



CAPITAL ELECTRIC COMMENTS

Capital Electric Cooperative • Bismarck, N.D.
(701) 223-1513 or (888) 223-1513
www.capitalelec.com



*Wilton's
everyday heroes*

Leann Domonoske-Kellar, Wilton Rural Ambulance District coordinator, is one of many dedicated crew members who respond to emergency calls in the Wilton, Regan, Baldwin and surrounding areas. In this month's center pages, read how an Operation Round Up grant will make the responders' tough job a little easier.

APRIL 2011 IN THIS ISSUE

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- Serve your co-op as a director!
- Meeting minutes ... and more

WILTON RURAL AMBULANCE DISTRICT

Upgrading with the help of **OPERATION ROUND UP**

By Wes Engbrecht

Photos by Carmen Devney

An ambulance is a vital service many of us take for granted, knowing it's always just a 911 call away. We most likely don't consider the dedication it takes from a crew that must be ready to save lives when that call comes in. One challenge crews face, especially in smaller towns like Wilton, is they are mostly staffed by volunteers, many of which commute from nearby towns.

The Wilton Rural Ambulance District was started in 1977 by a group of volunteers who took a first aid course, collected funds door-to-door, bought an ambulance and started taking calls.

Leann Domonoske-Kellar, ambulance coordinator, says the district responds to around 100 emergency calls each year.

"We rely on 21 volunteers to operate, half of whom are from out of the Wilton area. They come to Wilton, stay here and take calls. Without them we couldn't do it," she explains.

Leann is the only full-time paid staff person and has been serving as ambulance coordinator since 2005. The volunteers who make up the ambulance crew are paid a small stipend per hour through a North Dakota Department of Health staffing grant. The district's meager budget does not provide for funding for equipment purchases and upgrades.

For a rural ambulance district, grants and donations fill the gap when government funding is being scaled back. Leann says one upgrade the district needed to make was purchasing a power cot to prevent volunteers from suffering back injuries. A



Ambulance driver Jim Privratsky travels from Beulah to help the Wilton ambulance crew. He usually comes to town once a month for a couple of days to drive the ambulance. He considers Wilton a good community, one in which he plans to retire.

power cot is a tool which allows responders to load a patient near the ground and raise the cot with the push of a button.

Familiar with Capital Electric's Operation Round Up program, Leann applied for a grant to help in the purchase of a new cot. The five board members who make up the Charitable Trust assessed the district's need and the people it serves, and agreed the request was worthy of a grant.

Along with the Operation Round Up grant, the district received additional funding through other grants and donations, as well as a local American Legion pancake and sausage fundraiser. Leann estimates the district now has

raised enough money to purchase the cot, which will cost about \$13,000.

"We are very appreciative," Leann relays.

The Wilton ambulance crew does a lot with the resources they have. Leann says she is amazed at the generosity of people who are always willing to help with donations of time and money. It's just another testament to the hearts of small town folks in North Dakota.



Left: Leann Domonoske-Kellar started a career with the ambulance district as a board director. Even though she couldn't stand the sight of blood, one day she agreed to fill in as a driver, and her interest — and courage — evolved. Along with working as the ambulance coordinator, Leann now serves as an intermediate emergency medical technician who is qualified to start IVs and intubate patients. Above: This cot will soon be replaced by the new power cot provided partially through Operation Round Up grant funds.

Operation Round Up grants provide help where needed

By Wes Engbrecht



In a time of disappearing grant funds for many local charities, Operation Round Up funds can help bridge the budget gap. The Capital Electric Charitable Trust board of directors directed funds specifically to those individuals and organizations they felt were most in need during the last grant review held Feb. 8.

Quirina Schmidt, Charitable Trust board member, summed it up this way. "Our job is to put the money where it is needed most and where we can make the most difference for someone." The other four board members agree that it's all about filling the greatest need.

Newly elected to the board in February was LeAna Hug of Baldwin. Patricia Ryberg of Bismarck was also re-elected to serve another three-year term. Other board members include Schmidt, Jerry Doan and Dennis Burrer. Capital Electric thanks outgoing board member Edwin McCarty for serving two, three-year terms.

During the latest application review, the board approved 12 grants for a total of \$10,000. The grants were distributed in a check presentation ceremony on Feb. 24 at co-op headquarters in Bismarck. The recipients included:

- Abused Adult Resource Center for its women's shelter
- Community Action Program for its Backpacks for Kids program
- Community member for medical expenses
- Miss Teen ND for a tobacco-free teens tour
- ND Association for the Disabled for its Escape to the Lake Extravaganza
- Prairie Rose State Games for the 2011 games to be held in Bismarck



On Feb. 24, Capital Electric held a check presentation ceremony for grants awarded through its Operation Round Up program. LeAnn Domonoske-Kellar (right), ambulance coordinator, accepts a check from LeAna Hug, a member of the Charitable Trust board of directors, for expenses associated with equipment.

- Pride Manchester House for a playground set
- Red Ribbon Carnival committee for its anti-drug event
- Ruth Meiers Hospitality House for its men's emergency shelter
- The Banquet for its local food ministry
- Welcome House for homeless assistance
- Wilton Rural Ambulance District for a power cot

How does Operation Round Up work?

Capital Electric members agree to have their monthly electric bills "rounded up" to the nearest dollar each month. Those pennies are placed in a Charitable Trust and awarded twice yearly to various groups and organizations.

Almost 6,000 Capital customers participate in Operation Round Up. Their collective pennies generate almost \$2,500 a month in funds for the trust. Since its inception in August 1997, more than 31 million pennies in Operation Round Up funds have been donated to various organizations and individuals in the Capital Electric service area.

Wes Engbrecht, director of communications and public relations for the co-op, says any person in the counties of Burleigh and Sheridan may submit an application to receive an Operation Round Up grant. The next application deadline will be July 31.

EVERY MEMBER CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

If you are a Capital Electric member and you do not currently round up your bill, please consider participating in the Operation Round Up program! Your donation is tax deductible and members who give will receive a summarized statement in their last billing statement of the year.

Thanks in part to the pennies awarded through the latest batch of grants, the Wilton Rural Ambulance District will be able to purchase a power cot. LeAnn Domonoske-Kellar, ambulance coordinator, expressed gratitude for the Operation Round Up program, and co-op members make this possible. You, too, can make a difference for less than one dollar each month. To participate in the program, please call Capital Electric at (701) 223-1513. To download an application and request a grant, visit www.capitalelec.com and click on "Member Services" and then "Operation Round Up."



Current members of the Capital Electric Charitable Trust board are (bottom left to right) LeAna Hug, Quirina Schmidt and Patricia Ryberg; and (top left to right) co-op communications director Wes Engbrecht and Dennis Burrer. (Jerry Doan not pictured.)

Terry Mertz set to retire

By Wes Engbrecht

When Terry Mertz visited Capital Electric's headquarters in October 1976, he didn't think working for the cooperative was an option. Having just completed a three-year stint with the Army, he was looking for an employer to punch his unemployment card to keep the money coming in while he looked for permanent work.

Del Warren, office manager at the time, had other ideas. The co-op was planning to hire a full-time warehouse person for the first time, so Del asked Terry if he would like the job. When Terry accepted the position, it was the start of an almost 35-year co-op career for the Tappen native.

The warehouse position didn't last long for Terry. Two years later he became an apprentice lineman and spent the next 28 years helping to keep the power on for co-op consumers. In his first few years as a lineman, Terry was part of the overhead line construction crew that set poles and built lines for the system. Being a hands-on type of guy, Terry says he appreciated this part of his job the most. He also enjoyed the maintenance and repair aspects of the job.

He remembers, "One winter McClusky was hit by a hard winter storm and the overhead line spanning the McClusky Canal came down. It was my job to walk the line across the ice and I didn't break through until I crossed it for the fourth time. I realized later how dangerous that really was."

Rolling a digger truck on Highway 10 east of Bismarck is another memory Terry can chuckle about now as he reminisces. "Jim Hixon and I were heading down the hill past Midwest Motor Express and our drive shaft broke," he explains. "The drive shaft tore out the rear axle, and we tipped on the

side and rolled a couple of times. I mustn't have been in too bad of shape, because I still raced my stock car in Wishek later that night."

In 2006 when Bob Hendrickson retired, Terry gave up his spikes and accepted the job of staking engineer—the position from which he will retire on May 2. As staking engineer, Terry meets with customers to plan the electric service they will need and passes that information on to the construction and accounting departments. According to Terry, "I've enjoyed meeting and working with so many people in this position."

While he's enjoyed his time with the co-op, nothing brings Terry more satisfaction than family, as evident by the numerous photos displayed in his office. He and his wife, Sharon, have three daughters: Rebecca, Christina and Sarah, and three grandchildren. Rebecca and Christina are both married, and Sarah is finishing her degree at North Dakota State University in Fargo.

Outside of the office, Terry enjoys a few hobbies, but probably none more than woodworking. Whether it's the tall oak book shelf in his office at the co-op or an oak rocking chair for a child, it's most likely something Terry created from scratch and a hand drawing. Terry and Sharon also enjoy riding their Harley-Davidson motorcycle around, traveling to places like the Black Hills and taking trips to see the kids in Minnesota.

The staff at Capital Electric will miss Terry's expertise and friendship. We all wish him the very best on his retirement and whatever he decides to do next. We will also miss Sharon's delectable baked goods, as we've become accustomed to enjoying them several times throughout the year. Thanks, Terry and Sharon, for being part of our lives at Capital Electric!



PHOTO BY WES ENGBRECHT

The oak book shelf in Terry's office is just one of the many projects Terry has built as a hobby woodworker. He will likely hand-craft many more projects, and toys for his grandchildren, after he retires.



COURTESY PHOTO

Terry and Sharon enjoy spending time with their three grandchildren, (left to right) Amelia, Carter and Isaac. You can be sure Grandpa Terry will make it priority to see them even more in retirement.

Co-op strategizes for future

Planning is an important part of every cooperative. The directors and managers of Capital Electric met on Feb. 25 and 26 for a strategic planning session to hammer out issues and put specific plans on paper. Board members were asked previously to complete a survey to identify issues relating to co-op operations. Basin Electric Power Cooperative member service representatives Chris Baumgartner and Darby Schlichenmayer were on hand to facilitate the discussion relating to these issues. Some topics of interest to the group were wholesale power costs and retail electric rates, upgrading service lines and facilities, and keeping up with technology.



PHOTO BY WES ENGBRECHT

Board members and staff work intently on resolving issues and planning for the future while Basin's Chris Baumgartner facilitates and takes notes.



During the MAC meeting, Patricia Ryberg (left) and LeAna Hug were elected to serve three-year terms on the Charitable Trust board of directors.

Member Advisory Committee meets

The management and staff at Capital Electric rely on member input and support to keep the co-op running smoothly. Every February a meeting is held at co-op headquarters to inform members and get their feedback on a variety of issues. This year's Member Advisory Committee (MAC) meeting was held on Feb. 8 and attended by 13 members who listened to updates on the Legislature, wholesale power costs, construction plans, electric heat products and other issues. MAC members inquired about costs of burying underground line, the cost of extending service into remote areas, and wind tower and transmission line issues, among other topics. At the close of the meeting, Patricia Ryberg of Bismarck was re-elected to serve another three-year term on the Capital Electric Charitable Trust board, and Baldwin resident LeAna Hug was elected to serve her first three-year term.



PHOTOS BY CARMEN DEVNEY

Co-op members (left to right) Edwin McCarty, Wayne Granfor, Dennis Burre, Sanford Williams and Brian Bittner participate in the discussion of co-op issues during the Feb. 8 MAC meeting.

Are you interested in serving as a director for Capital Electric?

Place **YOUR** name on the ballot today!

Capital Electric Cooperative's 65th annual meeting will be held June 1 at the Ramkota Hotel in Bismarck.

This year, three seats on the co-op's board of directors will need to be filled. Directors whose three-year terms will expire this June include Kyle Hilken and Rex Hollenbeck, both from District 2, and Rodney Eckroth from District 1.

The nine members who make up the Capital Electric board of directors set policies and make decisions which will guide the cooperative into the future. With the annual meeting just a few short months away, now is the time for members to start thinking about whether they have the time and desire to serve their electric cooperative.

In accordance with Article 4, Section 3 of the co-op bylaws, current members of Capital Electric can have their names placed on the ballot to be voted upon for the open board positions in one of three ways: accepting a nomination by the Capital Electric Nominating Committee; submitting a petition signed by at least 15 current members of the cooperative, not less than 30 days prior to the annual meeting; and having your name placed in nomination from the floor at the annual meeting prior to the board of director election.

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

Brian Bitner

751 80th Street SE
Bismarck ND 58501
(701) 224-8281

Wayne Granfor

1300 266th Ave NE
Wilton, ND 58579
(701) 734-6370

Arliss Koski

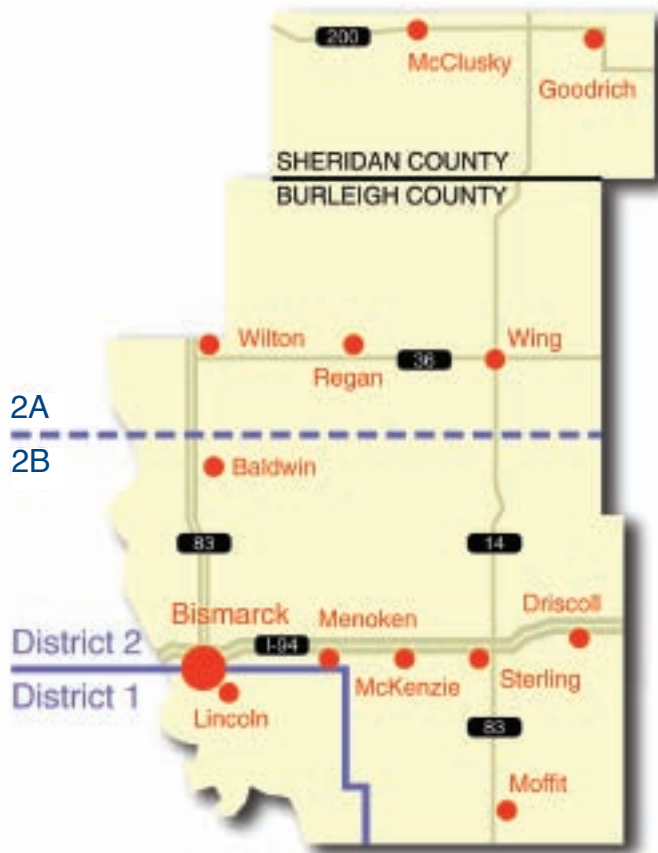
24951 353rd St. NE
Arena, ND 58494
(701) 943-2647

Duane Lasher

118 Third Street E
McClusky ND 58463
(701) 426-9143

Ann Reich

4401 Lookout Trail
Bismarck, ND 58504
(701) 255-4406



This June, three members will be elected to serve on the co-op's board of directors; two from District 2 and one from District 1.

Bob Reikow

9330 Paige Drive
Bismarck, ND 58503
(701) 255-2894

Julie Roswick

4315 England Street
Bismarck, ND 58504
(701) 255-3626

Justin Voller

2932 Remuda Drive
Bismarck, ND 58503
(701) 426-0444

Sanford Williams

26900 331st Avenue NE
Wing, ND 58494
(701) 943-2474

If you are interested in becoming a candidate for the Capital Electric Cooperative board of directors or wish to have a member considered for nomination, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee listed above prior to April 11. Committee members will have information on the requirements a member must meet in order to serve on the co-op's board of directors. Pursuant to the bylaws, the Nominating Committee must post a list of nominations at least 35 days prior to the annual meeting. Current board members whose terms will expire in 2011 are:

- District 1: Rodney Eckroth
- District 2: Kyle Hilken and Rex Hollenbeck

Official notice of Capital Electric's 65th annual meeting will be mailed to members in May.



Capital Electric member Arlene Olson makes a difference in her community — by volunteering as the business manager of the Wing Rural Ambulance, the president of the Burleigh County Farmers Union, the caretaker of Union Cemetery, the clerk for Trygg Township — and by serving as a board member for Bethlehem Lutheran Church and Capital Electric Cooperative.

Directors represent your interests

Capital Electric Cooperative is overseen by a board of directors which is elected by you—the members and owners of the electric co-op. Each director represents the members of the cooperative on the board, and each director is a cooperative member.

Directors have a unique duty. They represent the consumers' interests. Directors know what consumers expect from their cooperative, and what consumers' expectations will be in the future so they can help the cooperative progressively work toward the future.

Directors also have a fiduciary responsibility to the cooperative. They exercise care, time and responsibility in reviewing cooperative matters. Directors treat cooperative business as if the business is their own.

Directors devote a certain amount of time to the cooperative. At a minimum, a director attends each monthly board meeting. Directors learn about the industry as a whole by reading other materials and by attending state and national meetings. An understanding of the issues facing the industry is vital.

To help directors with their responsibilities, training is offered through the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives (NDAREC). Five courses must be completed to earn a certificate. Those courses cover director duties and liabilities, understanding the electric business, board roles and relationships, strategic planning and financial decision-making.

Most directors currently serving their cooperative find the duty extremely rewarding. Directors are able to help their cooperative and community remain strong.

SAVE THE DATE!

WHAT: Capital Electric's annual meeting

WHEN: Wednesday, June 1

WHERE: Ramkota Hotel, Bismarck

WHY: To learn about co-op issues; to cast your vote and elect three members to serve on the board of directors; to collect a capital credit claims check if you qualify; and to enjoy entertainment and eat a hearty meal.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Wrangham



Olson



Liuska



Mund



Haugen-Hoffart



Eckroth



Hilken



Hollenbeck



Vilhauer

CAPITAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE *board minutes report*

Feb. 18

The regular meeting of the board of directors of Capital Electric Cooperative, Inc., was held Feb. 18 at co-op headquarters in Bismarck. Also present were Manager Ordean "Lars" Nygren and Attorney Carol K. Larson of Pringle & Herigstad, P.C., who acted as recording secretary.

Financial review (January 2011): Prior to the board meeting, Directors Olson and Mund reviewed the January 2011 check register and expenditures. Mund reported all checks were in order. It was moved, seconded and carried to approve January expenditures in the amount of \$2,416,932.80.

Business department report: The manager reviewed the January financial and statistical report with the board. Total kilowatt-hour (KWH) sales reported for January 2011 were above budget by 5.0 percent. The actual monthly electric revenue is up 2.6 percent over budget.

The margin for January is \$166,254 versus the budgeted margin of \$213,187, a difference of a negative \$43,933, or -21.0 percent. Even though sales were higher than expected, there were operations and maintenance expenses related to substations, metering and line inspection that offset the additional revenue, resulting in the less-than-budgeted margin.

In January, 17 new services were billed, bringing active services to 15,687 versus 15,185 at this time last year. This is a net increase of 502 accounts over the last 12 months.

The final year-end margin for 2010 is \$1,688,957.18.

In 2011, the following three loans will be up for repricing: CoBank Loan No. 002012295, CoBank Loan No. 002306657, and Rural Utilities Service Loan No. 1b262. We plan to continue to monitor interest rate trends and our mix of short-to long-term debt and fix a term/rate for each loan accordingly.

The manager reviewed the comparison of actual-to-budgeted expenses for the month of January. Accounts receivable balances as of Feb. 17 were reviewed.

Capital credits: Following review of the financial condition of the cooperative and recommendation by management, it was moved, seconded and carried to authorize payment of capital credits to the following deceased members' estates:

Mike Triska	\$1,097.90
Vern Bucholz	291.19
Lynette Miller	626.33
Marie Harr	430.68
Carole Zimmer	591.02
Robert Stenberg	269.44
TOTAL	\$3,306.56

Policy No. E-7: Following review and discussion concerning Policy No. E-7, Sick Leave-Injuries on the Job, it was moved seconded and carried to adopt revised Policy No. E-7.

Engineering and operations report: The manager reviewed the written report from the engineering and operations department. This month 13 work orders were completed, adding 16 new consumers to the system.

The 10-MVA Virginia transformer was placed on the slab at the Apple Creek Substation on Feb. 14. We are now ready for the summer peak at the Apple Creek Substation.

The new staking engineer for Capital will be Mike Berg, lead lineman from Wing. We will now advertise for a lineman for the Wing outpost.

Crews are still doing line inspection and are trimming trees where there are minor tree problems. Projects for this coming construction season are being planned and materials are being ordered for SCADA monitoring at the Menoken and Riverview Substations.

The underground contractor quotes for the 2011 construction season were reviewed. Upon a motion, which was seconded and carried, the quotes were approved.

It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the quote from the power line contractor.

Member services department: The manager reviewed the written report from the member services department.

Quotes have been requested and received for the wood and steel poles required for the Century Avenue transmission reroute project. Orders for this material have been placed with delivery in mid- to late-April. The reroute of our existing transmission will allow us to reuse as much material as possible from the existing route (insulators, static brackets, dead-end clamps, etc.), creating substantial cost savings. The careful coordination of distribution outages will be required from this project so as to keep members energized during construction, which will begin in mid-April.

Rebate funds for geothermal heat pumps as well as air source heat pumps and water heaters are still available through the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives (NDAREC) and the North Dakota Utility Rebate Program.

The board of directors appointed the 2011 Nominating Committee.

It was moved, seconded and carried to have Nygren serve as delegate and member of the Western States board, and Paul Fitterer serve as the alternate delegate and board member.

Communications and public relations department: The manager reviewed the written report from the communications and public relations department. On Feb. 15 and 16, personnel participated in the KFVY Agri-International, which was held at the Bismarck Civic Center. Operation Round Up awarded 12 grants totaling \$10,000. Judging will begin to determine this year's Basin/Capital scholarship winner. Grant Feldner was the winner of the Youth Tour essay contest. He will be going to Washington, D.C., in June to participate in the tour.

Central Power Electric Cooperative and Basin Electric Power Cooperative reports: Director Mund reported on Central Power matters. Plans for annual meeting continue. Central Power's margin for the month of January was \$70,000.

Basin's chief executive officer, Ron Harp-er, will be at the April board meeting to discuss Basin matters. Long-range planning continues with Basin and Central Power to bring additional transmission to northwestern North Dakota. Equity at Basin is 18.4 percent.

Negotiations continue with Capital and Central Power on the concept of Capital assigning its Basin and Western Area Power Administration (Western) power contracts to Central Power.

All board members will serve as delegates to Central Power's annual meeting. It was moved, seconded and carried to authorize Mund to be the voting delegate in the event of controversy. Mund was elected as the delegate to Central Power's board and Olson was elected as the alternate to Central Power's board.

The manager reviewed the 2011 load forecast prepared by Basin, highlighting historical and projected energy sales and system energy requirements. It was moved, seconded and carried to accept the Basin load forecast for 2011.

NDAREC report: There was no NDAREC meeting this month. All directors will serve as delegates to NDAREC's annual meeting.

Safety report: There were no lost-time accidents this month.

On Feb. 1, Paul Davis, safety instructor from NDAREC, conducted a safety meeting on hazard communication, crate standards, trenching and shoring refresher, safe work practices, and working on energized lines. MedCenter One was also here to conduct a hearing test for all employees.

Strategic planning: The strategic planning session is scheduled for Feb. 25 and 26, commencing at noon on the 25th and 8:30 a.m. on the 26th, at the cooperative's headquarters.

Board meeting: The March board meeting will be held on March 18.

Adjournment: There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

CAPITAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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Web site: www.capitalelec.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Dwight Wrangham, Pres.	Bismarck
Arlene Olson, V. Pres.	Wing
David Liuska, Sec.-Treas.	Wing
Ervin Mund, Asst. Sec.-Treas. ...	Bismarck
Sheri Haugen-Hoffart	Bismarck
Rodney Eckroth	Bismarck
Kyle Hilken	Wilton
Rex Hollenbeck	McClusky
Deon Vilhauer	Bismarck
Ordean "Lars" Nygren, Mgr.	Bismarck

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