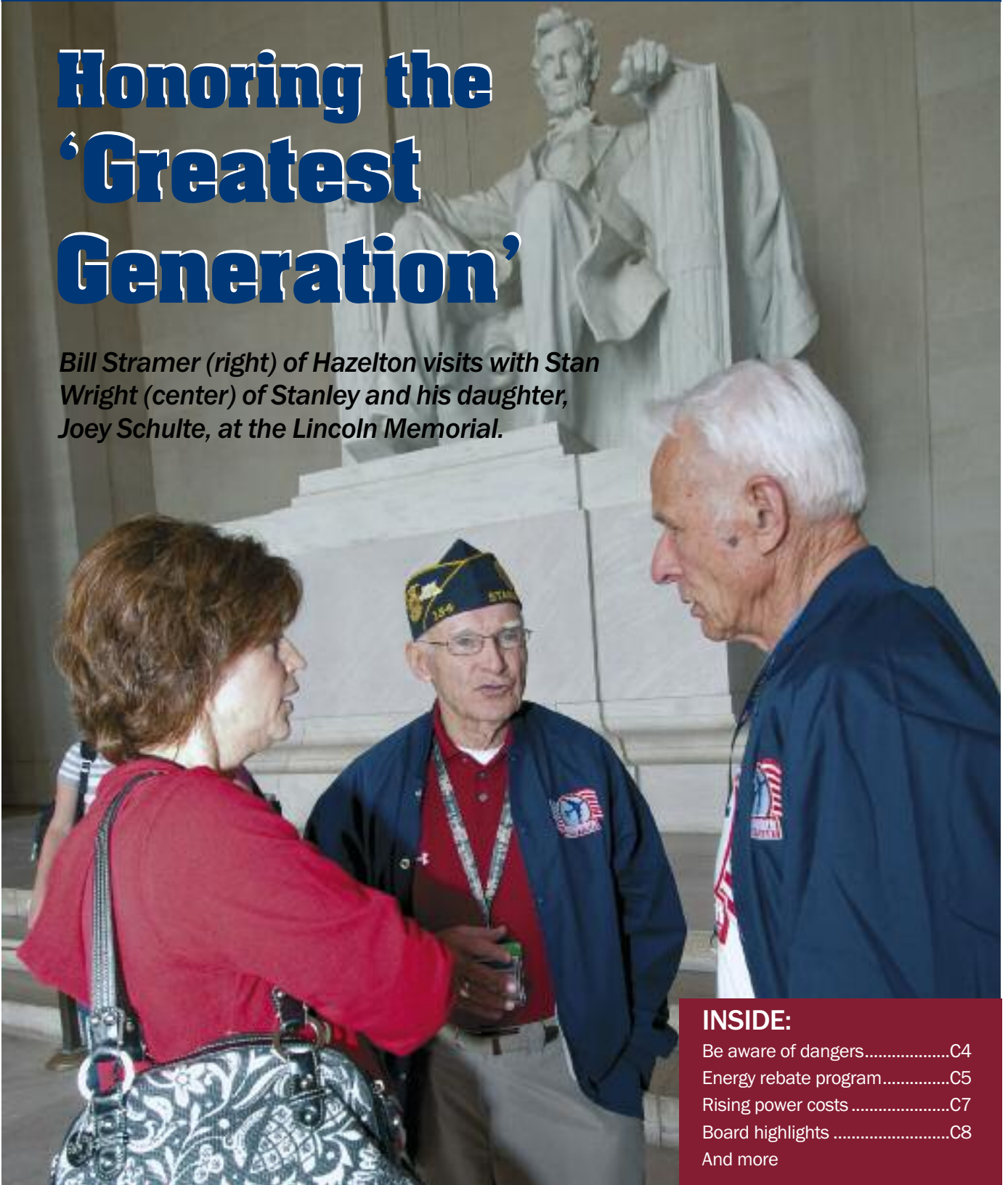


Honoring the 'Greatest Generation'

Bill Stramer (right) of Hazelton visits with Stan Wright (center) of Stanley and his daughter, Joey Schulte, at the Lincoln Memorial.



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Honoring North Dakota's World War II veterans



PHOTOS BY LAYN MUDDER

Veterans traveling to Washington, D.C., on the inaugural Roughrider Honor Flight trip are gathered at the World War II memorial for a group photo. The Lincoln Memorial in the background.

by Luann Dart

Honoring the courage and sacrifices of North Dakota's World War II veterans, the Roughrider Honor Flight is bringing a second group of veterans to the threshold of the nation's World War II Memorial this month.

In May, western North Dakota's first Roughrider Honor Flight sent the "Greatest Generation," World War II veterans, to Washington, D.C., to experience the memorial built in their honor, the National World War II Memorial. A second flight is planned for Sept. 18-19. (See accompanying story.) Nearly 200 North Dakota veterans, including several local veterans, will have participated in the Honor Flight.

The Roughrider Honor Flight provides transportation for those who have not had the opportunity to visit the memorial. The project is part of a national Honor Flight Network which provides the all-expense-paid trip for veterans, using donations to fund the expense.

"It was like a big honor to be able to be part of this," said John Gross, Napoleon, a KEM Electric Cooperative member who participated in the inaugural Roughrider Honor Flight. "It really is a tribute. I was just overwhelmed. ... I was thinking about those fellows who could not go because of health reasons or those who had died."

The first Roughrider Honor Flight, which departed in May, honored veterans from western North Dakota, with expense-paid travel through funds raised by Roughrider Honor Flight. A painting by Scott Nelson from Flasher, depicting the valor and heroism of our World War II veterans, launched the 18-month

Roughrider Honor Flight program. Limited edition prints are being used in fundraising efforts.

Most of the veterans, now in their 80s and 90s, have never had an opportunity to see the memorial dedicated to them. The World War II Memorial honors the 16 million who served in the armed forces of the U.S., the more than 400,000 who died, and all who supported the war effort from home.

One veteran's story

Gross was drafted into the U.S. Army in December 1944. As a 20-year-old farm boy growing up near Napoleon, he found himself transported to entirely new surroundings, completing infantry training in Texas.

"When we left home, there was so much snow. ... By the time we got to Texas, there was green grass. That was quite a change," he remembers.

"Our training was rigorous," he says, but a yearning for home crept upon him during quiet moments.

The prairie native soon found himself aboard a ship, for a 28-day journey to the Philippines, he recalls.

Then Gross not only fought being homesick, but also seasick — a common ailment among the troops.

"Boy, did I get sick," he says. "I thought I could outsmart it and just not eat. You have to experience that to know just what seasick is."

While his ship was at sea, atomic bombs shattered Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, which prompted the surrender of Japan Sept. 2, 1945, ending World War II. But the ship carrying Gross and his peers continued its journey across the sea, landing Sept. 26, 1945, in the Philippines.



John Gross of Napoleon at the Roughrider Honor Flight banquet in Washington, D.C.

There, Gross guarded Japanese prisoners, discovering some of them "were the nicest guys."

"For them, the war was over. I had my gun slung on my shoulder and when I think of it today, they could have grabbed my rifle real easily," he explains.

Guards were told to keep hungry Filipinos from raiding the camp's garbage cans at night, but Gross admits often looking the other way.

"The Filipino people were so awfully poor and they would come in the night and they would snatch some of our garbage," he says. "But when I could see them sneaking up, I would walk away. By the time I came around, they weren't there anymore. I let them steal the garbage because where I grew up, we were hungry and we were poor during the Depression times."



Melvin Gertz of Steele is pictured with National Guard Member Rose Deck at the Korean War Memorial during the first day of the honor flight trip.

Born in 1924, Gross knew the look of hunger from his experiences during the Dirty '30s.

From the Philippines, Gross traveled to Hawaii, and was discharged in October 1946.

After a long journey toward home in North Dakota, the final leg brought him on a train to Dawson, where he started walking home before getting a ride from a passing car to the family farm southwest of Napoleon.

"The next day, I was out there pitching bundles; they were threshing," he says, laughing.

In 1947, he married his sweetheart, Margaret, and they eventually began farming north of Napoleon. The couple adopted five children and retired into Napoleon.

Today, John, who is now 84 years old, sings German-Russian folk songs, sharing them with the next generation through the North Dakota Council of the Arts.

"That's my hobby," he says. He knows approximately 100 songs which he learned from his father.

"They carried these songs with them from Germany into Russia," he explains.

As he recalls his World War II experience, he feels fortunate he never faced the front lines, but often thinks about those who did.

That's why he finds the World War II Memorial so fitting.

A fitting tribute

The Honor Flight program was found-

ed in 2004 by physician assistant and retired Air Force Capt. Earl Morse as a way to honor his patients. The inaugural Honor Flight took place in May 2005 in Springfield, Ohio, with 12 World War II veterans visiting the memorial. Since then, cities across the nation have adopted the program, with Honor Flight chapters now located in 30 states.

During their trip, North Dakota's veterans also visited the other war memorials and the Arlington National Cemetery. When they returned to Bismarck, friends and supporters, along with a band and honor guards, greeted them with the kind of homecoming they probably missed in the 1940s.



Russ Kleppe of Steele arrives at Washington Dulles International Airport where he is welcomed and thanked for his service to our country.



Harvey Langeliers of Pollock, S.D., is all smiles, as he and the other veterans that traveled on the Roughrider Honor Flight return to North Dakota where they are greeted with a hero's welcome.

Honor Flight flies again in September

The next Roughrider Honor Flight takes place Sept. 18-19, with approximately 95 veterans on the flight. They will be accompanied by about 50 assistants, a medical team and a handful of media people.

The veterans will visit the Lincoln, Vietnam and Korean war memorials on Friday afternoon, and will be honored at a banquet Friday night. On Saturday they'll tour the World War II Memorial and Arlington National Cemetery, stopping at the Tomb of the Unknowns for a wreath laying ceremony and the changing of the guard.

Back in Bismarck, the veterans will be welcomed home by family and friends, an honor guard and a band.

After this flight, the Roughrider Honor Flight has about 200 more veterans from western North Dakota waiting to go on a flight, with flights scheduled for the spring and fall of 2010, contingent on raising the necessary funds. Each flight costs about \$175,000 and funds come from individuals, school and community groups and corporate sponsors.

TO DONATE:

Those wishing to donate to the Roughrider Honor Flight may contact organizers at: Roughrider Honor Flight P.O. Box 220, Bismarck, ND 58502 or visit www.rrhonorflight.org or call (701) 373-5416.

Be aware of the dangers that are **ABOVE, BESIDE and BELOW** you!



With all the safety tips about “look up and live,” many times being aware of other surroundings are forgotten. While driving around, you may see pad-mounted cans and transformers, like the ones pictured above, in fence lines, farmsteads and fields. This past spring and summer, KEM Electric Cooperative has experienced farm equipment becoming tangled in these or tipping them off their foundations. Voltage of more than 7,000 is carried by pad-mount and overhead lines. If you come into contact or see a dismantled pad mount, please call KEM Electric immediately and consider this area charged with high voltage. The area must be kept clear until lineworkers arrive.

KEM Electric Cooperative Inc.
107 S. Broadway, Linton, ND 58552
(800) 472-2673 • (701) 254-4666

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Co-op announces ENERGY REBATE PROGRAM

Many of us take electricity for granted. When we come home from work or play, we step inside the door and flip the light switch without a second thought. In the kitchen, the refrigerator constantly cools and the electric stove heats our food without fanfare.

KEM Electric Cooperative strives to keep energy prices as low as possible, even as the cost to deliver electricity to your doorstep increases.

As wholesale energy costs continue to increase, it's more important than ever to save energy in your home or business. Taking steps to replace old, inefficient equipment with modern models can save you money.

You have the power to save by using the most efficient equipment available, and now KEM Electric Cooperative can help.

Rebate program available

A new rebate program offered by KEM Electric Cooperative can help members offset the initial cost of purchasing more energy-efficient equipment.

The cooperative's board of directors has approved an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Rebate Program to encourage members to reduce the use of electricity by installing the most energy-efficient equipment possible. The program is utilizing funds set aside by KEM Electric Cooperative and the cooperative's wholesale power provider, Basin Electric Power Cooperative. The program will be available to members until the budgeted amount is rebated to members.

"KEM Electric recognizes the need to help our members save energy and save money," says Manager of Member Services Brian Jacob. "This commitment of resources for energy efficiency and conservation fits well with the overall mission of electric cooperatives."

To learn more

To take advantage of the rebate program, each installation must meet minimum energy-efficiency standards.

The following are eligible under the rebate program if they meet the required minimum energy efficiency:

- Ground-source heat pumps
- Air-to-air heat pumps

Contact KEM Electric Cooperative at (701) 254-4666 or (800) 472-2673 to see if your planned investments will meet the standards. Once the requirements are met, you may apply for the rebates.

KEM Electric Cooperative Energy Efficiency and Conservation Rebate Program

Eligible installations	Maximum rebate amount
Ground-source heat pump.....	\$400
Air-to-air heat pump	\$250

To qualify for the rebate program, installations must meet certain minimum efficiency standards.

Please contact KEM Electric Cooperative
at (701) 254-4666
or (800) 472-2673 for details.

Energy improvements can reduce taxes, too

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 provides a homeowner with a tax credit up to \$1,500, or 30 percent, of the cost for new energy upgrades, including weatherization activities as well as installation of efficient heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems.

Tax credits available in 2009 and 2010 include:

Existing homes only

- Windows and doors
- Insulation
- Roofs
- Water heaters
- HVAC systems

Existing and new homes

- Ground-source heat pumps
- Solar panels
- Small wind energy systems



Simple weatherization steps, like caulking windows, will save money.

For more information, visit www.energystar.gov or consult with a tax specialist.



FOR SALE ON BIDS

Two, 10-ton, triple-axle trailers with pintle hitch and adjustable folding ramps. Deck is 14- by 8-feet. Trailers will be sold individually and highest bidder gets choice of trailer.

Bids will be accepted until Oct. 6, 2009. KEM Electric reserves the right to reject any and all bids. Trailers sold as is.

**Please submit bids to: P.O. Box 790, Linton, ND 58552 or
kem@kemelectric.com.**



BE SAFE THIS HARVEST SEASON

Remember when moving large equipment to

LOOK UP
Power lines
may be overhead!

ALWAYS
CALL
BEFORE YOU
DIG



KEM Electric faces RISING power costs

The increase in wholesale power costs, coupled with skyrocketing expenses to build and maintain the electric utility infrastructure, has impacted cooperatives across North Dakota.

KEM Electric Cooperative is no exception, as the cooperative prepares for a rate increase. From a long-term drought to an increase in demand for electricity, numerous factors are impacting your electric rates.

Over these next several years, electric utilities all across the nation will experience higher costs to generate power. This past month, the projected 2010 rates from KEM Electric Cooperative's power suppliers were received. The news was not good, but it was better than what was expected.

The 2010 projections show power costs from KEM Electric's suppliers will increase another 9 percent. In 2009, power costs are projected to rise 15 percent. KEM Electric purchases power from the Western Area Power Administration and Basin Electric Power Cooperative. The wholesale power costs from both suppliers have and will continue to increase

over the next few years due to the many challenges they are facing.

Basin Electric, which provides KEM Electric Cooperative with coal, gas and wind generation, is facing growing loads and a tightening power supply throughout its eight-state region. To keep existing coal-based plants online, Basin has been installing expensive, but necessary, environmental controls and upgrading other equipment in the power plant.

To avoid purchasing power on the open market, Basin Electric is building a 385-megawatt Dry Fork Power Plant in Wyoming which is expected to come online in 2011 and is designed to incorporate advanced environmental control technology. With operating costs higher and the need to incorporate the latest technology into power plants to ensure clean air and to meet upcoming carbon requirements, the cost of generating power will continue to rise.

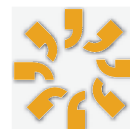
On the hydropower side, the Western Area Power Administration is also facing many challenges. It continues to face the long-term effect from the drought. This year was the second year of a 10-year

plan that will enable Western to pay for the drought impact. The multiyear drought had resulted in lower water levels in the Missouri River and less generation at the dams. Western had to purchase higher-priced power to meet its supply obligations.

Remember, you, our members, are part of this ecosystem. You work hard to protect the environment, improve farming technology, and increase land production in the most efficient way possible. In the same sense, those involved in producing electricity work diligently to protect the environment, improve technology and increase production in the most efficient manner. Through the development of new technology and new generation resources, we can keep our environment clean and have a healthy economy. In many respects, electricity is our hired hand. Let's make it our mission to work together to produce it wisely and use it wisely.

(More information on this subject will follow in next month's issue of the North Dakota LIVING.)

WE NEED YOUR HELP.



Our Energy, Our Future™
A Dialogue With America

Senators are drafting climate change legislation NOW, and you can impact the outcome. Climate Change legislation should be:

Fair.

Climate Change legislation needs to recognize regional differences in how electricity is produced.

Affordable.

Any climate change plan must keep electricity affordable for all Americans.

Achievable.

Climate Change legislation must be realistic to ensure long-term success.

▶ Go to www.ourenergy.coop to make your voice heard.

ATTENTION: KEM Electric Cooperative members

To: Our employees and members

From: KEM Electric Cooperative board of directors

The KEM Electric Cooperative board of directors has contracted with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) Executive Search Department to work with the board to facilitate the new general manager/chief executive officer (CEO) search process. If you have interest or questions, please direct any and all inquiries to:

Ken Holmes, NRECA
ken.holmes@nreca.coop
(785) 452-0495

Hiring a new CEO is the most important decision that a board will make and we take this responsibility as a challenge to build on the co-op's fine reputation and enhance its future performance for our members.

We would like to assure the employees and the membership that we are doing everything in our power to identify not only the best technically capable individual, but the best "person" to lead the co-op and represent KEM in the community and the industry.

We appreciate your support and understand that this is a time of change and perhaps some anxiety. We know that you have concerns and ask that you trust that we will fulfill our obligations and exceed your expectations. That is our goal and responsibility to you.

KEM board of directors

GENERAL MANAGER/CEO JOB QUALIFICATIONS:

The board of directors of KEM Electric Cooperative invites applications for the position of general manager/chief executive officer (CEO). The current general manager/CEO has announced his retirement and the board of directors has contracted with the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's (NRECA) Executive Search Department to facilitate the search process.

KEM is an electric distribution cooperative, owned and operated by and for the benefit of its member customers. KEM serves 3,463 meters with 118 miles of transmission lines, 2,406 miles of distribution line and 445 miles of underground lines. Its service area provides electricity to one of the more sparsely populated areas in the state, with an average of 1.15 members per mile of power line. It has 16 full-time employees and annual revenues over \$5 million. KEM Electric is a Touchstone Energy member cooperative, a member of the North Dakota Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives and Basin Electric Power Cooperative.

The candidate should have a track record of career advancement, successful management experience with strong business skills and a minimum of five years of supervisory experience in the electric utility industry. Cooperative experience is a plus, understanding of the electric cooperative business model and principles is critical. Knowledge in the areas of strategic planning, board relations, finance, rate issues, distribution system planning and operations and member/community relations is required. The successful candidate will have excellent communication and personal/people skills. A bachelor's degree in an appropriate field is desired.

KEM Electric is located in Linton, N.D., an attractive community in Emmons County with an excellent school system. Linton is a county seat just 60 miles southeast of Bismarck and 15 miles east of the Missouri River and Lake Oahe. Great people, beautiful wildlife, parks and country club make this a great place to live. Hunting for big game and pheasant, fishing, birding and golf are just a few of the outdoor activities one can experience.

KEM Electric offers a competitive salary commensurate with qualifications and the market along with a comprehensive benefits package.

All inquiries should be directed to:
Ken Holmes, NRECA Executive Search
e-mail: ExecutiveSearch@nreca.coop

Please send an electronic resume and three professional references by Oct. 19, 2009. All replies are confidential. An equal opportunity employer.

BOARD REPORT

July 21

- Heard reports on various meetings
- Reviewed report from the Voucher Review Committee
- Reviewed monthly financial reports
- Approved the special equipment summary
- Reviewed cost-of-service study
- Reorganization of board of directors

KEM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE IS WORKING FOR YOU

COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY. That's just one of the Touchstone Energy® principles. It means your local electric cooperative is committed to providing power and opportunity to the many communities our members call home.

At KEM Electric Cooperative, our members and the communities they live in are our single greatest investment. We help communities like ours grow stronger every day. Together, we'll always be looking out for you, your family and your community.

You're more than a customer. You're a member. And that's why we're always

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

KEM ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC.

107 S. Broadway - Linton, N.D. 58552

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Bair, Bair and Garrity, Atty.Mandan
HDR Engineers Inc.,
Consulting Engr.....Bismarck
Ken Berreth, Gen. Mgr.Linton

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

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

OFFICE HOURS:

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

Web site: kemelectric.com
email address:
kem@kemelectric.com