Capital Electric employees and their families represented the co-op at the Mandan Fourth of July parade. Pictured are General Manager Paul Fitterer with his wife, Danna, and daughters Hattie, Haven and Holland. Communications and Public Relations Director Wes Engbrecht is on the left.
The theme of this year’s Mandan Fourth of July parade was “Celebration of Service.” Electric cooperatives focus intently on providing the very best service to our member-owners and the communities we serve, so the theme described what we do best. In fact, one of the stated values of Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives is “commitment to community.”

Employees from Capital Electric Cooperative, Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, National Information Solutions Cooperative (NISC), and the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives (NDAREC) joined the parade festivities at this year’s celebration. Mor-Gran-Sou provided a digger derrick truck that was decorated in a patriotic theme that stressed that cooperatives are “Happy to Serve.”

The co-op entry also included an ambulance that represented Basin Electric’s Brave the Shave fundraising efforts. Brave the Shave is another shining example of service to our communities, as it focuses on the most vulnerable of us all – children with cancer. Basin Electric and other corporate sponsors have raised more than $2.2 million since 2008 when they held the first Brave the Shave event.

The parade has become an annual highlight for local cooperatives, allowing them to make a personal connection with community members and their own member-owners. Thousands of people attend the parade, braving the heat and sun to collect candy for the kids and socialize with their friends and families.

Cooperative members reflect a sense of pride in their co-op when they recognize employees in the parade. Having a good number of walkers from the co-ops helps with the connection as well. Handing a member-owner a trinket that represents their co-op means something to them.

At Capital Electric, we appreciate our member-owners and look forward to seeing them each year at the parade and other community events. We will continue to provide the same quality service to ensure your electric service will be safe and affordable for years to come.

Co-ops celebrate service at Mandan parade

BY WES ENGBRECHT
The second installment of the new member engagement program, “Know your Co-op,” was held on July 11. Twenty member participants were treated to an electric substation tour and educated on what our generation and transmission cooperatives do for Capital Electric.

Representing Basin Electric Power Cooperative (Basin) was General Manager Paul Sukut, who spoke about Basin’s role in generating power to sell through Capital Electric and other distribution cooperatives. Tom Meland, general manager of Central Power Electric Cooperative (Central) in Minot, covered Central’s connection to the co-op as a transmission cooperative. Capital Electric purchases electricity from Central, which purchases its power from Basin and the Western Area Power Administration.

Capital Electric launched “Know your Co-op” in April with the intention of completing eight quarterly sessions to educate a group of co-op members on a variety of topics relating to how the co-op operates. Future sessions will focus on topics such as co-op operations, staking, metering, line work, outage management, energy services, electric and geothermal heating and cooling, communications, rates, technology and more!

If you would like more information about the “Know your Co-op” program, feel free to contact Wes Engbrecht, director of communications and public relations, at 701-223-1513 or wese@capitalelec.com.

DON’T FORGET TO SIGN UP FOR THE PTR PROGRAM!

By now, you have most likely heard about the peak time rebate (PTR) program that will be launching in October. This program is designed for residential members and will result in rebates being earned by those members that reduce their energy usage during “peak time events” that Capital Electric will designate.

Capital Electric members have been signing up over the past two months awaiting the program launch in October. During September, those members who have signed up will receive information that will explain the program in more detail.

Capital Electric General Manager Paul Fitterer reminds members, “The best part of this program is that there is no downside, as you can decide whether you would like to reduce your usage during a peak event. There is no penalty if you choose not to participate in a given event. So if you have company at the house and you don’t want them to be uncomfortable, you can continue to run your air conditioning that day.”

If you are interested in signing up for the program, go to www.capitalelec.com and click on “Our Services” and “Peak Time Rebate Program.” If you have questions about the program, feel free to call our office at 701-223-1513 and ask for Josh or Jared in our energy services department. They will be happy to share more about this program with you.
Newly elected Capital Electric board member Dave Charles knows electricity and what it takes to run a business that provides it to members. In fact, utilities have been part of Dave's entire career and it's an industry in which he wants to continue to be involved, even during retirement.

Elected at Capital Electric’s 71st annual meeting on June 6, Dave will represent District 1. Nine-year board member Rodney Eckroth retired from the board and Dave won the seat in an election, vying against two other members.

A U.S. Navy veteran, Dave was an aviation structural mechanic stationed at Lemoore Naval Air Station in California working on A7 Corsair fighter jets during the Vietnam War. His squadron helped train naval pilots serving in combat, making sure they were trained to fly the A-7 jet on and off aircraft carriers to perform their primary bombing missions.

“This experience taught me the value of leadership, safety and maintenance. It was vital our airmen and pilots understood the equipment they were operating and the jets were in proper flying condition,” Dave explains.

Later in his utility career, Dave would see many parallels between the values needed in the military with those required to keep an electric system operating safely and reliably. Earning his degree in electrical engineering from Montana State University in Bozeman, Dave landed a job with Montana Power Company. He began as a division engineer out of Havre, Mont., and would later move on as a division manager overseeing a large service area for the utility.

Relating to his experience at Montana Power, Dave explains, “We worked closely with three electric cooperatives in the area, utilizing teamwork to ensure all utility customers received reliable and efficient electricity. I gained a great appreciation for electric cooperatives during those years as I saw how dedicated they were to their member-owners. It’s one of the reasons that I decided to run for the Capital Electric board. I also noticed how well Capital Electric was run and how reliable they were at providing power.”

Dave’s career continued at Basin Electric Power Cooperative after he completed his career at Montana Power. At Basin, he worked with regional transmission organization issues in the power supply planning department, representing Basin’s members as they dealt with federal regulations and the complexity of the ever-changing electric transmission world.

“Power is bought and sold in the energy markets these days with price changing on a five-minute basis. The regional transmission organizations with their associated day ahead and real-time energy markets are very complex and requires attention and planning to make sure our power costs for Basin’s members remain as low as possible,” Dave explains.

Dave is dedicated to making sure every decision made is one that is best for the consumer at the end of the line. One of his first managers taught him how important it is to take care of the co-op’s members, and he continues to honor that tradition today. Dave is pleased to serve as your director and will bring his experience to the boardroom to help keep things running smoothly for Capital Electric.

Dave and Bev, his wife of more than 40 years, live in Bismarck. They have two daughters and son-in-laws with five grandchildren, who also live in our community. 

Meet your new director, Dave Charles

BY WES ENGBRECHT
Krista Rausch joins NDAREC/CEC

Communications is a vital aspect of any business and Capital Electric Cooperative (CEC) does its best to keep our member-owners informed and engaged. In keeping with that commitment, CEC hired a communications specialist it will be sharing with the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives (NDAREC).

Along with NDAREC, CEC welcomes Krista Rausch to our communications and public relations staff. Krista joins us with more than seven years of communications experience, most recently as a program coordinator for the City of Mandan. Prior to that, she worked as a multimedia journalist and web producer at KFYR-TV, a project coordinator at the Arc of Bismarck and a public relations and event marketing assistant at the Legendary Buffalo Chip in Sturgis, S.D.

“Krista’s experience is a perfect fit for our needs,” says Paul Fitterer, Capital Electric general manager. “She will help us by enhancing member engagement efforts, communications, public relations and much more.”

At CEC, Krista will assist with the development of stories and write for our North Dakota Living magazine local pages. She will contribute in many other ways to the communications and public relations function, including social media and the CEC website. According to CEC’s Communications and Public Relations Director Wes Engbrecht, “We are pleased to have Krista on board as I know she will be a great asset to our communications team.”

Krista lives in Bismarck with her husband, Chris. Born and raised in Velva, ND, she has fond memories of visiting her grandfather at Verendrye Electric, where he worked as an operations supervisor.

You will be seeing Krista in the community representing the cooperative, interviewing member-owners for magazine and online stories, and much more. Welcome to the cooperative family, Krista!
Capital defines mission and values

What defines a cooperative’s mission and values gets to the heart of the organization. An electric cooperative, by its nature, exists for one purpose: To serve our member-owners. When you recognize that is your overall mission, you can begin to define exactly how you are going to accomplish that mission.

Capital Electric’s board of directors, General Manager Paul Fitterer and the various department managers met several months ago in a strategic planning session to plan the future of the cooperative. Beyond the intricacies of operations, rates, plant construction and other important issues, the importance of mission and values statement development made the agenda. They wanted to be able to put who we really are into words.

Part of the development process was to engage co-op employees from various departments to get an idea of how they felt about it. Three board members and several employees proceeded to meet on three occasions to hammer out the results you see below. It was a team effort and we are proud of what they concluded best fits our cooperative.

The mission statement is a brief description of why we are in business and the values statement represents a broader view of what we do for our members and in the communities we serve.

**MISSION STATEMENT**

Capital Electric Cooperative serves our community and member-owners as their trusted energy provider and partner.

**VALUES STATEMENT**

At Capital Electric Cooperative, we follow these seven principles: Voluntary and open membership; democratic member control; member’s economic participation; autonomy and independence; education, training and information; cooperation among cooperatives; and concern for community.

We live and work by the values of integrity, commitment to community, innovation and accountability.

INTEGRITY: Integrity is doing what we say we will do. It means being honest and reliable for those we serve.

COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY: We are part of the communities we serve. We dedicate time, money and expertise to those communities to improve the lives of our members. We are proactive in economic development projects, educating members and the community about safety and the environment, and supporting worthwhile charities.

INNOVATION: We are innovators and leaders in the energy industry. We want to be the trusted energy partner for our member owners.

ACCOUNTABILITY: We are open and transparent with our members, our employees, and the communities we serve. We consider ourselves stewards of the resources our members entrust to us.
Capital credit claims

Listed below are the names of former Capital Electric Cooperative Inc. members who had capital credit checks mailed to them in June 2011. These checks have been returned to Capital Electric Cooperative by the postal service because it could not locate the members at the address on file. A further search by Capital Electric personnel has not turned up their whereabouts.

If you received electrical service from Capital Electric Cooperative Inc. any time during 1995 and your name is on this list, please contact our office. If you know of the whereabouts of members on this list who received electrical service from Capital Electric Cooperative Inc. any time during 1995, please have them contact our office at 701-223-1513.

Please keep in mind that not all of the capital credit amounts are large. However, we desire to get the money due to those who earned it, and clear our records.

We will redeem capital credits for those members on the following list who notify us prior to Dec. 1, 2017. Notice is hereby given that any of the aforementioned unclaimed capital credits outstanding after Dec. 1, 2017, will be forfeited pursuant to Section 10-15-34.1 and 10-15-23 of the North Dakota Century Code.

Second notice – August 2017

Agrilance          Felter, Rachel
Albert, Dorothy    Fetch, William
Albin, Terry R.    Fischer, Stacey J.
Alveya, Mary Lou.  Frank, Victoria
Anders, Mark       Fricke, Scott
Anfinson, Mike     Fried, Cindy
Anfinson, Shayla   Fried, Douglas
Bachmeier, Melissa Fritz, Tom
Baker, Mark A.     Geno, John
Baker, Susan M.    Garber, Daron
Barnes, Jon D.     Gardiner, Randy
Bauer, Dan         Garvey, Randy
Bauer, Jay B.      Gassman, Steve
Baumann, Terence T. Gemperle, John
Beasley, Pam       Gochenour, Sue
Beasley, Scott     Gendron, Mike
Becker, Ned        Gehringer, Randy
Belgorde, Brandie  Geske, David
Benham, Esther R.  Gibson, Randy
Binstock, Dawn     Gilmour, Larry
Bismarck MsA Ltd Partnership          Grey Eagle, Robert
Bjelland, Michelle  Grey Eagle, Tanya
Blotsky, Shelly    Guthmiller, Terry
Boss, Patricia     Hanson, Daryl N.
Brackett, Brenda   Hanson, Lana
Bren, Valerie M.   Hanson, Michael
Carter, Kay       Hardy, Linda
Century Associates Hargiss, Sharon K.
Cermak, Darcy     Hart, Shari L.
Cermak, Troy      Hartwig, Robert B.
Coffey, Lillian A. Hawkinson, Lisa
Cooper, Kimberly J. Heit, Michelle
Dakota Trust      Heitman, Peggy
Dakota Wood Truss Inc Helgesen, Jennifer
Davis, Earl       Helmman, Anita M.
Davis, Paul C.    Helmenstein, Robin Lea.
Deboer, Bart      Helmenstein, Teresa
Deboer, Sherry    Heuvel, Jim
Demersy, Melissa  Heydt, Steven
Dillow, Joan L.   Hildreth, Lori E.
Ding, Blane       Hinnsengard, Tamara M.
 Dixon, Allan      Hohler, Jennifer
 Dixon, Cherri    Holter, Jenel
Drexmann, Thomas R. Holter, Joe
Ehl, Candace      Holz, Dan
Engelhorn, Heather M. Housley, James F.
Faber, Tina       Housley, Shandra R.
Faligatter, Heather Hurley, Lisa
Farmsworth, Letia E. Hurley, Patrick
Farnsworth, Scott M. Immenni, Scott
Feist, Rebecca    Jablonski, Roxanne
C7
Board minute excerpts
June 23, 2017

The regular meeting of the board of directors of Capital Electric Cooperative (CEC) was held Friday, June 23, at co-op headquarters in Bismarck, pursuant to due notice to all directors.

All of the directors were present at that time except Dwight Wrangham, who arrived at 9:30 a.m.

Financial review: Prior to the board meeting, Director Olson reviewed the May 2017 check register and expenditures. She reported that all checks were in order, as moved, seconded and carried to approve May expenditures in the amount of $2,778,502.83.

Management reports (Business department, operations and engineering, member services and public relations/communications):
Business department report: The business manager presented the financial and statistical report to the board. The total kilowatt-hour sales for May was under budget by 1.23 percent. The actual monthly electric revenue is above budget by 2.37 percent.

The total margin for May was $488,001, in comparison to the budgeted margin of $132,280, above budget by $315,721.

CEC began billing 52 new services in May, bringing our active services to 19,938 versus 19,430 at this time last year, or a net increase of 508 over the last 12 months.

The business manager reviewed the comparison of actual-to-budgeted expenses, cash flow statement and monthly power cost for May. Accounts receivable balances as of June 22 were also reviewed.

Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) retirement plan restatement: Every five years, the federal government requires the board to authorize a plan restatement our retirement plan. It was moved, seconded and carried to adopt the resolution authorizing the retirement plan.

Rural Utilities Service (RUS) audit 2014-present: Our RUS field accountant, Mike Diller, completed our quadrennial loan fund accounting review. Diller’s audit letter was reviewed with the board.

CoBank incumbency certificate: At the organizational meeting, Director Koski became our new assistant secretary-treasurer. It was moved, seconded and carried to authorize Koski as a signer at CoBank and to execute a current incumbency certificate.

Drop box route: We have five payment drop boxes throughout Bismarck and collect those payments on a daily basis. Some challenges are apparent, and we are considering potential solutions. Management is looking into options.

Meeting with U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives (NDAREC): On May 24, a meeting was held with Dennis Rodin from USDA and Lori Capouch from NDAREC. We discussed grant and loan funding available to assist in economic development projects as well as energy efficient and renewable energy.

Property tax filing: We submitted our North Dakota in lieu of property tax filing in May. The Legislature did make recent changes and we are waiting to hear from Zach Smith at NDAREC as to the definitive amount of the change and the effective date.

Estate retirements: 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:

Pius Volk $566.55
Jake Spitzer $1,900.08
Herman Merkel $1,528.55
Donald L. Wilhelm $2,695.67
Viola Henne $579.03
Charles Woody $1,053.25
Elma Hinkel $2,397.71
Frank Hondl $411.11
Marjorie Magnuson $245.46
Charles Skalsky $162.44
Marilys Platz $54.13
Janet Hummel $46.84

Total $11,644.82

Engineering and operations report: The manager of engineering and operations reviewed the written report and June outages. We completed 33 work orders this month, adding 25 new consumers to our system.

North Valley Estates Subdivision, which is behind CEC’s headquarters, is having storm water issues. We will consult our engineers.

The N.D. Department of Health Hazardous Waste Program was at our shop on June 21 to go over our PCB program. They did not find anything out of place and complimented our system supervisor on keeping good records.

We received another quote for the two walk-in doors for our old warehouse building. We went with Northwest Contracting as they were the low bid.

Energy services department: Schaffner reviewed the energy services report.

Geothermal training courses were conducted at CEC headquarters June 13 - 15.

Work continues to progress on the Wing interior office space as time permits.

ERC loans: There were no loans for board approval this month.

Communications, public relations and IT department:
Topics of interest were reviewed. The CEC communications plan update was also presented.

Annual meeting wrap-up: We served 1,085 meals this year, compared with 1,066 meals served last year. There were 585 registered members and 329 ballots cast. The 2018 annual meeting shall be held June 12.

Mission and values statement: The proposed CEC mission and values statement prepared by the committee was reviewed. It was moved, seconded and carried to adopt the statement as presented.

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

Steve Homes, safety instructor from NDAREC, was at our shop on May 23 to conduct a safety meeting on mayday procedures and pole top rescue.

Without objection, the safety report was approved.

Policies: Following discussion policies were reviewed:
Policy No. I-10 – Margin Stabilization Policy. It was moved, seconded and carried to rescind Policy I-10.

Rate Schedule “PTR” – Peak Time Rebate Program. It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the policy as amended.

Rate Schedule “LLC” – Load Controlled Cooling (Residential)(Pilot Only). It was moved, seconded and carried to approve as amended.

Rate Schedule “ED” – Firm Service Economic Development. It was moved, seconded and carried to approve as amended.

Policy No. III-6 – Line Extensions. It was moved, seconded and carried to approve Policy III-6 as amended.

Rate Schedule “SP” – Solar Pasture Well. It was moved, seconded and carried to approve Policy IV-1 – “SP” Solar Pasture Well.

Policy No. III-7 – Distribution Line Move or Replacement. This policy was reviewed without change.

Policy No. III-8 – Providing Line Clearance for Moving Builders. This policy was reviewed without change.

Policy No. III-9 – PCB Accident and Spill Measures. It was moved, seconded and carried to approve Policy No. III-9 as amended.

Policy No. IV-6 – Billing, Collection, Delinquencies and Disconnections. It was moved, seconded and carried to approve Policy No. IV-6 as amended.

Central Power Electric Cooperative and Basin Power Electric Cooperative: Fitter updated the board on Central Power and Basin matters.

NDAREC report: NDAREC matters were reviewed with the board.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the meeting, without objection, the regular meeting was adjourned.

CAPITAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
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BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
Dwight Wrangham, Pres. ……. Bismarck
Arlene Olson, V. Pres. ……. Wing
Sheri Haugen-Hoffart, Sec.-Treas. ……. Bismarck
Richard Koski, Asst. Sec.-Treas. ……. wing
Kyle Hikken ……. Wilton
Rex Hollenbeck ……. McClusky
William Patrie ……. Bismarck
Deon Vilhauer ……. Bismarck
Dave Charles ……. Bismarck
Paul Fitterer, Mgr. ……. Bismarck

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Capital Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

A ‘Touchstone Energy’ Cooperative