



Capital Electric

COOPERATIVE

NOVEMBER 2023

The Wilton Rural Ambulance District received funds from the cooperative's Operation Round Up program to assist with the purchase of a power lift cot, which will help first responders safely and quickly load patients.

EMT LeeAnn Domonoske-Kellar and ambulance driver and treasurer Paul Schauer present the Wilton Rural Ambulance District's newly purchased power lift cot, a much-needed piece of equipment that allows ambulance crews to quickly load patients.



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Operation Round Up teams up with Wilton Rural Ambulance

BY WES ENGBRECHT



The ambulance crew has access to other updated life-saving equipment, including the LUCAS chest compression system used for cardiac arrest patients.

Serving the medical emergency needs in rural areas can be a daunting challenge. Distance to patients and hospitals, as well as severe weather and road conditions, can test the ability of both emergency medical technicians (EMTs) and the ambulance itself. Utilizing the best and latest equipment can help make this job easier.

In September, Capital Electric Cooperative's Operation Round Up program provided a grant to assist in the purchase of a new power lift cot for the Wilton Rural Ambulance District.

"The power lift cot is a significant improvement to our service and represents the latest in technology," explains LeeAnn Domonoske-Kellar, a 20-year EMT. "While the cost of the unit can be significant, it will improve how we deal with serious medical situations in the field."

Wilton's ambulance crew has faced a considerable increase in its service area over the past year.

"We have expanded to 975 square miles from 555. Fortunately, we have EMTs across the district, which includes Wilton, Wing, Baldwin and New Johns. We are also assisted by the Wilton and Wing fire departments," ambulance driver Paul Schauer explains.

The drive to Bismarck's health care facilities is another challenge, as emergency rooms are often at capacity. Last year's extreme winter conditions made it almost impossible to reach both the patient and the hospital. The Wilton crew worked diligently to provide the transport and care needed to preserve the lives of many rural folks. The Wilton Rural Ambulance District also works closely with the Burleigh County Highway Department to aid in opening roads.

Capital Electric's Operation Round Up program is funded by our members who round up their monthly electric bill to the nearest dollar. The money is then donated to individuals and nonprofit organizations to use for charitable purposes that benefit those in need in our area. If you'd like to sign up to help this program, please call our office at 701-223-1513. ☎



LeeAnn demonstrates the power cot once it is anchored in place inside the ambulance.



Charitable trust board member **A.J. Tuck** presents a grant check to **Joan Trygg** with the Abused Adult Resource Center.



Jim McCullough, board member, presents a check to **Sister Kathleen Atkinson**, representing Ministry on the Margins.

Operation Round Up grants make a real difference

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

Operation Round Up is a program that allows Capital Electric 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 26 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.

Capital Electric presented its most recent round of grant checks, totaling \$41,600, to the following individuals and organizations:

- Wilton Rural Ambulance District
- Missouri Valley Coalition for the Homeless
- Bismarck Mandan Rifle and Pistol Association
- Bismarck Mandan Young Life
- Bismarck Historical Society

- Shoes of Hope
- Community Action
- Anne Carlsen Center
- First Presbyterian Church Child Care
- Ministry on the Margins
- The Santa Run
- Scottish Rite Speech Therapy
- Bis-Man Mentor Squad
- The Village Family Service Center
- Four individual recipients with varying needs

The next application deadline is Feb. 29, 2024. Any person residing in Burleigh or Sheridan counties may apply to receive an Operation Round Up grant. To request an application, call Capital Electric 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 Capital Electric at 701-223-1513. ☎



Open house is a hit with co-op members

BY WES ENGBRECHT

It's approaching a year since the Capital Electric Cooperative staff moved out of our State Street offices and into our new location on Yukon Drive north of Bismarck. Although the move took some time and effort, it has resulted in a significant improvement in the available space for employees and equipment.

Capital Electric Board President Deon Vilhauer comments on the move, "When Capital Electric moved into the State Street location more than 50 years ago, there were 2,655 services on our system. In 2022, as we moved to the new location, that number had increased to 22,297. In addition, the State Street and 43rd Avenue intersection had become one of the busiest intersections in Bismarck. The acquisition of our new site on Yukon Drive is a culmination of overcoming these and several other operational challenges."

On Oct. 5, following months of redesign and improvements, the co-op was ready to invite our members and others to join us for an open house to give them an opportunity to view our new home, a

property in which they invested through their payment of electric services. The open house included lunch, grilled by equipment vendor Border States, as well as employee-led tours of the offices and shop buildings.

"We were pleased to welcome more than 200 co-op and community members to engage with our employees as they were given a chance to meet us and see the building," General Manager Paul Fitterer proudly stated. "It's quite satisfying for all of us to meet with our members and hear what they have to say."

Many visitors conveyed they were pleased with the facility and the in-depth tours.

"The building purchase was a positive improvement. I believe it was a good decision to move into an existing building, rather than spending much more to build a new one," one longtime co-op member noted.

The co-op is thankful to those members and others attending this event, as well as the entire co-op staff and board members who assisted with the work involved to make it a fun and informative day. ☺

University of Mary's Hamm School of Engineering earns accreditation

BY WES ENGBRECHT

Being part of a growing and thriving community is rewarding in many ways. With an increasing population, services are added in many areas, not the least of which is education. The University of Mary, one of Capital Electric Cooperative's largest members, has reached another important milestone as it continues to grow and thrive in our community.

The university has moved quickly to complete the accreditation for its Bachelor of Science degrees in civil engineering, mechanical engineering and electrical engineering within the new Hamm School of Engineering. As of September, this goal has been met through the Accreditation Board of Engineers and Technology (ABET), an international, non-governmental accrediting body focusing on programs in applied and natural sciences, computing, engineering and engineering technology.

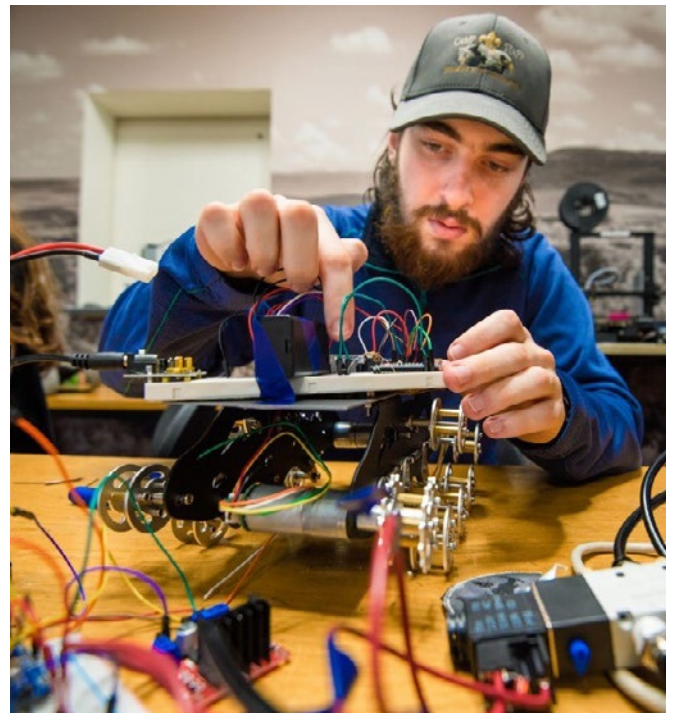
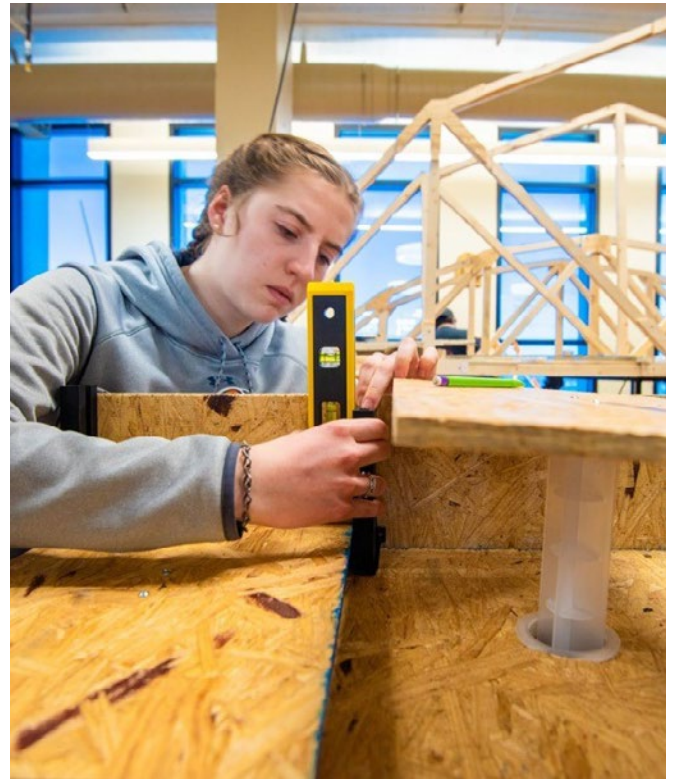
"Accreditation is vital to an engineering program, because it meets the national standards and enables students to earn a bachelor's degree in civil, mechanical or electrical engineering," relates Assistant Professor of Engineering Anthony Waldenmaier.

"Ultimately, the mark of a great engineering school is if our graduates are positive contributors to society. All of our students are getting internships and jobs, as well as working for great companies," adds Terry Pilling, the founding dean of the Hamm School of Engineering.

The University of Mary attracts local and national students in all programs. The same applies to the engineering school, where 70% of the students come from outside North Dakota. Its goal is to add a good mix of students from inside and outside of our state to complete the engineering program, while they fall in love with the university and North Dakota. Based on a 2023 survey, 67% of the engineering graduates are now working for North Dakota companies.

Meeting the needs of its students in all programs has been the University of Mary's goal since its inception in 1959. Capital Electric continues to proudly serve the school, as it continues to grow and add programs, training professionals who benefit our North Dakota cities and their economies.

Congratulations to the University of Mary on this major achievement and best of luck as you move forward in training the next generation of engineers. 🇺🇸



Need Help with Heating Costs? LIHEAP can help

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps eligible low-income households with home heating costs.

- Heating assistance
- Weatherization services (insulation, weather stripping, etc.)
- Furnace and chimney cleaning
- Furnace repair and replacement
- Emergency assistance

Applications are accepted from Oct. 1 through May 31 for each heating season.

For help filling out and submitting the LIHEAP application, call 1-800-823-2417 ext: 140.



www.communityoptionsnd.com

APPLY FOR A TRIP OF A LIFETIME

WHAT IS YOUTH TOUR?

- An all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., paid for by Capital Electric Cooperative.
- A week of visiting historic monuments, touring world class museums, learning about electric cooperatives and meeting elected officials.
- Developing lifelong friendships with delegates from across the country!



JUNE 15 TO 21, 2024

AN ALL-EXPENSE-PAID TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

ESSAY QUESTION

If chosen as a Youth Tour delegate, you will be traveling to Washington, D.C., to experience and learn about America's rich history. What moment in American history do you wish you had been a part of and what would you have contributed?

HOW TO APPLY

- To enter the essay-writing contest, you must be a sophomore or junior in high school, and you and your parents or guardian must be served by Capital Electric Cooperative.
- Email entries to Wes Engbrecht at wese@capitalelec.com or mail a hard copy to: Youth Tour Essay Contest, 7401 Yukon Drive, Bismarck, ND, 58503.
- Questions? Call Wes at 701-223-1513 during regular business hours.
- **The deadline is Jan. 19, 2024.**

EMPOWER



LEARN MORE AT NDYOUTHTOUR.COM

Board minute excerpts SEPT. 22

The regular meeting of the board of directors of Capital Electric Cooperative was held on Friday, Sept. 22. The meeting was held in person at Capital Electric, 7401 Yukon Drive, Bismarck, pursuant to due notice to all directors. All directors were present at that time.

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

Financial Review: Prior to the board meeting, Directors Kyle Tschosik and Dave Charles reviewed the August check register and expenditures. They advised all checks and expenditures were in order. The financial review was approved as presented.

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

Business Department Report: Steen presented the August 2023 financial and statistical report to the board.

Revenue was behind the budget for August, as \$3,847,201 was generated in comparison with the budgeted figure of \$3,915,407 (unfavorable variance of \$68,206 or 1.7%).

Capital Electric's August gross load factor was behind budget by 2.28%.

The operating margin for August was -\$357,544, behind the budgeted amount of -\$353,156. The total margin for August was -\$202,156, which was ahead of the budgeted -\$325,980.

Capital Electric began billing 13 new services in August, bringing our active services to 22,131 versus 21,815 at this time last year, or a net increase of 316 accounts over the last 12 months.

The cash flow statement and monthly power cost for August were reviewed. Accounts receivable balances as of Sept. 21 were reviewed.

Estate Retirements: Following review of the financial condition of the cooperative and recommendation by management, 13 estate retirements totaling \$9,655.94 were approved.

Operations Report: Dressler

reviewed the written report from the operations department. Dressler reported the overhead to underground conversion on 93rd Street is complete and overhead lines and poles have been removed, monthly substation inspections were completed by the Wing and Bismarck crews, and the new bucket trucked ordered two years ago was delivered.

Safety Report: There were no lost-time accidents in August. Without objection, the safety report was approved.

Engineering Services Report: Owen reviewed the written report from engineering services. Twenty-two works orders were completed in August. Owen reported on ongoing and upcoming projects, including replacement of the Lewis and Clark Estates and Larson Road cable, near completion of Capital Electric's work on the Ash Coulee Road project and ongoing work on the Rolling Meadow cable replacement project.

Property Update: Owen reported on the status of the anticipated sale of the former administrative building currently under contract. The closing date was amended on the purchase agreement for the administrative building to extend the closing date until Nov. 6. Owen reported the work on the new facility is near substantial completion.

Energy Services: Fitterer reviewed the Energy Services report. Twenty service orders were completed in August.

Communications and IT: Engbrecht reviewed the communications and IT report. Engbrecht reported on the Operation Round Up grants, the October member open house and the Member Advisory Committee upcoming meeting.

Strategic Planning: Fitterer reported that staff would be presenting a plan for implementing the items identified at the strategic planning session for the November board meeting.

2024 Load Forecast Update: Steen reviewed the 2024 update to the 2023 load forecast prepared for Capital Electric by Basin Electric Power Cooperative. Following discussion, the load forecast was approved.

2024 Budget: Steen, Fitterer, Dressler, Engbrecht and Owen

reviewed draft budgets for 2024 for sales and purchases, capital and construction.

Basin Electric: Fitterer reported on Basin Electric matters.

Central Power Electric Cooperative: Charles reported on Central Power Electric matters.

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

North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives (NDAREC): Vilhauer reported on NDAREC matters. NDAREC's Zac Smith reported on the Northwest Landowners lawsuit and the property tax petition. No action was taken.

National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA): Fitterer reported on the NRECA regional meeting.

National Information Solutions Cooperative Member Conference: Fitterer reported on the member conference meeting.

Mid-West Electric Consumers Association Annual Meeting: Fitterer reported the annual meeting will be Dec. 12-14. ☺

CAPITAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

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