DECEMBER 2016
IN THIS ISSUE

• Peace Lutheran Church of Lincoln offers peace light
• Capital Electric offers student scholarship
• Goehring selected as one of “50 Faces of Apprenticeship”
• Apply now for the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour

Passed hand-to-hand, a flame is spreading light and peace across the Capital Electric Cooperative service area and beyond.

www.capitalelec.com
Peace Lutheran Church of Lincoln offers peace light

According to webmd.com, the holidays offer plenty of reasons to feel stressed and anxious. It may be the most wonderful time of the year — but it is also one of the busiest. You need to shop for family and friends, wrap gifts, decorate the house, send cards and attend various office parties; the list goes on and on. For many, the biggest source of holiday stress is family — the traditional dinner, the obligations, and conflicts among family members.

For the third year in a row, Peace Lutheran Church of Lincoln, a Capital Electric Cooperative business consumer, can help you find peace.

In December, the church received the International Peace Light of Bethlehem and is welcoming any person seeking peace to bring a candle and take the light home.

The International Peace Light of Bethlehem is shared by millions of people around the world, and is now available at Peace Lutheran Church of Lincoln. Each year, the light is passed from hand-to-hand in the name of peace. The chain begins when a child lights a candle at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. Then, the Peace Light travels to Vienna, Austria, where it is distributed by people of faith and atheists, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, union members and government officials. Passing through New York and Chicago, the Peace Light will move along the I-90/I-94 corridor over the next weeks. As it spreads, the light demonstrates how peace, too, can be cultivated by people of goodwill. The flame challenges participants to create peace in their lives, communities and the world.

“Just imagine having the very flame of light all the way from Bethlehem in your home. And as you watch that light flicker, you will think about all the people around the world who are gazing at the same flame and praying for peace,” says Kathy Mauch, a member of Peace Lutheran Church. “Our church name is Peace, and our church mission to share God’s word and peace with the community.”

The Peace Light will be offered at Peace Lutheran Church of Lincoln this month. Any person committed to working for peace in his or her communities and world is welcome to come and bring canned goods or monetary funds for local food banks, and an oil lantern or enclosed candle to share the Peace Light. Contact Mauch at 701-400-8452 if you would like to come to Lincoln to obtain the Peace Light of Bethlehem, and take it to your home or share it within your community. Please bring a lantern that runs on paraffin oil to transport the flame to the next location. To keep the light alive through Christmas, it is suggested to purchase seven-day candles at a religious store. The church is located at 3310 66th St. S.E.

We thank Peace Lutheran Church in Lincoln for sharing this story, and for welcoming people to visit and take a flame in the name of peace. If you’re still feeling anxious or upset this holiday season, visit webmd.com and read the article named, "Home for the Holidays: Tips for Stress."

Peace be with you, from all of us at Capital Electric Cooperative to all our member-owners and their families.
SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM
for High School Seniors & College Students

Rules & Eligibility:
- Applicant must be:
  - A dependent child of a member-system consumer or employee.
  - A student who is enrolled or planning to enroll in a full-time graduate or under graduate course of study at an accredited two-year or four-year college, university or vocational/technical school in the fall of 2017.
- Complete required criteria and the scholarship application.
- Essay is not to exceed one standard 8½ x 11 typewritten, double-spaced page at 12 point font on the topic: Describe how a strong and united cooperative community supports and serves your hometown.

Submit your entry in hard copy or electronic format to Capital Electric.
- Email entries to wese@capitalelec.com
- Mail hard-copy entries to:
  Capital Electric Cooperative
  Attn: Wes Engbrecht
  P.O. Box 730
  Bismarck, ND 58502-0730
- Entries must be received by February 17, 2017.

If you have any questions, contact Wes Engbrecht at 701-223-1513.

Sponsored by:
Goehring selected as one of “50 Faces of Apprenticeship”  
BY CARMEN DEVNEY

North Dakota’s 16 electric distribution cooperatives and five generation and transmission cooperatives, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Labor, celebrated National Apprenticeship Week Nov. 14 to 20, and highlighted the apprentice linemen and apprentice meter technicians who work for their local cooperatives.

In honor of National Apprenticeship Week, the Department of Labor created the campaign, “50 Faces of Apprenticeship,” to show one apprentice from each state who represents registered apprenticeship and the diversity of its occupations and members.

“We recently hit our goal of 500,000 apprentices, and we want we want the world to know that we have half-a-million apprentices,” notes Barry Dutton, North Dakota state director for the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Apprenticeship. “Not only do we want to announce this accomplishment, but we also want to showcase the good work, diversity, and monumental progress being made across the nation. To do so, we plan to highlight apprentices from diverse backgrounds and industries in all 50 states and territories.”

Jesse Goehring, an apprentice lineman who works for Capital Electric Cooperative in Wing, was selected to represent North Dakota in the “50 Faces of Apprenticeship.” He was nominated by the operations department of Capital Electric, in partnership with safety services staff with the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives (NDAREC), Mandan.

Apprenticeship is an “earn-and-learn” training model that combines work-based learning with related classroom instruction using the highest industry standards. Apprenticeship is for those who aspire to be great, lead in innovation and creativity, strive to innovate in business and industry, and recognize the value of combining paid on-the-job learning coupled with a substantial educational component to build generational greatness in careers and commerce.

National Apprenticeship Week is an opportunity for the apprenticeship community to tell the story of apprenticeships and is encouragement to leaders in business and industry, education, career seekers, community-based organizations, students and workers to learn about the real-world advantages of developing careers through adoption of the apprenticeship model.

The United States currently has approximately 375,000 apprentices working with more than 150,000 employers. NDAREC reports there are 72 workers enrolled in the apprenticeship program in North Dakota. These apprentices are working toward a career as a line maintainer or a meter repair technician within the electrical utility industry.

“Our apprentice program has had a large impact on our cooperative,” says Rick Dressler, operations supervisor for Capital Electric Cooperative. “We’ve employed many apprentices over the years, and in turn seen our co-op grow, our productivity skyrocket and our employee turnover significantly decrease. I highly encourage those in our business community to establish an apprenticeship program within their own organization.”

Companies that offer apprenticeship programs can diversify their workforce, improve productivity and profitability, standardize training, reduce turnover, receive tax credits and more.
North Dakota Electric Cooperative

YOUTH TOUR

WRITE A WINNING ESSAY AND WIN A TRIP OF A LIFETIME!
An all-expense-paid trip to WASHINGTON, D.C.

- To enter the essay-writing contest, you must be a sophomore or junior in high school.
- You and your parents or guardian must be served by Capital Electric Cooperative.
- If you have a question, contact Wes Engbrecht, Capital Electric, at the address listed below, or call 701-223-1513 during regular business hours.
- The deadline is Jan. 31, 2017. Email entries to wese@capitalelec.com or mail to: Youth Tour Essay Contest, Capital Electric Cooperative, 4111 State St., Bismarck, ND 58502-0730.

HIGH SCHOOL SOPHOMORES & JUNIORS

TOP 3 REASONS TO ENTER THE ESSAY-WRITING CONTEST
1. All-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., compliments of Capital Electric Cooperative.
2. A whole week to visit unforgettable historic monuments, museums and the U.S. Capitol.
3. A learning experience you’ll never forget.

ESSAY QUESTION:
Democracy is the foundation of our American way of life and of cooperative enterprise. The fundamentals of democracy include voter participation, political party affiliation, and public debate of issues. Describe what you think makes our current democracy strong, and provide suggestions for ways our democracy can be made stronger and more effective.

CHECK OUT THE ESSAY-CONTEST GUIDELINES AT www.ndyouthtour.com and www.youthtour.coop
Cooperative prepares for a changing future
BY WES ENGBRECHT

You may have heard the saying, “If you fail to plan, you plan to fail.” Well, the Capital Electric Cooperative board of directors and staff plan to continue striving to provide low-cost, reliable power and outstanding customer service to its members for years to come. That was the primary goal of a strategic planning session held at headquarters in late October. It was facilitated by Tracy Finneman of Integrity Partners, Bismarck.

All nine board members representing three board districts participated in the two-day planning session, along with the general manager and department managers at the co-op. The goal was to come together and determine a path for the future, given the many changes happening in the industry. Member service and member engagement were hot topics, as the group brainstormed ideas to serve an ever-expanding member base.

“The electric industry is changing quickly, and we want to be positioned to proactively provide services that our members expect,” explains Paul Fitterer, general manager of the cooperative. “We need to be on the front end of renewable-energy opportunities and technological advances, such as smart thermostats, that help our members monitor and control their electrical usage. We need to listen to our members as they engage with us in enhancing our services to help them save money in a rapidly changing environment.”

The cooperative is focused on encouraging members to become more involved in their cooperative by providing feedback on many issues facing consumers today. As a member, you own the cooperative, and your ideas are vital in helping us provide you with the very best service. If you have an interest in being more involved, please contact us and we will include you in upcoming educational sessions that are intended to inform and elicit feedback on important topics. Contact Wes Engbrecht, director of communications and public relations, at 701-557-4923 or wese@capitalelec.com for more information.

Cooler weather is here and the heating season is upon us.

Off-peak rates run Oct. 1 through April 30

Off-peak electric heat utilizes the concept of a dual-energy heating system, which simply uses two sources of fuel rather than one. With off-peak electric heat, electricity is the primary heat source. Using a control system, Capital Electric can switch from one heating source to another automatically. This maximizes efficiency and allows your co-op to offer you lower heating rates!

For more information on off-peak electric heat and Capital Electric’s heating program and incentives, visit www.capitalelec.com and click on Energy Efficiency and Load Management Programs.
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 October 1 through May 31 for each heating season.

For help filling out and submitting the LIHEAP application, call 1-800-823-2417 ext: 158.

LIHEAP is federally funded and administered by the North Dakota Department of Human Services and county social service offices.

HOW TO SPOT A SCAM

Don’t become a victim.
In one of the most common scams, a caller may:

Pretend to be from your utility. (Your caller ID may even display your utility’s name.)

Demand immediate payment – often by prepaid debit card.

Threaten to turn off power, water or natural gas service to your home or business within an hour.

Suspect a scammer? Here’s what to do if the call seems suspicious:
1. Hang up.
2. Call your utility provider at the phone number on your bill.
3. Call the police.
DO NOT pay over the phone if immediate payment is demanded to avoid a disconnection.

DON’T FALL FOR THE CALL!
Board minute excerpts
Friday, Oct. 28, 2016

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Capital Electric Cooperative, Inc., was held on Friday, Oct. 28, 2016 at co-op headquarters in Bismarck, North Dakota, pursuant to due notice to all directors. All directors were present at that time.

Financial review: Prior to the board meeting, Directors Olson and Patrie reviewed the September 2016 check register and expenditures. They reported all checks were in order. It was moved, seconded and carried to approve September expenditures in the amount of $4,483,355.82.

Business Department report: The Business Manager presented the financial and statistical report with the Board. The total kilowatt-hour (KWH) sales for September 2016 are below budget by 3.2 percent. The actual monthly electric revenue is below budget by .2 percent. Year-to-date KWH sales are under budget by 2.6 percent and electric revenue is under budget by 1.9 percent.

The Basin Electric Power Cooperative rate increase was effective Aug. 1, 2016. The margin for September is $438,402 compared to the budgeted margin of -$571,174, above budget by $132,772. The year-to-date margin is -$1,345,652 versus the budgeted amount of -$1,426,018, above budget by $80,366.

Capital Electric began billing 43 new services in September, bringing our active services to 19,687 versus 19,014 at this time last year, or a net increase of 673 accounts over the last 12 months.

The Manager reviewed the comparison of actual-to-budgeted expenses and monthly power cost for September, and accounts receivable balances as of Sept. 27, 2016.

Medical insurance review committee: Employees consisting of union and non-union representatives met to review the proposal submitted by the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives (NDAREC) Healthcare Trust in comparison to our current plan. It was decided to remain with our current plan.

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:

- Miriam Johnson $ 47.52
- Ulane Franklund $1,404.92
- Glenn R Olson $1,235.51
- Ron Schafer $932.03
- Dennis Jensen $ 201.33
- Andy Klemetson $2,311.74
- Total $6,133.05

Quarterly write-offs: Following discussion, it was moved, seconded and carried to write off $3,872.83 for the Second Quarter.

Engineering and Operations report: The Manager reviewed the written report from the Engineering and Operations department. We completed 32 work orders this month, adding 101 new consumers to the system.

Fisher Contracting and Gieser Utility Contracting continue to trench in new services. VIP continues to work on overhead and rural rebuild.

The outages for September were reviewed.

We have been working with Central Power Electric Cooperative crews on the new substation on Williamson Drive in north Bismarck.

Crews finished converting the overhead three-phase on circuit two out of Grandview Pines substation. This was done for the new Holiday gas station on the southwest Centennial Road interchange. They are also working on the new Heritage Park Subdivision north of the Horizon II substation. This will be the first load on the substation.

Member Services department: The Manager reviewed the member service written report.

Communications and Public Relations department: The Director of Communications and Public Relations reviewed topics of interest with the board.

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

Jeff Tweten, safety instructor from NDAREC, was at our shop on Oct. 19, 2016 for a field observation visit.

Safety Committee meeting: The Business Manager gave the highlights of the quarterly meeting and the minutes were provided to the board for review.

Basin Electric report: The Manager reviewed the written update.

The 2017 load forecast was reviewed. It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the resolution regarding the 2017 load forecast.

The annual meeting is scheduled for Nov. 8 to 10.

Land lease/sale radar tower site: The board discussed the two options: (1) sale or (2) lease.

Central Power report: Hilken presented on the highlights of the September and October board meetings.

NDAREC: Vilhauer presented on the highlights of the Oct. 6 board meeting.

It was moved, seconded and carried that all directors are delegates and Fitterer and Engbrecht are alternates.

Vilhauer was elected as the NDAREC director and Eckroth was elected as the alternate.

Midwest Electric annual meeting: Fitterer, Wrangham and Hollenbeck shall be attending.

Wages and benefits: It was moved, seconded and carried to approve the recommendations of the Labor Committee as it relates to the union contract. Following discussion, it was moved, seconded and carried to approve recommended wages for non-union employees.

Policy E7 – Sick Leave: Following discussion it was moved, seconded and carried to change the policy as described by management.

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

CAPITAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE board minutes report

CAPITAL ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVE
4111 State St. N.
Bismarck, ND 58503
Website: www.capitalelec.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:
Dwight Wrangham, Pres. .............., Bismarck
Arlene Olson, V. Pres. ................., Wing
Sheri Haugen-Hoffart, Sec.-Treas. ...., Bismarck
Rodney Eckroth, Asst. Sec.-Treas. ...., Bismarck
Kyle Hilken ........................................, Willton
Rex Hollenbeck ............................., McClusky
Richard Kozki .............................., Wing
William Patrie .............................., Bismarck
Deon Vilhauer .............................., Bismarck
Paul Fitterer, Mgr. .........................., 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.