



This photo shows how a strong North Dakota wind can deteriorate and remove cabinet signage over time. The missing safety reminder, spotted on line patrol, is quickly corrected (see inset) to remind the public of a possible danger. Always keep a safe distance from electrical infrastructure!

Line patrol and scheduled maintenance: keys to an effective power system

Doing maintenance on a sunny weekday, rather than fixing an outage in the middle of the night, benefits you and your local electric cooperative. In this month's community pages, learn how good eyes and a timely response help keep the system strong for years to come.

Slope Electric Cooperative, Inc.

OUTLOOK

116 E. 12th St. • New England, ND 58647 | 701-579-4191 • www.slopeelectric.coop

In this issue:

- **Save the date for your annual meeting**
- **Consider running for a position on the Slope Electric board of directors**
- **Thank you and best wishes, former employees!**
- **Meeting minutes and more**

Save the date

Slope Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting June 3, 2021 Community Center, Reeder

- *Be an active and involved co-op member*
- *Vote to fill five positions on the board of directors*
- *Learn cooperative updates and industry issues*
— *and how they affect your electric service*

Nominating/Resolutions Committee

Slope Electric Cooperative's 76th Annual Meeting will be held Thursday, June 3, at the Community Center in Reeder.

Because an election was not held in 2020 due to the pandemic, there will be five Board seats up for election at the 2021 annual meeting: one director from Adams County, two directors from Hettinger County, and two directors from Slope County.

Three vacant Board seats will be up for election at the 2023 annual meeting (one from Adams County and two from Hettinger County), and two additional seats will be up for election at the 2024 annual meeting (two from Slope County).

The bylaws of Slope Electric Cooperative, Inc., state in Article IV, Section 4, directors can be nominated one of three ways:

1. **Through the Nominating Committee.** The committee's first meeting was held Feb. 24 to review procedures, responsibilities and qualifications for directorship. The second meeting will be held in March to nominate candidates and to approve resolutions.
2. **Members can also be nominated by filing a petition with 15 signatures.** Filing must be done 30 days prior to the annual meeting on June 3 and posted at the office of Slope Electric.
3. **Members can also be nominated from the floor at the annual meeting.** This method means your name will not be preprinted on the ballot, but it can be written in by your supporters. ■

The following members have been appointed by the board of directors to serve on the Nominating/Resolutions Committee for 2021:

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 1. Lynn Homelvig, 14406 65th St. S.W., Amidon, ND 58620 | 701-879-6385 |
| 2. Kevan Stafne, 1106 7th St. N.W., Hettinger, ND 58639 | 701-853-2207 |
| 3. Craig Silkman, 135 Hwy. 8 S., Hettinger, ND 58639 | 701-567-4626 |
| 4. Michael Schneider, 7501 156th Ave. S.W., Rhame, ND 58651 | 701-279-6927 / 701-440-0576 |
| 5. William Gion, 6360 99th Ave. S.W., Regent, ND 58650 | 701-690-7633 |
| 6. Trevor Steeke, 8506 162nd Ave. S.W., Rhame, ND 58651 | 701-279-6859 |
| 7. William Freymiller, 13606 84th St. S.W., Bowman, ND 58623 | 701-269-9370 |
| 8. Robert Martin, 9309 Hwy. 21, Mott, ND 58646 | 701-824-2485 / 701-928-0298 |

Thank you and best wishes

Employee retirements in 2020

From the pandemic and the economy to changes and challenges in the electric utility industry, 2020 brought transformation to your local hometown cooperative.

The following employees retired from Slope Electric in 2020, after giving a collective 130 years of time and talents to our member-owners. In his or her own way, each incorporated the core Touchstone Energy®

Cooperative values of integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community, while performing tasks and interacting with folks across our service area.

On behalf of Slope Electric, we thank you for all you've done for our members, and we wish you the best as your journeys continue.



Rod Benz



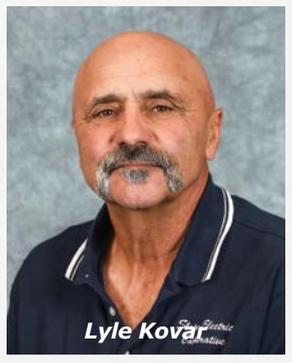
Darlene Herberholz



Daniela Howie



Lynn Klein



Lyle Kovar



LaWanna Wilhelm

Rod Benz
10 years of service
Position held: AMR – Scada Technician

Darlene Herberholz
11 years of service
Position held: Plant Accountant

Daniela Howie
21 years of service
Positions held: PT – Custodian; BCSS – Customer Service Rep/Med A; Work Order Clerk; Operations Coordinator/Consumer Rep.

Lynn Klein
35 years of service
Positions held: Secretary; Executive Assistant

Lyle Kovar
29 years of service
Positions held: Apprentice Line Technician; Journeyman Line Technician

LaWanna Wilhelm
24 years of service
Positions held: Consumer Service Rep; CWO – Customer Service Rep/Work Order Clerk; Key Accounts Executive; Chief of Staff – Key Accounts ■



The yellow circle shows a broken ground wire; it was spotted on line patrol and corrected before the system became compromised and an outage occurred.

Improving safety and outage time through maintenance

BY CARMEN DEVNEY

As time allows, Slope Electric Cooperative line crews patrol power lines and poles, focusing on a third of the system every three years. They look for possible line maintenance issues, safety hazards and other problems that may affect the distribution lines that bring power to your home or business.

Depending on weather and road conditions, you may see linemen patrolling line in a Slope truck, an all-terrain vehicle or snowmobile.

Doing maintenance like replacing insulators and tightening bolts on a sunny day, rather than fixing an outage in the middle of the night, benefits you and your cooperative.

“Line patrol helps us find these issues and reduce unplanned outages,” says Dean Volk, Slope’s manager of operations. “If it can be planned to reduce the time



BEFORE: a missing guy wire marker

of finding a problem and prepping the pole in the daylight, it improves safety and outage time.”

We try to prevent unplanned outages by making sure everything is in good working order for years to come. As we know, Mother Nature can blow an 80-mile-an-hour wind storm like the one we had in January and



AFTER: a quick repair that adds visibility and protection.

take things out.

Slope Electric Cooperative is committed to providing safe, affordable and reliable electric service. Preventative maintenance including line patrol is one of many proactive ways we are strengthening our power system. ■

Report from THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

JAN. 28, 2021

Meeting held via videoconference call

- Approved the agenda with one addition.
- Approved minutes of the Dec. 17, 2020, Board meeting.
- Approved three capital credit estate retirements.
- Approved special equipment for transformers.
- Co-General Managers/CEOs provided updates.
- Heard power supplier updates.
- Heard an update on the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Legislative Rally.
- Heard reports from Directors who participated in various meetings.
- Discussed Board policies #02-10 and 02-12.
- Provided the names of the Nominating Committee members.
- Approved the Mutual Aid Agreement as published.
- The Brady Martz Engagement Letter was approved as presented.
- Discussed the RUS Construction Work Plan Audit.
- Tabled discussion of the Annual Meeting.
- Received forms for REPAC and ACRE memberships.
- Rescheduled the February Slope Electric regular Board meeting for Feb. 22.
- Discussed upcoming meetings, director attendance and voting delegates.
- Reviewed the executive summary of the financial report.
- Heard senior staff report.
- Heard legal counsel report.
- Held voucher review.
- Scheduled the next Board meeting for Feb. 22.
- Held Executive Session.
- Adjourned.



Stay connected with SmartHub

Life is fast and it can be hectic, but paying your bill doesn't have to be complicated. With Slope Electric's SmartHub web and mobile app, viewing and paying your bill, monitoring electric usage, reporting service issues and receiving important updates is easy!



What is SmartHub and what's in it for you, our member?

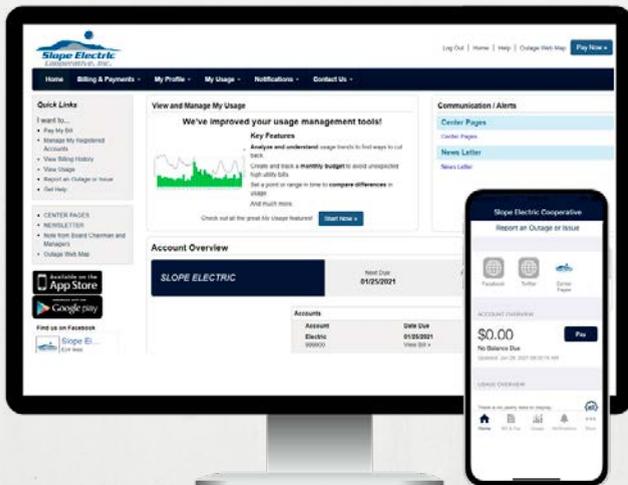
SmartHub is an app that has several features that make managing your account as easy as possible. Whether through the web, smartphone or tablet (Android or iOS), you'll be able to pay your bill, contact customer service and get the latest news.

As soon as you log in, you'll be able to view your billing history and make a payment with just a couple of clicks. You'll be able to see your current bill, along with bills from previous months.

Making payments through SmartHub is fast and easy. The first time you make a payment, either on the web or through your mobile device, you'll be able to securely store your payment information for future transactions. The next time you need to pay your bill, it will only take a couple clicks.

You'll also be able to see important notices with SmartHub. Once you have an account, select how you want to be notified about your bill, including email and text messaging.

Reporting a service issue is a snap with the SmartHub mobile app. There's no need to call us in New England; just let us know about the issue with a few clicks. You can also contact us for customer service requests or with any questions. You can contact us at any time from anywhere! We will respond the same day, during regular business hours, when possible.



Locate your account number

Every member has an account number. You can find the number on your monthly bill.

Register now for SmartHub!

Slope Electric made SmartHub available to our members in 2013. If you have not signed up for an account, you will need to register as a new user in order to receive an electronic bill and pay your bill using SmartHub.

- There is no cost to sign up for and use SmartHub!
- Visit www.slopeelectric.coop to sign up for SmartHub web access; click the SmartHub tab in the top right corner.
- To sign up for the SmartHub mobile app, visit the Apple Store or Android market, and search for SmartHub.
- After you sign up using the app or web version, enter your account number and follow the step-by-step process.
- After you have successfully registered with SmartHub, you'll be emailed a temporary password to log in for the first time.
- The first time you log in, you'll be asked to create your new password.
- Once registered, please verify your payment options if you have recurring payments by check or by credit card.
- At the end of the registration process, if you would like paperless billing, select that option so you can receive your new bill electronically and no paper bill will be sent to you.
- SmartHub allows you to view and manage multiple accounts.
- Information is in real-time so it's always up-to-date.

Get your questions answered!

Call 701-579-4191 or 800-559-4191, email comments@slopeelectric.coop or contact us through the SmartHub app. We are here to help!

Sign up for SmartHub choosing ACH and receive a \$10 bill credit

Members, if you haven't already signed up for SmartHub, download the app and open an account in the month of March, choosing Automated Clearing House (ACH) as a payment preference.

You will receive a \$10 bill credit from Slope Electric Cooperative! ACH is an electronic payment that withdraws funds directly from your checking account.

Or, if you already have a SmartHub account and are paying with a credit card, switch to an electronic check as your ACH form of payment and you will also receive a \$10 bill credit.

SMART MANAGEMENT. SMART LIFE. SMARTHUB.



Bin there, done that Adding a bin site or other new load?

If so, it pays to plan ahead. Members can save time, money and aggravation by consulting with Slope Electric Cooperative before locating new grain bins or adding new load.

New or upgraded service

When adding electrical loads, such as bin fans or shop heat, Slope Electric encourages members to contact the cooperative first. Representatives will design a service adequately sized for the proposed electrical load. Existing services will be inspected to determine if an upgrade in service is required.

Whether you are adding a new service or expanding an existing service, Slope Electric needs to study the effect the added load will have on the cooperative's electric distribution system to determine the co-op's ability to serve that load.

Bin placement

When placing a primary electric service at a grain bin site, Slope Electric adheres to the requirements set forth in the National Electrical Safety Code (NESC). The NESC specifies the minimum distance between a grain bin and the nearest overhead power line and has two sections that apply to grain handling systems.

Adequate clearance between grain bins and overhead power lines reduces the risk of accidental contact between the power lines and tall farm equipment such as portable grain augers, elevators or grain-probing devices. Also, a grain bin or shop built too close to an overhead power line may mean the bin or power line would need to be relocated, most times at the member's expense.

Members considering a new bin site or added load are encouraged to contact Slope Electric. We are available to provide assistance in planning for a safe, reliable environment for everyone. ■

GRAIN BIN SAFETY

DANGER: HIGH VOLTAGE!
FOLLOW FARM SAFETY RULES AROUND POWER LINES

Height of grain storage structure	D=Minimum distance from line to bin wall*
15 ft.	55 ft.
20 ft.	68 ft.
25 ft.	80 ft.
30 ft.	93 ft.
35 ft.	104 ft.
40 ft.	118 ft.
50 ft.	143 ft.
60 ft.	168 ft.
70 ft.	193 ft.
80 ft.	218 ft.

*Based on a typical power line having a vertical clearance of 18.5 feet above the ground and a supply line phase to ground voltage of more than 0V to 22KV; National Electrical Safety Code Rule 232.

Update your contact information to learn timely information

Members, do we have your current contact information? If you no longer have a land line, or if your mobile mailbox is full, we may not be able to call you to convey important information about your electric service, like a power outage update.

Please log into your SmartHub account, or call 701-579-4191 or 800-559-4191, to update your phone number and email address.

If you do not have a SmartHub account, set one up by going to www.slopeelectric.coop and clicking Your Account and Ways To Pay.

Slope Electric also has a Facebook page! Please like and follow us to learn timely cooperative and community news.

Thank you for staying in touch, and helping us keep you informed! ■



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



On Sunday, March 14, daylight saving time begins.

Remember to set those clocks ahead on Saturday, March 13, before you go to bed.

Easter holiday closing

In observance of the Easter holiday, Slope Electric Cooperative will be closed on Friday, April 2. Line crews will be available in case of an emergency outage.



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/CEO

Travis Kupper
CO-GM/CEO

www.slopeelectric.coop



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