

ROUGH RIDER NEWS

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Roughrider announces Operation Round Up milestone!

PHOTO BY CARMEN DENNEY



SMALL CHANGE THAT CHANGES LIVES

At the cooperative's annual meeting on June 5, **Leonard Hibel**, director of member services and key accounts, announced that Operation Round Up has awarded more than \$500,000 in grants to worthy non-profit corporations, organizations and agencies in the Roughrider service area. Thank you, participating members, for helping your local cooperative community grow.

To read a recap of the Roughrider annual meeting, see pages C2 to C4.

What's inside:

- **Annual meeting recap**
- **Don't stack hay under power lines**
- **Medora discounts available to members**
- **Meetings minutes, and more**

Members learn ‘network of people’ defines power system at Roughrider’s annual meeting

Roughrider Electric Cooperative held its annual meeting at Trinity High School in Dickinson on June 5. One-hundred-forty members registered for the meeting and enjoyed a complimentary deep-fried turkey dinner served by Mulligans Catering. Mike Pretzer, pastor of Peace Lutheran Church in Dickinson, gave the invocation. Christina Jorgensen, executive director of the Dickinson Area Chamber of Commerce, welcomed guests. She noted the area’s heavy growth, and how businesses including Roughrider have helped make progress possible.

The annual meeting theme was, “Inspired by innovation. Driven by service.” It reflects the ever-evolving technology and practices of the electric utility industry, and the ever-changing needs of the cooperative’s member-owners.

The membership fulfilled Cooperative Principle #2, democratic member control, by voting to fill the board positions held by Callen Schoch, Bruce Darcy and William Retterath. All three incumbents were unanimously re-elected to retain their seats on the board.

The board will reorganize at its scheduled meeting on June 21 in Hazen.

Chief Financial Officer Alex Craigmile presented the financial report to the membership. He said Brady, Martz & Associates, P.C. audited the 2018 financial statements of Roughrider, and presented their report to the board of directors with an “unmodified opinion,” the highest



PHOTOS BY CARMEN DENNEY

Who can’t use ear plugs or safety glasses for mowing the lawn? Or an ice pack to ease inflammation or aches? Again this year, members seemed to appreciate the mini first-aid kits being handed out at registration, along with a blanket. The cold-weather season is never far away in North Dakota.

opinion they can give.

Members listened to cooperative updates. In his report to the membership, Co-General Manager Don Franklund noted the value of electricity is what it helps people accomplish.

From the electric meter and transformer outside a consumer’s home, to the distribution lines that lead to substations and the extensive transmission system beyond, the electric service network is needed to ensure the lights turn on at the end of the day.

“Yes, a true network of poles and wire are needed — but more importantly — it is the network of people,” Franklund said. “Years ago

when I worked as a lineman, I heard a bit of wisdom that still holds true today. ‘Line trucks don’t fix power lines; people do. And linemen don’t just fix power lines; the network of people do.’ From our billing department to warehousing ... from engineering to communications ... each step is important in providing members with reliable electric service. It is like a chain — only as strong as its weakest link.”

As noted regularly in Roughrider’s monthly local pages of *North Dakota Living*, our quarterly newsletter, online advertising and Facebook, safety is the culture of our cooperative. Roughrider has an aggressive safety program to

keep employees and the general public safe. Franklund noted the cooperative is seeing more equipment damage due to being struck by farm equipment. The shortened spring planting season due to weather meant folks worked longer hours and into the night.

“While we can understand folks being in a hurry, we ask everyone to please look around. Make sure you are operating in a safe manner. We don’t want anyone getting hurt,” he said.

Franklund thanked the employees for working hard and providing high-quality services. He also thanked partners in the audience who represented the electric cooperative network, including Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Upper Missouri Power Cooperative, National Information Solutions Cooperative, Innovative Energy Alliance Cooperative and the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives.

“Each provides critical skills and knowledge needed to provide reliable electric service. Without them, we would struggle to maintain the level of service we provide today,” he said.

Franklund introduced Co-General Manager Travis Kupper, who gave legislative updates. On a national level, electric cooperative representatives traveled to Washington, D.C., this spring to meet with U.S. senators, members of Congress and federal policymakers to discuss a safe, secure and reliable power supply, and policies that support carbon capture and storage investment. They advocated to protect against proposals that aim to sell the Power Marketing Administrations’ hydroelectric power and transmission assets. They also educated policymakers

on the unique benefits of the local control, advocating for continued tax protection of electric cooperatives, and calling on lawmakers for continued support of investments in rural infrastructure.

On the state level, the 66th regular North Dakota Legislative Assembly began in January. More than 900 bills were introduced, and the state’s electric cooperatives monitored 69 of them that could have an impact on members.

“Some of the bills we opposed included a net-metering bill, unrecorded easements and wind turbine setbacks. Some of the bills we supported included an electric vehicle infrastructure study, the protection of critical infrastructure and records related to it, the allocation of a wind generation tax revenue, and the use of carbon dioxide in enhanced oil recovery,”

Kupper said. “While the Assembly adjourned in April, we will continue to advocate on behalf of our members, and keep you informed as we learn more.”

Leonard Hibl, director of member services and key accounts, shared what Operation Round Up accomplished in 2018. It is a cooperative program in which Roughrider members can voluntarily choose to round up their monthly utility bills to the next dollar and donate their pennies. The foundation board members, who are also Roughrider members, meet and disburse funds in the form of grants. Hibl noted Operation Round Up has reached a milestone in that it has awarded more than \$500,000 in grants to worthy non-profit corporations, organizations and agencies in the Roughrider service area.



*Safety is the culture of Roughrider Electric Cooperative. **Darren Stastny**, safety coordinator for Roughrider, dressed **Shay Schmidt** with trinkets from the mini first-aid kit that was given to members following registration. Shay had fun with the ear plugs and eye glasses, and used the ice pack to prepare his head for the annual meeting. Shay is the son of Andy and Char Schmidt, who are Roughrider members from Dickinson.*



She seeks him out at every annual meeting! **Martha Namyniuk**, a member from the South Heart area, always has a hug for **Tim Ridi**, Roughrider's line superintendent. On behalf of the co-op, he did some easement work with her and her daughter, **Leona**. Tim says Martha is a sweet, honest, hard-working lady, and she and her daughter are great people! Thank you both for attending your annual meeting.

Hibl also noted that Kori Nagel, a coming junior at Center-Stanton High School, represented Roughrider on this year's Youth Tour. She and delegates from across the state and nation learned from and about each other while participating in events that showcase our nation's rich history, U.S. government, the cooperative business model and rural electrification.

Dedicated to the development of young leaders, Roughrider annually awards one \$500 scholarship to a graduating senior from each of the high schools within its service area, and one \$500 scholarship to a graduating senior from a high school outside of its service area, whose parents are members of Roughrider. Hibl also recognized the following scholarship winners, who were chosen by faculty members from each respective school:

- Anton Krebs, son of Anthony; from Belfield High School
- Phoebe Garman, daughter of Aaron and Amy; from Beulah High School
- Morgan Vitek, daughter of Keith and Brenda; from Center-Stanton High School,
- Dayna Zubke, daughter of Delvin and Tracy; from Dickinson High School
- Karlee Schmitt, daughter of Mark and Marianne; from Hazen High School
- Wyatt Baseflug, son of Matthew and Teresa; from Richardton-Taylor High School
- Kyle Kostelecky, son of Daryl and Sheila; from South Heart High School
- Cole Kieson, son of Chad and Rhonda; from Dickinson Trinity,

- Elissa Steffan, daughter of Tom and Deanna; the at-large winner from Killdeer High School

In addition, two other scholarships were awarded with assistance from Basin Electric Power Cooperative, a generation and transmission cooperative that provides power to Upper Missouri Power Cooperative. The recipients included:

- Brayden Groll, son of Chad and Kimberly, earned a \$1,000 scholarship. He attended Dickinson High School.
- Awna Kovash, daughter of Len and Jackie, earned the \$1,000 Member-Cooperative Employee Scholarship.

At the end of the meeting, Roughrider awarded three "Luck of the Draw" student scholarships to students who had registered for the meeting and attended with a parent. The goal of these scholarships is to encourage the younger generation to attend, and learn about the cooperative business model of one member, one vote — and to show how their voices and votes will count. Recipients included Bryck Schutt, Dylan Martell and Cole Kieson.

Door prizes were given away throughout the evening, culminating in three grand-prize drawings. Members Karla McAllister and Rhonda Kieson won a \$200 energy credit, and Willie Kuntz won a pair of tickets to see the Medora Musical and Pitchfork Fondue.

The board of directors, co-general managers and staff at Roughrider Electric Cooperative wish to thank our members for participating in the annual meeting of the membership, and look forward to meeting your electrical needs in the future. ■

There must be 10 feet of clearance between hay bales and power lines. Keep in mind that summer's warm temperatures can cause power lines to sag. Your best bet is to find another spot away from those hot, high-voltage lines — that under certain conditions, can cause fire, injury or death.



Protect your livelihood — and your life

Stacking hay under electrical infrastructure can be dangerous, if not deadly.

Imagine up to 115,000 volts of electricity running through the power lines directly above the hay you just stacked. Highly loaded, those aluminum wires get hot — and the warmer the temperature — the more the lines sag. There needs to be at least 10 feet of clearance between the neutral line and the top of your hay bales. Did you plan for sag and leave adequate space?

As amps travel the circuit, the wires get warm. If you back your equipment into a guy wire and a pole bends or breaks, or if you hit an overhead line with the loader, the line could fall on the hay and ignite. The hay you need to feed your cattle — and the provisions you made to feed your family — just went up in smoke.

And that could be the best-case scenario. If you or your equipment comes into contact with a power line, you could receive an electric shock that could cause injury and even death.

Protect your livelihood and your life, and stay away from power lines and poles. If you do make contact with a power line, call 911. Remain seated, warn others to stay away, and wait for Roughrider Electric linemen to de-energize the lines. Do not move from the equipment.

To report system damage that is not in need of immediate repair, call Roughrider Electric Cooperative at 1-800-748-5533 or email safety@roughriderelectric.com. If you send an email, please include the location, your name and contact information, and a photo if possible.

Members, your safety matters. Working together helps ensure the safety of all! ■

Report from THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MAY 24, 2019

When, where and who: The Board of Directors met in Dickinson on May 24.

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 April 26, 2019, meeting.

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

Mr. Kupper attended the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association rally at the end of April. He was part of a meeting with the North Dakota manager's group, and they met with the Acting Assistant Secretary of the Department of Interior. She gave the group an outline of projects she's working on, and where her department is focusing efforts.

Mr. Kupper reported on other meetings he attended on behalf of the Cooperative since the last Board meeting. Mr. Franklund reported on Federal Energy Regulatory Commission training he attended hosted by Basin Electric Power Cooperative.

Rural Utilities Service (RUS) Construction Fund Audit: The Board reviewed the Audit findings from RUS' loan fund and accounting review.

Hebron-Richardton Project - Lefor 41.6kV LAM Pole: Mr. Bentz reported that bids were solicited for the 41.6kV LAM Pole needed for the Hebron transmission line project. It is specially designed for a switch on the Lefor tap.

Upcoming meetings: The next Board meeting was set for 10 a.m. CT on June 21, 2019, at Roughrider's office in Hazen, N.D.

Other business: The Board entered Executive Session. 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

Roughrider 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.

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

DIY now, so you don't sweat this summer

Summertime usually means air-conditioning systems are working overtime, and regular maintenance of your unit will keep it running smoothly.

Annual maintenance can help improve your comfort and the efficiency of your air conditioning, while prolonging the life of your unit, according to the U.S. Department of Energy.

An air conditioner's filters, coils and fins require regular maintenance for the unit to function effectively and efficiently throughout its years of service. Neglecting necessary maintenance ensures a steady decline in the unit's performance, while energy use steadily increases.

Follow these tips:

Check those filters

Replace or clean air filters every month. Clogged, dirty filters block normal airflow and reduce a system's efficiency significantly. For central air conditioners, filters are generally located somewhere along the return duct's length. Common filter locations are in walls, ceilings, furnaces or in the air conditioner itself. Room air conditioners have a filter mounted in the grill that faces into the room. Some types of filters are reusable; others must be replaced. Filters may need more frequent attention if the air conditioner is in constant use, is subjected to dusty conditions or you have fur-bearing pets in the house.

Straighten the fins

If the coil's fins are bent, use a "fin comb" to straighten them. A "fin comb" tool will comb these fins back into nearly original condition.

Clean the coils

Check your air conditioner's evaporator coil every year and clean it as necessary. Minimize dirt and debris near the condenser unit. Your dryer vents, falling leaves and lawn mower are all potential sources of dirt and debris. Cleaning the area around the coil, removing any debris and trimming foliage back at least 2 feet allow for adequate airflow around the condenser.

Inspect the seals of window unit

At the start of each cooling season, inspect the window seals between the air conditioner and the window frame to ensure it makes contact with the unit's metal case.

Hire a professional

When your air conditioner needs more than basic or regular maintenance, hire a professional service technician. The technician should:

- Check for correct amount of refrigerant.
- Test for refrigerant leaks.
- Capture any refrigerant that must be evacuated from the system.
- Check for and seal duct leakage in central systems.
- Measure airflow through the evaporator coil.
- Verify the correct electric control sequence and make sure that the heating system and cooling system cannot operate simultaneously.
- Inspect electric terminals, clean and tighten connections.
- Oil motors and check belts for tightness and wear.
- Check the accuracy of the thermostat.





HEAD WEST FOR LESS

In partnership with the Theodore Roosevelt Medora Foundation, more than 10 Touchstone Energy Cooperatives in North Dakota have joined forces to make vacationing in North Dakota more affordable for families, including Roughrider Electric Cooperative. This summer, head west to Medora, where electric cooperative members are eligible for a 15-percent discount off the following reservations:

- ✓ Tickets to the Medora Musical
- ✓ Pitchfork Steak Fondue
- ✓ Bully Pulpit Golf Course

Lodging at any of the following:

- ✓ Badlands Motel
- ✓ Elkhorn Quarters
- ✓ Rough Riders Hotel

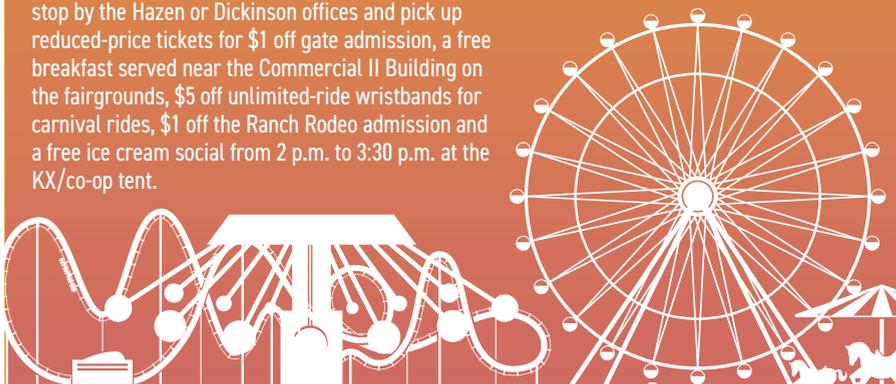
Members also receive 20 percent off at the Cowboy Hall of Fame by providing the discount code **Touch2019** at the door.

Roughrider members, if you are traveling to beautiful Medora this summer, call 1-800-MEDORA-1 to provide the discount code **Touch2019**, make reservations and receive your savings.

JULY 24: KX/CO-OP DAY at the N.D. State Fair

The KX/Co-op Day at the N.D. State Fair will be held July 24 in Minot.

If you plan to attend the fair on July 24, please stop by the Hazen or Dickinson offices and pick up reduced-price tickets for \$1 off gate admission, a free breakfast served near the Commercial II Building on the fairgrounds, \$5 off unlimited-ride wristbands for carnival rides, \$1 off the Ranch Rodeo admission and a free ice cream social from 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the KX/co-op tent.



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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