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As part of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's Youth Tour, Bodvig and other North Dakota participants visit the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C.

YOUTH TOUR

Bodvig returns from an epic week

Each June, Washington, D.C., comes alive with youth from across the country during the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour. To select a delegate, KEM Electric Cooperative holds an annual essay contest for high school sophomores and juniors.

This year, Keylee Bodvig from Steele was chosen as KEM Electric's delegate and joined other youth sponsored by electric cooperatives in Washington, D.C., for a week of learning about electric cooperatives and our nation's rich history and to expand their leadership skills.

The greatest week of your life

The days spent in Washington, D.C., on this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, are jam-packed with memorable experiences. Students from across North Dakota, who were also chosen by their electric cooperatives, had the chance to get to know each

other during an orientation event before traveling together throughout Washington, D.C.

"I was a little nervous, but after I met everyone, I clicked with a few people," Bodvig says. "I love meeting everyone and everyone's different personalities."

From visits to monuments, museums and even a musical at the Kennedy Center, students are immersed in an unforgettable experience from the beginning.

Bodvig says she enjoyed visiting the Smithsonian Museums and the Smithsonian National Zoo, seeing a performance of "Moulin Rouge" and visiting with new people.

One of the ways Youth Tour encourages networking is through pin trading. Each state provides students with pins to trade with students from other states. North Dakota is often a sought-after pin due to the

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smaller number of students.

"That was also one of my favorite parts, trading all the pins. I have so many. That's also how I met some people," Bodvig says.

Youth Tour also helps foster growth and spark inspiration in students. One keynote speaker, the 2025 Youth Leadership Council delegate, Brynn Lee Hirata inspired Bodvig.

"Her speech really stood out to me," Bodvig says. "She said, Don't be afraid to be yourself. Be yourself and be unique."

The Youth Tour is a unique trip for the students awarded the opportunity, but its potential expands beyond the trip itself. Youth Tour alumni are invited to apply for additional opportunities upon high school graduation, such as returning as a staff assistant, which is what Bodvig hopes to do one day.

Apply for Youth Tour

Supporting the youth of our members is one of the many ways KEM Electric delivers value beyond electricity. These opportunities help instill life-long skills in students and bring them a chance to build their resumes. Each year, one student is chosen through an application process to represent KEM Electric on the Electric Youth Tour. Visit our website for more information and to apply. The application deadline is Jan. 19. ⚡

"It's the greatest week of your life. You'll have so much fun," Keylee Bodvig says. "You'll meet lots of new people. You'll learn a lot. It's just an amazing week with amazing people."



While exploring Washington, D.C., Bodvig built lasting friendships and shared experiences with fellow travelers.



Youth Tour offers an opportunity to meet and connect with students across the nation.

MANAGER'S MESSAGE

Careers in energy



Jason Bentz

Co-General Manager/CEO

October is a special time for electric cooperatives as we celebrate National Cooperative Month and Careers in Energy Week. It is an opportunity to recognize the people, partnerships and shared values that make cooperatives unique. While members see the end result every time they flip a switch, a dedicated team is working behind the scenes every day to deliver reliable power and exceptional service.

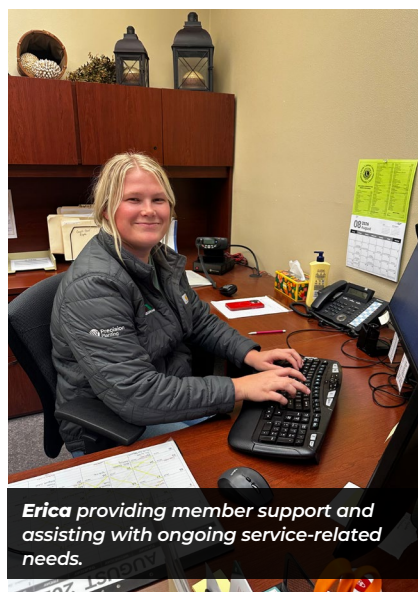
You've likely heard the phrase, "Not all heroes wear capes." In our industry, many wear hardhats, harnesses and safety gear. Our lineworkers demonstrate their commitment every day in maintaining the electric system, responding to outages and working in challenging conditions to keep power flowing to homes, farms and businesses. Their dedication and willingness to answer the call, no matter the time or weather, reflect the cooperative spirit of service and commitment to the members we serve.

Equally important are the member services professionals who serve as the connection between the cooperative and its member-owners. Whether

answering billing questions, helping members understand programs and services or providing information during outages, they ensure members receive the support they need. Their work helps strengthen relationships and reinforces our commitment to putting members first.

These roles represent just a portion of the many career opportunities available within the energy industry. Behind every reliable electric system are employees in engineering, operations, information technology, accounting, communications and administration who work together to support our mission. Each position plays an important role in delivering safe, reliable and affordable electricity.

As we celebrate Cooperative Month and Careers in Energy Week, we recognize and thank the employees and industry partners whose hard work makes a difference every day. Their expertise, teamwork and dedication help power our communities, support local economies and improve the quality of life for the members we proudly serve. ⚡

Erica providing member support and assisting with ongoing service-related needs.



Kirk and Tyler planning and preparing for an upcoming project.



Kevin compiling information for an upcoming system upgrade.

BULLETIN FROM THE BOARD

Powered by purpose



Victor Wald
Chairman

In October, electric cooperatives across the country take time to celebrate National Cooperative Month and reflect on the unique advantages of being part of a cooperative. It's also the perfect time to thank you, the members who make it all possible.

As a director for KEM Electric Cooperative, I have the privilege of helping

guide an organization that is truly different from other utilities. Unlike investor-owned utilities, our cooperative doesn't exist to generate profits for distant shareholders. We exist to serve you, our members, our neighbors and our communities. That mission is at the heart of everything we do.

Being a cooperative means we are member-owned and locally governed. That's more than a slogan. It's the foundation of our business model. As members, you have a voice in the direction of our co-op through the board members you elect. Your directors live and work in the communities KEM Electric serves, and we understand the unique challenges and opportunities facing our region.

Decisions about your electric service aren't made in corporate boardrooms hundreds of miles away. They're made locally by people who share your values and have a vested interest in our communities.

As board members, our responsibility is to ensure the cooperative remains focused on what matters most: providing reliable, affordable electricity and delivering value to our members. We work closely with our management team to set strategic priorities, oversee long-term planning and ensure the co-op continues operating in the best interests of the members we serve.

That's the power of the cooperative difference. That's what it means to be powered by purpose. On behalf of the board of directors, thank you for the trust you place in us. We're proud to serve as your locally owned and governed electric cooperative. ⚡



Directors and management connect with members during the annual meeting

BEHIND THE SCENES WITH OPERATIONS

Powering together



Dale Nagel

Chief of Staff/
Line Superintendent

As the seasons change and communities settle into a busy time of year, we also take the opportunity to celebrate National Cooperative Month. It's a time to reflect on what it means to be part of a member-owned organization committed to serving our members and strengthening our communities. As an electric cooperative, we are guided by seven cooperative principles, including cooperation among cooperatives, which is a principle that plays an important

role in the work we do every day.

Our cooperative has a unique story. Years ago, our board of directors recognized the value of working together and joined a cooperative that partners with other cooperatives every day. By sharing expertise, resources and services, these cooperatives can operate more efficiently, control costs and better serve the members who depend on them.

Through ownership of Innovative Energy Alliance Cooperative (IEA), KEM Electric Cooperative works closely with three neighboring electric cooperatives, Mor-Gran-Sou Electric, Roughrider Electric and Slope Electric. It's a perfect example of how cooperation among cooperatives strengthens everyone involved.

Reduced costs

Through IEA's services, KEM Electric works alongside other cooperatives to help improve efficiency and better serve members. While IEA's engineering department assists with system analysis, maintenance planning and future expansion, the collaboration extends far beyond engineering.

IEA also supports information technology and supervisory control and data acquisition systems, works with accounting teams on budgeting and financial planning, and partners with member services departments to help communicate outage information and other important updates to members. By sharing resources, expertise and services, participating cooperatives can accomplish more together than they could individually while keeping costs manageable for the members they serve.

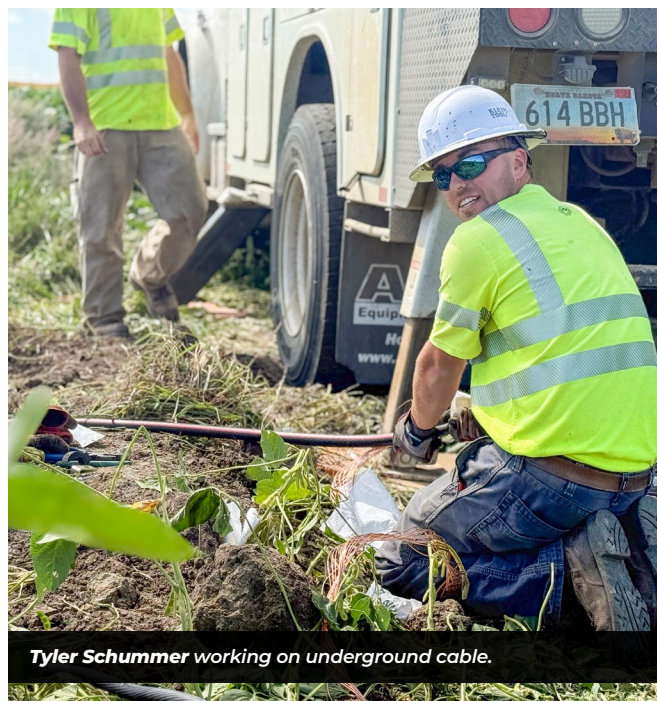
Due to current lead times and logistics in the utility

industry, sometimes materials are difficult to obtain. A good example of having a strong relationship with other cooperatives is the willingness to lend or sell material to one another if needed. This helps keep our overhead down, as we don't need as much material on hand. Substantial lead times can halt a project, but if we don't have something on hand, one of the other co-ops can usually help keep projects on time.

Providing mutual aid

A well-known value of cooperatives is the willingness to help when others are in need. When a storm hits and a co-op is in need of additional crew members or equipment, we call each other for assistance. Because we are neighboring cooperatives, we are often familiar with the service area and may use the same technology to make the process a bit smoother during urgent situations.

Through these partnerships, we can better serve you with cost savings while maintaining quality of service to our members. By working together, sharing resources and supporting one another, we build a stronger cooperative. This month, we are proud to not only celebrate what we have accomplished, but who we have accomplished it with! ⚡



Tyler Schummer working on underground cable.

A NOTE FROM MEMBER RELATIONS

LIHEAP helps cover weatherization costs



Marcy Sanders

Manager
of Member Relations

Winter heating costs can be a significant concern for members across KEM Electric Cooperative's service area. Fortunately, programs are available to help eligible individuals reduce energy expenses and maintain a safe, comfortable home throughout the colder months. Taking advantage of these resources can help ease financial stress and improve energy efficiency, making it easier to stay warm when temperatures drop.

The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) can help low-income and eligible individuals with assistance when it comes to heating and insulation costs in the winter. Through the N.D. Department of Health and Human Services and local human service zone offices, individuals can find help with a variety of services when it comes to home energy assistance such as heating.

Services offered

LIHEAP does more than help families pay their utility bills. The program can also cover a variety of weatherization services to improve a home's energy efficiency and help lower utility costs throughout the year.

Eligible households may receive assistance for insulation in attics, walls, floors and foundations, as well as weatherstripping, caulking and other upgrades that reduce drafts and improve a home's energy performance. LIHEAP can also help with furnace cleaning, repairs, replacements and chimney inspections or cleaning to improve both efficiency and safety.

Apply for LIHEAP

Upon applying for LIHEAP, an outreach specialist will visit your home and assist you in gathering necessary documentation for the service. From there, an application will be sent into the state for review, and the results will be provided within a week or two.

Check with your local human service office for more information regarding these services.

Applications are now being accepted year-round and can be found online at applyforhelp.nd.gov or by request at the local human service zone office. ⚡

Scan the QR code or reach out to your local human service zone office for more information and to apply.



Additional resources

Dickey County

205 15th St. N., P.O. Box 279, Ellendale, ND 58436
Phone: 701-349-3271

Emmons County

100 Fourth St. NW, P.O. Box 726, Linton, ND 58552
Phone: 701-254-4502

Kidder County

120 E. Broadway, P.O. Box 36, Steele, ND 58482
Phone: 701-475-2551

LaMoure County

202 Fourth Ave. NE, P.O. Box 38, LaMoure, ND 58458
Phone: 701-883-6060

Logan County

301 Broadway, Napoleon, ND 58561
Phone: 701-754-2283

McIntosh County

112 NE First St., P.O. Box 218, Ashley, ND 58413
Phone: 701-288-5170

SAFETY STARTS WITH ME

Generator safety



Marty Messer

Steele Area Foreman

When the lights go out, a generator can provide peace of mind by keeping essential appliances and equipment operating. Generators can be used as a backup power source during outage situations, but they need to be used in a responsible way.

When generators are used incorrectly, they can pose threats to the user as well as KEM Electric Cooperative employees. If misused, generators can cause

carbon monoxide poisoning. If they are not connected properly, electricity can backfeed onto the line, causing harm to lineworkers while they are restoring power.

To ensure generators are used correctly, follow the manufacturer's instructions and keep these tips in mind to:

- Install and regularly test carbon monoxide alarms. Keep generators at least 25 feet from doors, windows and vents.
- Never operate a generator indoors, in a garage or in any enclosed or partially enclosed space.
- Keep children and pets away from generators while they are running.
- Use properly rated, three-pronged extension cords and inspect them before use.
- Never connect a generator directly to household wiring unless a transfer switch has been installed by a qualified professional.

Before you operate a portable generator, be sure to thoroughly read the owner's manual for important safety information and tips.

Before winter weather arrives, be sure your generator is ready to provide backup power if needed and keep these tips in mind. If you have questions about the proper use of portable generators, give us a call at our office. ⚡



KEEP YOUR HEAT METER ON

Members, if your home has a sub-meter for the separately metered electric heat rate, please make sure your heat meter breaker is turned on inside your electric panel. If you have a heat meter, please make sure the breaker to the meter is turned on all year, to ensure we receive meter readings. If the breaker is off, your electric heat kilowatt-hour usage will not be billed correctly. The separately metered heat rates run Oct. 1 through April 30.

KEM ELECTRIC BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS:

July 28

The meeting of the board of directors of KEM Electric Cooperative was held on July 28 in Linton. The meeting was called to order at 9:34 a.m. by Chair Victor Wald. A quorum was present. Also present were co-General Manager/CEO Jason Bentz, Chief Financial Officer Alex Craigmile, Chief of Staff/Line Superintendent Dale Nagel, Manager of Member Relations Marcy Sanders, Legal Counsel Jennifer Grosz and Board Liaison Connie Hill.

Board reorganization: The following officers were elected: Chairman Victor Wald, Vice Chairman John R. Beck and Secretary/Treasurer Carter Vander Wal.

Consent agenda: Additions were proposed to the consent agenda. The consent agenda was approved as amended.

Strategic items: Bentz presented the co-general managers' report, which included updates on a N.D. Public Service Commission meeting, power supplier updates, upcoming co-op meetings and industry updates. Several additional Basin Electric Power Cooperative reports and board documents were available for review.

Department reports: Craigmile provided a financial report that included a review of May and June

financials, key ratios and the budget. Nagel provided an operations report, including pole testing, grants and supervisory control and data acquisition updates. Sanders provided a member relations department report on the online payment portal, community activities and upcoming member events. Chief Information Officer Charlie Dunbar provided a written report for the board, which included technology updates. Grosz provided an update on updating the easement process and policy.

Action items: The board reviewed and approved 2027 board meeting dates, and reviewed vouchers and agenda additions. The board also appointed representatives for Basin Electric Power Cooperative's annual meeting and the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Region 5/6 meeting.

Discussion/general information: No other business was discussed.

The meeting concluded with adjournment. Vander Wal certified the accuracy of the minutes.

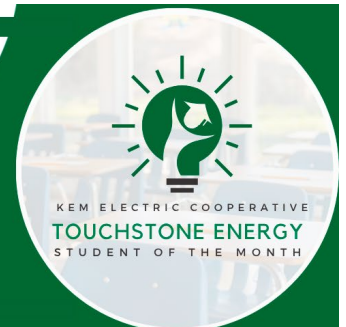
Next meeting date: The next meeting is at 9:30 a.m. Oct. 27 in Linton. ⚡

NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN!

Nominate a deserving Hazelton-Moffit-Braddock Public School student for the Oct. KEM Electric Touchstone Energy Student of the Month!

The nomination deadline is Oct. 15.

Scan the QR code for more information.



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
 Brent Stroh, Director, District 5.....Tappen
 Neil Meidinger, Director, District 3.....Zeeland
 Carmen Essig, Director-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

Hazelton, 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
 Email address: info@kemelectric.com

FIND US ON:

