## ROUGHRIDER NEWS

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

# Roughrider Electric announces Youth Tour winner

For many teens, the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour is full of "firsts." It may be the first time they left the state, flew on a plane, visited the nation's capital or have been away from their family for an extended period of time. Even more are seeing and experiencing the larger world through another's perspective.



Tessa Zarak

The Youth Tour sprang from a suggestion by former Sen. Lyndon Johnson to a national gathering of co-ops. Johnson felt youth from rural areas would benefit by visiting Washington, D.C., to see firsthand how government works and gain a wider perspective through the experience. From this idea, the Youth Tour evolved.

Today, high school sophomores and juniors selected by their electric co-ops participate in a weeklong trip to the nation's capital. The program has grown exponentially since its inception.

North Dakota sends a delegation of 15 students. These students are selected by their cooperative and chosen through an essay writing contest. This year's question was, "What moment in American history do you wish you had been a part of and what would you have contributed?"

Through this contest, Roughrider Electric Cooperative has selected Tessa Zarak, a sophomore at South Heart High School, to attend the Youth Tour.

#### **Meet Tessa**

Tessa is the daughter of Chris and Emily Zarak and lives on her family farm and ranch with her parents and younger siblings, Will and Harper.

Her dad encouraged her to apply for the Youth Tour.

"He knows that I enjoy writing and that I put a lot of thought into my essays, and so he asked me if I wanted to apply," Tessa said.

In doing so, Tessa won a trip of a lifetime to a destination she has always wanted to visit.

"I have always wanted to go to Washington, D.C., and I am so grateful that my parents pushed me to write this essay, because they knew it would be a huge opportunity," Tessa said. "I am excited for everything that I am going to do on Youth Tour, but I'm probably most excited to see the Smithsonian, specifically, the National Air and Space Museum."

In her spare time, Tessa enjoys participating in many extracurricular activities. She is the South Heart FFA chapter historian and a student council representative, and she participates in speech, Acalympics, the South Heart Anacrusis Choir and much more.

#### Read her winning essay:

"We fight not to enslave, but to set a country free, and to make room upon the earth for honest men to live in." These words, said by Thomas Paine, convinced the 13 colonies they needed to fight and be independent of every European monarchy that had ever set foot on American soil. While Thomas Paine and the rest of the Founding Fathers are long gone, their legacy lives on in the

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generations of Americans who have been born free and in the greatest country in the world.

The American Revolution has always fascinated me. Whenever we talked about it in history class. I loved learning about it, but I was always left with questions, specifically, what happened after the war? We learn about the surrender at Yorktown, the Paris Peace Conference, and then we jump straight to the Constitutional Convention, nearly four years after the war ended. This version of history left much to be desired in my curious mind, so I researched. I learned about the Articles of Confederation and the key roles several men would play in the founding of our country. If I could travel back in time, I would love to go back to the birth of our nation and figure out what worked for these new Americans.

The Articles of Confederation aren't talked about much in history, because they didn't work. They kept a centralized government and had a leader that served for one year, but the power was quite limited, because almost all laws required unanimous support from all 13 states.

The articles just simply weren't strong enough for the struggling young country. Nearly all the states were on the brink of economic disaster, and the federal government didn't have enough power to settle disputes between states. Also under these articles, the federal government couldn't tax the states and the country was going through massive inflation. If I had been there when these articles were written, I would've argued that none of America's issues are going to be solved unanimously and that taxation is an "evil necessity."

However, the Articles of Confederation didn't stick around for long. On May 25, 1787, the Constitutional Convention started. I would have loved to be a part of the Constitutional Convention. To be in the presence of such great intellectual minds, and to witness the complete redesign of the government would be incredible. I feel if I could contribute anything to this convention of delegates, it would be to stress the importance of the people. Without the support of the people, the country is powerless and can do next to nothing for them. Although I tell myself that I would talk about the evils of slavery and the importance of women's rights, during the time and among the conference of



Tessa enjoys participating in many extracurricular activities including FFA.

delegates, I think I would lose my courage. This is not a silly fear, because most of the signers of the Constitution were invested in the slave trade and were willing to go to great lengths to protect it.

Something different about this new United States was its military. In most European countries at the time, those in the military were regarded as imperious, god-like figures. In the United States, that was not the case. During the Revolutionary War, everyone knew someone in the military. Whether they were a part of your own family or a neighbor from down the road, you knew them. This also strengthened the idea that the military was also "a part of the people" and something I also would have stressed at this convention. The military is not just going to follow the president around lightly. For most of them, their alliance was first and foremost to their family, and then their state. The federal government would need to be able to supersede the state. On Sept. 17, 1787, the Constitution was ratified, and it gave us the amendments and laws that are still in effect to this day.

When we learn about early American history, this time is often glanced over, when, in reality, it was probably the most important time for this country. The promise that America was founded for good, honest men to live on, was second to one thing – the promise of freedom for all who came here. Even though slavery still plagued our great nation until 1865, those generations who are now born on American soil are free and will stay free for their entire lifetime. Those men that were a part of the founding of our country and the Constitutional Convention took upon a task of the utmost importance, and I truly wish I could've been there to witness it.

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Ava Messer



Cole Schneider



Ian Dorval



Katelynn Albers



Layton Sailer







Mackenzee Schneider



Rachel Dazell



Tacy Palahniuk

## Cooperative scholarship winners announced



Taylyn Collingwood

As part of our commitment to community and area youth, Roughrider Electric Cooperative is pleased to award several scholarships for the 2022-23 school year.

Roughrider Electric assists in developing leadership in our service area by helping worthy recipients obtain a higher education with assistance from a scholarship. This scholarship program is designed to recognize and encourage the achievements of area students. 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, Richardton-Taylor, South Heart and Hope Christian Academy. Roughrider Electric also awarded one \$500 scholarship to a graduating

senior from a high school outside of our service area, whose parents are members of our cooperative.

We congratulate the following graduating seniors, who each received a scholarship award of \$500:

- Belfield High School: Tacy Palahniuk
- Beulah High School: Taylyn Collingwood
- Dickinson High School: Lucas Shilman
- Dickinson Trinity High School: Ian Dorval
- Hazen High School: Cole Schneider
- Richardton-Taylor High School: Ava Messer
- Dickinson Hope Christian Academy: Rachel Dazell
- South Heart High School: Mackenzee Schneider
- · Center-Stanton High School: Katelynn Albers
- St. Mary's High School (at large): Lear Rohde

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#### 3C lineworker scholarship

Each year, 3C Construction offers \$500 to Roughrider Electric Cooperative to be awarded as a scholarship to a qualified candidate pursing a career as a lineworker. Roughrider Electric is pleased to offer this scholarship to Layton Sailer from Hazen High School, who was selected from all the qualified applications received.

#### **Basin Electric 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 offer this \$1,000 scholarship to Abigail Lee from Hazen High School, who was selected from all the qualified applications received.

#### Luck-of-the-draw scholarships

Roughrider Electric will award three \$500 luck-of-the-draw scholarships to be drawn at our annual meeting on June 7 in Dickinson. All high school seniors whose parents/guardians are members of Roughrider Electric are eligible for this scholarship. Students must attend our annual meeting with at least one parent/guardian and are required to RSVP for the meeting. To RSVP, go to www.roughriderelectric.com and click "Your Community" and "Scholarships," and scroll down.

### Manager's message:

## Get involved! Join us at the annual meeting



Jason Bentz

One of our biggest events of the year is coming up, when Roughrider Electric Cooperative will host our annual meeting for you, the members we proudly serve. I always look forward to this event, because it's a great opportunity for me and our employees to talk with

our members and hear what's on their minds.

We hope you'll join us for the annual meeting, which will take place June 7 in Dickinson. For those who are unable to attend in person, we also offer a virtual option, which can be found on our website. Whether you attend in person or online, we thank you in advance for getting involved, because your participation means so much to us.

During the annual meeting, we'll share a few brief business updates, offer tasty food and prizes, and have a lot of fun, too!

Spending time with you and hearing your

take on our community's energy future is so important to us. In fact, it's essential, because everything we do is shaped by the members of our community. As we navigate major changes in the coming years, we need to hear from you and your neighbors to inform our planning as we strive to meet the long-term needs of all Roughrider Electric members.

Every year, we invest funds to make updates to our local system, which helps maintain reliability and grid resilience. Think of it this way: Every time you pay your electric bill, you're actually investing in your local area. By making these investments in our local system, we can ensure you have reliable power for everyday life.

We hope you'll exercise the benefits of your co-op membership and join us for the annual meeting on June 7. We look forward to seeing you!

Avoor I Bort

## Roughrider annual meeting June 7

Roughrider Electric Cooperative is gearing up for the 2023 annual meeting, which will be held June 7 in Dickinson.

The annual meeting is a special time for co-op members to gather, share experiences, hear from co-op leadership, enjoy a hearty meal with friends and family, and perhaps most importantly, vote to elect your board members.

Your electric cooperative is not owned by faraway investors, and it is not overseen by an appointed board of directors. Your electric cooperative is operated by a democratically elected board that is given the privilege to serve because of your vote.

The annual meeting notice will be sent to all members via mail in May.

#### **Voting instructions**

Voting by mail is authorized by Roughrider Electric Cooperative's bylaws and will be offered to members in connection with the June 7 annual meeting. Ballots and instructions will be mailed 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 90 days before the meeting and has been signed by at least 15 members.

Mail-in ballots will only be sent to members who request them. All ballots mailed or hand-delivered must be received by the cooperative no later than 4 p.m. CT Thursday, June 2.

Please note: Members attending the annual meeting in person who have voted by mail-in ballot will not be entitled to vote at the annual meeting. Their prior submission will constitute their vote(s) on the items on the ballot.

To request a ballot, please contact Brad Quenette at 800-748-5533 or bquenette@roughriderelectric.com. ■

## Employee news

Congratulations to Shawn Olson in his new role as line superintendent! His 29 years of experience and leadership will be instrumental to our success as we continue to serve the needs of our membership.

Congratulations to Brock Swensrud in his new role as working foreman in Dickinson, and to Tyler Phelps in his new role as general foreman.



Shawn Olson



**Brock Swensrud** 



Tyler Phelps



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## Unclaimed capital credits

The following list contains the names of current or former Roughrider Electric Cooperative members who had unclaimed capital credit checks mailed in December 2022.

These checks have either been received, but not cashed, or returned to Roughrider Electric by the postal service, because it could not locate the members at the address on file. A further search by Roughrider Electric personnel has

**A&M FARMS** AAFEDT, STEPHANIE M. AARSETH, ANDY AASAND, HARDIN AASEN, AIMEE AASEN, DEBRA ABELSETH, HOLLY ACKERMAN, MATT ACKERMAN, RON ADKINS, AMY ADM-BENSON, QUINN ADOLF, MELODY AIRGAS ON-SITE SAFETY SERVICES INC. ALBERS, EUGENE ALBERTS, ATLANTA ALBERTS, JOHN ALFRED & TONY WITTINGER **REVOCABLE TRUST** ALLEN, CHRIS ALLRED, JAMES L. ALPERT, REBECCA AMANN, NORA ANC ENTERPRISES LLC ANDERSON, DAN ANDERSON, DARRYL ANDERSON, DAVID ANDERSON, KRISTINE ANDERSON, LANCE ANNABLE, LISA ANSBRO PETROLEUM COLLC ANTELOPE FRYBURG LLC ANTON, ARNOLD S. ARDATH & WAYLAND **NICHOLS ESTATE** ARMBRUST, DAVID ARNTSON, MATT ASH, BRIAN AUSTIN, BILL AYERS, ANGELA BAAKEN, JERRY BACH, SYLVIA B. BACHMAN, LAVONE BAER, DERRICK

BAIN, JAMES R. BAKER HUGHES INTEQ INC. BALLIET. TOM BALSDON, VIRGINIA BANKS, SANDY BARANKO, GREGG BARTA, CHAD BASIC ENERGY SERVICES BASSETT, SHERRIE BAUMANN, CARLEEN BAUMANN, STEPHANIE BEADLE, RONNY BEA'S ATTIC BEAUDETTE, NICOLE BECK, CODY BEDARD, JAMES BEDELL, RANDALL BEEHLER, DENNIS BELDEN, TODD BELLAND, MIKE BENNETT, BRENDA BENNETT, MIKE BENSON, NELSON BERG, CARTER BERG, MARVIN BERGER, EDDIE BERGER, LARRY A. BERGER, TIFFANIE BERLAND, LARRY D. BERRETH, SHANNON K. BERRY, DAVE BESSINGPOS, NANCY **BESTON. JAMES BEULAH EAGLES** BICHLER, NICOLE BIERI, ERIN BIERMAN, RORY BIFFERT, RANDY BIG K HOMES INC. **BIG K INDUSTRIES BIG SKY ATHLETE** BIGNALL, RICHARD BILLMAN, KEITH BINSTOCK, LEAH BIRD, DALE

not turned up their whereabouts. If you know of the whereabouts of members on this list, please have them contact Roughrider Electric at 800-748-5533. Please keep in mind not all of the capital credit amounts are large, but we would like to get these checks to the proper parties. Persons who wish to claim checks from the following list should be prepared to provide proper personal identification.

BISHOP, TERESA BLACK, JIM BLACKLER, GEORGIA BLETH, JAY BLOOD, LINDA S. **BOEHLER, CHARMAINE BOEHLER, JUSTIN** BOEHM, KARMEN BOERSMA, CASEY BOHLMAN, CHUCK BOHN, NICOLE **BOLIN, MARK BOLSTAD, CLARENCE BOLSTER, VICTOR** BORNSEN, JULIE BOSCH, SCOTT BOSTICK, DANIEL T. **BOTTEICHER, SANDY** BOTTON, ALBERT BOWEN, LAURIE **BOWERS, TRACEY** BOYCE, JOHN **BOYKO FOODS LLC** BRAMMER, CLAUDE E. BRAUNBERGER, EUGENE JR. BRIGGS, JEFFREY T. **BROWN, BRITTANY** BROWN, CODY BROWN, ROGER BRUCE, ARLAND A. **BUCKMAN, CRAIG** BUCKMAN, JERALD L. **BUECHLER, LANCE** BURCELL, YVONNE **BURGGRAFF, JUSTIN** BURROUGHS, KARI BUTLER, WILLIAM E. CANTLON, LISA CAROW, ROBIN D. CARPENTER, JASON CARSON, RYAN CARTER, BEN CASSON, ERIC W. CAVETT, ANGELA M.

CAZA DRILLING

BISHOP, GREG D.

CHASE, MICHAEL CHRISTENSEN, RANDY CHRISTENSEN, RIC CHRUSZCH, BOB CHRUSZCH, PAUL CIAVARELLA, JAMES C. CISAR, GWEN CLARK, LORNE D. CLARYS, SUSAN CLONCE, VALERIE CLUB STAFFING INC. CLYDE, KEVIN COATES, R.D. COFFMAN, CHRIS COLBRESE, SONJA **COLONY WEST REALTY** CONITZ, KARI COOK, CANDACE COOPER, CARL D. COOPER, CLARISSA COOPER, KELLY CORWIN, JEFF COUCH, TARA L. **COWBOY CAFE** CROSS, RICHARD L. CROW, MIKE CURRENCE, SARAH **CURTIS, JENNETTE** CUTTING, KARI **CV ENTERPRISE** CZAPIEWSK, MIKE DACAR, CARL DAILEY, PAUL R. DAKOTA \$ & GIFTS DAKOTA BUS SERVICE DAKOTA WAY INC. DALE'S REFRIGERATION DASSINGER, MARK DAVIDSON, GEORGE D. DAVIS, DANIEL K. DAVIS, ROBBIE D. DAWSON, JACOB **DEAPOLIS CEMETERY** DECKER, RANDY DECKER, RUSSELL DEHNE, GORDON

CHAPMAN, DAVID

BAER, KEITH

BAHLEY, JARED

BIRDSBILL, PATRICIA

BISCOMB, CHRISTENA

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DEICHERT, TED DELGADO, ANALITA DEMAREY, DEBORAH M. DESIGN 1 INC. DEURR, LLOYD DEWHIRST, RACHEL **DICKINSON VET SERVICE** DIEDERICH, DOUGLAS DILLINGER, TONYA DINIUS, CALLIE DIRE, LEE **DOBLER** CONSTRUCTION INC. DOCHUK, ROBERT DOLAJAK, JOHN DOLL, KEVIN W. DONE DEAL AUTO SALES DOPPLER, TOM DORVAL, DANE DORVAL, DELRAE D. DOTSON, TERRY DOTZENROD, JACQUELINE DOWELL-SCHLUMBERGER DOWNING, JASON **DREFA - FAIRWINDS** DRESSLER, TY DUKART, JOSEPH M. DUKART, MARTINA DUKART, REED DUNCAN, WILLIAM DUNN, MICHELLE DURBIN, CHRISTOPHER DURHAM, BRIAN **DUTKE, JASON** DUTTENHEFER, DONALD J, EAST END AUTO AND TRUCK PARTS EASTERLING, CATHY K. ECKELBERG, TESSA EDINGTON, RUSSELL EINERT, MATT EISENMANN, CLAUDIA ELDER. WILBER ELLWEIN, DUANE ELMA M. LAPP ESTATE EMLING, JOHN R. **FNFRGY** SYSTEMS INDUSTRIAL ENG, JEFF

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ENG, JEFF
ENO, CLAYTON
ERLENBUSCH, BRODY
ERMAN, JEFFREY
ETHERINGTON, BERNIECE
ETIENNE, DANIELLE L.
EVANS, JOHN W.
EVJEN, DARREN
EWONIUK, JOHN M.
FAGERLAND, JEREMY
FAHLSING, MARY
FAHLSING, RHONDA
FARRELL, JAMES
FAUT, MARVEE
FAUT, NIKKI

FEDDEMA, GRANT FELSKE, RONALD G. FERDERER, TAMMY FERGUSON, DAVID A. **FERGUSON** ENTERPRISES INC. FERNANDEZ, JUSTIN FETSCH, JOSHUA FICEK, JOEL FICEK, TERRY FISCHER, JULIE R. FISCHER, MERLE FISHER, KEN FISHER, LANAE FISHER, SHEILA FITTERER, CATHERINE (MANDIE) FLADELAND, CASEY FLECK, CHRISTINE FLOBERG, MARC FOREST SERVICE USDA FORSCH, SHERRI FORSTER, ZANE **FOUR SQUARE** ASSOCIATES INC. FOX, WENDY FRAGOZA, GREG FRANK, GEORGE FRANK, LAVERNE FRANK, A. SCHMIDT ESTATE FRANKLIN, AIMEE FRANKLIN, LUKE C. FREADRICH, KEITH FRITO LAY FRITZ, SCOTT A. FROEHLICH, DEBBY FROEHLICH, JOE FROHLICH, LAURIE FUCHS, FRANCES FULTON, KEEGAN GABEL, JAY GACKLE, JENNY GALLAGHER. NEIL GALSTER, EDNA GANTT, PATRICIA M. GARS LANDSCAPING GARTNER, SHEILA GAUTHIER, GERALD GEESTMAN, KAYLA GEHRING, BRIAN GEIGER, HENRY JR. GEISZLER, TIM GEMMELL, KATHY GENO'S TRAVEL CENTER GERLACH, W.W. GIEGLE, CURTIS A. GIENGER, OTTO GILBERTSON, JAMIE GLICK, ELIZABETH GLOBSTAD, HARRY S.

GOETZ, DEAN

GOFF, RONALD W.

GOODHEART, C.J.

GORDEN, JAMES A. GRAN, RISA GRANT, ROBERT A. GRATZ, JUNE GRAUPE, JEFF GRAY, KIMBERLY R. GRAY, SHAWN GRIFFIN, JULENE GRIWZOW, KENNETH A. GROGAN, LINDSEY GROSS, MITCHELL GROVE, JESSICA **GROWERS UNLIMITED** GRUMAN, KARLA GUSTAFSON, NOELLE **GUTHMILLER, MELISSA** HAINES CONSTRUCTION HALDEMAN, NATALIE HALL, BRAD HALL, CHASE HALL, NOAH HANSEN, BEN J. HANSON, SCOTT D. HANSON HOT OIL SERVICE CO. HARRISON, EVAN J. HARRISON, LEE H. HARSCHE, MORIAH HART, KENT D. HARTFIEL, RICHARD P. HATZENBILER, CHRIST HAUCK, EUGENE HEART, VALERIE

HEIDRICH, DAVE

HEIDT, BLAINE C. HEIDT, CASEY HEILMAN, APRIL HEINEMEYER, CARMEN HEINLE, DALE HEINLE, MYRON HEISER, JANICE HELANDER, JON C. HELDE, JASON HELMILA, APRIL HEMMELMAN, SCOTT HENKE, MARTIN HENZE, CHRISTY HERKER, BRENT HERRMANN, MARTWIN HESS, CALVIN HEWSON, JARET HICKS, JOHN HIGH COUNTRY PIPELINE HIGH PLAINS INC. HILDRE, NANCY HITLAND, JEFFERY A. HLEBECHUK MELISSA DBA **BULLY CAFE** HLIBICHUK, JAMES

Names A-H are included on this list, and additional names will appear in the next issue of the local pages of North Dakota Living.

#### What are capital credits?

Roughrider Electric Cooperative is a notfor-profit business. We exist only to provide goods and services to you, our members, not to make a profit for a shareholder or investor. Cooperatives are operated to provide at-cost electric service to their members. When all the expenses are paid, the cooperative's margins are credited to you in the form of capital credits. As the financial condition of your cooperative allows, you are paid these capital credits. In the meantime, your capital credits are your equity in the cooperative. Refunds are allocated based on the amount of business a member does with the cooperative - the more electricity used, the larger the capital credit check. If you have questions about your capital credits or would like a more detailed explanation, contact Roughrider Electric at 800-748-5533.

### Safety Starts with me:

### Make room for roadside crews

When the power goes out, so does Roughrider Electric Cooperatives's line crews. Lineworkers are the first to respond after an outage occurs, and they work tirelessly to restore power to the communities they serve.

"If you're traveling and see one of our crews on the side of the road, we kindly ask that you move over if possible and give them a little extra space to work," said Tanner Goetz, working foreman at Roughrider Electric. "We care about the safety of all, and this extra precaution ensures just that."

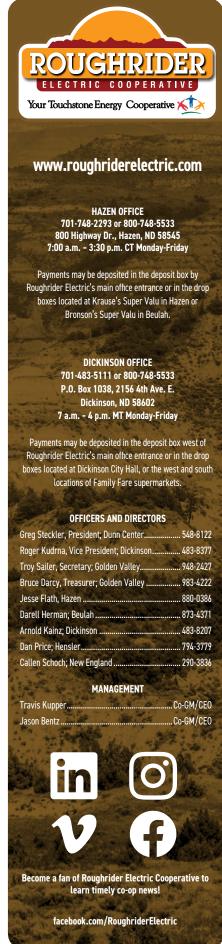
As the North Dakota move over law notes, if you approach a crew while traveling on a two-lane road, moving over to the next lane might not be an option. In this case, we simply ask you to slow down when approaching roadside crews. If you approach a crew while traveling on a four-lane road, and safety and traffic conditions allow, we ask you to



move into the far lane.

Utility crews aren't the only ones who could use the extra space. Emergency responders, such as law enforcement officers, firefighters and emergency medical technicians, often find themselves responding to emergency situations near busy roadways. We ask you to follow the same procedures to help keep these crews safe.

"There's plenty of room for all. Let's work together to keep everyone safe on our local roadways," Goetz said.



### **Board meeting highlights**

When, where and who: The board of directors of Roughrider Electric Cooperative met at Roughrider's Dickinson office on March 31.

**Minutes of the previous meeting:** The board reviewed and approved the minutes of the Feb. 17 meeting.

**Co-general managers' report:** Travis Kupper and Jason Bentz presented the co-general managers' report.

**WDUS/3C updates:** A February report was presented to the board from WDUS and subsidiaries.

**Board member reports:** Attendees at the meetings over the past month reported to the board.

**CFO report:** Alex Craigmile presented to the board with a summary of financial reports.

**Operations report:** Shawn Olson provided the board with an update.

**Member services/key account report:** Leonard Hibl provided the board with an update on his written report.

**Legal report:** Jennifer Grosz provided the board with an update on the status of projects addressed in her written report.