



# CURRENT NEWS



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**KEM  
Electric Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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Toll-free: **1-800-795-0555** or **811**

### OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

Chair.....Victor “Chuck” Wald  
Vice Chair.....Carmen Essig  
Secretary-Treasurer.....Carter Vander Wal

### Directors:

John Beck  
Dean Dewald  
Dean Hummel  
Neil Meidinger

### Co-General Managers/CEOs:

Donald A. Franklund  
Travis M. Kupper

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

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## ANNUAL MEETING RECAP

### Meeting changing needs by aligning for the future

KEM Electric Cooperative held its annual meeting at Linton Public School on June 21. Prior to the meeting, 415 members and their families enjoyed a complimentary roast beef dinner served by Deb Schumacher. Sean Barnhart, pastor of Peace Lutheran Church in Linton, gave the invocation. Four members of American Legion Post 54 presented the Color Guard. Cassidy Walth sang the National Anthem. Paul Keeney, superintendent and head football coach of Linton Public School, welcomed guests.



Throughout the evening, the Dakota Riders 4-H club from Linton, under the direction of Vicki Schwab, hosted activities for children.

This year’s theme was “Aligning for the Future,” which reflects the culture of preparing for an ever-changing future. Times are changing and so are the co-op members’ needs. To meet their changing needs, KEM Electric is adapting and evolving to bring members the services they have come to expect.

More than 150 registered voters fulfilled the cooperative principle of Democratic Member Control by voting to fill the board positions held by John Beck, District 1, and Carter Vander Wal, District 2. Both incumbents were unanimously re-elected to retain their seats on the board.

Members listened to cooperative and community updates. In his report to the membership, Co-General Manager Don Franklund noted what electricity does: It makes life easier. “We don’t value electricity; we value what it does for us,” he said. From powering a complex server room to a simple children’s toy, electricity is an integral part in our everyday work and play. Aligning for the future allows KEM Electric to better understand the impact we have on the digital world — and its impact on us.

Members, we appreciate the interest and support you continue to show in your local Touchstone Energy® Cooperative.



## OPERATION ROUND UP

### *Doing good things for friends, neighbors, communities*

Operation Round Up is a voluntary program in which electric cooperative members round up their monthly utility bills to the nearest dollar and donate their change to local individuals, groups or charities with a specific need. The money pools and accumulates, and an elected board of co-op members reviews the grant applications that have been submitted and determines grant worthiness.

On April 18, the Charitable Trust board members awarded grants to the following recipients:

- ✓ Zeeland Senior Citizen Center
- ✓ Zeeland Fire Protection District
- ✓ Napoleon Public School
- ✓ Linton Public School
- ✓ Kidder County 4-H
- ✓ Hazelton-Moffit-Braddock Activities Fund
- ✓ Missoula Children's Theatre
- ✓ Kidder County Angels

To learn how the money was used, read the July KEM local pages of *North Dakota Living*.

The Operation Round Up board will meet again on July 18.

Any person or group in the KEM Electric Cooperative service area may apply to receive an Operation Round Up grant. To request an application, call KEM at 701-254-4666 or 800-472-2673, or download the form at [www.kemelectric.com](http://www.kemelectric.com) (click "Your Community" and "Operation Round Up").

### ***Also in the July North Dakota Living local pages ...***

- Kidder County Angels show "community cares"
- Avoid stacking hay bales under electrical infrastructure
- Touchstone Energy celebrates milestone anniversary
- Medora Touchstone Energy® discount
- Board minutes ... and more



## Working together helps ensure the safety of all

On Friday, June 1, Mother Nature proved yet again to be versatile. Funnel clouds, scattered hail, lightning strikes and strong winds caused damage across the state. In the KEM Electric Cooperative service area, the electric distribution system was on the receiving end of damage.

Members began losing power around 7 p.m. and line crews were dispatched.

With assistance from a crew from JB Construction, KEM's linemen replaced 26 poles and fixed numerous line breaks.

Some members reported wind gusts in the Southwest McIntosh County being clocked around 80 MPH. This is where our crews saw most of the power-line damage.

By 6 a.m. the next morning, electric service had been restored to all but around 10 members.

Members, if you see downed or damaged electrical infrastructure, do not assume it is de-energized and safe to approach. Stay away and call the office at 701-254-4666.

## JULY 25: 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 25 in Minot.

If you plan to attend the fair on July 25, please stop by the Linton office 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 at the KX/co-op tent.