



Giving Hearts Day



Giving Hearts Day helps raise funds for the Sunrise Foundation's graduating senior health care scholarship.

Slope Electric Cooperative Inc.

OUTLOOK

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Giving Hearts Day

Giving to those who give back to the community

BY ANNE HANSEN



The Sunrise Foundation board of directors works hard to ensure long-term sustainability of the organization, so the funds raised directly are dispersed for health care community needs.

Each year, North Dakotans reach into their pockets and pledge contributions during a 24-hour event known as Giving Hearts Day.

Giving Hearts Day arose in 2008 with the hope that around Valentine's Day, individuals would not only show affection to the people they love, but to the charities they love, too! Fast-forward to today, and the annual event has become the longest-running day of giving in the country. Giving Hearts Day has helped raise more than \$110 million for more than 550 local nonprofit organizations.

"Giving Hearts Day provides people all across the region an opportunity to experience the joy of giving by supporting their local nonprofits," said Jessica Offerman, operational excellence leader for Giving Hearts Day.

The organization itself is a platform for charities to fund their missions through a community of donors. To enrich local North Dakota communities, the Giving Hearts Day organization wanted to see all donations stay local.

"All dollars raised on Giving Hearts Day stay with charities in North Dakota and northwestern Minnesota to fund their important missions that improve health and quality of life right here in our communities," Offerman said.

Additionally, the organization reviews all applicants to ensure that each is a valid nonprofit and prepared to run a successful Giving Hearts Day campaign by attending High Impact Institute fundraising trainings.

Slope Electric Cooperative's area includes two local nonprofits that partake in Giving Hearts Day, including the Sunrise Foundation and West River Health Service Foundation.

Spotlight on the Sunrise Foundation

The Sunrise Foundation was founded in 1984 with the mission to provide financial assistance and support to all aspects of health care in its service area of Bowman, Slope, western Adams and Harding counties, partnering with Southwest Healthcare Services in Bowman.

"Our vision is investing in health care for the future," said Sasha Ruggles, foundation director.

The foundation's revenue enables Southwest Healthcare Services to supplement health care programs, start new programs based upon present and future needs, and continue to provide financial assistance to health care entities to continue to give quality care in the future.

"Due to the continued support of our donors, in the last couple years, we have been able to award Southwest Healthcare Services almost \$50,000 to help with physician recruitment. We have also awarded scholarships to local students going into health care or a health care-related field," Ruggles said.

"We have a long-term vision for our area. For being extremely rural, our area has a vast

amount of health care to offer,” she said.

To raise these funds, the Sunrise Foundation participates in Giving Hearts Day.

“This is our biggest fundraising event of the year,” Ruggles said. The money raised from Giving Hearts Day goes directly toward health care scholarships and loan repayments.

Spotlight on West River Health Services Foundation

West River Health Services (WRHS) Foundation, located in Hettinger, has been serving local communities since 1984.

“The goal of the organization is to support West River Health Services and Western Horizons Living Center, as they provide comprehensive health and wellness services to the region, by providing fundraising and development services,” said Ted Uecker, fund development officer at WRHS Foundation.

To reach these goals, several endowment funds were established. “The long-term welfare of rural, community-owned hospitals depends on financial endowments, as it helps to ensure the quality of health services and up-to-date technology,” Uecker said.

The foundation started a new endowment fund during the pandemic to help support “Healthcare Heroes,” Uecker noted.

“Our staff has been working very hard the last two years during the pandemic and we decided that it was time to start a Healthcare Heroes Endowment Fund,” Uecker said.

The goal is to raise \$500,000 in five years, so the foundation can help with three different areas. The first is academic loans for college upperclassmen pursuing health care degrees, whereby they could agree to apply for a job within the WRHS organization. Second, the endowment would help with signing bonuses for top priority employment positions. Lastly, it would provide bonuses for those currently employed who go above and beyond the call of duty. Since there is already an endowment fund for physicians, this would not include them.

“During Giving Hearts Day, the funds that



The funds raised on Giving Hearts Day help the Healthcare Heroes Endowment.

are raised will go toward our local health care heroes,” Uecker said. “The day of giving is an opportunity for North Dakotans to see all the different organizations they can donate to, including the West River Health Services Foundation.”

“For us, we are just as happy to get \$10 as we are \$10,000,” Uecker said. “After all, without our human heroes, our top equipment and facilities rest.” ■

How you can make a difference

Although the event takes place on Thursday, Feb. 10, this year, the Giving Hearts Day efforts and funds raised help beyond the day of the event.

If you are interested in donating, you can visit www.givingheartsday.org and click on the donate button. Another way to contribute is to send a check, directly made to the charity of your choice, to the organization by Feb. 10.

“With nearly 500 charities participating, there is an abundance of ways to help. We have the resources for you to maximize your efforts with the charity or charities your heart chooses,” said Jessica Offerman, operational excellence leader for Giving Hearts Day.

Manager's message: Let's connect



Travis Kupper

When we say we live in a “connected” world, most of us think about technology, like our smartphones and other devices and gadgets. But when you’re a member of an electric co-op (that’s you), there’s so much more to being part of our connected co-op community.

As a member of Slope Electric Cooperative, you help to power good in our local community through Operation Round Up, sponsorships and other initiatives that help the most vulnerable in our community.

We depend on you, because you power our success. And when Slope Electric Cooperative does well, the community thrives, because we’re all connected.

We greatly value our connection to you, the members we serve. And we’d like to help you maximize the value you can get from Slope Electric Cooperative through a variety of programs, products and services we offer our members. For example, when you download our SmartHub app, you can monitor and manage your home energy use, pay your bill online and access a menu of additional options for potential savings and more.

When you follow Slope Electric Cooperative on social media, you can stay up to date on power restoration efforts, tree trimming planning, co-op director elections, giveaways and more. You’ll also see photos of our line crews in action and our employees helping with community service projects – and who doesn’t enjoy seeing good things happening in our community!

When you sign up for text alerts, you can receive advance notices on outage and restoration information, billing updates and changes to Slope Electric Cooperative event details.

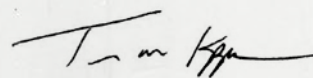
By connecting with us, you can get real-time updates from your co-op. That’s why we want to make sure we have your most current contact information on hand. If we can’t connect with you on these platforms or in person, you could miss out on potential savings or important information.

Slope Electric Cooperative relies on data for nearly every aspect of our operations, and up-to-date contact information from our members helps ensure we can provide the highest level of service you expect and deserve. In addition to the contact information, Slope Electric Cooperative also surveys our members to better understand how we can serve you. Please be aware you might be receiving a phone call, or email, asking for you to participate in this survey in the coming months.

Slope Electric Cooperative exists to serve our members, and when we’re better connected to you and our local community, we’re better prepared to answer the call.

To update your contact information or to learn more about co-op products and services that can help you save, visit www.slopeelectric.coop, call 701-579-4191 or stop by our office in New England.

We look forward to connecting with you! ■





Help us with safety at Slope Electric

Slope Electric Cooperative is an advocate of working safely. In fact, it is our way of life; the culture of your cooperative. We look out for the safety of ourselves and others – before, during and after work. 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! ■

Interested in serving?

The Slope Electric Cooperative board of directors appointed the Nominating/Resolutions Committee at the Jan. 27 board meeting. Each director appointed one member from his/her district, and the board at-large selected up to two additional committee members from the district(s) with director elections. The committee member names are then published in Slope Electric’s local pages of *North Dakota Living*.

The Nominating/Resolutions Committee meets twice. The first meeting will be held at 10:30 a.m. Feb. 16 to explain the functions of the committee, including policies that will aid in selecting qualified members to be nominated. The cooperative will pay you a per diem, along with reimbursing you for mileage for both meetings. The second meeting will be held at 8:30 a.m. March 24. The purpose of this meeting will be

to make the actual nominations for the election to be held at the cooperative’s annual meeting, and to approve resolutions to be printed in the annual meeting report.

Directors’ terms from Adams County and Bowman County will expire. Those positions are currently held by Anthony Larson, Jerome Caron and Henry “Chip” Fischer.

Members can also be nominated to serve as director by filing a petition with 15 members’ signatures. Filing must be done 30 days prior to the annual meeting and posted at the office. Members may also be nominated to serve as director from the floor at the annual meeting. To serve on the Slope Electric board, you must be a bona fide resident receiving service from Slope Electric at your primary residence, and you must be a named member of the cooperative. ■

Planning to build or upgrade?

BY ANNE HANSEN

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,” said Dean Volk, operations manager at Slope Electric Cooperative.

“Projects can range from pasture wells to grain storage, new outbuildings, houses and businesses,” Volk said. “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 said.

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 said.

This year, it is especially important due to the global supply chain disruptions, Volk noted.

“We want to ensure your building project or

upgrade goes as smoothly as possible, and that is why it is important to call us in the early stages.” ■

BUILDING NEW?

Are you planning to build a new structure on your property? Follow these tips to achieve energy efficiency:

- **Location matters.** If possible, carefully consider where you build your shop or barn. Consider drainage, sun exposure and how the building may affect your neighbors.
- **Start with a sustainable design plan.** A sustainable design plan, according to the U.S. General Services Administration, includes the ability to use environmentally preferable products; protect and conserve water; enhance indoor environmental quality; and optimize operational and maintenance practices.
- **Choose efficient building methods.** Pole barns offer reliable shelter without costly excavation, concrete foundations or general site disruption. ■

MAKE ENERGY-EFFICIENT UPGRADES

Follow these tips to make energy-efficient upgrades to an existing structure:

- Replace indoor lighting with energy-efficient LED bulbs.
- Ensure your existing structure has adequate insulation levels.
- Choose outdoor lighting designed to be energy efficient, and install motion detectors to reduce energy consumption when not in use.
- Plant trees around your metal shed or barn. In colder climates, trees act as a windbreak. In warmer climates, trees have a natural

cooling effect that can reduce temperatures in your metal building 3 to 6 degrees.

- Consider adding a ceiling fan to circulate air. Typically, there is a 2-degree temperature increase for every 1-foot increase in ceiling height. A ceiling fan can help keep warm air close to the ground in the winter, and circulate fresher, cooler air in the summer. Not only will this help with energy costs, it will also help keep the air in the building from becoming hot and stagnant, which will keep harmful bacteria from building and keep insects at bay. ■

What is a kilowatt-hour?

Whether it's via an app or on paper, the most apparent part of your electric bill is that bottom line – how much your electricity costs. Your electricity is billed at a rate per kilowatt-hour

(kWh), and managing how much electricity you use is tied to that measurement. If you want to better manage your electric bill, it helps to know what kWh means.

What is a kWh?

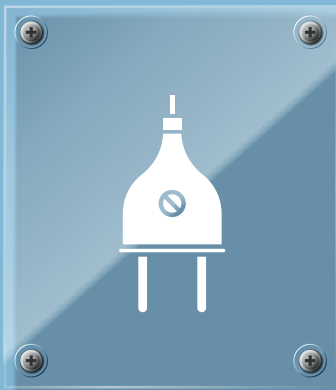
A kWh is an amount of electricity used during one hour. One kWh is equal to the power consumption of 1,000 watts, or 1 kilowatt, for one hour.

For example, a 100-watt light bulb used for 10 hours is equivalent to one kWh.

One watt is a small amount of power. Some devices require only a few watts to operate, while other devices require larger amounts. An appliance's label will state how many watts it uses.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN

KILOWATT



Power required for the appliance to work

KILOWATT-HOUR



Energy used each hour the appliance is on

HOW MUCH ELECTRICITY DOES AN AMERICAN HOME USE?

In 2020, the average annual electricity consumption for a U.S. residential utility customer was

10,715 kWh

or an average of about

893 kWh

per month.

WHAT CAN I DO WITH 1 KWH?

(based on U.S. average electric rates)

89 slices of bread toasted

18 hours of refrigerator use

12 pots of coffee brewed

3 loads in the washer

276 charges for your cellphone

20 hours on your laptop

Report from THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Regular meeting held at the Enchanted Castle in Regent.

- Approved the agenda.
- Approved minutes of the Nov. 16, 2021, board meeting.
- Reviewed two capital credit estate retirements.
- Heard co-general managers/CEOs updates.
- Reviewed Basin Electric Power Cooperative update.
- Resolved Board Policy 02-18.
- Reviewed board member reports.
- Heard presentation from West River Health Services' Healthcare Heroes Endowment campaign, and approved a contribution.
- Resolved a bill credit be increased to members in December billing.
- Heard operation report, including interruption report and safety meeting minutes.
- Approved a donation request from Bismarck State College for lineworker program and to first responders/ambulance groups within the service territory.
- Reviewed the legal counsel report.
- Held an executive session.



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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
Lauren Klewin, Director
Jerome Caron, Director
Dale Hande, Director
Charlotte Meier, Director

MANAGEMENT

Donald A. Franklund
CO-GM/CEO

Travis Kupper
CO-GM/CEO

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*Slope Electric Cooperative Inc.
is an equal opportunity provider.*



Help us help you.

As a member of Slope Electric Cooperative, we value your opinion and would like to hear how we can better serve you!

This year, Slope Electric Cooperative will be completing a member satisfaction survey. Participate by visiting: www.surveymonkey.com/r/2022SlopeElectric. Share your feedback with us in this quick, 10-minute survey and help us continue to make Slope Electric Cooperative even better!

In addition, you might also receive a random telephone survey performed by Odney Advertising. If you receive a call from Odney Advertising on behalf of Slope Electric Cooperative, please take time to answer the questionnaire. Thank you in advance! ■

In observance of
Presidents Day,
Slope Electric Cooperative
will be closed on

Feb. 21



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