

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

ROUGH RIDER NEWS

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

APRIL 2016

**McKenzie
Walters**



**MEET OUR 2016
YOUTH TOUR WINNER**

What's Inside:

- Youth Tour essay
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- Board report



McKenzie Walters named 2016 Youth Tour winner

This year, Roughrider Electric Cooperative will send McKenzie Walters to Washington, D.C., to participate in the 2016 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. McKenzie competed in an essay-writing contest to earn the honors and opportunity to spend a week in Washington, D.C., to learn about U.S. government and rural electric cooperatives. McKenzie is a sophomore at Hazen High School and is the daughter of Russ and Michelle Walters.

McKenzie will join other participating North Dakota students in an all-expense-paid trip scheduled for June 11 to 17. The delegation of students will travel with Montana students in the day-to-day touring of the historic sites,

attractions and congressional offices in the Washington, D.C. area.

The students who competed in the Youth Tour essay contest submitted an essay on the topic: “Pick one of the four Touchstone Energy® core values — innovation, integrity, accountability and commitment to community — and describe how you see this in action at Roughrider Electric Cooperative.”

Congratulations to McKenzie! Roughrider Electric Cooperative is proud to be sponsoring a young person of her caliber on the 2016 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. ■

Commitment to Community essay

BY MCKENZIE WALTERS

Roughrider Electric Cooperative possesses many great qualities. The strongest quality is their commitment to their job and to the community. The definition of commitment is to pledge and promise your involvement and that you are willing to finish the job. The crew at Roughrider Electric is always willing to give their time and effort, in every weather condition and in all hours of the day, to help the community.

One way that Roughrider commits to their duties is they strive to provide safe and affordable electricity for all their customers. Roughrider Electric commits to the safety and health of the community by providing street lights and yard lights. Street lights can prevent accidents from happening and

also allow pedestrians a light source to walk in.

Roughrider Electric Cooperative also commits their time to fixing and keeping the power lines safe and efficient. To ensure that they complete this task, they have to be ready and willing always. The linemen are equipped to work in the harshest of conditions; even in North Dakota winters that can test the dexterity of Roughrider power lines. If a power line falls down or transformer goes bad, then the crews have to go out in the cold and repair the power line or replace the transformer.

Electricity can be expensive if you own a business or are just starting a business. It can be hard to pay all the bills that come with owning a

business. That is why Roughrider Electric is great; they have affordable pricing so people can experience the joy of owning their own business without the worries of electricity bills. Roughrider commits to its citizens by caring about the quality job they receive as a Roughrider customer. They want to ensure that the consumer gets what they deserve and pay for. That is only a few things that could go wrong with power lines and electrical appliances.

Because of Roughrider Electric Cooperative's commitment to their job and community, people in their service area are able to enjoy the little things in life.



Annual Meeting
2016

HAZEN, ND
HAZEN
HIGH SCHOOL
JUNE 1, 2016

*Look for more information
in upcoming issues of
North Dakota Living.*



Vote by mail at the annual meeting

In 2009 Roughrider Electric Cooperative's board of directors decided to offer the members the option of voting by mail. Ballots and instructions will be mailed out prior to the annual meeting. Under the bylaws, no nominations are accepted from the floor at the annual meeting. A qualified member of Roughrider Electric Cooperative may become a candidate for election by being nominated by the Nominating Committee or by a petition submitted not less than 60 days before the meeting.

Mail-in ballots will only be sent to members upon request. To request a ballot, please contact Steve Hildebrand at 701-748-2293 or 800-748-5533 prior to May 9. You may also contact Steve at shildebrand@roughriderelectric.com.



Free shuttle bus ride

Roughrider Electric Cooperative will be offering a free shuttle-bus service to the meeting, leaving from the Dickinson main office. If you are interested in riding the bus to Hazen, please contact Debbie Lorz at 701-483-5111 or 800-627-8470. You may also email Debbie at: dlorz@roughriderelectric.com.

The deadline to sign up to ride the bus is May 16. ■



**KNOW WHAT
DANGERS LIE
BELOW
DIG
SAFELY**

**Accidents can
happen to anyone.**



**Know what's below.
Call before you dig.**



Thank a lineman on April 11

America's electric cooperatives have designated the second Monday of April as National Lineman Appreciation Day.

On April 11, Roughrider Electric Cooperative will honor the dedicated men who build and maintain the co-op's overhead and underground electric system. We proudly recognize all electric linemen for the services they perform, sometimes around the clock and in dangerous conditions, to keep power flowing and protect the public's safety.

"Our linemen are the first-responders of our electric distribution system, and they work around the clock on high-voltage lines," says Jason Bentz, manager of operations. "Conditions can be dangerous, but they work safely — even when Mother Nature is at her worst — to ensure reliable service for our members."

Nineteen men maintain 5,425 miles of line in Roughrider's service territory.

Roughrider Electric Cooperative invites members to take a moment and thank a lineman for the work they do. Use #thankalinenman to show your support for the men and women who light our lives. ■

PLAN **TOGETHER.**
STAY SAFE **TOGETHER.**

**NATIONAL LINEMAN
APPRECIATION DAY**
APRIL 11, 2016



#thankalinenman

(L-R): *Dion Gefre, journeyman lineman; Tyler Schlosser, journeyman lineman*



Capital Credits: **YOU** get the credit

You to get the credit — capital credits, that is — for helping build, sustain and grow your local electric cooperative. Last December, Roughrider Electric Cooperative distributed more than \$1.2 million to members like you across our service area.

When you signed up to receive electric service from Roughrider Electric Cooperative, you became a member of an electric utility. While investor-owned utilities return a portion of any profits back to their shareholders, electric co-ops operate on an at-cost basis. So instead of returning leftover funds, known as margins, to folks who might not live in the same region or even the same state as you do, Roughrider Electric Cooperative allocates and periodically retires capital credits (also called patronage dividends, patronage refunds, patronage capital, or equity capital) based on how much electricity you purchased during a year.

This past December, members from prior years received capital credits retirements through a check in the mail, reflecting their contribution of capital to, and ownership of, the cooperative. Those funds helped us keep the lid on rates, reduced the amount of money we needed to borrow from outside lenders to build, maintain and expand a reliable electric distribution system, and covered emergency expenses.

For more information on this part of the cooperative business, read the following common capital credit questions and answers.

WHAT ARE CAPITAL CREDITS?

An electric cooperative operates on an at-cost basis by annually “allocating” to each member, based upon

the member’s purchase of electricity, operating revenue remaining at the end of the year; later, as financial condition permits, these allocated amounts — capital credits — are retired. Capital credits represent the most significant source of equity for Roughrider Electric Cooperative. Since a cooperative’s members are also the people the co-op serves, capital credits reflect each member’s ownership in, and contribution of capital to, the cooperative. This differs from dividends investor-owned utilities pay shareholders, who may or may not be customers of the utility.

WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM?

Member-owned, not-for-profit electric co-ops set rates to generate enough money to pay operating costs, make payments on any loans, and provide an emergency reserve. At the end of each year, we subtract operating expenses from the operating revenue collected during the year. The balance is called an operating “margin.”

HOW ARE MARGINS ALLOCATED?

Margins are allocated to members as capital credits based on their purchases from the cooperative —how much power the member used. Member purchases may also be called patronage.

DOES MONTANA-DAKOTA UTILITIES RETIRE CAPITAL CREDITS?

No. Within the electric industry, capital credits only exist at not-for-profit electric cooperatives owned by their members.

ARE CAPITAL CREDITS RETIRED EVERY YEAR?

Each year, the Roughrider Electric Cooperative board of directors makes a decision on whether to retire capital credits based on the financial health of the cooperative. During some years, the co-op may experience high growth in the number of new accounts, or severe storms may result in the need to spend additional funds to repair lines. These and other events might increase costs and decrease member equity, causing the board not to retire capital credits. For this reason, Roughrider Electric Cooperative's ability to retire capital credits reflects the cooperative's strength and financial stability. The board alone decides whether to retire capital credits.

DO I LOSE MY CAPITAL CREDITS IN THE YEARS THE CO-OP DECIDES NOT TO MAKE RETIREMENTS?

No. All capital credits allocated for every year members have been served by Roughrider Electric Cooperative are maintained until such time as the board retires them.

HOW OFTEN DO MEMBERS RECEIVE CAPITAL CREDIT RETIREMENTS?

The Roughrider Electric Cooperative board of directors makes a decision each year whether or not to retire capital

credits. When the cooperative is strong enough financially and member equity levels high enough, the board directs staff to retire some portion of past years' capital credits.

HOW WILL THE RETIREMENT WORK?

All current and inactive members of Roughrider Electric Cooperative who purchased electricity during the years being retired will receive a check. Due to the expense involved in processing printed checks, the minimum retirement check that will be written to current members will be \$5.

WHAT IF I HAVE MOVED?

If you move or no longer have electric service with Roughrider Electric Cooperative, it is important that you inform the cooperative of your current address, so that future retirements can be properly mailed to you. If you purchased electricity during the years being retired, then you are entitled to a capital credit retirement, even if you move out of the Roughrider Electric Cooperative service area. If it has your current address, then Roughrider Electric Cooperative will send your retirement check by mail. ■

Roughrider Electric Cooperative offers members CONSERVATION AND ENERGY EFFICIENCIES INCENTIVES

Roughrider Electric Cooperative is continuing the conservation and energy-efficiency program through 2016. The incentives help you, the member, become more energy efficient.

The program for 2016 will include ground-source heat pumps and air-source heat pumps.

Members must buy and install qualifying systems between Jan. 1, 2016 and Dec. 31, 2016. The program for the heat pumps is for new installation or for replacement of a conventional heating system.

Roughrider Electric Cooperative personnel will check the

installation, and get the appropriate documentation and receipts. Once completed and approved, Roughrider Electric Cooperative will send a check directly to the member to help cover the purchase cost.

A maximum dollar amount has been set aside for the incentive program. The program will close when we meet this amount. Roughrider Electric reserves the right to cancel the program without further notice. One rebate allowed per member.

For more information, please contact Brad Quenette, director of member services, at 800-748-5533 or email bquenette@roughriderelectric.com.

Ground-Source Heat Pumps:
Required minimum efficiency

\$150 per ton with a maximum rebate of \$600
CLOSED LOOP: EER >= 14.1 COP >= 3.3
OPEN LOOP: EER >= 16.2 COP >= 3.6

Air-Source Heat Pumps:
Required minimum efficiency

\$100 per ton with a maximum rebate of \$400
HSPF >= 8.2 EER >= 12 SEER >= 14.5

Report from

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FEB. 26, 2016

When, where and who: The Board of Directors met in Hazen on Feb. 26.

Agenda: The Board reviewed and approved the meeting agenda.

Minutes of the previous meeting: The Board reviewed and approved the minutes of the Jan. 29, 2016, meeting.

Co-General Managers' report: Chris Baumgartner and Don Franklund presented the managers' report.

Nominating Committee results: The results of the Feb. 25, 2016 Nominating Committee meeting were provided to the Board. The following nominations were made, by district:

West District – Callen Schoch
Central District – Bruce Darcy
East District – Bill Retterath

Operations & Construction report: Mr. Bentz referred the Board to his written report. He noted that the highlight of the month was the introduction of App Suite to the line crew, which provides greater access to information over iPads used by the line crew. It should provide significant improvements to the efficiencies with paperwork being completed as well.

Upcoming meetings: The next Board meeting was set for 9 a.m. MT on March 24, 2016, at a location to be determined in Dickinson, North Dakota.

Other business: There being no other business, upon motion made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned. ■



www.roughriderelectric.com

HAZEN OFFICE

701-748-2293 or 800-748-5533
800 Highway Dr., Hazen, ND 58545
7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. CST Monday-Friday

Payments may be deposited in the deposit box by Roughrider Electric's main office entrance or in the drop boxes located at Krause's Super Valu in Hazen or Bronson's Super Valu in Beulah.

DICKINSON OFFICE

701-483-5111 or 800-627-8470
P.O. Box 1038, 2156 4th Ave. E.
Dickinson, ND 58602
8 a.m. – 5 p.m. MST Monday-Friday

Payments may be deposited in the deposit box west of Roughrider Electric's main office entrance or in the drop boxes located at Dickinson City Hall, or the north and south locations of Family Fare supermarkets.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Roger Kudrna, President; Dickinson483-8377
Darell Herman, Vice President; Beulah873-4371
Troy Sailer, Secretary; Golden Valley948-2427
Bruce Darcy, Treasurer; Golden Valley983-4222
William Retterath; Center794-8729
Arnold Kainz; Dickinson483-8207
Dan Price; Hensler794-3779
Greg Steckler; Dunn Center548-8122
Callen Schoch; New England579-4395

MANAGEMENT

Don FranklundCo-General Manager/CEO
Chris BaumgartnerCo-General Manager/CEO



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twitter.com/RoughriderCoop

The 3rd Annual ND
Fishin' For The Cure
curing childhood cancer one lake at a time

**Lake Sakakawea's
Beulah Bay
Saturday, June 18**

Fishin' for the Cure is a charity fishing tournament to raise funds for cancer research and clinical trials. Help us find a cure by coming to the Wurst Shop sponsored meal, enjoying the family fun games, registering to fish in the tournament, volunteering to help, becoming a sponsor or making a donation.

Visit
FishinForTheCure.com
to register!

For more info: tyvals@yahoo.com
or 701-290-2415

**CANCER BITES | HELPING TO
CURE CHILDHOOD CANCER**