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COOPERATIVE MONTH



REVIVING MACHINERY AND MEMORIES:

South Central Threshing Association



Just north of Emmons County's oldest town of Braddock, you will find a busy historic site at The South Central Threshing Grounds is home to the South Central Threshing Association and many historic buildings.

The association began as a group of fellow antique equipment hobbyists and is now an association of volunteers who work together to preserve donated "retired" equipment and revive family memories while doing so.

A significant aspect of the association's work involves restoring antique farm equipment, most of which has been generously donated by families throughout the region.

"Much of our equipment is from kids and grandkids who are cleaning up Grandma and Grandpa's land and are unsure of what to do with the older equipment," says Tracy Moch, a member of the South Central Threshing Association.

Once the group receives a piece of equipment, they examine it and decide what kind of work needs to be done to give the machine life once again. Generally, the association can identify the piece of machinery, but they use online forums and other associations to help if they get stumped. This also goes for finding parts and materials needed to restore the equipment.

A unique project the group is currently undertaking is the Fritz Corliss steam engine project, which is a Corliss steam engine they received six years ago from a Nebraska sugar mill. Although the steam engine is large and heavy, making it difficult to restore, the volunteers are close to completion and hope to have it

running by the association's 50th anniversary in 2025.

"The steam engine has been a large project, but we are excited to get it running for everyone to check out," Moch says.

Whether the equipment is big or small, visitors enjoy exploring the diverse collection of unique and fascinating equipment on the grounds. Some of the current equipment on display is a trencher that digs about 2 feet wide and 23 feet deep. They also demonstrate the trencher at events at the grounds.

"Everyone enjoys seeing the machinery at work, like the trencher and rock crusher," Moch says.

Some other machinery that excites visitors is the rock crusher, corn shredder, the 40-horsepower steam engine and the various antique tractors the association has acquired.

"The grounds bring back a lot of memories for people who visit, from all generations," Moch says.

Whether young or old, most visitors comment on the memories that flood their minds while exploring all the association has to offer.

"All kinds of stories are heard and told while walking the grounds," Moch says. "Appreciation is in the air when viewing the equipment."

The association members enjoy the work they do. Being able to see the appreciation from all generations makes it all worthwhile, which is why they host a variety of events throughout the year, from the threshing bee to pickup pulls and other activities.

For more information, visit www.southcentralthreshing.com or South Central Threshing Association on Facebook. ⚡



MANAGER'S MESSAGE:

Celebrating Cooperative Month



Jason Bentz
Co-General Manager/CEO

As we celebrate Cooperative Month this October, we reflect on the remarkable strength that comes from working together. This month, we not only honor the cooperative principles that define our service, but also recognize the collaborative spirit that enhances our operations.

KEM Electric Cooperative is an owner of the Innovative Energy Alliance Cooperative, which stands as a testament to the power of partnership.

Four cooperatives stand together for shared services, as we embrace the cooperative model to streamline operations, share resources and maximize efficiency. This collaborative approach ensures we provide you with the highest quality service, while maintaining our commitment to affordability and reliability.

Working together with other cooperatives allows us to leverage collective expertise and innovations that benefit all our members. By combining resources and knowledge, we enhance our ability

to address challenges and seize opportunities more effectively than we could alone. This unity of purpose strengthens our capacity to serve you better and fosters a sense of community that extends beyond our individual cooperatives.

Cooperative Month is a time to celebrate the unique value of our model, where mutual support and shared goals drive us forward. Your involvement and support are crucial to our success. Together, we create a cooperative environment that prioritizes your needs, values transparency and reinvests in our community.

We invite you to join us in celebrating Cooperative Month by participating in our upcoming events and activities. Experience firsthand how our collaborative efforts enhance our service and demonstrate the true spirit of cooperation.

Thank you for being an essential part of our cooperative family. Your support and engagement make our collective achievements possible and help us build a brighter future for all. ⚡



HAPPY COOPERATIVE MONTH!

PROUDLY BUILT, LED AND SHAPED BY OUR MEMBERS.



MESSAGE FROM MEMBER RELATIONS:

Need help with your energy bills?



Marcy Sanders
Manager of
Member Relations

As autumn arrives, KEM Electric Cooperative members are faced with cooling temperatures, and even colder temperatures in the coming months. For some, anticipation of the winter months causes stress and anxiety, as they wonder how to make ends meet. Thankfully, there are programs to help members.

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 Human Services, human service zone offices and Community Options, individuals can be helped with a variety of services when it comes to home energy assistance, including heating.

Services offered

LIHEAP offers a variety of service assistance. Not only can the program help curb the costs of your

heating and cooling bills, but it also helps households with weatherization services to make homes more energy efficient.

The assistance program may also help with the costs of furnace and chimney cleaning, emergency assistance and for devices to reduce energy costs. Homeowners and renters are eligible to apply for assistance.

Apply for LIHEAP

LIHEAP eligible members can apply from Oct. 1 through May 31, 2025.

Upon applying for LIHEAP, an outreach specialist will enter your home and assist in gathering necessary documentation for the service. From there, an application will be sent to the state for review and the results will be provided within a few weeks.

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

Applications can be found online at www.applyforhelp.nd.gov or by request at the local human service zone office or Community Options. ⚡



Additional resources

South Country Human Service Zone: Serving Dickey, Emmons, Kidder, LaMoure, Logan and McIntosh counties

Dickey County

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

LaMoure County

202 Fourth Ave. NE
P.O. Box 38
LaMoure, ND 58458
Phone: 701-883-5301

Emmons County

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

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

Kidder County

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

MESSAGE FROM OPERATIONS:

Explaining power blinks

**Dale Nagel***Chief of Staff/
Line Superintendent*

electric service to the homes, farms and businesses we serve and would like to explain power blinks further.

What's a power blink?

Power blinks are a brief service interruption, but they're typically caused by a fault (short circuit) on

Have you ever arrived home and noticed your microwave clock or your bedside digital clock is blinking? Sometimes, variables out of KEM Electric Cooperative's control momentarily disrupt electric power to our members. Those disruptions can be caused by birds, squirrels or foliage, just to name a few.

These brief interruptions of service are known as power blinks. We are committed to providing continuous, reliable electric service to the homes, farms and businesses we serve and would like to explain power blinks further.

a power line. Faults can occur through a variety of instances, such as animals contacting an energized power line, tree branches touching a power line, lightning or other similar events.

Any of the events noted above can cause your power to blink, but you may also experience a brief interruption when protective devices such as TripSavers, which act like circuit breakers, are working to detect the fault. Believe it or not, these brief power blinks caused by protective devices are actually good, because that means the equipment is working as it should to prevent a prolonged outage.

Regardless of the cause, KEM Electric crews are continually adopting innovative technology and installing infrastructure to reduce these issues, while efficiently handling necessary repairs or improvements.

You can help, too! Any time you experience repeated disruptions to your electric service, please let us know by calling 800-472-2673 or 701-254-4666. ⚡

KEM ELECTRIC'S TOUCHSTONE ENERGY STUDENT OF THE MONTH NOMINATIONS OPEN

WHAT: Nominations for KEM Electric's Touchstone Energy Student of the Month- October

WHO: Hazelton-Moffit-Braddock Public School students

DEADLINE: October 15



KEM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE
TOUCHSTONE ENERGY
STUDENT OF THE MONTH
Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

ENTER YOUR YOUTH TOUR ERA



FIRED UP @ GETTYSBURG!



HONORING HEROES @ WWI MEMORIAL



JUNE 15-21, 2025

1,800 students.
7 days.
1 unforgettable trip.

Join us on the adventure of a lifetime. On the Electric Cooperative Youth Tour, you'll do it all. You'll explore monuments and museums, meet with members of Congress and get an up-close look at where our country's laws are crafted. You'll stand on the Gettysburg Battlefield, walk the halls of George Washington's iconic 18th-century mansion and witness ceremonies honoring the men and women who fought in uniform for this great nation. For one jam-packed week, you'll be immersed in the cooperative spirit that built and sustains our great nation. And **all expenses are paid** by your local electric cooperative!

Yeah, Youth Tour hits different.

To enter the essay-writing contest:

- You must be a sophomore or junior in high school for the school year 2024-2025.
- You and your parents or guardian must be served by KEM Electric Cooperative.

Essay question:

Why is it important to be involved in your community, and how does that prepare you to be a future leader?

The application deadline is Jan. 17, 2025.

Email entries to Marcy Sanders at msanders@kemelectric.com or mail a hard copy to: Youth Tour Essay Contest, 107 S. Broadway, Box 790, Linton, ND, 58552-0790.

Questions? Please contact Marcy Sanders, KEM Electric, at 701-254-4666 during regular business hours.



Learn more at
kemelectric.com/youth-tour

SAFETY STARTS WITH ME:

Safety around substations



The electric grid is a complex system of power plants, transmission lines, substations and distribution lines that transmits electric power from the place where it's generated all the way to members at the end of the line.

When you are outdoors, keep a safe distance from power lines, substations and other electrical equipment KEM Electric Cooperative uses to send electricity to your home.

KEM Electric urges members to follow these tips to stay safe around substations:

- **Keep a safe distance:** Always maintain a safe distance from the substation. Substations are fenced for a reason, and only authorized personnel should enter. Teach children never to play near or attempt to enter a substation.
- **Report suspicious activity:** If you notice anyone in an unmarked vehicle or someone not wearing high-visibility clothing tampering with equipment or trying to enter the substation, report it to local authorities and KEM Electric immediately. Unauthorized access can be extremely dangerous.
- **Stay clear during storms:** After severe weather, avoid substations, since damaged power lines or equipment could pose significant risks. Wait for KEM Electric crews to assess and repair any damage.
- **Do not touch downed power lines:** If you see a downed power line near a substation, assume it is live and dangerous. Stay far away and contact emergency services and KEM Electric to report it. "Substations are crucial in ensuring reliable power to our members," says Austin Ohlhauser, a journeyman lineworker. "Keeping in mind the risks they pose when outdoors helps members take a part in ensuring electric services can continue to flow to homes and businesses in our community."

Remember, if you see anything suspicious around any electric equipment, please call local authorities or our office as soon as possible at 800-472-2673 or 701-254-4666. ⚡



ELECTRICAL SUBSTATION SAFETY TIPS



Keep a safe distance.



Report suspicious activity.



Stay clear during storms.

KEM ELECTRIC BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS: **July 30**

The meeting of the board of directors of KEM Electric Cooperative was held on July 30 in Wishek. The meeting was called to order at 9:36 a.m. by Chairman Victor Wald. A quorum was present. Also present were co-General Managers/CEOs Travis Kupper and Jason Bentz, Chief Financial Officer Alex Craigmile, Legal Counsel Tom Bair, Line Superintendent/Chief of Staff Dale Nagel, Member Relations Manager Marcy Sanders and Executive Assistant Connie Hill.

Board reorganization: Directors elected to executive positions include Victor Wald, chairman, Carmen Essig, vice chairman, and Carter Vander Wal, secretary/treasurer.

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

Strategic/action: Bentz and Kupper provided the co-general managers' report, which included updates on Basin Electric Power Cooperative's summer manager meeting and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Federal Energy Regulatory Commission ruling. Basin Electric, West Dakota

Utility Services and 3C Construction reports were also provided.

Action items: Action items were discussed and resolved.

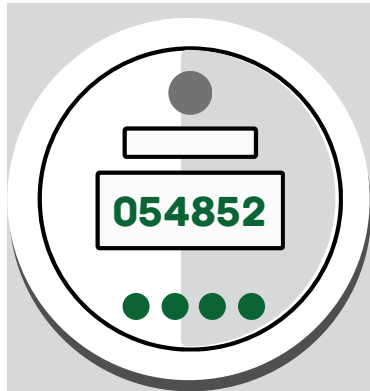
Discussion/general information: Bentz provided an update on the strategic plan.

Department reports: Craigmile provided the financial report. Nagel provided a department report on outage information, safety statistics and safety meeting minutes. Sanders provided a department report, which included an annual meeting recap and local pages preview. Chief Information Officer Charlie Dunbar provided a written report for the board. Bair provided a legal counsel report.

Executive session: The board entered an executive session.

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

Next meeting date: The next meeting is at 9:30 a.m. Oct. 29 in Linton. If you wish to be placed on the agenda, please call the office. ⚡



Heating season is here! Is your electric meter breaker 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 COOPERATIVE INC.

DIRECTORS:

Victor Wald, Chairman Napoleon
Carmen Essig, Vice Chairman Lehr
Carter Vander Wal, Sec.-Treas. Pollock
Dean Dewald, Director Dawson
John R. Beck, Director Linton
Neil Meidinger, Director Zeeland
Vacancy, Director-at-large

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**

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:

