

**Jeff Boynton** (center) lends advice during a tournament.

## Jeff Boynton: Leading on and off the mat

BY ANNE HANSEN

Being a foreman at Slope Electric Cooperative takes the ability to lead a team, listen and, most importantly, build trust.

For Jeff Boynton, those skills transfer from the field to the mat each winter. Boynton, who is the outpost foreman at Slope Electric Cooperative, also wears the title of “coach” while serving as Bowman County High School and Beach High School’s head wrestling coach.

For years, Boynton has been balancing work and his passion for wrestling. Boynton moved to Bowman after being hired at Slope Electric Cooperative in 2006. Although new to the area, he wanted to share with the community his knowledge and passion for the sport of wrestling.

Throughout the years, Boynton has seen many successes: state champion, over 30 state-placers and being awarded Regional Coach of the Year on three occasions.

“Jeff is dedicated to sharing knowledge with the wrestlers,

Slope Electric Cooperative Inc.

# OUTLOOK

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

### In this issue:

- Jeff Boynton: Leading on and off the mat
- Manager’s message: Happy New Year!
- Planning to build or upgrade?
- Get involved by serving on Nominating/Resolutions Committee





**Jeff Boynton** (right) stands proudly at the N.D. state tournament with second-place wrestler, **Taylor Wanner**, and assistant coach, **Mark Wanner**.

and he wants them to have fun while learning,” said Mark Wanner, assistant coach for the Bowman/Beach wrestling team.

### Setting goals and giving 100%

Although the state recognition is credit to the hard work, it is not the only aspect of wrestling that Boynton cares about, noted assistant coach Robert Sperry.

“He has the knowledge and skill to help our team get on the podium, but more importantly, he truly cares about the development of our wrestlers into accountable and hardworking young men.”

At the start of each season, Boynton asks the student-athletes to determine goals. He keeps the goals in mind while coaching to best help each athlete individually.

“What I have learned coaching these kids is that you might not always have the best wrestling ability, but if they believe in themselves, teammates and coaching staff, they can accomplish their goals that they set out to achieve,” Boynton said.

And believe in them, he does. “Jeff cares and believes in each one of our wrestlers and is willing to go above and beyond to help them,” Sperry said.

It comes down to Boynton’s motto about coaching. “If the kids know that you’re there for them 100%, they will always give you 100% in return when they step on the mat,” he said.

Although most athletes on the team have goals that center around the podium, Boynton’s goal for them is so much more.

“Being on the Beach and Bowman wrestling team teaches more than wrestling. We teach them how to be accountable, develop a hard work ethic and how to be leaders to those younger than them,” he said.

It is this concept of leadership from the upperclassmen that continues to build the successful program for Beach and Bowman’s wrestling team.

“To build a successful high school wrestling program, it always starts with the younger wrestling program,” Boynton said.

“Those in the youth wrestling program look up to the upperclassmen, and want to model their behaviors,” Boynton said. “That is why it is so important for the high school team to show that hard work, dedication and leadership can help you achieve your goals.”

In addition to leading the high school wrestling team, Boynton also volunteers for the youth program.



**Jeff Boynton** (front left) with his youth program at an elementary duals tournament.

### The team behind the coach

Boynton gives credit to those who have helped along the way. “It couldn’t be done without our team. We have great volunteers that help out with the program and a lot of support from many people,” he said.

“Wrestling is a sport that requires dedication – not only from the wrestlers and coaches,



but also from the parents,” Boynton said. “The parents of our wrestlers are dedicated to travel all over for their kids to compete. I always say that it takes more than one person to have successful wrestling.”

This dedication creates a family of sorts, Sperry noted. Boynton’s own wife, son and daughter cheer on the Bowman County Bulldogs and the Beach Buccaneers every season.

In addition, the cooperative family at Slope Electric Cooperative continues to support Boynton.

“It works where I can work holidays, and the guys will cover my shift if I need to be gone for a tournament,” he said.

The same goes for his assistant coaches.

“If there is a storm or an outage, I am lucky to have great assistant coaches that are able to step in my place,” he said. ■

## Get involved at Slope by serving on the Nominating/Resolutions Committee

The Slope Electric Cooperative board of directors will appoint the Nominating/Resolutions Committee at the Jan. 27 board meeting. Each director shall appoint one member from his/her district, and the board at large will select 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 you 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.

If you or someone you know is interested in serving on the Nominating/Resolutions Committee, please notify the office at 701-579-4191 or email [comments@slopeelectric.coop](mailto:comments@slopeelectric.coop) prior to Jan. 27. To serve on the Nominating/Resolutions Committee, you must be an active member of Slope Electric with your name listed

on the membership.

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. ■



## Manager's message: Happy New Year!



**Travis Kupper**

Happy New Year! We wish you and yours a safe, healthy and prosperous new year!

It is this time of year that evokes comfort and nostalgia, recalling family gatherings and traditions and often is a time for us to reflect on the past year.

Today and every day, I'm grateful for my own family and my co-op family. At Slope Electric Cooperative, our team feels a strong connection to our community and our members, because we live here, too. This past year, we were driven by the motto, "Together we make a powerful difference," which was also the theme of our annual meeting.

The motto shines a light on how together we not only make a difference, but we accomplish more than we would independently and do so in a safe manner. We continued to work in our new normal and placed a heavy focus on the safety of our employees to ensure our workforce was able to be there for our members.

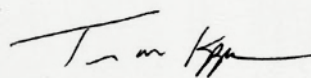
We are aided by the use of technology, which continues to play an important role. Holding virtual board and annual meetings is just one way we continue to find the beneficial use of technology can help our cooperatives

In addition to helping members today, we're focusing on the future. In your January statements, you will find the benefit of our good year with a bill credit. We continued to have a reliable and financially sound year and expect the same for the future. At the end of the day, we are committed to you and the communities we serve.

At the heart of all we do are the members we proudly serve. Looking back, I'm grateful for so many wonderful community partners and for the positive impact we can continue to make.

Speaking on behalf of our team at Slope Electric Cooperative, we know the future will be bright, because of you. During the new year, we wish you and your loved ones peace, joy and prosperity.

We look forward to serving you in 2022. ■



### **The Slope Electric Cooperative board of directors and management staff have good news to share. Members, you will find a bill credit on your January billing statements.**

Slope Electric is a nonprofit business that exists only to provide goods and services to you, our member owners, not to make a profit for a shareholder or investor. Cooperatives operate to provide electric service to their members at the lowest cost possible. At the end of each year, Slope Electric Cooperative completes its financials and prepares a budget to plan for future cooperative needs. During the December board meeting, Slope Electric's directors noted the 2020 financials are stronger than forecasted, and at their discretion, saw an opportunity to initiate a bill credit to the membership. Please look for your credit for under Detail of Charges on your January electric statement. ■





# 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. ■

## Scholarships offered by co-op!



**Slope Electric Cooperative is offering \$6,000 in college scholarships to area students whose parent(s) or guardian(s) are members of the co-op.**

Slope Electric will award two \$500 luck-of-the-draw scholarships to be drawn at the annual meeting. All area high school seniors who are dependents of a Slope Electric member are eligible for this scholarship. Students must attend Slope Electric's annual meeting, accompanied by at least one parent or guardian, and are encouraged to RSVP prior to the meeting. No application is required.

Slope Electric will also award six \$500 scholarships through area high schools to seniors who are dependents of a Slope Electric member. One graduating senior will be selected from each school in Slope's service area: Bowman, Hettinger, Lemmon, Mott-Regent, New England and Scranton. Students should contact the school counselor for requirements.

***Slope continues to award a \$1,000 scholarship sponsored by Basin Electric Power Cooperative.***

Scholarships are awarded to a high school senior or college freshman already enrolled or planning to enroll in a full-time graduate or undergraduate program, and who are dependents of a Slope Electric member. The student must attend an accredited, two-year or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school. Completed application is required.

***In addition, Slope Electric is awarding a \$500 scholarship sponsored by 3C Construction.***

Eligible applicants are high school seniors who are enrolled or planning to enroll in a certified vocational or technical school pursuing a career as a lineworker and who are dependents of a Slope Electric member. A completed application is required.

***Plus, Slope Electric is awarding a \$500 scholarship sponsored by West Dakota Utility Services.***

Eligible applicants are high school seniors who are enrolled or planning to enroll in a certified vocational or technical school pursuing a career as a mechanic, and who are dependents of a Slope Electric member. A completed application is required.

Students can get the applications from our website, [www.slopeelectric.coop](http://www.slopeelectric.coop), or call the office in New England. Applications can be filled out online and emailed to [comments@slopeelectric.coop](mailto:comments@slopeelectric.coop), or printed and mailed to: Slope Electric Cooperative, Attn: Scholarship Committee, P.O. Box 338, New England, ND 58647. ■

***Please return completed applications to Slope Electric Cooperative by Jan. 31.***





# SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS & COLLEGE FRESHMEN

## Rules & Eligibility:

- Applicant must be:
  - A dependent child of a member-system consumer or employee.
  - A student who is enrolled or planning to enroll in a full-time graduate or under graduate course of study at an accredited two-year or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school in the fall of 2022.
- Complete required criteria and the scholarship application.
- Essay is not to exceed one standard 8½ x 11 typewritten, double-spaced page at 12 point font on the topic: **What challenges face rural electric cooperatives in the coming years and how do you think challenges should be addressed?**

Submit your entry in hard copy or electronic format to Slope Electric.

- Applications available at [www.slopeelectric.coop](http://www.slopeelectric.coop)
- Email entries to [comments@slopeelectric.coop](mailto:comments@slopeelectric.coop)
- Mail hard-copy entries to:  
Slope Electric Cooperative  
Attn: Scholarship Committee  
PO Box 338  
New England, ND 58647-0338
- Entries must be received by January 31, 2022.

If you have any questions, contact us at 701-579-4191 or 1-800-559-4191.

SPONSORED BY:



## Report from THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*Regular meeting held at the Enchanted Castle in Regent.*

- Approved the agenda.
- Approved minutes of the Oct. 28, 2021, board meeting.
- Reviewed two capital credit estate retirements.
- Heard co-general managers/CEOs updates.
- Reviewed West Dakota Utility Services/3C Construction update.
- Reviewed Basin Electric Power Cooperative update.
- Approved the ballot cast for Paul Fitterer for National Information Solutions Cooperative Region 6 director.
- Approved Anthony Larson as a director to the Innovative Energy Alliance/Maintenance Solutions Cooperative board, Dale Hande as first alternate director and Charlotte Meier as second alternate director.
- Approved Angela Carlson to serve on board of directors for the N.D. Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives (NDAREC), with Chip Fischer as alternate.
- Approved Dale Hande and Jerome Caron as voting delegates for 2022 annual meeting for NDAREC.
- Approved the Slope annual meeting to take place at the Amidon/Slope County fairgrounds.
- Reviewed the Drew Madler scholarship.
- Approved purchase of a replacement truck and bucket unit for 2023.
- Reviewed board policy.
- Approved increase in estate retirement budget.
- Heard CFO report.
- Heard member relations report.
- Heard operation reports.
- Reviewed the legal counsel report.
- Held an executive session.

### Statement of nondiscrimination

Slope Electric Cooperative Inc. is a recipient of federal assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its agencies, offices, employees and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at [www.usda.gov/oascr/howto-file-a-program-discrimination-complaint](http://www.usda.gov/oascr/howto-file-a-program-discrimination-complaint) and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call 866-632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: 1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave. S.W., Washington, DC 20250-9410; 2) fax: 202-690-7442; or 3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

Slope Electric Cooperative Inc. is an equal opportunity provider.



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](mailto: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

Donald A. Franklund  
CO-GM/CEO

Travis Kupper  
CO-GM/CEO

[www.slopeelectric.coop](http://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.*