

THIS ISSUE:

- Summer projects progress
- Understanding your infrastructure
- SmartHub tools and tips

JUNE
2025



Jerry Caron has served as a director for Slope Electric Cooperative for 36 years.

A LASTING LEGACY:

Caron retires after decades of service

At the heart of every electric cooperative is a commitment to the members it serves. Guiding that commitment is a dedicated board of directors. Those directors embody desire, passion and commitment for the cooperative and community members they serve.

Jerome "Jerry" Caron, a longtime Slope Electric Cooperative director, embodies these characteristics and has been paramount to the decision-making process at Slope Electric. After 36 years of service, Caron has decided to retire from the board following Slope Electric's Annual Meeting in June.

Becoming a director is not a lighthearted decision.

It takes time and desire to run for a seat on a board. Caron, who was a full-time rancher at the time, became interested in running for a position after being approached by his neighbor and Slope Electric director, Elwood Anderson. After visiting with Anderson and a few Slope Electric members, Caron decided to throw his name into the hat.

"The first time I ran, I didn't get elected," Caron recalls. "But I ran again and was elected."

Caron recalls his first Slope Electric board meeting, where he was encouraged to listen and pay attention, and he has not forgotten those words of wisdom.

continued on next page

continued from previous page



Jerry Caron was first elected to the Slope Electric Cooperative board of directors in 1989.

"Our board president at the time said that is the best way to learn about the cooperative and the board," Caron says.

Caron continued to best serve the membership throughout his years on the board by attending countless educational meetings, including his favorite, the Basin Electric Power Cooperative annual meeting. He says getting to learn from the power supplier on such a local level is an impactful experience. But he also enjoyed visiting with other board members and partners in the industry during those meetings. All these experiences helped him come back to the boardroom and make the best decisions for the membership.

As Caron reflects on his years on the board, he recalls one notable achievement by the Slope Electric board of directors – creating the Innovative Energy Alliance

(IEA) Cooperative. The IEA is owned by four distribution cooperatives in North Dakota, including Slope Electric.

"I remember when we started talking about four cooperatives coming together and working with and helping each other," Caron says. "Our board, especially Jim Kerzman and John Lee Njos, worked hard to get that together."

Caron has been able to meet with members who are also his neighbors over the years and hear their thanks and concerns regarding the cooperative.

"I have really enjoyed working with everyone, including getting to know and work with the employees of the cooperative," he says.

Caron says he looks forward to staying busy with odds and ends on the ranch and visiting the sale barn to catch up with his neighbors and community members.

"On behalf of our entire team, I want to express our deepest gratitude to Jerry for his decades of dedicated service to Slope Electric," says Travis Kupper, co-general manager/CEO. "His unwavering commitment, leadership and passion for our mission has left a lasting legacy. We wish him all the best and thank him for the immeasurable impact he's made on our members." ■





The original **HIGHWAY 21 TREASURE HUNT**
June 20-21 • 8 a.m.-5 p.m. MT
Discover treasures on North Dakota's original 100-mile rummage sale. Citywide sales in St. Anthony, Flasher, Carson, Elgin, New Leipzig, Mott, Regent and New England.
For more information, call 701-584-2172 or visit the Highway 21 Treasure Hunt Facebook page.

MESSAGE FROM OPERATIONS: Summer projects progress



Dean Volk

Chief of Staff/
Operations Manager

As we continue through summer, crews are hard at work on various projects throughout our service area. Some of the projects are routine construction efforts we undertake each year, while others are more complex and require careful planning and coordination from our engineering and operations department.

One of the projects on which crews have begun working is conversion of overhead power

lines to underground cable in the Langberg Substation located south of Rhame. 3C Construction, a contracting company which is owned by four North Dakota electric cooperatives, including Slope Electric Cooperative, will be assisting on this project.

Annually, we contract with a specialized company to conduct pole testing across our service area to help ensure reliability for our members. Contractors have

completed this year's pole testing and reported 150 poles were identified as needing replacement. Over the summer months, our crews will work on updating and replacing these poles. Another project that has our focus this time of year is tree trimming, which helps us ensure foliage isn't disrupting services to homes and businesses. As new service requests and changes come in, we will be addressing those as well.

A few other projects taking place this year by other agencies within our service area include county road construction and the Rhame wind farm. As these projects progress, our crews will be available to adjust and relocate existing lines as needed to ensure construction crews can work safely.

While our crews remain busy throughout the coming months, we know our members are hard at work as well. We'd like to take this time to remind members to be aware of power lines and electrical equipment. Whether you are baling and stacking hay, spraying fields or enjoying time in your yard, take a moment to look around and stay aware of your surroundings to help prevent accidents. At the end of the day, safety remains a priority for you, our members. ■



MANAGER'S MESSAGE:

Understanding your cooperative infrastructure



Jason Bentz

Co-General Manager/CEO

As a member of Slope Electric Cooperative, you are part of a cooperative that takes pride in delivering safe and reliable electricity to our communities. While you're familiar with the services we provide, you might not always know who owns and maintains the various components of the electric system that brings power to your home or business.

Slope Electric's responsibility

As your electric cooperative, we own and maintain the distribution system that brings electricity to your home or business. This includes:

- **Power lines:** These poles, wires and cables transport electricity from the substation to your property.
- **Transformers:** These essential devices step down high-voltage electricity from transmission lines to a usable voltage for homes and businesses.
- **Substations:** These facilities reduce the voltage from the transmission lines, making it safe for local distribution.
- **Meters:** These devices measure the amount of electricity used by each member, ensuring accurate billing.

What you, the member, own

While we own the majority of the infrastructure up to your property line, there are some areas where your ownership comes into play. Typically, this includes:

- **Service entrance:** This is the electrical wiring beyond where our system connects to your home or business, usually from the meter to your electrical panel or circuit breaker box. But sometimes the meter is not near or on the building, so from wherever the meter is located is the member's responsibility.
- **Electrical panel and wiring inside your home:** Everything that happens within your home's walls, from the panel that distributes power throughout your home to the outlets and light fixtures, is your responsibility to maintain and upgrade.

Understanding who owns what is more than just a matter of curiosity. It's about ensuring the safety, efficiency and longevity of your electrical service. It also helps you know who to contact when something goes wrong and it clarifies the roles and responsibilities between you and Slope Electric.

As always, our team is here to help. If you ever have questions about what's covered by your co-op membership or need clarification on how to care for your portion of the system, don't hesitate to reach out. ■



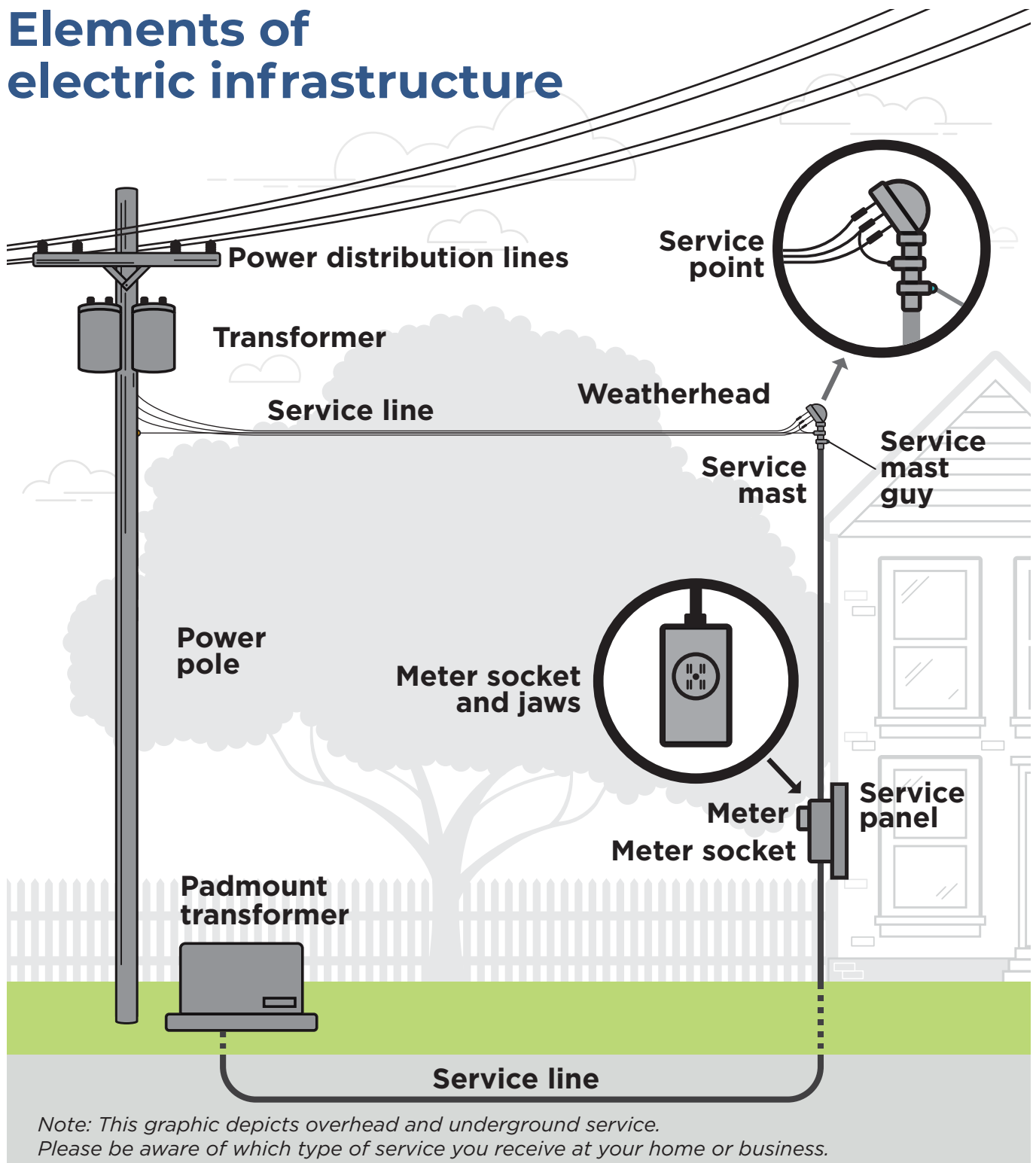
KNOW WHAT'S BELOW!

CALL 811 BEFORE YOU DIG!

Anytime you plan to excavate whether planting trees, building a deck or installing a mailbox – you must call the ND One-Call number at least 48 hours before you dig. Just dial 811 – it's free. Protect yourself and your property against underground utility damage and liability. Find out where the underground utility lines might be buried before you dig.



Elements of electric infrastructure



This graphic is for illustrative purposes only and may not reflect the exact setup between the co-op and a member's service installation.

MESSAGE FROM MEMBER RELATIONS: **SmartHub tools and tips**



Brooke Waltner
Manager of Member
Relations

Life is busy and we want to help you streamline paying your electric bill by managing your account anytime, anywhere with SmartHub. SmartHub is a free, easy-to-use tool that lets you pay your electric bill, track your energy use and manage your account.

- **Billing and payments:**

No more waiting for your bill to arrive in the mail. Access your bill anytime from anywhere. Save time with easy payment options to avoid late fees and service interruptions.

- **Alerts and notifications:** Stay informed on important account events via email and text message. Receive the information you need to make the right decisions about your account.
- **Paperless billing:** Activate SmartHub paperless billing, an eco-friendly way to instantly access your bill. Plus, Slope Electric offers an additional incentive for paperless billing. Give our office a call for more information.
- **Usage monitoring:** Worrying about usage or surprising bill amounts can be stressful. With access to this information, you can be in control and make decisions that can help reduce your bill.

SmartHub gives you complete control over your account by giving you the tools that deliver the right information at the right time, so you can make the right decisions about your account.

Don't have a SmartHub account? Enrolling is quick and easy!

- **Register your account in SmartHub.** Visit our website at slopeelectric.coop and navigate to the SmartHub tab on the top and click "Don't have an account? Register now." If you prefer to sign up over the phone, call our office and a member service representative will guide you through the process. Please have your email address and account number associated with your Slope Electric account on hand to ensure seamless enrollment.
- **Active features that work for you.** Once enrolled, you'll be able to take advantage of features, such as alerts/notifications, auto pay and paperless billing, to have more control over your account.
- **Access your account anytime and anywhere.** SmartHub can be accessed on your desktop or phone/smart device by downloading the SmartHub app from your app store.

Streamline your electric bill payment process and stay informed on important information regarding your account by signing up for SmartHub. We are here to help, so give us a call at 701-579-4191 with any questions. ■



DON'T MISS A BEAT. SIGN UP FOR SMARTHUB TODAY!

**VISIT WWW.SLOPEELECTRIC.COOP OR CALL
OUR OFFICE TO GET STARTED.**

SAFETY STARTS WITH ME: Summer safety reminders

Summer brings many of our favorite activities, such as being outside and spending time with family and friends. As you find yourself spending more time outside enjoying the longer days, we want to remind you about a few safety tips to ensure everyone stays safe this summer.

"We want to remind members that our infrastructure, such as power lines and pad-mounted transformers, carry extremely high voltages. If contact is accidentally made, the results can be dangerous," says Kennedy Binstock, member services representative. "Here are a few tips to remember when you are spending time outside this summer."

- **Plan before you plant.** If you plan to plant trees or shrubs, keep them at least 10 feet away from electric infrastructure, such as power poles, power lines and pad-mounted transformers (the big green box). This ensures line crews have enough room to safely work in and around our infrastructure if needed.
- **Always look up.** Before trimming trees, flying kites or working on a roof, be aware of overhead power lines. These activities can pose serious safety risks if contact is made with power lines, potentially causing power outages, injuries or even electrocution.
- **Stay away from substation fences.** Substations house high-voltage equipment that can be dangerous. Please do not loiter around or do not climb substation fences.
- **Stay clear of downed power lines.** Always assume downed lines are live. Stay at least 35 feet away and report them immediately to the cooperative.



Your safety is important to us. We hope you keep these safety tips in mind, so you and others can enjoy these summer days. Additionally, follow us on social media at Slope Electric to stay up to date on cooperative information, including weather threats and outages. ■

CONNECT WITH US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

Stay up to date on the latest co-op information including outages, program deadlines and more.

 **SLOPE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

 **SLOPE ELECTRIC**

 **SLOPE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**

SLOPE ELECTRIC BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS: MARCH 27

The regular meeting of the board of directors of Slope Electric Cooperative was held on March 27 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's General Counsel Jennifer Grosz was appointed recorder for the meeting. Also present were Slope Electric's 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. Slope Electric's auditor, Tyler Richter with Brady Martz, attended as a guest.

Consent agenda: The consent agenda was approved as presented.

Strategic items: Bentz and Kupper presented the co-general managers' report, which included updates on various Basin Electric Power Cooperative and Upper Missouri Power Cooperative meetings, the North Dakota managers meeting and others.

Several additional Basin Electric board documents were available for review.

Department reports: Craigmile provided a financial and statistical report. Volk provided a report, including an update on general and substation maintenance on which crews are working. Waltner provided a report, including donation requests and annual meeting preparation. Chief Information Officer Charlie Dunbar provided a report. Grosz provided a legal report.

Action items: The board reviewed and resolved various items, including the audit presentation by Richter.

Discussion/general information: The board discussed strategic plan update and other items.

Executive session: The board entered an executive session.

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

Next meeting date: The next meeting is at 9 a.m. June 26 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.*



Discounts offered for Medora vacation

Slope Electric Cooperative is able to offer its members a discount by being a Touchstone Energy® member. Simply call 1-800-MEDORA-1 and give the discount code of "TOUCH2025" for a 15% discount on all of the following during any night of the season.

- Medora Musical
- Pitchfork steak fondue
- Bully Pulpit Golf Course
- Gospel Bruch tickets
- Old Town Hall Theater shows

LODGING AT ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

- Elkhorn Quarters
- Badlands Motel
- Rough Riders Hotel

The code is good for reservations over the phone, online or in person. A green fees discount will be applied at check-in for a tee time at the golf course.