

- Growth on the grid
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- Join the Career Tour
- Cybersecurity tips



PHOTO COURTESY OF NDAREC

**Scott Leintz**, center, receives the Community Service Award with co-general managers **Travis Kupper**, left, and **Jason Bentz**, right.

## Leintz and Quenette recognized for commitment to community

Each year, cooperative employees, directors and members are recognized for their commitment to cooperatives and communities at the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives (NDAREC) annual meeting banquet.

One of the awards presented is the Community Service Award. Recipients of this award embody commitment to community, passion for volunteering and devotion to cooperatives and their communities.

Scott Leintz, a working foreman, and Brad Quenette, who recently retired as the member services manager at Roughrider Electric, were honored with the Community Service Award.

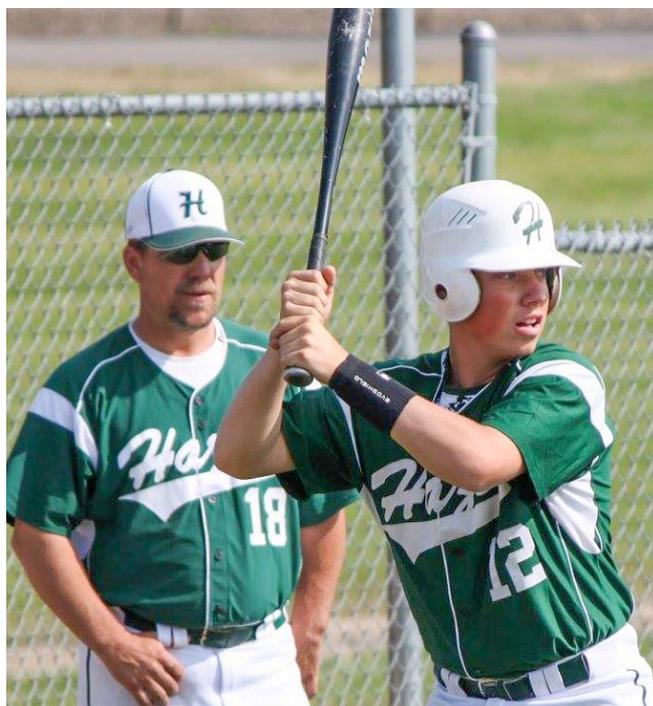
### Scott Leintz

Scott Leintz's leadership abilities have played a pivotal role in strengthening youth programs and community activities in Hazen. His commitment began with simple acts of service, including chaperoning school field trips when his children were young and quickly grew into a sustained pattern of stepping forward wherever leadership and a helping hand were needed.

Whether coaching or coordinating events behind the scenes, Leintz leads by example. His dependable presence creates an environment where young

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*Leintz coaching high school baseball in Hazen.*

athletes feel supported and valued, and where fellow volunteers feel motivated to work together toward shared goals.

Leintz's leadership was instrumental in improvements at Slinde Field, where he helped install the new scoreboard, ensures the American flag is flown for every game and assists with seasonal field preparation. These contributions have enhanced the experience for athletes and fans, demonstrating how one individual's leadership can elevate an entire community.

## Community involvement

Leintz's involvement extends far beyond sports. His community development work includes helping establish after-hours power at the Lewis & Clark RV Park during its construction, which was an important project to support local recreation and tourism.

He has volunteered at numerous community events and street dances, manning gates, preparing spaces or selling tickets to ensure events run smoothly. Through the Hazen Convention & Visitors Bureau, Leintz has helped promote the community at regional sports shows, strengthening Hazen's visibility and economic opportunities.

Each project he touches benefits from his willingness to tackle the unglamorous, but essential, tasks, ultimately contributing to a more vibrant and well-supported community.

## Service and volunteer activities

Leintz has served in many formal and informal volunteer roles throughout the years. He served on the Hazen Parks and Recreation board, where his perspective as a coach, parent and community member helped guide local youth programming. His coaching spans T-ball, Little League, Babe Ruth and American Legion baseball, wrestling, fifth- and sixth-grade basketball, and midget football.

He is known as someone who steps in wherever help is needed, selling concessions, managing gates, officiating games, preparing fields or driving team buses for both high school teams and the Hazen Parks and Recreation.

He has also helped orchestrate sendoffs for teams qualifying for state competition, ensuring student-athletes feel celebrated and supported. Leintz's decades of service reflect an unwavering dedication to improving the quality of life for families in Hazen.

## Brad Quenette

Brad Quenette has consistently supported the mission of Roughrider Electric through reliable participation in community-focused activities. He contributed meaningfully during cooperative-sponsored events and interacted with members in a dependable and positive manner. His steady presence and professional approach reflect the Touchstone Energy® Cooperative values of integrity, accountability and commitment to community in a practical, everyday way.

In his position as member services manager, Quenette frequently represented the cooperative at local events and member-focused activities. He played a steady and reliable role in helping these events run smoothly and ensuring members felt welcomed and supported.



*Quenette attended area event such as the KFYR Agri-International to visit with members.*



**Brad Quenette** received the Community Service Award for continuously supporting the mission of Roughrider Electric Cooperative.

PHOTO COURTESY OF NDAREC

Quenette's community-related involvement includes:

- Supporting local economic development efforts, including participation with Hazen Economic Development, Mercer County Economic Development and Vision West North Dakota.
- Taking part in community programs, such as Taste of Hazen, local parades and assisting with food service at community fairs, the state fair and agricultural shows.
- Coordinating youth programs for Roughrider Electric, including managing the cooperative's scholarship program and organizing the Youth Tour opportunity.
- Administering community benefit programs, working with the Rural Development Finance Corporation and managing donation programs through CoBank and Basin Electric Power Cooperative.
- Participating in youth-focused activities, including parades, school career days and touch a truck events. We are proud to have such dedicated individuals who represent our cooperative. Through their involvement, we make our communities a better place. ■



**Quenette** valued meeting and visiting with members, even our youngest!

## MANAGER'S MESSAGE: **Growth on the electric grid**



**Travis Kupper**

Co-General Manager/  
CEO

Electricity usage within the United States is reaching record levels and the demand is expected to continue to rise. Artificial intelligence (AI), crypto mining and data center technology play a role in increased demand. It's understandable why our members would question whether the increase in technology and load will result in increased rates and higher electric bills.

For Roughrider Electric Cooperative, the answer is no.

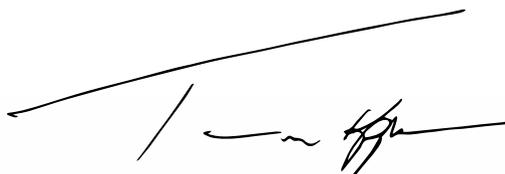
Roughrider Electric is a member of Basin Electric Power Cooperative. As our wholesale electric provider, Basin Electric developed a Large Load Program designed to insulate our existing members from the costs and risks associated with serving new large electric loads.

When a data center or other large load connects to our system, it is required to pay for the infrastructure needed to serve the load. Those costs are not shifted to our existing membership.

In fact, data centers specifically can often strengthen our system. Because they consume power around the clock, they consume unused capacity on the grid that would otherwise not be used. That steady demand provides reliable revenue, which strengthens the financial health of our cooperative. Beyond our cooperative, data centers can also help contribute to the economic growth and health of our local communities.

So, what are the primary drivers behind the rate increase we have seen over the years? They include growth in traditional load, commodity price variability, increased planning reserve margins (regulations) as well as continued investments in reliability.

The bottom line is data centers are not driving your electric bill higher. When properly planned, they help us maintain stable rates and position our system to meet the growing needs for the future. ■



# MESSAGE FROM OPERATIONS: Safety and dedication recognized



**Shawn Olson**  
Chief of Staff/  
Operations Manager

Each year, operations personnel from electric cooperatives across North Dakota gather in Mandan for a three-day, safety focused conference known as the Apprenticeship, Training and Safety Conference.

Safety is the top priority for electric cooperatives as well as for the members and communities they serve. Cooperative employees took part in valuable training sessions, such as vehicle extraction, leadership and

other workshops. Additionally, cooperatives are recognized for their dedication to safety.

This year, Roughrider Electric Cooperative received a certificate of safety achievement and a Safety Performance Award.

The certificate of safety achievement is awarded to cooperatives for successfully participating in the Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program, known as RESAP. Last fall, Roughrider Electric received favorable marks in a RESAP onsite safety assessment. This program helps optimize safety practices across the cooperative.

Roughrider Electric also received the Safety Performance Award, which recognizes cooperatives for having zero OSHA recordable injuries during the past year. Roughrider Electric continues to analyze and improve safety plans for the wellbeing of employees and communities.

Additionally, lineworkers who have completed their apprentice lineworker training are recognized at the banquet. This year, 11 apprentice lineworkers earned their journeyman certificate, including Conner Kuntz. Kuntz has diligently worked to complete his apprenticeship program, while working alongside journeyman lineworkers at Roughrider Electric. The lineworker apprenticeship program requires apprentices to complete 8,000 hours of on-the-job training and a set of books which includes 40 tests.

We are proud of our employees' dedication to safety at Roughrider Electric. ■



Roughrider Electric employees were recognized for their safety efforts, including, left to right, **Jason Bentz, Mike Steier, Clay Gerhardt, Conner Kuntz, Shawn Olson, Tyler Phelps and Anthony Schaff.**



**Conner Kuntz**, second from left, receives his journeyman certificate at the Apprenticeship, Training and Safety Conference. Left to right are co-General Manager **Jason Bentz**, Kuntz, Operations Manager **Shawn Olson** and Line Superintendent **Tyler Phelps.**

## MESSAGE FROM MEMBER SERVICES: **North Dakota Career Tour**



**Larissa Eslinger**  
Manager of  
Member Services

Juniors, sophomores and freshmen, I'm excited to personally invite you to a unique opportunity that could ignite your future. Our two-day North Dakota Career Tour is set to offer a deep dive into the fascinating world of energy careers right here in our state.

### **Why should you join us?**

If you've ever been curious about what powers your world, this is your chance to explore.

From coal mines and power plants to wind turbines and cooperatives, you'll get hands-on experiences and hear directly from the experts who drive North Dakota's energy sector. This tour is more than just an exploration. It's a gateway to understanding how diverse career paths and cutting-edge technologies shape our industry. You'll meet professionals who are passionate about their work and discover how you could be a part of this exciting field.

### **Event details:**

**When:** June 24-25

**Who can attend:**

- 2025-26 high school juniors, sophomores and freshmen
- Students who are curious about the diverse opportunities within North Dakota's energy sector.
- Open to dependents of Roughrider Electric members and non-members!

### **How to register**

We have a limited number of spots available. Our cooperative is joining forces with other cooperatives within Innovative Energy Alliance, with each selecting 10 students, totaling 40 participants from across the state.

This is your chance to gain a new perspective and start envisioning your future in energy. To secure your spot and find out more, visit [RoughriderElectric.com](http://RoughriderElectric.com). The application deadline is May 1.

I look forward to seeing you on this exciting journey and helping you light the way to your future career! ■



# JOIN ROUGHRIDER ELECTRIC FOR THE CAREER TOUR

## JUNE 24-25

### **FROM COAL MINES TO POWER PLANTS AND ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES DIVE INTO THE HEART OF NORTH DAKOTA'S ENERGY SECTOR**

Limited spots available. Learn more by scanning the QR code or visiting: [www.roughriderelectric.com](http://www.roughriderelectric.com).

**Application deadline is May 1.**



## SAFETY STARTS WITH ME: Cybersecurity starts with all of us



**Anthony Schaff**  
*Electric technician/  
meter technician*

In today's world, most of us don't leave the front door unlocked. We protect our homes, loved ones and valuables from intruders with locks, alarms and other security measures. Cybersecurity is no different. It's the practice of protecting other valuables, such as identity, banking and health records and other sensitive information, from digital attacks and theft.

The energy sector continues to be a target of cyber attacks, and we will continue to face threats that target our employees, our supply chains and partners. It is critical we stay vigilant, because our infrastructure is both critical and relied upon by others.

We want our members – and the world – to know we take our role in managing cybersecurity threats to our members' data and our operations seriously.

"We participate in monthly training to stay vigilant on cybersecurity threats and tips to keep the cooperative safe and secure," says Anthony Schaff, electric technician/meter technician. "As a member of Roughrider Electric, there are steps you can take to help keep your information and ours safe as well."

Here are some simple things you can do to protect from cybersecurity threats.

- **Make sure all your computer software is updated with the latest version.** Keeping software, including your browser, up to date ensures crucial software updates take place.
  - **Create a strong password and keep it private.** It can take five days to crack a nine-character password, but more than two centuries to crack a password consisting of 12 characters or more!
  - **Treat all Wi-Fi networks as a potential security risk.** Never check financial or other sensitive accounts when using public Wi-Fi at a store, local coffeeshop or when you're on the road.
  - **Be on the lookout for suspicious emails, phone calls and other messages.** Scammers will use various avenues to gain access to co-op and member information. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. If something seems off, trust your instinct and convey your concerns to a manager or member of the security team.
  - **Think before you click!** Don't click links or attached files in emails or text messages from senders you don't know. Even if you do know the sender, hover over the link before you click, as they may have been hacked or someone could be spoofing them!
- While we can't stop a storm or predict every disruption, we do everything we can to keep the lights on and our members protected. Because if we all do our part, our interconnected world will be safer and more secure for everyone. ■

# SAVE THE DATE:

## ROUGH RIDER ELECTRIC'S ANNUAL MEETING ON JUNE 3 IN HAZEN

## Roughrider Electric board meeting highlights Dec. 19, 2025

The meeting of the Board of Directors of Roughrider Electric Cooperative, Inc. was held on Dec. 19, 2025, at Roughrider Electric's Hazen office. The meeting was called to order at 10 a.m. CT (9 a.m. MT). A quorum was present. Also attending were Co-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. Accounting Manager Michaela Perbix attention portions of the meeting.

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

**Strategic items:** Bentz and Kupper presented the co-managers' report, which included an internal Cybersecurity Policy, Midwest Annual Meeting and other items. Several additional Basin Electric Power Cooperative 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 crews are working on, employee updates and material inventory progress. Hibl provided a report which included a nominating committee update, youth programs and community activities. Chief Information Officer Charlie Dunbar provided a written report. Grosz provided an update on the status on legal topics and projects including, federal matters and a nominating committee update.

**Action items:** The board reviewed and resolved various items which included appointing meeting delegates for upcoming industry annual meetings.

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 March 27 in Dickinson. ■



[www.roughriderelectric.com](http://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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