



**Capital
Electric**
COOPERATIVE

MARCH 2025

Furry Friends Rockin' Rescue founder Julie Schirado and volunteers are working hard to save as many pets as possible and place them with families who will care for them. Schirado spends time spreading the word to gain community support to make this happen.



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Furry Friends Rockin' Rescue provides hope for neglected pets

BY WES ENGBRECHT



*Volunteers provide health care to heal sick and injured animals so they can be adopted. **Bodhi** has become a happy, healthy dog living with a new family today.*

Pets have a way of changing lives. It's the feeling we get when a cat purrs or a dog wags its tail and jumps on our laps. It's when their eyes reflect the love we have for them as we care for each other. It's also the loyalty they show in return for the care we provide.

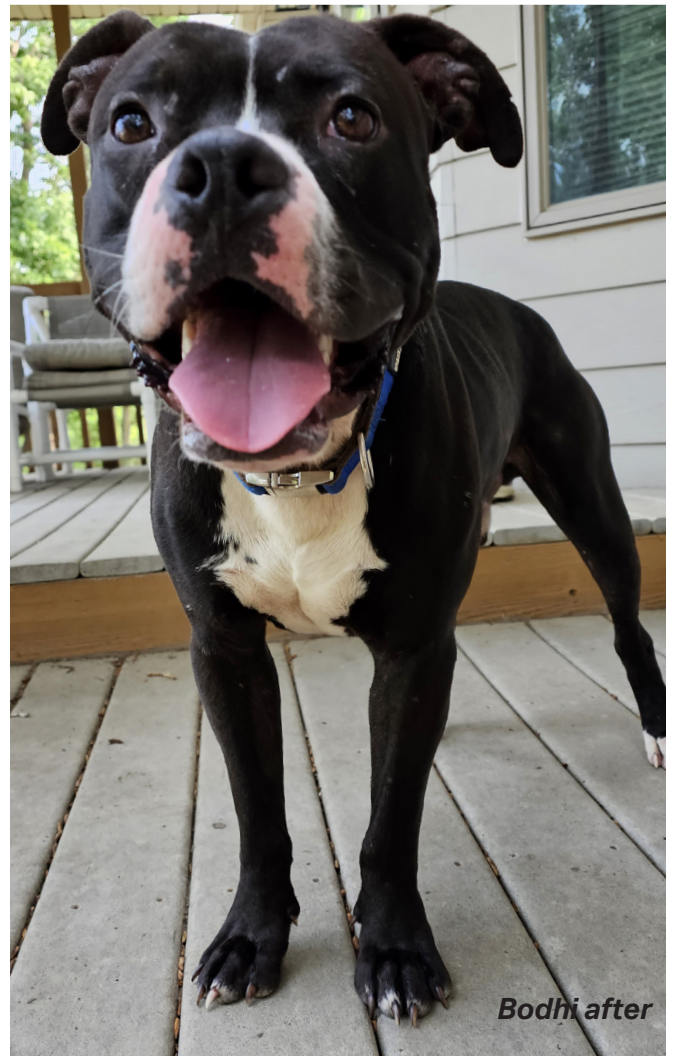
Pet owners know there are many sides to pet ownership. It's not easy and takes time and effort. Many people see their pets as part of their family. They suffer when the pet suffers, and they mourn when the pet's life is over.

Unfortunately, not all pets are treated the same. Far too many are mistreated, abandoned or abused.

Furry Friends Rockin' Rescue (FFRR) is in the business of love. Pet rescue, recovery and adoption are its forte. Founder Julie Schirado loves these beautiful creatures, and her team of volunteers follows her lead.

"I started as a volunteer at the Bismarck impound and realized how incredibly sad the situation was. It was extremely difficult to find homes for the animals to avoid euthanasia. When we could find no more homes, we focused on spaying and neutering, which led to providing more care for them to increase the chance of adoption," Schirado says.

The rescue process begins with identifying where the pets in need can be found. Since impounds are overwhelmed with animals, FFRR takes a large number from impounds. Most people don't realize feral cats that exist in colonies are rescued by volunteers. The population of all animals in need is immense, and it keeps



volunteers busy for an incredible number of hours. But their reward is visible, and it keeps them going.

Medical care is vital to a pet's healing, as many animals are sick, injured and would not survive without proper care from trained volunteers. FFRR staff learn how to recognize specific illnesses and address them successfully. In addition to health issues, pets are often terrified of people and require significant time and attention to gain their trust.

Testimonials from adoptive families are many. You can feel the love and appreciation from these families as they share how the process worked for them.

One adopter happily shares her story.

"We adopted one of the puppies on the FFRR banner. She is the golden puppy with a white stripe down her face. Hokee is her name, and she is approximately 8 months old. She is quite the character and keeps us busy. We love Hokee, because she has so much personality. Thank you, FFRR, for all you do!"

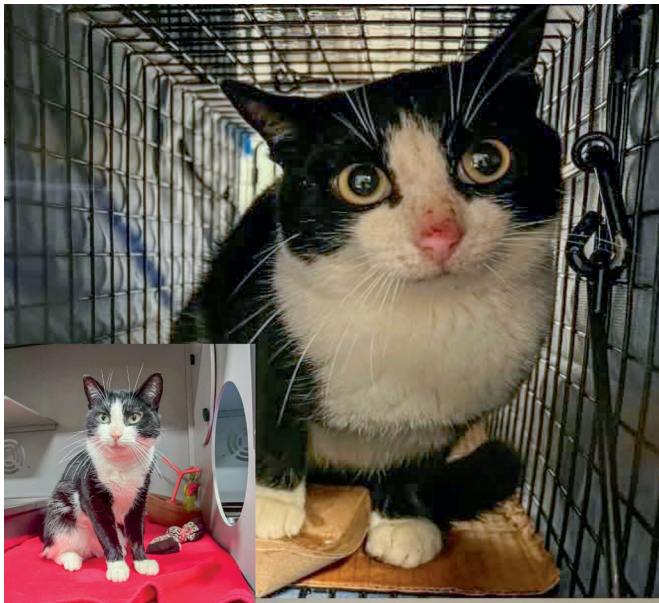
Another loving adopter says, "Adopted my cat here. They made it very easy! It was love at first sight, over two years ago now. Lily has become my companion. She sleeps with me, reads with me, studies with me and goes wherever I go! She has become like a therapy cat for me and brings me great love and joy. She is perfect for me! She has drunken syndrome, and it was part of how she ended up at FFRR. I have never been so in love with a pet before and I am still so glad to have her!"

These pets were at risk of dying and now they are healthy and providing companionship to many who benefit from their presence. It's truly a match made in heaven, as pets are matched with owners capable of caring for them.

Several other groups in town provide the same services and are doing a wonderful job. FFRR works closely with Kitty City and Central Dakota Humane Society. Volunteers make it happen in all local animal rescue operations, and the more volunteers they have, the more cats and dogs they can save. If you love pets and want to make a real difference in your community, volunteer, adopt or foster a pet today. You will see their transformation and feel the satisfaction of watching a family welcome pets into their lives.

Please consider donating to the cause as well. You can find all necessary information about the organization at www.furryfriendsrockinrescue.org.

Thanks to all who have the heart to make wonderful things happen for pets. It's truly a blessing to us all! ☺



Many cats are rescued from feral cat colonies in our area. This kitty was treated and is in much better shape today.

Ironically named **Junior**, this big boy seems serious, but is easy to get to know and fun to be with.

Changes to annual meeting report

For the past 79 years, Capital Electric Cooperative has been printing and mailing an annual meeting report approximately one month prior to the annual meeting. This booklet contained all necessary information regarding the meeting and the board election.

In 2025, we will be eliminating this mailing. The information we provide in the booklet will be available in the local pages of June's *North Dakota Living*. This includes the board of director candidate information. Other information, such as financial data, will be available at the meeting. Capital Electric's bylaws require this information to be provided to our members and on our web site.

The cost savings from not printing and mailing the booklet is significant, and we are reducing operating costs wherever possible.

As always, transparency with our information is vital, and we want to make sure you are aware of this change in advance. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Manager of Communications and IT Wes Engbrecht at wese@capitalelec.com or 701-712-7923. ☎

Capital Electric Cooperative's annual meeting report information will be included in May's issue of North Dakota Living.



**2024
Annual Meeting**
Bismarck Event Center



Save the date for your annual meeting

June 10 • Bismarck Event Center

- Learn about co-op issues.
- Elect board directors to represent you.
- Enjoy a free meal.

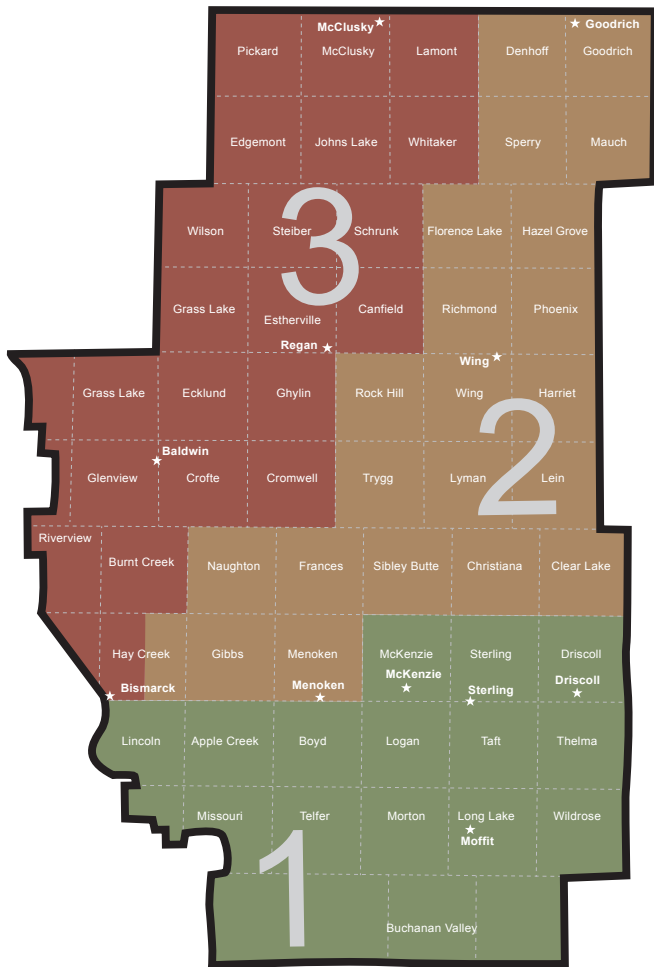
Online voting for directors

Sign up for SmartHub to vote online!

In addition to traditional in-person voting at our annual meeting June 10, Capital Electric Cooperative will again offer online voting through SmartHub, a web and mobile app that allows members to access their bill, manage their account and monitor electric usage. To register for the free resource, visit www.capitalelec.com and click on "New User? Register to use SmartHub!" at the top of the home page. You will need to enter your billing account number, last name and email address to sign up. ☎

Are you interested in serving as a director for Capital Electric?

Place **YOUR** name on the ballot today!



Capital Electric Cooperative will hold its 79th annual meeting at the Bismarck Event Center on June 10. This year, three seats on the co-op's board of directors will need to be filled. Directors whose terms are expiring in June are Kayla Pulvermacher, Sara Vollmer and Greg Dehne.

The nine members who make up the Capital Electric board of directors set policies and make decisions that guide the cooperative into the future. With the annual meeting just a few short months away, now is the time for members to start thinking about whether they have the time and desire to serve their electric cooperative.

In accordance with Article 4, Section 3, of the co-op bylaws, current Capital Electric members can have their names placed on the ballot to be voted upon for the open board positions in either of these two ways: 1) accepting a nomination from the Nominating Committee or 2) submitting a petition signed by at least 15 current members of the cooperative, not less than 55 days prior to the annual meeting.

If you are interested in becoming a candidate for Capital Electric's board of directors or wish to have a member considered for nomination, please contact a member of the Nominating Committee (listed below) on or before March 28. Committee members will have information on the requirements a member must meet in order to serve on the co-op's board of directors. Pursuant to the bylaws, the Nominating Committee must post a list of nominations not less than 65 days prior to the annual meeting.

Official notice of Capital Electric's annual meeting will be included in Capital Electric's May *ND Living Magazine* local pages. €

The following members have been appointed by the board of directors to serve on the Nominating Committee:

Gary Hansen
701-471-3558
gary.hansen@edwardjones.com

Ann Reich
701-214-7259
ann@ndba.com

Jill Trygg
701-391-0345
jstrygg@gmail.com

Becky Hanson
701-391-3378
hansonw@bis.midco.net

Carlee McLeod
701-361-9473
cmcLeod@minnkota.com

Julie Roswick
701-220-6400
jroswick2@bis.midco.net

Sean Johnson
701-391-5326
smj58501@yahoo.com

Jaden Deckert
701-527-2935
Jaden.Deckert@nd.nacdn.net

Mike Briggs
701-214-9860
briggs@bis.midco.net

Want to win \$100?

Sign up for autopay for your chance to win!



Automatic payments can ensure you never miss a due date, minimizing the risk of late fees and penalties. Half of Capital Electric Cooperative's members currently take advantage of the autopay program. We are grateful for their participation and hope to encourage other members to give it a try.

Now is a great time to enroll! In an effort to promote Capital Electric's autopay program, the co-op will be giving away a \$100 Visa gift card. All members who are enrolled in the program by March 14 will be entered in the drawing.

Why does Capital Electric want members to enroll in autopay?

A number of variables outside of the co-op's control are making timely billing and payments increasingly challenging. Last year, the postal service announced changes to delivery timeframes, which took effect in October. This means it takes longer for the bill to get to you and longer for your payment to get to the co-op. Autopay removes those delays from the equation.

What if I have a concern about my bill?

We always wait to process autopayments until the due date. The period between when the bill is generated and when the autopay is drawn gives the member time to review their bill and ask any questions they may have prior to the transaction occurring. If the timeliness of receiving the bill in the mail is a concern, the bill can also be accessed electronically via the SmartHub app.

What safeguards are in place to protect my payment information?

Capital Electric takes member privacy and security seriously. Autopay transactions are encrypted and provide the utmost level of security.

How can I increase my chances of winning?

All members enrolled in the program by March 14 will be included in the drawing. Members who opt to use a bank account for autopay will have their name in the drawing twice, while those who opt to use a credit card will be included once. The use of a bank account is encouraged, because it prevents issues that arise when credit or debit cards expire and has a lower cost per transaction for the co-op.

How do I sign up?

There are a number of ways to enroll.

You can complete the authorization form, which is included on the adjacent page, and send it to: Capital Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 730, Bismarck, ND, 58502, or email it to css@capitalelec.com. The form is also available for download as an online web form at capitalelec.com/forms. For those who prefer signing up in person, authorization forms are available at the co-op's headquarters building, located at 7401 Yukon Dr., Bismarck.

You can also enroll through SmartHub. A link to SmartHub can be found on our website, capitalelec.com. To sign up for autopay, login and click on "Billing & Payments." Then, select "Autopay Program."

What if I try autopay and don't like it?

The program is completely voluntary. You may cancel your enrollment at any time.

For more information on the autopay program, call 701-223-1513. ☎

Please note: It may take up to four weeks for the first autopayment to process.



Automatic Payment Authorization

HOW TO SIGN UP:

- Complete and return this form by either mail or email.
 - Mail to: Capital Electric Cooperative, P.O. Box 730, Bismarck ND 58502 or email to: css@capitalelec.com
- The automatic payment will be added onto the account as soon as the form is received, but may take up to four (4) weeks.
- The selected method of payment will be drafted for the amount due and will occur on the due date each month.
- Contact our office at 701-223-1513 with any questions.
- If you move addresses within the Capital Electric territory, this automatic payment will transfer on to your new service unless the cooperative is notified otherwise.
- If your selected method of payment is declined or returned two months in a row, the account will be removed from automatic payment.

Capital Electric Account Number(s): _____

Capital Electric Account Name: _____

Service Address: _____

Primary Phone: _____ Secondary Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

BANK AUTHORIZATION

☐ Checking (enclose a voided check)

☐ Savings (enclose a deposit slip)

Name of Financial Institution

Voided check or deposit slip required

- OR -

CREDIT / DEBIT CARD AUTHORIZATION

Cardholder's Name (as shown on card)

Cardholder's FULL Mailing Address (if different from service address)

Card # _____

Exp. Date ____ / ____ (MM/YYYY) (CVV code not required)

We Accept



AUTOMATIC PAYMENT AUTHORIZATION

I authorize Capital Electric Cooperative, Inc., to automatically charge payment of my Capital Electric account balance on the due date each month, using the method of payment described above. This authorization is in effect until revoked by me; however, I understand that both the financial/credit card institution and/or Capital Electric Cooperative, Inc., reserve the right to terminate this agreement at any time. This is a FREE service offered by Capital Electric Cooperative.

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

OFFICE USE ONLY effective: _____

The regular meeting of the board of directors of Capital Electric Cooperative was held on Jan. 25. The meeting was held in person at Capital Electric, 7401 Yukon Drive, Bismarck. All directors except Greg Dehne were present.

Also Present Were: Manager Paul Fitterer, Business Manager Luke Steen, Operations Manager Jeff Holzer, Energy Services Manager Josh Schaffner, Engineering Services Manager 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 Deon Vilhauer and Kayla Pulvermacher reviewed the December 2024 check register and expenditures. 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 December 2024 financial and statistical report to the board.

Revenue was behind budget for December, as \$4,062,687 was generated in comparison with the budgeted figure of \$4,274,603 (unfavorable variance of \$211,916 or 5%).

Capital Electric's December net load factor was ahead of budget by 7.65%.

The operating margin for December was \$308,660, ahead of the budgeted amount of \$199,514. The total margin for December was \$2,632,026, which was behind the budgeted \$3,104,180.

Capital Electric began billing 25 new services in December, bringing our active services to 22,526 versus 22,237 at this time last year, or a net increase of 289 accounts over the last 12 months.

Cash flow statements as of Dec. 31, 2024, were reviewed.

Estate Retirements: Following review of the financial condition of the cooperative and recommendation by management,

eight member estates totaling \$8,350.14 were approved for payment of capital credits.

Write-offs: After discussion, write-offs totaling \$12,332.50 for the fourth quarter were approved. The total 12-month write-offs are \$33,615.26.

Brady Martz 990 Contract: Approval was given to enter a contract for Form 990T preparation with Brady Martz.

Federated Insurance Agreement: Following discussion, it was approved to execute Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange's subscriber's agreement and power of attorney.

Operations Report: Holzer reviewed the written report from the operations department. Holzer reported annual line inspections have begun, tree trimming and right-of-way clearing is ongoing and a four-pole line was built to serve temporary power to a new church along 57th Avenue in Bismarck.

Physical Inventory: Following discussion, the 2024 material inventory adjustments were approved as presented.

Safety report: There have been no lost-time accidents since the last board meeting. Six lineworkers attended the annual Apprenticeship, Training and Safety Conference, and a safety instructor with the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives (NDAREC) held a safety meeting on fire prevention, vehicle load securement and hydraulic safety. Without objection, the safety report was approved.

Engineering Services Report: Owen reviewed the written report from engineering services. Thirty-seven work orders were completed in December. Owen reported on the status of grant opportunities, continued work on the Brownsville subdivision conversion of overhead to underground line, and continued and completed work at the Fleet Farm location.

Energy Services: Schaffner reviewed the energy services report. Twenty-two service orders were completed in December. Schaffner reported on efforts to

fulfill heating service calls, presentation at the NDMSA winter meeting at Basin Electric Power Cooperative on Capital Electric's rate structure, and efforts to contact commercial members whose rates will change in 2025.

Communications and IT: Engbrecht reviewed the communications and IT report. Engbrecht reported on the member services association meeting, the second annual employee engagement day and the Nominating Committee approval for the annual meeting.

Capital Electric 2025 Annual Meeting: Following discussion, the Nominating Committee slate was approved as presented. Following discussion, it was approved to issue a resolution allowing for submission of absentee ballots at the annual meeting by mail or electronically.

Policies: Fitterer reviewed Policy I-24-Expectations of Directors of Board of Directors, and the directors were asked to reaffirm the policy.

Fitterer reported on findings and a memo prepared related to procedures for employee and board travel and limiting the number of key employees and board members from traveling in the same mode of transport and cooperative continuity. Following discussion, a written procedure will be developed by staff.

Basin Electric: Fitterer reported on Basin Electric matters.

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

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

NDAREC: Vilhauer reported statewide matters and the upcoming annual meeting.

National Rural Electric Cooperative Association: Fitterer reported on the CEO conference, which focused on AI, and the upcoming annual meeting.

National Information Solutions Cooperative (NISC): Fitterer reported on NISC matters and the upcoming annual virtual meeting. ☺

CAPITAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

7401 Yukon Drive, Bismarck, ND 58503

Website: www.capitalelec.com

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

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Friday : 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Office phone: 701-223-1513

Toll-free: 888-223-1513

Pay-By-Phone: 1-877-853-5928

DAY—NIGHT—WEEKEND

TROUBLE CALL: 701-223-1513

Capital Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 