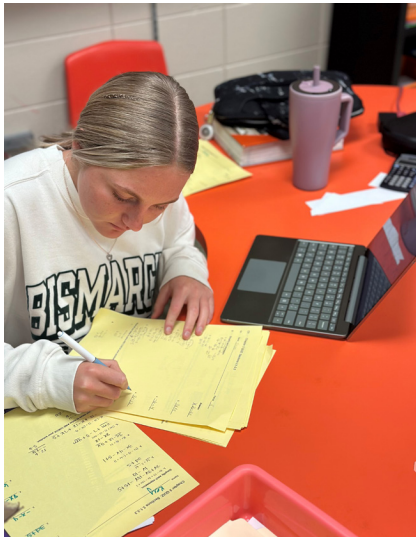


THIS ISSUE:

- Protect yourself from scams
- North Dakota Career Tour
- Annual meeting June 5
- What to know about power restoration



Olivia Welch corrects papers for **Jenny Johnson** as a teacher's aide.



Ellie Ridl works alongside employee **Duane Hill** at Gooseneck Implement.



Dani Salter takes inventory at ProPoint Ranch and Farm Supply.

Bowman County High School students gain work experience

BY SAMANTHA VANGSNESS

High school is filled with various learning opportunities for students to prepare them for life after school. For some students, that means heading straight into the workforce, while others pursue a post-secondary education.

To meet the needs of all its students, Bowman County High School (BCHS) has been working for the past four years to help high school seniors receive more hands-on work experience in the community through its Cooperative Work Experience (CWE) program. CWE allows high school seniors to gain on-the-job experience while earning high school credits.

"Students want experiences that are hands-on and relevant," says Tyler Senn, the 7-12 grade principal at Bowman County Public School.

A program that began during the spring semester of 2021 has flourished into students finding skills in which they excel and discovering how their interests align with future careers. Through CWE, students can earn one credit hour per semester, and the credit is allotted to the subject with which it aligns.

"If we know where the student's interest lies, we try to match it to the community," says Barb Bickel, the CWE coordinator at Bowman County Public School.

To earn credit for the work experience, students complete a daily log detailing what skills they learned and what tasks they complete each day. It is required to obtain 75 hours of experience each semester to earn a credit. The school is flexible with students' schedules and when they may be completing their work experience during the week. Bickel says some

continued on next page

continued from previous page

work early mornings, during school hours or later in the evening after extracurricular activities. This opportunity has also opened job opportunities for the students while in high school.

“The students appreciate the real-life application,” Senn says.

One of the BCHS students who participated in the program in the fall of 2024, Sophia Headley, was able to spend time at Southwest Healthcare Services.

“I started in the nursing home department and was moved around with the nurses to departments like the ER,” Headley says.

Bowman is fortunate to be a hub of various local businesses supporting this program. Some of the participating entities include welding shops, dental practices, cosmetology shops, implement dealerships and more.

Headley received her certified nurse assistant (CNA) certificate last summer and has gained hands-on experience through the CWE program.

“I’ve been exposed to new things that have sparked new interest,” says Headley, who was even able to remove a patient’s stitches.

The various businesses offering work experience have helped students gain skills, such as confidence and motivation, to power them forward in their futures.

“I have seen shy kids blossom,” Bickel says. “They’re able to look people in the eye and carry on a conversation.”

Although the program has only been in place for three years, the community has seen students continue working in the local community after high school. Many students are able to work full time while completing courses online or they return to work on the holidays or weekends while in college. Programs such as these help ensure longevity for rural communities, while making a valuable impact on students who are the future of our communities. ■



Sophia Headley obtains her Cooperative Work Experience hours as a CNA at Southwest Healthcare Services.



Sawyer Clendenen assists mechanics at Little Missouri Ranch Supply.



Levi Kordovsky helps with maintenance at Frontier Travel Center.

MANAGER'S MESSAGE:

Protecting yourself from utility scams



Jason Bentz

Co-General Manager/
CEO

Consumers with a water, gas or electricity connection have long been targets for utility scams. As consumers became more reliant on technology for work, school and commerce, scammers noted these shifts and adapted their tactics to this changed environment.

Imposter scams are the No. 1 type of fraud reported to the Federal Trade Commission. While scam artists may come to your door posing as a utility worker, attempts in today's connected world are more

likely to come through an electronic device, via email, a phone call or text.

Common types of scams

A scammer may claim you are overdue on your electric bill and threaten to disconnect your service if you don't pay immediately. Whether this is done in person or by phone, text or email, the scammers want to scare you into immediate payment, so you don't have time to think clearly.

If this happens over the phone, simply hang up. If you're concerned about your bill, call us at 701-579-4191 or 800-559-4191. Our phone number can also be found on your monthly bill and on our website, www.slopeelectric.coop.

If the scam is by email or text, delete it before taking any action. If you're unsure, contact us at 701-579-4191, 800-559-4191, comments@slopeelectric.coop or use SmartHub to check the status of your account. Remember, Slope Electric Cooperative will never

attempt to demand immediate payment after just one notice.

Some scammers may falsely claim you have been overcharged on your bill and say they want to give a refund. The scammers make it sound easy by stating all you have to do is click or press a button to initiate the process. If you proceed, you will be prompted to provide banking or other personal information. Instead of money going into your bank account, scammers can drain your account and use personal information, such as a Social Security number, for identity theft.

If this "refund" scam happens over the phone, just hang up and block the phone number to prevent future robocalls. If this scam attempt occurs via email or by text, do not click any links. Instead, delete it and block the sender if possible. If you do overpay on your energy bill, Slope Electric will automatically apply the credit to your next billing cycle. When in doubt, contact us.

Defend yourself

Be wary of calls or texts from unknown numbers. Be suspicious of an unknown person claiming to be a utility worker who requests banking or other personal information.

We want to help protect our community against utility scams, and you can help create the first line of defense. Please report any potential utility-related scams to us, so we can spread the word to prevent others in the community from falling victim. ■



You're Invited MEMBER APPRECIATION OPEN HOUSE



5 - 7 P.M. ON FEB. 6



HETTINGER CITY
ARMORY, HETTINGER

Come enjoy a delicious meal on behalf of Slope Electric and visit with our board of directors, CEOs, staff as well as other members. Members will also receive a FREE gift.



MESSAGE FROM MEMBER RELATIONS: **Seeking youth to attend the North Dakota Career Tour**



Brooke Waltner

Manager of Member Relations

As manager of member relations, I'm excited to personally invite you to a unique opportunity that could ignite your future. Our two-day North Dakota Career Tour is set to offer a deep dive into the fascinating world of energy careers right here in our state.

Why should you join us?

If you've ever been curious about what powers your world, this is your chance to explore. From coal mines and power

plants to wind turbines and electric cooperatives, you'll get hands-on experiences and hear directly from the experts who drive North Dakota's energy sector.

This tour is more than just an exploration. It's a gateway to understanding how diverse career paths and cutting-edge technologies shape our industry. You'll meet professionals who are passionate about

their work and discover how you could be a part of this exciting field.

Event details

When: Aug. 5-6

Who can attend:


- 2025-26 high school seniors, juniors and sophomores who are interested in exploring careers in energy.
- Students who are curious about the wide range of opportunities in North Dakota's energy sector.

How to register:

We have a limited number of spots available. Our cooperative is joining forces with our sister cooperatives within the Innovative Energy Alliance Cooperative, with each selecting 10 students, totaling 40 participants from across the state.

This is your chance to gain a new perspective and start envisioning your future in energy. To secure your spot and learn more, visit www.slopeelectric.coop or get in touch with us at 701-579-4191 or 800-559-4191.

I look forward to seeing you on this exciting journey and helping you light the way to your future career! ■



JOIN SLOPE ELECTRIC FOR THE CAREER TOUR

AUGUST 5-6, 2025

FROM COAL MINES TO POWER PLANTS AND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES DIVE INTO THE HEART OF NORTH DAKOTA'S ENERGY SECTOR.

Limited spots available. Learn more by visiting: www.slopeelectric.coop.

Application deadline is April 25.

Slope Electric Cooperative annual meeting June 5

Slope Electric Cooperative’s 80th annual meeting will be held Thursday, June 5, in Bowman. Three board seats will be elected at the 2025 annual meeting:

- Bowman County – Currently held by Jerry Caron
- Bowman County – Currently held by Chip Fischer
- Adams County – Currently held by Anthony Larson

The bylaws of Slope Electric state in Article IV, Section 4, directors can be nominated one of two ways:

1. Through the Nominating Committee. The committee’s first meeting was held Jan. 21 to review

procedures, responsibilities and qualifications for directorship. The second meeting will be held Feb. 27 to nominate candidates and to approve resolutions.

2. Members can also be nominated by filing a petition with 15 signatures. Filing must be done 90 days prior to the annual meeting on June 5 and posted at the office of Slope Electric.

Please reach out to a current board of director, a member of the Nominating/Resolution Committee or the Slope Electric office with any questions.

Nominating/Resolution Committee

Jim Bugner.....	Reeder.....	701-541-9497
Amy Fischer	Rhame	701-279-5774
Shelby Hewson.....	Amidon.....	701-523-6586
Lynn Homelvig.....	Amidon.....	701-879-6385
Camie Janikowski	Bowman.....	701-574-4313
Mark Koller.....	New England.....	701-579-4742
Jess Kouba.....	Regent.....	701-563-4543
Otto Schwarz.....	Hettinger.....	701-567-4212
Gary Symanowski.....	Scranton.....	701-275-8807

SAVE THE DATE
SLOPE ELECTRIC ANNUAL MEETING
JUNE 5 | BOWMAN

MORE INFORMATION WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE COMING MONTHS.



MESSAGE FROM OPERATIONS: What to know about power restoration



Dean Volk

Chief of Staff/
Operations Manager

We often get questions from members about power outages and why it can take time to restore power. Given our reliance on electricity, there's simply never a good time to be without it. As we continue through the cold winter, we thought it would be a good time to shed light on our restoration process to help our members understand what may be happening behind the scenes.

What you may not know about power restoration:

- **We need you.** When your power goes out, it might be just at your home or a smaller section of our service area. There is a chance we may not know about it, and no one has reported it. We rely on you to let us know if your power is out. Report outages by calling our office at 701-579-4191 or 800-559-4191.
- **It's a team effort.** Every one of Slope Electric Cooperative's employees is working to restore power as soon as possible. Our member services representatives are taking your calls, operations staff are surveying damage and organizing crews, and communicators are keeping everyone informed of progress or potential dangers. When your power goes out, we all work together as quickly and safely as possible to get you back to normal.
- **We assess the situation first.** Every outage is different, and we don't know how dangerous it is or what equipment might need to be replaced. When responding to outages, we first need to see what happened, then figure out what materials we need and develop a plan for how to fix the problem(s) without compromising electric flow for the rest of our members.
- **Restoration is normally prioritized by the largest number of members we can restore in the shortest amount of time.** Our crews focus on responding first to public safety issues and critical services, such as hospitals. Then, we complete work that impacts the largest number of people first.
- **Flickering lights are good.** Some folks mistake flickering lights for outages, but these "blinks" are important, because they indicate our equipment has worked properly and prevented a possible

outage likely caused by weather, an animal or stray tree limbs on the lines. If the line continues to blink, please call the office so we can isolate the section of line to address the members impacted. Line crews may be dispatched to patrol that section of line looking for any issues that may be causing the blinks.

- **Sometimes, it's a waiting game.** Our portion of the power grid is connected to other electric utilities, and we maintain positive relationships with power providers interconnected to our system. If our outage is due to an issue from their feed into our system, we must let them do their repairs and be mindful of what they're going through to fix it.

We do our best to avoid power disruptions, but they are inevitable from time to time. If the lights go out, our team at Slope Electric is working as quickly and safely as possible to restore power.

If you experience an outage, please call the office at 701-579-4191 or 800-559-4191 or report it on SmartHub. ■



Pictured: **Brian Lakoduk**, NDaREC safety inspector (left), **Shay Olson** apprentice lineworker and **Mike Koenig** NDaREC safety inspector

At NDaREC's Apprenticeship, Training and Safety Conference banquet, Slope Electric received a safety performance award which recognizes cooperatives for having zero OSHA recordable injuries within the last year. Help us congratulate all of our cooperative employees for being dedicated to safety in the office, field and the community!

SAFETY STARTS WITH ME:

Snow removal around electrical equipment

It is that time of year when we break out our shovels and snowblowers a bit more than we would like. Slope Electric Cooperative may have electrical equipment, such as pad-mounted transformers or even overhead lines, near areas where you have to clear snow, so we remind members to proceed with caution.

“We want members to be aware of where pad-mounted transformers – also known as the green box – or other electrical equipment is located on their property,” says Dusty Hoff, New England area foreman. “Ensuring members know where equipment is helps alleviate accidents and keeps everyone safe and informed.”

Here are a few tips to keep in mind this winter as you are removing snow.

- **Know where electrical equipment is located:** Before a heavy snowfall, mark the location of electrical equipment with flags to easily see it when removing snow.
- **Be gentle when clearing snow:** Always use a shovel to clear snow around electrical equipment. Never use a snowblower or plow directly against it.
- **Maintain clearance:** Ensure a safe distance is maintained around electrical equipment, typically at least 10 feet in front and 3 feet on the sides.
- **Be aware of overhead lines:** Be mindful of overhead power lines, especially when removing snow from roofs.
- **Report damage:** If you notice any damage to



electrical equipment due to snow removal, contact our office as soon as possible. Do not try and fix the damage yourself.

Keeping these tips in mind will help Slope Electric ensure safe and reliable electrical services continue to power your homes and local businesses.

If you notice any damage to electrical equipment, contact our office as soon as possible at 701-579-4191 or 800-559-4191. ■

Members, if you have received a capital credit retirement check, please cash it as soon as possible.

Call our office with any questions at 701-579-4191 or 800-559-4191



SLOPE ELECTRIC BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS: NOV. 21, 2024

The regular meeting of the board of directors of Slope Electric Cooperative was held on Nov. 21, 2024, at the cooperative's headquarters in New England. President Steven Wegner called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. A quorum was present. Slope Electric General Counsel Jennifer Grosz was appointed recorder for the meeting. Also present were Slope Electric co-General Managers/CEOs Travis Kupper and Jason Bentz, Chief Financial Officer Alex Craigmile, Chief of Staff/Operations Manager Dean Volk, Member Relations Manager Brooke Waltner and Board Liaison Connie Hill.

Consent agenda: The consent agenda was approved as presented.

Strategic/action: Bentz and Kupper presented the co-general managers' report, which included updates on various meetings, including a statewide Safety Committee meeting. Several Basin

Electric Power Cooperative, West Dakota Utility Services and 3C Construction reports were available for review.

Department reports: Craigmile provided a financial and statistical report. Volk provided a report including new projects on which the crews have been working. Waltner provided a report, including cooperative programs. Chief Information Officer Charlie Dunbar provided a report for the board. Grosz provided a legal report.

Action items: Action items were reviewed and resolved.

Discussion/general information: The board discussed the 2025 budget and other items.

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

Next meeting date: The next meeting is 10 a.m. Feb. 27 in New England. ■



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
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

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.*

