



CAPITAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

APRIL 2022

In this month's feature story, we celebrate 25 years of Operation Round Up and introduce members to one of this year's nonprofit recipients, Anne Carlsen.

Jacob is using his speech generating device (SGD) with dynamic display to communicate. This device has 30 icons (messages) per page which link to others to produce several messages.



PHOTO BY BY ANNE CARLSEN

IN THIS ISSUE

- Member donations provide sensory equipment for children with disabilities
- Member Advisory Committee adds value
- Place your name on the ballot
- Directors represent your interests
- Board minutes



PHOTOS BY ANNE CARLSEN

A child learns to independently use his wheelchair with the help of his physical therapist.



James reviews his daily schedule on his iPad with his special education teacher.

Member donations provide sensory equipment for children with disabilities

BY KRISTA RAUSCH

Over the last 25 years, thousands of Capital Electric Cooperative (CEC) members have opted to round up their monthly utility bill to the nearest dollar and donate their pennies to a charitable trust. Since 1997, members have contributed more than \$800,000 to the Operation Round Up program. Their donations have supported their communities and local nonprofits and assisted families with medical expenses. The program has demonstrated a small amount of change can make a tremendous impact.

“Neighbors helping neighbors — that’s the foundation on which CEC is built,” says CEC General Manager Paul Fitterer. “Seventy-six years ago, 129 farmers worked together to form our co-op and bring power to the prairie. Today, that cooperative spirit lives on through the Operation Round Up program. Each member’s monthly contribution could be as little as a penny, but never more than 99 cents. And that small change has the power to change lives.”

In February, CEC presented its most recent round of Operation Round Up grant checks, totaling \$25,000.

One of this year’s recipients is Anne Carlsen, a nonprofit organization that provides services and supports to more than 3,000 individuals with developmental disabilities each year.

Inspired by Dr. Anne Carlsen, the mission of Anne Carlsen is to make the world a more inclusive place where independence is a gift for all. It achieves this mission by providing residential, clinical, home and community-based services across the state of North Dakota. Anne Carlsen teams utilize a person-centered approach to meet the needs of children and adults with developmental delays, disabilities and other special health care needs.

“We operate on the premise that a child’s work is playing. We want to make it as fun as possible for the kids and families we serve,” says Stephanie Nelson, chief operating officer, Anne Carlsen.

This year, Anne Carlsen received a \$2,500 Operation Round Up grant, which will be used to purchase sensory toys and equipment. These sensory tools will benefit children with autism and other developmental disabilities by helping them engage with their senses, provide



Emerson looks into the bubble column in the sensory room.

feedback to their sensory systems and regulate their sensory needs. The sensory tools promote regulation, improve focus and increase participation, ultimately helping children to learn and participate in activities with peers.

Nelson says the grant will make a big impact. “These [sensory items] are the types of things that don’t

always fit in the budget,” Nelson says. “This grant allows us to bring more creativity, more tools and more options to the table for the people we serve, which is a huge benefit. And, it impacts our employees, as well. They are as excited about getting new toys and equipment as the kids are. The positive impact it has on the workforce and the culture is huge. So, we’re so grateful to CEC and its members for honoring this request.”

Your spare change could make a difference

Anne Carlsen is one of many programs to benefit from the Operation Round Up program. Join others in rounding up your monthly utility bill to the nearest dollar and make an impact in the communities in which you live, work and play. To opt into Operation Round Up, call CEC at 701-223-1513. **CEC**

Anne Carlsen has provided services in the Bismarck area for the past 10 years. For more information about occupational therapy, in-home supports or behavioral health services in Bismarck, call 701-751-3732 or visit annecarlsen.org.

Are you a high school senior or college student interested in what’s happening at your local cooperative?

Attend Capital Electric Cooperative’s (CEC) annual meeting on June 16 for a chance to win a \$500 college scholarship!

The scholarship will be given away to a dependent of a CEC member. All you have to do is attend with one of your parents or guardians, and you can register to win! In addition, you will have the opportunity to witness the democratic process in action at a co-op annual meeting.

The annual meeting will be held on June 16, at the Bismarck Event Center, 315 S. Fifth St., Bismarck. Registration and dinner will begin at 4:30 p.m., followed by the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Don’t miss this chance to start your fall semester off with an extra \$500 in your pocket!

Spare change changes lives through Operation Round Up



A community is only as strong as the support it provides in a time of need. Capital Electric Cooperative's (CEC) members help others all the time. Those members inspired CEC to launch its Operation Round Up program in 1997.

Operation Round Up is a program that allows CEC members to round up their monthly utility bill to the nearest dollar and donate their pennies to a charitable trust. The money pools and accumulates, and an elected board of five co-op members reviews grant applications to determine the best use of those pennies. Over the last 25 years, co-op members have contributed more than \$800,000 to the program, supporting their communities and local nonprofits, and assisting with medical expenses for those in need.

In February, CEC presented its most recent round of grant checks, totaling \$25,000, to the following individuals and organizations:

- Abused Adult Resource Center
- AID, Inc.
- Anne Carlsen
- Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch
- Elks Camp Grassick
- Freedom Riders of North Dakota
- Girl Scouts–Dakota Horizons
- Great Plains Food Bank
- Marketplace for Kids
- Sheridan Memorial Home
- Volunteer Caregiver Exchange

The next application deadline is July 31. Any person residing in Burleigh or Sheridan County may apply to receive an Operation Round Up grant. To request an application, call CEC at 701-223-1513 or visit the co-op's website, www.capitalelec.com. To download the application form from the website, click on *Our Services > Operation Round Up*.

Your spare change could save lives

Join others in rounding up your monthly utility bill to the nearest dollar and make an impact in the communities in which you live, work and play. To opt into Operation Round Up, call CEC at (701) 223-1513. **CEC**





The Capital Electric Cooperative Member Advisory Committee met in Bismarck on Feb. 17. Members received updates on the co-op's operations and provided feedback on important topics, including the annual meeting and the new headquarters building.

Member Advisory Committee adds value

BY WES ENGBRECHT

Capital Electric Cooperative (CEC) greatly values member feedback. One of the avenues where this feedback is elicited is the annual Member Advisory Committee meeting, which is held each February. A variety of co-op topics are discussed at the three-hour meeting, including the annual meeting, member rates, system improvements and industry trends. The current members of the committee have been added at various times in the last 25 years and have been diligent in attending and discussing co-op issues.

The CEC Board of Directors approved a new policy, which will result in a few changes, including terms for committee members. Members will now be permitted to serve one three-year term, and the committee will be limited to 30 members and their spouses. These changes will make it easier for more members to serve on the committee and provide fresh perspectives.

As a member-owned cooperative, CEC encourages member engagement. If you have an interest in serving on the Member Advisory Committee, please contact Wes Engbrecht, manager of communications and IT, at 701-712-7923 or wese@capitalelec.com. **CEC**

Haugen-Hoffart appointed to Public Service Commission

Capital Electric Cooperative (CEC) congratulates Sheri Haugen-Hoffart on her recent appointment to the North Dakota Public Service Commission (PSC). Haugen-Hoffart will fill the PSC seat vacated by former commissioner Brian Kroshus, who was appointed state tax commissioner in December 2021 and began serving in the role on Jan.



Sheri Haugen-Hoffart

4. The November election will determine who will serve the remaining four years of the six-year PSC term, which expires Dec. 31, 2026.

Haugen-Hoffart is a friend of North Dakota's electric cooperatives. Elected to CEC's Board of Directors in 2010, she became chair of the board in 2020, a position she held until her recent appointment to the PSC. Haugen-Hoffart also previously chaired the board of Central Power Electric Cooperative, a wholesale power supply and transmission cooperative whose six member co-ops include CEC. **CEC**

Capital Electric welcomes Pulvermacher to its board

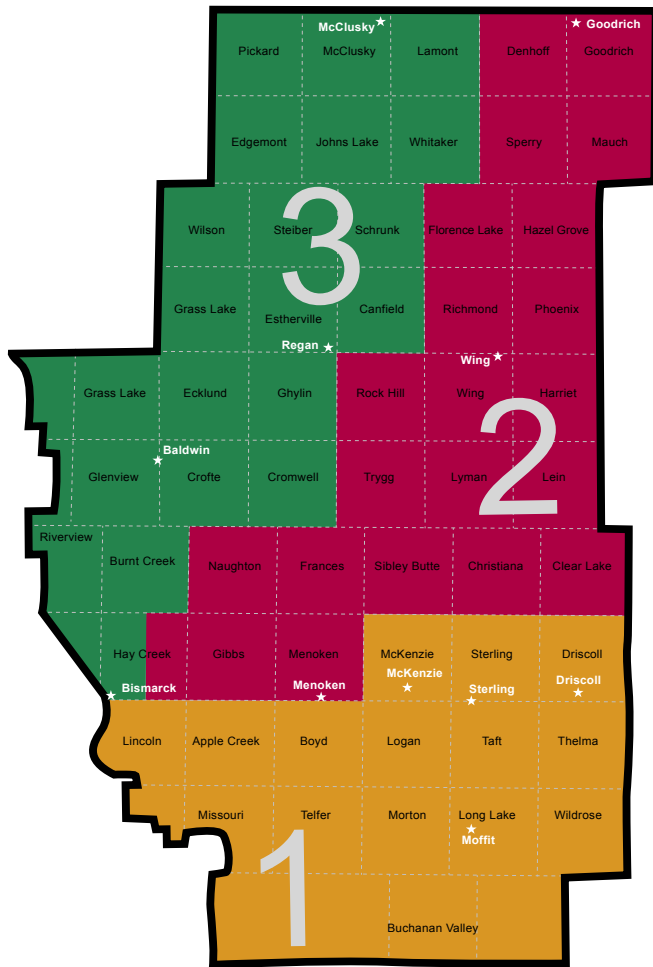
Capital Electric Cooperative (CEC) welcomes Kayla Pulvermacher to the co-op's board of directors! Pulvermacher was elected to fill an unexpired term on the board during a special meeting on Feb. 13. A board member nominated her for the position, which was previously held by Public Service Commissioner Sheri Haugen-Hoffart, and she was elected by majority vote. Her term will expire in June.



Kayla Pulvermacher

Pulvermacher possesses a vast amount of knowledge and experience with cooperatives that she credits to her farm upbringing in northwestern North Dakota, as well as her time as a camper and counselor at Farmers Union Camp. **CEC**

Are you interested in serving as a director for Capital Electric? Place **YOUR** name on the ballot today!



Capital Electric Cooperative (CEC) will hold its 76th annual meeting at the Bismarck Event Center on June 16.

This year, three seats on the co-op's board of directors will need to be filled. Directors whose terms will expire in June include Kayla Pulvermacher, District 1; Arlene Olson, District 2; and Kyle Hilken, District 3.

The nine members who make up the CEC Board of Directors set policies and make decisions that 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 CEC can have their names placed on the ballot to be voted upon for the open board positions in either of these two ways: 1) accepting a nomination by the CEC Nominating Committee or 2) submitting a petition signed by at least 15 current members of the cooperative, not less than 40 days prior to the annual meeting.

If you are interested in becoming a candidate for the CEC Board of Directors or wish to have a member considered for nomination, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee (listed on this page) prior to April 20. 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.

Official notice of CEC's 76th annual meeting will be mailed to members in May. **CEC**

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

Brian Bitner
751 80th St. SE
Bismarck, ND 58501
701-226-3456

Gary Hansen
1423 Eagle Crest Lp.
Bismarck, ND 58503
701-471-3558

Ann Reich
4401 Lookout Trail
Bismarck, ND 58504
701-255-4406

Kristi Schlosser Carlson
2810 Powder Ridge Dr.
Bismarck, ND 58503
701-251-8027

Scott Meske
4609 Patriot Dr.
Bismarck, ND 58503
608-516-9307

Sara Vollmer
40331 353rd St. NE
Wing, ND 58494
701-220-4768

Kristen Hamman
5414 Flatrock Dr.
Bismarck, ND 58503
701-934-5307

Julie Roswick
4315 England St.
Bismarck, ND 58504
701-255-3626

Jill Trygg
19201 197th St. NE
Baldwin, ND 58521
701-391-0345

Directors represent your interests

Capital Electric Cooperative (CEC) is overseen by a board of directors elected by the member-owners of our co-op. Each director represents the members on the board and each director is a co-op member.

Directors represent the members' interests. They learn and internalize concerns, expectations and ideas, and take the information into the board room. During board meetings, directors exchange information and strategize for the co-op's progressive growth.

Directors have a fiduciary responsibility to the cooperative. They exercise care, time and responsibility in reviewing co-op matters. Because they are also owners of the cooperative, they treat the business like their own.

Directors devote a certain amount of time to the cooperative. At a minimum, directors attend a monthly board meeting. To learn about the industry

and understand critical issues, directors research issues important to cooperatives and attend state and national meetings.

To help directors with their responsibilities, training is offered through the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives (NDAREC). If directors choose to pursue certification, they must take and complete five courses that cover director duties and liabilities, understanding the electric business, board roles and relationships, strategic planning and financial decision-making.

Serving CEC and your community can be a rewarding experience! For more information, contact a member of the Nominating Committee (see page C6) or call the co-op at 701-712-7923 and ask for Wes Engbrecht, manager of communications and IT. **CEC**

Save the date

June 16

WHAT:
Capital Electric Cooperative
Annual Meeting

WHERE:
Bismarck Event Center

WHY:
To learn about co-op issues; to cast your vote and elect three board members to serve on the board of directors; and to enjoy entertainment and eat a free meal.

What does it take to be a good board member?

We often get questions in the office from CEC members who are interested in running for a board position. The most common questions are: 1) *What does it take to be a good board member?* and 2) *What is the time commitment required to do the job well?*

A good board member is someone who takes the time to learn about the cooperative business model and understands what it means to the co-op's member-owners. A director will put time into training classes and individual study of issues the cooperative is dealing with on a regular basis. They will attend board meetings and other related meetings regularly to collaborate with fellow board members on those issues.

The following list of meetings and time requirements will give you an indication of what is generally expected of a CEC director:

- Twelve regular monthly board meetings, almost all in Bismarck
- One day at CEC's annual meeting, held in June in Bismarck
- Six days at NDAREC and G&T annual meetings, Bismarck and Minot
- Regional and national meetings
- Some CEC directors serve on other related boards at Central Power and NDAREC, which meet on a monthly or quarterly basis
- Other unscheduled meetings and training classes can add additional days

On average, a CEC director can spend between 25 and 30 days on co-op business each year.

A commitment to the cooperative and the cooperative business model is vital to a director's success on the board. Focusing on the needs of our member-owners is the common thread that keeps our board operating effectively. **CEC**

Board minute excerpts **FEB. 18, 2022**

The Capital Electric Cooperative (CEC) Board of Directors held its regular meeting on Friday, Feb. 18, 2022. The meeting was held in person at CEC headquarters, 4111 State Street, Bismarck, North Dakota, pursuant to due notice to all directors. Remote teleconference for the meeting was also available. All directors were present at that time.

Also present were: General Manager Paul Fitterer, Business Manager Luke Steen, Engineering Services Manager Greg Owen, Energy Services Manager Josh Schaffner, Manager of Communications and IT Wes Engbrecht and Attorney Zachary Pelham of Pearce Durick, PLLC, who acted as recording secretary.

Board Officer Vacancies: Upon the resignation of Sheri Haugen-Hoffart, the board president position became vacant. The board elected Director Deon Vilhauer to serve as chairperson of the board and president of the cooperative.

When Vilhauer was elected to the position of chair, the assistant secretary-treasurer position became vacant. The board elected Director Kyle Tschosik to serve as assistant secretary-treasurer of the cooperative.

Minutes and Agenda: President Vilhauer called the meeting to order. Without objection, the board approved the minutes of the Jan. 21 board meeting. The agenda was approved as presented.

Financial Review: Prior to the board meeting, Directors Dwight Wrangham and Rex Hollenbeck reviewed the January check register and expenditures.

The financial review was approved.

Management Reports (Business Department, Operations Department, Engineering Services, Energy Services and Public Relations/Communications/IT):

Business Department Report: Steen presented the January 2022 financial and statistical report to the Board.

Total kilowatt-hour (kWh) sales for January were ahead of budget by 10%. The monthly electric revenue was ahead of budget by 6.4%.

CEC's January load factor was just below the budgeted figure.

The operating margin for January was -\$1,872, ahead of the budgeted -\$73,827. The total margin for January was \$79,660, which was behind the budgeted \$1,050,419 due to the timing of closing on the vacant land.

CEC began billing 15 new services in January, bringing active services to 21,669 versus 21,332 at this time last year, or a net increase of 337 accounts over the last 12 months.

The cash flow statement and monthly power cost for January were reviewed. Accounts receivable balances as of Feb. 17 were reviewed.

Estate Retirements: Following review of the financial condition of the cooperative and recommendation by management, capital credit estate retirements totaling \$14,103.01 for 11 deceased members were authorized.

Interest Rates: Steen reported on increases in projected interest rates and a recommendation to lock in favorable rates. Following discussion and recommendation by management, it was authorized to lock in interest rates on budgeted 2022 loans.

Partial Lien Release: Steen reported that due to the replat of the existing headquarter property, the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) has requested a revision to the legal description of the property by board resolution. Following discussion, it was approved to execute a resolution setting out the legal description of the headquarters property consistent with the replat.

Operations Report: Owen reviewed the written report from the operations department. Owen reported crews began annual line inspections and will be inspecting lines feeding from the Goodrich, McClusky, Moffit, Sterling and Christiana substations. Crews completed underground switchgear inspections and addressed a transmission outage that left the Wing and Erickson substations without power on Feb. 13 after a lighting arrester became loose and caused a wire lead to come free and contact the grounded pole.

Safety Report: There were no lost time accidents in February.

A NDAREC safety instructor held a CPR/first aid training at CEC headquarters on Feb. 3. A Feb. 16 safety meeting, facilitated by a NDAREC safety instructor, covered the "I Will" campaign, evacuation procedures, and trenching and shoring safety.

Without objection, the safety report was approved.

Engineering Services: Owen reviewed the engineering services report.

There were six work orders completed in January.

Owen discussed ongoing and upcoming projects, noting that 2022 will be a very busy year.

Owen reported on a request for an underground line easement that contains a provision for the cooperative to sign as grantee and provides for indemnity language. The signing of the easement was authorized.

Property Update: Owen reported on continued marketing efforts for the sale of remaining parcels. The closing on Parcel D was anticipated in late February, but delays may occur due to pending RUS approval and the plat having to be recorded by the City of Bismarck. A purchase agreement for Parcels B, C, E, F and G was executed on Feb. 16. The due diligence period has begun, which includes the removal of the underground fuel storage tank. Closing on the property is scheduled for late September 2022.

New Facility Modifications: Construction management at risk services were bid, and a successful bid was accepted. Owen reported on new facility modification considerations, including supply chain issues, interest rates and the impending sale of existing cooperative property. Owen explained the current budget provides for interior modifications only, but consideration should be given to pursuing the shop addition at the new facility concurrently with the budgeted interior modifications. Following discussion, it was approved to adopt a revised project budget as recommended by management to include the shop addition.

Energy Services: Schaffner reviewed the Energy Services Report.

Twenty-eight service orders were completed in January.

Schaffner presented to the Member Advisory Committee and assisted at the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives booth at the Agri-International event.

Communications, Public Relations and IT: Fitterer introduced IT Supervisor Kent Kensmoe, who presented on cybersecurity and steps being taken by the cooperative to address these threats.

Engbrecht reviewed topics of interest, including the in-person annual meeting being planned for June 16, website updates and the new cooperative logo.

Policies:

IV-01-21 Interruptible Rate: Steen outlined proposed language changes, and the modification to the policy was approved.

Rate Schedule "B" (Billboard Signs): Steen outlined the current policy and indicated most of the services for billboards have transitioned to have a meter at the site making the existing policy unnecessary. It was approved to rescind the policy, effective Dec. 31, 2022.

IV-01-24 Parallel Generation: Steen outlined the proposed

amendments to the policy, and it was approved to modify the policy as recommended by management.

Basin Electric Power Cooperative: Fitterer reported on Basin matters. Basin's Member Advisory Committee is scheduled to meet the following week.

Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) Drought:

Fitterer reported on a likely drought adder.

Central Power Electric Cooperative: Vilhauer called for interest in any CEC director wishing to serve as an alternate director on the Central Power Board. Upon balloting, Director Kyle Hilken received a majority of the votes cast, and therefore, Hilken was elected to the position.

Hilken was appointed CEC's representative on the Central Power Resolutions Committee and was authorized to cast CEC's vote at the Central Power annual meeting. Hollenbeck was appointed as CEC's alternative representative on Central Power's Resolutions Committee.

North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives (NDAREC):

No meeting took place in February.

Industry Update: Fitterer reviewed materials related to power markets and general cooperative news.

Strategic Planning:

Fitterer reported on remaining items identified from the strategic planning meeting.

National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA):

Fitterer reported on the 2022 proposed resolutions for the upcoming NRECA Annual Meeting.

Director Dave Charles was presented with a certificate for completion of NRECA's Board Leadership Program.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the meeting, the meeting was adjourned. **CEC**

CAPITAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

4111 State St. N.
Bismarck, ND 58503

Website: www.capitalelec.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Deon Vilhauer, Pres. Bismarck
Dave Charles, V. Pres. Bismarck
David Straley, Sec.-Treas. Bismarck
Kyle Tschosik, Asst. Sec.-Treas. Bismarck
Kyle Hilken Wilton
Rex Hollenbeck McClusky
Dwight Wrangham Bismarck
Arlene Olson Wing
Kayla Pulvermacher Bismarck

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Friday : 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Office phone: 701-223-1513

Toll-free: 888-223-1513

Pay-By-Phone: 1-877-853-5928

DAY-NIGHT-WEEKEND

TROUBLE CALL: 223-1513

Capital Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 