



**Capital  
Electric  
COOPERATIVE**

**JUNE 2025**

Capital Electric Cooperative invites you to the annual meeting June 10 at the Bismarck Event Center to learn more about your electric cooperative, have some fun and elect your directors.

# **Capital Electric Cooperative's 79th annual meeting**

Bismarck Event Center

**June 10**

Dinner at 4:30 p.m. and meeting at 6:30 p.m.

PHOTO BY NDAREC/KENNEDY DELAP



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## Annual meeting day arriving soon

**C**apital Electric Cooperative will host your annual meeting for the 79th time on Tuesday, June 10, at the Bismarck Event Center. The annual meeting presents an opportunity for members to meet the director candidates, hear what's happening at their cooperative and ask questions.

The co-op has appreciated the participation and feedback from our members for the past 79 years. During that time, our growth has been significant, as we now serve more than 22,000 meters in Burleigh and Sheridan counties.

One of the most popular aspects of the annual meeting is the dinner. The gathering of members over a meal is part of the North Dakota way of life, and Capital Electric's staff and directors are pleased to join in the meal to get to know you better.

As the meeting date quickly approaches, we hope you will join us again this year, as we move forward into yet another era of energy production and distribution. Your understanding of these issues will be vital, and we have



*Co-op employees take time to chat with members during dinner. Attendees get to spend time with friends and other co-op members.*

noticed considerably more member involvement with all co-op issues.

This year's festivities will start at 4:30 p.m. with registration, dinner and live entertainment by the Dad Bod Band, a local group of musicians. The business



Co-op staff greet and register members at the meeting. A gift is also provided as they enter.

meeting will start at 6:30 p.m. and will include the election of three board members, one from each district. You can read about each candidate on page C3.

The information provided regarding the candidates will allow you to get to know them better. You should have received a mailing with a ballot you can complete and mail or you can also vote online. You can also cast your

vote at the meeting. You can view candidate introduction videos on our website at [capitalelec.com/2025](http://capitalelec.com/2025).

As in past years, co-op members will be entered to win a \$1,000 grand prize, and we will again be drawing for a \$500 college scholarship to a dependent of a Capital Electric member who is in attendance. We look forward to seeing you at this year's meeting! ☺



## Beware of phone scams

Our members have informed us of several instances where scammers are impersonating Capital Electric Cooperative employees. Please use caution to avoid becoming a victim of these attempts to gain access to your accounts. To be sure your funds are credited to your account, use only our approved payment line at 855-937-1736. ☺

# Meet your 2025 board candidates



**Kayla Pulvermacher**  
District 1

**What makes you a good candidate for Capital Electric Cooperative's board of directors?**

My motivation to seek a position on the board of directors stems from a deep desire to give back to the cooperative that has supported us for so long. As we navigate the challenges of an evolving energy landscape, including increasing energy demands and ensuring affordable and reliable service, I believe my skills, experience and dedication can help guide Capital Electric through these times.

**If elected, what are your priorities?**

1) Keeping energy costs manageable while maintaining the quality of service, 2) ensure the voices of our members are heard, that communications remain open and decisions are made with the members' bests interests in mind and 3) advocating forward-thinking solutions that consider technological advancements that will keep the cooperative competitive.



**Whitford Dwyer**  
District 1

**What makes you a good candidate for Capital Electric Cooperative's board of directors?**

I bring a multitude of experiences to the table. I owned and operated two different successful businesses, served on the Parshall City Council for 16 years, including four as president. In my last position with the North Dakota Army National Guard, I was the state deputy maintenance manager, overseeing eight shop operations and 140 employees, with an annual budget over \$1 million. While on active duty for four years, I was the senior maintenance warrant officer for the National Guard Bureau in Arlington, Va.

**If elected, what are your priorities?**

I will be an advocate for cost-effective solutions to keep rates stable and competitive, encourage effective communication within the co-op and employees, be an advocate for smart growth with ever-increasing electrical demand versus supply, promote workforce safety and ensure our co-op remains fiscally stable.



**Sara Vollmer**  
District 2

**What makes you a good candidate for Capital Electric Cooperative's board of directors?**

I am a good candidate for the Capital Electric board, as I blend a unique background in energy and agriculture. I work for Bismarck State College, helping provide highly trained employees for the energy industry. I also represent our rural members, as I live on a ranch in northeast Burleigh County. I have a deep commitment to cooperative principles, running a cattle operation with my husband and family.

**If elected, what are your priorities?**

With the increasing costs associated with goods and services, my priorities are focused on providing reliable energy at a competitive price and ensuring our membership has options for cost-saving opportunities for farms, residential and commercial accounts. As our cooperative grows, I am committed to serving Capital Electric's members with integrity, responsibility and accountability.



**Cooper Silha**  
District 2

**What makes you a good candidate for Capital Electric Cooperative's board of directors?**

I have more than 20 years of experience in the electrical field, from power plants to oil fields and residential to commercial buildings. I feel the knowledge I have gained from these years has proven to be invaluable as a consumer and has helped me shape my decisions to be more energy conscious. These values and habits that I have learned should prove to make me a great fit to be placed on the board of directors.

**If elected, what are your priorities?**

If elected, my priorities will be to learn the ins and outs of the cooperative, so I may be well versed in helping set policies that will guide the cooperative toward the future and to better serve the cooperative's members.



**Lyndon Anderson**  
District 3

**What makes you a good candidate for Capital Electric Cooperative's board of directors?**

My career included employment in both the agriculture and energy industries in North Dakota, the most recent with Great River Energy, a cooperative, from 2003 to 2021. That experience was invaluable to understanding what cooperatives do to provide electricity to homes, farms and businesses in the region. My experience with boards includes Capital Electric Cooperative, the Burleigh County Soil Conservation District and a past six-year term on the North Dakota 4-H Foundation board.

**If elected, what are your priorities?**

If elected, I would work to ensure Capital Electric focuses on what truly matters to its member-owners, providing reliable, competitively priced electricity to power our homes, farms and businesses. We obviously live in challenging times, with many outside forces impacting our co-op. As a board member, it's important to bring unique perspectives and to ask the necessary questions to continually improve the operational efficiency of Capital Electric.



**Luke Ellenbaum**  
District 3

**What makes you a good candidate for Capital Electric Cooperative's board of directors?**

I have been a Capital Electric member for 20 years. I am a registered professional engineer with an MBA, and I have spent most of my career in the energy industry, mostly in project management. I have worked for a public utility, and have experience in load forecasting, data analysis, financial projections and general problem solving. Most importantly, I am concerned about and motivated to ensure the long-term best interest of Capital Electric members with primary concerns being electric costs and reliability.

**If elected, what are your priorities?**

1) Evaluate markets and contracts as they relate to Capital Electric wholesale power and peak event costs, 2) review Capital Electric expenses, capital and associated escalation, 3) determine what cost-mitigation strategies have been discussed or evaluated, 4) evaluate the deviation from historical norms in the new rate structures, 5) evaluate the long-term impact of recent rate methodologies on Capital Electric membership, 6) improve communications related to electricity costs and 7) improve Capital Electric services to members for load and cost management. ☺

**Introductory videos of each candidate are available at [capitalelec.com/2025](http://capitalelec.com/2025).**



*The crew watches and waits for their turn. Pole-top rescue training is a vital part of lineworker safety preparation.*

## Pole-top rescue training is about saving lives

**C**apital Electric Cooperative's lineworkers face safety risks on the job every day. Working around high-voltage electricity is a dangerous profession, and lineworkers need to know what to do if an electrical contact occurs.

Pole-top rescue is an important safety procedure in the electrical industry and a vital skill for lineworkers. When a lineworker has become unconscious or unresponsive and is not able to climb down the pole, a pole-top rescue will be necessary.

A pole-top rescue is a four-step process that focuses on keeping both the rescuer and the victim as safe as possible during the rescue. These four steps are:

1. Evaluate the situation
2. Use personal protective equipment
3. Climb the pole to a rescue position
4. Lower the victim to the ground

If an electrical contact occurs, it would be difficult for the line worker to descend alone. Due to hazards associated on the job, a safely executed pole-top rescue could save the victim's life.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration states in the event of a rescue, only lineworkers are qualified to safely climb the pole and lower the injured worker. As a result, they must be trained annually.

It also advises anybody who will be operating near electrical equipment or exposed, electrified parts on a pole receive the necessary training to perform a pole-top rescue. This will guarantee someone will be on hand who can safely execute the rescue.

When you drive by a lineworker crew, you can be assured every safety precaution is being taken to minimize the risks they face every day. ☺



*Lineworker Hunter Babeck prepares to lower the dummy during pole-top rescue training.*



# EV TAILGATE PARTY

THURSDAY, JUNE 26  
4-7 P.M.

NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION,  
WEST PARKING LOT

608 East Boulevard Ave.  
Bismarck

- Meet local electric vehicle (EV) owners and learn about their cars
- Visit with local car dealerships about the latest EVs
- See the latest in electric yard maintenance and construction equipment
- Learn about high-speed charging options, home charging options and off-peak charging programs
- Enjoy a free burger or hot dog, hot off the grill
- Attendees will receive discounts toward Luigi's Ice Cream, which will be onsite

Hosted by:



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## Board minute excerpts **APRIL 24**

The regular meeting of the board of directors of Capital Electric Cooperative was held on Thursday, April 24, at SRT Communications, 3615 N. Broadway, Minot, pursuant to due notice to all directors.

**Also present were:** Manager Paul Fitterer, Business Manager Luke Steen, Operations Manager Jeff Holzer, 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.

**Financial Review:** Prior to the board meeting, Directors Tschosik and Pulvermacher reviewed the March 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 March financial and statistical report to the board.

Revenue was behind budget for March, as \$3,607,873 was generated in comparison with the budgeted figure of \$3,920,286 (unfavorable variance of \$312,413 or 8%).

Capital Electric's March net load factor was ahead of budget by 10.68%.

The operating margin for March was \$164,176, ahead of the budgeted amount of \$120,596. The total margin for March was \$242,538, which was ahead of the budgeted \$193,879.

Capital Electric began billing six new services in March, bringing our active services to 22,539 versus 22,281 at this

time last year, or a net increase of 258 accounts over the last 12 months.

The cash flow statement was reviewed.

**Estate Retirements:** Following review of the financial condition of the cooperative and recommendation by management, three estate retirements totaling \$2,595.20 were approved.

**Quarterly write-offs:** Following review, \$6,128.12 in past due accounts were written off. The total 12-month write-offs are \$31,629.

**Operations Report:** Holzer reviewed the written report from the operations department.

Holzer reported substation inspections were completed without any substantive issues to report, overhead line retirements were completed on River Road, East Century and 71st Avenue, and outages lasting less than 30 minutes were resolved at the Goodrich and McClusky substations.

**Safety Report:** There were no lost-time accidents since the last board meeting. The North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives (NDAREC) safety instructor held a safety meeting on mayday procedures and pole-top and bucket truck rescue. Without objection, the safety report was approved.

**Engineering Services Report:** Owen reviewed the written report from engineering services. Five work orders were completed in March. Owen reported on obtaining all easements for the overhead to underground line conversion at the Brownsville subdivision and coordination of work on the East Century Avenue and Sterling interchange road projects.

**Energy Services:** Schaffner reviewed the energy services report. Fifty-

eight service orders were completed in March. Schaffner reported on energy services personnel staffing the electric cooperative booth at the Bismarck-Mandan Home Show and work to complete changeouts for approximately 260 remaining load control transponders.

**Communications and IT:** Engbrecht reviewed the communications and IT report. Engbrecht reported the Nominating Committee nominated six candidates and he reported on cyberattack trends. The board discussed the Wing Fire Department losing a fire vehicle as a result of a grass fire and staff will report at the next board meeting on potential matching grant opportunities to assist the fire department.

**Basin Electric Power Cooperative:** Fitterer reported on Basin Electric matters.

**Central Power Electric Cooperative:** Dave Charles reviewed the April board meeting and the annual meeting was reviewed.

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

**NDAREC:** Deon Vilhauer reviewed NDAREC matters, including a meeting with new Public Service Commissioner Jill Kringstad.

**National Rural Electric Cooperative Association:** Fitterer reported on the annual report.

**RESCO:** Vilhauer reviewed the call for nominations for an open board position on RESCO's board and expressed interest in running for the open position. Following discussion, Vilhauer was nominated for the open RESCO board position. ☈

**CAPITAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE**  
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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

Deon Vilhauer, Pres.	Bismarck
Dave Charles, V. Pres.	Bismarck
Kyle Tschosik, Sec.-Treas.	Bismarck
Lyndon Anderson, Asst. Sec.-Treas.	Baldwin
Greg Dehne	Bismarck
Dwight Wrangham	Lincoln
Kayla Pulvermacher	Lincoln
Sara Vollmer	Wing
Bret Weiland	Bismarck

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