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CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR RETIREMENT, LEONARD & RUSSELL!

Leonard Hibl (left) has devoted 43 years to Roughrider Electric as director of member services and key accounts serving the cooperative and our membership.

Russell Walters has dedicated 31 years to Roughrider Electric and our membership as a lineworker.

Thank you both for your time and dedication to the cooperative and our membership. We wish you nothing but the best in retirement!



MANAGER'S MESSAGE:

Easy ways to stay informed



Travis Kupper

Co-General Manager/
CEO

Happy New Year! As we step into 2026, we want to take a moment to look at the many ways we stay connected to you, our members. Our goal is to make it simple and convenient for you to stay connected with what matters most. Whether it's a planned outage, severe weather response, board decisions or program updates, we offer several ways to keep you in the loop.

Website: Our website serves as an information hub for

members. On our website, you can find information ranging from outage maps and payment options to cooperative news.

Social media: Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for real-time updates, outage alerts and stories about our employees and community.

Print newsletter: Every month, members who receive a physical bill also receive our print newsletter, which highlights co-op news, programs and engaging infographics that spotlight the topics and issues you care about most. If you have paperless billing, you can also find the print newsletter in your SmartHub account.

E-newsletter: Our monthly e-newsletter delivers cooperative news and helpful tips straight to your

inbox! Our e-newsletter includes a member-focused question-and-answer section, program updates, and relevant state and national news. If you are not currently receiving the e-newsletter, call our office to update your email or update it within SmartHub.

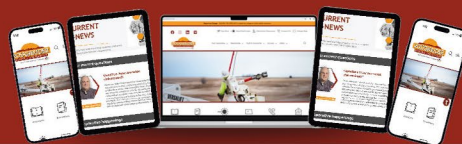
North Dakota Living and local pages: You may often see us refer to articles in *North Dakota Living* as our local pages. Starting on C1 in *North Dakota Living*, you'll find updates on what's happening at your cooperative from operations and member services, along with safety tips, board meeting highlights and member stories that celebrate our community.

SmartHub: Available on the web, smartphones and tablets, SmartHub lets you pay your bill, track your energy use and receive the latest co-op news right at your fingertips. Within SmartHub, you can also report an outage without ever having to make a call. Sign up for timely notifications about outages and planned maintenance through SmartHub.

Staying plugged in helps you get the most out of your membership, because this cooperative belongs to you. If you ever have questions or need assistance accessing any of these tools, please don't hesitate to reach out. We're always here to help. ■



STAY CONNECTED & UP TO DATE



Connect with us on **social media**! Like our Facebook page and follow us on Instagram to stay in the loop with co-op news, upcoming events, member spotlights and more.

Discover the latest co-op news and updates through **North Dakota Living**—be sure to check out the local pages section, located in the center of the magazine.

Stay informed about co-op news, events and updates by regularly visiting our **website**, roughriderelectric.com.

Our monthly **print newsletter**, found with your monthly bill, features helpful infographics and upcoming happenings at the cooperative. Our **e-newsletter**, which arrives to your email inbox each month, answers member questions and shares timely updates.

Managing your account has never been easier with **SmartHub's** user-friendly features. Whether on the web, your smartphone or tablet, you can effortlessly pay your bill, track usage, contact customer service and stay updated with the latest news.

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD: Power in your hands



Greg Steckler
Board Chair

As the Chair of the Roughrider Electric Cooperative board of directors, I am honored to serve our electric cooperative and our members. Because we're a co-op, we operate a little differently than other utilities. Roughrider Electric's decisions are made locally by directors who also live right here in our communities.

Everyone who pays to receive electricity from the co-op is a member. When you pay your electric bill each month, your money stays here to pay for the electricity used or to make improvements to our local system to strengthen service reliability. The money you pay the co-op doesn't line the pockets of shareholders five states away. We're a co-op, and we exist to provide a service to you, our local members.

We believe in local leadership, transparency and democratic control. That is why I want to highlight what it takes to be a director and encourage anyone interested to consider running for a director position. This is your cooperative, and your voice matters.

As a board member, you'll have the opportunity to contribute to the direction and decisions of Roughrider Electric. Some of the responsibilities include:

- **Monthly board meetings:** The board convenes once a month to discuss and decide on matters crucial to our cooperative's operations, development and growth.
- **Ongoing training opportunities:** Continuous learning is crucial. Board members have access to training sessions to enhance their knowledge and skills in governance and utility management.

We highly value the commitment of our board members, and we compensate them for their time and travel expenses to show our appreciation.

Please know you, the members of Roughrider Electric, are at the heart of everything we do. We exist to serve you and provide the quality, reliable and friendly service you expect and deserve. While we've grown over the years, we're still driven by the same guiding principles to serve our community.

We hope to see or hear from you soon. This co-op was created for you, the members. The power is in your hands. ■



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

Learn more at roughriderelectric.com/youth-tour.

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:

As member-owned organizations, electric cooperatives are always seeking new ways to engage their members. What are some ways electric cooperatives can better communicate and connect, especially with students and young adults?

The application deadline is Jan. 16, 2026.

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

Email entries to Roughrider Electric Cooperative at info@roughriderelectric.com or mail hard copy to:
Roughrider Electric Cooperative
Youth Tour Essay Contest
800 Hwy. Drive
Hazen, ND 58545



MESSAGE FROM MEMBER SERVICES: A look into 2026



Larissa Eslinger

*Manager of
Member Services*

As I settle into my new role as manager of member services, I would like to introduce myself to our membership. I have been with Roughrider Electric Cooperative since 2022, when I began my cooperative career as a customer service representative.

As a customer service representative, I have met many of you and visited about your life and family. I am part of the cooperative family, as I live in Beulah with my husband,

Damian, and our dog, Bella, and cat, Casper. I look forward to continuing to get to know our members and make lasting connections.

The cooperative's dedication to supporting members and our communities is something I value about Roughrider Electric. I love being able to watch the community get together and see Roughrider Electric's presence in the communities it serves.

Roughrider Electric is here to support communities and different organizations within our service area.

Additionally, I am fortunate to be a part of an amazing cooperative community. Throughout my time at the cooperative, I have come to know how great it is to work for a cooperative. Everyone, from Roughrider Electric and the cooperatives around the state, has been helpful. I have been able to ask and receive advice from anyone, and they are happy to do so. I will use this passion for assisting others in my new role to make sure others know they can reach out to me or anyone at Roughrider Electric, and we are always more than happy to help.

As manager of member services, I look forward to continuing to serve our membership and make an impact on our communities and members.

In strides toward ensuring we are meeting members where they are, I am excited to share we will begin our 2026 member satisfaction survey in February. If you receive a paper statement, watch for the survey in your bill. Additional information regarding the survey will be available in February. We hope you will participate in the survey, so we can better serve you! ■

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU.



Your voice, your impact! Participate in our member satisfaction survey and play a vital role in shaping the future of our services. If you receive a paper statement, you will get your member survey in the February billing statement. More information regarding the survey will be available in February.



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: **Strengthening our system in 2026**



Shawn Olson

*Chief of Staff/
Operations Manager*

As we look ahead into 2026, Roughrider Electric Cooperative continues our commitment to bringing 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 of these projects include cooperative infrastructure updates and service upgrades.

Strengthening our system

Projects have been planned for 2026 as part of the current work plan to enhance electric services for members. These projects include:

- Building 23 miles of 115-kilovolt (kv) transmission line from our Russian Creek Substation along Highway 22 to our Gorham Substation along Highway 85.
- Constructing a transmission substation southeast of Fairfield.
- Rebuilding four miles of 69-kv transmission line near Stanton.
- Converting overhead highway crossings to underground cable will continue this year with about 20 planned around the Hazen area.

- Replacing transmission and distribution poles in the Manning, Marshall, Dodge and Zap areas.
- Rebuilding our Center Substation to accommodate load growth in the area.
- Upgrading three-phase infrastructure that serves the Beulah Bay and Pick City area.

Additional projects include pole testing, tree trimming and maintenance throughout the service territory. These initiatives will help us ensure our infrastructure is safe and reliable across our service area.

New services and upgrades

Throughout the year, our crews will continue to plan and install new services as well as complete service upgrades to meet member needs. Whether you plan to build a new house, install a grain bin or have other plans that include bringing electric services, be sure to call our office.

By contacting us in the early stages of the planning process, we can help provide guidance and analyze your projected electric service requirements as well as service availability and potential costs.

We would like to remind members to report outages by calling 800-748-5533. This information helps us assess where the cause of the outage may have originated.

Roughrider Electric continues to focus on the goal of providing safe, efficient, reliable service to our members and looks forward to serving you in 2026. ■



SAFETY STARTS WITH ME: Winter storm safety



Kayla Fandrich
Customer Service
Representative

Snow, ice and high winds are often an inevitable part of the winter on the prairie. These conditions can have an impact on our electric infrastructure, which may lead to power outages.

"We know that outages during storms can be unsettling," says Kayla Fandrich, customer service representative. "But here at Roughrider Electric Cooperative, our team is ready and prepared to help get power restored in a safe and efficient manner."

During uncertain times like power outages, it is important to be prepared and stay safe. Here are some tips to keep in mind before, during and after an outage.

- **Make a storm kit.** Having a few items on hand is better than nothing at all. Include items such as water, nonperishable foods, blankets, a first-aid kit, flashlights and extra batteries. Keep in mind

all households may be different and make the kit applicable to you. Place all items in a storage box, so all the items are in one place for easy access if the power goes out.

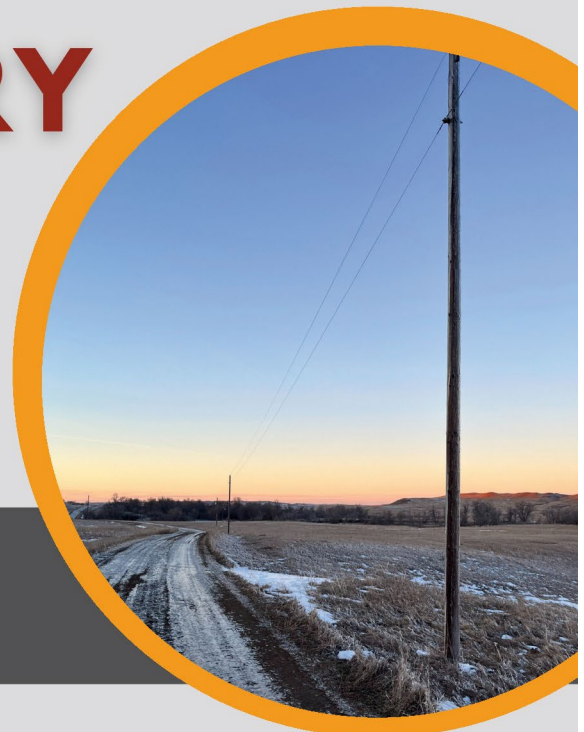
- **Report outages.** In the event of an outage, it is important all outages are reported. This helps cooperative employees understand the issue and send a crew to restore the outage. Report an outage by calling 800-748-5533.
- **Use generators safely.** If you plan to use a portable generator as a power source, be sure the generator is located outside your house for proper ventilation. It is also important to follow the manufacturer's directions for operating the generator.
- **Never approach or touch a downed power line.** Always assume all wires on the ground are electrically charged. Call us to report the downed power line immediately.

Planning for severe storms or other emergencies can reduce stress and anxiety caused by the weather event and can lessen the impact of the storm's effects. Additionally, rest assured knowing Roughrider Electric employees are working as efficiently and safely as they can to restore power to your home. ■

REPORT EVERY OUTAGE

**If you experience a power outage,
please call us immediately at
800-748-5533.**

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



Roughrider Electric board meeting highlights Oct. 31

The meeting of the board of directors of Roughrider Electric Cooperative was held on Oct. 31 at Roughrider Electric's Hazen office. The meeting was called to order at 11 a.m. CT (10 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 Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Upper Missouri Power Cooperative, load expansion and other items. Several additional Basin Electric reports and board documents were available for review.

Department reports: Craigmile provided a financial report, which included a review of the budget and executive summary. Olson provided an operations report, which included an update on projects, pole testing and 2026 projects. 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 discussed the preliminary capital budget and upcoming National Rural Electric Cooperative Association programs.

The meeting concluded with 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) on Jan. 30 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 USDA civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its agencies, offices, 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, audiotope, American Sign Language, etc.) 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, AD3027, found online at ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html 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
3) email: program.intake@usda.gov

Roughrider Electric 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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to learn timely co-op news!

facebook.com/RoughriderElectric