

# ROUGH RIDER NEWS

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

OCTOBER 2019

## In October, cooperatives and communities celebrate National Co-op Month



PHOTO BY BRAD QUENETTE

At the end of July, the Hazen Babe Ruth Baseball team headed to Watford City for the State Babe Ruth Baseball tournament. Roughrider Linemen **Tanner Goetz** and **Kyle Irwin** gave them a proper send-off. THIS is one of many ways Roughrider supports and stays connected to our members and those who live in our area communities. In this month's local pages, learn why Co-op Month is all about you, our member-owners.

## What's inside:

- **Youth Tour essay contest and 2020 trip**
- **Need help with heating costs? LIHEAP may help.**
- **Drone program prepares students for careers**
- **Meetings minutes, and more**

# ‘BY THE COMMUNITY, FOR THE COMMUNITY’

**October is National Co-op Month ... a time when cooperatives across the state and nation celebrate who we are and who we serve — our member-owners.**



PHOTO BY BRAD OUNETTE

*In August, some linemen lifted transmission lines in the Beulah area to accommodate the move of an old church. Switching of power feeds was required for this project. Assisting in requests like this, and making sure the move was safe and efficient, is just one way Roughrider shows its commitment to community.*

## We are Roughrider Electric Cooperative

With offices in Hazen and Dickinson, Roughrider Electric Cooperative is one of 16 distribution cooperatives in North Dakota that delivers retail electricity to about 250,000 North Dakotans through 196,000 meters. We also have transmission responsibilities.

Roughrider Electric provides safe, reliable and affordable electric service to members in Mercer, Oliver, Stark, Dunn, Billings, Golden Valley and Hettinger Counties. We currently serve more than 8,800 members and provide electricity to more than 14,700 meters. That power is

supplied by Basin Electric Power Cooperative and Western Area Power Administration, and transmitted by Upper Missouri Power Cooperative.

Your electric cooperative was started by folks who pooled their \$5 investments to help bring power to more sparsely populated areas ... not to make a profit, but to provide a vital service.

Decades ago, members needed electricity to heat their homes, light their barns, pump water, make farm and household chores less labor-intensive — and ultimately make living in North Dakota a bit easier.

Today, most of us don't think about the conveniences our ancestors only dreamed could make their

lives easier. Unless Mother Nature damages the power system with a strong wind or wet snow, for the most part, our members can flip a switch and expect to have lights and heat.

Members' expectations and needs continue to evolve, and Roughrider Electric is just as relevant today as we were more than 70 years ago. From powering fans in grain bins and home security systems, to smart thermostats, TVs, tablets and more, electricity is just as important today in how we use it to make our lives easier.

When you use energy, you are a consumer. When you pay your bill to a cooperative, you are a member because you are an owner. Do you understand the significance?

- **Members have voting rights; one member, one vote.**

Roughrider Electric is governed by nine members who serve as directors of the cooperative. They make decisions locally that best serve our area. They set the rates, approve construction plans, analyze future electric demand and power supply, research trends and technology, and evaluate the ever-changing needs of the membership and how Roughrider Electric can continue meeting those needs. Each year during the annual meeting, members can campaign for a seat on the board, or vote for fellow members seeking a seat on the board.

- **Members earn capital credits.** Roughrider Electric is a nonprofit business that is

designed to operate at cost. We annually “allocate” to each member the operating revenue remaining at the end of the year, based upon the member’s amount of electricity purchased. Later, at the discretion of the board and as financial conditions permit, these allocated amounts — capital credits — are retired. Capital credits reflect the ownership in, and contribution of capital to, the cooperative.

- **Members can take advantage of programs the cooperative offers to enrich the lives of those who live in our service area.** Roughrider Electric members may qualify for grants through the Rural Development Finance Corporation, to be used for community-based projects. Or, if they have a one-time need, they may also apply for an Operation Round Up grant. Roughrider Electric also takes pride in assisting with youth development, and offers student scholarships and the Electric Cooperative Youth

Tour to the dependents of our member-owners.

Another feature that sets our co-op apart from a traditional utility is one of our core principles, “Commitment to Community.” We participate in community parades, co-op sponsored county fair meals and numerous other city and chamber events, to name a few. We also give donations including one to support each county 4-H chapter, which empowers our youth to be leaders.

Our close connection to the community ensures we get a firsthand perspective on local priorities. This enables us to make more informed decisions on long-term investments.

Our employees live and work in the communities we serve, and we share some of the same hardships and goals.

Now that you better understand your membership and the cooperative difference, we hope you will think of Roughrider Electric as more than your energy provider.

We are Roughrider Electric Cooperative, and we were built by



PHOTO BY LAWANNA WILHELM

Electrician Foreman **Russ Goodwin**

the community, for the community.

Let’s celebrate National Co-op Month together! We are proud to work alongside our members to support our community, power economic development and foster prosperity for the people we serve. ■



Roughrider Board Director  
**Greg Steckler**



PHOTO BY CARMEN DEVNEY

Roughrider support staff helping members register for the 2019 annual meeting.

JUNE 20 TO 26, 2020

HIGH SCHOOL SOPHOMORES & JUNIORS

# Win the Trip of a Lifetime!

## 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 Cooperative, at 800-748-5533 during regular business hours.
- The deadline is Jan. 24, 2020. You can e-mail entries to Brad Quenette at [bquenette@roughriderelectric.com](mailto:bquenette@roughriderelectric.com) or mail a hard copy to: Youth Tour Essay Contest, Roughrider Electric Cooperative, 800 Highway Dr., Hazen, ND 58545-4737.

## ESSAY QUESTION:

*If chosen as a Youth Tour delegate, you will travel to Washington, D.C. to experience and learn about America's rich history. What moment in American history do you wish you had been a part of and what would you have contributed?*

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

## 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



# Report from THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AUG. 30, 2019

**When, where and who:** The Board of Directors met in Hazen on Aug. 30.

**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 July 26, 2019, meeting.

**Consent agenda:** The Board reviewed, discussed and approved the consent agenda, including proposed membership applications, service connects and assignments, proposed cancellations of membership and requests for retirement of capital credit accounts.

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

Mr. Kupper reported on his attendance at the North Dakota Managers' Meeting. As part of this meeting, a drone

demonstration was performed. Mr. Kupper highlighted the benefits of drones to cooperatives as presented in the demonstration.

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

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

**Upcoming meeting:** The next Board meeting was set for 9 a.m. MT on Sept. 27, 2019, 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.

## 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 2019 will include ground-source heat pumps and air-source heat pumps.

Members must buy and install qualifying systems between Jan. 1, 2019 and Dec. 31, 2019. 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



PHOTO BY BRAD QUENETTE

**Chris Harvey** (far right), band/video production teacher for Hazen High School, teaches students to fly drones in his video production classes. They learn to operate the manual settings and fly as hobbyists, and how to capture photo and video footage that can be used to create a film.

## Cooperative donations help Hazen High School offer drone program that prepares students for careers

BY CARMEN DEVNEY

Drones, or unmanned aerial vehicles, seem to be almost everywhere in the business sector these days, due to their ability to capture photos and videos that help people work faster, smarter and more safely. Farmers use drones to monitor crop health and check livestock. Fire departments use drones to track and map wild fires. Real estate agents use drones to show scenic views of properties. Some electric utilities use drones to look for damaged insulators, missing pins or other compromised equipment that could cause a power outage under certain conditions. Line patrol, and subsequent maintenance, is one key to system reliability.

Currently, the Federal Aviation

Association (FAA) requires pilots to keep drones in visual line-of-sight. While interested in drone technology for line patrol and to assess storm damage, Roughrider Electric Cooperative will continue using a helicopter for aerial views of transmission lines and some major three-phase lines, as rough terrain in some parts of our service area makes it challenging to keep drones in sight for long stretches that would make it more efficient.

Jason Bentz, Roughrider's manager of operations, says drone use would also be limited at the co-op because of battery capabilities.

"The drone can only last 20 minutes on a full charge. To use it as a full-time tool, we would probably



PHOTO BY CHRIS HARVEY

The drone captured this image of the students learning to fly it.



PHOTO BY BRAD QUENETTE

**Chris Harvey** (right) and his wife, Camille, used to own and operate a video production company that was hired to shoot weddings. Experienced in taking photos and videos, and with an interest in working with drones, Chris was able to integrate two unmanned aerial vehicles into his classes, thanks in part to donations from Roughrider Electric Cooperative.

need six to eight batteries,” he says.

One of the four Touchstone Energy® Cooperative values is innovation, and Roughrider sees the potential of this technology as it advances. To show support for current and future use, Roughrider has given two donations to Hazen High School in two years, for the purchase and insurance of two drones.

Chris Harvey, band/video production teacher, purchased the drones last year for the school’s video production program. Students learn the basics of flying, taking photographs and filming, and using the footage to create short films.

Students were tasked to use drone footage as a part of their final projects last spring. One group of students created a short action film and used to drone to circle a fight sequence. Another group produced a horror story, and another made a satire of the *Fast and Furious*.

Drone use is protected under the FAA’s regulations pertaining to recreational and hobby uses as long as the drone is under 55 pounds. The students can fly the drones as hobbyists who are required to notify the local hospital and airport when flying. Hazen is considered Class G uncontrolled airspace. Mr. Harvey received his remote pilot’s license last year and can fly the drone commercially.

Mr. Harvey teaches semester-long classes Video Production I, II and III, and says there is a lot of interest among the students. The third will be an advanced class offered this spring where students are responsible for their project ideas. “It will be very self-guided. The students will pitch proposals to me for larger-type projects,” he says.

“I want to get kids involved in seeing how drones are used in different industries. They are used so often now, from television commercials to movies, you don’t even notice the shots anymore.”

Hazen High School hosts the Roughrider annual meeting every other year, and does not charge the co-op for the use of its facilities and staff, who help set-up and take-down. To thank the school administration for their generosity and commitment to community, Roughrider gave a donation and asked that it be used for special projects. Basin Electric Power Cooperative, one of Roughrider’s power providers, also gave a donation to purchase and insure one of the drones. Brad Quenette, member services manager, says the employees also donated their Jeans Day fund to the school, which was used to help purchase the second drone.

“Roughrider’s contributions allowed us to reach our goal, and we appreciate their support,” says Mr. Harvey.

The video production classes currently have 23 students in two sections, and use two drones. The school is looking to add more drones to its program down the road. ■



PHOTOS BY CARMEN DEVENEY

*In May 2018, Roughrider Electric Cooperative started test-driving drone technology that could help patrol power lines in some of our more remote areas of the system. We continue to watch with interest as regulations and technologies evolve.*

# 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

LIHEAP is federally funded and administered by the North Dakota Department of Human Services and county social service offices.



[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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[twitter.com/RoughriderCoop](https://twitter.com/RoughriderCoop)

## Survey time: please help us help you

Roughrider Electric Cooperative works hard to provide safe, reliable and convenient electric power for you and your family. We also provide programs to help you use energy efficiently.

To help us plan for the future and determine what programs will benefit you most, we need your help.

This fall, we will mail a random survey to some of our residential members. If you receive a survey, please take a few minutes to complete it. Your answers are important, so please respond as best as possible and return it promptly. A postage-paid return envelope will be included for your convenience. The survey will also be available to complete online. Thank you, in advance, for being active and involved co-op members.

## AS WINTER NEARS, OPERATE GENERATORS SAFELY

Roughrider Electric strives to provide you with reliable, uninterrupted service every day, but sometimes Mother Nature creates unavoidable power outages. When the power goes out, a portable generator can be a lifesaver. However, generators that are improperly installed or operated can become life-threatening.

Roughrider Electric Cooperative recommends following these precautions to avoid dangerous situations:

### AVOID CARBON MONOXIDE HAZARDS:

Generators exhaust carbon monoxide, a colorless, odorless gas that can be deadly. So, always use generators outdoors, at least 25 feet away from your home's doors, windows and vents.

- NEVER use generators indoors or inside enclosed spaces, even with ventilation. Never use a generator in an attached garage, even with the door open.
- Even outside, make sure a generator has at least four feet of clear space on all sides and above it to ensure adequate ventilation.

### AVOID ELECTRICAL HAZARDS:

- Keep the generator dry. Operate it on a dry surface.

Do not use it in rain or wet conditions. If needed, protect a generator with an open-sided canopy with plenty of clearance on all sides. Never manipulate a generator's electrical components if you are wet or standing in water.

- Plug appliances directly into the generator or use a heavy-duty, outdoor-rated extension cord. Check the wattage use of each appliance plugged in and make sure the total does not exceed the cord's wattage rating. Make sure the entire extension cord is free of cuts or tears and the plug has all three prongs, especially a grounding pin.
- Ensure your generator is properly grounded.
- Never overload a generator.

Use when necessary to power essential equipment or appliances.

- Turn off all equipment powered by the generator before shutting it down.
- Read and adhere to the manufacturer's instructions for safe operation.

### JUST REMEMBER:

Connecting the generator to your home's circuits or wiring must be done by a qualified, licensed electrician who will install a double-throw transfer switch to prevent backfeeding, which could electrocute lineworkers making repairs.

**Never cut corners when it comes to safety.**