

## Manager's message: Celebrating membership



Fall is a busy time, and October is a particularly eventful month, with school, community and sports activities in full swing. It's also when all cooperatives celebrate National Co-op Month.

When I say KEM Electric Cooperative celebrates Co-op Month, it really means we are celebrating you! After all, our

co-op wouldn't exist without you, our members.

Our core business purpose is to serve as your electricity provider, but the larger mission of the co-op is to help make our corner of the world a better place. "Concern for community" is one of seven guiding principles all co-ops share.

Similar to how our wires run through our service territory, our concern for community flows through all of our decisions, because being a co-op means being a responsible partner and good neighbor.

KEM Electric works to help our community thrive through initiatives led by our employees and local board that's comprised of neighbors who live right here in our community.

We're proud to support local youth through our Youth Tour and scholarship programs. With your help, we offer Operation Round Up to provide assistance to our community.

The word "cooperative" is close to "cooperation," meaning people working together toward a common goal, mutually benefiting one another and the larger area. That's the essence of the cooperative spirit. Our employees and member-elected board members are invested in the community where they live and serve.

Above all, as a co-op, we put our members' priorities first. As your trusted energy partner, we

know saving energy and money is important to you. We want to empower you to manage energy use at home. If you haven't already, I encourage you to take a moment and download our SmartHub app. Through the app, you can conveniently monitor and manage your energy use. And we're here to help, so give us a call if you have questions about your energy bills.

KEM Electric is continuously examining ways to operate more efficiently, while continuing to provide the highest level of friendly, reliable service you expect and deserve. After all, we're your local co-op. We were built by the members we serve. ⚡



Jason Bentz, Co-General Manager/ CEO



### 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

## IN MEMORIAM: Dean Hummel (1953-2023)



It is with heavy hearts we remember and honor the life of KEM Electric Cooperative director Dean Hummel, who died Aug. 11 at the age of 70. A beloved husband, father, grandfather and dedicated member of our community, Dean's legacy will forever remain in the hearts of those who knew him.

Dean's commitment to KEM Electric spanned nearly

two decades, marked by his dedicated service as a member of the board of directors since 2004. A proud participant in the cooperative's mission, Dean's insight and expertise on matters of rural utilities were invaluable. His penchant for meticulous research, coupled with his fearless approach to asking the tough questions, ensured KEM Electric always prioritized the best interests of its members. Dean's tenure wasn't just about meetings; it was a testament to his genuine care for the community and his desire to see it thrive.

Beyond his boardroom contributions, Dean's engaging personality and ability to strike up conversations with anyone left an enduring impression. His

involvement with KEM Electric was not just a role. It was a reflection of his social nature and genuine concern for the cooperative's impact on people's lives. Dean's legacy is entwined with the growth of KEM Electric, and his memory will forever inspire us to uphold the cooperative's values of service, community and excellence.

As we remember Dean, we honor his dedication, unwavering commitment and the significant role he played in shaping KEM Electric's journey. His passion for rural utilities and his boundless curiosity continue to be a guiding light for us all. Our thoughts and sympathies go out to his family during this time, and we celebrate a life well-lived – a life that will forever be a part of KEM Electric's story. ⚡



## YOU'RE INVITED TO KEM ELECTRIC'S REGIONAL MEMBER APPRECIATION DAY

*At KEM Electric, we believe in the power of our membership, and this event is our way of saying "Thank You" for being an integral part of ours.*

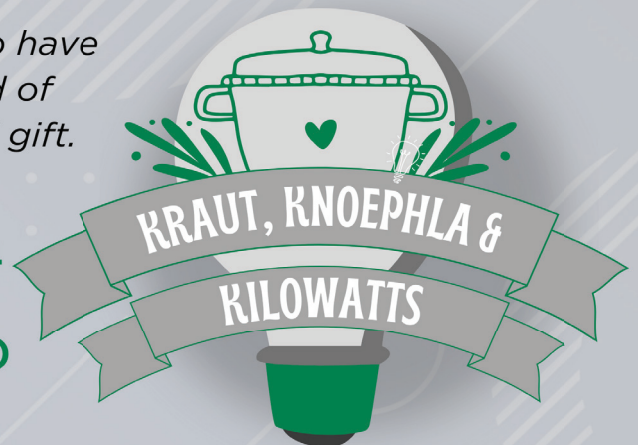
*While enjoying kraut and knoephla, you will also have the opportunity to visit with our staff and Board of Directors. First 50 members will receive a FREE gift.*



**11:00 - 1:30 P.M. TUESDAY OCT. 24**



**OUR PLACE (FORMALLY KC HALL)  
120 CEDAR AVE E, LINTON ND**



*KEM Electric will host an additional membership appreciation day in Steele on January 17, 2024.*