

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

# ROUGH RIDER NEWS

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

JULY 2016



*Christie Obenauer, Union State Bank, helped serve the meal.*

## Annual membership meeting Attendees get yearly review



*More than 300 people enjoyed the roast beef dinner.*

# Annual meeting recap

**R**oughrider Electric Cooperative members and friends gathered for the annual membership meeting on Wednesday, June 1, in Hazen. More than 300 people came to Hazen High School for the complementary dinner and meeting. Krause's SuperValu prepared the meal, which was served by Roughrider Electric Cooperative directors and employees from Union State Bank in Hazen.

President Roger Kudrna presided over the meeting. Co-General Managers Chris Baumgartner and Don Franklund provided a review of the year.

“What a difference a year makes. As we reflect on the work plans and activities that happened across our service area, we can honestly say nothing and everything has changed,” Franklund said.

Franklund reported how Roughrider Electric and its membership have begun to see some of the effects of the evolving electric generation and transmission environment.

“Roughrider’s power suppliers, Basin Electric Power Cooperative and Western Area Power Administration, have joined the Southwest Power Pool, a Regional

Transmission Organization (RTO),” Franklund said. “The ultimate benefit of participating in an RTO is that our power providers can more economically purchase power from other utilities in time of need and also sell power in time of excess. While this is a complicated philosophical change, the Roughrider board of directors and management believe this move is the right one.”

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations and how they may affect Roughrider Electric and its membership were discussed.

“Last year, the EPA enacted the Clean Power Plan, an environmental



Co-General Managers and Chief Executive Officers **Don Franklund** (left) and **Chris Baumgartner** presented the membership with a summary of the year.

regulation that calls for the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions from existing fossil fuel power plants,” Franklund said. “This is an issue that could not only affect our cost of power, but dramatically affect our local economy and many, many jobs.”

The issue is currently in the appeals process and is scheduled to be addressed by the D.C. Circuit Court in September of this year.

Electric rate information was also shared.

“As you know, Roughrider implemented a rate increase in April,

mostly due to an increase in our purchase power costs. As we look toward the future, it appears that additional increases are looming,” Baumgartner said.

“Regulations and energy markets are putting pressure on Basin Electric to have additional rate increases. While we don’t have any details, we want to share with you that an additional rate increase in 2016 may be necessary,” he said.

The co-general managers then updated members on upgrades that will strengthen the electric system and add reliability. They noted that

Roughrider Electric replaced 25 miles of overhead line with underground cable and also replaced 50 miles of underground cable.

“These improvements help provide you with more reliable service and a safer work environment for our employees,” Baumgartner said. “System reliability and safety are essential to the success of Roughrider, but we are also mindful of the delicate balance between affordability and reliability.”

Last year, the cooperative stressed Roughrider Electric’s culture of working safely every day.



Director of Key Accounts **Leonard Hibel** visited with a member.



**Brent Hysjulien** and **Julie Dukart** registered members prior to the meeting.



Basin Electric Power Cooperative employee **Michael Riedman** found a volunteer to demonstrate the energy bike.

“Safety continues to be our priority, and we assure you this will never change,” Franklund said. “Together as a team, we continue our culture of safety, and our employees embrace this culture so they can go home to their families every night.”

If you as a member notice any potentially unsafe plant or equipment involving our power lines, please contact Roughrider Electric. To make submitting safety concerns easier, members can use their smartphones to capture photos of potential trouble spots, write a brief description and email it to [safety@roughriderelectric.com](mailto:safety@roughriderelectric.com), or call 800-748-5533.

Chief Financial Officer Travis Kupper reviewed the financial figures for the year, and Director of Key Accounts Leonard Hibl gave a summary of this year’s Operation Round Up program and scholarship winners.

Eva Byerley of Hazen gave a summary of her Electric Cooperative Youth Tour trip to Washington, D.C. last year.

“I would like to thank Roughrider Electric Cooperative and you, the members, for sponsoring me on the Youth Tour. I am so proud to have had the opportunity to represent Roughrider Electric Cooperative and

North Dakota at our nation’s capital, and am very grateful for the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity given to me to visit Washington, D.C.,” Byerley said.

Alan Kadrmaz, chairman of the Nominating Committee, gave the committee’s report. During the Election, Callen Schoch (west district), Bruce Darcy (central district) and William Retterath (east district) ran unopposed. A motion to cast a unanimous ballot was approved by the 155 registered members, allowing the three incumbents to return to their positions on the board.

We thank all of our members who attended the meeting. ■



**Bert Speidel**, Sakakawea Medical Center, provided members with a blood pressure screening.



*Amann*



*Becker*



*Bernhardt*



*Bohn*



*Buckman*



*Henke*



*Hildebrand*



*Krance*



*Reinhardt*



*Zubke*

## Roughrider Electric Cooperative scholarship winners announced

As part of our commitment to community and area youth, Roughrider Electric Cooperative is pleased to award several scholarships for the 2015-16 school year.

The Roughrider Electric scholarship program is designed to encourage and recognize the academic achievements of the members of Roughrider Electric Cooperative and/or their dependent children. This recognition is in the form of scholarships.

Roughrider Electric awarded nine \$500 scholarships this year. One graduating senior from each of the high schools within our service area is chosen by his or her school to receive these funds. These schools include: Belfield, Beulah, Center-Stanton, Dickinson High, Dickinson Trinity, Hazen, Hope Christian, Richardton-Taylor and South Heart.

Roughrider Electric also awarded one \$500 scholarship to a graduating senior from a high school outside of our service area, but whose parents are members of our cooperative.

The following graduating seniors each received a scholarship award of \$500:

- Belfield High School*, Allison Buckman, daughter of Cindy and Curt
- Beulah High School*, Adam Becker, son of Sarah and Randy
- Center-Stanton High School*, Tristen Henke, daughter of Mary and Rick
- Dickinson High School*, Dynae Zubke, daughter of Tracy and Delvin
- Dickinson Trinity High School*, Paige Amann, daughter of Anita and Philip
- Hazen High School*, Sarah Hildebrand, daughter of Sheila and Steve
- Hope Christian High School*, Courtney Bernhardt, daughter of Sandra and Chris
- Richardton-Taylor High School*, Elizabeth Bohn, daughter of Jonila and Scott
- South Heart High School*, Brittni Krance, daughter of Stephoni and Gordon
- At Large:** *Mandan High School*, Taylor Reinhardt, daughter of Tammy and Bryan ■



## Basin Electric Power Cooperative scholarship

Each year, Basin Electric Power Cooperative provides \$1,000 to Roughrider Electric Cooperative to be awarded as a scholarship to a qualified candidate. Roughrider Electric is pleased to be able to offer this \$1,000 scholarship. This recipient, Eva Byerley, was picked from all the qualified applications received. She attended Hazen High School and is the daughter of Nicole and James.

Roughrider Electric assists in developing leadership in our service area by helping worthy scholarship recipients obtain a higher education. We are proud to bring this program to the cooperative members and we have high expectations for its success. Scholarship information and applications will be available in December from high school counselors and on Roughrider Electric's website at [roughriderelectric.com](http://roughriderelectric.com).

Congratulations to all scholarship recipients. ■

Report from

# THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

## MAY 26, 2016

**When, where and who:** The board of directors met in Dickinson on May 26.

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

**Minutes of the previous meeting:** The Board reviewed and approved the minutes of the April 29, 2016, meeting.

**Co-General Managers' report:** Chris Baumgartner and Don Franklund presented the managers' report.

**Chief Financial Officer report:** Mr. Kupper provided the Board with a summary of his written report. He advised that kilowatt-hour sales against budget remain down about 9.5 percent, consistent with prior months and also consistent with sales declines experienced by other western cooperatives.

**Operations and Construction report:** Mr. Bentz referred the Board to his written report.

He supplemented his report by explaining very recent developments regarding service to the refinery project in Billings County.

**Legislative conference:** Mr. Baumgartner reported on the Washington, D.C. session. Two directors from the four Innovative Energy Alliance cooperatives attended in addition to Mr. Baumgartner.

**Upcoming meetings:** There will be a Basin Electric Power Cooperative Member Advisory Committee meeting at the end of May. Basin Electric will be confirming the nature and extent of the rate increase in the next couple of months.

The next Board meeting was set for 10 a.m. Central Time on June 24, 2016, at Roughrider's office in Hazen, 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 through 2016. The incentives help you, the member, become more energy efficient.

The program for 2016 will include ground-source heat pumps and air-source heat pumps.

Members must buy and install qualifying systems between Jan. 1, 2016 and Dec. 31, 2016. 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

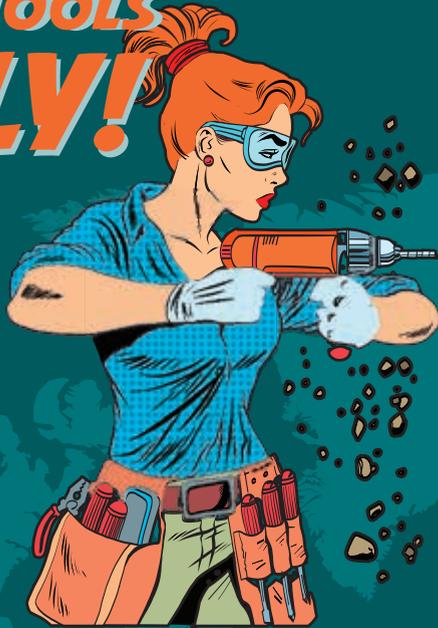
**“The Greatest Show in the West,” the Medora Musical, runs from June 3 to Sept. 10. The live show begins at 7:30 p.m. MDT in the Burning Hills Amphitheatre.**

**Roughrider Electric Cooperative and other North Dakota Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives support the 2016 Medora Musical by sponsoring the Burning Hills Singers in this fantastic, family friendly performance.**

**As a result, all Touchstone Energy Cooperative members can use the exclusive **TOUCH2016** discount code for **15 percent off** of the following attractions during any night of the season:**

- **Tickets to the Medora Musical**
- **Pitchfork Steak Fondue Tickets**
- **Bully Pulpit Golf Course Admission**
- **Lodging at any of the following:**
  - **Bunkhouse Motel**
  - **Badlands Motel**
  - **Rough Riders Hotel**

# USE POWER TOOLS SAFELY!



Many do-it-yourself projects involve the use of power tools. This summer, as you work with tools, remember these safety tips from Roughrider Electric Cooperative:

- Use ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) with every power tool to protect against electric shocks.
- Do not use power tools with an extension cord that exceeds 100 feet in length.
- Never use power tools near live electrical wires or water pipes.
- Use extreme caution when cutting or drilling into walls where electrical wires or water pipes could be accidentally touched or penetrated.
- If a power tool trips a safety device while in use, take the tool to a manufacturer-authorized repair center for service.
- When working with electricity, use tools with insulated grips.
- Appropriate personal protective gear should be worn when using power tools.
- Use and keep any guards which came with the tool, attached to the tool.
- When using a wet-dry vacuum cleaner or a pressure washer, be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions to avoid electric shock.
- Safeguards on outdoor electric tools are there for a reason. Make sure that they are always in place before operating.
- Invest in the safety goggles, hearing protection, dust masks, gloves and other safety gear as recommended for each tool. A few dollars now are well worth the lifetime of good sight and hearing that they are protecting.
- Wear the appropriate clothes for the job. Wearing sandals while mowing the lawn is just asking for trouble.
- Never carry a power tool by the cord or hose.
- Never yank the cord or the hose to disconnect it from the receptacle.
- Keep cords and hoses away from heat, oil and sharp edges that could damage them.
- Disconnect tools when not in use, before servicing and when changing accessories such as blades, bits and cutters.
- Avoid accidental starting. Workers should not hold a finger on the switch button while carrying a plugged-in tool.
- Tools should be maintained with care. They should be kept sharp and clean for both safety and good performance. Follow manufacturer's instructions for lubricating the tool and changing accessories.
- Keep your work area well-lit and well-ventilated.
- When not in use, tools should be stored in a dry place.
- Electric tools should not be used in damp or wet locations.



[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 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 north 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 Retherath; 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 .....	Co-General Manager/CEO
Chris Baumgartner .....	Co-General Manager/CEO



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