



CURRENT NEWS



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**KEM
Electric Cooperative**

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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Toll-free: **1-800-795-0555** or **811**

OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

Chair.....Victor “Chuck” Wald
Vice Chair.....Carmen Essig
Secretary-Treasurer.....Carter Vander Wal

Directors:

John Beck
Dean Dewald
Dean Hummel
Neil Meidinger

Co-General Managers/CEOs:

Donald A. Franklund
Travis M. Kupper

www.kemelectric.com

“Like” us on Facebook

KEM Electric Cooperative is dedicated to providing affordable, reliable energy and services that support and unite our member-owners.

We also aspire to meet the Touchstone Energy® Cooperative core values of integrity, innovation, accountability and commitment to community.

KEM Electric Cooperative, Inc., is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

TOGETHERWESAVE.COM

101 COOPERATIVES

Member-Owned, Member-Driven



Dean Hummel

Neil Meidinger

WANTED ... YOU!

- Consider serving on your cooperative's board of directors.
- Cooperatives: local ownership, local control, local governance.
- Cooperative board of directors: elected by cooperative members, representing members, overseeing work of the co-op.
- Annual elections, among members of the cooperative, fill positions on the cooperative board of directors.
- Role of cooperative director: attend regular board meetings, review reports of cooperative progress, discuss and decide key cooperative matters with fellow directors.
- Learn, grow: many educational opportunities available for cooperative directors to acquire needed, valuable information.

Are you interested in becoming a director?

KEM Electric Cooperative’s 2019 annual meeting will be held June 20 at Linton Public School. This year, the director seats up for election are those of Dean Hummel, an at-large representative, and Neil Meidinger, District 3.

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 cooperative is divided into five districts, with one director representing each district and two at-large board seats. 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; at-large director, Dean Hummel; and at-large director, Carmen Essig.

If you are interested in becoming a director for KEM Electric Cooperative, please review the section of bylaws pertaining to filing a petition for a director seat found in the February local pages of the *North Dakota Living* magazine.

If you would like to place your name on the ballot, pick up a petition at the KEM office. Petitions became available on Feb. 20.

***Petitions must be returned to the cooperative office no later than May 21.*
Nominations will also be accepted from the floor at the annual meeting.**

DEADLINES APPROACHING on youth opportunities

For details, read the February local pages of *North Dakota Living*.

COOPERATIVE OFFERS

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



Student scholarships

The deadline varies. Check with your school. KEM takes pride in assisting with the development of rural leadership through our scholarship program. We feel it's important to help finance our local students' educational journeys by offering scholarships to qualifying seniors.

Again this year, \$6,000 in scholarships is available to assist qualifying seniors.

Safety poster coloring contest

The deadline to enter is March 5. Kids, draw a poster that tells our readers how you play and work safe around electricity!

Two employees received service awards in 2018

Two KEM Electric Cooperative employees celebrated work anniversaries in 2018. Kirk Praus, member support technician, and Marcy Sanders, service dispatcher, were honored for working at KEM for five years.

Marcy and Kirk have contributed greatly to KEM and our members, and we are thankful for their service.

To read more about their jobs and career paths, read the February issue of *North Dakota Living*.

Also in the FEBRUARY issue of

North Dakota Living: Crews patrol power lines ■ Happy Valentine's Day ■ Board meeting highlights ... and more



GETTING TO THE ROOT OF THE PROBLEM

Trees growing close to overhead power lines can cause problems when the wind and snow breaks branches and lines. Outages can take longer to fix when the line falls in the trees. In December, Steele line crews removed a cluster of trees to strengthen the system and prevent future outages in that area.

In the February issue of *North Dakota Living*, meet **Dillon Steinolfson**, one of the linemen who helped with the project — and learn why he feels lucky to work for KEM Electric Cooperative.

2-1-1 HELPLINE

FirstLink's **2-1-1 helpline** is a free phone service available 24/7 to the public.

Call specialists offer supportive, non-judgmental listening ears and information about community programs statewide.

Text your zipcode to 898-211 or **Dial 2-1-1** or **701-235-7335** to get connected to help & hope.

MYFIRSTLINK.ORG



SAFETY@KEMELECTRIC.COM

KEM is an advocate of working safely. In fact, it is our way of life; the culture of your cooperative. We look out for the safety of ourselves and others — before, during and after work.

Did you know that members also play a key role in keeping our system safe? At times, you are our eyes in the sky and on the ground. Should you see a power line issue that may need KEM's attention, please call the office or send us an email at safety@kemelectric.com with your concern. This correspondence should include the description of the location, your name and complete contact information, and a photo if possible. Working together helps ensure the safety of all!