

KEM Country LINES

KEM Electric Cooperative, Linton, N.D.

APRIL 2013



Chris Baumgartner

Manager's Message

One penny at a time

BY CHRIS BAUMGARTNER

North Dakotans care for each other. We cheer ourselves to tears when the local basketball team earns a berth to the state tournament. And we lend a hand, turning tears to cheerful smiles when someone needs help during a disaster.

KEM Electric Cooperative members have been supporting each other in similar ways since the cooperative started the Operation Round Up program in 2002.

Since electric cooperatives were formed in the 1940s, we have been dedicated to improving the quality of life for people in our service area. We do this by not only providing affordable electric service to our customers, but also by our active involvement in a number of important efforts and events.

And Operation Round Up is just one more example of the cooperative's community involvement.

Through the program, members voluntarily "round up" their electric bills to the next whole dollar each month. It's a simple concept based on just a few coins each month.

But it's remarkable how those nickels, dimes and quarters can quickly turn into serious money.

And it's even more remarkable how many organizations and individuals KEM Electric Cooperative's Operation Round Up program has been able to help in just a short time. KEM Electric Cooperative's Operation Round Up program has contributed \$68,841 to 198 community recipients since it began in 2002.

Fifty-three percent of KEM Electric

Cooperative's member have decided to support this important program, which has helped fire departments, medical services and youth in our area communities.

We would encourage all KEM Electric members to consider supporting each other and enrolling in Operation Round Up. Local people working to support each other. That's the essence of the seventh cooperative principle, "concern for community," which is one of seven guiding principles of every electric cooperative.

First and foremost, KEM Electric Cooperative strengthens our communities by doing what we do best – providing a safe and reliable supply of electricity at an affordable cost. But we also strengthen our communities by getting involved, and helping each other.

KEM Electric Cooperative will always care for its members. We hope you can get involved and enroll in Operation Round Up to share with each other, and show you care.

This is a program worth cheering about. ■

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ATTEND **YOUR** ANNUAL MEETING!



KEM Electric Cooperative 2013 annual meeting June 20, 2013 Linton High School

We'll see you at the annual meeting

Let's face it. We are all busy. With work, family, school, church, volunteer activities and a never-ending list of errands, the thought of attending one more meeting may be daunting. It may be difficult to give your local electric cooperative a little time, but your voice is important!

Attend KEM Electric Cooperative's annual meeting and get involved! During the meeting, you'll elect directors, listen to highlights from the past year, and have a chance to visit with staff and directors.

Cooperatives are owned and controlled by you, the members. As an owner, each person has a voice and a vote. You can elect the board of directors, attend meetings and ask questions. And if you want to become more involved,

you can become a candidate for the board of directors.

The cooperative way of doing business is a true example of grassroots democracy in action. Join the voices that guide your cooperative and attend the annual meeting June 20 at the Linton High School.

Even though you are busy, be an active co-op member! ■

How to get on the ballot

Are you interested in becoming a director for KEM Electric Cooperative?

KEM Electric Cooperative's 2013 annual meeting will be held June 20 at Linton High School. This year, the director seats up for election are those of Milton Brandner in District 3 and Dean Hummel at large.

Those interested in being on the ballot need to pick up a petition at KEM Electric's headquarters in Linton and secure 25 or more signatures of members from within that district, or members at large if the petition is for an at-large position. You may pick up a petition now, and must have it filed by **May 7, 2013**. Nominations may also be made from the floor during the annual meeting.

According to the bylaws, a director may be any member of KEM Electric Cooperative, who is a natural person in good standing and who receives electricity from KEM Electric at his or her primary residence and is at least 18

years of age.

No person shall be eligible to become or remain a director of the cooperative who is in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise, or a business selling electric energy or supplies to the cooperative or a business primarily engaged in selling electrical appliances, fixtures or supplies to members of the cooperative or to others. ■





District 1
John Beck



District 2
Carter Vander Wal



District 3
Milton Brandner



District 4
Victor J. Wald



District 5
Dean Dewald



At-large director
Dean Hummel



At-large director
Carmen Essig

Director elections scheduled

KEM Electric Cooperative is overseen by a seven-member board of directors which is elected by you — the members and owners of the electric cooperative.

The cooperative is divided into five districts, with one director representing each district and two at-large board seats. The current board of directors includes: District 1, John Beck; District 2, Carter Vander Wal; District 3, Milton Brandner; District 4, Victor J. Wald; District 5, Dean Dewald; at-large director, Dean Hummel; and at-large director, Carmen Essig.

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KEM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE'S SERVICE AREA

Director positions in 2013 election include:



District 3
Milton Brandner



At-large director
Dean Hummel

Casondra Rutschke wins trip to Washington, D.C.



Casondra Rutschke

Asophomore at Zeeland High School, Casondra Rutschke has earned a trip to Washington, D.C. KEM Electric Cooperative has selected Casondra as the winner of the cooperative's Youth Tour essay contest. She is the daughter of Jerome and Dorinda Rutschke, who live on a farm south of Hague.

Casondra will represent KEM Electric Cooperative during the all-expense-paid Youth Tour to Washington, D.C., in June. During the Youth Tour, students sponsored by electric cooperatives from across the country converge on the nation's capital. They visit national monuments and historic sites, federal offices, and spend time with their congressional delegations. During the Youth Tour, students also learn about electric cooperatives and discuss issues facing their communities and the nation.

Casondra is active in 4-H, speech, archery and Future Business Leaders of America. She has been a member of 4-H for 10 years and is the Emmons County 4-H ambassador and junior leader. Her hobbies include reading, listening to music, spending time with friends, making crafts, and playing with her pets.

"I would like to thank KEM Electric for giving me the amazing opportunity to go to Washington, D.C.," she said.

THE WINNING ESSAY

To earn a trip to Washington, D.C., Casondra wrote an essay on the following topic: "In choosing a career in the energy industry, what type of job would you be most interested in and why?"

The energy industry includes a variety of different areas, including electricity, natural gas, oil and renewable energy. The energy industry is a great industry to be part of because the number of jobs in this field are constantly increasing throughout the world. If I were to choose a career in the energy industry, I would select the social and community service manager career.

A social and community service manager is an office job. This occupation is not specific to the energy field. Other fields this job can be found in include education, hospitals, social services and counseling, and business management and support services.

The job of a social and community service manager, also known as a program director or human resource manager, is rather varied. They have many different duties, including planning and directing social service programs. They direct the overall operation of an agency, including interviewing and hiring new staff, training staff, assigning duties, and supervising the staff.

Social and community service managers usually work directly with clients. If the agency they are working for incorporates volunteers, they may also recruit and train these people. The work of a social and community service manager helps to ensure the quality of service and to make sure their resources are put to the best use by observing workers and evaluating their performance. They also prepare and maintain records, reports and budgets.

Social and community service managers need to be able to speak in front of others, because they often report to and consult with the director or board of directors. This is also an important skill because they may also be required to speak to community groups to explain the agency's purpose, programs

or policies. They also review regulations or rule changes to see how the agency could be affected by these changes.

Many social and community service managers are in charge of public relations. This means that they establish contacts with other agencies to ensure that services are not duplicated. They may also speak to community groups to explain the purpose of the agency and the services which they offer. They may also plan and direct fundraising activities.

Social and community service managers incorporate many different skills in their job. These include making decisions, problem solving, establishing and maintaining relationships, assisting others, communicating with supervisors, working with the public, documenting and recording information, organizing work, providing advice, guiding and motivating workers, developing goals, resolving conflicts, negotiating, creative thinking, using computers, teamwork, and scheduling activities. They need to be very sociable because they typically work closely with agency staff.

Social and community service managers need to be very exact, because slight errors could affect the safety or security of their clients. They need to be able to make decisions by themselves because they rarely consult with directors before making decisions. Social and community service managers should also be very punctual to make sure they meet the required deadlines.

Training to be a social and community service manager includes having a high school diploma or GED, having at least a bachelor's degree, and one to five years of related work experience. There is a large demand for this occupation with a growth rate of 26.7 percent.

A social and community service manager needs to be a good leader, punctual, responsible, polite, respectable and detail-oriented, which is why I think this would be a good career for me. I also enjoy speaking in front of others, solving problems, and helping to solve problems, which are all important skills for someone in this profession. ■

KEM Electric Cooperative awards scholarships

To help area students prepare for their future journeys, KEM Electric Cooperative, along with its wholesale power provider, Basin Electric Power Cooperative, has awarded two college scholarships — one in the amount of \$1,000 and one for \$500 — to qualifying dependents of KEM Electric Cooperative members. Karlee Feist, Linton, is the recipient of the \$1,000 scholarship, and Kelsey Weigel is the \$500 scholarship recipient.



Karlee Feist

Karlee Feist

The \$1,000 scholarship winner is Karlee Feist, a senior at Linton High School. She is the daughter of Gordon and Laura Feist, who live on a farm southwest of Linton.

Karlee plans to attend North Dakota State University in the fall and major in human development and family science/elementary education.

Karlee's father works for MBI Energy Services out of Ross and her mother works at Webo's Restaurant in Linton. She has one younger sister, Kelsey.

While in high school, Karlee

has been involved in National Honor Society, Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) and Acalympics. She is a member of St. Anthony's Catholic Church and a lifeguard at Linton Swimming Pool.

Karlee's hobbies include spending time with family and friends, traveling, listening to music and going to the lake.

KEM Electric congratulates Karlee on this award! ■



Kelsey Weigel

Kelsey Weigel

The \$500 scholarship winner is Kelsey Weigel, a senior at Napoleon High School. She is the daughter of Terry and Cheryl Weigel.

Kelsey plans to enroll in the Dakota Nursing Program at Bismarck State College in the fall of 2013, and continue her education at Sanford Health School of Nursing.

"I love to work with people, help those in need, and am looking forward to the opportunities and experience I will gain working as a registered nurse," she says.

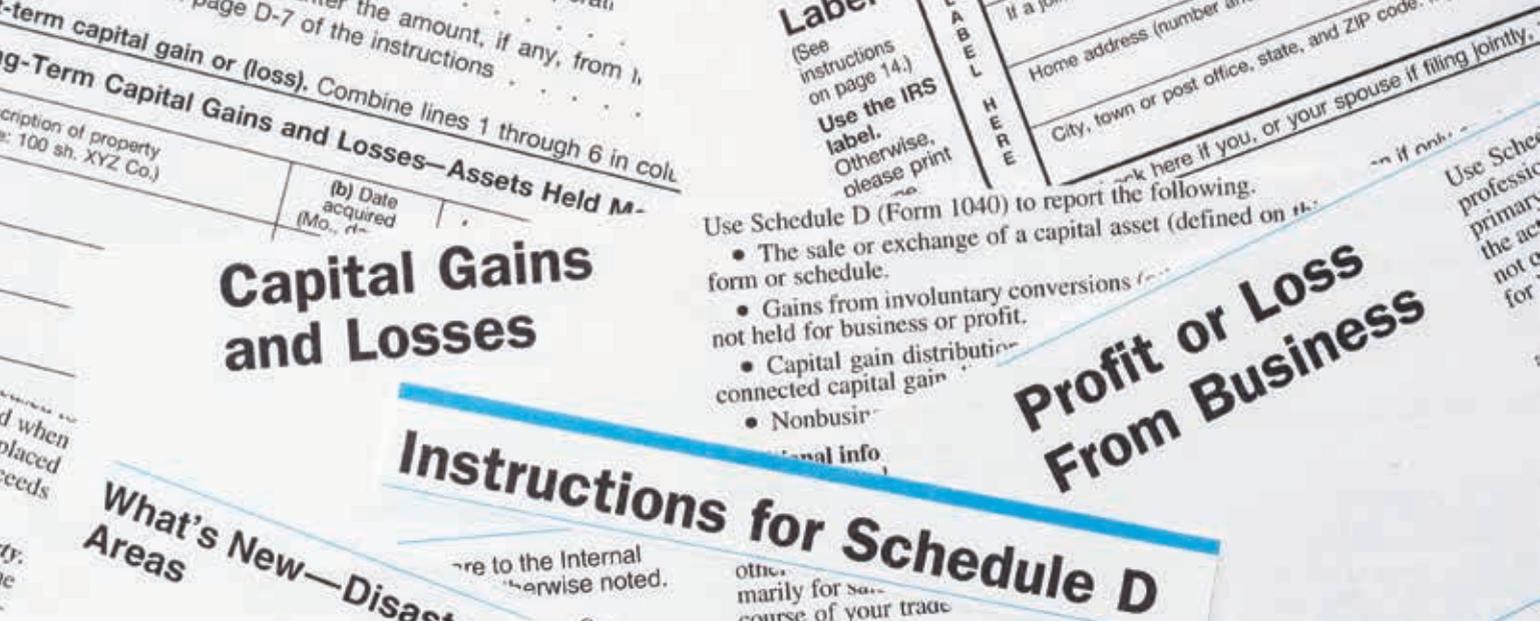
Kelsey's father is a district technician for the Logan County Soil Conservation Service, and her mother is the postmaster in Napoleon. She has a younger sister, Shaina. The family raises cattle on their farm southwest of Napoleon, where Kelsey

has been involved with all aspects of the herd, including fixing fence.

Kelsey has been involved with Student Council, has served as a class officer, is active in FCCLA, and is involved with the St. Philip Neri Catholic Church choir and youth group. She is an honor student and part of the National Honor Society. Currently, she works part time as a certified nursing assistant (CNA) at the Napoleon Care Center.

In her spare time, her interests include watching movies, listening to music, going to the lake, being with friends, attending Farmers Union Camp, working on art projects and babysitting.

KEM Electric congratulates Kelsey on winning this scholarship! ■



Yes, your co-op pays taxes, too!

Does KEM Electric Cooperative pay taxes? Yes! Just like our hardworking members, your local electric cooperative pays taxes each year.

Five area counties served by KEM Electric Cooperative will be the beneficiaries of taxes paid by the cooperative.

The cooperative paid \$77,259.15 in taxes to the state of North Dakota this year. The tax money comes from the electric distribution tax, which taxes the energy the cooperative sells. Besides the energy distribution tax, cooperatives pay real estate taxes on the unimproved value of the land they own for offices and facilities.

Money from the tax revenue flows back to the counties the cooperative serves, based on the number of miles of power line in each county. The cooperative has 2,999 miles of power line in the five-county area.

Since Emmons County has the most miles of power line among the five counties, it receives the largest share — \$28,338.87 — from the cooperative.

Other counties receiving tax money from the cooperative are:

- Burleigh County – \$126.03
- Kidder County – \$21,898.56
- Logan County – \$11,050.90
- McIntosh County – \$15,844.79

So, be assured that KEM Electric Cooperative does pay taxes. It's all part of being a Touchstone Energy® Cooperative. KEM Electric Cooperative is here to serve you with the Touchstone Energy core values: integrity, accountability, innovation and commitment to community. ■



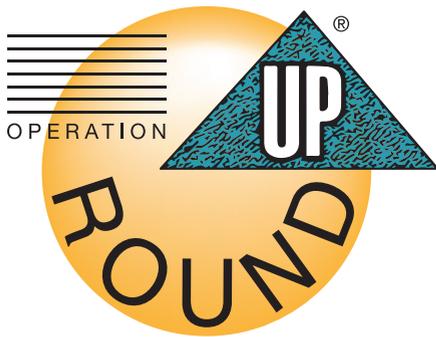
Call before you dig!

Planting a tree? Installing a fence? Remember to contact North Dakota One Call first! The first step to any project is safety, and damaging an underground facility while you dig can cause injury or even death.

Numerous utility lines may be buried on your property, ranging from electric and telephone lines to water and sewer lines, but North Dakota One Call will help you locate these lines before your project begins.

Contact North Dakota One Call and utility line owners will locate and mark their lines. These locates do not include any lines you may have installed to your private facilities, such as detached garages, wells or yard lights.

Go online at www.ndonecall.com or call 800-795-0555 or 811. It's free, it's simple and it's the law. ■



Operation Round Up tops \$68,000

KEM Electric Cooperative's Operation Round Up program has contributed \$68,841 to 198 community recipients since it began in 2002.

As KEM Electric Cooperative members pay their electric bill each month, they can also give back to their communities through Operation Round Up.

Through the program, members voluntarily "round up" their electric bills to the next whole dollar each month. A participant in Operation Round Up with an electric bill of \$37.63 would actually pay \$38 and the extra 37 cents is placed into the Operation Round Up fund.

The average member donates 50 cents a month, or \$6 a year. The most any member would donate is 99 cents a month, or less than \$12 a year. But with hundreds of electric cooperative members participating, the pennies quickly add up to dollars.

Funds collected through Operation Round Up are then allocated to a variety of worthy causes throughout the cooperative's service territory.

Who can apply for funds?

Funds are disbursed in the general service area of KEM Electric Cooperative solely for charitable, educational, scientific, health or safety purposes. Organizations must be exempt from federal income taxation under s501 (a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or as a corporation described in s501(c)(3) of the code. Funds cannot be used for political purposes. No more than \$2,500 will be given annually to any family unit, group, organization, charity or like organization.

Organizations interested in applying for Operation Round Up funds should request an application from the cooperative.

Who decides where the money goes?

A board of directors representing the members reviews Operation Round Up applications during the year and determines where the funds will be donated. Operation Round Up board members include:

- Dan Schuler, Wishek
- Pam Gross, Napoleon
- Tony Schaffner, Zeeland
- Viola Gefroh, Hague
- Bernie Schiermeister, Hazelton
- Jean Schoenhard, Steele
- Gerard Meier, Venturia

Get an application

If you have a worthy cause in our community, write or call KEM Electric Cooperative for an Operation Round Up application.

For more information, or to request an application, call KEM Electric Cooperative at 701-254-4666 or 800-472-2673. You can also visit the website at www.kemelectric.com and click on the "community" section.

Deadlines

In 2013, applications are due by:

- June 30
- Sept. 30
- Dec. 31

The Operation Round Up board will meet:

- July 17
- Oct. 16
- Jan. 15, 2014

Give a gift that costs only pennies!

Join KEM Electric Cooperative members who support Operation Round Up by "rounding up" your monthly bill to the nearest dollar. If you would like to enroll in Operation Round Up to donate funds, call KEM Electric Cooperative at 701-254-4666 or 800-472-2673 or complete the form below and return it to KEM Electric. ■

DONATION ACTIVITIES

Purpose	Number	Donation
Medical expenses	38	\$11,488
Youth services	64	\$16,903
Medical equipment/services	13	\$5,900
Fire departments	11	\$5,325
Community development	57	\$25,175
Miscellaneous	15	\$4,050

KEM Electric Cooperative Board meeting highlights

Feb. 26, 2013

- Reviewed report from the Voucher Review Committee

- Approved the special equipment summary for January
- Adopted revised Policy Bulletin 2-9 Security Deposits

THE MARATHON WATER HEATER

will be the last water heater you'll ever buy!



FEATURES:

- Polybutene tank that is guaranteed not to leak, rust or corrode for as long as you own your home.
- One of the most efficient water heaters on the market.
- To save money, ask about placing your Marathon water heater on one of KEM Electric Cooperative's load-management programs.

Call KEM Electric Cooperative
701-254-4666
800-472-2673

SAFELY 'spring' into outdoors

Spring has sprung. Warmer weather means more time is spent working and playing outdoors. And electrical safety is just as important when venturing outside.

KEM Electric Cooperative offers these tips to help you stay safe around electricity this spring:

- Never use electrical equipment or tools near a pool or other wet areas.
- Look up. Be aware of overhead power lines. Always look up and notice the location of power lines when working with ladders or doing any home improvement projects.
- Have help installing antennas. Antennas can be installed safely if you follow the manufacturer's instructions and use common sense. However, never get yourself, tools, materials or equipment closer than 10 feet from any overhead power lines.

KEM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.

DIRECTORS:

Dean Dewald, Chairman.....Steele
Milton Brandner, Vice Chairman.....Zeeland
Carter Vander Wal, Sec.-Treas. Pollock
Carmen Essig, Director Lehr
John Beck, Director.....Linton
Dean Hummel, Director..... Hague
Victor Wald, Director Napoleon

MANAGEMENT:

Don Franklund
& Chris Baumgartner Co-Managers
Roberta Nagel Office Manager
Bair Law Firm, Atty. Mandan
HDR Engineers Inc.,
Consulting Engr. Bismarck

**Report outages to the following
toll-free number: 800-472-2673**

Hazelton, Linton and Strasburg exchanges'
phone number: 701-254-4666

OFFICE HOURS:

Monday through Friday,
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Website: kemelectric.com
Email address: kem@kemelectric.com

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 