



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

“Like” us on Facebook

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

SAVE THE DATE! KEM Electric Cooperative annual meeting

Thursday, June 21, 2018 @ Linton Public School



Are you interested in becoming a director?

It’s time to consider serving as a board director for KEM Electric.

The initial commitment is a three-year term. Board meetings are the fourth Tuesday of every month.

At the annual meeting on June 21, two board positions will be elected including:

- The District 1 position presently held by **John Beck**;
- The District 2 position presently held by **Carter Vander Wal**.

If you would like to place your name on the ballot, pick up a petition at the KEM office. Petitions become available on Feb. 21.

Petitions must be returned to the cooperative office no later than May 22.

Nominations will also be accepted from the floor at the annual meeting.

All qualified and willing candidates must complete and submit the petition by the date on the back.

KEM Electric Cooperative is overseen by a seven-member board of directors that is elected by you, the member-owners of the co-op.

To learn more about the process or for information on what is required of a director, call the KEM office at 701-254-4666.

A phone survey may await you

KEM Electric Cooperative will be completing a random residential telephone Member Satisfaction Survey. Performed by Odney Advertising, this survey will take place in March.

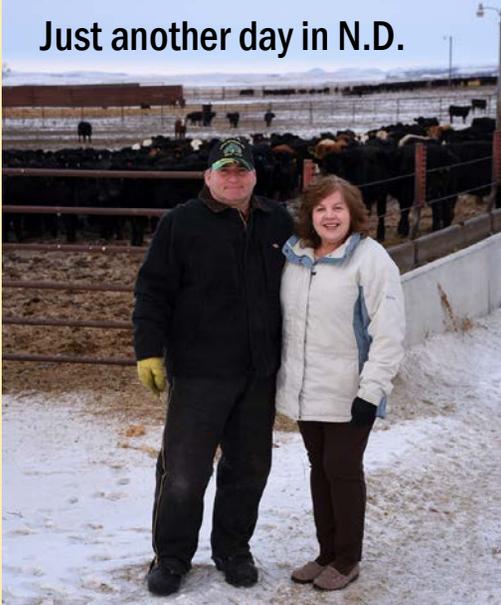
Members, if you receive a call from Odney Advertising on behalf of KEM, please take time to answer the questionnaire. The survey will take approximately 10 minutes. By participating in the Member Satisfaction Survey, KEM receives better insight into how we can better serve you, the member-owner.

Deadlines approaching on youth opportunities!

For details, read the February local pages of *North Dakota Living* or call Tim at 701-254-4666.

- ✓ The deadline to apply for student scholarships is Feb. 9.
- ✓ The deadline to submit a poster in the coloring contest is March 6.

Just another day in N.D.



North Dakota was the coldest place on earth on Jan. 1, according to National Weather Service Bismarck. The record was set in Hettinger, with an air temperature of -45. On the Darin and Gerri Horner farm southwest of Napoleon, it reached -40. These KEM Electric Cooperative members, who run a feeder cattle operation, say it was just another day. "We have the cattle on a well-balanced feed ration, and they are bedded down with straw. On a good feed program, the cattle in this area are bred to withstand extreme cold weather," Darin says. With not much wind on the coldest of days, the Horners didn't lose any cattle — and KEM Electric Cooperative didn't lose electric service. We thank them for sharing their story.

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

- Dial the 211 Helpline
- Board meeting minutes & more

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

When you are asleep or out of the house, turn your thermostat back 10 to 15 degrees for eight hours, and save around 10 percent a year on your heating and cooling bills.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Energy



Innovative Energy Alliance Cooperative celebrates decade of service; KEM gains efficiencies, savings

On Jan. 1, Innovative Energy Alliance Cooperative celebrated 10 years of being a helping hand to electric cooperative members. Established in 2007 with neighboring cooperatives Mor-Gran-Sou Electric, Roughrider Electric and Slope Electric, the alliance was created to share management services with the intention of reducing costs and allowing the respective boards of directors to retain local control. KEM Electric Cooperative joined the alliance in 2012.

In the cooperative spirit of working together for the greater good, the concept of sharing resources to streamline processes and add efficiencies gained momentum. The alliance expanded, adding key positions that were necessary at each of the cooperatives and could be shared. Just like the co-general managers, alliance employees were hired to split their time and talents among the four cooperatives.

Don Franklund has worked as co-general manager/chief executive officer (CEO) of the alliance since its inception. He says it's important that members continue to identify KEM as their home cooperative. From the linemen in the fields to the folks who work in the office in Linton, these 15 employees are the face of KEM. The alliance employees you may see helping at an annual meeting are a secondary layer of employees who assist with larger or specialized projects.

"The alliance is a helping branch to your cooperative. We're here for support," Franklund says.

Has Innovative Energy Alliance Cooperative done what it set out to do — share services, gain efficiencies, and ultimately save the members money?

Yes, says Dean Dewald, KEM Electric board director, who was board chair at the time Innovative Energy Alliance Cooperative was founded.

In the February local pages of *North Dakota Living*, read the complete story. Learn why KEM joined the alliance, and how your local Touchstone Energy® Cooperative continues to grow in efficiencies and savings.



KEM Board Director Dean Dewald, foreground, says the alliance provides specialized employees and resources in a shared relationship that KEM would be unable to have on its own.

Members, have you tried using SmartHub? In addition to paying your bill securely online or with a mobile app, you can monitor your home's electric usage — and ultimately make changes that can help reduce your bill.

To get started, decide whether to use the Mobile or Website account. Once you visit www.kemelectric.com or download the SmartHub app, you'll go through a step-by-step process to sign up. If you have questions, read the February local pages of *North Dakota Living*, or call us at 701-254-4666.



SmartHub is a Web and mobile app that allows you to interact with us like never before. View and pay your bill, monitor your use 24/7, report service issues and more. Billing notifications will ensure you never miss a payment, which you can make through the app or on the Web with just a few clicks.

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