

# Plan it.

Safety is success by purpose.

OCTOBER 2017

Roughrider Journeyman  
Lineman **Kaden Ficek**

PHOTO BY CARMEN DEVNEY

## What's inside:

- **Manager's message on the cooperative difference**
- **Child care center in Hazen experiencing amazing success**
- **2018 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour**
- **Director Steckler believes in continuing education**
- **Meetings minutes, and more**

**ROUGH RIDER**  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

**ND REC's**  
North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives  
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

## YOU are the reason Roughrider Electric is special

BY DON FRANKLUND

Every year, there are events and milestones we look forward to celebrating: a birthday, a family vacation, a parade or firework display. As electric cooperatives, we look forward to October, when we celebrate National Cooperative Month and what makes us special.

Do you understand the cooperative difference, and what makes your membership in Roughrider Electric Cooperative special? A cooperative is owned by the members it serves, so YOU are the reason a cooperative is special. You own us. You govern us, by electing directors to the board of directors who represent your interests.

Those local directors ensure the rates are sufficient to operate with safety and reliability in mind; not to make a profit. The money that is earned after expenses have been paid is returned to you, our members, in the form of capital credits checks. Annually the board of directors, at its discretion, decides whether to allow a general retirement of capital credits for that calendar year.

The people who work for Roughrider Electric are another reason your cooperative is special. Our 47 employees are dedicated to the communities they serve, and when they're not working you'll often find them volunteering their time with some local organization or activity. Some of our employees volunteer with the local ambulance, hospice and nursing home, in economic and community development, and much more.

There are many more cooperative

employees working for you, and Roughrider Electric. Innovative Energy Alliance Cooperative is approaching its 10-year anniversary in 2018, and that's another milestone to celebrate. The alliance is a management and shared services cooperative that is owned by Roughrider, Slope, Mor-Gran-Sou and KEM Electric Cooperatives.

What does that mean for Roughrider Electric members? Your cooperative has access to 14 additional employees who are specialists in their fields — from engineering and safety to information technology and human resources. It would be expensive for Roughrider Electric to hire its own civil engineer ... but thanks to the shared services provided by the alliance, you DO have a talented civil engineer working for you and doing what's best for Roughrider Electric's members.

As far as management services, I'll continue serving as the sole co-general manager and chief executive officer until early 2018. The alliance board is currently working to find a replacement for my friend and former partner, Chris Baumgartner, who resigned from the alliance to accept a position with Basin Electric Power Cooperative.

After evaluating how the partnership has worked for the past five years with Chris, and discussing various scenarios and options, the board determined it would be best to continue having two managers. The time and consideration they are investing in this process is



considerable, and I know the question they always come back to when making decisions is, "How will this affect the member at the end of the line?" I trust they have your best interests in mind when hiring a replacement, and with every decision they make in the board room.

YOU are the reason we exist. Electric cooperatives were formed in the spirit of coming together for the greater good. Electric cooperatives accepted the challenge and built an electric system in some very rural areas where others would not go — not to make money, but to bring families power on the farm, in the home, at a business — and ultimately improve their quality of lives. We continue with the same goals today.

Electric cooperatives are special. This October and every October, and every day in between, let's celebrate the business model that makes this journey possible. ■



# CO-OPS COMMIT

## Co-op Month 2017

### Report from **THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS** AUG. 25, 2017

**When, where and who:** The Board of Directors met in Hazen on August 25.

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

**Meeting minutes:** The Board reviewed and approved the minutes of the July 28, 2017, meeting.

**Manager's report:** Mr. Franklund referred the Board to his written reports he has provided to the Directors throughout the month. He provided the Board with a summary of the summer statewide managers' meeting held in Grand Forks. Zac Smith, communications and government relations director for the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives, and attorneys have been tasked with identifying whether electronic voting can occur in North Dakota, and if not, what steps need to be taken to allow for electronic voting.

Mr. Franklund provided a brief update on the Upper Missouri Power Cooperative Member Advisory Committee meeting.

**2017 load forecast:** Mr. Kupper reviewed the 2017 load forecast completed by Basin Electric Power

Cooperative. It showed a detailed forecast of total demand and energy requirements for 2016 through 2035. Basin Electric uses the forecast for sales projections and the co-op uses it for plant improvements.

**Scholarship program:** The Board discussed matters pertaining to its current scholarship program, and potential additions and changes to make to it. No action was taken.

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

**Operations Report:** Mr. Bentz referred the Board to his written report, and provided updates on the same.

**Members Services/Key Account report:** Mr. Hibl referred the Board to his written report, and provided updates on the same.

**Upcoming meetings:** The next Board meeting was set for 9 a.m. MT on Sept. 29, 2017, at Roughrider's office in Dickinson, North Dakota.

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

# Following cooperative principles, child care center in Hazen experiencing amazing success

BY CARMEN DEVNEY



PHOTO BY CARMEN DEVNEY

*Roughrider Electric Cooperative members **Jasmine** and **Jordan Sargent**, with sons **Kannon** and **Knox**.*

In February and March, Jasmine and Jordan Sargent took turns staying home from work to care for their sons, who were unable to attend day care for various reasons. Between the parents, their work absences totaled 15 days.

“We were using all our vacation and sick time, and when it came to us wanting vacation or sick time, we didn’t have any left. We needed more flexibility, as far as hours,” Jasmine shares about their former in-home child care. “As much as we loved it there, we needed more of a routine.”

Jasmine, an accounting manager and photographer, and Jordan, a heavy equipment operator, are Roughrider Electric Cooperative members from Hazen. They knew a child care center was opening on the west side of town that would be larger in size and staff — and would provide an educational program for Kannon, age 5, and Knox, age 3.

Energy Capital Cooperative Child Care’s New Bethel Center opened its doors on May 30. The Sargent family enrolled both boys, who started attending in June.

“So far, we couldn’t be happier. The boys are branching

out and interacting with different kids, and learning a lot,” Jordan says.

“In this short amount of time, Knox has been singing new songs, saying the ABCs and learning his colors. Kannon has been writing all of his letters,” Jasmine explains. “The learning aspect is huge for us.”

So is not missing work regularly, and watching their vacation and sick hours build.

“Even if an employee is sick, we know the business will be open. We aren’t going to get a call or text at 6:30 a.m., saying they aren’t going to have day care that day,” Jordan says.

## Judging success by smiles and tears

Energy Capital Cooperative Child Care is the first business of its kind in North Dakota. It was founded as a nonprofit, but operates as a cooperative, which means it follows the cooperative principles and will ultimately be directed by the families it serves.

Plans for a child care center in Mercer County began in May 2016, after a study showed a deficiency of nearly 300 child care spaces in the area. According to the study, the need will increase by more than 20 percent by 2025.

The shortage was affecting employees of Basin Electric Power Cooperative, who work at area facilities including Antelope Valley Station, Leland Olds Station, subsidiary Dakota Gasification Company’s Great Plains Synfuels Plant and more.

The senior leadership team at Basin Electric, a regional generation and transmission cooperative that provides wholesale power to member rural electric systems in nine states, understood how the child care crisis could affect business productivity, and how happy parents are efficient workers. So Basin Electric joined with seven area employers to form Energy Capital Cooperative Child Care, with support from the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives. The founding partners include: Coal Country Community Health Centers; Coyote Station; Knife River Care Center; Hazen Public Schools; North American Coal Corporation, representing The Coteau Properties Company and Coyote Creek Mining Company; Sakakawea Medical Center; and Union State Bank.

Erin Huntimer, a Roughrider Electric Cooperative member and project coordinations representative for Basin



PHOTO BY DANIEL ARENS, EDITOR, HAZEN STAR

**Brad Quenette**, member services manager of Roughrider Electric, presents **Erin Huntimer**, board president of Energy Capital Cooperative Child Care, with a \$2,000 check to go toward the child care center in Hazen. The money is a grant on behalf of the Rural Development Finance Corporation.

Electric, was extensively involved in the planning and facilitating of the child care center, which is located in the former New Bethel Congregational Church at 18 13th Ave. S.W. in Hazen. She says progress was possible thanks to the generosity of partners, several area businesses and many community volunteers.

“It’s been incredible to see the time, energy and care that has gone into making this happen. It shows how desperately needed this is in the community,” she says. “Now we’re excited to watch it survive and thrive, and I have every bit of confidence it will.”

The building started as a place to nurture children, and it will continue. Huntimer, who currently serves as board president of Energy Capital Cooperative Child Care, says the location is perfect because members of the former church wanted to leave a lasting legacy in the community.

“The church placed great value in ministering to youth and families, so knowing the building will still be filled with kids and life makes this a win-win situation for everyone involved,” she says.

Directorship is one of the many keys to success. Energy Capital Cooperative’s board of directors includes

representatives from each of the founding partners. As operations stabilize, member-families will elect directors from the membership, and the partners will transition to an executive oversight role.

As of early September, the New Bethel Center had about 40 children on the roster. Huntimer hopes the center can serve as a model for other communities in North Dakota that are experiencing child care shortages.

Dana Santini, the center’s director, says the cooperative model has been great, in that when the board meets to solve a problem or make a decision, they have many different people to help contribute to the discussion.

“This means different views are considered, and the problem or decision is easily solved or made. It takes a village to raise a child, and this is an example of how the village can work together to provide a service that is very much needed,” she says.

Santini’s short-term goals for the center are to welcome new families and staff to grow the center. Her long-term goal is to open another child care center in Beulah.

“I judge our success by children who are happy and excited to be here in the morning, who can’t wait to show their parents what they’ve done during the day and are sad to leave at night. The smiles on their faces, the joy as they run into a teacher’s arms for a hug, the wonder they express as they learn something new: These are my success stories!” she shares. “I judge our success by a staff that works as a team to meet the goal of caring for the children in the best possible way. I have a wonderful family of caregivers who are excited to be here, have fun at work, and truly enjoy children.”

For information on Energy Capital Cooperative Child Care or to inquire about openings, contact Santini at 701-748-3838 or visit [www.energycapitalcooperative.com](http://www.energycapitalcooperative.com). ■

*Roughrider Electric thanks Basin Electric and Angela Magstadt for contributing to this story.*

## Roughrider Electric supports area youth

Roughrider Electric Cooperative is committed to supporting youth in our service area. Every year, we give student scholarships in partnership with Basin Electric Power Cooperative, and send a student to Washington, D.C., on the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. It is one way of supporting our member-owners and their families, and helping to develop future leaders.

The electric service provider of Energy Capital Cooperative Child Care, Roughrider Electric assisted with the founding of this new co-op by providing:

- An Operation Round Up grant;
- The donation of a washer and dryer; and
- The donation of panels from the co-op’s former service center, to create cubicles that are used to separate children of different ages.

# Washington, D.C., and what Haley Sailer didn't learn in school

BY CARMEN DEVNEY

Growing up in a small, rural town in North Dakota, Haley Sailer has known the same people her entire life: the kids at school, the people eating at D'Andreas, the pharmacist at Hazen Drug, the clerk at Krause's Market. She is comfortable visiting with them because they are familiar.

When Haley stepped onto the plane headed to Washington, D.C., she stepped out of her comfort zone — on a trip of a lifetime sponsored by Roughrider Electric Cooperative.

The daughter of Roughrider members Travis and Deb Sailer, Haley was one of 16 North Dakota high school students to attend the 53rd annual Electric Cooperative Youth Tour in our nation's capital for a weeklong adventure in June. The North Dakota delegation joined a record 1,800 students from around the nation for a fast-paced, intensive 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.

She earned the opportunity to travel when she entered an essay-writing contest that is sponsored annually by Roughrider Electric.

Yes, Haley was impressed with the North Dakota students' visit with Congressman Kevin Cramer, who met the delegation and shared his views on health care reform. Sure, she was awestruck by the silence at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, and how the shoe exhibit was a powerful reminder that criminal history should never repeat.

Haley will remember the monuments and memorials — and how seeing them was an extension of what she had already learned about in history classes. But the thing she didn't learn in school — how to meet new people her age and build a network of friends who live across the country — is the opportunity she most appreciated while on the Youth Tour. In one short week's time, Haley says she feels more socially advanced. Feeling the trip encouraged her to “come out of her shell,” Haley might now feel comfortable serving on



**Haley Sailer**, second from left, was Roughrider Electric's 2017 Youth Tour representative. Along with the North Dakota student delegation, Sailer wore a Willie Wiredhand shirt to a baseball game. Willie Wiredhand is the longtime friendly face and spokesplug of rural electric cooperatives nationwide. Adopted in 1951 by the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, Willie's last name conveys how electricity was brought to rural America by co-ops in the 1930s and 40s; he was the never-tiring, always-available hired hand to help the nation's farmers.

a board, volunteering for a charity, giving a speech — and one day in the not-too-distant future — being a servant leader.

“Before the trip, I felt shy. I was good at talking with people, but it was really hard for me. In the days leading up to the tour, I was nervous and felt unsure, in knowing I wouldn't know anyone,” she says. “By going and putting myself out there, I learned how to make more connections, and to not be afraid.”

This month, Roughrider Electric is asking the next batch of students to apply for the 2018 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour (see next page for details). If the opportunity to travel, see new things and make lifelong friends sounds great, Haley advises students to start writing the essay.

“I came into the tour not knowing that I would connect with everyone as closely as I did. We turned into one big family; especially the students from North Dakota,” she says.

Haley wishes to thank the Roughrider board of directors and membership for sponsoring the annual opportunity, and for sending her on the 2017 tour — but says the words “thank you” don't seem like enough.

“It is hard to describe my thanks,” she says. “To give me a totally free trip, and all the things I saw and did, thank you is beyond what I can say. I want to say, “Thank you for changing my life.”

For information on the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, visit [www.ndyouthtour.com](http://www.ndyouthtour.com) or [www.youthtour.coop](http://www.youthtour.coop), or call Roughrider Electric Cooperative. ■

# WRITE A WINNING ESSAY AND WIN A TRIP OF A LIFETIME!

JUNE 9-15, 2018

## AN ALL-EXPENSE-PAID TRIP TO WASHINGTON, D.C.

- To enter the essay-writing contest, you must be a sophomore or junior in high school.
- You and your parents or guardian must be served by Roughrider Electric Cooperative.
- If you have a question, contact Brad Quenette, Roughrider Electric, at the address listed below, or call 701-748-2293 during regular business hours.
- The deadline is **Jan. 31, 2018**. Emailed entries should be directed to [bquenette@roughriderelectric.com](mailto:bquenette@roughriderelectric.com), and hard-copy entries mailed to: Youth Tour Essay Contest, Roughrider Electric Cooperative, 800 Highway Dr., Hazen, ND 58545-4737.

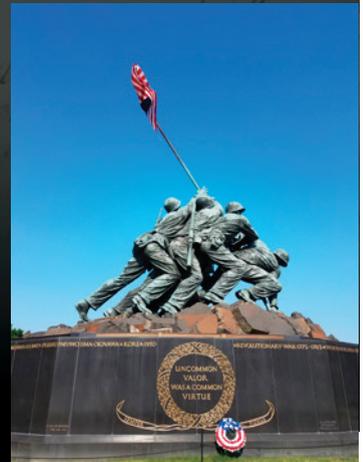
## TOP 3 REASONS

### TO ENTER THE ESSAY-WRITING CONTEST

1. All-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., compliments of Roughrider Electric Cooperative.
2. A whole week to visit unforgettable historic monuments, museums and the U.S. Capitol.
3. A learning experience you'll never forget.

### ESSAY QUESTION:

*There are approximately 20 million military veterans in the United States today. How shall fellow U.S. citizens honor and look after these veterans, who have served and sacrificed on our behalf? Describe any special connection you may have to a veteran or active-duty member of the military.*



CHECK OUT THE ESSAY-CONTEST GUIDELINES AT  
[www.ndyouthtour.com](http://www.ndyouthtour.com)

# Steckler earns Director Gold status



Roughrider Electric Board President **Roger Kudrna**, left, presents Director **Greg Steckler** with the Director Gold certificate.

**G**reg Steckler has completed the top tier of the Director Education Program through the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association. Steckler, a Roughrider Electric Cooperative board member from Dunn Center, received the Director Gold certificate in June.

The Director Gold credential recognizes directors who have earned their Credentialed Cooperative Director certificate and Board Leadership Certificate credentials, and are committed to continuing their education throughout their service on the cooperative board.

Pamela Clark-Stein, education and member services director for the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives, says directors pursue this prestigious credential to continue building and expanding their knowledge of the changing industry and its complex issues, so they can be the most effective director for their cooperative and its members.

Steckler, who has served on the Roughrider board for 10 years, says he believes in continuing education because the electric utility industry is evolving. He says he appreciates learning the information covered in the sessions — and also the information shared among fellow directors who serve different cooperatives across the state.

“These classes give you a chance to meet and visit with directors from North Dakota on a smaller scale. We break into groups and talk during the sessions, and also during breaks. You get to know them better on a one-to-one basis, and learn how they are dealing with certain issues at their respective cooperatives,” Steckler says. “Then, I can bring their knowledge and experiences back to the Roughrider board room, and help us better prepare for whatever the future holds.” ■



## HONOR THE PERSON WHO POWERS YOU.

Nominate someone who could WIN \$5,000.

At Roughrider Electric Cooperative, we do more than deliver electricity. We believe it's also important to recognize the people who power our lives. That's why, in partnership with Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives, we're sharing the second-annual #WhoPowersYou contest. This is an opportunity to honor inspirational people in our community.

**Who has made a positive difference in your life?** The person you nominate could win up to \$5,000! He or she does not have to be a member of the cooperative.

### How to enter:

- Visit [www.WhoPowersYou.com](http://www.WhoPowersYou.com) to make a nomination through Nov. 4.
- Then, visit the website again and vote for your favorite person! Winners will be announced in early 2018.



[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  
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 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 .....	579-4395

### MANAGEMENT

Don Franklund ..... General Manager/CEO



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