

FEM Electric Association, Inc.

# ANNUAL REPORT

76th Annual Meeting  
JUNE 25TH, 2024

1949-2024

# FEM ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION INC.

## 76th Annual Meeting Tuesday, June 25th Ipswich School Theatre, Ipswich, SD

### Agenda

5:00 PM Meal - Choice of Chicken Sandwich,  
Mac N Cheese Pulled Pork, and  
Beef Steak

6:30 PM Registration Closes; Business  
Meeting Begins

Meeting called to order - Gary Bachman, President  
Invocation - Kelly Melius  
Welcome - Special Guest Recognition - Gary Bachman  
Pledge of Allegiance  
Business Meeting Opens  
Declaration of Quorum - Eric Odenbach, Secretary  
Notice of Meeting and Proof of Mailing - Eric Odenbach  
Minutes of 2023 Annual Meeting -  
Eric Odenbach (page 3 & 4)  
Ballots for Director District 5 - Vaughn Beck, Attorney  
President Report - Gary Bachman (page 9)  
Treasurer Report - Paula Petersen, Treasurer (page 5)  
Manager Report - Scott Moore, Manager (page 2)  
Years of Service - Scott Moore  
Youth Scholarships Recognition -  
Kelly Melius, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer  
Tom Thorpe, Vice President (page 13)

**Basin Electric \$1,000 Scholarship**  
Addison Melius

**FEM \$500 Scholarships**  
Parker Bode  
Olivia Hadrick

**Touchstone Energy Scholar of the Week \$250**  
Shaylee Gill - Leola High School  
Chet Peterson - Ipswich Public School

Adjournment

Grand Prize Drawings (*must be present to win*)  
\$250 \$100 \$100 \$50

\$500 Young Adults Light the Way Scholarship Drawing  
(*must be present to win along with your member parent*)

**\*Deposit your ticket in a collection box as you exit to receive  
the \$40 credit on your energy account for attending.**

### FEM Electric Association Inc. Official Notice of Annual Meeting of Members

Notice is hereby given that the 76th Annual Meeting of the members of FEM Electric Association, Inc., will be held at the Ipswich High School in the City of Ipswich, State of South Dakota, at **six-thirty p.m. on Tuesday, June 25th, 2024**, for the purpose of:

1. The reports of officers, directors and committees
  2. The election of directors for three-year terms
- With the election of a director at this meeting, the following members have been nominated for director by the Nominating Committee in accordance with the bylaws of the Cooperative:

#### Kelly Melius - District 5

Please take further notice that any fifteen or more members of the cooperative may make additional nominations by listing their nominee and the appropriate Directorate District and signing such Petition of Nomination. The petition must be submitted to the board of directors at least 25 days prior to the annual meeting. Any such petition so submitted will be posted, along with the list of nominations made by the Nominating Committee.

3. Transacting any such other business as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

*Eric Odenbach, Secretary, FEM Electric Association, Inc.*



Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

#### Mission Statement:

To enhance the quality of life of our members by safely providing reliable, cost-efficient electricity and other services.

**This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.**

# GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT



**Scott Moore**  
General Mgr/CEO

In 2007, I wrote my first Annual report as CEO, and it started “For the year of 2006 is full of Challenges and Changes”. Now in 2023 the statement is still true and has held steady for the past seventeen years. Past, present, and current FEM Electric board of directors, and employees have, and will continue to address challenges and changes, as

they have done in the past. They will keep the same goals that were set years, maybe decades ago, as a clear path to success: providing the best customer service to our members while providing Safe, Reliable, and Affordable power to each FEM Electric member.

FEM Electric is fortunate to have increased KWH sales even as our membership and meters per mile of line stay consistent to about one meter per mile of line. Members are staying engaged in technology and are continuing to increase their electrical usage in their operations. Partnering with our members to meet their growing electrical needs is important to FEM Electric’s success. The changes in the size of houses, shops, grain handling facilities, commercial accounts and diversified businesses all contribute to FEM Electric’s success and growth.

Safety for our employees and members is an everyday goal along with furthering the education of our employees. We set out twenty-four years ago to increase our reliability to our members because without reliable power, rural America will not grow and be successful. With the help of our power supplier, we have been successful with new transmission lines on both the east and west sides of FEM Electric’s system along with many new and upgraded substations. Economic growth would cease without reliable and affordable power combined with members who have a vision for a great future.

I continue to believe FEM Electric is fortunate to have controllable growth and financials, and we are in a good place to continue a strong partnership with our members and sister cooperatives. It is said that

it takes a tribe to raise a child. In the cooperative world it takes a team at many different levels to keep moving in a positive and productive direction.

FEM saw some changes at the end of 2023 with the retirement of our operations manager Rob Vetch. We reorganized and Sean Christiansen moved into the Operations Manager position. With the increased growth of our wiring department, Ryan Holien was promoted to Electrical Department Manager. Logan Gruenstein and Will Olson both were hired in 2023 as apprentice linemen/electricians. One thing that hasn’t changed at FEM Electric over the years is that employees and staff need to wear many hats and no position is job specific. Working as a team we can keep the workload balance while getting projects both inside and on the line completed efficiently.

Please remember if you see electrical equipment that looks unsafe, call FEM Electric and report the problem 605-426-6891.

Keep IRRIGATION EQUIPMENT  
and **water streams** 15 feet away  
from overhead power lines.



**Safe**  
**Electricity.org**

*research collected from National Agriculture Safety Database*

# 2023 FEM ELECTRIC ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

The 75th Annual Meeting of the members of FEM Electric Association, Inc. was held at 6:30 p.m. at the Ipswich School Theatre in Ipswich, SD on Tuesday, June 27, 2023 with 204 members registered.

Two area food trucks, an Ipswich athletic group and a local baker provided meals/desserts for the members and guests prior to registration for the meeting.

Gary Bachman called the meeting to order and Kelly Melius presented the invocation. Gary Bachman recognized special guests in attendance. The National Anthem was sung by Gracyn Kadlec.

Secretary Eric Odenbach declared that there was a quorum present to do business and he read the official notice of the meeting and proof of mailing. Eric announced the minutes for the 2022 annual meeting were printed in the annual report distributed as the members registered. He entertained a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the 2022 annual meeting and accept the minutes as printed on pages 3-4 of the annual report. Motion to approve was made, seconded, and carried.

Attorney Vaughn Beck announced director Districts 2 and 3 were up for election. He introduced the Nominating Committee: Justin Davis, Joshua Heinrich, Kirk Huber, Pat Lapka, and Lloyd Schaunaman. The following candidates were nominated for election in District 2 – Tom Thorpe and District 3 – Gary Bachman. No petitions for nominations were turned in. Attorney Beck asked for a motion and a second to cast a unanimous vote to officially elect Tom Thorpe for District 2 and Gary Bachman for District 3. Motion to approve was made, seconded, all-in favor.

President Gary Bachman gave the President's report. Gary reflected on celebrating a strong business model that has served the FEM members well over the last 75 years. He reminded the members that we still have issues that we are confronting to guarantee reliable and affordable power. Balance is needed as we work to maintain and grow a strong local economy. He assured the members that FEM will continue efforts to deal with the issues that we face and provide the best services to our members.

Treasurer Paula Petersen gave the treasurer's report recapping the finances and statistics on pages 5-8 of the annual report. She noted that all records were audited by Eide Bailly resulting in a clean audit. FEM had a strong year with an increase in assets, kwh sales and margin stabilization credits from Basin Electric and East River Electric. Strong margins allowed the FEM board to approve a \$396,000 revenue deferral to 2023. RUS approved this

revenue deferral to be used no later than the end of 2024. Paula explained the capital credit process to the members. Golf View Acres was also touched on noting that as of June 2023, there are only two lots remaining to be sold. The new Verizon meter project has been completed which offers the members the technology the members expect. A \$7.7 million dollar construction work plan was approved for 2023-2026. She also mentioned that a committee was formed to work on a Value-Added Economic Development Loan Program which would allow member to borrow from their FEM capital credit and invest in some of their community's qualifying projects. This program may be released before the end of 2023. She closed with thanking the members for their time and for staying engaged in their cooperative.

General Manager/CEO Scott Moore announced that his report is on page 2 of the annual report. Scott started out by reminding the members that FEM is locally owned and the members still have a voice. He touched on where FEM started and where FEM is at today. He stated that we need to learn from past success and failures and look forward to the good years. It will take engaged members, good employees, a strong board with a good plan and goals to keep moving forward. He reminded the members that local control of their coop is of utmost importance. Scott stated that politics, the debate on resources, etc. all lead to complicated business but it is no more complicated than farming. He believes the directors and employees all have a good handle on what's going on.

Scott announced the employees and their years of service. He also thanked the members for coming to their annual meeting.

Kelly Melius announced two of the Washington DC Youth Tour participants, Bailey Kulesa and Julia Steward. They each spoke on their experience on the tour and thanked FEM for allowing them to attend.

Kelly also announced the scholarship winners for 2023. The \$1,000 Member Basin Scholarship was Ashley Ptacek of Ipswich, SD; Teagan Olson of Forbes, ND and Julia Steward of Chelsea, SD were the \$500 FEM Scholarship recipients.

President Gary Bachman adjourned the meeting. Members were reminded to deposit their identification ticket in the boxes as the exit the meeting to earn their \$75 bill credit for attending.

The Grand Prize Drawings were held: \$250 – Brandon Malsam, Ipswich; \$250 – Joel or Danielle Heilman, Ipswich

- \$100 – Randell or Nancy Zantow, Aberdeen; \$100 – James or Marcella Mohr, Hosmer; \$50 – Allen Hieb, Roscoe.

A \$500 Young Adults Light the Way Scholarship drawing was held for any Junior or Senior that attended the annual meeting with their parents, who are members of FEM Electric. There were ten Juniors/Seniors in attendance. Chase Melius, son of Kelly and Dawn Melius of Faulkton, was drawn for the \$500 scholarship.



**Left:** Board member Tom Thorpe presents Teagan Olson with a certificate for winning one of the \$500 FEM scholarships.



**Above:** Baylee Kulesa provides the FEM membership with a recap of her time on the 2023 Youth Tour trip to Washington DC.



**Right:** Tom presents Julia Faith Steward with a certificate for winning of the \$500 FEM scholarships.



**Above:** FEM members enjoy meals provided by Gypsy Nosh, Pickled Pig and the 3rd/4th & 8th Grade Tiger Basketball group.

**Right:** FEM members listen to Board President Gary Bachman's report. FEM had a great turnout in 2023 for the 75th Annual Meeting.



# TREASURER'S REPORT



**Paula Petersen**  
Treasurer

It is my pleasure to provide you with the financial statements for 2023. All records were audited by the firm of Eide Bailly, LLP of Sioux Falls in March 2024 which resulted in a clean audit.

FEM's total utility plant at the end of 2023 was \$41,495,352 and we have depreciated \$11,728,603 which leaves \$29,766,749 in un-depreciated plant. We had investments and cash on hand in the amount of \$15,976,004 which

includes an economic revenue deferral fund and capital credits due from power suppliers and other organizations with which we do business. Other assets, which includes inventory, accounts receivable, and prepaid accounts were \$2,536,533. **Total assets for 2023 were \$48,279,286.**

On the other side of the ledger, "What We Owe" includes notes due to the Rural Utilities Service (RUS) and other lenders in the amount of \$24,248,380. Accrued tax expense, customer deposits, notes payable and deferred credits were \$3,187,485. Patronage capital and other equities, which include the margins generated by your cooperative since 2011, were \$20,843,421. **The total liabilities and equities were \$48,279,286.**

On page 8, you will find the Income and Expense Statement for 2023. **Total operating income for 2023 was \$16,671,819** which is increased \$807,434 from 2022. Revenue from residential customers was \$4,921,121 and revenue from commercial customers was \$11,648,874.

**Total expenses were \$15,475,138**, which included power costs of \$10,733,332 at a increase of \$529,532. Operations and maintenance expenses were \$980,152, a decrease of \$60,723. Customer services, sales, and office expense was \$1,495,072, an decrease of \$45,537. Depreciation expense was \$1,146,282, which was an increase of \$23,304. Tax expense was \$276,367, which was a increase of \$8,797. Interest expense was \$843,933 which was a increase of \$39,298.

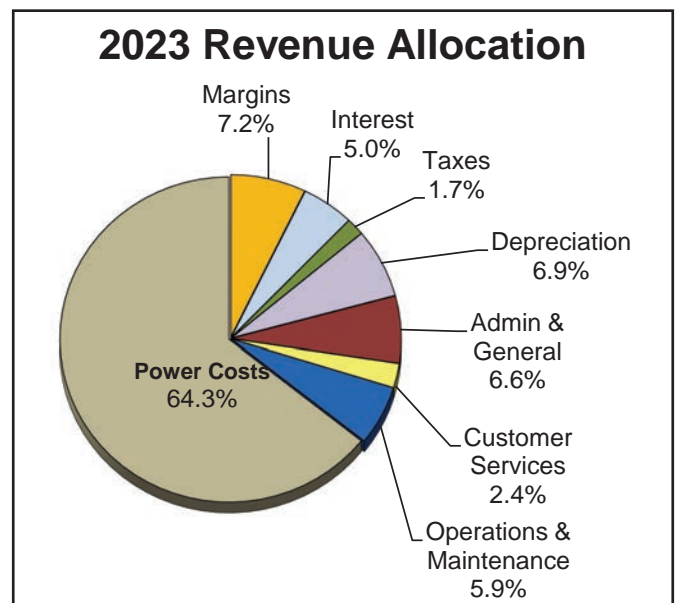
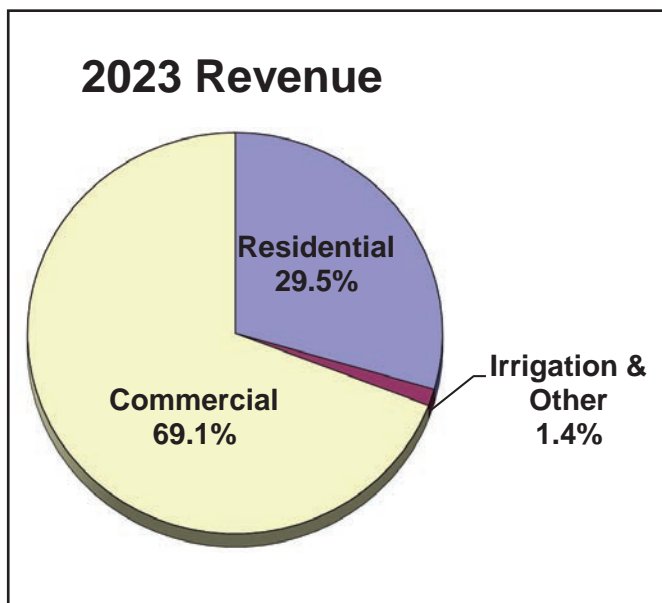
**FEM's patronage capital and operating margin was \$1,196,680.** Non-operating margin and income is \$271,165. East River/Basin Electric and other margins, which are capital credit allocations from other cooperative organizations which we do business with were \$1,121,760. The total margins were \$2,589,605.

In 2023, the Commercial revenue increased and is 69.13% and residential decreased and is 29.52% of the total revenue. On page 6 and 7, you will find a comparison of various operating statistics for the calendar years 2022 and 2023. **Sales were increased 5,572,370 kWhs and the number of connected meters increased by 22 for a total of 2,146.** The average monthly residential usage increased 1 kWh and the average monthly residential bill increased by \$8.92. Also included are a number of graphs that show the breakdown of revenue and expenses for 2023 and also chart our history for the last five years.

If you have any questions about this report, please contact the FEM business office.

Respectfully submitted,

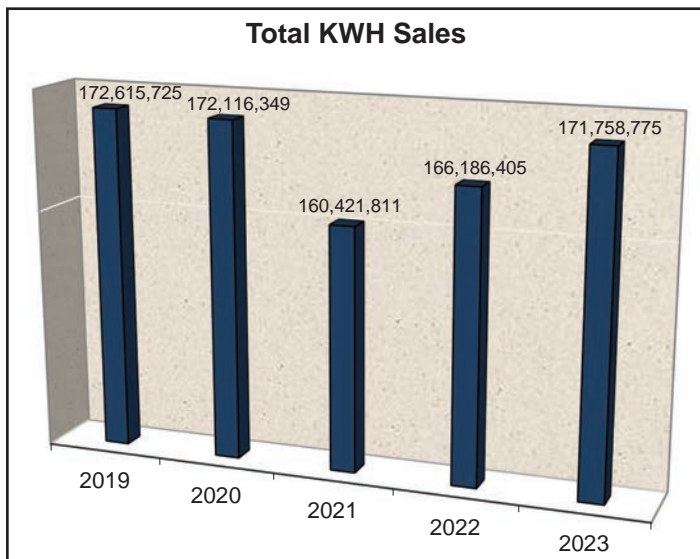
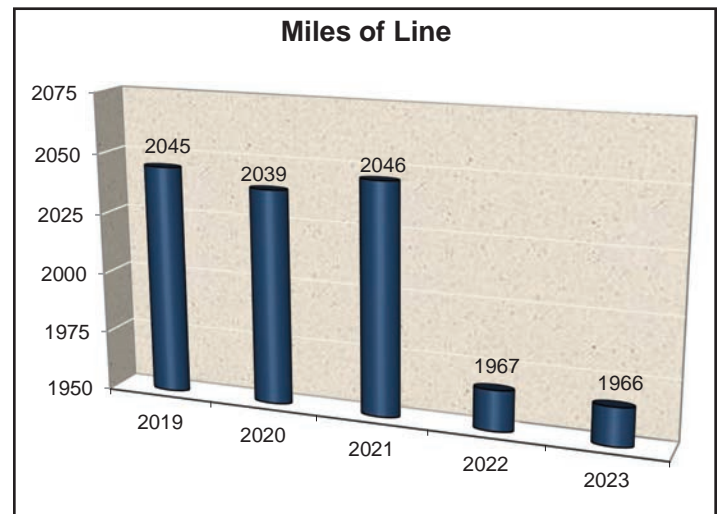
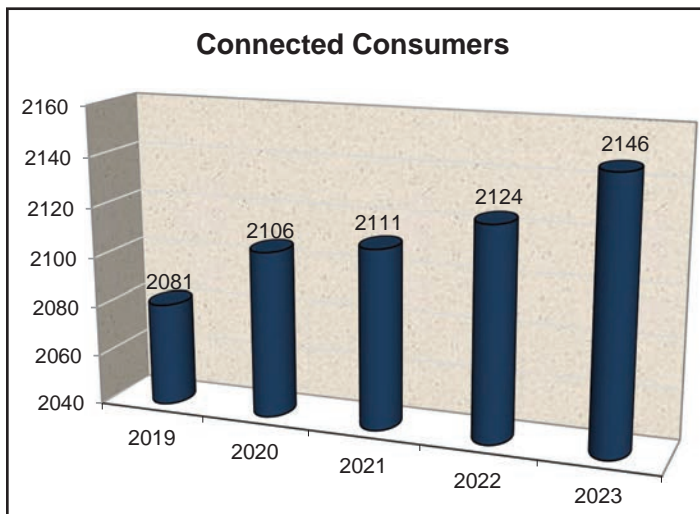
**Paula Petersen, Treasurer**



# COMPARATIVE OPERATING STATISTICS

## STATISTICS

	2021	2022	2023
kWhs Purchased	165,847,329	171,475,074	177,537,357
kWhs Sold	160,421,811	166,186,405	171,758,775
Estimated kWhs Used in December Sold in January	1,067,074	1,113,190	1,616,441
kWhs Unaccounted for (Line Loss, etc.)	4,358,444	4,175,479	4,162,141
Percent of kWhs Unaccounted for	2.63%	2.44%	2.34%
Number of Connected Services	2,117	2,124	2,146
Average Monthly kWh (All)	6,315	6,520	6,670
Average Monthly kWh (Residential)	1,504	1,688	1,689
Average Monthly Bill (All)	\$590.01	\$619.08	\$643.44
Average Monthly Bill (Residential)	\$197.68	\$215.54	\$224.46
Average Cost of Power Purchased at Substations	\$0.062	\$0.057	\$0.060
Average Selling Price Per kWh	\$0.093	\$0.095	\$0.096
Miles of Line Energized	2,046	1,967	1,966
Consumer Density Per Mile (Energized)	1.03	1.08	1.09



### 2023 KWH GENERATION TAX BY SCHOOL DISTRICT

School District	Total
Hoven 53-2	1,870
Northwestern Area 56-7	9,564
Faulkton Area 24-3	57,956
Edmunds Central 22-5	34,932
Ipswich Area 22-6	338,080
Bowdle 22-1	22,182
Warner 6-5	54
Eureka 44-1	16,521
Leola 44-2	55,034
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$536,193</b>

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## ASSETS

### What We Own

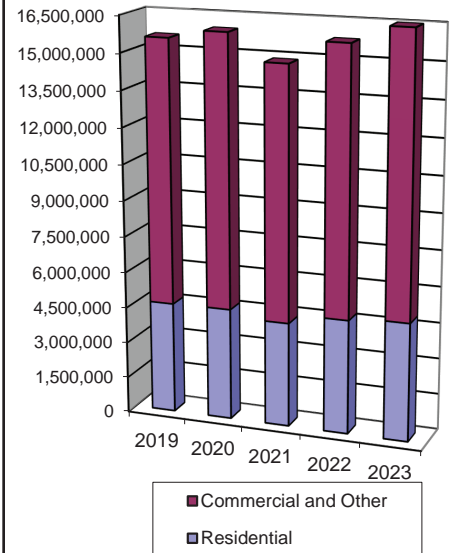
CURRENT ASSETS	2022	2023
Cash	248,763	127,611
Short Term Investments	2,142,870	2,709,163
Special Funds - One-Time Economic Revenue Deferral	396,000	396,000
Patronage Capital - Associated Cooperatives	10,784,298	11,605,541
Investments in Associated Organizations	877,330	869,620
Non-Utility Property - Golf View Acres	35,000	0
Investments in Partnerships	0	0
Investments in Economic Development Projects	335,500	265,500
Investments in Member Programs	8,370	2,569
Receivables	1,039,260	1,292,438
Material and Supplies	614,233	697,615
Prepayments	274,385	348,083
Deferred Debits	240,654	198,397
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>16,996,663</b>	<b>18,512,537</b>
FIXED ASSETS		
General Plant	6,622,112	6,634,253
Electric Distribution Plant	33,763,432	34,861,099
Less: Depreciation Reserve	-11,925,357	-11,728,603
<b>TOTAL FIXED ASSETS</b>	<b>28,460,187</b>	<b>29,766,749</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$45,456,850</b>	<b>\$48,279,286</b>

## LIABILITIES

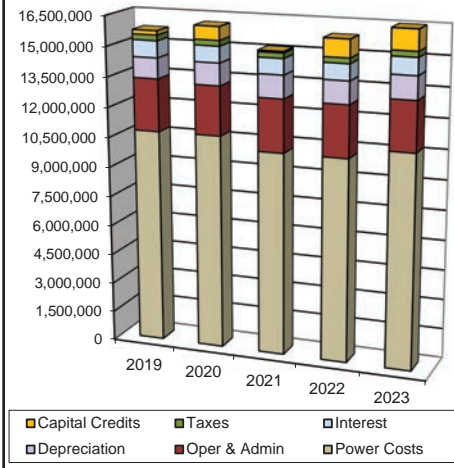
### What We Owe

CURRENT LIABILITIES	2022	2023
Notes and Accounts Payable	1,114,557	1,025,357
Consumer Deposits	8,300	10,000
Current and Accrued Liabilities	1,907,072	2,152,128
<b>TOTAL CURRENT &amp; ACCRUED LIABILITIES</b>	<b>3,029,929</b>	<b>3,187,485</b>
LONG-TERM DEBT		
Long Term Debt - RUS/FFB	19,400,756	20,249,331
Long Term Debt - CFC	3,994,914	3,800,773
Long-Term Debt – USDA Rural Development Loan	268,284	198,276
<b>TOTAL LONG-TERM DEBT</b>	<b>23,663,954</b>	<b>24,248,380</b>
EQUITIES		
Patronage Capital Assigned	12,227,016	13,867,483
Unassigned Capital	2,198,443	2,239,203
Other Margins and Equities	4,117,815	4,386,332
Non-Operating Margins	219,693	350,403
<b>TOTAL EQUITIES</b>	<b>\$18,762,967</b>	<b>\$20,843,421</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>\$45,456,850</b>	<b>\$48,279,286</b>

### Revenue Comparison



### Revenue Allocation





# STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

REVENUE	2022	2023
Residential Sales	4,758,580	4,918,183
Irrigation Sales	137,490	123,606
Commercial Sales	10,880,078	11,525,268
Street Lights	3,054	2,938
Other Electric Revenues – Wind Energy/Solar	212	120
Sale of Renewable Energy Credits (RECs)	57,514	73,707
Rent from Electric Property	725	2,200
Other Operating Revenue	26,732	25,797
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>15,864,385</b>	<b>16,671,819</b>
EXPENSES		
Cost of Power	10,203,800	10,733,332
Line Operations	612,739	614,348
Line Maintenance	428,136	365,804
Consumer Accounting and Collecting	217,379	217,184
Customer Service and Sales Expense	189,002	176,119
Administrative and General Expenses	1,134,228	1,101,769
Depreciation	1,122,978	1,146,282
Property and KWH Taxes	267,570	276,367
Interest Expense - Long Term Debt	804,635	843,933
Interest Expense – Storm Line of Credit	0	0
Interest Expense - Member Service Programs	0	0
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>14,980,467</b>	<b>15,475,138</b>
MARGINS/PATRONAGE CAPITAL CREDITS		
FEM Operating Margins	883,918	1,196,680
Non-Operating Margins	141,286	271,165
Income/Loss from Investments	0	0
East River/Basin Margins	1,314,525	1,042,522
Other Margins	78,407	79,238
<b>TOTAL MARGINS</b>	<b>2,418,136</b>	<b>2,589,605</b>
WHERE THE DOLLARS CAME FROM:	2022	2023
Residential	30.18%	29.52%
Commercial	68.95%	69.13%
Other	0.87%	1.35%
WHERE THE DOLLARS WENT:		
Cost of Power	64.32%	64.38%
Operations and Administration	16.27%	14.85%
Depreciation	7.08%	6.88%
Taxes	1.69%	1.66%
Interest	5.07%	5.06%
<b>MARGIN</b>	<b>5.57%</b>	<b>7.18%</b>

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT



**Gary Bachman**  
President

Every business, whether it is a sole proprietorship, Corporation, Cooperative or some form of Limited Liability structure is composed of many intricate interlocking parts. This is much like a jigsaw puzzle that many of us enjoy putting together.

Much like a jigsaw puzzle, if one piece of it gets dropped in between the couch cushions, it is impossible to complete the puzzle, so when one piece of the business puzzle (just one interlocking part) is missing, it is impossible to have a well-functioning business.

At FEM Electric your board of directors spends a lot of time at each board meeting to ensure that all the pieces are available and that they are interlocked in the proper manner. Each director brings to the board a unique perspective on the business that we

do at FEM. This allows us to, through discussion and decision-making, guide the cooperative in the correct direction.

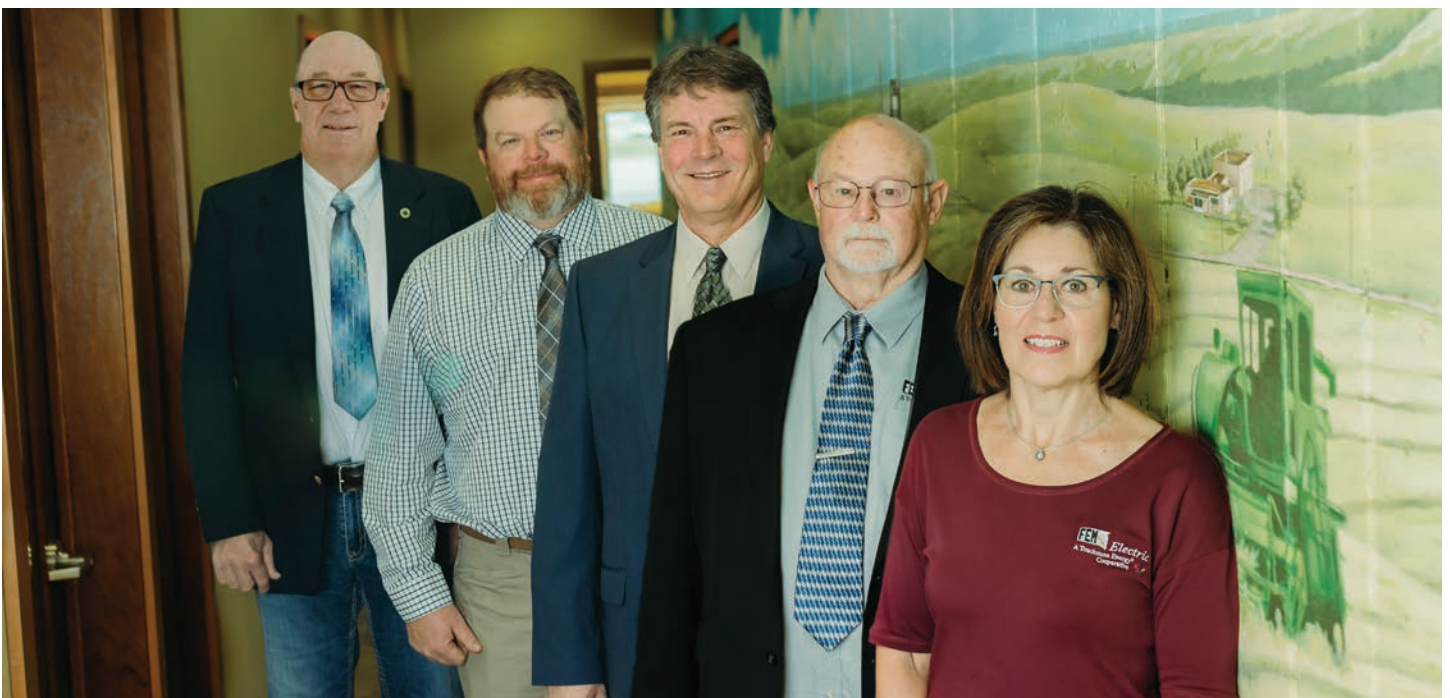
Beyond the board of directors setting policy, the employees of the cooperative each have their own role and responsibilities to deliver. These duties of employees must all fit into place in order for you, the member owners of the cooperative, to be served in the most efficient and lowest cost manner possible.

Further, each member of the cooperative brings their own set of intricate pieces of the puzzle to be placed in the finished puzzle with every other member to complete the work of art.

You can see that there are many moving parts to keep FEM Electric able to serve you, the member-owner and everyone at your Cooperative is working to complete the pieces of the puzzle.

**Respectfully submitted,**  
**Gary Bachman**  
**FEM Electric Association, Inc. President**

## FEM ELECTRIC BOARD OF DIRECTORS



# BOARD & LEGAL



**Eric Odenbach**  
District 1  
Secretary



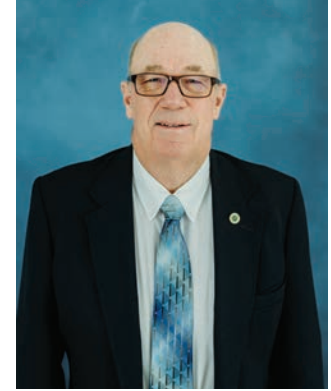
**Gary Bachman**  
District 3  
President



**Vaughn Beck**  
Attorney

**FEM Electric Director Districts**

<b>McPherson County</b>	Spring Creek	Detmold	Petersburg	Bergdorf	Harrison	Wacker	Weber	Wachter
	Glucksthal	Rosenthal	Odessa	Long Lake	Highland	Hoffman	Koto	Carl
	<b>District 1</b>				<b>District 2</b>			
	Bauer	Stickel	Kassel	Moscow	Arena	Spring	Leola	Willow
Jackson	Hillsview	Cleveland	Blaine	Dewey	Howard	Washington	Lincoln	
<b>Edmunds County</b>	Modena	Hosmer	Sangmon	North Bryant	Adrian	Rosette	Belle	Pembrook
	Bowdle	Cottonwood	Glen	Bryant	Huntley	Ipswich	Fountain	Cortlandt
	<b>District 3</b>				<b>District 4</b>			
	Odessa	Cloyd Valley	Glover	Montpelier	Cleveland	Harmony	Union	Richland
Hudson	Madison	Hillside	Vermont	Liberty	Powell	Kent	Clear Lake	
<b>Faulk County</b>	Sherman	Clark	Enterprise	Freedom	Emerson	Fairview	Union	
	Elroy	O'Neil	Saratoga	Pulaski	Myron	Devoe	Wesley	
	<b>District 5</b>							
	Seneca	Latham	Bryant	Tamworth	Lafoon	Centerville		
Ellisville	Thirteen	Irving	Orient	Arcade	Hillsdale			



**Tom Thorpe**  
District 2  
Vice President



**Paula Petersen**  
District 4  
Treasurer



**Kelly Melius**  
District 5  
Assistant Secretary/  
Treasurer

**FEM ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
**IPSWICH, SOUTH DAKOTA**  
April 26, 2023

We, the Nominating Committee, in session on April 26, 2023, at the Beck Law Office in Ipswich, South Dakota, hereby nominate the following:

**District 2-- Tom Thorpe**

**District 3 -- Gary Bachman**

*Eric Odenbach*  
Secretary

*Gary Bachman*  
Chairman

We, the undersigned, certify that the foregoing minutes are true and correct.

*Eric Odenbach*  
*Gary Bachman*  
*Kelly Melius*  
*Tom Thorpe*

We, the Nominating Committee, wish to place the above names in nomination.

# 2023 PROJECTS AND EVENTS

2023 was a typical year at FEM. Projects included new construction for new services, burying underground, and maintenance on existing lines.

However, at the end of the year, an ice storm moved through the FEM territory over Christmas Day and into the following day.

Rain had moved into the area Christmas Eve, and temps dropped Christmas evening. Crews began responding to outages around 8:00 pm Christmas Day, and spent much of the following week doing the same.



**Above:** Over an inch of ice coats equipment from the Christmas ice storm.

While there were outages across Edmunds and Faulk counties, McPherson County took the brunt of the storm. Much of the linemen's time was spent repairing broken lines, replacing broken poles, and removing trees from lines due to ice build up.

Northern Electric sent 4 linemen and two trucks to assist with outage repairs for two days.

**Below:** A broken pole from the Christmas ice storm.



**Above:** Crews are burying underground for Plainview Colony's new hog barn.

**Below:** FEM crews work with K&H Construction, replacing old line and burying new underground line.



**Above:** Crews remove heavy ice covered trees from lines.

**Left:** A live downed line leaves burn marks in the grass. Stay away from downed lines.



# ROB VETCH RETIRES



as a temporary lineworker, before working his way to a journeyman lineworker and electrician, to now Operations Manager.

Everyone at FEM wishes Rob well, and a long, happy, healthy retirement!



Rob Vetch, Line Superintendent, retired January 5th, 2024 after 38 years. He began his career as an apprentice lineman, and worked his way up to line superintendent.

Sean Christiansen has taken over Rob's duties. Sean has been with FEM for 13 years, starting

# FEM ELECTRIC'S COOP IN THE CLASSROOM



**Defying Gravity with Static Electricity**

FEM values the time we get to spend in the classroom in our area schools. We feel it is important to teach electrical safety; to help students understand electricity as well as the cooperative way. Coop in the classroom targets fifth graders because learning these concepts at an early age helps them become better prepared to make wise energy decisions now and educated consumers of energy in the future.

The students are able to put the principles they learn into



**Man-made Electricity**

practice by generating their own electricity on a bicycle that powers different types of light bulbs, and experimenting with a Van de Graaff generator. They also take turns answering questions about ways cooperatives generate and distribute electricity.

We visit six public schools as well as eleven colony schools throughout the school year.



**A Hair-raising Experiment**

# INVESTING IN OUR YOUTH



**Addison Melius** of Faulkton High School was chosen to receive the \$1,000 Basin/FEM Electric Scholarship. Addison plans to attend South Dakota State University to pursue a degree in Exercise Science. She is involved in volleyball, track & field, basketball, FCCLA, 4-H, student government, choir, and has completed 12 college credits while actively participating in her community. Her parents are Ryan and Nikki Melius.



**Parker Bode** of Faulkton High School was chosen to receive a \$500 FEM Scholarship. Parker plans to attend South Dakota State University to pursue a degree in Agricultural Engineering. His parents are John and Heather Bode.



**Olivia Hadrick** of Faulkton High School was chosen to receive a \$500 FEM Scholarship. Olivia plans to attend South Dakota State University to pursue a degree in Animal Science. Her parents are Troy and Stacy Hadrick.



**Shaylee Gill** of Leola High School won Touchstone Energy's Scholar of the Week the week of November 5th, 2023, and was featured on Dakota News Now. She received a \$250 scholarship and plans to pursue a degree in Computer Science/Engineering. Her parents are Jason Gill and Dori Podhradsky.



**Chet Peterson** of Ipswich Public School won Touchstone Energy's Scholar of the Week the week of March 10th, 2024, and was featured on Dakota News Now. He received a \$250 scholarship and plans to attend Lake Area Technical College. His parents are Rodney and Cindy Peterson.

## BASIN TOUR 2023

In June of 2023, FEM Electric hosted a trip to tour a number of facilities at Basin Electric Power Cooperative.

Members took a tour of the Basin Electric headquarters, Wilton Energy Wind project, Antelope Valley Station, Great Plains Synfuels Plant and the Coteau Properties Company Freedom Mine. On the first evening, members were treated to a river boat cruise with a catered dinner.

It was a great opportunity for members to learn about where their electricity comes from, and the work it takes to produce it.



**Left:** Members are educated about the Wilton Energy Wind Farm



**Above:** River boat from the member dinner provided the first night of the tour.



**Below:** the 2023 Basin Tour group

# YOUTH TOUR 2024

FEM Electric joined other South Dakota cooperatives to send high school juniors and seniors on a youth tour of Washington DC.

To be chosen, students were tasked to describe why they would make the best candidate to represent FEM Electric, as well as describe their interests, future plans and what they hoped to learn from the trip. Four high school students were chosen.

The trip was postponed for a number of years, but FEM is delighted to sponsor this trip for youth in our area. Any junior or senior that attends high school in FEM's service territory, or who's parents are FEM members is eligible to apply.

The three students on the right were chosen to represent FEM on the tour in 2024, which was June 15th through the 21st. This trip consists of meeting their state representative and senator at the nation's capital, seeing historical sites such as Arlington Cemetery, the monuments, the Smithsonian and numerous other locations in the Washington DC area.



**Chase Melius** of Faulkton is a junior at Faulkton Area High School, and was one of three selected to attend the 2024 Youth Tour. He is involved in FFA, shooting sports, golf, and football. He is interested in helping on the family farm, trucking or becoming a lineman.



**Jessica Hadrick** of Faulkton is a junior at Faulkton Area High School, and was also selected to attend the Youth Tour. Jessica is involved in FFA, Oral Interpretation, Competition Cheer, One Act Play, All-School Play and Track. While her plans are not finalized yet, she's interested in becoming a lawyer.

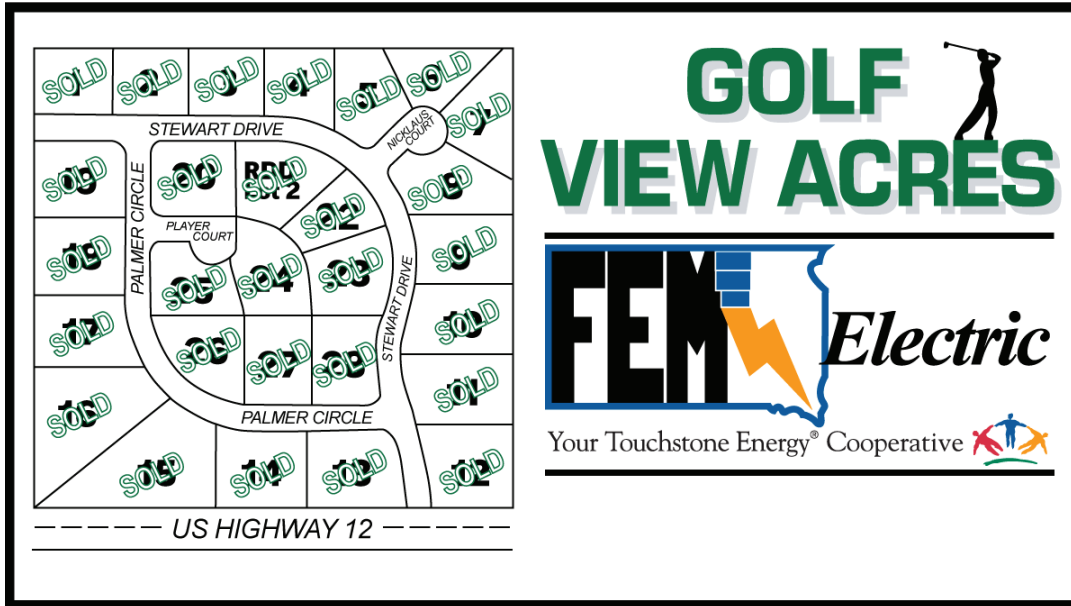


**Hannah Beyers** of Roscoe is a senior at Ipswich High School, and was selected to attend the youth tour in June. She is involved in 4-H, Cheerleading, FBLA, NHS, and dance. Next year, she plans to attend Lake Area Technical College for Occupational Therapy Assisting.

## ELECTRICAL DEPARTMENT



# GOLF VIEW ACRES



In 2023, the final lots at Golf View Acres were sold.

## MEMBER OWNED - MEMBER FOCUSED

### 7 Cooperative Principles



**VOLUNTARY AND OPEN MEMBERSHIP**



**DEMOCRATIC MEMBER CONTROL**



**MEMBERS' ECONOMIC PARTICIPATION**



**AUTONOMY AND INDEPENDENCE**



**EDUCATION, TRAINING AND INFORMATION**



**COOPERATION AMONG COOPERATIVES**



**CONCERN FOR COMMUNITY**



# PROMOTIONS AND SERVICES

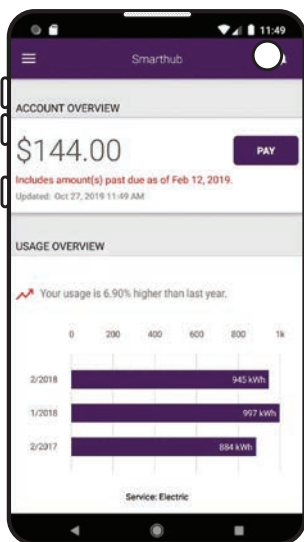
## WATER HEATER REBATES

Member owners installing electric water heaters will receive the following rebates: \$3.00 per gallon on standard 50 gallon or more water heaters; \$6.00 per gallon on 10 year warranty 75 gallon or larger units. To be eligible for a rebate, electric water heaters must have a load control receiver installed. There is no cost for installation, and by having load control you will receive \$5.00 off your monthly electric bill.

## SAFETY PRESENTATIONS

Another service provided by FEM Electric to member owners and the general public is electrical safety presentations. Whether it be farm safety information, our high voltage demonstration trailer, educating area first responders on contact accidents, or covering electrical safety issues using videos, newsletters or demonstrations. If your group or class would like FEM to present a safety demo, please give us a call.

## ONLINE BILL PAY & ACCOUNT ACCESS



FEM Electric offers online bill pay and account access. Member owners can access their accounts through our website at [www.femelectric.coop](http://www.femelectric.coop), or download the SmartHub app for your Apple or Android smart devices. Once logged in, you can pay your bill, look at usage graphs, and view or print statements.

Member owners can also pay by check, through ACH or by credit card.

## ELECTRIC HEATING SYSTEM REBATES & LOANS

Marketing rebates for heating systems are available. Member owners receive a \$600 rebate and can apply for a 5% interest loan up to \$10,000 for the equipment and installation. This applies to residential electric heat pump systems, which also provide the benefit of air conditioning all in one unit. Auxiliary and resistance heat rebates of \$10/kW up to 50 kW. Commercial heating \$10/kW up to 600 kW for resistance heat or \$50/ton for heat pumps. Don't put off installing a new heating system.

## DONATIONS



Since 2009, a safety committee made up of FEM Electric employees decided to have labels with safety messages printed on water bottles. All schools in FEM territory are given

cases of water to sell and use as fundraisers for various school clubs and activities. They may also choose to give it away. The water project has been positive and beneficial to the students, schools and FEM Electric. We also have some on hand for community groups that are raising money. We continue to donate napkins to organizations as needed.

## ELECTRICAL DEPARTMENT

FEM Electric has offered electrician services to respond to electrical needs of our member owners in Faulk, Edmunds, and McPherson counties, as well as the general public, since May, 2016. If you have a project requiring an electrician, contact FEM.

**Call FEM Electric at 605-426-6891 or 1-800-587-5880 for more information on any of the services FEM offers.**

# FEM ELECTRIC EMPLOYEES



**Scott Moore**  
General Manager/CEO  
31 Years of Service



**Sean Christiansen**  
Operations Manager  
14 Years of Service



**Rhonda Tuscherer**  
Director of Finance & Benefits  
32 Years of Service



**Ryan Holien**  
Electrical Department Manager  
16 Years of Service



**Justin Larson**  
Line Foreman  
27 Years of Service



**Josh Weigel**  
Journeyman Lineworker  
24 Years of Service



**Dan Feldhaus**  
Journeyman Lineworker  
17 Years of Service



**Perry Ptacek**  
Journeyman Lineworker  
17 Years of Service



**Gregg Zwart**  
Journeyman Lineworker  
14 Years of Service

# FEM ELECTRIC EMPLOYEES



**Chad Dutenhoffer**  
Journeyman Lineworker  
14 Years of Service



**Logan Gruenstein**  
Apprentice Lineworker  
1 Year of Service



**Will Olson**  
Apprentice Lineworker  
1st Year of Service



**Layne Henrich**  
Apprentice Lineworker  
1st Year of Service



**Angie Sieh**  
Accounting Clerk  
11 Years of Service



**Crystal Thorson**  
Billing Clerk  
11 Years of Service



**Sonje Oban**  
Customer/Member Services  
2 Years of Service



**Barb Schaefer**  
Maintenance/Custodian  
9 Years of Service

## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

@FEMElectric on 

@fem\_electric on 

@FEMelectric on 

We'll post outage updates, safety tips, news and more to keep our members informed on all the latest from FEM Electric.

# FEM ELECTRIC EMPLOYEES



Your Touchstone Energy<sup>®</sup>  
Cooperative

