



PHOTO BY ALECIA TURNER

*A former resident of New England, hobby photographer Alecia Turner captured this sunset a few miles east of town. The daughter of Sara and Craig Turner, a former line technician for Slope Electric, Alecia shared the photo with us on Facebook. She now lives in Bismarck, where she is completing the paramedic program. She currently works as an emergency medical technician for Standing Rock Reservation. Thank you, Alecia, for sharing your photo and talent.*

**A**t the end of June, severe weather spread across North Dakota. In the Slope service area, we experienced severe thunderstorms and wind gusts. Line crews responded to isolated outages. There were some volatile — and beautiful — moments.

All thunderstorms produce lightning, which can strike as far as 10 miles from rainfall. If you hear thunder, you're in the danger zone.

The U.S. Weather Service offers this advice: Make sure you have a way to receive weather alerts, and be prepared to seek shelter if threatening weather approaches. ■

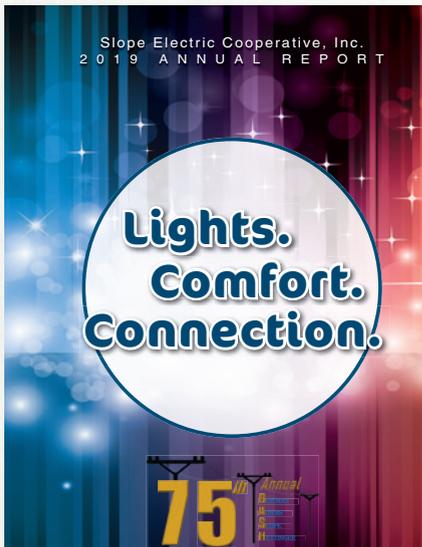
Slope Electric Cooperative, Inc.

# OUTLOOK

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## In this issue:

- Annual Meeting update
- Look up and around for electrical hazards on the farm
- Farmers Union Camp still giving kids ultimate summer experience
- Making a change? Contact Slope Electric first!
- Meeting minutes ... and more



## Save the date for the rescheduled 75th ANNUAL MEETING

Monday, Aug. 17, 2020 at 10 a.m.  
Four Seasons Pavilion, Bowman, ND

The directors whose tenure of office expires are: Steve Wegner of Adams County, and Angela Carlson and Charlotte Meier of Hettinger County.

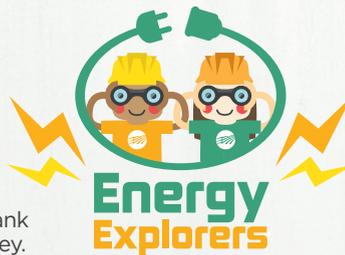
The following members have been nominated by the Nominating Committee:

**Steve Wegner** ..... Reeder..... Adams County  
**Angela Carlson** ..... Regent..... Hettinger County  
**Charlotte Meier** .... Regent..... Hettinger County

*Please review the annual report that was mailed to you for details.*

## POWER RESTORATION FILL-IN-THE-BLANK

When the power goes out, line crews work hard to restore service as quickly and safely as possible. Complete the fill-in-the-blank activity below to learn about the steps of power restoration. Use the word bank if you need help, and check your work in the answer key.

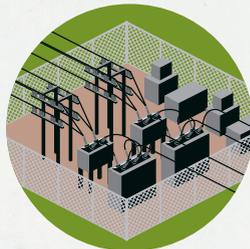


### Word Bank:

distribution	pads
transformer	substations
transmission	



1. High-voltage \_\_\_\_\_ lines are the large towers and cables that supply power to the greatest number of consumer-members. They rarely fail, but if they do, they have to be repaired first.



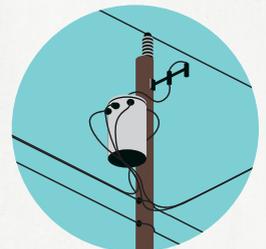
2. Next, crews inspect distribution \_\_\_\_\_ for damage. They determine if the problem stems from the lines feeding into the equipment itself, or if the problem is further down the line.



3. If the problem still can't be pinpointed, \_\_\_\_\_ power lines are inspected. These are the lines you typically see on the side of the road that deliver power to communities.



4. If the power outage persists, supply lines (also known as tap lines) are inspected. These lines deliver power to transformers that are either mounted on poles or placed on \_\_\_\_\_ for underground electric service.



5. If your home remains without power, the service line between the \_\_\_\_\_ and your home may need repairs.

*Answer Key: 1) transmission 2) substations 3) distribution 4) pads 5) transformer*



Overhead power lines are necessary to deliver electricity to hardworking farmers and ranchers, but those same power lines can also be deadly if not treated with respect. While you need to focus on the field and your machinery, Slope Electric Cooperative urges you to also watch for electrical hazards around the farm or ranch.

## Look up for hazards on the farm

### BE AWARE

Always keep equipment at least 10 feet away from power lines on all sides. Field cultivators and sprayers can often reach as high as 12 feet in the air.

Use care when raising augers or the bed of a grain truck. It can be difficult to estimate distance, and a power line may be closer than it looks.

### USE A SPOTTER

Avoid moving large equipment alone. Have

someone watch as you move equipment to ensure you are clear of power lines.

### REALIZE THINGS CHANGE

If you have purchased new equipment, be aware of antennas or other attachments that may pose new hazards. A newer, bigger piece of equipment may no longer clear a line. In addition, shifting soil may also affect whether or not machinery avoids power lines from year-to-year.

Power lines also may

sag over the years. If power lines on your property are sagging, contact Slope Electric Cooperative to repair the lines. Never try to move a power line on your own.

### EDUCATE THE CREW

Look over work areas carefully for overhead power lines and utility poles. Make sure you, your family and employees know the location of overhead power lines, and use routes to avoid the lines when moving equipment.

Do this every year, as equipment sizes and soil conditions may change.

### LOOK AROUND

Overhead power lines are not the only electric hazard on the farm. Pole guy wires, used to stabilize utility poles, are grounded. However, when one of the guy wires is broken, it can become charged with electricity. If you break a guy wire, call the cooperative to fix it. Don't do it yourself. ■



PHOTOS COURTESY NDFU

Farmers Union Camp on Lake Tschida is still open this summer, with approval from the N.D. Department of Health. It is operating at half its normal capacity to separate kids into smaller groups due to the pandemic. NDFU is cooperative- and community-oriented. During youth camps, kids learn about cooperatives, teamwork, leadership, and the importance of giving back to their home towns. In return for their participation, the kids can earn awards and trips.

## Farmers Union Camp at Lake Tschida still giving kids the ultimate summer experience

BY CARMEN DEVNEY

Camp is the high point of summer for countless kids across the state who like to make projects, meet people and have fun. While COVID-19 forced the closure of many camps this year, Heart Butte Farmers Union Camp on Lake Tschida is still open, with approval from the N.D. Department of Health. The goal is to promote physical distancing and social interactions.

Kids still get to have the ultimate summer experience in a downsized environment. Slope Electric Cooperative is proud to be one of its community sponsors.

Founded in 1927, North Dakota Farmers Union (NDFU) is the largest general farm organization in

North Dakota. With more than 50,000 member-families, the cooperative provides a network of educational programs, services and events that benefit farmers, ranchers and rural communities.

One of those is summer camp. In past years, more than 1,000 youth have attended camps annually to advance their leadership skills and further their co-op education.

Nancy Nadvornik, the Hettinger County youth director from Mott, says now more than ever, it's important for people to work together to keep rural communities and businesses going. Camp is one way to unite people and promote hope for the future.



## FAST FACT:

Every year NDFU camps end with a celebratory banquet. Last year, Slope Electric Cooperative was invited as a thank-you for supplying safety kits as prizes.

*New to camp this year was a mud pit.*

“We need to keep our youth involved,” she says. “They can still be social and talk to one another, and we can all keep moving forward.”

## Cooperatives and communities

The daughter of Slope Electric member Viola and the late Ruben Hummel, Nadvornik grew up north of Mott in a family that strongly supported cooperatives and communities. Her father went to every Farmers Union convention, her mother was a youth leader, and the children went to camp. Nadvornik says her dad passed away two days after camp one year, and she was glad he “hung on” until the camp was over.

For the past 30 years, Nadvornik has served as a mentor at Heart Butte camp, along with her sister Darlene. NDFU also holds camps at Wesley Acres near Dazey and Lakewood Park near Devils Lake; those were cancelled this year due to the pandemic.

When in session, some annual camp activities include swimming, using paddle boats and kayaks, making projects, attending dances, performing in talent shows, playing mini-golf and singing around a campfire. The kids also play ball, hold contests — and stay quite busy.

“We try not to give them too much free time so they

don’t get homesick,” Nadvornik says.

One project the campers tackle every year is learning how to run a business that is cooperative-owned. On the first day, the kids learn about the cooperative business model of operating at-cost; one member, one vote.

They start a business, elect people to serve on the board, and choose who will run the store. At the end of camp, they close the business, figure out how much money the store made, and how they would split the proceeds among the members after expenses are paid.

This concept is similar to Slope Electric awarding capital credits. Electric cooperatives operate on an at-cost basis. We periodically allocate any margin (profit) to members as capital credits (also called patronage dividends, patronage refunds, patronage capital or equity capital) based upon their purchase of electricity during the year.

Nadvornik shares that one year, the kids operated a popcorn cooperative at day camp. After the expenses were paid, the kids donated the leftover money back to the camp for repairs. In past years, they’ve donated funds to Ronald McDonald House Charities and similar organizations that help people with financial concerns related to health.

The project is one way NDFU teaches kids about cooperatives, teamwork, leadership, and the importance of giving back to area communities.

## ‘Keep kids involved to keep communities going’

The NDFU youth development program also offers classes and other opportunities for kids in grades K-12. Through an incentive program, they can earn awards and trips. In order to qualify, their family must have paid the \$30 annual NDFU membership fee.

Some of the small gifts come from area sponsors that are cooperatives. Last year, Slope Electric donated safety kits. Consolidated Telephone donated hot/cold

compress packs, and Southwest Grain has also donated items for giveaway.

“It’s fun to see the community support, and to keep cooperatives in the area involved,” Nadvornik says.

As the kids get older, the prizes get bigger. Nadvornik shares students can earn scholarships and get jobs that range from a summer gig to a lifetime career.

Nadvornik recalls one nervous student who had to be convinced to attend camp. The girl overcame her shyness, and after attending camps year after year, is now working as one of the trained counselors.

NDFU camps helped local Farmers Union Agent Brad Greff make the decision to become an agent in the Mott-Regent area. All of Brad’s kids went on to attend all of NDFU’s day schools and summer camps. Now, Brad’s grandkids have continued the tradition.

Josh Kramer, executive vice president and general manager of the North Dakota Association of Rural

Electric Cooperatives, met his wife, Sarah, while attending a Farmers Union camp.

Nadvornik says it’s rewarding to see the campers grow and change, as they keep coming back year after year.

“It amazes us to see the enthusiasm of the kids, and the determination of what they want to do,” she says.

“We have to keep these kids involved to keep our communities going. They are our future,” she concludes. “What we want for our future, we have to keep these kids on track so we can have a future, too.”

Due to COVID-19, camp numbers have been reduced in half and all Heart Butte camps are full. To be added to a waiting list or to ask questions, contact Heidi Sagaser at 701-952-0102. For information on the camps, visit <https://ndfu.org/> and click “youth” and “camps.” ■

## My N.D. Farmers Union camp experience

BY JOSH KRAMER



*Josh Kramer and Sarah Huber met at NDFU camp; they both started attending in the third grade. They went from camp newbies to the pinnacle, becoming Torchbearers – NDFU’s most prestigious youth honor. They also participated in the State and National Youth Advisory Committees. In August 2003, they were both working as counselors when Josh proposed to Sarah at camp.*

I grew up going to Farmers Union camp each summer for 10 years. At first, going to camp was a great way to get off the farm and out of having to milk cows for a week. I quickly realized how much I enjoyed meeting kids from other towns and building lasting friendships. Many of the friends I made as a kid are still good friends today.

I spent three summers as a camp

counselor. It was one of the best jobs I ever had; it was fulfilling, a heck of a lot of fun, and I was able to spend most of the summer on beautiful Lake Tschida. How can you beat that?

What I learned about cooperatives and civic responsibility at Farmers Union camp sparked my interest, leading to a passion for rural America, cooperatives, agriculture and people. Beginning as camper, I learned about the cooperative values and principles. A few years later as a camp counselor, I was able to share and teach others much of what I learned during my years as a camper. That opportunity was fulfilling, humbling, and something I am most proud of. Still today, I often run into former campers who are now adults; I enjoy each visit, the chance to catch up, share camp memories and learn more about their lives.

It is worth noting that I owe more than most to the Farmers Union camp and to Lake Tschida. You see, it was at camp that I met Sarah, a girl from the neighboring town, who later became my wife. Sarah and I attended camp together as youth and also

spent three summers together as camp counselors. In fact, in our final year as camp counselors, at the final camp for the season, I proposed to Sarah, and we were married one year later.

Today, we have five children, and the oldest are also attending Farmers Union camp. We often joke that who knows? They might be going to camp with their future husband or wife! ■



*Josh and Sarah Kramer’s children will be the next generation of NDFU campers, including **Sophia, Brody, Carter,** and twins **Claire and Olivia.***

Report from

## THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JUNE 22, 2020

- Approved minutes of the May 13, 2020, Special meeting; the May 21, 2020, Board meeting; and the June 4, 2020, Special meeting.
- Approved one capital credit estate retirement.
- Approved special equipment and USDA Rural Utilities Service form 219 inventories.
- Co-General Managers/CEOs gave an update on the past week's happenings regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. The Board was also provided an update on the Cost of Service Study being done.
- Heard reports from Directors who participated in various meetings via conference call the past month.
- Approved the 2019 capital credit allocation.
- Reviewed and approved revisions to Board Policy 06-08.
- Senior Staff reports were attached to the agenda and reviewed, along with the financials for May 2020. The financials were accepted.
- The Board entered into Executive Session.
- A Special Board meeting is set for July 7, 2020, and the next regular Board meeting is set for July 27, 2020.

## Don't put **safety** on autopilot.

**G**lobal Positioning System (GPS) technology provides farmers with real-time, accurate location data about a field. But while GPS can help the driver plant straight rows and maximize potential, it can also give a false sense of security. Slope Electric Cooperative reminds our members not to put safety on autopilot.

When farmers enter the field using GPS, they do an outside round and set the borders and boundaries of the field. Then, they set the angle and straight line, so they know the direction the GPS will take.

If there is a slough, rock pile, fence post or power pole in the middle of the field, they still need to manually drive around the hazard and set a boundary for it, if the system allows. Once set, less focus may be needed on steering — but drivers still need to be aware of navigation issues.

Farming equipment is vulnerable to hitting power lines because of its large size, height and extensions, says Slope Operations Manager Dean Volk. “When drivers set their GPS, that tractor is basically driving itself — and it doesn't always account for structures in their field. Because the tractor is programmed, drivers may not be paying as much attention as they did years ago. When they rely on technology, it's a lot easier to hit something that is in their field. Unfortunately, that's a lot of power poles,” he says.

“Too often, people say they didn't see the power pole

because they were playing a game on their smartphone or reading the newspaper,” Volk continues. “Advanced technology like GPS is great when it works. But it doesn't eliminate the need to stay alert to possible hazards and changing conditions.”

Volk encourages members to evaluate their fields regularly, looking for low-hanging lines when entering a field, turning in end rows, leaving the field and driving back to the farm.

If your equipment does make contact with a power line, do not leave the cab. Immediately call 911, warn others to stay away, and wait for Slope Electric linemen to de-energize the line.

The only reason to exit equipment that has come into contact with overhead lines is if the equipment is on fire, which is very rare. However, if this is the case, jump off the equipment with your feet together and without touching the ground and vehicle at the same time. Then, still keeping your feet together, hop to safety as you leave the area.

To report system damage that is not in need of immediate repair, call Slope Electric Cooperative at 1-701-579-4191 or email [safety@slopeelectric.coop](mailto:safety@slopeelectric.coop). If you send an email, please include the location, your name and contact information, and a photo if possible.

Members, your safety matters. Working together helps ensure the safety of all! ■

## Making a change?

When members add services that demand a greater amount of electric capacity, the current system may need to be adjusted.

Please call ahead of time! Placing orders and receiving large equipment is taking longer than normal, due to the pandemic.

If you plan to add a new service or change an existing one, please contact our operations department now, so we can order materials and get them here as soon as possible.

Thank you for helping us help you!

## Adding any electric load?

- Electric heat
- Electric grain drying

**Call Slope Electric Cooperative FIRST!**  
**701-579-4191 or 800-559-4191**

## Holiday Closing: MONDAY, SEPT. 7

In observance of the Labor Day holiday in September, Slope Electric Cooperative will be closed on Monday, Sept. 7. Line crews will be available for emergencies and power outages by calling 701-579-4191 or 800-559-4191. Please call either of these numbers to log your specific information with dispatch, and you will receive assistance as quickly and safely as possible.



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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

Lauren Klewin, President  
Steve Wegner, Vice President  
Anthony Larson, Secretary  
Jerome Caron, Treasurer  
Angela Carlson, Director  
HJ "Chip" Fischer, Director  
Dale Hande, Director  
Charlotte Meier, Director

## MANAGEMENT

Donald A. Franklund  
CO-GM/GEO

Travis Kupper  
CO-GM/GEO

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



## Spend the day in Medora — and save

In partnership with the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation, more than 10 Touchstone Energy Cooperatives in North Dakota have joined forces to make vacationing in North Dakota more affordable for families, including Slope Electric Cooperative. This summer, head west to Medora, where electric cooperative members are eligible for a 15-percent discount off the following reservations:

- ✓ Pitchfork steak fondue
- ✓ Tickets to the Medora Musical
- ✓ Bully Pulpit Golf Course

Lodging at any of the following:

- ✓ Badlands Motel
- ✓ Elkhorn Quarters
- ✓ Rough Riders Hotel

Members also receive 20 percent off at the Cowboy Hall of Fame by providing the discount code **Touch2020** at the door.

Slope members, if you are traveling to beautiful Medora this summer, call 1-800-MEDORA-1 to provide the discount code **Touch2020**, make reservations and receive your savings.