

ROUGH RIDER NEWS

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

AUGUST 2019



PHOTO BY BRAD QUENETTE

Meet some of North Dakota's future leaders including Roughrider's delegate, Kori Nagel ... thanks, in part, to the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour

At the beginning of the tour, they start as strangers. During one intense week of learning, they become friends. In this month's local pages, learn why electric cooperatives continue supporting and sponsoring the Youth Tour — and why Kori Nagel wishes she could do it all again.

What's inside:

- **Look up and around ... farm equipment is on the move**
- **Medora discounts available to members**
- **Use GPS with care around electrical infrastructure**
- **Meetings minutes, and more**



PHOTOS BY BRAD QUENETTE

Visiting the White House — and taking a tour inside while President Donald Trump was in the building — was a major highlight for **Kori Nagel** while on this year's Electric Cooperative Youth Tour.

'I understand now'

Youth Tour trip truly is a once-in-a-lifetime experience for Kori Nagel

BY CARMEN DEVNEY

Before Kori Nagel left for the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in June, she wrote President Donald Trump a letter, telling him she planned to visit the White House and would like to meet him. She and her family live in Oliver County, and they respect his stance on keeping coal, and baseload generation, in the nation's energy mix.

She figured Mr. Trump would be busy and not have time to respond, and he didn't. Perhaps she should have tried reaching out to him on Twitter instead?

Kori, Roughrider Electric Cooperative's delegate on this year's Youth Tour, did visit the White House and actually toured rooms within the White House — while knowing Mr. Trump was somewhere within the building.

The feeling she had in just being there and seeing such a famous residence did not disappoint.

The daughter of Roughrider members Joey and Brenda Nagel, Kori was one of 16 North Dakota high school students to join 1,800 students from around the nation to participate in this year's Youth Tour, held June 15 to 21. They visited the nation's capital for a fast-paced week of learning about history and American government; visiting with their state's congressional delegation; becoming more knowledgeable about the cooperative business model; and touring museums, national monuments and memorials. Sponsored by their family's electric distribution cooperative, the students also develop leadership skills and a national network of peers.

Brad Quenette, member services manager for Roughrider, was one of the North Dakota chaperones.

To earn a seat on the tour, the

North Dakota students entered an essay-writing contest and addressed the following topic: “As a possible future member-owner of your cooperative, describe ways that smart technologies and social media might be used to communicate with young adults. How might they be used to increase awareness and interest in the many career opportunities with electric cooperatives?”

In her essay, she noted, “Everything young people do is run through social media such as Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, Twitter and apps.”

You can bet she used social media while on the Youth Tour.

From snapping and sharing photos to using apps to connect and network with new friends, social media will continue to play a role in Kori’s Youth Tour experience.

What impacted her most while on the tour was her ability to network and make new friends. Thanks to technology, she is already messaging with friends and doing group chats, and plans to use a variety of social media tools to stay in touch.

From a historical standpoint,

viewing the incredible history of the battlefield at Gettysburg National Military Park held great impact, as well as seeing the original signatures of Abraham Lincoln and George Washington at the National Archives.

Quenette says the tour is an eye-opener for students, who learn firsthand what our country is all about.

“When they get to see some of these historical sites, they have already learned a lot of information in school, but maybe they didn’t realize the significance to our country until they saw the memorials and monuments in person,” he says. “They don’t realize what it’s all about until they are actually there.”

Roughrider sponsors the Youth Tour annually to help students develop leadership skills that may be used to help improve the quality of life in rural communities in this great state. Quenette noted some of the kids start the week somewhat shy, and by the end of the week have come out of their shells.

“From not knowing anyone at the beginning of the week, to making



When North Dakota’s Youth Tour group met Congressman **Kelly Armstrong**, one student asked what he feels is the biggest problem affecting the state. His response was the opioid crisis. **Kori Nagel** (far left), said they met with his assistant first, and Kori thought it was an interesting job she could see herself doing some day. The students also briefly met Senator John Hoeven, and an aide for Senator Kevin Cramer.

new friends and interacting with one another, at the end of the week some are really close. For some of these students, they develop social skills that can really change them for the better.”

Kori says “hands-down,” the tour gave her a boost of confidence she will carry into the future.

She highly recommends the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour to the next batch of qualifying students.



PHOTO BY GRETCHEN SCHWALTZ

On Youth Day, student delegates from across the nation heard national speakers address the important role electric cooperatives play in their local communities. The North Dakota and Montana student delegations were also enrolled in “A Place for YOUth in the Cooperative World.” This interactive education session addressed the cooperative business model and how it differs from a traditional business model; the future of electric cooperatives; and opportunities for internships and careers at cooperatives and in public service. Kori Nagel, Roughrider’s representative, said she learned credit unions differ from banks, in part, because they are member-owned.

“Oh my goodness, yes! I wish I could do it all over again,” she says. “Before I went on the trip, I heard one of the delegates say the Youth Tour is a life-changing experience. I thought, ‘Don’t get too excited about things.’ I didn’t know what to expect, and figured it wouldn’t happen to me.”

“I understand what she was getting

at now,” Kori continues. “You meet the coolest, most awesome people who you’ll want to keep in touch with, and see so many things in Washington, D.C. It was such a cool opportunity, and I’m so lucky to have been part of it.”

Roughrider Electric Cooperative will advertise the essay contest

question for the 2020 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in October. Students, we hope you take Kori Nagel’s advice and apply!

Until then, for more information visit www.ndyouthtour.com or www.youthtour.coop, or call Roughrider Electric Cooperative. ■

Youth Tour group thanks beloved bus driver for Marine Corps Service

VICTORIA A. ROCHA, STAFF WRITER FOR NRECA



*The Youth Tour delegates from North Dakota and Montana purchased a certificate that entitles bus driver **Michael Anderson** to have a brick engraved with his name at the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial as a thank-you. Forever a Marine, Anderson has been a chauffeur to Youth Tour delegates for 15 years.*

The dramatic statue of Marines raising the American flag at the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial never gets old for Youth Tour bus driver Michael Anderson.

The proud Marine Corps vet has been with the Youth Tour group from North Dakota and Montana for about 15 years, and still gets excited when he brings students to the site in Arlington, Va.

At the beginning of the tour, as soon as the kids get on the bus, he introduces himself and mentions his time in the Marines, and ends with a hardy Semper Fi! There’s even a Semper Fi bumper sticker on his bus.

Michael has been one of many people who ensure the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, now in its 54th year, runs smoothly. This year, he joined dozens of drivers, 250 chaperones and a dozen Youth Tour alumni who serve as staff assistants to teach and protect the students.

Pros like Michael — a master navigator of D.C.-area traffic — bring local flavor and another kind of “inside the Beltway” knowledge that’s priceless.

Tight bonds have formed among

cooperative staff and Michael, since he started driving for the Youth Tour. This year, the delegates wanted to do something special for Michael’s thank-you gift, so they decided to honor his military service.

Last year at the National Museum of the Marine Corps, Michael pointed out the engraved bricks lining the winding pathways. One of the students asked Michael where his brick was, and he said he didn’t have one.

This year’s leaders made some phone calls, and when they stopped at the museum, the students from North Dakota and Montana presented Michael with a certificate for his own brick.

The gesture moved Michael, who will turn 68 soon and plans to slow down. He did assure the co-ops that he’ll still take the wheel for future Youth Tour groups.

“I love driving and I’ve been doing it for so long. I can’t leave them behind; these kids are awesome,” he says. ■

Look up and look around ... Farm equipment is on the move



While farmers focus on the ground when sowing and harvesting, looking up is just as important — especially when operating farm equipment near power lines.

For your safety, make sure you have at least 10 feet of clearance between power lines and your combines, grain augers, pickers, balers and front-end loaders.

Keep in mind that uneven ground and shifting soil conditions can put you in harm's way.

Look up and look around when operating equipment. Power lines and poles may be closer than you think.

If you see a power line issue that may need Roughrider's attention, please call the co-op at 800-748-5533. Or, send an email to safety@roughriderelectric.com with location information and a photo, if possible. Working together helps ensure the safety of all.



Jordan Braun



Kaden Ficek



Ryan Block



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

PHOTOS BY CARMEN DENNEY

Report from THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS JUNE 21, 2019

When, where and who: The Board of Directors met in Hazen on June 21.

Reorganizational meeting: The Board held its annual Reorganizational Meeting in accordance with the Bylaws. Ms. Grosz acted as chair of the meeting. She announced the following officers were elected by unanimous ballot:

- President – Roger Kudrna
- Vice President – Darell Herman
- Secretary – Troy Sailer
- Treasurer – Bruce Darcy

Agenda: The Board reviewed, added to and approved the meeting agenda.

Minutes of the previous meeting: The Board reviewed and approved the minutes of the May 24, 2019, meeting.

Co-General Managers' report: Don Franklund and Travis Kupper presented the managers' report.

The Richardton Substation will begin demolition on Monday, and this project is still on track for a late 2019 re-construction completion.

Mr. Franklund attended the Midwest Board meeting and provided the Board with a report on the key topics addressed at this meeting.

Annual Meeting review: Mr. Hibl referred the Board to his report for the statistics about attendance at the annual meeting.

RESOLVED, that the 2020 Annual Meeting be held on June 3, 2020.

Chief Financial Officer report: Mr. Craigmile provided the Board with a summary of his written report.

RESOLVED, that the May 2019 Financial Reports be and hereby are accepted as submitted.

Upcoming meetings: The next Board meeting was set for 1 p.m. MT on July 26, 2019, in Medora, North Dakota.

Other business: The Board then entered Executive Session. Upon exiting Executive Session, there being no other business, upon motion made, seconded and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned.

HEAD WEST FOR LESS

In partnership with the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation, more than 10 Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives in North Dakota have joined forces to make vacationing in North Dakota more affordable for families, including Roughrider Electric Cooperative. This summer, head west to Medora, where electric cooperative members are eligible for a 15-percent discount off the following reservations:

- ✓ Tickets to the Medora Musical
- ✓ Pitchfork Steak Fondue
- ✓ Bully Pulpit Golf Course

Lodging at any of the following:

- ✓ Badlands Motel
- ✓ Elkhorn Quarters
- ✓ Rough Riders Hotel



Members also receive 20 percent off at the Cowboy Hall of Fame by providing the discount code **Touch2019** at the door.

Roughrider members, if you are traveling to beautiful Medora this summer, call 1-800-MEDORA-1 to provide the discount code **Touch2019**, make reservations and receive your savings.

HOLIDAY CLOSING: MONDAY, SEPT. 2

In observance of the Labor Day holiday in September, Roughrider Electric Cooperative will be closed on Monday, Sept. 2. Line crews will be available for emergencies and power outages by calling 800-748-5533. Please call this number to log your specific information with dispatch, and you will receive assistance as quickly and safely as possible.

OH, NO! NOT MORE RULES!



As college students prepare to move into the dormitory, they've probably received hundreds of rules. Among them are rules about using electricity and devices in their dorm. Take our word for it. These electrical rules make sense.

With the Electrical Safety Foundation International and Safe Electricity, Roughrider Electric Cooperative shares a few facts about these rules:

- A halogen lamp may reach temperatures hot enough to ignite curtains or blankets that are too close. Many colleges have outlawed the use of halogen floor lamps. Floor lamps with fluorescent or LED bulbs are approved because they operate much cooler and use only a quarter of the energy. Use light bulbs with the correct wattage for lamps; if no indication is on the fixture, do not use a bulb with more than 60 watts.
- Cords should not be buried under carpet or be bunched up behind hot equipment. Never tack or nail an electrical cord to any surface or run cords across traffic paths, under rugs or furniture. Extension cords are only for temporary use.
- Toaster ovens get hot enough on the outside to burn you and to ignite notebooks and loose papers they may contact. Hot plates? You may as well make sure your fire insurance premium is paid now. Keep all electrical appliances and cords safely away from bedding, curtains and other flammable material.
- Grounding prongs and polarized plugs (one wide blade, one narrow) can help prevent shocks and electrocutions and prevent damage to your sensitive electronics. Never cut or trim the plug blades or the grounding prong.
- Overloading an outlet will cause a fuse to blow or a circuit breaker to open. Consider purchasing power strips with an over-current protector, which will shut off power automatically if there is too much current being drawn.

Electrical safety is quite simple:

- 1) Treat anything that plugs in as if it were an employee with a grudge – willing to work, but awaiting its chance to zap you.
- 2) Liquid and electricity don't mix: Don't introduce them.
- 3) Appliances that heat use more electricity and are more likely to cause overloads than things that don't. If your school allows these, exercise special care.

NOTE: YOUR ROOM DOESN'T FEEL LONELY WHEN YOU AREN'T THERE. TURN OFF LIGHTS, COMPUTER AND OTHER ELECTRONICS WHEN YOU LEAVE.

Don't put **safety** on autopilot.

Global Positioning System (GPS) technology provides farmers with real-time, accurate location data about a field. But while GPS can help the driver plant straight rows and maximize potential, it can also give a false sense of security. Roughrider Electric Cooperative reminds our members not to put safety on autopilot.

When farmers enter the field using GPS, they do an outside round and set the borders and boundaries of the field. Then, they set the angle and straight line, so they know the direction the GPS will take.

If there is a slough, rock pile, fence post or power pole in the middle of the field, they still need to manually drive around the hazard and set a boundary for it, if the system allows. Once set, less focus may be needed on steering — but drivers still need to be aware of navigation issues.

Farming equipment is vulnerable to hitting power lines because of its large size, height and extensions, says Roughrider Working Foreman Shawn Olson. “When drivers set their GPS, that tractor is basically driving itself — and it doesn’t always account for structures in their field. Because the tractor is programmed, drivers may not be paying as much attention as they did years ago. When they rely on technology, it’s a lot easier to hit something that is in their field. Unfortunately, that’s a lot of power poles,” he says.

“Too often, people say they didn’t see the power pole because they were playing a game on their smartphone or reading the newspaper,” Olson continues. “Advanced technology like GPS is great when it works. But it doesn’t eliminate the need to stay alert to possible hazards and changing conditions.”

Olson encourages members to evaluate their fields regularly, looking



PHOTO BY CARMEN DEVENEY

for low-hanging lines when entering a field, turning in end rows, leaving the field and driving back to the farm.

If your equipment does make contact with a power line, do not leave the cab. Immediately call 911, warn others to stay away, and wait for Roughrider Electric linemen to de-energize the line.

The only reason to exit equipment that has come into contact with overhead lines is if the equipment is on fire, which is very rare. However, if this is the case, jump off the equipment with your feet together and without touching the ground and vehicle at the same time. Then, still keeping your feet together, hop to safety as you leave the area.

To report system damage that is not in need of immediate repair, call Roughrider Electric Cooperative at 1-800-748-5533 or email safety@roughriderelectric.com. If you send an email, please include the location, your name and contact information, and a photo if possible.

Members, your safety matters. Working together helps ensure the safety of all! ■



www.roughriderelectric.com

HAZEN OFFICE
701-748-2293 or 800-748-5533
800 Highway Dr., Hazen, ND 58545
7:30 a.m. – 4:00 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
7 a.m. – 4 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 west and south locations of Family Fare supermarkets.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Roger Kudrna, President; Dickinson	483-8377
Darell Herman, Vice President; Beulah	873-4371
Troy Sailer, Secretary; Golden Valley	948-2427
Bruce Darcy, Treasurer; Golden Valley	983-4222
William Retterath; Center	794-8729
Arnold Kainz; Dickinson	483-8207
Dan Price; Hensler	794-3779
Greg Steckler; Dunn Center	548-8122
Callen Schoch; New England	290-3836

MANAGEMENT

Don Franklund	Co-GM/CEO
Travis Kupper	Co-GM/CEO



Become a fan of Roughrider Electric Cooperative to learn timely co-op news!

[facebook.com/RoughriderElectric](https://www.facebook.com/RoughriderElectric)
twitter.com/RoughriderCoop