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### Scholarship winners



Caleb Sarsland



Andrew Eikamp



Nicholas Rodakowski



**Bennett Jorgenson** 



Slope Electric Cooperative Inc.

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Hannah Frank



# Slope Electric awards scholarships to graduates

Slope Electric Cooperative is pleased to announce the 2022-23 student scholarship winners, whose families are member-owners of Slope Electric. In the spirit of the Touchstone Energy<sup>®</sup> Cooperatives value of commitment to community, Slope Electric is proud to offer yearly scholarships to assist in developing rural leadership in our region.

#### Slope Electric/Basin Electric scholarship

The winner of the Basin Electric Power Cooperative/Slope Electric scholarship award is **Caleb Sarsland**. He will receive a \$1,000 scholarship in the fall of 2023. Caleb is the son of Curtis and Jennifer Sarsland. Caleb will be attending Dickinson State University.

#### Area high school scholarships

As part of our commitment to community and area youth, Slope Electric is pleased to also award one \$500 scholarship to a graduating senior from each of the high schools within our service area:

- Bowman County High School chose Nicholas Rodakowski, son of Luke and Andrea Rodakowski. He will be attending North Dakota State College of Science (NDSCS) in pursuit of an industrial electrical degree.
- Mott-Regent High School chose Andrew Eikamp, son of Justin and Becky Eikamp. He will be attending North Dakota State University (NDSU) in pursuit of a degree in agricultural systems management and marketing.
- Hettinger High School chose Bennett
  Jorgenson, son of Cody and Tara Jorgenson.
  He will be attending NDSU in pursuit of a business degree.
- New England High School chose Hannah
  Frank, daughter of Kyle and Kyra Frank.
  Hannah will be attending NDSCS in pursuit of

a degree in dental hygiene.

 Scranton High School chose Lillian Steeke, daughter of Trevor and Misty Steeke. Lilian will be attending South Dakota State University in pursuit of a degree in agricultural communications. No applications were received from Lemmon High School.

3C Construction and West Dakota Utility Services generously extended a \$500 scholarship to each of its owners this year, including Slope Electric. The intention of the scholarship is to provide support to students entering into a lineworker program or mechanic program at a certified vocational or technical school. We have incorporated this scholarship into our current scholarship program, which allows Slope Electric to offer two more scholarship awards to our member-dependents. No qualifying applications were submitted.

Thank you to all the students who took the time to apply, and congratulations to this year's winners! Slope Electric is proud to play a small role in supporting your educations and careers!



AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES ARE POWERED BY COMMUNITY MEMBERS, LIKE YOU. HELP PROTECT THEM TODAY.



### Manager's message: Get involved! Join us at the annual meeting

One of our biggest events

of the year is coming

up, when Slope Electric

Cooperative will host our

annual meeting for you, the

members we proudly serve.

I always look forward to this

opportunity for me and our

employees to talk with our

members and hear what's

event, because it's a great



Jason Bentz on their minds.

We hope you'll join us for the annual meeting, which will take place on June 8 in Hettinger. For those who are unable to attend in person, we also offer a virtual option, which can be found on our website. Whether you attend in person or online, we thank you in advance for getting involved, because your participation means so much to us.

During the annual meeting, we'll share a few brief business updates and have a lot of fun, too! We'll have tasty food from B&E BBQ and Popper's Kettle Korn and prizes! Spending time with you and hearing your take on our community's energy future is so important to us. In fact, it's essential, because everything we do is shaped by the members of our community. As we navigate major changes in the coming years, we need to hear from you and your neighbors to inform our planning as we strive to meet the long-term needs of all Slope Electric members.

Every year, we invest funds to make updates to our local system, which helps maintain reliability and grid resilience. Think of it this way: Every time you pay your electric bill, you're actually investing in your local area. By making these investments in our local system, we can ensure you have reliable power for everyday life.

We hope you'll exercise the benefits of your co-op membership and join us for the annual meeting on June 8. We look forward to seeing you!

Hoon & Back

### Larson awarded Gold Credential



Anthony Larson, left, receives his award.

Anthony Larson, a Slope Electric Cooperative director representing Adams County, recently received the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) Director Gold Credential.

The Director Gold Credential

recognizes electric cooperative directors committed to continuing their education and who desire a tangible credential that demonstrates their ongoing commitment to advancing their knowledge and performing their fiduciary duty to the best of their ability.

NRECA's director certificate programs are specifically designed to help electric cooperative directors, at every stage of their service, understand their roles and responsibilities, stay up-to-date on the key issues and trends in the industry and prepare them to meet the challenges facing electric cooperatives now and in the future. NRECA offers director education courses throughout the year in conjunction with a variety of NRECA educational conferences and events across the country, in partnership with statewide associations and onsite at individual cooperatives.



## **75 YEARS OF ELECTRIC SERVICE**

Oct. 22, 1948, is a day that lives in history for Slope Electric Cooperative. On that day, the Haynes Substation was energized around noon, bringing electricity to the remote and rural areas in Slope Electric's service territory.

### Take a look at some of







28, 1952 Lebets section 12.12. a truly n. Branda The



Fall 1958

The first electri

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#### Oct. 22, 1948

The day everyone was waiting for! The Haynes substation energized and work began in hooking up individual farms

#### Dec. 12, 1948

The board of directors decided Slope Electric would purchase a diager and enough equipment to construct power lines on its own.

#### April 6, 1949

Bowman Substation was energized.

#### Dec. 1949

By the end of this year, over 384 miles of line were installed, and an additional 425 consumers were connected at Slope Electric.

#### Jan. 16, 1950

Reeder Substation was energized.

#### April 15, 1950

One of the system's worst outages occurred when flood waters in the Cedar and Cannonball rivers washed out lines.

#### June 19, 1950

New England Substation was energized.

#### December 1950

By the end of the year, 775 miles of line were completed and an additional 615 members were receiving electricity.

#### June 26, 1951

Mott Substation was energized.

#### December 1951

By the end of the year, an additional 808 miles of line was constructed and 759 members were receiving electricity for the first time.

#### December 1952

By the end of the year, an additional constructed and 237 additional members were eneraized. Everyone who had applied for electricity now had it.

402 miles of line was

#### June 3, 1957

Slope Electric's board of directors approved a change to the bylaws, permitting the return of capital credits to the members.



Each and every day since, the cooperative's board of directors and employees have rolled up their sleeves to help members in any way they could. This year, we are celebrating the past 75 years of electric service, and all that has come along with it.



### our biggest milestones!





### slope electric cooperative's annual meeting: Celebrating 75 years of electric service, power for generations!

Slope Electric Cooperative is gearing up for an entertaining and fun 2023 annual meeting. The meeting will begin with registration at 4:45 p.m. June 8 at the Hettinger Armory in Hettinger.

There is a little something for the whole family! Enjoy a meal from local food trucks, see the bucket truck our lineworkers use and the equipment they are required to wear, play in a bouncy house and much more! The annual meeting is a special time for co-op members to gather, share experiences, hear from co-op leadership and, perhaps most importantly, vote to elect your board members.

#### **Board director candidates announced**

The Nominating Committee met on Feb. 27 to make nominations. Names to be placed on the annual meeting ballot include:

Adams County: **Steve Wegner** Hettinger County: **Angela Carlson** Hettinger County: **Charlotte Meier** 

Slope Electric's annual report and information on how you can vote will be arriving in your mailbox in mid-May.



Voting can be done in person, by mail or electronically.



### Safety Starts with ME: Make room for roadside crews

When the power goes out, so does Slope Electric Cooperative's line crews. Lineworkers are the first to respond after an outage occurs, and they work tirelessly to restore power to the communities we serve.

"If you're traveling and see one of our crews on the side of the road, we kindly ask that you move over if possible and give them a little extra space to work," said Dusty Hoff, foreman at Slope Electric. "We care about the safety of all, and this extra precaution ensures just that."

As the North Dakota move-over law notes, if you approach a crew while traveling on a twolane road, moving over to the next lane might not be an option. In this case, we simply ask you to slow down when approaching roadside crews. If you approach a crew while traveling on a fourlane road, and safety and traffic conditions allow, we ask you to move into the far lane.

Utility crews aren't the only ones who could use the extra space. Emergency responders, such as law enforcement officers, firefighters and emergency medical technicians, often find themselves responding to emergency situations



near busy roadways. We ask you to follow the same procedures to help keep these crews safe.

"There's plenty of room for all. Let's work together to keep everyone safe on our local roadways," Hoff said. ■

# Breaker, breaker!

Members, heat meters need to be energized at all times for billing purposes. Please notify Slope Electric Cooperative if the breaker to your heat meters needs to be turned off. There is a \$50 charge to reinstate the heat meter if Slope Electric is not notified.

# Seeking volunteers for annual meeting

Slope Electric Cooperative needs your assistance at our upcoming annual meeting! We are looking for five volunteers to be a part of our election committee.

If you are interested, please email Brooke at BWaltner@slopeelectric.coop or call the Slope Electric office at 701-579-4191.







## Memorial Day closing

In observance of the Memorial Day holiday, Slope Electric will be closed on Monday, May 29. Line technicians will be available in case of an emergency outage.

### Report from THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Regular meeting held at the Slope Electric office in New England

- Approved agenda
- Approved minutes from previous meeting on Mar. 30
- Heard co-general managers/ CEOs update
- Heard Basin Electric Cooperative updates
- Heard CFO report
- Heard operations report
- Heard member
  relations summary
- Heard the attorney report
- Reviewed board
  member reports



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 Henry "Chip" Fischer, Treasurer Jerome Caron, Director Dale Hande, Director Lauren Klewin, Director Charlotte Meier, Director

#### MANAGEMENT

Jason Bentz *CO-GM/CEO* 

Travis Kupper CO-GM/CEO

www.slopeelectric.coop



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