



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

JANUARY 2025

In this issue

- Scholarships available
- A look at 2025 projects
- Apply for Youth Tour
- Be prepared for winter



Happy New Year! We look forward to serving you in 2025!

MANAGER'S MESSAGE:

What does it take to be a director?



Travis Kupper

Co-General Manager/CEO

As we ring in the new year, we often look at the year ahead and the potential the future holds. Simultaneously, Roughrider Electric Cooperative opens the doors each year to new and returning directors.

As we approach upcoming director elections, we thought it would be a good reminder to our members to consider the significant role directors play in shaping the future of Roughrider Electric.

Serving as a director is more than just a title. It's a commitment to our members and communities. Our board of directors is central to our cooperative, because it enables members to advocate for their community's interests, aligning decisions with local needs and values.

Board members provide critical oversight of operations and finances, shaping the cooperative's strategic direction and fostering transparency. Overall, active participation in governance is key to maintaining a responsive and effective cooperative.

Here are some key qualities that make an effective director:

- **Commitment to service:** Directors should have a passion for serving our members, always striving to enhance their quality of life.
- **Strategic thinking:** A strong director must think critically, making informed decisions that align with our cooperative's long-term goals.
- **Community engagement:** Active involvement in the community is vital. Understanding and responding to the needs of our members is crucial for effective leadership.
- **Collaboration:** Directors must work well with fellow board members and staff, fostering a culture of teamwork and transparency.
- **Adaptability:** The energy landscape is ever-changing. A successful director must embrace change and navigate challenges.

If you or someone you know is interested in taking this vital role, consider the impact you can make on our cooperative and the community we serve. You can learn more about what it takes to be a director by calling our office at 800-748-5533. Your voice matters in shaping a brighter future for all. ■



*Roughrider Electric Cooperative Directors **Bruce Darcy** and **Darell Herman** visit at the annual meeting.*



2025 SCHOLARSHIPS

DEADLINE: FEB. 1

Visit our website for applications
and more detailed information
www.roughriderelectric.com



Area high school scholarship

Roughrider Electric Cooperative will award nine \$500 scholarships. Each school in our service area chooses one recipient. School representatives from Belfield, Beulah, Center-Stanton, Dickinson High, Dickinson Trinity, Hazen, Richardton-Taylor, South Heart and Dickinson Hope Christian Academy choose a graduating senior to receive the funds. Contact your school counselor for more information.

\$1,000 Basin Electric Power Cooperative scholarship

Roughrider Electric will award a \$1,000 scholarship to a student who is already enrolled or planning to enroll in a full-time graduate or undergraduate program. The student must attend an accredited two- or four-year program, university or vocational/tech school.

Lineworker scholarship from 3C Construction

Roughrider Electric is offering one \$500 scholarship sponsored by 3C Construction LLC. Owned in part by Roughrider Electric, 3C Construction employs lineworkers who travel, plowing cable and assisting with projects as needed. Eligible applicants are high school seniors who are enrolled or planning to enroll in a certified vocational or technical school pursuing a career as a lineworker.

Luck-of-the-draw scholarship

Roughrider Electric will award three \$500 luck-of-the-draw scholarships to be drawn at our annual meeting.

High school scholarship outside service area


Roughrider will award one \$500 scholarship.

Mechanic scholarship from West Dakota Utility Services

Roughrider Electric is offering one \$500 scholarship sponsored by West Dakota Utility Services LLC. Eligible applicants are high school seniors who are enrolled or planning to enroll in a certified vocational or technical school pursuing a career as a mechanic.

Students can call the Hazen office with questions. Applications can also be filled out online and emailed to bquennette@roughriderelectric.com, or printed and mailed to: Roughrider Electric Cooperative, Attn: Scholarship Committee, 800 Highway Dr., Hazen, ND 58545-4737



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

All applicants must have a parent or guardian who is a Roughrider Electric member.

MESSAGE FROM OPERATIONS: **A look at 2025 projects**



Shawn Olson

Chief of Staff/
Operations Manager

As we look ahead to all that is in store for 2025, Roughrider Electric Cooperative is excited to share upcoming projects that will help shape the future of our cooperative, bringing more reliability and safety to our system. A team of engineers and operations employees from Roughrider Electric have thoughtfully planned to ensure seamless execution of the upcoming projects. A few projects include overhead power line conversions

and transmission line replacement.

Roughrider Electric has seen exceptional growth in the past few years, with no expectations of it slowing anytime soon. The operations and engineering department has been planning for this growth and

projects that will help Roughrider Electric continue to ensure reliable electric services. Projects include:

- A new transmission line from the Snowy River substation north of South Heart to our Knife River substation north of Manning.
- Replacing 12 miles of underground line from the Knutson substation north of Medora to the city of Medora.
- Replacing two miles of transmission line that feeds the Hazen, Beulah and Stanton area.
- Upgrading single-phase power lines to three-phase power lines near Beulah Bay.

Additionally, 70 miles of underground cable is planned to be installed in various locations throughout the service area.

As we continue into the winter season, we would like to remind you to report outages by calling the office at 800-748-5533. This information helps us to assess potential areas that may need maintenance down the road and provide a safe, efficient, reliable service to our members.

We look forward to working and visiting with you in the new year. ■



A Roughrider Electric Cooperative crew upgrades a utility pole.

ENTER YOUR YOUTH TOUR ERA



FIRED UP @ GETTYSBURG!



HONORING @ WWII HEROES @ MEMORIAL



JUNE 15-21, 2025

1,800 students.
7 days.
1 unforgettable trip.

Join us on the adventure of a lifetime. On the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, you'll do it all. You'll explore monuments and museums, meet with members of Congress and get an up-close look at where our country's laws are crafted. You'll stand on the Gettysburg Battlefield, walk the halls of George Washington's iconic 18th-century mansion and witness ceremonies honoring the men and women who fought in uniform for this great nation. For one jam-packed week, you'll be immersed in the cooperative spirit that built and sustains our great nation. And **all expenses are paid** by your local electric cooperative!

Yeah, Youth Tour hits different.

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.

Essay question:

Why is it important to be involved in your community, and how does that prepare you to be a future leader?

The application deadline is Jan. 17, 2025.

Email entries to Brad Quenette at bquenette@roughriderelectric.com or mail a hard copy to: Youth Tour Essay Contest, 800 Highway Dr., Hazen, ND, 58545-4737.

Questions? Please contact Brad Quenette, Roughrider Electric, at 701-748-2293 during regular business hours.



Learn more at
roughriderelectric.com/youth-tour

SAFETY STARTS WITH ME:

Winter storm preparation and safety

Once winter weather conditions are upon us, we often wonder when a snowstorm will hit and what the impact will be. Although Roughrider Electric Cooperative hopes storms will have little to no impact, we are always prepared and ready to act when called.

“When an outage occurs, our team is ready to take calls and get a crew out as soon as possible,” says Julie Prouty, customer service representative. “When the forecast calls for storm weather, we plan ahead in the office and the shop to ensure we are all ready to assist members the best we can.”

Roughrider Electric is prepared for winter storms and we want to help you be prepared for them as well. Here are a few tips to keep in mind when it comes to winter storm outages.

- **Always report an outage.** Do not assume someone else has already called about an outage. We aim to keep members up-to-date on social media, but it is not monitored 24/7, so we advise not to report outages through our social media messages. If you have a medical need, such as requiring oxygen, please notify our member service team when reporting an outage.
- **Have a backup plan for you and your family.** We suggest having items such as water, nonperishable food sources, blankets, batteries, flashlights and a charging bank, although these items vary depending on your family's needs.
- **Do not plug generators into household wiring, unless you have an appropriate transfer switch installed.** If a generator is connected to a home's wiring without a transfer switch, power can backfeed along power lines and harm lineworkers making repairs.



We know storm outages can be unsettling, but we want to assure you our team is working behind the scenes to ensure your power returns. Safety is our No. 1 priority, so if weather conditions are too dangerous, crews may not be able to work until it becomes clear. All of us at Roughrider Electric are committed to ensuring safe, reliable electric services for you. We appreciate your patience during uncertain times like these, but urge you to give us a call with any questions regarding an outage. ■

REPORT EVERY OUTAGE

**TO REPORT AN OUTAGE,
CALL US AT 800-748-5533.**

Please keep in mind, our social media pages and emails are not connected to our dispatch center. Call the number above to ensure your outage is reported.



BE PREPARED FOR WINTER'S WRATH

Roughrider Electric Cooperative strives to provide you with reliable, uninterrupted service every day of the year, but sometimes Mother Nature creates unavoidable power outages. Your electric cooperative wants you to remain safe during severe winter weather, so consider preparing now for the possibility of power outages this winter.

OPERATE GENERATOR SAFELY

If your standby electric generator has been in storage since last winter, make sure it is still operating properly – before an outage occurs.

And always follow the manufacturer's recommendations on how to use your generator. Most important is the transfer switch that disconnects the farm or home from the power line and connects it to the generator. It must be a double-throw transfer switch, which prevents the generator from feeding electricity back onto the power line. This protects the lineworkers who may be working to restore your service.

If you have additional questions, please call our office at 800-748-5533. We will be glad to work with you to make sure your generator is used properly.

STAY AWAY FROM DOWNED POWER LINES

Mother Nature isn't always kind to power lines. Winter winds, snow and ice often prove to be too much for utility poles and power lines. If you see a downed power line or utility pole, contact your local electric cooperative immediately.

Do not go near the line or the pole. Just because it's on the ground doesn't mean it's safe to approach.

TO REPORT AN OUTAGE

Because power outages can't be totally eliminated, here are a few steps to follow if an outage occurs:

- Confirm the outage. Check your own fuses and circuit breakers first.
- Check with a neighbor to confirm if he or she is also experiencing an outage before you call the cooperative. This will help your cooperative determine the extent of the outage.
- Call our office at 800-748-5533. If the outage is widespread, the phone lines may be busy, but keep trying. We will send a line crew to find the problem and restore power as quickly as possible.

If you have additional questions about outages, please call our office.

DURING AN OUTAGE

To prevent an overload on the system while power is being restored, take these steps:

- Turn off every inside light except one.
- Turn down your thermostat.
- If the outage lasts more than 60 minutes, turn off your electric water heater.
- Make sure your kitchen range is off, both the surface and the oven.
- Turn off all unnecessary appliances and unplug sensitive electronic equipment.
- When power comes back on, slowly switch your appliances and lights back on and gradually return your thermostat to its normal setting. ■



Roughrider Electric board meeting highlights: Oct. 25, 2024

The meeting of the board of directors of Roughrider Electric Cooperative was held on Oct. 25, 2024, at the cooperative's Hazen office. The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. CT. A quorum was present. Also attending were co-General Managers/CEOs Travis Kupper and Jason Bentz, Chief Financial Officer Alex Craigmile, Operations Manager Shawn Olson, Director of Key Accounts and Member Services Leonard Hibl, Legal Counsel Jennifer Grosz and Board Liaison Connie Hill.

Consent agenda: There were proposed amendments to the agenda. The agenda was approved as amended.

Strategic/action: Bentz and Kupper presented the co-general managers' report, which included updates on the Rural Utilities Service environmental review, 2025 load forecast, legislative meeting and more. Several Basin Electric Power Cooperative, West Dakota Utility Services and 3C Construction

reports were available for review.

Department reports: Craigmile provided a financial report. Olson provided an operations report, which included an update on construction projects. Hibl provided a member services/key accounts update, which included events recently attended and youth scholarship information. Chief Information Officer Charlie Dunbar provided a written report for the board. Grosz provided the board with an update on the status of projects.

Action items: Action items were reviewed and resolved.

Discussion/general information: The board was made aware of future meeting dates and other housekeeping items.

The meeting concluded with the adjournment. Secretary Troy Sailer certified the accuracy of the minutes.

Next meeting date: The next meeting is at 9 a.m. MT (10 a.m. CT) Jan. 31 in Dickinson. ■

Statement of nondiscrimination

Roughrider Electric Cooperative is a recipient of federal assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its agencies, offices and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs, are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs).

Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language) should contact the

responsible agency or USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English.

To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at <https://www.usda.gov/oascr/how-to-file-a-program-discrimination-complaint> and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call 866-632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: 1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410; 2) fax: 202-690-7442; or 3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

Roughrider Electric Cooperative is an equal opportunity provider. ■



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. CT 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 800-748-5533
P.O. Box 1038, 2156 4th Ave. E.
Dickinson, ND 58602
7 a.m. - 4 p.m. MT Monday-Friday

Payments may be deposited in the deposit box west of Roughrider Electric's main office entrance or the west and south locations of Family Fare supermarkets.

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

Greg Steckler, President; Dunn Center..... 548-8122
Roger Kudrna, Vice President; Dickinson..... 483-8377
Troy Sailer, Secretary; Golden Valley 948-2427
Bruce Darcy, Treasurer; Golden Valley 983-4222
Jesse Flath; Hazen 880-0386
Darell Herman; Beulah 873-4371
Arnold Kainz; Dickinson 483-8207
Dan Price; Hensler 794-3779
Callen Schoch; New England 290-3836

MANAGEMENT

Travis Kupper..... Co-GM/CEO
Jason Bentz..... Co-GM/CEO



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