

- The power behind your power
- Attend co-op annual meeting
- Grants available

Thank you, lineworkers!

National studies consistently rank power lineworkers among the most dangerous jobs in the country, and for good reason. Laboring high in the air, wearing heavy equipment and working directly with high voltage creates the perfect storm of a dangerous and unforgiving profession. But electric lineworkers are up to the task.

These brave people are committed to safety and the challenges of the job. KEM Electric Cooperative's lineworkers are responsible for

keeping power flowing day and night, regardless of national holidays, vacations, birthdays or other important family milestones. Beyond the years of specialized training and apprenticeships, it takes internal fortitude and a mission-oriented outlook to be a good lineworker. In fact, this service-oriented mentality is a hallmark characteristic of lineworkers. The job requires lineworkers to set aside their personal priorities to better serve their local community. ⚡

Get to know our dedicated lineworkers:

Kevin Horner, area foreman, 10 years



His words to characterize a lineworker: Reliable, hardworking, motivated
I enjoy working for KEM because: A lineworker does something different every day
Hobbies: Working on the farm

"I like helping to improve the electrical system for more reliable service."

Tyler Jacob, journeyman lineworker, 5 years



His words to characterize a lineworker: Hardworking, efficient, safe
I enjoy working for KEM because: The members are willing to help in any way they can, especially during outages
Hobbies: Hunting, golfing and snowmobiling

"I enjoy being outdoors and working with a great group of young men."

Martin Messer, area foreman, 11 years



His words to characterize a lineworker: Dedicated, hardworking, willing to work in adverse conditions
I enjoy working for KEM because: Likes providing members with quality service, and the members' willingness to help and their understanding in tough conditions
Hobbies: Hunting, fishing, camping and spending time with family

"Working outside is my favorite part about being a lineworker."

Austin Ohlhauser, journeyman lineworker, 10 years



His words to characterize a lineworker: Not afraid of a challenge
I enjoy working for KEM because: Likes the different variety of tasks each day
Hobbies: Camping, ranching and living life to the fullest

"The members are always willing to help us out any way they can."

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Kirk Praus, journeyman lineworker, 10 years



His words to characterize a lineworker: Selfless, hardworking, motivated
I enjoy working for KEM because: Enjoys working outdoors as a lineworker and working with a small group of people, so you get to know everyone
Hobbies: Hunting, fishing and spending time with family

"The members understand that outages will happen, and we are doing our best to get the power back on in a timely manner."

Tyler Schummer, journeyman lineworker, 3 years



His words to characterize a lineworker: Selfless, hardworking, determined
I enjoy working for KEM because: Loves being able to work outdoors
Hobbies: Hunting and fishing

"The members are always willing to help out any way they can."

Dillon Steinolfson, journeyman lineworker, 5 years



His words to characterize a lineworker: Outgoing, good at problem-solving, hardworking
I enjoy working for KEM because: Likes the atmosphere and how everyone knows each other so well, along with the willingness of members to help
Hobbies: Hunting or doing anything outdoors and spending time with the family

"Being outside and seeing all the wildlife is my favorite part about being a lineworker."

Gerald "Jake" Zink, journeyman lineworker, 15 years



His words to characterize a lineworker: Dedicated, safety-orientated, willing to get the job done, no matter the circumstances
I enjoy working for KEM because: Likes the willingness of cooperatives to help members and to help each other to get power restored
Hobbies: Fishing, helping the local fire department, coaching high school sporting clays for the Kidder County Wolves

"My outdoor office is my favorite part. There is always something new to see, learn and do."

CELEBRATE
the Power Behind Your Power.
 Lineworker Appreciation Day | April 10, 2023



MANAGER'S MESSAGE: The power behind your power



Travis Kupper

As April arrives, it brings the showers that produce spring flowers. It also heralds the beginning of a potentially stormy season that can inherently include power outages. While KEM Electric Cooperative strives to provide reliable electricity to our members, there are times when Mother Nature has other plans. Most of us can ride out a storm from

the comfort and convenience of our homes. However, there is a group of professionals who spring into action when the weather takes a turn for the worst – co-op lineworkers.

A dangerous job

Braving stormy weather and other challenging conditions, lineworkers often must climb 40 or more feet into the air, carrying heavy equipment, to restore power. Listed as one of the 10 most dangerous jobs in the United States, lineworkers must perform detailed tasks next to high-voltage power lines. To help keep them safe, lineworkers wear specialized protective clothing and equipment at all times when on the job. This includes special fire-resistant clothing that will self-extinguish, limiting potential injuries from burns and sparks. Insulated and rubber gloves are worn in tandem to protect them from electrical shock. While the gear performs a critical function, it also adds additional weight and bulk, making the job more complex.

In addition to the highly visible tasks lineworkers perform, their job today goes far beyond climbing to the top of a pole to repair a wire. They are also information experts who can pinpoint an outage from miles away and restore power remotely. Line crews use their laptops and cellphones to map outages, take photos of the work they have done and troubleshoot problems. In our community, KEM Electric

lineworkers are responsible for keeping over 2,700 miles of line across four counties working to bring power to your home and our local community 24/7, regardless of the weather, holidays or personal considerations.

While lineworkers may be the most visible employees at KEM Electric, it's important to note there is a team of highly skilled professionals working behind the scenes. Engineers provide ongoing expertise and guidance on the operations side of the co-op. Member service representatives are always standing by to take your calls and answer your questions. Our information technology experts are continuously monitoring our system to help safeguard sensitive data. And these are just a few of the folks who work together to ensure we can deliver the service and reliability you expect and deserve. Without them, our lineworkers wouldn't be able to "bring the light" to our community.

Our dedicated and beloved lineworkers are proud to represent KEM Electric, and they deserve all the appreciation and accolades that come their way on Lineworker Appreciation Day.

On April 10, and any time you see a lineworker, I hope you'll join me in thanking them for their exceptional service. I also hope you'll remember you have a dedicated team of professionals working behind the scenes at the co-op whose commitment to service runs just as deep. ⚡



Safety Starts with ME: **Martin Messer**

Spring is upon us. As the weather gets warmer and days get longer, we can't help but think of the landscaping projects we've been dreaming about during the cold, winter months.

"If any of your spring projects require digging, such as planting trees or shrubs or setting posts, remember to dial 811 first," said Martin Messer, KEM Electric's Steele area foreman.

From gas lines to water and electric lines, one wrong plow, harrow or shovel into the ground can lead to disaster and set your project timeline back significantly. Here are the steps to take when dialing 811:

Call – Upon dialing 811, you will be routed to a local "one call" center.

Provide information – Tell the operator where you're planning to dig and what type of project you are working on. By doing this, the affected local utilities will be notified of this information.

Wait – Within a few days after the initial call, a locator will come to the site and mark any underground lines, pipes and cables. This designated person will mark these areas with flags or paint.

Time to dig – After this process is complete, you may start your digging to achieve your landscaping dreams!

"Do-it-yourself projects are great and fun, as long as you do it right," Messer said. "Many homeowners are aware of the significance in calling before you dig. However, many do not take advantage of it."

A national survey showed that only 50% of homeowners called to have their lines marked



before starting digging projects, according to the Common Ground Alliance (CGA). CGA data also shows that an underground utility line is damaged every six minutes in the United States.

The simplest of tasks can damage underground lines, causing outages, damaging utility lines, harming diggers and possibly resulting in repair costs and fines, which is why it is so important to play it safe and dial 811 beforehand.

KEM Electric wants to not only keep underground utilities safe, but most importantly, keep you safe, too. ⚡

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- Approved January board minutes
- Heard co-general manager/CEO report
- Reviewed Basin Electric Power Cooperative updates
- Discussed Energy Transfer Partners update
- Heard financial report
- Heard operations report
- Received member relations report
- Heard legal counsel report

Unclaimed capital credits

Co-op member addresses needed

KEM Electric Cooperative needs new addresses to mail members their capital credit allocation statements and/or capital credit check written last year. The following list of KEM Electric Cooperative members and their current address on file (last known address) were mailed

allocation statements and/or checks that were returned from the post office because it was “not a deliverable address,” “unable to forward” or “attempted not known.” If you know of a current address, please call the KEM Electric Cooperative office at 701-254-4666 or 800-472-2673. ⚡

ACKERMAN, PAUL
ADAMS, WILLIAM H.
BAKKER SCHOOL DISTRICT
BARRY, LEIGH
BECK, EMERY W.
BIXBY, JEFFREY F.
BOSCH, CLYDE
BOSCH, FRANK JR.
BRANDNER, DAVID
BRAUN, DONAVIN
CORPS OF ENGINEERS
CUSEY, JAMES
DENDINGER, JOHN
DIEGEL, DELORIS
DOCKTER, DONALD
DOLL, GEORGE JR.
DORNBUSH, VERL
DRONEN, DWIGHT A.
ERBELE, DENNIS L.
ERBELE, ELDA
FEIST, ANNA
FEIST, ROBERT L.
FOSTER, ALLEN
FRANSEN, JAN
GLAESMAN, TRAVIS
GLASS, MARK F.
GRENZ, GORDON
GRENZ, MATTHEW
GRINSTEINER, DAVE
GROSS, TIM
GUNIA, MICHEL L
HAIBECK, CURTIS D.
HAIBECK, RUTH
HARPOLE, ELMER J.
HARTER, TARA
HAYDEN, BRADLEY
HOFF, ALFRED
HOFF, AMANDA
HUMMEL, ESTHER
ISZLER, BYRON
ISZLER'S OUTBACK
J.B. CONSTRUCTION
JACOB, MICHAEL R.

JOB, SANDY Y.
JOHNSON, EDWIN D.
JOHNSON, ARVADA
JOHNSON, OWEN
KAMBEITZ, ELIZABETH
KASEMAN, DON
KASEMAN, EDWARD
KELLER, CHARLES JR.
KLEIN, DANIEL C.
KNOEPFLE, DELBERT
KRUMM, JOHN
KULANDA, DIANE
KUNZ, MICHAEL J.
LAINE, PAUL
LEIER, BRIAN
LEIER, JOHN L
LEIER, JOSEPH C.
MANN, MIKE
MASSET, FLOYD
MEHLHAFF, STELLA
MESSNER, JASON
MOCK, ANTHONY
MUELLER, RICHARD A.
NICHOLSON, DARNELL
NIES, BRIAN
OLDENBURGER, ROGER
OLIVER, KEVIN W.
OLSON, RYAN
OTTMAR, CHRISTINE
PALS, CHARLES
PFEIFLE, ROBERT
PIATZ, RHONDA
PIATZ, SAM
PRAIRIE PUBLIC BROADCASTING
RAU, DARRYL
REUER, CLARENCE
RODENBURG, TODD
ROESLER, ALVIN D.
ROOKER, LEROY E.
RUBBELKE, ROSEMARY
SAUTER, EVAN
SAVILLE, CAROL
SAVILLE, CLARICE A.

SAYLER, IRENE
SCHERR, ALVIN J.
SCHILLING, JAMES
SCHMIDT, MARK
SCHOCK, DENNIS N.
SCHULTES, CLARENCE J.
SCHUMACHER, DEAN
SCHUMACHER, GARY T.
SCHWAB, JACK D.
SILBERNAGEL, JOHN A.
SOULE, GLORIA
SOUTH CENTRAL THRESHING
SPERLE, CAROLYN
SPERLE, ROBERT
STATELINE RESORT LLC
STROH, MARK
STROH, PETER
STROH, SHAWN
STROM, MYRON
SURBER, IRA E.
SVANES ALAN
VAN BEEK, JERRY
VANDER LAAN, MILDRED
VANDER VORST, CHAD
VANDER VORSTE, LOUIS
VETTER, GARY
W&S
WASTE MANAGEMENT LINTON
WEIGEL, ALLAN
WENINGER, MIKE
WESTERN WIRELESS
CORPORATION
WOLBAUM, MARGARET
WOLF, DARLENE
ZIMMERMAN, BRADLEY

Attend KEM Electric's annual meeting

KEM Electric Cooperative is gearing up for the 2023 annual meeting, which will be held at 7 p.m. June 15 in Napoleon at the American Legion Barry-Hoof Post No. 72.

The annual meeting is a special time for co-op members to gather, share experiences, hear from co-op leadership and, perhaps most importantly, vote to elect your new board members.

KEM Electric employees work hard to host this fun event, and we encourage you to attend and exercise some of the many rights you have as a member of an electric cooperative. We know the food, entertainment and prizes are the best parts of the meeting, but there is so much more to the event.

Your annual meeting is also the occasion to exercise one of the greatest benefits of being an electric co-op member: voting for the upcoming year's board of directors.

Your electric cooperative is not owned by faraway investors, and it is not overseen by an appointed board of directors. Your electric cooperative is operated by a democratically elected board given the privilege to serve because of your vote.

At this year's annual meeting, not only will you have a blast (and maybe win a prize!), but you

will feel good knowing you had a voice in an important decision that impacts one of our most vital resources, electricity.

KEM offers another option for cooperative voting process for director/bylaw amendment

During this year's voting process for your cooperative directors and the bylaw amendment, KEM Electric Cooperative will be offering another voting option – online voting. As in the past, your cooperative will continue to offer the opportunity to vote by mail-in ballot or to vote in-person at the annual meeting on June 15.

If a member casts a timely vote prior to the meeting by mail or online, the member will not receive a ballot at the annual meeting. Members will receive an annual meeting report in the mail around May 20. In a separate second mailing, members will receive a voting packet after May 20 with voting instructions for all three options. Please vote by mail or online, unless you know you will be attending the annual meeting. ⚡

SAVE THE DATE

JOIN KEM ELECTRIC FOR YOUR ANNUAL MEETING ON

**THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 2023
NAPOLEON, NORTH DAKOTA**

MORE INFORMATION WILL FOLLOW.



POWER
FOR GENERATIONS

Interested in becoming a director?

This year, the director seats up for election are those of Victor (Chuck) J. Wald, District 4; Dean Dewald, District 5; and Carmen Essig, District-at-Large.

KEM Electric Cooperative is governed by a seven-member board of directors that is elected by you, the members and owners of the electric cooperative. The current board of directors includes District 1, John Beck; District 2, Carter Vander Wal; District 3, Neil Meidinger; District 4,

Victor (Chuck) J, Wald; District 5, Dean Dewald; and Dean Hummel and Carmen Essig, at-Large directors.

If you would like to place your name on the ballot, pick up a petition at the KEM Electric office or find online. Petitions became available on Jan. 3. Petitions must be returned to the cooperative office no later than May 2. ⚡

Luck-of-the-draw \$500 scholarships offered!

KEM Electric Cooperative will award two \$500 luck-of-the-draw scholarships to be drawn at our annual meeting on June 15 in Napoleon. All high school seniors whose parent(s)/guardian(s) are members of KEM Electric Cooperative are

eligible for this scholarship. Students must attend our annual meeting with at least one parent/guardian and are required to RSVP for the meeting using the form below. ⚡

Luck-of-the-Draw Scholarship Application

My parent(s)/guardian(s) are members of KEM Electric

**LUCK OF THE
DRAW
SCHOLARSHIP**

Name: _____ Account # _____

Address: _____

Email address: _____

Phone #: _____

College attending: _____

High school: _____

Signature: _____ Date _____



**Return to: KEM Electric Cooperative ■ 107 S. Broadway / P.O. Box 790
Linton, ND 58552-0790 ■ by June 13, 2023**

RDFC announces 2023 allotment

The Rural Development Finance Corporation (RDFC) is a North Dakota nonprofit finance and development corporation whose member-owners are all the North Dakota electric cooperatives, nine of the North Dakota telecommunication cooperatives and the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives.

RDFC announces it has approved a 2023 grant allotment of \$3,000 per member-cooperative to be used to support community-owned entities, nonprofits and community-based projects.

Eligible projects include: community-owned businesses (cafe, grocery store, motel, other); community facilities (ambulance services, fire districts, recreation, hospital/clinic, community center, other); or community-based projects (school/youth projects, other) that benefit rural areas and lead to community betterment.

Please note RDFC does not provide funds for medical fundraisers or general operating costs.

Matching funds include \$4 of other funds to every \$1 of RDFC funds. RDFC will not require documentation.

The minimum grant amount is \$500; the maximum is \$3,000. The limit is \$3,000 per member-cooperative for 2023.

Applications may be found at kemelectric.com or by calling the office. Please return applications to KEM Electric, Attn: Marcy Sanders. ⚡



Rural Development Finance Corporation
GROWING COMMUNITIES



HAPPY EASTER!

In observance of the Easter holiday, KEM Electric Cooperative will be closed on Friday, April 7.

Line crews will be available in case of an emergency outage.

KEM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.

DIRECTORS:

- Victor Wald, ChairmanNapoleon
- John Beck, Vice ChairmanLinton
- Carter Vander Wal, Sec.-Treas. Pollock
- Dean Dewald, Director..... Dawson
- Carmen Essig, Director.....Lehr
- Dean Hummel, Director..... Hague
- Neil Meidinger, Director Zeeland

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

MANAGEMENT:

- Travis Kupper Co-GM/CEO
- Jason Bentz..... Co-GM/CEO

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

Hazleton, Linton and Strasburg exchanges' phone number: 701-254-4666

FIND US ON:



OFFICE HOURS:

Monday through Friday,
8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Website: kemelectric.com / Email address: info@kemelectric.com