



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

DECEMBER 2025

In this issue

- Your co-op, your neighbors
- Small change changes lives
- Scholarships available
- Reflecting on 2025



PHOTO COURTESY BRAD QUENETTE

Apply for the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour today!

Scan the QR code or visit roughriderelectric.com for more information. Read more about the Youth Tour on C4.



Your co-op, your neighbors

Roughrider Electric Cooperative employees live and work in the communities they serve, which means they are your neighbors and community volunteers. Roughrider Electric employees work each day to ensure safe, reliable electric services are available to members, but their duties span beyond the office, as they share a passion for community.

Because they live and work here, too, they want to make it a better place for all. Through employee initiatives, they have taken an additional step to support our communities through a Jeans Day fund and donation drive.

"I love being able to get people involved with helping our community," says Julie Prouty, a customer service representative at Roughrider Electric.

Prouty helps organize both the Jeans Day fund and the annual donation drive at Roughrider Electric. The cooperative has been successfully pursuing these programs for over 15 years.

Each of these employee-driven initiatives helps members of the communities where Roughrider Electric employees live and work.

Jeans Day fund

With \$1 a week, Roughrider Electric employees can opt to donate to a Jeans Day fund. In turn, the employee can wear jeans to work on Fridays. In 2024, Roughrider Electric collected \$836 in donations from employees and donated to two organizations chosen by the employees.

Baseball Boosters through the Hazen Parks and Recreation and the Dale F. Kilwein Hunter Education Memorial in Dickinson each received \$418 in 2024.

Donation drive

Additionally, Roughrider Electric employees have donated items to local food banks and shelters over the years. This year, nonperishable food items were collected for the Amen Food Pantry in Dickinson and Marlene's Food Pantry in Hazen.

Roughrider Electric employees also donate items to the Domestic Violence and Rape Crisis Center in Dickinson. The center offers emergency, legal, financial, counseling, housing services and more to those who need assistance. Some of the items gathered by employees include clothing, personal hygiene products, cleaning and baking supplies.

All employees are encouraged to bring items from the list put together by Prouty. To ensure an up-to-date list is supplied, Prouty works with the organizations. These items were collected throughout November and delivered to recipients in early December.

Each of the organizations that receive donations from Roughrider Electric employees are grateful, Prouty says.

"They are so grateful. They thank us for keeping them in mind," Prouty says. "Every time I talk to any of them, they are appreciative." ■



MANAGER'S MESSAGE: Small change can change lives



Jason Bentz

Co-General Manager/
CEO

The holiday season is finally here. It is commonly called the most wonderful season of all, because we associate it with family traditions and gathering with friends and loved ones. It's a time of giving and spreading joy.

But giving back reminds me of the many good things we have right in our communities and why it's so important to spread the good as far as we can, especially to the most vulnerable in our local area. I'm

also reminded of how wonderful our communities are and what a big impact we can have when we work together.

When you are a member of Roughrider Electric Cooperative, you help us spread the good during the holiday season and throughout the year. Through our Operation Round Up program, your donations help local organizations and individuals in need.

When you "round up" your monthly bill from Roughrider Electric and donate to this fund, you're making a big difference in someone's life. The cooperative principle, "concern for community," is one

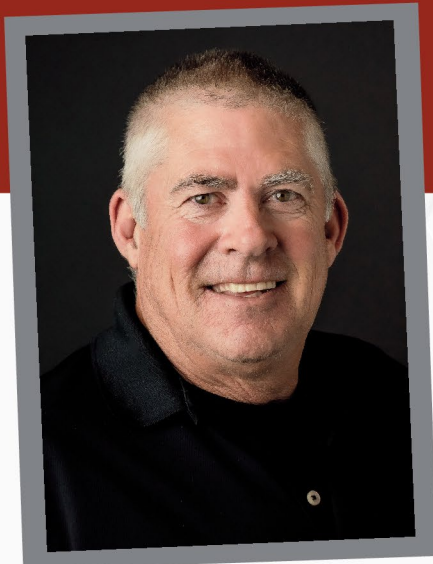
of the seven principles we follow as a cooperative. It defines who we are as an organization.

When we first brought electricity to our communities, the quality of life improved. But other issues also needed to be addressed, and this co-op has been at the forefront of bringing quality-of-life improvements to our communities through the years. It's why we created Operation Round Up.

To date, we've given \$762,907 back to local community organizations with your help. Across the country, more than 350 electric cooperatives have an Operation Round Up program. Together, we've raised millions for local communities. This shows small donations from electric co-ops like ours can collectively make a big impact over time.

As a local cooperative, we have a stake in our communities. We hope you will think of Roughrider Electric as more than your electric provider, but also as a catalyst for good in our community.

I hope all our members have a joyous holiday season. May it be merry and bright! ■

— HAPPY —
Retirement

**CONGRATULATIONS ON
YOUR RETIREMENT, BRAD!**

**Thank you, Brad Quenette, for your dedication
to Roughrider Electric and your 28 years of
service to the membership.**

We wish you nothing but the best in retirement!



Manager of Member Services **Brad Quenette** and his wife, **Brenda**, chaperoned the Youth Tour in 2011.

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY BRAD QUENETTE



North Dakota students traveled to Washington, D.C., in 2011.



North Dakota Youth Tour representatives gather in front of the U.S. Capitol.

AN UNFORGETTABLE TRIP: The Electric Youth Tour

Each year, area students served by Roughrider Electric Cooperative have the chance to win an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., on the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. Students can enter to win this once-in-a-lifetime trip by writing a winning essay.

During their weeklong travels, students have the opportunity to visit historical monuments, the White House, U.S. Capitol, FBI Museum and much more. Member Services Manager Brad Quenette has chaperoned the Youth Tour twice, in 2011 and 2019, and says it's an unforgettable trip.

"Students will make a lot of friends and lasting memories," Quenette says.

One student is chosen from each electric cooperative across North Dakota, gathering about 18 students for the weeklong trip to Washington, D.C. Quenette says students who don't know each other at the beginning have made lifelong connections by the end of the trip.

"By the end of the week, they are all outgoing and sociable," Quenette says.

In addition to touring the sites, students also dive into cooperative information and learn about what

makes a cooperative. These sessions include speakers and breakout groups. Some of Quenette's favorite places during his time in Washington, D.C., were the Tomb of Unknown Soldier, Smithsonian Museums, U.S. Marine Corps sunset drill and the war memorials.

Quenette recalls traveling to D.C. with Kori Nagel from Center, who was the 2019 Youth Tour recipient from Roughrider Electric.

"I went to her graduation party, and she had pictures from her high school years, and she had a whole half table of Youth Tour memories," Quenette says. "Her mom said she talked about the Youth Tour a lot."

Quenette says the memories and the friends you meet will last a lifetime.

"You're probably going to meet people that will be your friends that you will have for rest of your life," he says.

If you enjoy traveling, want to meet new people, explore once-in-a-lifetime places, then Youth Tour may be for you! The application deadline is Jan. 16. ■



2026 SCHOLARSHIPS

DEADLINE: FEB. 1, 2026

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



Area high school scholarship

Roughrider Electric Cooperative will award ten \$1,000 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.

\$2,500 Basin Electric Power Cooperative scholarship

In partnership with Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Roughrider Electric will award a \$2,500 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. 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 \$1,000 luck-of-the-draw scholarships to be drawn at our annual meeting.

High school scholarship outside service area

Roughrider will award one \$1,000 scholarship.

Mechanic scholarship from West Dakota Diesel and Hydraulics

Roughrider Electric is offering one \$500 scholarship sponsored by West Dakota Diesel and Hydraulics. 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.

Applications can also be filled out online and emailed to scholarships@roughriderelectric.com, or printed and mailed to: Roughrider Electric Cooperative, Attn: Scholarship Committee, 800 Highway Dr., Hazen, ND 58545-4737 by Feb. 1, 2026.

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

MESSAGE FROM OPERATIONS: Reflecting on 2025



Shawn Olson

*Chief of Staff/
Operations Manager*

Roughrider Electric Cooperative's service area continues to grow, from Beulah Bay to Medora, keeping crews busy. We completed the 2025 workplan projects along with new services and addressed some additional incidents. Here are a few projects our crews worked on to ensure safe and reliable electric service to you, our members.

Pole testing

Utility pole testing was conducted earlier this year. Pole testing allows us to identify poles that are unsound and replace them before they begin to fail. As of October, 10,316 utility poles have been tested, with 452 of them needing to be replaced. The replacement process continues and should be completed by summer of 2026.

Underground conversion

This year, Roughrider Electric installed over 70 miles of underground distribution cable. One construction project included replacing 14 miles of underground line from the Knutson Substation, north of Medora to the city of Medora and the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library. In the Hazen area, overhead distribution lines crossing highways were replaced with underground cable. This allows the large equipment to safely travel highways in this area. Converting to underground cable allows for additional safety and reliability to our system.

New transmission line installation

Roughrider Electric installed various miles of transmission line this year. One project included 13 miles of new 115 Kilovolt transmission line constructed from our Snowy River Substation, north of South Heart to our Knife River Substation, north of Manning.

Substation maintenance

Throughout 2025, Roughrider Electric conducted maintenance and upgrades in various substations across the service territory. Updates were made to the aging infrastructure, and additional improvements were made to ensure reliability throughout the service area.

New services

Our service area continues to grow as economic development projects progress in various areas. To date, we have added 139 new services to our system. A few projects that Roughrider Electric has provided service to include projects in and around the city of Medora. These projects include the Theodore Roosevelt Presidential Library as well as lodging and venue space. Additional expansion in our area includes housing developments in the Dickinson and Beulah Bay areas. We have also added numerous grain bin drying services throughout our territory.

Storm restoration

Throughout the summer our system endured various hail, high winds and thunderstorm conditions which impacted our infrastructure. We lost several transmission poles in the Scheffield area near Dickinson due to a tornado and a few distribution poles around Center in June. As North Dakota endured winter and summer storms, crews were also sent to assist neighboring cooperatives who were impacted by the various weather events throughout the year.

Safety remains our top priority at Roughrider Electric. We would like to thank our members, contractors, and staff for their contributions to ensuring a safe and productive 2025. As we continue through the remainder of the year, we want to encourage you to report outages by calling the office at 1-800-748-5533. Thank you for your support throughout 2025 and we look forward to ensuring safe and reliable electric services for you all in 2026! ■



SAFETY STARTS WITH ME: Holiday cybersecurity tips

Did you know the average household with internet access owns about 17 connected devices? That figure covers a wide range of electronics, including smartphones, computers, streaming devices, smart speakers, home assistants and more. Given our increasing reliance on internet-connected technologies, the likelihood of new cyberattacks is ever-present.

“We are committed to ensuring our local system is safe and secure at Roughrider Electric Cooperative. We routinely monitor and manage cyber risks, and we work together with other co-ops to share the latest advancements in cybersecurity measures that make us stronger,” says Robin Ranum, a customer service representative. “But members can help, too. When we all work together to stay safe online, we lower the risk of cyber threats to our systems, online accounts and sensitive data.”

During the holiday season, people across our service territory increase their online shopping or manage personal accounting through the web. We’d like to share a few cybersecurity tips to help you bolster your online safety during this busy season.

- **Think before you click.** Phishing occurs when criminals use phony emails, direct messages or other types of digital communications that lure you to click a bad link or download a malicious attachment. Avoid messages that look too good to be true, oddly urgent, poorly crafted or include unusual requests.
- **Create strong, unique passwords.** When it comes to passwords, remember length trumps complexity. Strong passwords contain at least 12 characters and include a mix of letters, numbers and symbols. Create unique passwords for each online account you manage and use phrases you can easily remember.
- **Enable multifactor authentication when available.** Multifactor authentication (also known as two-factor authentication) adds an extra layer of security to your online accounts. These extra security steps can include facial recognition, fingerprint access or one-time codes sent to your



email or phone.

- **Update software regularly.** Software and internet-connected devices, including personal computers, smartphones and tablets, should always be updated to reduce the risk of infection from ransomware and malware. When possible, configure devices to automatically update or notify you when an update is available.
- **Stay protected while connected.** Whatever the network device, the best defense against viruses and malware is to update to the latest security software, web browser and operating systems. Sign up for automatic updates if possible and protect your devices with anti-virus software. Another way to stay safe while connected to outside networks is to use a virtual private network or VPN.

Being cyber aware is an essential practice year-round, but it is important to be additionally vigilant during busy times of the year. We hope these cyber tips help you stay safe this holiday season and everyone has an enjoyable holiday! ■

HOLIDAY CYBERSECURITY TIPS

- THINK BEFORE YOU CLICK
- CREATE STRONG, UNIQUE PASSWORDS
- ENABLE MULTIFACTOR AUTHENTICATION
- UPDATE SOFTWARE REGULARLY
- STAY PROTECTED WHILE CONNECTED



Roughrider Electric board meeting highlights Sept. 26

The meeting of the board of directors of Roughrider Electric Cooperative was held on Sept. 26 at Roughrider Electric'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, CFO 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.

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

Strategic items: Bentz and Kupper presented the co-general managers' report, which included updates on a joint electric and broadband cooperative meeting, impacts of the June storms, the North Dakota Rural Electric Political Action Committee, power supplier updates and more. Several Basin Electric

Power Cooperative reports and board documents were available for review.

Department reports: Craigmile provided a financial report. Olson provided an operations report, which included an update on projects across the service area. Hibl provided a report, which included community activities and program updates. Chief Information Officer Charlie Dunbar provided a written report. Grosz provided an update on the status on legal topics and projects.

Action items: The board reviewed and resolved various items.

Discussion/general information: The board also discussed strategic planning, workforce policy and other items.

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

Next meeting date: The next meeting is at 10 a.m. CT (9 a.m. MT) Dec. 19 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



Happy Holidays!

Roughrider Electric offices will be closed Dec. 24 and 25 as well as Jan. 1. We hope everyone has a joy filled holiday season!



Become a fan of Roughrider Electric Cooperative to learn timely co-op news!

facebook.com/RoughriderElectric