

KEM Electric announces Youth Tour winner

For many teens, the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour is full of “firsts.” It may be the first time they left the state, flew on a plane, visited the nation’s capital or have been away from their family for an extended period of time. Even more are seeing and experiencing the larger world through their own eyes, rather than through another’s perspective.

The Youth Tour sprang from a suggestion by former Sen. Lyndon Johnson to a national gathering of co-ops. Johnson felt youth from rural areas would benefit by visiting Washington, D.C., to see firsthand how government works and gain a wider perspective through their experience. From this idea, the Youth Tour evolved. High school sophomores and juniors selected by their electric co-ops, participate in a weeklong trip to the nation’s capital. The program has grown exponentially since its inception. This year, more than 1,800 high school students will participate from co-ops in 44 states.

North Dakota sends a delegation of 15 students. These students are selected by their cooperative and chosen through an essay writing contest. This year’s question was, “What moment in American history do you wish you had been a part of and what would you have contributed?”

Through this contest, KEM Electric Cooperative has selected Nicole Lawler to attend the Youth Tour.

Meet Nicole

Nicole, the daughter of Richard and Jodi Lawler, is 16 years old, and currently a junior at Linton High School, but is on the fast track to graduate in August and pursue her dream of sports communication.

She first learned about the KEM Youth Tour when a history teacher gave the class a flyer.



Nicole Lawler

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"I am a total history buff, and I wanted to test out my writing skills," Nicole said.

Although Nicole has not been to Washington, D.C., she is most looking forward to visiting the Lincoln Memorial.

Winning essay

If I was given the chance to visit any time in America's history, I would visit the time of the second Red Scare. The second Red Scare was a difficult time for the United States and was divided into two pieces that forever changed the way the country operates with law and justice. During this supposed witch hunt for communists in America, it brought out the true colors in our red, white and blue.

The second Red Scare happened from 1950 to 1954, when a single man was on the hunt for his own power using the Machiavellian technique: It does not matter what is right and wrong if it benefits you. This infamous man's name was Joseph McCarthy. He was a senator from Wisconsin who gave a speech in Wheeling, W.V., where he pulled out a fake list of 205 names of state department employees, claiming they were communists. This would kick off the idea of McCarthyism, or the second Red Scare.

My reasoning for wanting to visit this time is it was a very controversial era. If you would have a meeting, you could be deemed as a communist. Many unjustifiable reasons were given to people as to why they were suspected to be communists, but never really a good one. The mass hysteria was like the Salem witch trials, which would be my second pick to visit. Both were an aimless hunt without evidence to find

people guilty of a crime they never committed. The country was divided, trustless and hysterical.

If I was given the chance to make a difference during that time, it would have been leading quiet meetings or hosting hearings. The hearings would entail the truth behind Joseph's letter being a fake, and how the national panic is over a simple lie, but remaining informed is the best defense against falling victim to scandals such as that one. Getting information out to the public is seemingly the key in calming down a mass hysteria of misinformed individuals.

Speaking out as a woman in this time would be rather difficult, as women were not granted equal rights at this time yet. Nonetheless, the witch hunt does not have a real way to stop the spread other than informing the public. Given those circumstances, I would also write a letter to President Eisenhower to explain my thought process and ask him to address the situation with a different approach. The people of this time looked to him for guidance, and being he was most likely one of the most influential people of his time, it would only seem right people would take his advice to heart.

At the end of the day, if I would go to any time in American history to make a change, it would be from 1950 to 1954 to see what the life of an American would be like in the second Red Scare. In the time, I would attempt to inform the public and write a letter to President Eisenhower in an attempt to slow or ease the chaos of the time in searching for communists within the country. That is what I would do if given the chance to go back in time to the early 1950s. ⚡



**AMERICA'S ELECTRIC
COOPERATIVES ARE POWERED BY
COMMUNITY MEMBERS, LIKE YOU.**

HELP PROTECT THEM TODAY.





Landon Schumacher



James Schumacher



Madison Dahl



Alexandra Dewitz



Lacey Bosch



Lilly Haak



Trenton Erbele



Charles Herr



Loren Wolf



Landon Wolf

KEM Electric awards scholarships to graduates

KEM Electric Cooperative is pleased to announce the 2022-23 student scholarship winners, whose families are member-owners of KEM Electric. In the spirit of the Touchstone Energy® Cooperatives value of commitment to community, KEM Electric is proud to offer yearly scholarships to assist in developing rural leadership in our region.

KEM Electric/Basin Electric scholarship

The winner of the KEM Electric/Basin Electric Power Cooperative scholarship award is Landon Schumacher from Linton High School. He will receive a \$1,000 scholarship in the fall of 2023. Schumacher plans to attend the University of North Dakota (UND) and obtain a degree in biology.

KEM Electric high school scholarships

KEM Electric offered one \$500 scholarship to a graduating senior from each of the high schools within our service area, along with one scholarship for a student who is homeschooled or schooled outside of KEM Electric's service area, for a total of nine \$500 scholarships awarded.

Ashley Public School chose **James Schumacher**, son of Quentin and Gwyn Schumacher. James will be attending UND and pursuing a degree in biology.

Hazleton-Moffit-Braddock School chose **Madison Dahl**, daughter of Michelle Dahl and the late Kelly Dahl. Madison will be attending Vermilion Community College and pursuing a veterinary technician degree.

Kidder County High School chose **Alexandra Dewitz**, daughter of Dawn and Toby Dewitz. Alexandra will be attending Valley City State University (VCSU) and pursuing an elementary education degree.

Linton Public School chose **Lacey Bosch**, daughter of Jenel and Ron Bosch. Lacey will be attending Bismarck State College (BSC) and pursuing a degree in nursing.

Strasburg Public School chose **Lilly Haak**, daughter of Nicky and Wayne Haak. Lilly will be attending North Dakota State College of Science (NDSCS) and pursuing a degree in dental hygiene.

Napoleon Public School chose **Trenton Erbele**, son of Shanon and Gabe Erbele. Trenton will be attending the NDSCS pursuing a degree in electrical construction.

Wishek Public School chose **Charles Herr**, son of Stacey and Bruce Herr. Charles plans to attend BSC pursuing a degree in residential carpentry.

Zeeland Public School chose **Loren Wolf**, son of Trudy Fraase Wolf and Allen Wolf. Loren will be attending VCSU.

KEM Electric chose **Landon Wolf**, son of Jason and Susan Wolf. Landon will be attending Lake Area Technical Institute pursuing a degree in diesel mechanics.

Thank you to all the students who took the time to apply, and congratulations to this year's winners! KEM Electric is proud to play a small role in supporting your education and future careers. ⚡

Still to come: luck-of-the-draw \$500 scholarships!

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 parents/guardians are members of KEM Electric and have not won a

prior scholarship 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. ⚡

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**

MANAGER'S MESSAGE:

Tips for spotting potential electrical hazards in your home



Jason Bentz

Electricity plays many roles in our lives, from powering baby monitors, 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.

Now is a great time to look around your home and check

for potential safety hazards.

Remember, every electrical device has a purpose and a service lifespan. While we can extend their operations with maintenance and care, none of them are designed to last or work forever. When electricity is involved, failures can present electrical hazards that might be avoided with periodic inspections.

Ground-fault circuit interrupters

Outdoor outlets or those in potentially damp locations in a kitchen, bathroom or laundry room often include ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) features. They are designed to sense abnormal current flows, breaking the circuit to prevent potential electric shocks from devices plugged into the outlets.

The average GFCI outlet is designed to last about 10 years, but in areas prone to electrical storms or power surges, they can wear out in five years or less. Check them frequently and be sure to contact a licensed electrician to replace any failing GFCI outlets.

Loose or damaged outlets or switches

Unstable electrical outlets or wall switches with signs of heat damage or discoloration can offer early warnings of potential shock or electrical fire hazards. Loose connections can allow electrical current arcing. If you see these warning signs, it may be time to contact an electrician.

Surge protectors

Power strips with surge protectors can help safeguard expensive equipment, like televisions, home entertainment systems and computer components, from power spikes. Voltage spikes are measured in joules, and surge protectors are rated for the number of joules they can

effectively absorb. That means if your surge protector is rated at 1,000 joules, it should be replaced when it hits or passes that limit. When the limit is reached, protection stops, and you're left with a basic power strip.

Some surge protectors include indicator lights that flicker to warn you when they've stopped working as designed, but many do not. If your electrical system takes a major hit, or if you don't remember when you bought your surge protector, replacement may be the best option.

Extension cords

If you use extension cords regularly to connect devices and equipment to your wall outlets, you may live in an underwired home. With a growing number of electrical devices connecting your family to the services you get from KEM Electric, having enough outlets in just the right spots can be challenging. Remember, extension cords are designed for temporary, occasional or periodic use.

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. And always make sure extension cords used in outdoor or potentially damp locations are rated for exterior use.

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, approximately 51,000 electrical fires are reported each year in the United States, causing more than \$1.3 billion in annual property damage.

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



Attend KEM Electric's annual meeting

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. Join KEM Electric Cooperative for the 2023 annual meeting, which will be held at 7 p.m. on June 15 in Napoleon at the American Legion Barry-Hoof Post No. 72. Registration begins at 5:30 p.m. along with a meal.

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.

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.

Your co-op, your vote

The annual meeting is also the time to vote for board members who will represent you, the members of the co-op. Board members are local members, just like you. If you do not vote, you're not only missing the opportunity to support a candidate who shares your views and concerns, but you're also allowing others to chart a course that impacts your future.

In 2023, the three board positions sought include: one for District-at-Large, one for District 4 and one for District 5. In addition, there will be a bylaw change proposed to the membership.

Proposed bylaw amendment

The board of directors of KEM Electric Cooperative is proposing an amendment to cooperative bylaws.

In 2022, the cooperative members approved an amendment to bylaw 306, which allows electronic voting by members when so ordered by the board of directors. The proposed amendment to bylaw 404 changes the timeframe for the director petition process.

Currently, nominating petitions are to be filed at KEM Electric's offices not less than 45 days prior to the date of the annual meeting. Petitions

are not to be signed more than 90 days prior to the date petitions must be filed.

The proposed amendment provides that petitions must be filed not less than 90 days prior to the meeting date and petitions are not to be signed more than 60 days prior to the date petitions must be filed.

Passing this amendment will allow more time in facilitating the election process between KEM Electric Cooperative and Survey and Ballot Systems, which has been hired by KEM Electric to assist with all election needs. These needs include but are not limited to the development of digital voting, production and mailing of ballots, along with onsite voting. Survey and Ballot Systems will also process and report all returned votes to ensure security and member anonymity.

Voting options

KEM Electric offers another option for the cooperative voting process for director and bylaw amendment.

During this year's voting process for your cooperative directors and the bylaw amendment, KEM Electric will be introducing 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. Online or electronic voting will be offered through a secure website. In a separate second mailing, members will receive a voting packet after May 20 with voting instructions for all three options. Please watch for it and vote by mail or online, unless you know you will be attending the annual meeting. ⚡

Safety Starts with ME: Make room for roadside crews

When the power goes out, so do KEM Electric Cooperative's line crews. Lineworkers are the first to respond after an outage occurs, and they work tirelessly to restore power to the communities we serve.

"If you're traveling and see one of our crews on the side of the road, we kindly ask that you move over if possible and give them a little extra space to work," said Marcy Sanders, manager of member relations at KEM Electric. "We care about the safety of all, and this extra precaution ensures just that."

As the North Dakota move over law notes, if you approach a crew while traveling on a two-lane road, moving over to the next lane might not be an option. In this case, we simply ask you to slow down when approaching roadside crews. If you approach a crew while traveling on a four-lane road, and safety and traffic conditions allow, we ask you to move into the far lane.

Utility crews aren't the only ones who could use the extra space. Emergency responders, such as law enforcement officers, firefighters and emergency medical technicians, often find themselves responding to emergency situations near busy roadways. We ask you to follow the



same procedures to help keep these crews safe.

"There's plenty of room for all. Let's work together to keep everyone safe on our local roadways," Sanders said. ⚡

SEE YOU AT THE ANNUAL MEETING

JOIN KEM ELECTRIC FOR YOUR ANNUAL
MEETING ON **THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 2023**
NAPOLEON, NORTH DAKOTA



BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

- Approved Feb. 28 meeting minutes
- Approved agenda
- Heard co-general managers/CEO report
- Heard 2022 audit presentation from Brady Martz
- Heard financial report
- Heard operation report
- Heard manger of member relations report



KEM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.

DIRECTORS:

Victor Wald, ChairmanNapoleon
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 Carter Vander Wal, Sec.-Treas. Pollock
 Dean Dewald, Director..... Dawson
 Carmen Essig, Director.....Lehr
 Dean Hummel, Director..... Hague
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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