



CURRENT NEWS



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**KEM
Electric Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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Directors:

John Beck
Dean Dewald
Dean Hummel
Neil Meidinger

Co-General Manager/CEO:

Donald A. Franklund

www.kemelectric.com

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KEM Electric Cooperative is dedicated to providing affordable, reliable energy and services that support and unite our member-owners.

We also aspire to meet the Touchstone Energy® Cooperative core values of integrity, innovation, accountability and commitment to community.

KEM Electric Cooperative, Inc., is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

TOGETHERWESAVE.COM

The season of gratitude – and snowstorms – is on the horizon

By Don Franklund, Co-General Manager and Chief Executive Officer

For electric cooperatives, those two seem to go hand in hand.

Many of us look forward to getting together with family for Thanksgiving to eat, watch football and enjoy being together. If you're a lineman who works for an electric cooperative, you may or may not get to eat that pumpkin pie.

This is the time of year when temperatures hover around freezing. If we get moisture that clings and builds on the power lines, conditions are prime for a power outage. Regardless of the holiday or family celebration, our staff immediately goes to work.

Most of our members can understand the time it takes to drive to a location, assess the situation, make a plan and fix the system. When they see crews working near their homes, they offer a thermos of coffee. They help clear roads to provide access to broken lines and poles. They post on KEM's Facebook page to say thanks. Now it's our turn to say thank YOU, for waiting, and helping, and trying to understand.

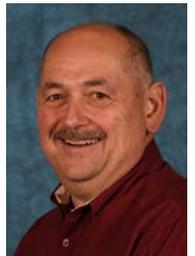
Sometimes the wait is longer than others. When snow is blinding. When roads are blocked. When no travel is advised. That means no travel is advised for our linemen, too. They can't restore power if they can't see to drive, or if their truck gets lodged in snow. Then, someone else who shouldn't be on the road needs to come to their rescue, and it puts another life in danger.

At KEM, we have a culture of safety. We are our brother's keeper, always looking out for one another at the office and in the field. That goes for our members, as well. Your safety matters. Nothing matters more to your family than having you home and safe.

Thankfully, most power outages, even during difficult conditions, last only a few hours. If you are concerned about being out of power this winter, now's the time to look into getting a portable generator and having a licensed electrician install a transfer switch. If you could use advice on what to buy, consider calling our friends at West Dakota Utility Services in Mandan. They can help you assess your family's needs and order equipment delivered to your door.

As we approach this season of thanksgiving, I want to thank our linemen and staff for always going above and beyond to serve our member-owners.

This is a condensed version. Read the complete column in the November local pages of North Dakota Living.



Don Franklund

WDUS offers generator sales and service

KEM Electric Cooperative works hard to build what Mother Nature tears down — but in the meantime, electrical service can still be interrupted. While line crews make every effort to keep these interruptions brief, natural disasters and North Dakota's unpredictable weather may cause extended power outages when people need electric service the most.

If going without power is a concern, you can take a simple, proactive step to avoid lapses by installing an automatic standby power generator.

West Dakota Utility Services in Mandan can work with members to assess their needs and size a generator properly. It is important to have the unit sized appropriately, so it does not create issues with appliances. It also needs to be installed by a qualified technician, so it does not backfeed electricity into the power grid, and harm the linemen or the general public.

WDUS technicians can also inspect the generator annually, to make sure the electrical components are in working order.

WDUS services utility trucks, in addition to contractors and customers who have vehicles that need hydraulic repairs or N.D. Department of Transportation certification. WDUS also repairs welders, engines and utility tools including crimpers and hydraulic tamps, and is a distributor that can order hydraulic tools and generators.

If WDUS can help you with a project or repair, or fix you up with a generator, call 701-663-4365 or email wdus@btinet.net.

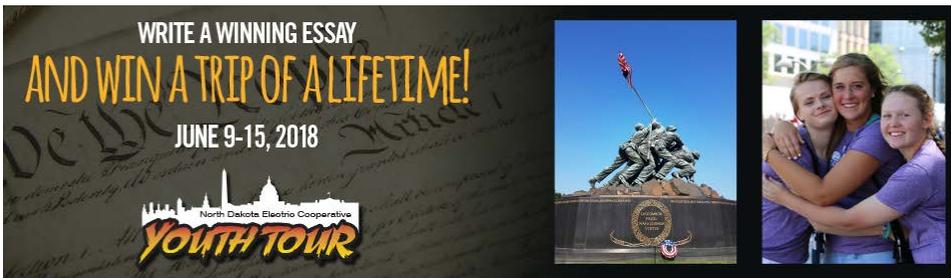
Also in the NOVEMBER issue of *North Dakota Living*:

- Veterans, we salute you!
- Heating assistance may be available
- Board meeting minutes & more

Holiday closings

KEM will be closed Friday, Nov. 10, in observance of Veterans Day, and Thursday and Friday, Nov. 23 and 24, for Thanksgiving. Please keep our military in mind as we celebrate the holidays.

Linemen will be available in case of an emergency electrical outage.



2018 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour

KEM Electric Cooperative is sponsoring a student on the 2018 Electric Cooperative Youth Tour trip to Washington, D.C.

From June 9 to 15, students nationwide will spend a week learning about history and American government; visiting with their state's congressional delegation; becoming more knowledgeable about the cooperative business model; and touring museums, national monuments and memorials. They will also develop leadership skills and a national network of peers.

To earn the trip, students must enter an essay-writing contest. To qualify, the winning student must be a sophomore or junior in high school, and his or her family or guardian must receive electric service from KEM.

The deadline to enter is **Jan. 31, 2018**. For instructions on how to apply, read the October local pages of the *North Dakota Living* magazine or call KEM at 701-254-4666.

For more information on the tour, visit www.ndyouthtour.com.



Members, as we informed you in a letter you received in October, KEM Electric Cooperative implemented a rate adjustment to offset the rising cost of services associated with providing separately metered electric heat. These adjustments will be reflected on your electric bills received after November 1, 2017.

We value you as a member and place a strong emphasis on providing you with exceptional service. To maintain the quality, reliability and integrity of the services we provide, it is necessary for us to adjust our rates.

We thank you for your continued support.

Power outage planned for Ashley area

KEM Electric Cooperative members who receive electric service from the Ashley Substation can expect a planned power outage scheduled from Monday, Nov. 6 at 7 p.m. until around 6 a.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 7. Another utility company in the area will be doing service work to the substation, and KEM's transmission lines feed out of the substation.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause, and thank our member-owners for their patience and understanding. Linemen work in challenging conditions sometimes, and we appreciate the utility's efforts to keep their workers safe.

Tip of the month

Spending more time in the kitchen during the holiday season? Here's one way to be more energy efficient: Unplug small kitchen appliances, like toaster ovens and microwaves, when not in use. You could save \$10 to \$20 per year.

