

# S.D. Rural Electric Member Services Association Meeting

**October 14-15, 2025 • Ramkota Hotel & Conference Center Pierre, SD**

## **SDREMSA Officers**

**President:** Jessica Cook  
Lacreek Electric  
jessica@lacreek.com

**Vice President:** Michelle Fischer  
Black Hills Electric  
michellef@bhec.coop

**Secretary:** Ben Pierson  
East River Electric  
bpierson@eastriver.coop

**Treasurer:** Chris Rahn  
Cherry-Todd Electric  
crahn@cherry-todd.com

## **SDREMSA Planning Committee**

SDREMSA Officers  
Jason Frasch, Rosebud Electric  
Erica Fitzhugh, Southeastern Electric  
Patrick Soukup, Central Electric  
Jeremy Woeste, Basin Electric

## **Room Reservations:**

Contact the Ramkota Hotel at 605-224-6877  
or Clubhouse Suites at 605-494-2582 and  
ask for the SDRE Member Services group  
room block. Room rate at Ramkota is \$102  
plus tax and Clubhouse Suites is \$129 plus  
tax. **Cut-off date is September 12.**

## **Meeting Registration:**

Register by **September 29** online at:  
<https://www.sdrea.coop>

## **Tuesday, October 14**

- 10:15 a.m.** Meet In East Parking Lot at Ramkota to Carpool to Onida for Tour
- 11 a.m.** Big Watt Digital Crypto Tour – (No Cameras or Cell Phones Allowed)
- 12:15 p.m.** Lunch (Gallery D)
- 1 p.m.** Basin Update & Large Loads – Basin Electric
- 2 p.m.** AI & Marketing – Sara Steever, Paulsen
- 3 p.m.** Break
- 3:15 p.m.** Smart Home Concepts – Karl's TV & Appliance
- 4:15 p.m.** Roundtable/Business Meeting
- 4:45 p.m.** Tour SDREA Headquarters and SDREA Update – Steve Barnett
- 6 p.m.** Dinner at Richy Z's

## **Wednesday, October 15**

**Note: Only drink beverages provided.  
Please make use of the continental breakfast at your hotel.**

- 8 a.m.** PUC Update, Carbon Capture & Rates – Commissioner Kristie Fiegen
- 9 a.m.** Water Heater Program Updates & Discussion – Tim Gaughan, Rheem Manufacturing Company
- 10 a.m.** Break
- 10:15 a.m.** Follow Me! What the Best Leaders Do to Get People to Follow/Leadership Ideas and Member Rate Increases – Ted Schick, Keynote Speaker
- 12 p.m.** Adjourn

# **BYLAWS** of the SOUTH DAKOTA RURAL ELECTRIC MEMBER SERVICES ASSOCIATION

*Approved May 2014; Amended October 2018*

## **ARTICLE I – NAME**

**SECTION 1.** The name of this Organization shall be the South Dakota Rural Electric Member Services Association, hereinafter referred to as the Association.

## **ARTICLE II – OBJECTIVES**

**SECTION 1.** The objective of the Association shall be to promote and advance all phases of the rural electric program and continually strive for the wise and efficient use of electric power. The Association shall provide a medium for exchange of facts, ideas and experiences that will provide for the betterment of the rural electrification program.

## **ARTICLE III – MEMBERSHIP**

**SECTION 1.** Membership shall be open to all rural electric cooperatives. The Treasurer shall, at the beginning of January, send a dues notice as agreed upon by the membership, to all active members.

**SECTION 2.** Members shall consist of any personnel engaged in the rural electric program in South Dakota.

**SECTION 3.** Honorary memberships may be granted to those who are associated with the rural electric program or who have retired from a member rural electric cooperative. An honorary membership may be granted upon a unanimous vote of the officers of the Association. Honorary members are non-paying members and are not permitted to vote.

## **ARTICLE IV – GOVERNING BODY**

**SECTION 1.** The governing body of the Association shall be known as the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall be comprised of four elected officers from the association membership. The officers elected by the Association shall be President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

## **ARTICLE V – OFFICERS**

**SECTION 1.** A single officer will be elected annually during the Fall Association meeting for the position of Secretary. The acting secretary shall then move up to Vice President and the acting Vice President now becomes the President.

**SECTION 2.** The treasurer shall be elected from among the members of the association and shall serve a three year term. At the end of his/her term the treasurer shall be given the option of moving into the office of Secretary before an election is held for that position. At the end of his/her term the treasurer may also be nominated and elected to serve an additional three year term as treasurer. The office of treasurer will not be subject to term limits but will always be given first option to advance to the office of Secretary at the end of any given term prior to an election being held for the office of Secretary.

**SECTION 3.** Any active Association member is eligible to be an officer, with the exception of one officer from one cooperative at a time.

**SECTION 4.** The president shall preside at all business meetings and planning sessions and shall be the spokesman for the Association.

**SECTION 5.** If the president is unable to act, their duties shall be performed by the vice president. In the event neither the president nor the vice president can serve, the Board shall appoint a president pro-tempore.

**SECTION 6.** The secretary shall record the minutes of all meetings.

**SECTION 7.** The treasurer shall be responsible for all funds of the Association. The Association's accounts shall be audited at the close of each year, or as otherwise directed by the Board.

## **ARTICLE VI – BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**The Board shall:**

- a) Have the power to fill any vacancies occurring in its number;
- b) Appoint two members of the Association (one east and one west) for an undetermined period of time to assist in the planning and development of the Spring and Fall meetings.
- c) Appoint one representative from East River Electric Power Cooperative and one representative from Rushmore Electric Power Cooperative for an undetermined period of time to assist in the planning and development of the Spring and Fall meetings
- d) Recommend to the Association, action and/or interpretation of these Bylaws;
- e) Have responsibility of developing the Fall and Spring Member Services Conference;
- f) Provide general direction/guidance of the expenditure of funds;
- g) Perform such other duties as may hereinafter be approved by the Association.

## **ARTICLE VII. ASSOCIATION**

**SECTION 1.** The Association is organized to carry out the purposes enumerated above and the standard purposes adopted by the members. It is organized exclusively as an exempt organization under Section 501 (c)(6) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (or the corresponding provisions of any future United States Internal Revenue Law).

**SECTION 2.** The regulation of the internal affairs of this Association shall be conducted as set forth in its duly adopted bylaws. Initial bylaws shall be adopted by the board. Thereafter, the bylaws approved by the membership shall determine how they shall be revised.

**SECTION 3.** Upon dissolution, all remaining net assets shall, upon majority vote of the members, be distributed to a qualified non-profit entity with purposes similar to this Association.

**SECTION 4.** The Articles of Association may be amended from time to time by the members. These Articles of Association correctly set forth the intentions of the organizers and have been duly adopted herein.

# **Presidents**

## **SOUTH DAKOTA RURAL ELECTRIC MEMBER SERVICES ASSOCIATION**

2023-2024 Tara Miller, *Central Electric*

2022-2023 Jessie Tucker,  
*West Central Electric*

2021-2022 Tom Lundberg, *H-D Electric*

2020-2021 Mike Dangel, *Charles Mix Electric*

2019-2020 Tony Kronaizl, *Union County Electric*

2018-2019 Mike Chase, *Black Hills Electric*

2017-2018 Erica Fitzhugh, *East River Electric*

2016-2017 Russ Ulmer, *Northern Electric*

2015-2016 Brett Kwasniewski,  
*Lake Region Electric*

2014-2015 Greg Palmer, *Dakota Energy*

2013-2014 Jennie Patrick,  
*Sioux Valley Energy*

2012-2013 Brett Snyders,  
*Southeastern Electric*

2011-2012 Reggie Gassman,  
*Sioux Valley Energy*

2009-2011 Kevin Mikkelsen,  
*Rosebud Electric*

2008-2009 Ralph Morse,  
*Union County Electric*

2007-2008 Russ Hohn, *Oahe Electric*

2006-2007 Roger Lawien,  
*Moreau-Grand Electric*

2005-2006 Ron Kyburz, *Rosebud Electric*

2003-2005 Todd Eliason,  
*Rushmore Electric*

2002-2003 Gary Townsend,  
*Bon Homme Yankton Electric*

2001-2002 Mike Chase, *Black Hills Electric*

2000-2001 Sue Hilmoie, *Sioux Valley Energy*

1999-2000 Kim Richards, *Butte Electric*

1998-1999 Ron Kyburz, *Rosebud Electric*

1997-1998 Doug Hamilton, *Northern Electric*

1996-1997 Dave Behle, *East River Electric*

1995-1996 Vic Simmons,  
*Rushmore Electric*

1994-1995 Joe Connot,  
*West Central Electric*

1993-1994 Bob Johnson,  
*Codington-Clark Electric*

1992-1993 Kevin Jensen,  
*West River Electric*

1991-1992 Doug Hamilton,  
*Northern Electric*

1990-1991 Ken Schlimgen,  
*Intercounty Electric*

1989-1990 Ken Wetz, *Butte Electric*

1988-1989 Dale Niezwaag, *Intercounty*

1987-1988 James Gesick, *Turner-  
Hutchinson Electric*

1986-1987 Jim Tompkins, *Lake Region*

1985-1986 Gerald Kolbeck, *McCook Electric*

1984-1985 Ron Kyburz, *Rosebud Electric*

1983-1984 Tom Price,  
*Sioux Valley Empire Electric*

1982-1983 Harlan Borszich, *Black Hills*

1981-1982 Gene Ward, *Codington-Clark*

1980-1981 Gene Ward, *Codington-Clark*

1979-1980 Lee Langley, *Butte Electric*

1976-1979\* Jim Pahl, *West River Electric*

1975-1976 Harlan Borszich, *Black Hills*

1974-1975 Ron Kyburz, *Rosebud Electric*

\* In 1976-1977, the group changed its name from Power Use to South Dakota Rural Electric Member Services Association. Presidents are as listed in the *SDREA Directory* for the indicated year. Information prior to 1974-75 was not found.