



CURRENT NEWS



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**KEM
Electric Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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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

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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.

TOGETHERWE SAVE.COM

SIMPLY SAY THANK YOU

Michael Kramer thanks veterans – and earns this year’s Youth Tour trip

Michael Kramer, a junior at Linton Public School, was inspired by a veteran he knows to hang a flag ... buy a coffee ... donate to a foundation when possible ... and say thank you. He shared many ways we can support our military men and women in an essay he wrote for KEM Electric Cooperative, in honor of his history teacher and head basketball coach, Mr. Daniel Carr.

Michael’s essay qualified him for KEM’s annual Electric Cooperative Youth Tour contest and trip. His thoughts and effort earned him a free trip to Washington, D.C. in June, where he will see Arlington National Cemetery and several war memorials – and be able to thank some veterans in person.

In KEM’s April local pages of the *North Dakota Living* magazine, learn how Mr. Carr’s service in the U.S. Army has inspired Michael’s work ethic, discipline and commitment — and how the Youth Tour binds these two men in more ways than one.



Michael Kramer (left) and Mr. Daniel Carr



This Earth Day, make the commitment to go paperless with your utility bill by using SmartHub, a Web and mobile tool that will help you manage your account from paying your bill to reporting outages. Earth Day is our annual reminder to step up and make a change that will better our planet, and one of the biggest steps we can take is reducing the amount of paper we use.

Go paperless with SmartHub.
Available on Apple and Android devices and on the Web.

Craigmile returns to distribution roots

Alex Craigmile has returned to the Innovative Energy Alliance Cooperative family.

Formerly the business manager at KEM Electric Cooperative, he is now the chief financial officer for the alliance. He filled the position vacated by Travis Kupper, who was promoted to co-general manager and chief executive officer. Craigmile's first day with the alliance was March 5.



Craigmile

Craigmile holds an accounting degree from the University of North Dakota, Grand Forks. He worked at the state tax department in Bismarck before being hired by KEM in June 2010 as an accounting clerk. He was promoted in 2014 to assistant office manager. In that role, he oversaw the general ledger and accounting, approved checks, made payments, assisted with billing, and answered members' questions. He was promoted to office manager in 2015.

After six years with KEM, Craigmile resigned to accept a job with National Information Solutions Cooperative (NISC) in Mandan. He installed billing software for 18 months before joining the alliance.

In total, he has more than seven years of cooperative experience. Welcome, Alex!

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

- Annual meeting notification
- Adding a grain bin or other load? Contact KEM first.
- Board meeting minutes & more

Have a power outage? CALL US!

Members, if you have a power outage, please CALL US ... do not contact us via a Facebook comment or message, as our page is not monitored 24/7. By calling us, employees will log the call and alert the line crews. Thank you.

701-254-4666 or 800-472-2673

Electric cooperatives across the state and nation are celebrating National Lineman Appreciation Day on April 9. KEM employs two area foremen, two lead linemen and four journeyman linemen who maintain 3,028 miles of power lines in our service territory. Today and every day, let them know you appreciate what they do.

#THANKALINEMAN

NATIONAL LINEMAN APPRECIATION DAY

Support the KEM linemen as they Brave the Shave!

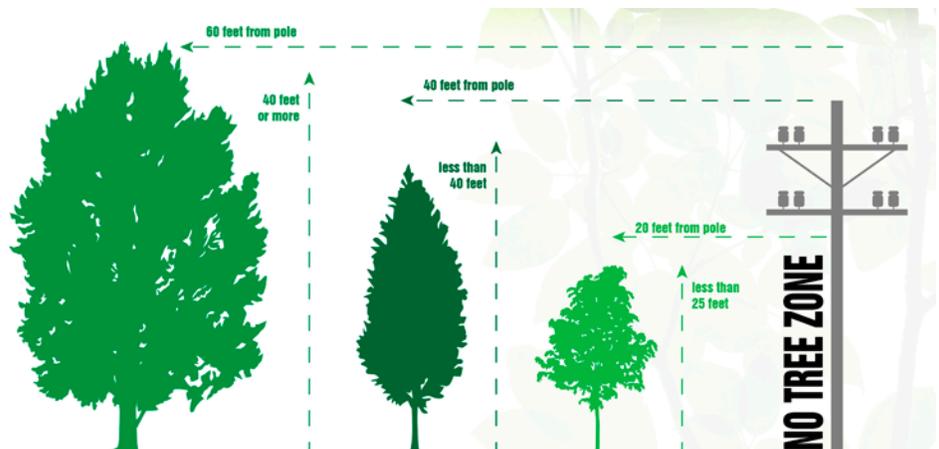
Some KEM linemen will again Brave The Shave, to raise donations for childhood cancer research, and to support families dealing with the disease.

Last year, five of KEM's linemen raised \$1,250. This year, with support from our members, they hope to at least double the amount.

Employees Jeff Gefre, Kevin Horner, Dale Nagel, Austin Ohlhauser and Dave Twardoski will remember how brisk a North Dakota spring truly is when they get sheared on April 6 at co-op headquarters in Linton.

This is the second year KEM Electric Cooperative will participate in this life-saving fundraiser, which began in 2008.

To donate, go to <https://donate.bravetheshave.net/team/159123>.



PLAN, THEN PLANT

Trees can filter the sunlight to help cool your home, and break cold winds to lower your heating costs. But before you plant that tree, look up. Is there a power line overhead or nearby? If so, you may need to change your landscaping plans.

Always consider the mature height of the trees and shrubs you plant. Ask professionals how tall your sapling will be when it's mature. If it is expected to reach within 25 feet of a power line, plant it somewhere else. Also find out how sprawling the tree's branches will be at maturity. A tree planted 25 feet away from a power line could still interfere with the wires.