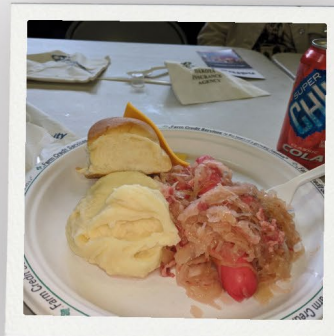


- Apply for Operation Round Up
- Benefits of SmartHub
- Remote monitoring installed



## THE TRADITION CONTINUES: SAUERKRAUT DAY

Across the community of Wishek, the aroma of sausage and tangy kraut signals one event: Sauerkraut Day has arrived! Held each year on the second Wednesday in October, this beloved North Dakota tradition is a tribute to the heritage passed down by German-Russian settlers – where old family recipes are honored and the culture is proudly celebrated.

What originally started as a community appreciation event hosted by community businesses to thank and connect with community members has remained the same after 100 years.

“People come from all over the state each year,” says Larry Wald, longtime Sauerkraut Day attendee and event emcee. “They hear about the event and want to see what it is all about.”

Over the years, the appreciation event has attracted people from all over to enjoy Sauerkraut Day. The meal, as you’d assume, includes sauerkraut and is accompanied by hotdogs and mashed potatoes. Staying true to the strong heritage in Wishek, the meal has seen minimal changes over the past 100 years.

Sauerkraut Day is more than a meal with the community. It also includes tunes played by the Wishek High School and a vendor show. These events make for an afternoon of connecting with old and new neighbors and friends.

“It is an appreciation event for the community, but you also get to see people who are coming back home for it,” Wald says.

Wald has been attending for over 50 years. He recalls attending with his family and later taking part in the festivities as a band member in school. Wald continues to be active in the celebration by emceeing the event and helping the Wishek Association of Commerce.

### 100th Sauerkraut Day

This October marks a major milestone for the community as Sauerkraut Day, hosted by the Wishek Association of Commerce, celebrates its 100th anniversary. To honor this historic occasion, a festive weekend celebration will take place Oct. 10-12 in Wishek.

“This year will have an Oktoberfest-like feel,” says

*continued on next page*

*continued from previous page*

Staci Just, board member of the Wishek Association of Commerce.

The association of commerce has planned a weekend-long celebration with something for everyone to enjoy. Community members and guests will have the opportunity to enjoy traditional sauerkraut meals, food trucks and much more during the celebration. Activities for all ages are also an exciting addition to the 100th celebration, including a car and tractor show, antique quilt show, live music,

kids events and much more.

The 100th celebration of Sauerkraut Day has attracted some partnerships that will spark the interest of many, including a seasonal beer lineup from Laughing Sun Brewery, hayrides at Danke Acres and kuchen, cards and coffee at the Wishek Senior Center.

For a full list of activities and times, visit the Wishek Association of Commerce on Facebook. ⚡

# OPERATION ROUND UP

TURN YOUR

# COINS into CHANGE

**Operation Round Up is a program of voluntary contributions through rounding up electric bills to the next dollar.**

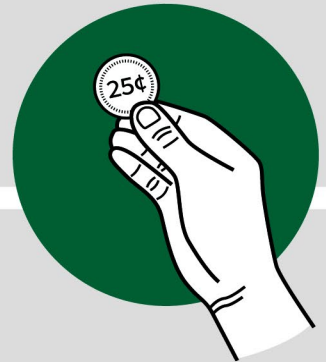
Funds are disbursed in the general service area of KEM Electric to nonprofit organizations for charitable causes.



## HOW DO I APPLY?

Applications can be completed by individuals, non-profit organizations or charity groups. If you know of someone in need, have them apply by visiting [kemelectric.com](http://kemelectric.com).

**The next deadline is September 30.**



Receive an application by visiting our website at [kemelectric.com](http://kemelectric.com), scanning the QR code or calling our office at 701-254-4666.

# SCAN ME





## MANAGER'S MESSAGE:

# Benefits of SmartHub



**Travis Kupper**

Co-General Manager/CEO

KEM Electric Cooperative is dedicated to continuously enhancing the experience for our members. As part of this commitment, we partnered with the National Information Solutions Cooperative years ago to introduce SmartHub, an invaluable tool that has become essential for our membership.

While many of our members already benefit from SmartHub, we wanted to take a moment to remind you of its features

and how you can maximize its advantages.

SmartHub makes managing your bills easier than ever. You can view current and past statements, set up automatic payments and receive reminders for due dates, all from the convenience of your phone or computer. This is particularly useful for those who may not have regular access to their mail or for members traveling on extended vacations.

Additionally, SmartHub offers valuable insights into your energy usage. With detailed reports, you can

understand when and how you consume electricity, empowering you to make informed decisions that optimize your energy efficiency.

Updating your information or requesting assistance is simple with SmartHub. Manage your account anytime, anywhere, putting you in control of your energy needs.

The SmartHub app is available on both iOS and Android, allowing you to access your account and energy data whenever you need it. If you prefer not to use the app, you can easily login through our website.

We encourage you to explore SmartHub and discover how it can help you take charge of your energy usage. Your engagement strengthens our cooperative, and together we can work toward a more efficient and sustainable future.

As always, if you have any questions about the technology or need assistance, our member service department is here to help. ⚡



## RESAP visit reflects high marks for KEM Electric

KEM Electric Cooperative received favorable marks in a recent Rural Electric Safety Achievement Program, commonly known as RESAP, on-site safety assessment. This National Rural Electric Cooperative Association program helps optimize safety practices across the cooperative. At KEM Electric, safety is a top priority, and programs like RESAP help us continually improve our safety plan for the well-being of our employees and communities.



## MESSAGE FROM OPERATIONS:

# Remote monitoring technology being installed



**Dale Nagel**

Chief of Staff/  
Line Superintendent

In a step toward enhancing reliability for our members, KEM Electric Cooperative has begun the process of installing supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) technology within our substations. With this technology, SCADA acts as a remote monitoring and control system within our substations, allowing for enhanced service throughout KEM Electric's service area.

### Outage detection

With the implementation of the SCADA technology, KEM Electric will have access to real-time data and control at the operations department's fingertips, allowing more efficient system load switching. Accessing data remotely ensures efficient restoration times, allowing line crews to respond more quickly and accurately to outages.

### Isolating issues

The cooperative's priority is to ensure safe and reliable electric services for members, and SCADA will further assist KEM Electric with system reliability. SCADA will provide the cooperative with in-depth data on power load, blinks and overall management of substations. The data collected by the SCADA system can then help identify trends or performance patterns, prompting crews to address issues. Being proactive in system maintenance helps eliminate issues that could lead to unexpected outages or equipment failure, which then saves the cooperative money.

### Enhanced safety

SCADA allows for faster response time in the event of an emergency, such as public contacts or fires. During these emergencies, operations personnel have the ability to open or switch lines without being onsite, minimizing the impact of an emergency event.

KEM Electric remains committed to ensuring safe and reliable electric services to members. Implementing technology like SCADA will help us continue to strengthen our system and improve reliability to members. ⚡



## MESSAGE FROM WAPA:

# Adapting to meet growing grid demands

BY LLOYD LINKE, WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT  
AND UPPER GREAT PLAINS REGIONAL MANAGER

*Editor's note: WAPA is one of KEM Electric's power suppliers. We asked Lloyd Linke to update our members on what is happening at WAPA.*



Lloyd Linke

The Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) strives to keep pace with changes in the electric industry. This ensures we can fulfill our mission to safely provide reliable, cost-based hydropower and transmission to our customers and the communities we serve.

Core to meeting the industry's changing demands is our commitment to exploring centralized market solutions on

a region-by-region basis. This supports our ability to continue to reliably deliver hydropower to our region's diverse, 340-plus customer base.

Earlier this year, WAPA marked the four-year milestone in energy imbalance markets throughout much of our footprint. Across all our regions, WAPA is now fully participating in energy imbalance markets. In the Upper Great Plains (UGP) region, which I oversee, we have been full participants in Southwest Power Pool's (SPP) Western Energy Imbalance Service market since it launched in February 2021.

On Sept. 8, 2023, WAPA Administrator and CEO Tracey A. LeBeau authorized UGP to pursue final negotiations with the SPP to expand our participation in its regional transmission organization (RTO).

In the works since 2020, three of WAPA's regions have been working toward full participation in SPP's RTO. Other participants in the initiative include Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Colorado Springs Utilities, Deseret Generation and Transmission Cooperative, Municipal Energy Agency of Nebraska, Platte River Power Authority and Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, all of which are WAPA customers.

UGP in the Eastern Interconnection is already a member of SPP, having joined the RTO in 2015, when we placed our east-side facilities under SPP's tariff. UGP's facilities in the Western Interconnection are expanding participation in the SPP RTO.

Upon go-live, SPP will assume the balancing authority responsibilities for our Western Area Upper

Great Plains-West balancing authority area (BAA), which UGP operates in the Western Interconnection today, in a single SPP-West BAA and will implement its Integrated Marketplace across UGP's facilities in the existing BAA footprint.

Full SPP RTO go-live in the Western Interconnection is scheduled for April 1, 2026.

Participating in this initiative to expand the SPP RTO into the West is consistent with WAPA's commitment to retain and increase the value of WAPA's resources in a dynamic energy industry.

UGP's transmission assets are included in SPP's annual planning process as appropriate. SPP's 2024 integrated transmission planning assessment identified a portfolio of transmission projects comprised of reliability, winter weather, economic and operational projects that will mitigate many system issues.

To address rapid load growth in North Dakota, SPP staff recommended a network of new and upgraded lines across the state. One of the major projects in the WAPA footprint is a new 439-mile, 345-kilovolt (kV) line from Belfield to Maurine, S.D., to New Underwood, S.D., to Laramie River in Wyoming, that brings large economic benefits to North Dakota and the SPP region. This project aims to address the lack of extra-high-voltage lines in this area and benefit rural communities in western Nebraska and the Dakotas. Another major project for North Dakota is a new 230-kV line from Dawson County, Mont., to Williston that would provide reliability and economic benefits.

Other projects identified by WAPA-UGP in the North Dakota area include a Fargo bus upgrade, Charlie Creek to Garrison transmission line rebuild and Jamestown reactor replacement. These projects will increase capacity, alleviate congestion, increase storm resilience and provide for continued stability in their local areas. These updates seek to increase transmission reliability in North Dakota, ensure worker safety, and aid in controlling voltage and providing stability to the region.

We have also been working diligently to modernize the IT and operational technology systems that keep the grid humming and minimize outages. On June 4, our UGP operations team, in partnership with UGP maintenance and IT, successfully cut over to AspenTech Monarch, WAPA's common supervisory control and data acquisition vendor. With

*continued on next page*



*continued from previous page*

this milestone, half of WAPA is now operating on a unified energy management system. This effort will improve operational flexibility, enhance cybersecurity and simplify support across regions – a significant achievement that reflects strong collaboration, dedication and perseverance.

Looking ahead, WAPA will continue to work closely

with customers, generating agencies and partners to identify the best path forward that protects the value of hydropower and transmission services, as well as power system assets, for the benefit of preference customers and the nation. ⚡

## SAFETY STARTS WITH ME: Everyday electrical safety

Electricity plays many roles in our lives, from powering generators, cellphones and lighting to running HVAC systems and appliances. No wonder we get so comfortable with its instant availability. When we flip a switch, we expect most systems or devices to do the job. But that sense of reliability can lead to complacency, especially during the shift in seasons and the rush that comes with a new season.

“Fall is a busy time in the area,” says Austin Ohlhauser, journeyman lineworker. “And as the season begins to change, kids gear up for school and harvest begins, we want to remind members to take a look around your home and shop to check for potential safety hazards.”

Below are a few connections to check to ensure your home and operation can continue to run smoothly.

### Ground-fault circuit interrupters

**What is it?** A ground-fault circuit interruptor (GFCI) is designed to sense abnormal current flows, breaking the circuit to prevent potential electric shocks from devices plugged into the outlets. GFCI features are normally included in outdoor outlets or those in potentially damp locations, such as in the kitchen, bathroom or laundry room.

**What can you do?** Check them frequently by pressing the red test button, which will simulate a fault to ensure the GFCI is working properly. To restore power to the circuit, press the black reset button. If you notice any issues, contact a licensed electrician.

### Loose or damaged outlets and switches

**What should you look for?** It is good to be aware of items you use every day, such as electrical outlets and wall switches. Signs of heat damage or discoloration in these items may be early warnings of potential shock or electrical fire hazards.

**What can you do?** Check your electrical outlets and wall switches to ensure they are properly connected. If you notice any issues, contact a licensed electrician.



### Extension cords

**What should you look for?** If you use extension cords regularly to connect devices and equipment to your wall outlets, your home or shop may be underwired. Extension cords are designed for temporary, occasional or periodic use.

**What can you do?** If an extension cord gets noticeably warm when in use, it could be undersized for the intended use. If it shows any signs of frayed, cracked or heat-damaged insulation, it should be replaced. If the grounding prong is missing, crimped or loose, a grounded cord will not provide the protection designed into its performance. Always make sure extension cords used in outdoor or potentially damp locations are rated for exterior use.

Electricity is an essential necessity for our everyday lives, and KEM Electric Cooperative is committed to providing safe, reliable and affordable electric services to all our members. We hope you'll keep these electrical safety tips in mind so you can note any potential hazards before damage occurs. ⚡

## MESSAGE FROM MEMBER RELATIONS:

# Touchstone Energy Student of the Month

**Marcy Sanders***Manager of  
Member Relations*

September marks the start of KEM Electric Cooperative's Touchstone Energy® Student of the Month program, in partnership with Touchstone Energy. This program aims to recognize outstanding students in grades K-12 and provide monetary sponsorship to their school for a project or initiative chosen by the winning student.

KEM Electric believes in supporting education and fostering the development of young individuals in our community. Our Touchstone Energy Student of the Month program presents an excellent opportunity to celebrate and recognize students who excel in

anything, ranging from academics to leadership to community involvement or personal growth.

## Application process

Students can be nominated through an online form by teachers, parents/guardians, school administrators or community members. The deadline is the 15th of each month. Students are eligible to be nominated and chosen September through April.

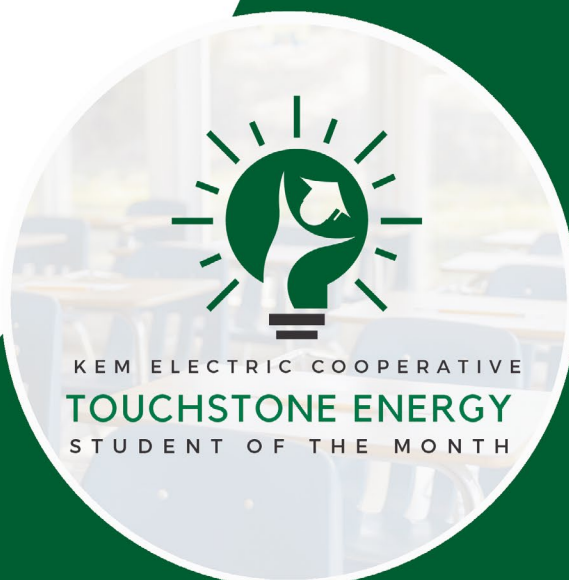
The winning recipients will receive a \$150 monetary sponsorship to their school. The students will have the opportunity to choose a project or initiative within their school, for which the sponsorship will be utilized.

KEM Electric looks forward to celebrating the achievement of students in our service area.

For more information or to nominate a student, visit our website: [kemelectric.com/touchstone-energy-student-month](http://kemelectric.com/touchstone-energy-student-month). ⚡

## NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN!

Nominate a deserving  
**Ashley Public School and  
Zeeland Public School**  
student for the KEM Electric  
Touchstone Energy®  
Student of the Month.



# BACK-TO-SCHOOL SAFETY

Slow down in residential areas  
and school zones.

When red lights flash, stop and  
stay back 20 ft.

Remind students to walk in front of the bus  
(never behind) when getting on or off the bus.

## KEM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.

### DIRECTORS:

Victor Wald, Chairman, District 4..... Napoleon  
John R. Beck, Vice Chairman, District 1..... Linton  
Carter Vander Wal, Sec.-Treas., District 2..... Pollock  
Dean Dewald, Director, District 5..... Dawson  
Neil Meidinger, Director, District 3..... Zeeland  
Carmen Essig, District-at-Large..... Lehr  
Todd Schnabel, Director-at-Large..... Lehr

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

### MANAGEMENT:

Travis Kupper..... Co-General Manager/CEO  
Jason Bentz..... Co-General Manager/CEO

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

Hazleton, 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](http://kemelectric.com)

Email address: [info@kemelectric.com](mailto:info@kemelectric.com)

FIND US ON:

