



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

APRIL 2025

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Celebrating National Lineworker Appreciation Day

As we approach National Lineworker Appreciation Day on April 14, we would like to highlight our lineworkers and the crucial work they do at Roughrider Electric Cooperative.

Our crews maintain and repair electrical infrastructure in all weather conditions for our members from Center to Beach. Their dedication and knowledge ensure our

rural communities have the power to live, work and thrive 24/7/365.

You have probably seen, or even know a crew member or two from the Roughrider Electric team, but we would like to share a bit more about each of our lineworkers. If you see them working, feel free to wave and say hello. ■

Get to know our dedicated lineworkers:

“Our job is something different each day.”



BRANDON BRAUN, journeyman lineworker, 9 months

The job of a lineworker is to construct and maintain power lines.

What do you enjoy about being a lineworker? Working outdoors

What do you appreciate about Roughrider Electric members? Being patient during outages

What are you doing when you are not working? Hunting and fishing

If you had to eat the same meal every day, what would it be? Steak and potatoes

“Being outdoors and always learning new ways to do stuff is something I enjoy about being a lineworker.”



JORDAN BRAUN, journeyman lineworker, 11 years

The job of a lineworker is to provide reliable power to the members.

What interested you in becoming a lineworker? Working outside and having many different duties

What do you appreciate about Roughrider Electric members? Their willingness to help where they can

What are you doing when you are not working? With my family, racing at Southwest Speedway or snowmobiling

If you had to eat the same meal every day, what would it be? Steak

“I enjoy being outdoors and being able to help people and communities when their power is out.”



JOHN BEYER, journeyman lineworker, 2 months

The job of a lineworker is to provide safe and reliable power to our consumers.

What do you enjoy about being a lineworker? The challenge. Every day is different and the camaraderie with the guys in the field.

What are you doing when you are not working? Hunting or fishing and hanging out with the pup

If you had to eat the same meal every day, what would it be? Steak and potatoes, hands down

“As a lineworker, we help maintain reliable power.”



KADEN FICEK, journeyman lineworker, 11 years

The job of a lineworker is to keep the power on.

What interested you in becoming a lineworker? Helping keep the power on for our consumers

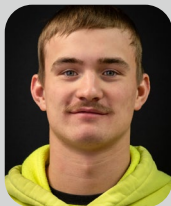
What are you doing when you are not working? Hunting, working out, and spending time with my wife and dog

If you had to eat the same meal every day, what would it be? Steak and potatoes

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“Working outside and being on the go interested me in a lineworker career.”



ALEX FREDERICK, apprentice lineworker, 1 year

The job of a lineworker is exciting.

What do you enjoy about being a lineworker? Getting to help people

What do you appreciate about Roughrider Electric members? Their cooperation and understanding

If you had to eat the same meal every day, what would it be? Burgers

“The job of a lineworker is to construct and maintain the electric transmission and distribution facilities that deliver electrical energy to industrial, commercial and residential establishments.”



DION GEFRE, journeyman lineworker, 20 years

What do you enjoy about being a lineworker? Working outside

What do you appreciate about Roughrider Electric members? When they help us in a time of need

What are you doing when you are not working? Spending time with my loving family

“The job of a lineworker is exciting and I get to work with my hands and outdoors, which I like.”



CLAY GERHARDT, apprentice lineworker, 3 months

What do you appreciate about Roughrider Electric members? They are easy to get along with.

What are you doing when you are not working? Working on a ranch

If you had to eat the same meal every day, what would it be? Steak and shrimp

“Working with my hands and being outdoors interested me in becoming a lineworker.”



TANNER GOETZ, working foreman, 13 years

The job of a lineworker is to keep the lights on for the membership.

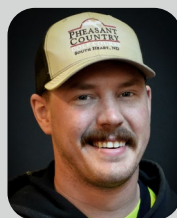
What do you enjoy about being a lineworker? Working outdoors and power restoration

What do you appreciate about Roughrider Electric members? They are always understanding and willing to lend a helping hand when needed.

What are you doing when you are not working? Spending time with family, hunting, fishing and snowmobiling

If you had to eat the same meal every day, what would it be? Lasagna

“As a lineworker, no two tasks are the same.”



CODY HINTZ, journeyman lineworker, 12 years

The job of a lineworker is to ensure reliable power for our consumers.

What interested you in becoming a lineworker? Some of my dad’s friends were lineworkers and talked me into it.

What do you appreciate about Roughrider Electric members? The willingness of our members to help us during storms and just day to day

What are you doing when you are not working? Hunting, fishing, golfing and hanging out with my wife and two boys

If you had to eat the same meal every day, what would it be? Steak, steamed broccoli and cottage cheese

“Working outside is what interested me in becoming and lineworker, and no job is the same.”



KYLE IRWIN, journeyman lineworker, 14 years

The job of a lineworker is rewarding.

What do you appreciate about Roughrider Electric members? Their understanding and patience for our job

What are you doing when you are not working? Coaching youth sports

If you had to eat the same meal every day, what would it be? Steak

“Our job is rewarding, such as when we are able to restore outages.”



MITCH KREBS, journeyman lineworker, 10 years

The job of a lineworker is rewarding and challenging.

What interested you in becoming a lineworker? Job availability and being able to work outdoors

What do you appreciate about Roughrider Electric members? Their willingness to help us in our time of need

What are you doing when you are not working? Spending time with family and friends, hunting, fishing, golfing and playing softball

If you had to eat the same meal every day, what would it be? Country-style sausage, mashed potatoes with red gravy and corn

“I like the group of guys I work with and being able to work outside.”



CONNER KUNTZ, apprentice lineworker, 2 years

The job of a lineworker is a good career path.

What interested you in becoming a lineworker? Being outdoors most of the time

What do you appreciate about Roughrider Electric members? Their willingness to help

What are you doing when you are not working? Hunting, fishing and ranching

If you had to eat the same meal every day, what would it be? Steak and potatoes

“The job of a lineworker is challenging, yet rewarding, and each day brings a new opportunity.”



SCOTT LEINTZ, working foreman, 30 years

What interested you in becoming a lineworker? The opportunity to make a real impact on my community

What do you enjoy about being a lineworker? I enjoy working outdoors.

What do you appreciate about Roughrider Electric members? Our membership is always supportive, and they are appreciative of the job we do.

What are you doing when you are not working? I enjoy coaching high school baseball, fishing and spending time with my family.

If you had to eat the same meal every day for a week, what would it be? Grilled steak and potatoes

“The job of a lineworker is a commitment, and I like the variety of tasks we are faced with.”



BRAD MARTELL, journeyman lineworker, 14 years

What interested you in becoming a lineworker? My uncle encouraged me to become a lineworker.

What do you appreciate about Roughrider Electric members? They are willing to help us out, whether it's moving snow for us or helping us get unstuck.

What are you doing when you are not working? Spending time with my family hunting, fishing and hiking

If you had to eat the same meal every day, what would it be?

Breakfast sandwiches

“One of the parts I like about being a lineworker is the ability to work on live wires with 7,200 or 14,000 volts without shutting down the power.”



MICHAEL STEIER, journeyman lineworker, 16 years

The job of a lineworker is taxing and can be backbreaking at times.

What interested you in becoming a lineworker? Being able to provide a service not everyone is willing to do for a job

What do you appreciate about Roughrider Electric members? The community involvement the co-op shares

What are you doing when you are not working? Chasing the kids around to all the sporting events they are in – dance, football, basketball, track and volleyball

If you had to eat the same meal every day, what would it be? Tater tot hotdish

“As a lineworker, the work is something different almost every day.”



BROCK SWENSRUD, working foreman, 19 years

The job of a lineworker is challenging at times.

What interested you in becoming a lineworker? My brother liked it, and I enjoy being outside

What do you appreciate about Roughrider Electric members? Good consumers

What are you doing when you are not working? Fishing and spending time with family

If you had to eat the same meal every day, what would it be? Pizza

“Working outside is what interested me about becoming a lineworker.”



COLTON WALTERS, journeyman lineworker, 2 year

The job of a lineworker is to build and maintain power lines.

What do you enjoy about being a lineworker? Getting to know the consumers we serve

What do you appreciate about Roughrider Electric members? Their willingness to help

What are you doing when you are not working? Spend time with my family

If you had to eat the same meal every day, what would it be? My grandma's tasty casserole

“I enjoy visiting with the membership and appreciate their support when needed.”



RUSSELL WALTERS, journeyman lineworker, 30 years

The job of a lineworker is rewarding!

What interested you in becoming a lineworker? Working in the outdoors

What do you enjoy about being a lineworker? It's very rewarding to get the power back on after an outage and also visiting with the consumers

What are you doing when you are not working? Farming and enjoying nature

If you had to eat the same meal every day, what would it be? A hamburger

“I enjoy everything about being a lineworker.”



AARON YANZTER, journeyman lineworker, 2 years

The job of a lineworker is super fun and enjoyable.

What are you doing when you are not working? Fish and woodwork

If you had to eat the same meal every day, what would it be? Meat

MANAGER'S MESSAGE: The power behind your power



Jason Bentz

Co-General Manager/CEO

You've likely noticed Roughrider Electric Cooperative's crews out and about, working on power lines and other electrical equipment in our community. It's no secret a lineworker's job is tough, but it's essential and must often be done in challenging conditions. This month, as we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day April 14, I thought I would share some interesting facts about electric lineworkers.

The work can be heavy, in more ways than one. Did you know the equipment and tools a lineworker carries while climbing a utility pole can weigh up to 50 pounds? That's the same as carrying 6 gallons of water.

And lineworkers are required to climb poles ranging anywhere from 30 to 120 feet tall. If you have a fear of heights, this likely isn't the career path for you.

Lineworkers must be committed to their career, because it's not just a job. It's a lifestyle. The long hours and ever-present danger can truly take a toll. In fact, being a lineworker is listed among the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the United States.

Lineworkers often work non-traditional hours in difficult conditions outdoors. While the job does not require a college degree, it does require technical skills, years of training and hands-on learning. Did you know becoming a journeyman lineworker can take more than 7,000 hours of training or about four years? That's because working with high-voltage equipment requires specialized skills, experience and an ongoing mental toughness. Shortcuts are not an option, and there is no room for error in this line of work.

Despite the many challenges, Roughrider Electric's lineworkers are committed to powering our local community. During severe weather events that bring major power outages, lineworkers are among the first ones called. They must be ready to leave the comfort of their home and families unexpectedly, and they don't return until the job is done, often days later. That's why the lineworker's family is also dedicated to service. They understand the importance of the job to the community.

Nationwide, there are approximately 120,000 electric lineworkers. Roughrider Electric has 19

lineworkers responsible for keeping power flowing 24/7/365. To do this, they maintain miles of power lines across eight counties.

In addition to the highly visible tasks lineworkers perform, their job today goes far beyond climbing utility poles to repair a wire. Today's lineworkers are information experts who can pinpoint power outages from miles away. Line crews now use laptops, tablets, drones and other technologies to map outages, survey damage and troubleshoot problems.

Being a lineworker may not seem like a glamorous job, but it is absolutely essential to the life of our community. Without the exceptional dedication and commitment of these hardworking men and women, we simply would not have the reliable electricity we need for everyday life.

While lineworkers are the most visible faces of our cooperative, it's essential to acknowledge the team of highly skilled professionals working tirelessly behind the scenes. From engineers providing invaluable expertise, to member service representatives fielding inquiries and IT experts safeguarding sensitive data, each member of our cooperative family plays a vital role in ensuring the reliability of our services.

So, the next time you see our lineworkers, please thank them for the work they do to keep power flowing, regardless of the time of day or weather conditions. After all, lineworkers are the power behind your power. ■



MESSAGE FROM MEMBER SERVICES:

Luck-of-the-Draw Scholarships



Brad Quenette

Member Services Manager

Roughrider Electric Cooperative believes in investing in the future of the students in our service area. At our Annual Meeting June 4 in Dickinson, Roughrider Electric will award three \$500 Luck-of-the-Draw Scholarships.

All high school seniors whose parents or guardians are Roughrider Electric members are eligible.

Students must attend our Annual Meeting with at least one parent/guardian. ■

We ask students to RSVP for the meeting by May 28. Scan the QR code with your smartphone or visit www.roughriderelectric.com/scholarships to complete the RSVP form.



MESSAGE FROM OPERATIONS:

National Safe Digging Month



Shawn Olson

Chief of Staff/
Operations Manager

April is recognized as National Safe Digging Month, and we remind members to call 811 before digging, no matter how big or small the project may be. Even small tasks like planting a tree or bush may cause damage to utility lines, which can disrupt service to an entire neighborhood and potentially result in fines and repair costs. Play it safe by dialing 811 to find out where utility lines are located on your property.

Be prepared to share the

following information about the project property to North Dakota One Call:

- Name and contact information
- Proposed digging date and time
- Legal description
- County, city, street address
- Nearest intersecting street
- Name of the property owner
- Type of work planned as well as extent of work and depth

Within a few days, a locator will arrive to designate the location of any underground lines, pipes and cables. These areas will be marked with flags or paint, so you'll know what's below. That is when the safe digging can begin.

Keep in mind, utilities are not required to mark any private lines, such as sprinkler systems and pool heaters, as well as any electrical, propane or natural gas lines that are after the meter.

For more information about local services, visit www.ndonecall.com. ■



811
Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

Go online at www.ndonecall.com
or call 800-795-0555 or 811.
It's free, it's simple and it's the law.

SAFETY STARTS WITH ME: Planting safety tips

Agriculture is the backbone of rural communities across our service area. Soon, wheels will begin to turn for spring planting.

Farming equipment has increased in size over the years, so those operating machinery need to take extra precautions when moving equipment down the road or planting in fields with overhead lines nearby. Staying alert, focused and knowledgeable about potential hazards and safety procedures is crucial.

“Planting is a busy time for everyone in our rural communities,” says Russell Walters, a journeyman lineworker. “It is important to always be aware of your surroundings, even if you are frequenting a familiar place.”

To help ensure a safe planting season, here are a few tips while in the farmyard, traveling on the road and working in the field.

- **Use spotters when operating large machinery near power lines.** Ensure the spotters do not touch the machinery while it is moving near power lines. An 18-foot clearance is recommended under power lines.
- **Be aware of the clearance of equipment extensions and materials you are hauling before moving or transporting.** Do not raise equipment, such as ladders, poles or rods, into power lines. Remember, nonmetallic materials, such as lumber, tree limbs, ropes and hay, can conduct electricity, especially when damp, dusty or dirty.
- **Never attempt to raise or move power lines to clear a path.** Doing so could result in electric shock or death. If you need power lines to be raised or moved to help with moving large machinery this season, give our office a call at 800-748-5533 so we can safely assist you.



Remember, if your equipment comes into contact with an energized or downed power line, call 911 immediately. Stay inside the vehicle until the power line is de-energized. If there is smoke or fire, exit by jumping clear of the cab without touching the equipment and hop away to safety. We also urge you to contact Roughrider Electric for additional assistance.

We know spring is an exciting and busy time, but we hope you will take a few extra minutes to check that you and your surroundings are clear to ensure a safe planting season. On behalf of all of us at Roughrider Electric, we wish you all a safe and prosperous planting season. ■



JOIN ROUGHRIDER ELECTRIC FOR THE CAREER TOUR EXPLORE NORTH DAKOTA'S ENERGY SECTOR WITH US.

Limited spots available. Learn more by scanning the QR code or visiting: www.roughriderelectric.com.

Application deadline is April 25.



Roughrider Electric board meeting highlights: Jan. 31

The meeting of the board of directors of Roughrider Electric Cooperative was held on Jan. 31 at the cooperative's Dickinson office. The meeting was called to order at 9 a.m. MT. A quorum was present. Also attending were co-General Managers/CEOs Travis Kupper and Jason Bentz, Chief Financial Officer Alex Craigmile, Chief of Staff/Operations Manager Shawn Olson, Director of Key Accounts and Member Services Leonard Hibl, Legal Counsel Jennifer Grosz and Board Liaison Connie Hill. Lance Ramboisek, the cooperative's auditor, was also in attendance for a portion of the meeting.

Consent agenda: Amendments to the agenda were presented. The agenda was approved as amended.

Strategic/action: Bentz and Kupper presented the co-general managers' report, which included updates from a Western Area Power Administration representative, a National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's managers meeting and a Basin Electric Power Cooperative district meeting. The co-general managers also reviewed several bills being discussed during this year's legislative

session. Several Basin Electric, West Dakota Utility Services and 3C Construction reports were available for review.

Department reports: Craigmile provided a financial report, reviewed the balance sheet and discussed projects. Olson provided an operations report, which included an update on projects such as pole changeouts and testing. Hibl provided a member services/key accounts update, which included upcoming youth programs, the new website and Nominating Committee information. Grosz provided an update on the status of projects.

Action items: Action items were reviewed and resolved.

Discussion/general information: The board discussed the upcoming audit and other items.

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

Executive session: The board entered into an executive session.

Next meeting date: The next meeting is 10 a.m. CT (9 a.m. MT) April 25 in Hazen. ■



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



We would like to wish Mark Young a happy retirement from Roughrider Electric Cooperative!

Mark worked as a staking technician on our team for 12 years. We would like to thank him for his work and dedication to the cooperative and members over the years.



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