

## MANAGER'S MESSAGE: CELEBRATING OUR LINEWORKERS



When picturing our electric cooperative, the image of a dedicated lineworker typically springs to mind. These individuals embody our commitment to serving our members, working tirelessly day and night to ensure our community receives uninterrupted power. However, their role goes beyond maintenance. They are the unsung heroes who exemplify dedication, bravery and a profound sense of service.

On April 8, let's take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude to our lineworkers for their exceptional service, as we celebrate National Lineworker Appreciation Day. When you see lineworkers in action, I encourage you to join me in thanking them for their dedication and bravery.

**A lineworker's job:** Ranked among the top 10 most dangerous jobs in the United States, a lineworker's responsibilities are far from easy. Working in close proximity to high-voltage power lines, they must perform intricate tasks in all weather conditions, often scaling heights of 40 feet while carrying heavy equipment. Despite the inherent risks and discomfort, they stay unwavering in their commitment to their duty and the members.

And behind every dedicated lineworker is a supportive family who plays an integral role in enabling their loved ones to serve the community. While lineworkers are in the field, sometimes working all night to restore power, their families take care of the home front, providing support and understanding during challenging times.

**The heart of service and dedication:** Becoming a lineworker is not merely a profession. It's a calling that requires years of specialized training, ongoing education and a deep sense of service. It's about leaving the comfort of home to tackle challenging tasks when most are sheltering indoors. This dedication and sense of service to the community define the essence of our lineworkers and their indispensable role in our cooperative.

**Recognizing the team behind the scenes:** While lineworkers are the most visible faces of our cooperative, it's essential to acknowledge the team of highly skilled professionals working tirelessly behind the scenes. From engineers providing invaluable expertise, to member service representatives fielding inquiries and information technology experts safeguarding sensitive data, each member of our cooperative family plays a vital role in ensuring the reliability of our services.

**Expressing gratitude:** To our lineworkers and the entire cooperative family, we extend our deepest appreciation for your tireless dedication and invaluable contributions. Your unwavering commitment to keeping our local service area powered and your willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty do not go unnoticed. We are grateful for your service and sacrifice.

As we celebrate Lineworker Appreciation Day, let's honor our lineworkers for their unwavering commitment to service and sacrifice. Let's express our gratitude not only to them, but also to the entire cooperative family for their efforts in ensuring service reliability. ⚡



Jason Bentz, Co-General Manager/ CEO

# KEM Electric Annual Meeting

Tuesday, June 11 at 5 p.m.

## Our Club Hall, Linton

More information will be mailed in May



### OFFICERS

Chair.....Victor "Chuck" Wald  
Vice Chair..... John Beck  
Secretary-Treasurer.....Carter Vander Wal

### DIRECTORS:

Dean Dewald • Neil Meidinger  
Carmen Essig • Vacant

### CO-GENERAL MANAGERS/CEOS:

Travis Kupper  
Jason Bentz



*Ashley Public School, a 2023 RDFC recipient, used the funds to update the Mustang's scoreboard.*

## GRANT OPPURTUNITY: RDFC ANNOUNCES 2024 ALLOTMENT

The Rural Development Finance Corporation (RDFC) announces it has approved a 2024 grant allotment of \$3,000 per member-cooperative to be used to support community-owned entities, nonprofits and community-based projects.

**Grant eligible projects:** Community owned businesses (café, grocery store, motel, other); community facilities (such as ambulance services, fire districts, recreation, hospital/clinic, community center, etc.); Workforce development (defined as - training to meet the needs of current and future business and industry in order to maintain a sustainable competitive economic environment; training, development opportunities, continuing education programs, etc.) or community-based projects (such as 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 2024.

Applications may be found at [kemelectric.com](http://kemelectric.com) or by calling the office at 800-472-2673 or 701-254-4666. Please return applications to KEM Electric at P.O. Box 790, Linton, ND 58552 or [info@kemelectric.com](mailto:info@kemelectric.com). ⚡

## PLANNING TO BUILD OR UPGRADE? GIVE US A CALL

Whether you are looking to build a new structure or make changes to an existing structure, it is important to contact KEM Electric Cooperative in the early planning stages.

By doing so, you will be able to confirm the viability of your project. KEM Electric's engineering department can verify whether we can serve additional load in your area and the availability and cost of equipment and materials.

Information you will need to share with the cooperative includes the type of upgrade or new build, location, time-line and power requirements.

KEM Electric wants to ensure your building project or upgrade goes as smoothly as possible, and that is why it is important to call in the early stages of planning. ⚡



## KEM ELECTRIC CELEBRATES 80 YEARS



**APRIL 4, 1944**