

SDREA BOARD LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

August 31, 2026

8 a.m.-3:30 p.m. | Theatre 1

Ramkota Hotel & Conference Center

Pierre, South Dakota

Note: This is a “bill back” workshop which is not a part of Package A.

Room Reservations

Ramkota Hotel & Conference Center:

(605) 224-6877

Ask for SDREA Leadership Summit room block. Room rate: \$98 + tax.

ClubHouse Hotel & Suites:

(605) 494-2582

Ask for SDREA Leadership Summit room block. Room rate: \$134 + tax.

Cut-off date for room reservations is July 29, 2026.

Meeting Registration:

To register for the meeting, go to www.sdrea.coop and click on “For Members,” then “Events and Trainings.” Then, click on “Board Leadership Summit.” If you have any questions, please contact Kristie Hauck at 605-224-8823 or kristie.hauck@sdrea.coop



Sunday, Aug. 30 • Gallery D & E

6 p.m. Dinner

Monday, Aug. 31 • Gallery D & E

8 a.m. Adam Schwartz, Founder, *The Cooperative Way*

Adam Schwartz is the founder and principal of The Cooperative Way, a consulting firm dedicated to assisting all types of cooperatives. The Cooperative Way is a strategic partner with Columinate, a shared services cooperative of over fifty consultants.

He provides strategic guidance (for employees, boards, and members) for cooperative organizations of all types seeking to utilize principles and values as a primary force in serving their members and the community.

He has served as an adjunct instructor at the University of Mary Washington- College of Business teaching about the cooperative business model. Prior to founding The Cooperative Way, Adam served as vice president for public affairs and member services from 2005-2011 for the National Cooperative Business Association. From 2001-2005 Adam was Vice President of External Affairs for the National Rural Telecommunications Cooperative. From 1992-2001, Adam was a senior legislative representative for NRECA.

In this course, directors will:

- Deepen their understanding of the role of a director, this will include a review of their core rights and responsibilities
- Discuss directors' importance in serving as an advocate for the co-op in the legislative/political environment in the local, regional, statewide, and national arenas
- Discern the difference in the roles of directors and management including an interactive game, “Whose job is it?”
- Discuss positive ways to deal with conflict inside the boardroom
- Learn strategies to ensure we use the cooperative business model as a strategic advantage

12 p.m. Lunch in Gallery F & G

1 p.m. Adam Schwartz (continued)

3 p.m. Adjourn