reminds you to exercise caution near electrical equipment maintained by the co-op.

“Whether you have children running on hay bales or flying a kite this fall, it is important to be aware of your surroundings and be sure to stay clear of substations and power lines,” says Dean Volk, chief of staff/operations manager at Slope Electric. “This equipment carries extremely high voltages, and if contact is accidentally made, the results can be very serious.”

Slope Electric urges you to take into consideration the following safety tips if you are near any power equipment:

1. **Maintain a safe distance:** It is vital to remember the “safe zone” around power lines and substations. A general rule of thumb is to stay at least 10 feet away from power lines and farther away from substations. If you encounter an animal trapped in a tree near power lines or inside a substation, do not attempt to remove it.
2. **Respect warning signs:** Pay attention to warning signs, barriers and caution tape indicating areas with electrical equipment. These signs are there for your safety and should be taken seriously.
3. **Avoid flying objects near power lines:** Activities such as flying kites, drones or releasing balloons should be avoided in areas close to power lines, as they can easily get entangled in the lines, creating a dangerous situation. Remote-controlled toys should never be flown near power lines, substations or other electrical equipment. If contact is accidentally made with a power line or a transformer inside a substation, members of your community could be left without electricity.



4. **Stay clear during emergencies:** In case of accidents or emergencies involving power lines or substations, it is essential to call emergency services immediately and wait for professionals to arrive. Do not attempt to handle the situation yourself.
5. **Inform children:** Children should be informed about the dangers of power lines and substations. It is important to remind them to never climb trees near power lines. If contact is made with a tree that is touching a power line, your body could become the path of electricity from the line to the ground.

Lineworkers have gone through extensive training to be able to work around electrical equipment and want to remind the public to stay clear.

“Safety around the equipment is always important to us when we are working. We use the appropriate personal protective equipment, and attend certification courses and monthly safety meetings to ensure confidence in our work,” Volk says.

Here at Slope Electric, your safety is important to us. We hope you will share the message of electrical safety, so you and others can enjoy fall days filled with fun! ■



# Unclaimed capital credits

The following list of Slope Electric Cooperative members and 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.”

Mark C. Askerooth, Luverne  
Steven Aubrey, West Plains, Mo.  
Rodger Auen, Tioga  
Gary P. Bailey, Williams, Minn.  
James Bernards, Big Sky, Mont.  
Best Assets Inc., Minneapolis, Minn.  
Wade P. Blend, Mandan  
Sheri L. Breen, Bowman  
Donald Brown, Scranton  
Luckey Cameron, Sheridan, Wyo.  
James E. Carlson, Regent  
Douglas J. Caron, Richardson  
L.C. Cassell, Bowman  
Champion Technology, Baker, Mont.  
Chaparral Energy LLC, Oklahoma City, Okla.  
Dorothy Chase, Scranton  
Michael C. Costa, Reeder  
Robert W. Crawford, Prescott Valley, Ariz.  
L.D. Crooker, Rapid City, S.D.  
Mitchell Daley, Lemmon, S.D.  
Earl Doe, New England  
Debbie L. Doest, Bowman  
Wilma J. Doll-Beckman, New Salem  
Dry Creek Cabins, c/o James Sabe, Bowman  
Jessica Eisenbarth, New England  
Encore Operating, Baker, Mont.  
Jonni B. Erickson, New England  
Daniel Eubanks, Starkweather  
Mark D. Evans, Lemmon, S.D.  
David Foltz, Mott  
Ruthella Forsch, Dickinson  
Fossum Rentals, Bowman  
Cindy Gaskell, Casper, Wyo.  
Patricia A. Getz, Amidon  
Getz Contracting, Bowman  
Josph Goldade, Lemmon, S.D.  
Devin Good Shield, Bowman  
Hilda Gruebele, Bismarck  
Tom E. Gunderson, Pollock, S.D.  
Kevin Hagbom, Kalispell, Mont.  
Fran Hagel, North Platte, Neb.  
Keith E. Hagen, Scranton  
Bruce Halleen, Bismarck  
Tim Halls, Amidon  
Robert W. Hanson, Rozet, Wyo.  
Harvest Moon Restaurant & Lounge, Mott  
Edward A. Haugen, Sturgis, S.D.  
Lori Heinrich, Bowman  
David W. Hoherz, Dayville, Ore.  
Donovan Hollis, Soap Lake, Wash.  
Steve Holloway, Bottineau

Chism Holt, Cordel, Okla.  
Howe's Gardening, c/o Cindy Howe, Casper, Wyo.  
Monte Howrey, Vale, S.D.  
Neil Hughes, Pendleton, Ore.  
Jeff C. Hultgren, Lakeville, Minn.  
Larry Ihle, Moffit  
Alton Ivey, Regent  
Jodee Jacobs, Bowman  
Mark Jacobs, Hanover, Md.  
Patrick James, Lebanon, Ind.  
Denelle Johnson, Bowman  
Jennifer L. Johnson, Mott  
John L. Johnson, Bowman  
Lansford Johnson, Mott  
Willis E. Johnson, Dickinson  
Tonia Jordan, Williston  
Tony L. Jordan, Williston  
Kathy Jorgenson-Maliske, Fargo  
C.R. Kadmas, Fargo  
Claire Kaiser, St. Louis, Mo.  
Dellroy Kalina, Yuma, Ariz.  
Francis A. Kathrein, New England  
John Kessel, Belfield  
Bruce G. Klein, Garrison  
Lloyd D. Klein, Bismarck  
Jon Klingenberg, Butler, Ill.  
Pat Kochel, Lemmon, S.D.  
Brett Kramer, Langford, S.D.  
Deanna Kramer, Langford, S.D.  
Roger Kubista, Carnation, Wash.  
Forrest D. Lanchbury, Sedona, Ariz.  
Thomas E. Larson, Reiles Acres  
David R. Ledeman, Bowman  
Stacey Lutes, Kennewick, Wash.  
Ralph P. Lutz, Dickinson  
Lynn J. Magelky, Buckeye, Ariz.  
Gabriel Maliske, Fargo  
Oscar Mattis, Fort Collins, Colo.  
Joseph Mattson, Littleton, Colo.  
Susan May, Scranton  
Chelsea McCreery, Kiowa, Kan.  
Brandy A Mervin, Hettinger  
Betty Jean Mesling, Bismarck  
Nici Meyer, Mandan  
Joe Miller, Fargo  
Kari Miller, Fargo  
Ronda Miller, Bowman  
Moen Farms, Lemmon, S.D.  
Nadel & Gussman Rockies LLC, Tulsa, Okla.  
Victoria Nelson, Rapid City  
Nelson Farms, c/o Lelyn Nelson, Spokane, Wash.  
Derek Nordahl, Dickinson

James O. Sabe, Bowman  
Bruce W. Olson, Minot  
Denelle Olson, Bowman  
Cathy Orcutt, Fargo  
Levi Paulson, Bowman  
Bert C. Penfield, Bowman  
Helen Peters, Woodbury, Minn.  
Keith Pierce, Mesa, Ariz.  
Rosalie Pittsley, Grand Junction, Colo.  
Jerome J. Popp, Minneapolis, Minn.  
Florene L. Quamme, Hettinger  
Marge Reiger, Scranton  
Paul Reimer, Bowman  
Louise Roemmich, Pipestone, Minn.  
Sebastian Roll, Mott  
Robert Ruggles, New England  
Jordan Rustad, Bowman  
Barney Sadler, Manhattan, Kan.  
Steven Sayler, Bowman  
Ernest Schafer, New Leipzig  
Lou A. Schatz, Dickinson  
Sandra Schlenvogt, San Jose, Calif.  
Peter Schmatz, Baker, Mont.  
Dale Schoeder, Reeder  
Garavonia Schramm, Beulah  
Eugene Schultz, Wickenburg, Ariz.  
Elaine Schulz, Dickinson  
Sequel Energy LLC, Billings, Mont.  
John Skartved, Hettinger  
Dave Smolnikar, Bowman  
Tana Smolnikar, Bowman  
Jack Stebbins, Bismarck  
Edith Steier, Dickinson  
Leah Stetzner, Carlsbad, Calif.  
Cutris Strand, Anchorage, Alaska  
Jackie Streck, Marshall, Okla.  
Marth J. Stuber, Bowman  
D. Summers, Dickinson  
The Dam Marina Grill, Bowman  
Dr. R.C. Thom, Bowman  
Ross Thomas, Dickinson  
Allan Tomac, Buffalo  
Tri State Comm Inc., Bismarck  
United Site National Services, Miami, Fla.  
George A. Urlacher, Dickinson  
Brad Wahl, Huntington Beach, Calif.  
Don Wandler, Racine, Wis.  
Natalie Wandler, Dickinson  
Westport Oil & Gas, Dallas, Texas  
Patricia M Williams, Quincy, Wash.  
Jay Wolf, Spearfish, S.D.  
H.J. Wyrick, Baker, Mont.  
Jessie Zahn, Dickinson  
Shawn Zrowka, Morrystown, S.D. ■

## Board meeting highlights July 27

The July meeting of the board of directors of Slope Electric Cooperative was held on July 27 at the cooperative's headquarters in New England. President Steven Wegner called the meeting to order at 9 a.m. Slope Electric's Legal Counsel Jennifer Grosz was designated as the meeting recorder. Board quorum was met. Also present were Slope Electric's Co-Managers/CEOs Travis Kupper and Jason Bentz, Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Alex Craigmile, Operations Manager Dean Volk, Manager of Member Relations Brooke Waltner and Executive Assistant and Board Liaison Connie Hill. The meeting commenced with a review of the mission statement, followed by an invocation delivered by Slope Electric Secretary Angela Carlson.

**Consent agenda:** There were no additions to the consent agenda. The agenda was approved as presented. The June 29 meeting minutes were also approved, along with the capital credit estate retirements.

**Strategic/action:** Bentz and Kupper presented the co-general managers' report, which included updates on the Basin Electric Power Cooperative Manager Advisory Committee meeting, Basin Electric manager meeting and other topics. The report also included an update from West

Dakota Utility Services and Basin Electric.

**Department reports:** Craigmile reviewed the June financial reports in the CFO report, discussing sales trends, cash management and budgeting for 2024. Volk provided the operations report with details on maintenance activities, new services and the RESAP audit. Waltner presented the member relations report, including proposed changes to scholarship opportunities and cleanup of member accounts. Chief Information Officer Charlie Dunbar and Grosz provided reports, which were also reviewed.

**Action items:** The board approved the proposed meeting dates for 2024 and appointed delegates for the Basin Electric Power Cooperative annual meeting. The 2023 rate adjustment discussion led to the approval of a rate adjustment for 2023.

Upcoming meetings and events were shared in the discussion/general information section. The board then entered into an executive session.

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

**Next meeting date:** The next meeting date was set for Aug. 24 at the cooperative's headquarters 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  
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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