

MAY 2022

For the first time, North Dakota firefighters were offered training on alternative fuel vehicle (AFV) fires. Read more in this month's feature story.



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A variety of electric vehicles were on display at the State Fire School on Feb. 25 and 26.

Cooperatives work together to provide important fire training

BY KRISTA RAUSCH

ooperatives around the world operate according to the same seven principles. Two of those principles are "concern for community" and "cooperation among cooperatives." Guided by these principles, electric cooperatives from North Dakota and Montana united to bring an important safety training to the North Dakota Fire School in February.

For the first time, North Dakota firefighters were offered training on alternative fuel vehicle (AFV) fires, which include hybrid and electric vehicle (EV) fires. Held Feb. 25 and 26, the training attracted nearly 120 volunteer firefighters.

As EVs become more prevalent in the state, it is important for emergency responders to familiarize themselves with these vehicles and how to safely respond to an accident.

"We are seeing more and more hybrid and electric vehicles in the state. And, for many of our firefighters, there is still a mystique around them. There are so many rumors about what you can and can't do when responding to an emergency dealing with one of these vehicles," says Robert Knuth, state training director, North Dakota Firefighters Association.

It was the drive of Capital Electric Cooperative (CEC)

Energy Services Technician Jared Nygaard that made this important training a reality. A former volunteer firefighter, Nygaard saw a need for the training and went to work to find a solution.

"I knew the fire school would be a prime location because it provides training for rural firefighters. Rural communities — that's who our co-ops serve. We wanted something geared toward the safety of our members, as well as the emergency responders, many of whom are also our members," says Nygaard.

After researching training programs and instructors, Nygaard visited with CEC General Manager Paul Fitterer, who rallied the troops.

"Paul wanted to get it out to the other cooperatives," says Nygaard. "He sent out an email at 5:30 p.m., and by 9 a.m. the next morning, we already had 10 other co-ops committed to sponsoring the training."

In the end, 17 electric cooperatives from North Dakota and Montana committed to sponsoring the course, which cost \$13,500.

When Knuth got the call from Nygaard, he says he jumped at the opportunity.

"Before Jared contacted us, we didn't know this training



was available," says Knuth. "And if we had, budget constraints would have likely prevented us from providing the training on our own. So, we thought this would be a perfect opportunity to partner with North Dakota's electric cooperatives."

The cooperatives hired the National Fire Protection Association to teach the course. In addition to the classroom training, firefighters also received hands-on training with cars that were lent for the school. Verendrye Electric Cooperative provided its all-electric Chevrolet Bolt. Ryan Nissan provided a Toyota Prius, and a Tesla was brought by a CEC member.

"The class was very well-received by those who attended," says Knuth. "Word got out about the class, and people were trying to change their schedule for the second session. I had three of my firefighters attend that class, and they said it was one of the better ones that they have attended in several years."

One of those firefighters was Jennifer Weichmann, who also serves as the director of emergency management for Ward County.

"This is an emerging technology, not just in North Dakota, but all over the world. And, I think this training is super important. Not only does it prepare our firefighters to respond to vehicle accidents and fires, but it also helps keep our firefighters safe by teaching them what they're up against," says Weichmann. "Taking this course really helped me understand what some of those risks are so our people don't get hurt, and we can do our best to protect or mitigate against what might happen to those involved in an accident involving an alternative fuel vehicle."

That importance is also keenly felt by Knuth, who hopes to continue this partnership with electric cooperatives into the future.

"From all of us at the North Dakota Firefighters Association, I can't express our thanks enough. From the bottom of our hearts, we really appreciate the support that the co-ops gave us to allow us to have this class," Knuth says.

Sponsors for the training included: Burke-Divide Electric Cooperative, Capital Electric Cooperative, Cass County Electric Cooperative, Dakota Valley Electric Cooperative, Goldenwest Electric Cooperative, KEM Electric Cooperative, Lower Yellowstone Rural Electric Cooperative, McKenzie Electric Cooperative, McLean Electric Cooperative, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric Cooperative, Mountrail-Williams Electric Cooperative, North Central Electric Cooperative, Northern Plains Electric Cooperative, Roughrider Electric Cooperative, Slope Electric Cooperative, Verendrye Electric Cooperative and Basin Electric Power Cooperative.

Join us for Capital Electric Cooperative's Annual Meeting, June 16

Capital Electric Cooperative (CEC) is excited to welcome members to its 76th annual meeting, which will be held at the Bismarck Event Center on June 16.

During the meeting, members will enjoy a free meal and entertainment, learn about co-op issues and elect three members to serve on CEC's Board of Directors. The nine-member board, which is elected by CEC 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 CEC member. More information can be found on page C5.

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





Capital Electric Cooperative awards \$1,000 scholarship

BY KRISTA RAUSCH

s part of its commitment to community and area youth, Capital Electric Cooperative (CEC) awards a \$1,000 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. CEC is proud to announce the recipient of this year's scholarship, Hudson Eckart.

A member of the 2022 class of Century High School (CHS), Hudson is an accomplished student and athlete. During his senior year, he received the President's Award for Educational Excellence and was named Student of the Quarter and MDU Resources Teen of the Week. He also received the Outstanding Junior Award and was recognized as an AP Scholar. Since his eighth-grade year, Hudson has been a part of CHS's varsity swim team. In his junior year, he became the team's captain, a position he's held into his senior year.

"I definitely like the challenge," says Hudson. "It has taught me how to push through certain things — and I've had to push through a lot. I really like challenging myself to be better, whether it's my character or in the pool,

because it shows. Like, at my meets, it's so rewarding to take first in my heat or drop even a second. So, that's what I like about it — seeing how the hard work can pay off."

And that hard work has definitely paid off.

"I like to think I'm pretty fast," says Hudson with a laugh. "Last year, I dropped 12 seconds in one week in the 500. I was the No. 16 seed in the state, and I took sixth place. My biggest goal was to make top eight. So, that was the cherry on the top."

In addition to swimming, Hudson is active in National Honor Society and AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination), and his involvement has afforded him many opportunities to give back to the community. He has mentored fifth graders, fed the hungry at the Soup Café, collected gifts for the CHS Giving Tree and gathered items for a pet supply drive benefitting local animal rescues and shelters. Additionally, he has been involved with Sources of Strength, a youth suicide prevention project.

"Hudson is a young man of honorable character and dedication," says CHS teacher Gina Phillips. "He has excelled in academics and athletics. He has been a mentor to young students and swimmers, and he has dedicated his life thus far to excelling in his scholarly endeavors, athletics and faith. I have no doubt he will follow a path of virtue and service to his community."

Hudson has big career ambitions. This fall, he will attend Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, Arizona, where he plans to major in biology with an emphasis in pre-medicine.

"During my freshman year, my grandmother passed from cancer," Hudson recalls. "It was really hard on my family, and me especially. Working through all that frustration and sadness really pushed me to want to pursue a career in medicine. I want to create change, and I want to help others."

Hudson is interested in specializing in oncology, orthopedic medicine or homeopathy.

"My dream is to own my own practice, because I want to create change, and — this is going to sound weird — but I want to make the doctor's office a fun place to go to," Hudson said.

Hudson competed against 18 worthy candidates for this year's scholarship. The judges awarded the scholarship to Hudson due to his outstanding academic and extracurricular achievements. Hudson held a 4.14 weighted grade point average at the time he submitted his application. A class valedictorian, he will graduate with honors in May.

"On behalf of CEC, I would like to congratulate Hudson on his achievements," says CEC General Manager Paul Fitterer. "He is more than deserving of this award, and we are happy to help fund his bright future."

Eckart offers this advice to his fellow graduates.

"Present yourself with integrity, and stay true to yourself. I've learned it really takes you far just being who you are and doing what you're passionate about. Even if people doubt you, you can still do it."

Hudson lives in Bismarck with his parents, Carlee and Jamie Eckart, his brother, Haydon, and their dog, Emmee. In his free time, he enjoys traveling, being active and spending time outdoors.

The Basin Electric Power Cooperative and Member Cooperative Program is designed to encourage and recognize the achievements of the children of member-cooperative employees and consumers. Each year, the program awards more than 130 scholarships to children of member-cooperative consumers. CEC is proud to participate as a member-cooperative. For more information, visit *capitalelec.com/content/scholarship*.





Capital Credit Claims

Notice of Redemption by Capital Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Listed below are names of former Capital Electric Cooperative (CEC) members who had capital credit checks mailed to them in June 2016. These checks have been returned to the co-op by the postal service because it could not locate the members at the address on file. A further search by CEC personnel has not turned up their whereabouts.

If you received electrical service from CEC during the year 1999, and your name is on this list, please contact our office at 701-223-1513. If you know the whereabouts of members on this list who received electrical service from CEC during the year

1999, please have them contact our office.

Please keep in mind not all of the capital credit amounts are large. However, we desire to get the money due to those who earned it and clear up our records.

We will redeem capital credits for those members on the following list who notify us prior to Dec. 1, 2022. Notice is hereby given that any of the aforementioned unclaimed capital credits outstanding after Dec. 1 will be forfeited pursuant to Section 10-15-34.1 and 10-15-23 of the North Dakota Century Code.

First Notice - May 2022

A&R HAFNER. A-1 WHOLESALE. ACKERSON, JOANNE J. AGRILIANCE, ALBERY, LINDA A. ALBRECHT, JOSH ALBRECHT, TAMMI ALL PRO SPORTSWEAR, ALLARD, KATHERINE E. AMAN, TARA AMERICAN HORSE, COLLEEN ANDERSON, PAMELA I. ANDERSON, KATHY A. ARCHER, RONALD ARCHER, BEVERLY ARMAN, ROBERT ARMAN, TAMMY ARNOLD, MICHELLE AUSTIN, IEFFREY AYALA IR., IOE BACHMEIER, IO DAWN BACHMEIER, DARREN BAD BRAVE, CLAUDE BAD MOCCASIN JR., SIDNEY BADER, RHONDA L BAKER, GEORGE BALZER, JOSEPH M. BALZER, RENETTA S. BANNISTER FLOOR COVERING BAUER, CHRISTINE BAUMEISTER, MATTHEW BEAN, GARY L. BEARSTAIL, TOSHA A. BECHHOLD, ROBERT BENEDICT, RENEE BENHAM, ESTHER R. BENJAMIN, GLADYS BENSON-HUBER, LORI BENZ, ANDREW A. BENZ, BECKY K. BENZ, JANE BENZ. WAYNE BERHOW, NICHOLAS BEYER, RONALD L. BEYER, WAYNE BIG VALLEY GRAVEL SUPPLY BINSTOCK, ERIKA L. BIRDWELL, TAMI M. BIRKBECK, BOB

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FREDERICK, BECKY

FREY HEATHER

FREY, RANDY

GARNER GRAPHICS. GARRISON, GRANT GARRISON, LANETTE GEIERMANN, JOHN L. GEIGER, JEFF GEORGE, CLINT GEORGE, JOYCE GESELLCHEN-OSBORN, MICHELLE GIERKE, PAULINE GILBREATH, G. R. GILCHRIST WENDIK GILCHRIST, KEVIN L. GIRARD, ALICIA GOYNE, JANICE R. GR GRAPHICS, GRAHAM, ROBERT E GRANER, DARYL GREAT PLAINS SUPPLY OF JAMESTOWN INC. GREEN, TRACY PAUL GREEN POINT CREDIT GREENE, JUDITH GREFF, SUSANN GRINSTEINNER, ALCIE GROSZ, RUEBEN GRUVER, JOHN GULENKO, YELENA GUTHMILLER, ROBERT HAGEL, AMY HAGEROTT, GWENDOLYN WENDY HALE JR., ANTHONY HALL, CAMILLE HANNA, RAFIK M. HANSEN, BETTY HANSEN, JEREMY HANSEN, LAURIE HARRIS, HOLLY A. HARRIS, TODD M. HARTEL, TRENNY L. HARTEL, MIKE J. HASE, RYAN HASKINS, MARK HEART, HAZEL A. HELM, DAVID HENDRICKSON, DAVID HERTEL, JASON HESSEIN, ALLYN M. HEUPEL, JIM HH DISTRIBUTING INC. HICKMAN, DONNA HICKMAN, KRIS

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The Capital Electric Cooperative (CEC) Board of Directors held its regular meeting on Thursday, March 24. The meeting was held at the Grand Hotel, Minot, North Dakota, pursuant to due notice to all directors. All directors . were present at that time, excluding Director Kayla Pulvermacher. Also present, in person, were Manage Paul Fitterer, Business Manager Luke Steen, Operations Manager Rick Dressler (remote), Engineering Services Manager Greg Owen, Energy Services Manager Josh Schaffner (remote) and Attorney Zachary Pelham of Pearce Durick, PLLC, who acted as recording secretary.

Financial Review: Prior to the board meeting, Directors Deon Vilhauer and Kyle Hilken reviewed the February check register and expenditures. They advised all checks were in order. The financial review was approved.

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

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

Total kilowatt-hour (kWh) sales for February were behind budget by 1.2%. Monthly electric revenue was behind budget by 2.9%.

CEC's February load factor was above the budgeted figure by 2.75%.

The operating margin for February was \$123,916, ahead of the budgeted \$77,681. The total margin for February was \$218,692, which was ahead of the budgeted

CEC began billing 12 new services in February, bringing active services to 21,683 versus 21,344 at this time last year, a net increase of 339 accounts over the last 12 months.

The cash flow statement and monthly power costs were reviewed.

Accounts receivable balances as of March 23 were reviewed.

2021 Rural Utilities Service (RUS) Form 7: Steen reported the 2021 Form 7 has been submitted to the RUS and will be submitted to the auditors.

Capital Credit Allocation: Following discussion, the allocation of 2021 capital credits was approved, pending final review by auditors, as follows:

COOP \$ 915,316.47 \$2,305,952,04 Total

Capital Credit Retirement: Following discussion, a capital credit general retirement in the amount of \$1,711,270.08 was approved.

McLean Sheridan Rural Water: Following discussion, the annual rate adjustment for McLean Sheridan Rural Water District was approved.

Garrison Diversion/Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) Contract: Following discussion, the annual rate adjustment for the Garrison Diversion and Conservancy District was approved.

New Officer Documents: Following discussion, resolutions for the change in CEC officers (Vilhauer and Tschosik) were approved for the following entities: First Community Credit Union, Dakota Community Bank & Trust, National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC), CoBank and Rural Utilities Services (RÚS).

2022 Budget Amendment: Steen reviewed proposed amendments to the 2022 budget related to anticipated increases in interest rates and a recommendation to lock in lower interest rates now. The amendment to the 2022 budget was approved as presented.

Estate Retirements: Following review of the financial condition of the co-op and recommendation by management, six capital credit estate retirements totaling \$7,929.19 were approved.

Operations Report: Dressler reviewed the written report from the operations department.

Board minute excerpts MARCH 24, 2022

Crews have been conducting annual line inspections and any associated maintenance with the inspections. Activity has begun on the 43rd Avenue road construction project.

Two regulators along Highway 36 in the Regan area

Safety Report: There were no lost time accidents in March. No safety meeting was held in March. Without objection the safety report was approved.

Engineering Services Report: Owen reviewed the Engineering Services Report.

No work orders were completed in February. Owen reported ongoing projects have stopped until spring thaw occurs. Owen outlined notable upcoming 2022 work projects and a planning meeting with local construction contractors took place in late February.

Contractor Price Quotes: Following discussion, contractor price quotes for 2022 were approved as presented.

Work Order Inventory: Following discussion, work order inventories #504 and #504(a) were approved

Utility Relocation Agreement: Owen reported on a utility relocation agreement related to road construction on 43rd Avenue in Bismarck, which provides for the City of Bismarck to reimburse the cooperative for relocation of utilities. Following discussion, it was approved for the board president to sign the agreement.

Property Update: Owen reported the closing on the sale of the east lot (Parcel D) occurred on March 11

Marketing efforts for the administration building (Parcel A) continue. Two separate groups toured the building in March.

Following discussion, an agreement for placement of excess fill from the 43rd Avenue road construction project onto CEC property was approved as presented.

Owen reported design efforts continue on the new facility with a goal of completing the design by the end of April.

Central Power Electric Cooperative (CPEC): Director Dave Straley reported on topics of the CPEC meeting.

Energy Services: Schaffner reviewed the Energy Services Report.

Eighteen service orders were completed in February. Schaffner attended the Bismarck Home Show and covered the Touchstone Energy booth.

Schaffner noted supply chain issues continue and noted high increases in costs.

Two residential solar projects were tested and certified.

Communications, Public Relations and IT: Fitterer reviewed topics of interest.

Fitterer updated the Board on continued efforts to develop a new logo and presented a proposed logo to the Board. The consensus of the Board was to go forward with the logo as presented.

Planning for the June 16 annual meeting is progressing, and a nominating committee meeting is scheduled for the last week of April.

CEC's selection for the Basin Electric Power Cooperative scholarship is Hudson Eckart, who will receive a \$1,000 scholarship.

IV-01-24 Parallel Generation: Steen outlined proposed language changes to ensure the policy was appropriate and consistent with Central Power Flectric Cooperative and Basin Electric Power Cooperative policies. The Board voted in favor of modifying the policy as recommended

Policy No. IV-03 Sale and Disposal of Material and other Cooperative Assets: Fitterer outlined proposed language changes, and it was approved to modify the policy as recommended by management.

Rescind E-1 Material Purchases by Employee: Fitterer outlined the policy was no longer necessary, and the policy was rescinded.

New Policy IV-13 Member Conduct Policy: Steen

outlined the proposed policy, which was reviewed at the February board meeting. After discussion, the new member conduct policy was approved.

Basin Electric Power Cooperative: Fitterer reported on Basin matters and provided an update on Dakota Gasification Company solutions.

Western Area Power Administration (WAPA): Fitterer reported on a possible drought adder and likely increases in rates for 2023.

North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives (NDAREC): Vilhauer reported on the March 17 board

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

National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) PowerXchange Conference: Director Dave Charles reviewed highlights of the conference.

Rural Electric Supply Cooperative (RESCO) Board Nominations: Fitterer reported on nominations for directors.

Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange Board Report: Fitterer reviewed the board report and general information concerning Federated Rural Electric Insurance Exchange.

National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) Board Report: Fitterer reviewed the board report.

Adjournment: There being no further business to come before the meeting, the board meeting was adjourned.

CAPITAL ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Deon Vilhauer, Pres	Bismarck
Dave Charles, V. Pres	Bismarck
David Straley, SecTreas	Bismarck
Kyle Tschosik, Asst. SecTreas	Bismarck
Kyle Hilken	Wilton
Rex Hollenbeck	McClusky
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Arlene Olson	Wing
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