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- Scholarships available
- Join board of directors
- Apply for Youth Tour
- A look at 2025 projects

Giving back to communities the cooperative way!



Lynn Homelvig, a Slope Electric Cooperative Operation Round Up director, delivers a check to the New England Public Library to help the library purchase books and supplies.



Devon Miller accepts an Operation Round Up check from Slope Electric Cooperative for EMS bags for the Scranton first responders.

Read more about Slope Electric Cooperative's Operation Round Up giving on the next page.

Assisting communities the cooperative way

Cooperatives across the nation adhere to seven cooperative principles. These principles help guide decision-making, from how the cooperative operates to how the cooperative engages with local communities. Concern for community is one of the seven principles, and it is one Slope Electric Cooperative values.

Electric cooperatives have a proud history of giving back. You may find Slope Electric at events like parades, fairs and other community gatherings.

But Slope Electric members help us give back, too! Through the Operation Round Up program, members can round up their energy bills to the next dollar amount and the extra change goes toward helping those in need, right here in the communities we serve.

Operation Round Up giving in 2024

Operation Round Up has been a beacon of cooperative principles for 27 years at Slope Electric. In 2024 Slope Electric donated funds to 19 recipients totaling \$18,000 going back to help local community members and entities.

Each year the recipients of Operation Round Up funds vary but often fall into a few categories including medical expenses, education, charitable, safety and scientific purposes. It is important to the board that they prioritize giving the funds to those that may not have any additional resources. This year the board gave to seven local community members to assist with medical expenses from bills to travel expenses. Other entities that received funds include the New England Library, Mott Lions Club and others for educational opportunities.

“Our goal is to put the funds to good use in the community,” says Bill Gion, Operation Round Up board chair.

Quarterly, Slope Electric’s Trust Board members, who are also Slope Electric members, meet to review and distribute Operation Round Up funds to deserving recipients across our service area. Gion says that the board is very designate about reviewing applications and awarding funds.

“It’s rewarding to see neighbors take care of neighbors and we get to be a part of the process,” says Gion.

In fact, 70% of Slope Electric members participate in Operation Round Up by rounding up their bills to the nearest dollar amount. Slope Electric also makes a contribution to Operation Round Up each month by matching the funds collected every month from our members. The matching funds amount to a little over

\$600 per month.

“It’s been a very effective and powerful program,” says Gion. “It has and will continue to accomplish a lot in our communities.”

The next Operation Round Up application deadline is Feb. 20. Feel free to reach out to an Operation Round Up board of directors or our office at 701-579-4191 or 800-559-4191.. ■

Operation Round Up board of directors



Bill Gion, Regent
Lane Miller, Hettinger
Renee Brown, Scranton
Lynn Homelvig, Amidon
Charlotte Meier, Regent

2025 application deadlines

Feb. 20
May 21
July 30
Oct. 22



In 2024, Slope Electric Cooperative gave funds to **19 recipients** totaling **\$18,000.**



70%
of Slope Electric members participate in Operation Round Up by rounding up their electric bills each month.



Since inception, **388 awards** have been given for a total of **\$288,970.**



2025 SCHOLARSHIPS

DEADLINE: JAN. 31

Download Application



\$1,000 Basin Electric Power Cooperative scholarship

Slope Electric will award a \$1,000 scholarship sponsored by Basin Electric. The scholarship will be 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 is a dependent of a Slope Electric member. The student must attend an accredited two- or four-year program, university or vocational/tech school. A completed application is required.

Lineworker scholarship from 3C Construction

Slope Electric will award a \$500 scholarship sponsored by 3C Construction. Eligible students are

high school seniors who are enrolled 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.

Mechanic scholarship from West Dakota Utility Services

Slope Electric will award a \$500 scholarship sponsored by WDUS. Eligible students 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.

Luck-of-the-draw scholarship

Slope Electric will award two \$500 and three \$1,000 luck-of-the-draw scholarships at the annual meeting. Anyone enrolled or planning to enroll part time or full time at an accredited two- or four-year program, university or vocational/tech school and is in attendance at the annual meeting is eligible. If a student is under 18 years old, his or her parent or guardian, who is a Slope Electric member, must be in attendance.



**Applications can be filled out online at slopeelectric.coop and emailed to comments@slopeelectric.coop, or printed and mailed to:
Slope Electric Cooperative
Attn: Scholarship Committee, 116 East 12th St, P.O. Box 338
New England, ND 58647**

All applicants must have a parent or guardian who is a Slope Electric member.

MANAGER'S MESSAGE:

What does it take to be a director?



Travis Kupper

Co-General Manager/
CEO

As we ring in the new year, we often look at the year ahead and the potential the future holds. Simultaneously, Slope Electric Cooperative opens the doors each year to new and returning directors.

As we approach upcoming director elections, we thought it would be a good reminder to our members to consider the significant role directors play in shaping the future of Slope Electric.

Serving as a director is more than just a title. It's a commitment to our members and communities.

Our board of directors is central to our cooperative, because it enables members to advocate for their community's interests, aligning decisions with local needs and values.

Board members provide critical oversight of operations and finances, shaping the cooperative's strategic direction and fostering transparency. Overall, active participation in governance is key to maintaining a responsive and effective cooperative.

Here are some key qualities that make an effective director:

- **Commitment to service:** Directors should have a passion for serving our members, always striving to enhance their quality of life.
- **Strategic thinking:** A strong director must think critically, making informed decisions that align with our cooperative's long-term goals.
- **Community engagement:** Active involvement in the community is vital. Understanding and responding to the needs of our members is crucial for effective leadership.
- **Collaboration:** Directors must work well with fellow board members and staff, fostering a culture of teamwork and transparency.
- **Adaptability:** The energy landscape is ever-changing. A successful director must embrace change and navigate challenges.


If you or someone you know is interested in taking this vital role, consider the impact you can make on our cooperative and the community we serve. You can learn more about what it takes to be a director by calling our office at 701-579-4191 or 800-559-4191. Your voice matters in shaping a brighter future for all. ■



Join *-US-* MEMBER APPRECIATION OPEN HOUSE

 5 - 7 P.M. ON JAN. 22

 4 SEASONS, BOWMAN

 Can't make it? Join us in Hettinger from 5-7 p.m. on Feb. 6 at the Hettinger Armory.

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: Join Slope Electric board of directors



Brooke Waltner
Manager of Member Relations

As we prepare for our 2025 annual meeting, we would like to share board positions up for election within Slope Electric Cooperative.

At the 2025 annual meeting, three positions will be elected:

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

As a potential board member, you will have the chance to contribute to

learning is crucial. Board members have access to additional training sessions to enhance their knowledge and skills in governance and utility management.

The directors' commitment to the cooperative is highly valued. In turn, Slope Electric compensates directors for their time and travel expenses.

If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity or know someone who might be a perfect fit, we invite you to attend our upcoming membership appreciation event from 5-7 p.m. on Jan. 22 in Bowman. This event will provide an excellent platform to meet with our current board of directors, ask questions and gain a deeper understanding of the responsibilities and expectations associated with serving on the board.

Your engagement and participation are vital to the success and representation of all communities within Slope Electric. Join us in making an impactful difference for our cooperative and community.

For more details or inquiries, please contact Brooke Waltner at 701-579-4191, the Nominating Committee or current board of directors. ■

Slope Electric's direction and decisions. Some of the responsibilities include:

- **Monthly board meetings:** The board convenes once a month to discuss and decide on matters crucial to our cooperative's operations, development and growth.
- **Ongoing training opportunities:** Continuous

ENTER YOUR YOUTH TOUR ERA

JUNE 15-21, 2025

1,800 students. 7 days. 1 unforgettable trip.

Join us on the adventure of a lifetime. On the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, you'll do it all. You'll explore monuments and museums, meet with members of Congress and get an up-close look at where our country's laws are crafted. You'll stand on the Gettysburg Battlefield, walk the halls of George Washington's iconic 18th-century mansion and witness ceremonies honoring the men and women who fought in uniform for this great nation. For one jam-packed week, you'll be immersed in the cooperative spirit that built and sustains our great nation. And **all expenses are paid** by your local electric cooperative! **The essay deadline is Jan. 17.**

Yeah, Youth Tour hits different.




HONORING HEROES @ WWI MEMORIAL



Learn more at
slopeelectric.coop/youth-tour

MESSAGE FROM OPERATIONS: A look at 2025 cooperative projects



Dean Volk
Chief of Staff/
Operations Manager

As we look ahead to 2025, Slope Electric Cooperative is excited to share upcoming projects that will help shape the future of our cooperative, bringing more reliability and safety to our system. A team of engineers and operations employees from Slope Electric have thoughtfully planned to ensure seamless execution of the upcoming projects. A few projects include pole changeouts, overhead power line conversion and general maintenance.

As soon as digging can begin, line technicians will begin the process of converting overhead power lines to underground cable. Transitioning overhead power lines to underground cable helps reduce outages due to the cable being underground and not exposed to weather elements and animals, which cause blinks and often outages. These projects include:

- 13 miles of three-phase overhead will be converted to underground line south of Rhame.
- Various highway crossings across our service

territory will be converted, allowing large equipment to move more easily.

- Upgrading aged underground cable across the service territory.

Each year, various utility poles across our service territory are tested to ensure structural integrity. Testing the poles includes visual inspection for damage, decay and other signs of weakness. This can be done through various tests to ensure a pole can continue to support safe, reliable power. This year, Slope Electric plans to replace 100 poles across the service area.

The cooperative plans to continue maintenance of electrical infrastructure, such as transmission lines. Transmission lines are inspected to address various components that may need to be repaired, such as poles, insulators, conductors and other hardware, to ensure the line can continue to operate in an efficient manner. One of the transmission lines the crews plan to service this year is south of Rhame.

As we continue into the winter season, we would like to remind you to report outages by calling the office or on SmartHub. This information helps us to assess potential areas that may need maintenance down the road and provide safe, efficient, reliable service to our members. We look forward to working and visiting with you in the new year. ■



Jeff Boynton, the Bowman outpost working foreman, works to retire power lines near Bowman.

SAFETY STARTS WITH ME:

Winter storm preparation and safety

Once winter weather conditions are upon us, we often wonder when a snowstorm will hit and what the impact will be. Although Slope Electric Cooperative hopes storms will have little to no impact, we are always prepared and ready to act when called.

“When an outage call comes in, we are ready to head to the shop, grab our gear and get on the road to the outage location,” says Cody Braaten, a line technician. “When the forecast calls for storm weather, we plan ahead at the shop and ensure we have all the equipment we may need for an outage.”

Slope Electric is prepared for winter storms and we want to help you be prepared for them as well. Here are a few tips to keep in mind when it comes to winter storm outages.

- **Always report an outage.** Do not assume someone else has already called about an outage. We aim to keep members up-to-date on social media, but it is not monitored 24/7, so we advise not to report outages through our social media messages. If you have a medical need, such as requiring oxygen, please notify our member service team when reporting an outage.
- **Have a backup plan for you and your family.** We suggest having items, such as water, nonperishable food sources, blankets, batteries, flashlights and a charging bank, although these items vary depending on your family’s needs.
- **Do not plug generators into household wiring, unless you have an appropriate transfer switch installed.** If a generator is connected to a home’s wiring without a transfer switch, power can



backfeed along power lines and harm lineworkers making repairs.

We know storm outages can be unsettling, but we want to assure you our team is working behind the scenes to ensure your power returns. Safety is our No. 1 priority, so if weather conditions are too dangerous, crews may not be able to work until it becomes clear. All of us at Slope Electric are committed to ensuring safe, reliable electric services for you. We appreciate your patience during uncertain times like these, but urge you to give us a call with any questions regarding an outage. ■

REPORT EVERY OUTAGE

**TO REPORT AN OUTAGE, CALL US AT
701-579-4191 OR 800-559-4191**

Please keep in mind, our social media pages and emails are not connected to our dispatch center. Call one of the numbers above to ensure your outage is reported.



SLOPE ELECTRIC BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS: Oct. 31, 2024

The regular meeting of the board of directors of Slope Electric Cooperative was held on Oct. 31, 2024 at the cooperative's headquarters in New England. President Steven Wegner called the meeting to order at 9 a.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: There were several proposed amendments 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 the Rural Utilities Service environmental review, wildfire mitigation plan, a legislative

meeting and more. 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. Waltner provided a report, including annual meeting information and other cooperative programs. Chief Information Officer Charlie Dunbar provided a written report for the board. Grosz provided a legal report.

Action items: Action items were reviewed and resolved.

Discussion/general information: The board discussed strategic planning and nominating committee information.

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. on Jan. 30 in New England. ■

Statement of nondiscrimination

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- 1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410;
- 2) Fax: 202-690-7442; or
- 3) Email: program.intake@usda.gov

Slope Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



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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

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