

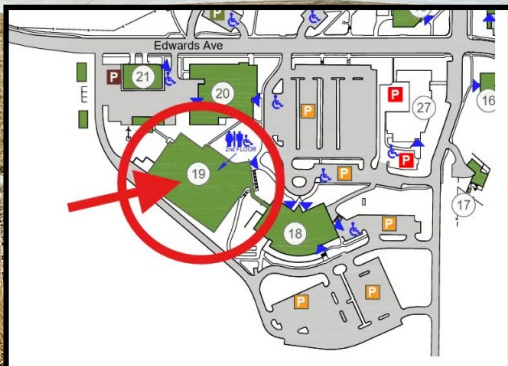


**Capital
Electric**
COOPERATIVE

MAY 2026

Don't miss Capital Electric Cooperative's 80th annual meeting!

It's been a long time since the first lights were powered, and membership continues to grow. Our appreciation for you, our members, will be on display at this year's event



Join us at our new event location, the Bismarck State College Advanced Technology Center, on June 16!



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Capital Electric COOPERATIVE



Operation Round Up President **Jim McCullough** presents a grant to Pastor **Trisha DeBoer**.



Pastor **Trisha DeBoer** leads the Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church parish. The church serves as the hub for the backpack program to provide food and snacks to children at Wing Public School.

No child should be hungry

BY WES ENGBRECHT

The concept of anyone lacking access to nutritious food in North Dakota is difficult to imagine in our land of plenty. Yet, there is a constant need for food donations in most communities. In Wing, a backpack program operated through Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church helps ensure school children are not among those who are hungry.

The church's program began in December 2025 and is available to children attending Wing Public School.

"We send bags of food home on weekends with children whose families have applied for the program," explains Pastor Trisha DeBoer. "There are no hoops to jump through, no one is turned away. We are very thankful for the support of Capital Electric members."


In each bag are two entrees, two snacks, two shelf-stable containers of milk, two juices, two individual boxes of cereal and two fruit cups. These items provide well-rounded food options to ensure kids have the energy they need for a weekend. The purpose is to make sure kids are happy and healthy.

To raise money, the church has held spaghetti dinners coupled with silent auctions, and applied for gaming and grant funds. Program director and church board member, Karen Kershaw, leads the backpack program.

"I get so much joy from making this happen for the kids. It truly fills my heart. I know it is positive for the Wing community," she says.

In March, the church received an Operation Round Up grant to support the program. Operation Round Up collects pennies from members rounding up their electric bills. It is administered through the Capital Electric Cooperative Charitable Trust.

"Our goal is to assist with needs in the community. This is a good example of neighbors helping each other. We are pleased to be able to help," says Charitable Trust President Jim McCullough.

Capital Electric is thankful for the good work being done in Wing and for the dedicated cooperative members supporting this and many other programs in our area. 



University of Mary cybersecurity program director, **Tanya Taplin**, receives a grant check to support Cyberconnect. Cyberconnect is a one-day event for high school students to explore cybersecurity issues.



Operation Round Up Director **Gail Leingang**, left, presents a check to **Shelle Aberle** of Baptist Health and Rehab. The funds will be used to help purchase a medical transport bus.

Operation Round Up reflects generosity of co-op members

Community involvement and support are deeply rooted aspects of an electric cooperative's mission. One of the seven co-op principles states, "While focusing on member needs, cooperatives work for the sustainable development of their communities through policies accepted by their members."

Capital Electric Cooperative members who donate to the Operation Round Up program reflect how members of a community take care of each other.

Since 1997, this program has done its part to meet a variety of community needs.

Capital Electric's Operation Round Up program has exceeded the \$1.1 million mark in cumulative donations granted to meet community needs. A board of five cooperative members meets to review applications, and awards grants twice each year.

The concept of Operation Round Up is simple. Members who participate agree to have their monthly bills rounded up to the nearest dollar. Those dollars are then pooled together and granted to nonprofit organizations and individuals.

The program has had an incredible impact on the communities in our service area, which includes Burleigh and southern Sheridan counties. Individuals who are experiencing times of need are given a hand.

Organizations providing food, shelter, counseling or recovery addiction are just a few examples of grant recipients.

In recent years, the amount collected has increased dramatically and now totals approximately \$65,000 annually. Each application is limited to a grant of \$2,500. However, the board of directors can increase the grant level in special cases. At the March grant review meeting, the board granted a total of \$31,500 to 19 organizations and individuals, all of which is benefiting someone in our community directly or through organizations serving them.

It is simple to participate in Operation Round Up. Call Capital Electric at 855-937-1736 to add your name to the list of donors in just a few minutes. Thank you to all who add their pennies to the fund each year. Be assured, your donation is making a huge difference in our communities.

Individuals and nonprofit organizations who desire funding can download a funding request application or complete an online form on our website at capitalelec.com/operation-round. Grant requests are reviewed and funded in March and September each year.

Remember, you can make a huge difference by giving only pennies each month! €

Njos awarded cooperative scholarship

As part of its commitment to community and area youth, Capital Electric Cooperative awards a \$2,500 scholarship every year to a student who demonstrates academic and extracurricular achievement.

Funded by Basin Electric Power Cooperative, the scholarship is available to children of electric cooperative members. Capital Electric announces the recipient of this year's scholarship is Paige Njos, a senior at Bismarck High School.

Njos has been focused on completing high school and earning a significant number of college credits through the advanced placement program.

"Having college credits when I leave high school will give me a jumpstart when I get to college, as well as save me money," she says.

During high school, Paige has been heavily involved in the Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) program, as well as National Honor Society. Most of her Honor Society volunteer hours were completed by her work with Shriners International.

"My family puts in a lot of time with the Shriners, and I have enjoyed it very much. I have never missed a circus either," she says with a smile.

It's evident Njos is a caring person.

"It's important for me to make friends with others in every aspect of life. I want to feel included and I know others do, too. I just really like people," she explains. Njos's work as an infant day care teacher and a nanny during her high school years has taught her real-life skills and reflects her caring attitude.

Paige plans to attend the University of Mary, studying to be a radiologic technologist.

"My desire to focus on patient health and healing is the reason for my plans," she says.

When asked what she would do if she could do anything in the world, she says, "I would want to be involved in medical research to help find cures for cancer and other diseases."

Njos noted the importance of scholarships.

"I am very thankful for this scholarship. It will be helpful as I work to meet my career goals," she says.

Capital Electric is pleased to present this scholarship. We recognize her caring heart and look forward to the good she will accomplish during her lifetime.

The Basin Electric and member-cooperative scholarship program is designed to encourage and recognize the achievements of the children of



Paige Njos

member-cooperative consumers. Each year, the program awards more than 130 scholarships to these students. Capital Electric has been proud to participate annually for many years. For more information, visit capitalelec.com/basin-scholarship. ☎





Students come together to learn about real life and make friends.

Real World Camp is real life for students

Being an adult isn't easy, is it? It seems to be about being responsible, earning a living, taking care of your family and still enjoying each day.

As students face the future, it helps to have some idea about the "real world" to get a jumpstart in life, which moves us into a local program focusing on a variety of issues students will face.

Real World Camp addresses students starting a career, purchasing a home and applying for a mortgage. It teaches them about utility costs, car loans and budgeting for everyday life's needs. During the camp, fifth- and sixth-graders meet with area professionals who work in these fields.

This year's event included 152 students from Cannonball, Washburn, Kidder County, Zeeland, Hebron and those who are homeschooled. The students had a great time and learned a lot, as they prepared their home budget.

The program was initiated in Bismarck in 2010, and 12 camps have been held since. The current director, Kathryn Spilman, has organized the event for the past four years.

"It's a ray of sunshine to see a cafeteria full of students learning how to navigate the real world. For them to see how the bills accrue and how to budget is essential," she says.

A group of volunteers help make the event run smoothly. The event is a positive community experience for children and Capital Electric Cooperative is privileged to be part of it. ☺



Preparing a budget makes life more manageable. After being assigned a job and a home, students realize what they can afford after paying for basic needs.



Another great meal, another informative meeting and collaboration to continue to put members' needs first were all part of the Member Advisory Committee meeting.

Members voices are heard

Capital Electric Cooperative is owned by nearly 20,000 members, and each voice matters. The board of directors is on the frontline, learning and sharing what's happening at the cooperative. As employees and managers, we work daily to do what's best for you and the cooperative. While it's not without challenges, the day-to-day work will always focus on what's best for the member.

Twice each year, the cooperative welcomes members of the Member Advisory Committee (MAC) to an evening informational meeting to discuss current issues and provide updates. Members of MAC are welcome to share their open and honest thoughts and ask questions.

Capital Electric General Manager Paul Fitterer looks forward to the meetings.

"The discussion during this meeting is extremely important to our operations. Opinions are taken seriously, and we make every effort to respond fully to each one," he says.

This meeting's discussion included internal cost reduction efforts, legislative updates, operations technology improvements, status of grants, the work plan, annual meeting updates, rates and how to save money on your electric bill.

If you are interested in joining the Member Advisory

Committee, please call Wes at 701-712-7923. A member will serve a three-year term on this committee. We appreciate feedback from all members at any time, as we are your cooperative and we are here to serve you. ⚡

Join us for Capital Electric Cooperative's annual meeting June 16

Capital Electric Cooperative is excited to welcome members to its 80th annual meeting, which will be held at the Bismarck State College Advanced Technology Center on June 16.

During the meeting, members will enjoy a free meal, learn about co-op issues and elect three members to serve on Capital Electric's board of directors. The nine-member board, which is elected by Capital Electric members, sets policies and makes decisions that guide the cooperative into the future.

High school and college students are encouraged to attend the meeting and register for a chance to win a \$500 scholarship. The scholarship will be given away to a dependent of a Capital Electric member.

We look forward to seeing you at this year's annual meeting! ⚡



Capital Electric cooperative employees **Wes Engbrecht**, **Jared Nygaard** and **NaTesa Messerschmidt** represented the co-op once again at the Bismarck-Mandan Home Builders Association's Home Show.

Reaching co-op members at the home show

Co-op employees have become a staple representing local Touchtone Energy® Cooperatives at the annual home show, which is held in March at the Bismarck Event Center.

What is the purpose of a co-op booth at the home show?

"We have a ton of co-op-specific information to share with our members who attend this event. From our water heaters to our rates, there are a significant number of questions asked and answers given. It's fun to talk to our members and make that connection we will both benefit from in the future," says Jared Nygaard, representing Capital Electric's energy services department.

Bismarck Motor Company provided an electric vehicle to display at this year's show. The 2026 Chevy Blazer is one of the newest and most affordable EVs

on the market today. Capital Electric maintains a close relationship with vehicle dealerships in our area regarding EVs.

"As communications manager, I enjoy visiting with co-op members and other community members about many topics. Capital Electric focuses on being available to those who own the cooperative. Energy services staff, Jared Nygaard and NaTesa Messerschmidt spent two days answering questions and getting to know our members. Their knowledge and experience are vital as they deal with issues throughout the year," Wes Engbrecht explains.

We appreciate the opportunity to attend public events such as the home show and look forward to seeing you there again next year! ⚡

The regular meeting of the board of directors of Capital Electric Cooperative was held at 8 a.m. Friday, March 27. The meeting was held in person at Capital Electric, 7401 Yukon Drive, Bismarck, pursuant to due notice to all directors. All directors were present at that time.

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 Wes Engbrecht, Manager of IT Kent Kensmoe and Attorney Zachary Pelham of Pearce Durick PLLC, who acted as recording secretary.

Financial Review: Prior to the board meeting, Directors Dave Charles and Whitford Dwyer reviewed the February check register and expenditures. They advised all checks and expenditures were in order. The financial review approved as presented.

Management Reports (Business Department, Operations Department, Engineering Services, Energy Services and Communications/IT):

Business Department Report: Steen presented the February financial and statistical report to the board.

Revenue was behind budget for February, as \$4,241,393 was generated in comparison with the budgeted figure of \$4,679,345 (unfavorable variance of \$ 437,952 or 9.4%).

Capital Electric's February power costs were under budget for the month by 14.9%.

The operating margin for February was \$168,241.14, ahead of the budgeted amount of \$159,173.15. The total margin for February was \$166,610.55, which was ahead of the budgeted amount of \$165,817.21.

Capital Electric began billing 10 new services in February, bringing our active services to 22,951 versus 22,526 at this time last year, or a net increase of 425 accounts over the last 12 months.

The cash flow statement was reviewed.

Revenue Deferral Utilization: Steen reviewed the revenue deferral utilization resolution. Following discussion, the revenue deferral utilization was approved as presented.

McLean Sheridan Rural Water District: The annual rate adjustment as presented for the McLean Sheridan Rural Water District was approved.

Western Area Power Administration

Wheeling Rate: The annual adjustment was approved as presented for the Garrison Diversion and Conservancy District.

2025 Capital Credit Allocation: Approval of the of 2025 capital credit allocation as of March 31, pending final review by auditors, is as follows:

- G&T: \$2,091,088.23
- Cooperative: \$266,305.42

Capital Credit Retirement: Approval of the capital credit general retirement, to be completed on May 30 in the amount of \$1,657,712.15 in capital credits from years 2005 through 2008, which include:

- G&T: \$626,066.05;
- Cooperative: \$1,030,646.10.

Estate Retirements: Following review of the financial condition of the cooperative and recommendation by management, payment of capital credits was authorized to seven member estates totaling \$8,953.97.

Operations Report: Holzer reviewed the written report from the operations department. Holzer reported on completion of tree trimming service orders, repair of a member's three-phase underground line due to a shifting river bank and retirement of 0.4 miles of overhead three-phase line to underground along Highway 1804.

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 covering minimum approach distance, working on energized lines and equipment, and eye safety. The safety report was reviewed.

Engineering Services Report: Owen reviewed the written report from engineering services. Four work orders were completed in February. Owen reported on ongoing and upcoming projects, including the stalled Federal Emergency Management Agency project review due to the federal government shutdown, opportunities for additional grants due to availability of additional funding and the proposed construction work plan.

Contractor Pricing: Owen reviewed proposed 2026 contractor pricing and Fischer, Gieser and VIP were approved as preferred contractors in 2026, with the remaining list of contractors to be approved for consideration on a project-by-project basis as presented.

Township Franchise Agreements: Owen reviewed proposed franchise agreements and the agreements were approved.

Energy Services: Schaffner reviewed the energy services report. Schaffner reported on continued engagement with members on calls related to rate increases, presentation at the Member Advisory Committee, meeting on winter energy audits and demand reduction, and attendance at township officers meeting to discuss cost-savings opportunities.

Communications: Engbrecht reviewed the communications and public relations report. Engbrecht reported on the Operation Round Up board meeting and election of a new board member, the Member Advisory Committee meeting and the annual meeting.

IT Report: Kensmoe reviewed the IT report. Kensmoe reported on backup server upgrades, detection of a malicious download thwarted by security systems in place and completion of a phishing security test.

Policies: Fitterer reviewed Policy II-05, Compensation of Directors, and the changes were approved.

Capital Electric Rate Structures: Steen presented on Capital Electric rate structures. No action was taken.

Strategic Planning: Fitterer reviewed available dates for the next strategic planning session.

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

Central Power Electric Cooperative: Charles reviewed Central Power Electric's March board meeting.

NDAREC: Vilhauer reviewed NDAREC matters and a Rural Development Finance Corporation update.

National Rural Electric Cooperative Association: Fitterer reported on the PowerXchange regional meeting.

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

BEK Annual Meeting: Fitterer reviewed the upcoming annual meeting and Director Charles will attend as Capital Electric's representative.

CoBank: Fitterer reviewed proposed changes in governance and the consensus of the board was to exercise Capital Electric's vote in favor of the proposed changes. ☞

CAPITAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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Website: www.capitalelec.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Deon Vilhauer, Pres.	Bismarck
Sara Vollmer, V. Pres.	Wing
Kyle Tschosik, Sec.-Treas.	Bismarck
Greg Dehne, Asst. Sec.-Treas.	Bismarck
Dwight Wrangham.....	Lincoln
Bret Weiland.....	Bismarck
Dave Charles.....	Bismarck
Whitford Dwyer.....	Bismarck
Luke Ellenbaum.....	Bismarck

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