

THIS ISSUE:

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Thanks for joining us at our member appreciation open house events!





EMPOWERING FUTURES: **Luck-of-the-draw scholarships**

As Slope Electric Cooperative prepares for your annual meeting June 5 in Bowman, we are proud to announce our luck-of-the-draw scholarship opportunities. This year, members and dependents of members will be able to sign up to be randomly chosen for a luck-of-the-draw scholarship at the annual meeting.

Three \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to full-time students and two \$500 scholarships to full- or part-time students. Whether you are a non-traditional student taking online courses or a high school student

taking college credits, you qualify to register for the luck-of-the-draw scholarship.

As a commitment to fostering education within our community, these scholarships are a testament to our dedication to supporting the academic pursuits of talented individuals.

“We believe in investing in the future, and these financial aids reflect our commitment to empowering the next generation of leaders,” says Manager of Member Relations Brooke Waltner. ■

Scholarship FAQ

Who is eligible? Slope Electric members and dependents enrolled in full- or part-time college courses.

How do I sign up? Join us at our annual meeting on June 5 in Bowman and sign up there!

Do I have to be present to sign up and receive a

scholarship? Yes, you must be present at the annual meeting on June 5 to register and qualify for the luck-of-the-draw scholarship. If you are a dependent of a member, you and the member must be present.

If you have any further questions, call our office at 701-579-4191 or 800-559-4191 and visit with Brooke. ■

MANAGER'S MESSAGE:

Restoring power safely and efficiently



Travis Kupper

Co-General Manager/
CEO

We do our best to avoid power outages, but there's no way around it. Outages occasionally happen.

For most Slope Electric Cooperative members, outages are rare and only last a few hours. But when major storms impact our area, extended outages are unavoidable.

When the power goes out, how do Slope Electric crews know where to start working? How do you know if your outage has been

reported? We have answers to these questions and more, and it all starts with a safe, efficient plan for power restoration.

When a power outage occurs and it's safe for our crews to begin the restoration process, they start by repairing power lines and equipment that will restore power to the greatest number of people in the shortest time possible.

This process typically begins with repairs to the larger main distribution lines that service a greater number of homes and businesses. After those repairs are made, crews work on tap lines, which deliver power to transformers, either mounted on utility poles (for above-ground service) or placed on pads (for underground service). Finally, individual service lines between the transformer and the home are repaired.

We can't control the weather, but we can prepare for it. Slope Electric keeps a supply of extra utility poles, transformers and other equipment on hand so we can quickly get to work in the event of an outage. When widespread outages occur, multiple crews will be out in the field simultaneously, working to repair damage

at multiple locations. We also coordinate with nearby co-ops to bring additional crews when necessary.

A proactive approach to maintenance helps minimize the chance of prolonged outages. This is why you see Slope Electric crews periodically trimming trees and clearing vegetation near rights of way. We love trees, too, but it only takes one overgrown limb to knock out power for an entire neighborhood. Trimming improves power reliability for our entire community. In addition to managing vegetation, we regularly inspect utility poles, power lines and other critical equipment to maintain a more reliable system.

If you experience a power outage, don't assume a neighbor reported it. It's best to report the outage yourself. The quickest way to report an outage is by calling our office at 701-579-4191 or 800-559-4191 or through SmartHub.

If you have a medical condition that requires electrical equipment, please let us know, and always have a backup plan in place. This plan could include a portable generator, extra medical supplies or moving to an alternate location until power is restored. If you plan to use a generator for backup power, read all safety information and instructions before use and never connect generators directly into household wiring unless you have an appropriate transfer switch installed.

Mother Nature can be unpredictable, but as a member of Slope Electric, you can feel confident knowing we're standing by, ready to restore power as quickly and safely as possible. ■

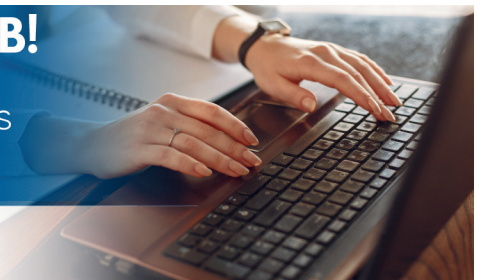


DON'T MISS A BEAT WITH SMARTHUB!

WITH SMARTHUB YOU CAN

- ENROLL IN OUTAGE AND BILL NOTIFICATIONS
- MAKE ONE TIME BILL PAYMENTS
- SIGN UP FOR AUTO PAYMENTS
- MANAGE NOTIFICATIONS
- AND MORE!

**SIGN UP FOR SMARTHUB TODAY AT
WWW.SLOPEELECTRIC.COOP**



MESSAGE FROM MEMBER RELATIONS: **E-newsletter coming soon**



Brooke Waltner

Manager of Member Relations

Slope Electric Cooperative is excited to announce the launch of our new e-newsletter coming soon, which is a direct response to the feedback provided in our 2024 member engagement survey. Your insights are valuable in shaping our approach to communication, and we're committed to keeping you informed and connected.

For members who have provided us with an email, our e-newsletters will arrive in your inbox on a monthly basis,

with additional updates as necessary. If you have not provided us with an email or if you have a new email

address, please call our office or visit our website and update your information on SmartHub.

We welcome your ongoing feedback and suggestions on topics you would like covered, as this e-newsletter is for you! Thank you for being a valued part of your cooperative. ■



STAYING CONNECTED: **Update contact information**

In our interconnected world, staying informed about important updates, outage notifications and other essential information is crucial. Slope Electric Cooperative strives to provide seamless service to our valued members, and we need your help in keeping your contact information up to date.

Life gets busy and changes happen, whether it's a new phone number, email address or a shift in your mailing address. To ensure you receive timely and relevant communications from us, we kindly request all members to take a moment to check your contact information and make updates if applicable.

Updating your information is simple! You can update your information in a couple of different ways.

- Visit our website at www.slopeelectric.coop and navigate to SmartHub in the top right corner (or use the app).
- Call our office at 701-579-4191 or 800-559-4191.
- Visit our office in person.

By simply updating your contact information, you contribute to the efficiency of our communication channels and help us serve you better. It's a collective effort that ensures we can continue to provide you with the best service possible.

You can also stay up to date with Slope Electric by following us on Facebook or Instagram. ■



MESSAGE FROM OPERATIONS: Planning to build or upgrade?



Dean Volk
Chief of Staff/
Operations Manager

As you begin to plan your spring to-do list in anticipation of tackling it at the first sight of sun and warmth, we want to remind you of a few tips before finalizing plans. If building or upgrading is on your list, whether it's a new pasture well, a new home or adding a grain dryer or shop onto the farm, give us a call so we can ensure your projects are completed smoothly.

Contact Slope Electric Cooperative in the early stages of the planning process, and

we can help provide guidance and analyze what your projected electrical requirements may be, as well as service availability and potential costs.

Contacting us in the beginning stages also helps us plan for load forecast, which may include your plans for heating, cooling, water and other equipment. It is important to have an idea of possible expansion in your future, such as a barn or shop.

Once we get an idea of the project, we will ask to meet at the project site to get a better idea of the location. Then, we can see if there are overhead power lines or underground cable near the project site. We can also determine the best choice of infrastructure, including overhead power lines or underground cable, if vegetation needs to be removed and where the best route of installation should be. An easement may need to be granted to the cooperative so we can access the land to install and maintain infrastructure.

Our team at Slope Electric wants to help you get your project done in a safe and effective manner. This is why we ask members to inquire in the beginning stages of planning to ensure we can provide a safe and reliable service to your new home, pasture well or shop upgrade. Give us a call at 701-579-4191 or 800-559-4191 to start discussing your project or with any potential questions. ■



JOIN SLOPE ELECTRIC FOR THE CAREER TOUR AUGUST 5-6

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

Limited spots available. Learn more by scanning the QR code or visiting:
www.SlopeElectric.coop.

Application deadline is April 25.



Annual meeting deadlines and information

Slope Electric Cooperative's annual meeting will be held Thursday, June 5, in Bowman. The upcoming 2025 annual meeting will feature the election of three board seats.

- **Adams County** – Currently held by Anthony Larson (seeking reelection)
- **Bowman County** – Seeking nominations
- **Bowman County** – Currently held by Chip Fischer (seeking reelection)

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

1. By Nominating Committee: The committee's first meeting was held Jan. 21 to review procedures, responsibilities and qualifications for directorship. The second meeting was held Feb. 27 to nominate candidates and approve resolutions.
2. By filing a petition: Members can also be nominated by filing a petition with 15 signatures. Filing must be submitted by March 7 (90 days prior to the annual meeting on June 5) and posted at the office of Slope Electric.

Please reach out to a current director, the Nominating/Resolution Committee or the Slope Electric office at 701-579-4191 or 800-559-4191 with any questions. ■



The 2025 Nominating/Resolution Committee for Slope Electric.



Thank you Nominating/Resolution Committee for your time and efforts!

SAVE THE DATE

SLOPE ELECTRIC ANNUAL MEETING

JUNE 5 | BOWMAN

MORE INFORMATION WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE COMING MONTHS.



SAFETY STARTS WITH ME: Cybersecurity awareness and tips

We live in an evolving and fast-paced world with new technologies around every corner. Slope Electric Cooperative values our face-to-face and phone conversations with members, but we understand sometimes members prefer to communicate, pay bills, update contact information and much more online.

“We prioritize cybersecurity at Slope Electric to ensure information remains safe,” says Brooke Waltner, manager of member relations. “But when it comes to security online, we all can contribute to remain secure.”

Here are a few cybersecurity tips to keep in mind when using online sites that house delicate information.

- **Use strong and unique passwords.** Create complex passwords with a mix of letters, numbers and special characters. A password manager can help generate and store unique passwords for each online user account you may have.
- **Enable multi-factor authentication.** For added security, enable multi-factor authentication when possible. This adds an extra layer of defense.
- **Keep software up to date.** Regularly update operating systems, applications (apps) and antivirus software.
- **Be cautious of phishing attacks.** Avoid clicking on suspicious links or downloading attachments from unknown users. If you ever receive a suspicious text or email with a link from Slope Electric, call us as soon as possible to verify legitimacy.
- **Use secure networks and devices.** Connect to secure Wi-Fi networks or use your phone’s hot spot. Avoid connecting to public Wi-Fi networks,



especially when logging into websites that contain sensitive information.

By following these tips, we hope you feel more secure when choosing to use online applications. If you ever have any questions on the legitimacy of an email, text or call coming from Slope Electric, give us a call at 701-579-4191 or 800-559-4191 and we will help verify the information. ■

SIGN UP & SAVE:

Saving money is easy with SmartHub



Slope Electric Cooperative is now making it even easier to save on your electric bill with SmartHub! All members who receive paperless statements only will receive a \$1 credit for each month enrolled. In addition, members who sign up for an automatic withdrawal through their bank account will also receive a \$1 credit for each month enrolled. The savings will show up once a year on your bill. To learn more about the benefits of SmartHub, visit www.slopeelectric.coop/ways-pay. ■

SLOPE ELECTRIC BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS: DEC. 19, 2024

The regular meeting of the board of directors of Slope Electric Cooperative was held on Dec. 19, 2024, at the cooperative's headquarters in New England. President Steven Wegner called the meeting to order at 10 a.m. A quorum was present. Slope Electric 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.

Consent agenda: The consent agenda was approved as presented.

Strategic/action: Bentz and Kupper presented the co-general managers' report, which included updates on the Basin Electric Power Cooperative district managers meeting and other

meetings. Several Basin Electric, 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 2025 planning and projects. Waltner provided a report, including member meeting dates. 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 work plan 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 at 9 a.m. March 27 in New England. ■



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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
Chip HJ Fischer, Treasurer
Jerome Caron, Director
Ryan Jacobson, Director
Charlotte Meier, Director
Cheryl Van Daele, Director

MANAGEMENT

Jason Bentz
CO-GM/CEO

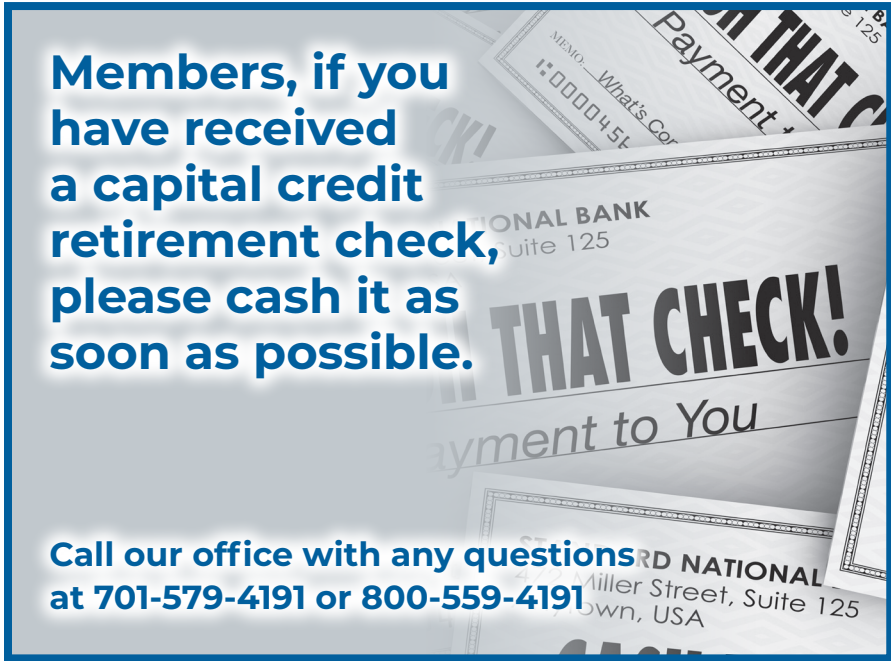
Travis Kupper
CO-GM/CEO

www.slopeelectric.coop



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



**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**