Glencoe Sloan Memorial Presbyterian Church is the oldest church in North Dakota to still hold Sunday services in its original building. In this month’s local pages, learn how some Capital Electric Cooperative members have helped pay for a much-needed roof repair through the co-op’s Operation Round Up program — and ensured that these youth can continue attending the church that was built by some of their ancestors.
Founded in 1885, Glencoe Sloan Memorial Presbyterian Church is the oldest church in North Dakota to still hold Sunday services in its original building. Now, thanks in part to Capital Electric Cooperative members who contribute to the co-op’s Operation Round Up grant program, the church will continue to serve well into the future.

The church, a Capital Electric business consumer located 16 miles southeast of Bismarck on Highway 1804, has about 30 member-families who help maintain the building and grounds. From painting the siding to mowing the cemetery, members have worked together to preserve this legacy and provide a church home for generations to come.

FAST FACT:
The community of Glencoe was established in the 1880s. It got its name from a group who came from a small village in Scotland known as Glencoe. Among these families were the McPhersons, McShannons, Campbells and Macdonalds.

OPERATION ROUND UP
Grant helps restore roof, maintain services on the prairie

STORY AND PHOTOS BY CARMEN DEVNEY

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After Sunday services, church members walk to the basement for food and fellowship.
In the cooperative spirit, many hands make light work — and many small donations make a big difference.

The church is currently in need of new shingles. To do the job safely, the membership has hired a contractor with specialized training and tools. Longtime church member Nancy Laschkewitsch estimates the materials and labor will cost around $16,000.

A committee of six elders was formed to discuss ways in which they could raise the money needed for the roof repair. Moderated by Pastor Paul Snyder, the committee planned a fund-raising appeal including letters and a French toast and sausage supper that was held on April 19.

Laschkewitsch says most of the families who attend the church are served by Capital Electric. Many are familiar with the co-op’s Operation Round Up program, in which electric cooperative members round up their monthly utility bills to the nearest dollar and donate their change to local individuals, groups or charities with a specific need. One church member encouraged Laschkewitsch, who serves as church clerk and elder, to apply.

Comfortable with a computer, Laschkewitsch went to www.capitalelec.com and clicked on Forms to download an Operation Round Up application. She printed and completed it, and dropped it off at co-op headquarters in north Bismarck in January. The Charitable Trust board of directors reviewed applications in February and awarded Glencoe Sloan with a $2,000 grant.

“We are very appreciative of this donation!” Laschkewitsch exclaims. She attended the co-op’s check presentation ceremony held on Feb. 25. Each grant recipient briefly explained what the money would be used for, and Laschkewitsch says she enjoyed learning more about the Operation Round Up program and how the money is being used to improve communities served by the cooperative.

The church continues to seek donations to pay for the roof, which will be repaired this spring. Members hope to raise more than their goal, in order to scrape and repaint the wainscoting in the basement.

The church welcomes visitors and new members. Several families drive from Bismarck to attend Sunday services, and Laschkewitsch says they are always glad to have made the trip.

As the population across rural North Dakota decreases and country churches slowly close their doors, Glencoe Sloan has stood the test of time. Laschkewitsch credits the church and some special people for working hard to make sure the doors remain open.

“The people here are friendly, and we try to do a lot in this community,” she describes. “We are really interested in keeping our church going.” The church offers Sunday school for the children and Bible studies for the adults. It has two annual dinners, an Easter egg hunt, a Memorial Day ceremony at the cemetery, and a Christmas program put on by the children.

Sunday services are held at 9 a.m. For more information on Glencoe Sloan Memorial Presbyterian Church, contact Laschkewitsch at 701-226-6921 or email nanml1944@gmail.com.
Do YOU participate in the Operation Round Up program?

If not, please call the co-op and opt in today!

Fourteen of the state’s 16 electric distribution cooperatives participate in the Operation Round Up program. In this voluntary program, co-op members round up their monthly electric bills to the next dollar, and donate their change to worthy individuals, groups and organizations in their respective co-op’s service area. The money is placed in a trust where it accumulates, and the trust’s board of directors — who are also co-op members — meet regularly to review applications and disburse funds in the form of grants. All of the money raised by members stays in their local communities. On average, participating members donate about $6 a year. The donation is tax-deductible, and members who participate will receive a summary on their last billing statement of the year.

Capital Electric Cooperative implemented the program in August 1997. Since then, more than 31 million pennies in Operation Round Up funds have been donated and spread across the co-op’s service area. About 5,700 co-op members currently participate in Operation Round Up, and their collective pennies generate almost $3,000 a month. Our co-op would like to DOUBLE that number and amount!

Members, please call the co-op at 701-223-1513 to verify that you participate in the Operation Round Up program, or to opt into the program. Every member’s small donation truly does add up to make a big difference. Just ask the members of Glencoe Sloan Memorial Presbyterian Church, who received much-needed financial assistance to repair the church’s dilapidated roof. They appreciate the grant, and know that your commitment to community made a difference.

The board members who serve on the Capital Electric Cooperative Charitable Trust meet two times a year to review Operation Round Up applications and award grants. In February, Roger Christianson, Jerry Doan, LeAna Hug, Barb Handy-Marchello and Jim McCullough reviewed applications that were submitted by Jan. 31. The board members awarded 10 grants totaling $18,092. Checks were distributed during a presentation ceremony on Feb. 25 at co-op headquarters in Bismarck.

The following individuals and organizations received assistance from participating Capital Electric members and the co-op’s Operation Round Up program:
- Two community members for medical expenses
- Sleepy Hollow Summer Theater for safety lights
- Runners Against Destructive Decisions for a drug program
- Heartview Foundation for the HEART program
- Abused Adult Resource Center for Pam’s House
- Glencoe Sloan Memorial Presbyterian Church for a new roof
- Bismarck Chamber Foundation for a universal playground
- Burleigh County Senior Adults for advertising
- Village Family Service Center for a sound system

The next application deadline will be July 31. Any person in the counties of Burleigh and Sheridan may submit an application to receive an Operation Round Up grant. To request an application, call Capital Electric Cooperative at 701-223-1513 or download the form at www.capitalelec.com (click “Member Services” and “Operation Round Up”).
Starting his future off right

BY CARMEN DEVNEY

C hristopher Kraft has big plans for the future. “I hope I can fulfill them, and make my mom and dad proud,” he says.

A senior at Century High School, Christopher applied for and received the $1,000 student scholarship from Capital Electric Cooperative and Basin Electric Power Cooperative. In the Touchstone Energy* spirit of commitment to community, Capital Electric awards a scholarship annually to a child of one of its member-owners, with the goal of supporting area youth and developing future leaders.

“I’m trying to start myself off right for the future. I know you usually only get one chance to make it right,” he says.

Christopher vied for the scholarship along with 21 other highly qualified students. Reviewed through an independent process, the judges analyzed the applicants’ academic performance, potential to succeed, leadership, participation in school and community activities, honors, a statement of education and career goals, work experience, and an outside referral.

The son of Capital Electric members Michael and Jean Kraft, Christopher is a board member for Students Against Destructive Decisions. He is involved in Sources for Strength, a school organization that promotes positivity, and Patriot Ambassadors, a program that eases the transition for new students. Christopher is a member of Fellowship of Christian Athletes and the parish of Ascension, where he helps to serve communion. He also plays football and throws javelin and shot put in track.

This fall, Christopher will attend the University of Mary, where he will play football and study health care administration. From there, he may go on to attend medical school or a physical therapy program. “I really want to have a big influence on a lot of people, and bring a lot of joy to a lot of people. I feel like either would be a great way for me to do that,” he shares.

Christopher is currently making a difference working as a dietary aide at Maple View, a memory care unit for people who suffer from dementia. “Working there has opened up my view on the realities of life, and unraveled a passion for the industry,” he says.

With graduation a couple weeks away, Christopher says he is excited for his future and thankful for the financial assistance he has received. “College is not cheap anywhere,” he says. “It’s quite an honor to receive this scholarship. I’m very privileged and blessed to have received it.”

Capital Electric congratulates Christopher Kraft for earning this year’s scholarship. You’ve already made us proud!
Co-op announces candidates seeking board of director positions

Elected to serve three-year terms, the nine co-op members who make up the Capital Electric Cooperative board of directors set policies and make decisions that provide the membership with affordable and reliable electric service.

At this year’s annual meeting on June 2, members will elect three people to serve and carry on the traditions of Capital Electric while planning for the future. The open board seats include one currently held by Dwight Wrangham in District 1, and two held by Josh Kramer and Deon Vilhauer in District 2. All three incumbents will be seeking re-election to their respective seats on the board.

The Nominating Committee recruited candidates and met on April 14 to review the list of potential candidates. One person was nominated from District 1 and three were nominated from District 2. In addition, interested candidates can have their names added to the ballot by petition at least 30 days prior to the annual meeting or from the floor at the meeting.

Capital Electric is pleased to announce that the following candidates have met eligibility requirements and will have their names placed on the ballot at the annual meeting:

DISTRICT 1:
Dwight Wrangham

DISTRICT 2:
Curtis Jundt, 2B
Josh Kramer, 2B
Deon Vilhauer, 2B

Candidates will be given a brief time allotment at the annual meeting to introduce themselves and explain their qualifications. Members will then vote for one candidate from District 1 and two candidates from District 2. Official notice of Capital Electric’s 69th annual meeting will be mailed to members later on this month.

Board and staff plan for future of co-op

By Wes Engbrecht

The Capital Electric Cooperative board of directors and staff met on March 20 at headquarters to talk about the future. The strategic planning session was utilized to talk about the board’s philosophy relating to growth, capital credit retirements, directory districts, line extension policies, stable rates and much more. The one-day meeting, facilitated by Chad Reisenaur and Darby Schlichenmayer of Basin Electric Power Cooperative, addressed many issues that are important to the cooperative. One major topic was member engagement and communication. Keeping our members engaged and informed, as well as providing information that appeals to the younger generation, will help solidify cooperative member loyalty in the future. The meeting was productive in keeping our minds on improving what we do on a daily basis for our members. As always, member feedback and involvement is vitally important to our success.
With June 2 quickly approaching, we often receive questions as to who can and who cannot vote for director positions and ballot issues during this meeting. To clarify: Only members of the cooperative are eligible to vote, and they can cast only one vote for their membership, regardless of the number of accounts that member has with the cooperative. For example, if the membership is in the husband’s name only, only the husband is eligible to vote; he cannot transfer that ability to vote to his spouse or another person.

If the membership is a joint membership, in the name of both the husband and wife, the presence of either or both at the meeting shall be regarded as the presence of one member at the annual meeting. A vote of either joint member separately, or both jointly, shall constitute one vote. Both joint members are not eligible to vote individually.

If the membership is in the name of a sole proprietorship or a partnership, only the owner(s) of that business may vote. A sole proprietor or partner cannot authorize a nonowner of the business to vote.

In the absence of written notice that some person has been designated to represent a member who is other than a natural person — for instance, a township, school or an incorporated business — such member may be represented by any of its principal officers. If a member who is other than a natural person is not represented by any of its principal officers, such member may designate a natural person to represent it by giving the cooperative written notice at or before the member meeting, which shows that the named representative has been authorized by the managing board of such member to represent it at the meeting of the cooperative. An authorization form is printed below for this purpose. The form can also be accessed online by going to www.capitalelec.com and clicking on “Forms” and then “Annual Meeting Appointment of Voting Representative.”

An individual may represent only one non-natural member, and may also vote as an individual if he or she is a member.

Voting by proxy will not be allowed because the presence of as many members as possible is desired at all meetings of the membership. Proxy voting has the tendency to discourage actual attendance at membership meetings.

A complete version of the membership voting rules can be found in Article III, Section 5 of the Capital Electric Cooperative bylaws. If you have any questions, give the office staff at Capital Electric a call at 701-223-1513. We look forward to seeing you at the annual meeting on June 2!

A membership in Capital Electric Cooperative, Inc. may be held in the name of a corporation, church, school district or other political subdivision, cooperative, association or other organization. If your organization is to be represented at our annual meeting, complete this form and either deliver it to Capital Electric Cooperative anytime prior to noon June 2, or your authorized representative can present this completed form at the registration desk at the meeting.

This is not a proxy statement. Residential and privately owned business customers (i.e. sole proprietorships, partnerships, etc.) cannot use this form. They must vote in person at the annual meeting.

Mail forms EARLY to:
Capital Electric Cooperative Inc.
RE: Annual Meeting
P.O. Box 730, Bismarck, ND 58502-0730

APPOINTMENT OF VOTING REPRESENTATIVE FORM

A membership in Capital Electric Cooperative, Inc. may be held in the name of a corporation, church, school district or other political subdivision, cooperative, association or other organization. If your organization is to be represented at our annual meeting, complete this form and either deliver it to Capital Electric Cooperative anytime prior to noon June 2, or your authorized representative can present this completed form at the registration desk at the meeting.

This certifies that ____________________________ is appointed the voting representative for the following organization ____________________________ (full legal name) which has service at ____________________________ and is authorized to cast the vote of, and otherwise represent this organization in all matters at the _________ (year) annual meeting of the members of Capital Electric Cooperative Inc. or any adjournment thereof.

Organization Name (Print) ____________________________
Is Organization a Corporation? _______________________
Name of Officer/Official (Print) _______________________
Title ______________________ Date ___________________
Officer’s Phone # _________________________________
Officer’s Signature ________________________________

*Must be signed by officer or authorizing official
Board minute excerpts
March 26, 2015

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of Capital Electric Cooperative, Inc., was held on Thursday, March 26, 2015, at the Grand International Inn in the city of Minot, North Dakota, following the Central Power Electric Cooperative annual meeting.

Financial review: Prior to the board meeting, Directors Olson and Kramer reviewed the February 2015 check register and expenditures. Kramer reported all checks were in order. It was moved, seconded and carried to approve February expenditures in the amount of $4,313,095.99.

Business department report: The Manager reviewed the February financial and statistical report with the Board. The total kilowatt-hour (KWH) sales for February 2015 was below budget by 2.3 percent. The actual monthly electric revenue is below budget by 1.8 percent. Year-to-date, KWH sales are down from budget by 3 percent and electric revenue is under budget by 3.4 percent.

The financial margin for February is $197,960 versus the budgeted margin of $72,984, above budget by $124,976. The year-to-date margin is $253,360 versus $236,568 budgeted, an average of $16,792.

Capital Electric began billing 29 new services in February, bringing our active services to 18,564 versus 17,730 at this time last year, or an increase of 834 accounts over the last 12 months.

The Business Manager reviewed the comparison of actual-to-budgeted expenses for the month of February and for the year-to-date through February 2015.

Central Power consolidation: Rural Utilities Service (RUS) has approved the UCC release for Capital Electric.

RUS Accounting Representative Greg Gustin, as part of auditing Central Power, has been working with us to properly update RUS’ records concerning the sale so that RUS has the right information when we get our next RUS audit or apply for a new loan.

Refi-RUS direct notes: On March 18, 2015, Nygren and Fitterer met with CoBank. They walked us through the latest thought process regarding timelines/risk as they relate to co-ops refinancing their remaining RUS direct notes. The forward fix lock through July 31, 2015, is 3,555 percent (as of March 24, 2015), compared to our average rate of 4.65 percent today interest savings would be $283,267 and patronage savings would be $257,830, assuming CoBank keeps their current retirement schedule.

It was moved, seconded and carried to adopt the Resolution and execute the Certificate of Eligibility attached hereto as Minute Exhibit 1 and Exhibit 2, to authorize prepayment of all outstanding RUS Qualified Notes.

McLean Sheridan Rural Water: The annual McLean Sheridan Rural Water (MSRW) rate calculation revision #26 was presented. MSRW receives its own Western Area Power Administration hydro allocation, of which the power is delivered via Capital Power and Capital Electric. The credit reflects Capital Electric’s power cost from Central Power less the related wheeling charge and is credited to MSRW’s monthly Capital Electric utility bill under the Rural Commercial Rate.

It was moved, seconded and carried to approve MSRW rate revision #26.

Capital credit allocation: The total 2014 allocation will be $1,446,029.32.

Capital Credit retirements: The next year available for retirement is 1999 and carries a current unretired balance of $1,166,062.25, made up of $966,463.08 of co-op capital credits and $199,599.50 of generation and transmission (G&T) capital credits. Our 2015 budget includes paying out 50 percent of co-op of the 1999 capital credits in the amount of $484,000 and 0 percent of G&T.

Following review and recommendations by management, it was moved, seconded and carried to retire the capital credits as budgeted.

Eide Bailly audit: Eide Bailly will be doing fieldwork in our office the week of April 6, 2015.

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:

- Roy Lund: $1,004.48
- Gladys Fitzgerald: $129.73
- Jack Kluikow: $1,153.56
- Lovetta Fowler: $519.22
- Anthony Hamling: $129.73
- TOTAL: $2,860.82

Engineering and operations report: The Manager reviewed the written report from the engineering and operations departments. We completed 11 work orders this month, adding four new consumers to the system.

Rich has been working with Central Power on our 115-kilovolt conversion and he has also been ordering substation equipment for GVP and Circle K, as those are the two stations that will be converted this summer.

Capital Electric Cooperative’s Brave the Shave team raised $4,875 for the St. Baldrick’s Foundation.

We have been working with BEK Communications Cooperative on obtaining an easement from our Ward substation to our Horizon substation.

Our RTU at the North Bismarck Substation failed last week. Two people from ACS flew to Bismarck with a new replacement and helped us reprogram the new one.

Member services department: The Manager reviewed the member services written report. Capital Electric has been selling an average of 100 water heaters a year for the past five years to our membership, and we have been fortunate to have Marathon water heaters available to us through RESCO.

Communications and public relations department: The Manager reviewed the written report from the communications and public relations department.

The Basin Electric scholarship in the amount of $1,000 was awarded to Christopher Kraft of Bismarck.

The updated website is ready to be launched within two weeks.

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

On March 4, 2015, we had CPR training from Sanford Health.

On March 11, 2015, a representative from Simplex was at our shop to conduct a fire alarm test; all alarms went off without a hitch.

Jason Smith, safety instructor from the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives (NDAREC), was at our shop on March 18, 2015 to conduct a safety meeting on new OSHA standards for FR clothing and for new standards for safety harnesses.

CoBank: After discussion, it was moved, seconded and carried to request a CoBank loan in the amount of $3,393,541, to refinance our RUS debt.

Central Power: Haugen-Hoffart reported on Central Power matters. All directors attended the Central Power annual meeting.

Basin Electric: The Manager reported on Basin Electric matters.

NDAREC: Liuska reported on the Statewide meeting. Statewide had $170,684 in year-end margins. The 2016 annual meeting is scheduled for Jan. 6, 7 and 8, 2016.

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