



PHOTOS BY CARMEN DENNEY

What's inside:

- Stack hay bales safely
- Scholarship recipients announced
- Report from the board, and more

2017 *Annual Meeting Recap*



PHOTOS BY CARMEN DENVEY

*Out of the 139 registered members in attendance, what were the chances of brothers winning the exact same door prize? **Simon Kuntz** (left) and **Willie Kuntz** should have headed to a casino after the annual meeting.*

Roughrider Electric holds 70th annual meeting

The Roughrider Electric Cooperative, Inc. directors, co-general managers and employees thank you, our member-owners, for attending your annual meeting at Dickinson Trinity High School on June 7. One hundred thirty-nine members registered, and along with their guests, enjoyed a deep-fried turkey and roast beef dinner served by Mulligan's Catering.

The theme of the meeting was, "Members — The Foundation of the Future." Each new day brings opportunities and challenges in the electric utility industry, and as a cooperative, we face them together with our member-owners. That makes Roughrider Electric stronger, and this year's theme reflected that spirit of cooperation.

Board President Roger Kudrna welcomed members and thanked the Trinity Catholic Schools (TCS) system for allowing the cooperative to host the annual meeting at the school. TSC President Steve Glasser gave the invocation.

Kudrna introduced the co-op's board of directors, and noted they conduct their business based on cooperative principles and Touchstone Energy® Cooperative values. Then he introduced special guests.

Members of North Dakota's congressional delegation were unable to attend, but representatives were on-hand to read statements, on behalf of Senators Heidi Heitkamp and John Hoeven, and Representative Kevin Cramer.

The director election was held. Members were asked to vote and fill the board positions held by Arnold Kainz,

West District; Greg Steckler, Central District; and Dan Price, East District. No nominations were received through the petition process, so a motion was made and approved to cast a unanimous ballot and re-elect Kainz, Steckler and Price for another three-year term.

Following the election, Chief Financial Officer Travis Kupper gave the financial report. He said Brady, Martz & Associates, P.C. audited the 2016 financial statements of Roughrider Electric, and the final audit report was presented to the board of directors in April. "An 'unmodified opinion' is the highest opinion they can give. It expresses their confidence in the accuracy of the cooperative's financial record-keeping," he said.

After the financial report, Co-General Managers Don Franklund and Chris Baumgartner gave an overview on the cooperative's activities, outlining some challenges and achievements. Franklund stated Roughrider Electric had experienced two separate and significant rate increases from its wholesale power provider, Basin Electric Power Cooperative, due to lower sales and increased regulatory costs. He thanked Basin Electric for implementing significant austerity measures to minimize the financial impact to its membership, and stated Roughrider Electric continues with its own measures.

"We share employees and resources with our neighboring cooperatives, and have consolidated positions or shifted duties where possible. We have taken advantage of lower interest rates from our lenders, and use financial tools such as our revenue deferral program. It is this program that has allowed us to delay passing those increases on to you," he said.

In a video update, Member Services Manager Brad Quenette shared how member engagement is a priority for the cooperative. He reflected on the results of the 2016 Member Satisfaction Survey, how Operation Round Up provides funding for local projects and organizations, and how the cooperative stays up-to-date on innovative technology like SmartHub.

The membership's electrical use continues to grow. From powering water heaters and cell phones to grain bin dryers and oil field operations, electricity plays an important role in everyday life. Franklund said it takes countless hours each year to plan, inspect and maintain a sophisticated electrical system in very rural North Dakota — and Roughrider Electric remains mindful of the balance between reliability and affordability.

In another video update, Manager of Operations Jason Bentz noted some upgrades that keep the electric system reliable. They included replacing aging cable, and testing

and replacing poles on the transmission system. He concluded by describing a wind storm and subsequent power outages, and reaffirmed the cooperative's commitment to working safely.

Manager Baumgartner continued with updates on how cooperatives are seeking a path forward in a carbon-constrained environment. He noted Basin Electric continues to develop wind and natural gas investments, and advance clean-coal technology. He also gave some federal and state legislative updates.

"We are watching very closely discussions regarding the budget as it pertains to trade, rural development programs and the proposed sale of the Federal Power Marketing Agencies, which could have a dramatic effect on the costs of our power supplied by the Western Area Power Administration," he said.

As technology and energy policy changes, some consumers are exploring renewable energy sources including solar generation on their property. Baumgartner stressed that members who choose to install a system will still use the electric grid as a back-up power source for when the sun doesn't shine or generate enough electricity to meet their demand.

With assistance from Innovative Energy Alliance Cooperative partners, Roughrider Electric continues to evaluate member opportunities to utilize solar and other forms of renewable energy; particularly in applications such as remote stock wells.

Baumgartner explained how the alliance with Slope, Mor-Gran-Sou and KEM Electric Cooperatives allows Roughrider Electric to stay current with technology, regulations, members' needs and more, which otherwise would be difficult to do as individual entities.

"The IEA sets a delicate balance by providing a way to pool resources and employees among the cooperatives. In addition to the IEA, we also partner with 3C Construction and West Dakota Utility Services to meet our construction and vehicle repair and certification needs," he said. "These relationships provide significant savings to the memberships, and allow us to be prudent with the revenue provided by you."

Following the managers' report, Director of Member Services and Key Accounts Leonard Hibl updated members on Operation Round Up grants awarded throughout the year, and stressed the importance of the program.

"The foundation board meets twice a year to review applications and fund projects; for example, area fire departments, ambulance squads, schools, non-profit community projects, and other projects that are non-



*Guided by the cooperative principle, "Cooperation Among Cooperatives," rural electric friends came together to offer support at the Roughrider Electric Cooperative annual meeting. They included, from left: **Lynn Jacobson**, secretary-treasurer of the Burke-Divide Electric board; **Bob Grant**, vice chairperson of the Mountrail-Williams Electric board; **Claire Vigesaa**, general manager of Upper Missouri Power Cooperative; and **Josh Kramer**, executive vice president and general manager of the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives.*

political in nature," he said. "It's amazing how these dollars can add up."

Hibl then announced the student scholarships recipients and Electric Cooperative Youth Tour winner.

With door prizes being awarded throughout the night, the annual meeting was adjourned.

Members, for more than 70 years, Roughrider Electric has worked to provide safe, reliable and affordable power to you, our owners. We have seen economies grow and contract. We have lived through times of severe drought and excess. When the weather tries to tear us down, we build the system back up again.

As changes occur in our industry and landscape, your local Touchstone Energy® Cooperative will be here. We may adjust the way we do things, adopt new practices, utilize new technology – but we will never change who we are ... a cooperative that exist for the purpose of supporting our member-owners.

As Manager Baumgartner noted in his report, "Times of change cause us to prioritize what truly matters, and bring us together to achieve a common bond. We remain dedicated to the legacy of bringing light and comfort to your home, farm or business. The opportunities and challenges we face together make us strong, and this year's theme, Members – the Foundation of the Future, has helped us celebrate those who came before us with hopes and dreams of building a better tomorrow."

Thank you for attending your annual meeting. ■

There must be 10 feet of clearance between hay bales and power lines. Keep in mind that summer's warm temperatures can cause power lines to sag. Your best bet is to find another spot away from those hot, high-voltage lines — that under certain conditions, can cause fire, injury or death.



Protect your livelihood — and your life

Stacking hay under electrical infrastructure can be dangerous, if not deadly.

Imagine up to 115,000 volts of electricity running through the power lines directly above the hay you just stacked. Highly loaded, those aluminum wires get hot — and the warmer the temperature — the more the lines sag. There needs to be at least 10 feet of clearance between the neutral line and the top of your hay bales. Did you plan for sag and leave adequate space?

As amps travel the circuit, the wires get warm. If you back your equipment into a guy wire and a pole bends or breaks, or if you hit an overhead line with the loader, the line could fall on the hay and ignite. The hay you need to feed your cattle — and the provisions you made to feed your family — just went up in smoke.

And that could be the best-case scenario. If you or your equipment comes into contact with a power line, you could receive an electric shock that could cause injury and even death.

Protect your livelihood and your life, and stay away from power lines and poles. If you do make contact with a power line, call 911. Remain seated, warn others to stay away, and wait for Roughrider Electric linemen to de-energize the lines. Do not move from the equipment.

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! ■

Report from

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MAY 26, 2017

When, where and who: The Board of Directors met in Dickinson on May 26.

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 April 28, 2017, meeting.

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

Acceptance of Belfield Franchise: Ms. Grosz reviewed with the Board the Franchise issued by the Belfield City Commission.

Dickinson office remodel: Mr. Bentz provided the Board with an update on the status of the remodeling project.

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

Operations and Construction report: Mr. Bentz referred the Board to his written report. Mr. Bentz updated the Board on an update on poles hit in Roughrider's service territory this year; 15 poles have been hit, which is high.

Legal report: Ms. Grosz provided the Board with an update on the status of projects addressed in her written report. She provided the Board with a brief update on the Marshall Substation.

Upcoming meetings: The next Board meeting was set for 10 a.m. Central Time on June 30, 2017, at Roughrider's office in Hazen, North Dakota.

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

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 2017 will include ground-source heat pumps and air-source heat pumps.

Members must buy and install qualifying systems between Jan. 1, 2017 and Dec. 31, 2017. 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



Obrigewitch



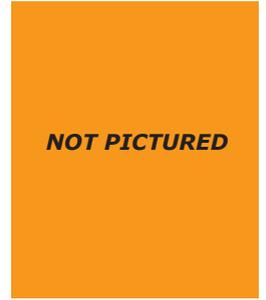
Hintz



Backer



Dockter



Irwin



Binstock



Goodwin



Schatz



Bebee



McCowan

Roughrider Electric Cooperative scholarship winners announced

As part of our commitment to community and area youth, Roughrider Electric Cooperative is pleased to award several scholarships for the 2016-17 school year.

The Roughrider Electric scholarship program is designed to encourage and recognize the academic achievements of the members of Roughrider Electric Cooperative and/or their dependent children. This recognition is in the form of scholarships.

Roughrider Electric awarded nine \$500 scholarships this year. One graduating senior from each of the high schools within our service area is chosen by his or her school to receive these funds. These schools include: Belfield, Beulah, Center-Stanton, Dickinson High, Dickinson Trinity, Hazen, Dickinson Hope Christian Academy, Richardton-Taylor and South Heart.

Roughrider Electric also awarded one \$500 scholarship to a graduating senior from a high school outside of our service area, but whose parents are members of our cooperative.

The following graduating seniors each received a scholarship award of \$500:

- Belfield High School, Jenna Obrigewitch, daughter of Kim and Chad
- Beulah High School, Kourtney Hintz, daughter of Traci and Kevin
- Center-Stanton High School, Karson Backer, son of Pat and Dusty
- Dickinson High School, Skylar Dockter, daughter of Gail and Ron
- Dickinson Hope Christian Academy, Tom Irwin, son of Tori and Tom
- Dickinson Trinity High School, Margo Binstock, daughter of Rita and Gerald
- Hazen High School, Bethany Goodwin, daughter of Tani and Russ
- Richardton-Taylor High School, Marissa Schatz, daughter of Stacia and Joel
- South Heart High School, Zachary Bebee, son of Mandy and Ryan
- At Large: Mandan High School, Maia Nadien Louise McCowan, daughter of Leann and David ■

Basin Electric Power Cooperative scholarship

Each year, Basin Electric Power Cooperative provides \$1,000 to Roughrider Electric Cooperative to be awarded as a scholarship to a qualified candidate. Roughrider Electric is pleased to be able to offer this

\$1,000 scholarship.

This recipient, Carley Haugen, was picked from all the qualified applications received. She is the daughter of Amy and Shane. ■

Employee scholarship goes to Bethany Goodwin

Roughrider was delighted to learn that Bethany Goodwin earned a \$1,000 scholarship from Basin Electric Power Cooperative. Each year, Basin Electric also offers an opportunity for children of member-cooperative employees to apply for one of 20 scholarships available to them. Now in its 26th year, the scholarship program remains focused on recognizing and encouraging

academic and community achievements of students in the region. It is also considered an investment in the economic future of rural areas.

Bethany is the daughter of Tani and Russ Goodwin of Hazen. Russ is the electrician foreman for Roughrider Electric Cooperative. ■

Two scholarship awards added in 2017

This year, Roughrider Electric Cooperative was pleased to learn that the board of directors of 3C Construction and West Dakota Utility Services have each generously extended a \$500 scholarship to each of its owners, including Roughrider. The intention of the scholarship is for students entering into the lineman program, mechanic program, etc., at a certified vocational

or technical school. We have incorporated this scholarship into our current scholarship program, which allows Roughrider to offer two more scholarship awards to member-dependents. Those receiving a \$500 scholarship include Drew Biffert, the son of Kim and Doug, and Gabe Rodakowski, son of Karen and David. ■

Roughrider Electric assists in developing leadership in our service area by helping worthy scholarship recipients obtain a higher education. We are proud to bring this program to the cooperative members and we have high expectations for its success. Scholarship information and applications will be available in December from high school counselors and on Roughrider Electric's website at roughriderelectric.com.

Drought deepens in N.D. COURTESY OF NDSU EXTENSION SERVICE

The latest U.S. Drought Monitor shows most of southwestern North Dakota is in severe to extreme drought.

As of the date *North Dakota Living* goes to press, all counties in Roughrider Electric Cooperative's service area are listed in extreme drought, including Mercer, Oliver, Stark, Dunn, Billings, Golden Valley and Hettinger.

After completing the ninth wettest six-month period, which ended in February, the precipitation

pattern started to change, according to Adnan Akyuz, professor of climatological practice at North Dakota State University and North Dakota's state climatologist.

The entire state is showing less-than-average precipitation during the last three-month period. Portions of central and south-central North Dakota received only 25 and 50 percent of normal precipitation during this period, and even less in some areas.

High winds in late May and early

June caused top soil to drift and dry.

"If average temperatures were not as cool as they had been, and if we did not follow a significantly wet six-month period, conditions would be worse," Akyuz says.

Dr. Akyuz predicts the dry conditions will persist throughout the summer.

Visit <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/> to see the latest U.S. Drought Monitor map. Click on North Dakota for a closer look. ■



www.roughriderelectric.com

HAZEN OFFICE

701-748-2293 or 800-748-5533
800 Highway Dr., Hazen, ND 58545
7:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. CST Monday-Friday
(Summer Hours Memorial Day through Labor Day.)

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
(Summer Hours Memorial Day through Labor Day.)

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

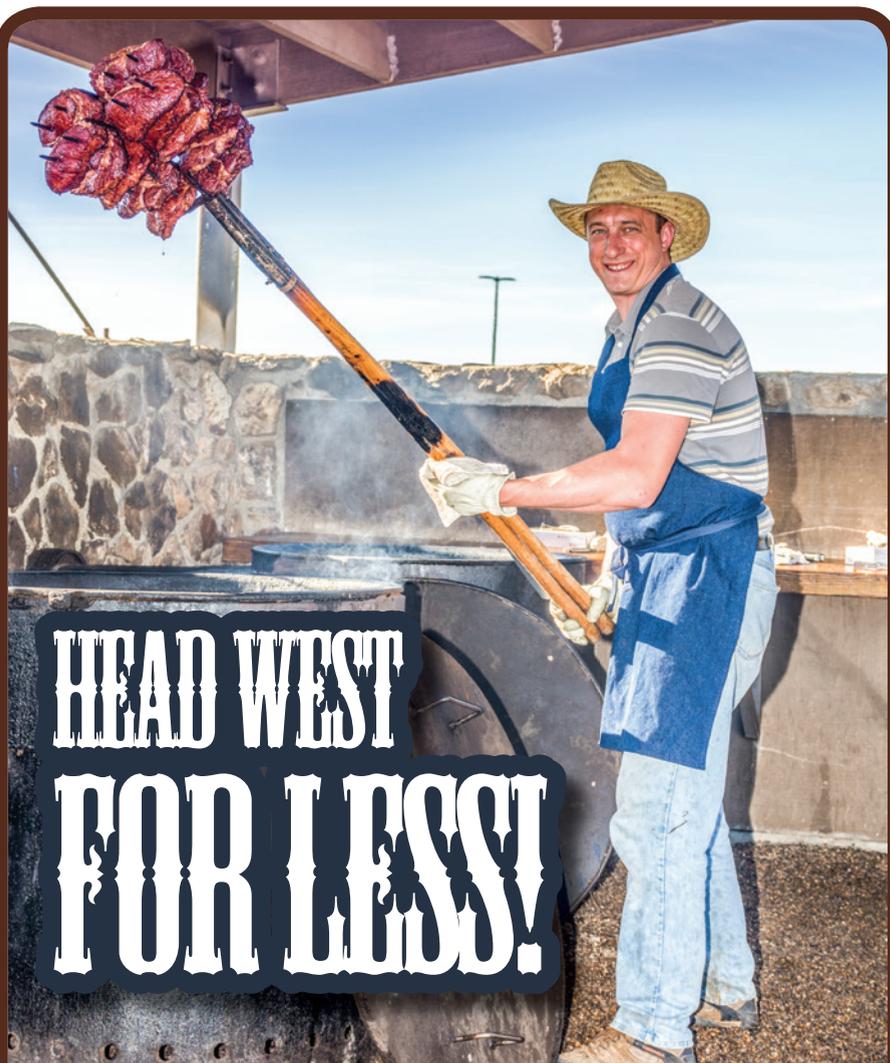
MANAGEMENT

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



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twitter.com/RoughriderCoop



**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:

- ✓ Bunkhouse Motel
- ✓ Badlands Motel
- ✓ Rough Riders Hotel

Members also receive 20 percent off at the Cowboy Hall of Fame by providing the discount code (Touch2017) at the door. Advanced reservations are not available.

Hotel rooms book fast, so please reserve your rooms as soon as possible.

Call 1-800-MEDORA-1 for reservations and provide the discount code (Touch2017) to receive your savings.