



# ROUGH RIDER NEWS

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

NOVEMBER 2020



PHOTO BY GARMEN DENVEY

## What's inside:

*Billy Kummer (foreground) and Kaden Ficek*

## Community-focused, family friendly

The week of Oct. 19 to 23, Roughrider Electric Cooperative celebrated Careers in Energy Week. In this month's local pages on C6, learn about the jobs within your local Touchstone Energy® Cooperative — and how our jobs can offer challenging roles and fulfilling careers!

- **Roughrider holds historic annual meeting**
- **Co-ops contribute to Stanton Fire Hall**
- **Need help with heating costs? LIHEAP can help!**
- **Meeting minutes and more**



PHOTO BY BRAD QUENETTE

Roughrider  
Board Chairman  
**Roger Kudrna**

# Thank you, members, for making your annual meeting possible

*Mail-in ballots provide quorum; business held during virtual meeting*

BY CARMEN DEVNEY

**M**ore than 880 ballots cast by the Roughrider Electric Cooperative membership, who voted by mail-in ballot for the board of director elections, made this year's annual meeting possible.

In a historic change about one week before the meeting, the Roughrider Electric board of directors voted during a regular board meeting to change the annual meeting from in-person to virtual, due to the elevated number of COVID-19 infections in Roughrider's service area.

The meeting was held Friday, Oct. 9 at 10 a.m. CT. Members could watch it live on Roughrider Electric's website [www.roughriderelectric.com](http://www.roughriderelectric.com), thanks to broadcasting by cooperative friend Consolidated Telcom.

Chairman Roger Kudrna opened the meeting by saying, "This year, the way we are uniting our members is different, but the goal remains the same: To give our members a voice, information about your cooperative, and multiple options for participating in your annual meeting in a way that is as safe as possible, given our current circumstances."

During the business meeting, three directors were re-elected to the board in each of the cooperative's districts.

With no nominations received through the petition process, the following incumbents were re-elected for another three-year term: Arnold Kainz in the West District, Greg Steckler in the Central District, and Dan Price in the East District.

Members also voted through mail-in ballot to approve the 2019 annual meeting minutes and 2019 financial report, which were presented in the annual report mailed to members in September.

Members who voted by mail-in ballot were eligible to receive a select number of "door" prizes. Winners were announced Oct. 13 to 15 on Roughrider Electric's Facebook page and notified directly. Winners are also listed on Roughrider's website at [www.roughriderelectric.com](http://www.roughriderelectric.com) (click annual meeting).

Members, your participation in the director election made this year's annual meeting possible. Thank you for being active and involved!

As always, stay safe, and thank you for your understanding during this ever-changing time! Your safety and electric service has always been — and will always be — our priority. ■

# CO-OPS CARE

## Co-ops response to COVID-19

### Providing essential services in our communities

*Roughrider Linemen Mitch Krebs, Tyler Schlosser and Brock Swensrud*



**iWill**  **PERFORM  
ACCOUNT  
COMMIT  
ENGAGE**

**NDARECs**  
North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives

**ROUGH RIDER**  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



PHOTO BY DANIEL ARENS, HAZEN STAR

Footings are in place for a new fire station in Stanton, as well as a new sewer system. The new fire station, paid in part through a low-interest loan from the Rural Development Finance Corporation, will allow the rural and city fire departments in Stanton to house all their equipment inside one location.

## **Roughrider Electric and RDFC contribute to Stanton Fire Hall**

BY CARMEN DEVNEY, WITH ASSISTANCE FROM DANIEL ARENS, HAZEN STAR

**C**onstruction on a new fire hall in Stanton is making progress — thanks to good work and area partnerships.

Honoring the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives value “commitment to community,” area cooperatives have joined efforts to help finance the fire hall and support their member-owners.

With grants from Basin Electric Power Cooperative,

Great River Energy and West River Telecom (WRT), and a \$54,000 community capital loan from the Rural Development Finance Corporation (RDFC), the new fire hall will provide much-needed space to house trucks and equipment. Roughrider Electric Cooperative and WRT are pleased to be participating members of RDFC and serve the rural Stanton community and beyond.

RDFC was founded by North Dakota’s electric

and telecommunications cooperatives to help rural communities get access to low-interest financing.

Additional sources of funding included grants from RDO and Union State Bank, the city of Stanton, the Stanton City Fire Department and the Stanton Rural Fire Department. Additional grants are being sought.

The total price tag for the new facility is about \$212,000.

The project is a joint effort between the Stanton Rural Fire Protection District and the Stanton Volunteer Fire Department.

The old fire hall was located near the Stanton Civic Center, and the department had outgrown its space.

Combined, Stanton's firefighting entities have four trucks; two of which are parked outside, and two are parked in a Public Works building. The arrangement hindered response time because the outdoor trucks needed to be filled with water prior to firefighters

responding to an emergency.

Fire Chief Gordy Neumiller says the new facility will be large enough to house equipment, and host staff meetings and trainings.

"It can also be used in the event of a disaster, whether it's a natural disaster or a shooting or something like that. It can also be a place for search and rescue to work from," he says. "We're looking forward to getting it completed."

The new fire hall is located across from Coal Country Inn, on the south side of Harmon Avenue.

Construction began in September and is expected to be complete in time to move the equipment indoors before the weather turns cold.

To provide financial support or learn how you can volunteer within one of the departments, call 701-748-2591. ■

## What is Rural Development Finance Corporation (RDFC), and how can it help our rural communities?

Founded in 1994 by North Dakota's electric and telecommunications cooperatives including Roughrider Electric Cooperative and West River Telecom, RDFC helps rural communities thrive by offering low-interest financing.

RDFC is a nonprofit corporation that encourages economic diversification and community vitality through the generation of funding that supports sustainable asset building. Funding for RDFC programs comes from fee income generated by Dakotas America LLC. Support is provided by the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives (NDAREC).

Due to Roughrider and WRT's memberships in RDFC, communities in our service area are eligible to apply for a grant or low-interest loan. The Stanton Rural Fire Protection District and Stanton Volunteer Fire Department applied for and received a Community Capital Loan from RDFC, which offers a two-percent interest rate and must be paid within 10 years. The

\$54,000 loan funds will be used to construct a 50x80 pole frame structure to house the fire department trucks and equipment. RDFC's revolving loan fund offers the CCL, Participation Loan Fund and the Flex PACE program, which help ensure access to a variety of essential services including fire and emergency rescues.

Lori Capouch provides administrative support to RDFC in her role as rural development director for NDAREC. She says it's been inspiring to witness the entrepreneurship of rural people.

"RDFC represents a network of North Dakota cooperatives that are concerned for the communities they serve. Our ultimate goal is to enhance our members' quality of life," Capouch says. "It's been a great joy to help people move their dreams forward and improve the communities where our members live, work and play."

For an application, assistance or questions concerning RDFC, visit [www.ndarec.com](http://www.ndarec.com) and click Rural Development and RDFC. Or, contact Lori Capouch at 701-667-6444 or [lcapouch@ndarec.com](mailto:lcapouch@ndarec.com). ■



Rural Development  
Finance Corporation  
GROWING COMMUNITIES

## Roughrider Electric celebrates Careers in Energy Week



PHOTO BY CARMEN DENNEY

**Brock Swensrud**

The week of Oct. 19 to 23, Roughrider Electric Cooperative celebrated Careers in Energy Week. Roughrider Electric employs 40 people in Hazen and Dickinson who work a variety of jobs ranging from linemen and foremen to customer service representatives,

bookkeepers, locators and more. Our extended co-op family, Innovative Energy Alliance Cooperative, provides a secondary layer of specialized employees who work as engineers and in human resources, information technology, safety and more.

Our goal at Roughrider Electric is to deliver safe, reliable and affordable energy to our members-owners — and also improve the quality of life across our service area, when possible. A cooperative is unique because we belong to the communities we serve. This gives us better insight into meeting member needs.

It takes a variety of skills to develop new technologies and infrastructure, keep the electric grid secure, and power the lives and economies of our local communities.

If you are considering a career in the energy industry, consider working for an electric cooperative and helping us make progress possible in the energy industry. ■

## Need Help with Heating Costs? LIHEAP can help.

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) helps eligible low-income households with home heating costs.

- Heating assistance
- Weatherization services (insulation, weather stripping, etc.)
- Furnace and chimney cleaning
- Furnace repair and replacement
- Emergency assistance

Applications are accepted from October 1 through May 31 for each heating season.

For help filling out and submitting the LIHEAP application, call 1-800-823-2417 ext: 140.



[www.communityoptionsnd.com](http://www.communityoptionsnd.com)



## Report from **THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS** **SEPT. 25, 2020**

**When, where and who:** A Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors of Roughrider Electric Cooperative, Inc. (Roughrider) was held via conference call Sept. 25, 2020.

**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 Aug. 28, 2020, meeting.

**Co-General Managers' report:** Don Franklund and Travis Kupper presented the managers' report. Mr. Kupper provided the Board with an update on how COVID-19 is affecting the cooperative. Mr. Kupper also reported how COVID-19 has affected other cooperatives' annual meetings. Roughrider's lobbies remain closed. Outside crews are distancing and working in designated pairs.

**Long-Range Financial Forecast:** Mr. Craigmile presented the Long-Range Financial Forecast to the Board.

**2020 Annual Meeting:** The Board discussed matters pertaining to the Annual Meeting. The Board also

discussed the goal of protecting the cooperative and providing a safe working environment for its employees. The Board discussed the prudence of holding an in-person annual meeting given the increased contraction rate for COVID-19 in western North Dakota. The Board decided to hold a virtual meeting only.

**Confirmation of date and location of 2021 Annual Meeting:** The Board discussed the date and location of the annual meeting. The 2021 annual meeting will be held in Dickinson, North Dakota, on June 2, 2021.

**Operations and Construction report:** Mr. Bentz referred the Board to his written report. Mr. Bentz reported that Roughrider had approximately 20 new service requests in the past month.

**Upcoming meetings:** The next Board meeting was set for 8 a.m. MT on Oct. 30, 2020, to be held via conference call.

**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**

**R**oughrider Electric Cooperative is continuing the conservation and energy-efficiency program. The incentives help you, the member, become more energy efficient.

The program for 2020 will include ground-source heat pumps and air-source heat pumps.

Members must buy and install qualifying systems between Jan. 1, 2020 and Dec. 31, 2020. 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](mailto: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

# Holiday closings

Roughrider Electric Cooperative's offices will be closed Wednesday, Nov. 11, in observance of Veterans Day, and Thursday and Friday, Nov. 26 and 27, for the Thanksgiving holiday.

Line crews will be available in the case of an emergency or power outage.

## Clearing snow brings risks

When winter wraps us in a blanket of snow, we grab a shovel or start the snowblower. But big snowstorms – and even everyday snowfalls – bring a risk of injury or death by shoveling.

So, why so many deaths? Shoveling snow is just another household chore, right?

Not really, says the American Heart Association. While most people won't have a problem, shoveling snow can put some people at risk of heart attack. Sudden exertion, like moving hundreds of pounds of snow after being sedentary for several months, can put a big strain on the heart. Pushing a heavy snow blower also can cause injury.

And, there's the cold factor. Cold weather can increase heart rate and blood pressure. This is true even in healthy people. Individuals over the age of 40 or who are relatively inactive should be particularly careful.

### The National Safety Council recommends the following tips to shovel safely:

- Do not shovel after eating or while smoking.
- Take it slow and stretch before you begin.
- Push the snow rather than lifting it.
- If you do lift it, use a small shovel or only partially fill the shovel.
- Lift with your legs, not your back.
- Do not work to the point of exhaustion.
- Know the signs of a heart attack, and stop immediately and call 911 if you're experiencing any of them; every minute counts.
- Don't pick up that shovel without a doctor's permission if you have a history of heart disease. A clear driveway is not worth your life.

### Snow blower safety

In addition to possible heart strain from pushing a heavy snow blower, be safe with tips from the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons, including:

- If the blower jams, turn it off.
- Keep your hands away from the moving parts.
- Be aware of the carbon monoxide risk of running a snow blower in an enclosed space.
- Add fuel outdoors, before starting, and never add fuel when it is running.
- Never leave it unattended when it is running.

### Playing on a huge snow pile

Kids love sliding down huge piles of snow in the wintertime. But sometimes, the snow pile is near or even directly underneath power lines, and they could get too close to the lines.

It's important to pile cleared snow a good distance away from the lines. As soon as kids see a big pile of snow, they want to slide down it, and they could get too close to the lines.

### Assume power lines are energized

Assume all power lines are energized and stay clear of any downed or damaged power lines. ■



[www.roughriderelectric.com](http://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





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