



Minnesota Rural Electric Association

2026 calendar of events



www.mrea.org | 763.424.1020

DIRECTOR TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

NRECA'S BOARD LEADERSHIP CERTIFICATE (BLC)

The NRECA Board Leadership Certificate, available after obtaining the Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) certification (see p. 3 for details), requires completing 10 credits from 900-level courses. Directors can attend BLC courses at any time, but must have their CCD certificate to qualify.

BLC SUMMIT DATES — January 13-15

NRECA BLC 947.1

Providing feedback to your CEO

Jan. 13, Maple Grove, \$673

Building a strong board-CEO relationship is vital, whether the CEO is new or experienced. With many electric cooperative CEOs nearing retirement, boards must establish clear goals and expectations aligned with the cooperative's mission. This course highlights the importance of regular, constructive feedback and unified communication, equipping directors to foster a productive, trust-based relationship with the CEO.

NRECA BLC 976.1

Power supply decision making

Jan. 14, Maple Grove, \$673

This course explores the G&T responsibility of making investment decisions for distribution cooperative member systems. While coal-fired generation required lower initial investment but ongoing costs for emissions compliance, nuclear generation faced high upfront costs due to regulations, construction delays, and interest rates. Despite uncertainties in power supply, strategic planning remains essential for future investments.

NRECA BLC 928.1

AI and the electric cooperative

Jan. 15, Maple Grove, \$673

Artificial intelligence has moved rapidly into the electric industry including electric cooperatives by accelerating a variety of functions such as the processing of vast amounts of meter data, automated functions that increase reliability and enhanced member satisfaction. This course will provide electric cooperative directors a foundational understanding of AI, its jargon, implications, its applications, and strategic importance so that they can engage in conversations about AI in their boardroom and decide if this rapidly evolving technology has a role to play at their cooperative.

OTHER BLC COURSE DATES

NRECA BLC 926.1:

Navigating in the Era of Uncertainty

Mar. 16, St. Paul, \$723 (Annual meeting pre-conference)

This is a new course. NRECA will be providing a course description in early 2026, which we will then include on our online event page.

NRECA BLC 925.1:

Co-op Bylaws: Guiding Principles & Current Issues

Aug. 4, Bloomington, \$723 (Energy Issues Summit pre-conference)

The continuing evolution of the structure of the electric industry in the U.S. has brought about increased scrutiny by consumers and regulators. As a result, many electric cooperatives are being challenged to make sure their bylaws adequately address new situations including changing membership, "large load" exceptions to some state territorial laws, diversified services, distributed generation, and changes in some state or federal laws and regulations. This course will assist directors, CEOs, and agents of electric cooperatives in undertaking a comprehensive review of the co-op's bylaws and highlight the implications that these changes, issues, and challenges bring to bear in future bylaw revisions.

“The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows.”

— Sydney J. Harris

IMPORTANT MEETINGS & EVENTS

| DATE | EVENT | LOCATION |
|------------|---|-------------|
| Mar. 17-18 | MREA annual meeting and trade show | St. Paul |
| Aug. 3-4 | New director orientation (EIS pre-conference) | Bloomington |
| Aug. 5-6 | Energy Issues Summit (EIS) & trade show | Bloomington |

DISTRICT MEETINGS

| | | |
|---------|--------------------|------------|
| Jan. 9 | District 1 meeting | Bemidji |
| July 9 | District 3 meeting | TBD |
| July 10 | District 2 meeting | Cohasset |
| July 14 | District 6 meeting | Mankato |
| July 15 | District 5 meeting | Sleepy Eye |

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

| | | |
|-------------|------------------------------|----------------|
| Jan. 26-28 | Winter DC legislative visit | Washington, DC |
| Apr. 26-29 | NRECA legislative conference | Washington, DC |
| Sept. 28-30 | Fall DC legislative visit | Washington, DC |

I AM A CO-OP DIRECTOR AND I NEED TO GET MY CCD OR BLC. WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

As your statewide, it is MREA's job to support your efforts as a director to attain the necessary national certifications your co-op board requires. One of the ways we do that is by locally sponsoring NRECA's certification courses, so you do not have to travel out-of-state. MREA offers the NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) Fast Track (all five 2600-series courses) every other year in the even-numbered years (2022, 2024, 2026). MREA offers several opportunities for members to attend Board Leadership Certification (BLC) courses throughout the year. We also offer BLC courses at our annual meeting and Energy Issues Summit. If you are interested in hosting a BLC course at your co-operative, please contact Karen Miller at karen@mrea.org.

There are two key national certifications for co-op directors:

- 1) The CCD Fast Track curriculum consists of five courses designed to provide basic knowledge and skills required of cooperative directors. The CCD is earned by attending all five required courses and successfully completing a learning assessment for each.
- 2) The BLC curriculum extends the core CCD program, providing greater depth on industry, governance, risk management, rate making and policy development. This certification can be attained after earning the CCD and then completing a total of 10 credits from the 900-level courses. Directors may attend BLC courses at any time, but the BLC will not be awarded until the CCD program requirements are completed. The credit value is indicated after the decimal point for each course. For example, course 901.1 provides one credit and course 951.2 provides two credits. (See course listings on p. 2.)

In addition, a continuing education effort called Director Gold is offered to recognize directors who have earned their CCD and BLC credentials. Co-op directors can read more by visiting www.cooperative.com.

WHAT DOES MREA DO?

MREA was created by the state's rural electric co-ops over 80 years ago to provide economies of scale and key services that help your co-op, including:

- Government affairs and lobbying – MREA influences legislation and regulations at the state and federal level to protect our members' ability to provide safe, reliable and affordable electricity to the more than 1.8 million consumers currently served by Minnesota electric cooperatives.
- Safety and loss control training and support – MREA's safety and loss control team visits all the co-ops in the state to help train and support a culture of safety at each MREA member cooperative.
- Education – As detailed in this publication, we offer over 70 training and workshop events each year, to build the expertise and knowledge of the cooperative community.

We embody the sixth cooperative principle, "Cooperation Among Cooperatives," in pursuit of our mission of providing our members collaborative leadership and expertise. Visit www.mrea.org.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE AN MREA EDUCATION PROGRAM MEMBER?

The MREA education program membership dues are based on the number of members served by the co-op, which correlates to the number of employees needed to serve that size membership. Required for MREA's distribution co-op members, the pre-paid education dues allow MREA to plan and budget for a minimum amount of annual training opportunities. We strive to keep education dues affordable for MREA members. MREA education program members do receive a reduced registration fee of \$40-\$60 on a typical one-day workshop. However, the average savings of the registration fees are not intended as a return on investment to the co-op for their education dues.

CAN NON-MEMBERS REGISTER FOR MREA EVENTS?

The majority of training and events offered through MREA are purely fee-based, meaning budgets for each event are dependent solely upon the revenue from the attendance. For example, conferences and workshops coordinated through MREA's safety and loss control department have a single price to attend one of these events.

However, to ensure the membership has access to the training it needs, workshops and conferences coordinated for directors and employees through MREA's education department depend on a 'pre-paid education dues program' to support approximately nine percent of the department's budget. The lower listed price is the education member price and the higher listed price is the non-education member price.

HOW IS MREA GOVERNED?

MREA exists for its members; to provide service, unity and leadership, and respond to member feedback and needs. In line with the second cooperative principle, "Democratic Member Control," MREA is governed by our members. Across the state, MREA member co-ops are divided into seven districts. A 14-member board of directors, two from each district, governs the association. These directors represent your electric co-op's interests on the MREA board.

MREA EDUCATION PROGRAM DUES SCHEDULE

| Number of members | 2026 dues |
|-------------------|------------|
| 0 - 3,000 | \$ 962.83 |
| 3,001 - 5,000 | \$1,403.13 |
| 5,001 - 8,000 | \$1,885.87 |
| 8,001 - 15,000 | \$2,365.96 |
| 15,001 - 24,999 | \$2,808.91 |
| 25,000 + | \$3,289.00 |
| G&Ts | \$4,207.74 |

NRECA CREDENTIALLED COOPERATIVE DIRECTOR CERTIFICATE (CCD) CCD FAST TRACK TRAINING

| | |
|-----------------|--|
| Nov. 18, 8-3 pm | 2600 Director duties and liabilities |
| Nov. 19, 8-3 pm | 2610 Understanding the electric business |
| Nov. 20, 8-3 pm | 2620 Board operations and process |
| Dec. 2, 8-3 pm | 2630 Strategic planning |
| Dec. 3, 8-3 pm | 2640 Financial decision making |

2600 DIRECTOR DUTIES AND LIABILITIES NOV. 18

Boards are responsible for directing the affairs of the corporation. This course discusses and explains the duties of loyalty, obedience, and due care, and the need for directors to acquire the minimum knowledge and skills necessary to fulfill their responsibilities within the cooperative context.

KEY TOPICS

- An overview of today's multi-billion dollar electric utility business
- The concepts and values that govern cooperatively owned businesses and related types of organizations
- Legal and regulatory concepts affecting public utilities
- Key legal documents such as articles of incorporation and bylaws
- The role of management and guidelines for maintaining an effective relationship with the CEO

2610 UNDERSTANDING THE ELECTRIC BUSINESS NOV. 19

This course is designed to provide the electric distribution director with an understanding of the operational challenges electric cooperatives face. The course also presents a set of tools to facilitate due diligence in boardroom decision making on these issues.

KEY TOPICS

- The policy and planning decisions boards make with regard to utility operations.
- Developing a culture of safety at your cooperative.
- How boards authorize resources consistent with the strategic plan, long-range financial.
- The board's role in the delivery of electricity includes how board provide direction

2620 BOARD OPERATIONS AND PROCESS NOV. 20

The board of directors is responsible for managing the affairs of the corporation. In fulfilling its duties, the board typically can only take official action via majority vote in a duly convened meeting. This course focuses on the legal requirements for holding board meetings and also on the human factors and group processes that make such meetings productive and effective.

KEY TOPICS

- Identifying the individuals and groups with whom the board must maintain effective working relationships
- Understanding, working with, and responding to members
- How public officials and opinion leaders impact the cooperative and the board's role in building and maintaining effective relationships
- Lessons and guidelines regarding key internal relationships: with the board chair, with the attorney and within the cooperative.

2630 STRATEGIC PLANNING DEC. 2

Boards have ultimate responsibility for ensuring and evaluating the long-term health of the organization. They help fulfill this duty through strategic thinking, identifying goals through strategic planning and authorizing the appropriate allocation of resources through the adoption of financial policies, budget review and approval and monitoring management's progress toward strategic goals. This course teaches directors how to participate effectively in strategic thinking and planning processes.

KEY TOPICS

- Understanding the difference between strategic thinking and strategic planning
- Analyzing your cooperative's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats
- Recognizing the board's oversight responsibility
- Using the strategic plan in the annual evaluation of the co-op's accomplishment and as the foundation of the CEO's performance appraisal the cooperative.

2640 FINANCIAL DECISION MAKING DEC. 3

This course is designed to help directors assess their cooperative's financial position via financial statements used in financial reporting and planning, as well as key ratios developed from these financial statements. Participants will also recognize how board decisions impact their co-op's financial position.

KEY TOPICS

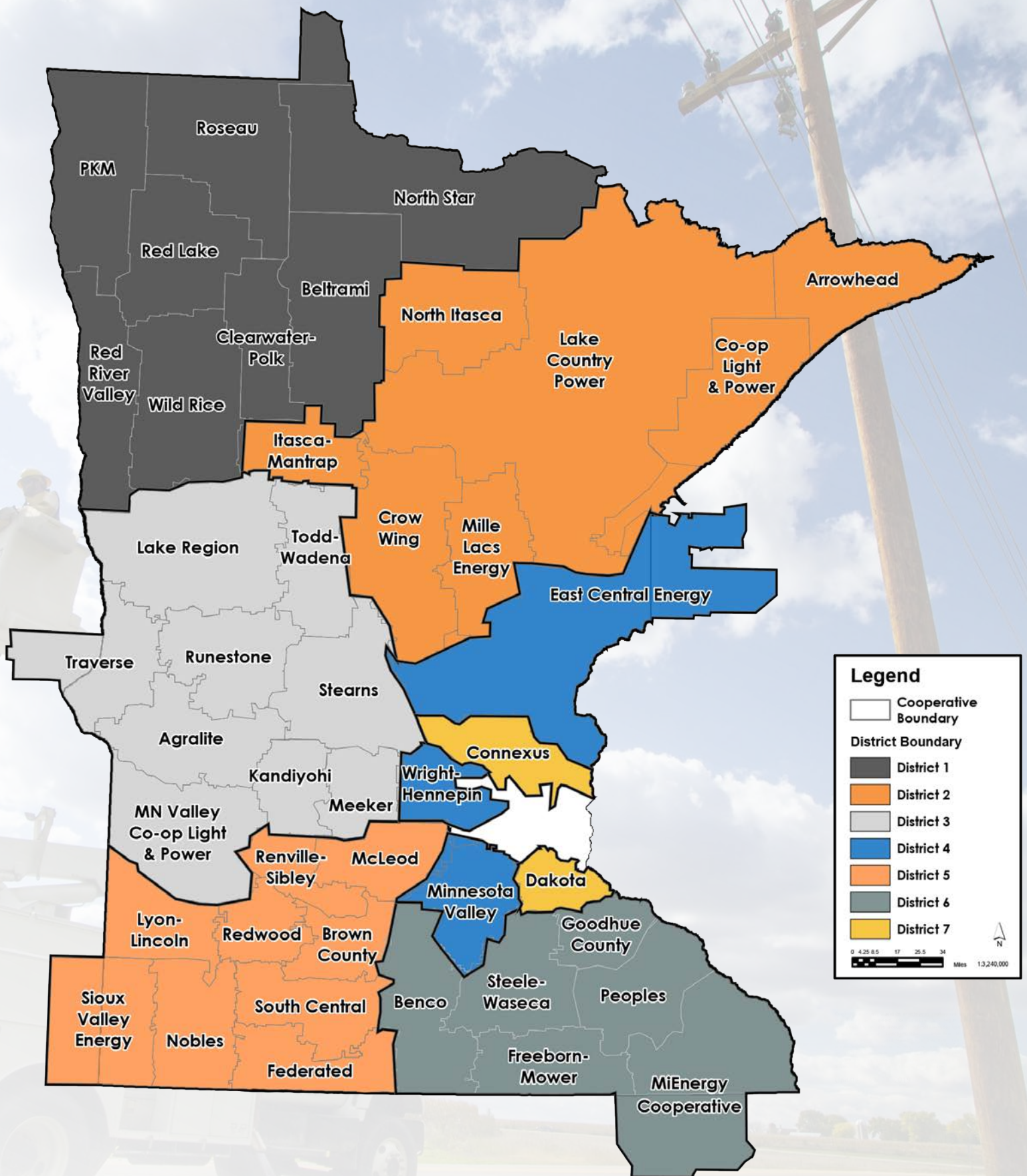
- Identifying the key financial decisions boards make
- Recognizing the uniqueness of the cooperative business model and a typical cooperative's financial attributes
- Recognizing three financial documents and related key financial ratios
- Explaining how board decisions impact the financial position and financial statements
- Understanding the difference between reporting a cooperative's financial results and understanding a cooperative's financial position
- Describing the audit function

Extraordinary board governance requires a strong commitment to learning. The fundamental responsibility is to be engaged, informed and faithful fiduciaries and gatekeepers, protecting the long-term interests of members (stockholders) and other important constituencies, including regulators, employees, customers and the public. The duties of a director include obedience, diligence and loyalty; summed up as director "fiduciary duties."

The Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) certificate program provides electric cooperative directors with the foundation of knowledge needed to effectively provide leadership. The CCD certificate is awarded upon completion of all five courses in the curriculum, including a learning assessment for each. The CCD Fast Track allows directors to earn the certificate over the course of a couple weeks.

All courses \$673/each and held at the MREA office in Maple Grove.

Registrations are taken on a first-come, first-served basis. MREA hosts CCD Fast Track in even years. The next offering will be in late 2028. Visit www.cooperative.com for other available nationwide dates and locations.





HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH



LEADERSHIP



MOTIVATION



IDEAS



TRAINING



POTENTIAL



TEAMWORK



GOAL



SUCCESS

LEADERSHIP TRAINING

MREA LEADERSHIP ESSENTIALS (9A)

The new Leadership Essentials program is designed for current and future leaders in your organization who have not attended a previous leadership development series through MREA. The program is based on a practical Competency-Based Leadership Development Model and Assessment, focused on building self-leadership and exploring team leadership skills and behaviors. The training also incorporates CliftonStrengths® principles that help participants identify and utilize their personal strengths to achieve success. The program takes a hybrid learning approach – starting and ending with in-person, face-to-face sessions to build connections across organizations, as well as

monthly live, interactive, virtual sessions, cutting down the need for extensive time and travel commitments.

Applicants must commit to the entire 27 hours of instruction, scheduled over an 8-month period. Classes must be taken in sequential order as listed. Homework, assigned prior to and throughout the program, will maximize the value of the class instruction.

Program price: \$2,900

UNIT 1: BUILDING SELF LEADERSHIP

| | |
|--|---|
| Day 1: April 22, 1-4 pm Day 2: April 23, 8-11 am In Person | LEADERSHIP OVERVIEW What is leadership? What is leadership development? What role does LD play in an organization? The CliftonStrengths® assessment would be completed by all participants prior to the next session. CRITICAL THINKING Explore the capacity for objective analysis and thoughtful evaluation of issues and information. |
| May 21, 8-11 am Virtual - Live | WORKPLACE IMPACT Understand one's work style and know how to integrate with others' styles and approaches; explore how to harmonize effort to achieve the desired results. |
| June 4, 8-11 am Virtual - Live | EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE Examine awareness of and ability to control emotions; discuss how to appropriately express emotion and ways to manage relationships thoughtfully and empathetically. |

UNIT 2: EXPLORING TEAM LEADERSHIP

| | |
|--|--|
| June 18, 8-11 am Virtual - Live | FLEXIBILITY AND RESILIENCE Grow willingness to compromise, adjust to change, deal effectively with pressure and remain optimistic and committed to successful outcomes. |
| July 9, 8-11pm Virtual - Live | MASTERING YOUR PROFESSIONALISM Recognize the importance of positive attitude, good judgment and appropriate workplace behavior. |
| August 12, 8-11 am Virtual - Live | LEADER/FOLLOWER ORIENTATION Value and support followers and work to strengthen mutual trust and commitment to each other and organizational goals. |
| September 10, 8-11 am Virtual - Live | EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION PART I: Basic Communication Skills Able to speak and write clearly, concisely and convincingly in a manner appropriate for the audience, to listen effectively and to clarify information as needed. |
| Day 1: October 8, 9:30-12:30 pm Day 2: October 8, 1-2 pm In Person | EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION PART II: Crucial Conversations Able to handle difficult conversations and communicate effectively across differing life experiences and perspectives. DISCUSSION AND FINAL ASSESSMENT |

DANA HAAGENSON

Dana spent over a decade in the software industry, serving in individual contributor and leadership roles from product development to product management/strategy to human resources. As a professor at M State, she teaches students ranging in age from Gen Z to baby boomer in the areas of human resources and accounting. She also develops and delivers customized leadership and team and personal development sessions for organizations across various industries. As a Gallup Certified Strengths Coach, Dana has coached over 1,000 individuals and teams in discovering and harnessing the power of their individual and collective strengths to achieve both personal and professional strength. She earned an Accounting degree from Minnesota State University Moorhead and is a CPA and a Certified Professional in Human Resources.



CONTACT OR QUESTIONS?

DANA HAAGENSON

dana.haagenSON@minnesota.edu

VICKIE SHOUTZ

vickie.shoutz@ridgewater.edu

AMY HOCHGRABER

amy.hochgraber@minnesota.edu

REBEKAH KENT

rebekah.kent@clcmn.edu

AMANDA MEREDITH

amanda@mrea.org

► In Person ► Virtual



HELD IN CONJUNCTION WITH



LEADERSHIP



MOTIVATION



IDEAS



TRAINING



POTENTIAL



TEAMWORK



GOAL



SUCCESS

MREA LEADING FOR ORGANIZATIONAL SUCCESS (9B)

The newly developed Leading for Organizational Success program is designed for leaders who have completed a previous leadership development program through MREA (either the former AchieveForum series or the new Leadership Essentials series.) The program is based on a practical Competency-Based Leadership Development Model and Assessment, focused on skills and behaviors that strengthen leadership at team and organizational levels. The training also incorporates CliftonStrengths® principles that help participants identify and utilize their personal strengths to achieve leadership success. The program takes a hybrid learning approach

– starting and ending with in-person, face-to-face sessions to build connections across organizations, as well as monthly live, interactive, virtual sessions, cutting down the need for extensive time and travel commitments.

Applicants must commit to the entire series, as listed below, over an 8-month period. Classes must be taken in sequential order as listed. Homework, assigned prior to and throughout the program, will maximize the value of the class instruction.

Program price: \$2,900

UNIT 3: STRENGTHENING TEAM LEADERSHIP

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>Day 1: April 22, 1-4 pm Day 2: April 23, 8-11 am In Person</p> | <p>LEADERSHIP OVERVIEW What is leadership? What is leadership development? What role does LD play in an organization? The CliftonStrengths® assessment would be completed by all participants prior to the next session.</p> <p>MANAGING CONFLICT Capable of managing and resolving challenging circumstances or disagreements in a constructive manner and prevent counter-productive confrontations.</p> |
| <p>May 21, 8-11 am Virtual - Live</p> | <p>DEVELOPING OTHERS PART I Able to coach others to high performance by effectively delegating responsibility, offering ongoing feedback and providing learning opportunities.</p> |
| <p>June 11, 8-11 am Virtual - Live</p> | <p>DEVELOPING OTHERS PART II Able to coach others to high performance by effectively delegating responsibility, offering ongoing feedback and providing learning opportunities.</p> |
| <p>June 25, 8-11 am Virtual - Live</p> | <p>BUILDING EFFECTIVE & INCLUSIVE TEAMS PART I Understand ways to inspire and foster team commitment, cooperation and coordination through increasing trust, facilitating conflict resolution and motivating team members to accomplish goals.</p> |
| <p>July 16, 8-11 am Virtual - Live</p> | <p>BUILDING EFFECTIVE & INCLUSIVE TEAMS PART II Understand ways to inspire and foster team commitment, cooperation and coordination through increasing trust, facilitating conflict resolution and motivating team members to accomplish goals.</p> |

UNIT 4: FORTIFYING ORGANIZATIONAL LEADERSHIP

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>August 13, 8-11 am Virtual - Live</p> | <p>ESTABLISHING VALUES AND VISION Able to take a long-term view, build a shared vision with others and influence the translation of vision into action.</p> |
| <p>September 10, 8-11 am Virtual - Live</p> | <p>STRATEGIC THINKING Formulates objectives and implements plans consistent with the long-term interests of the organization, capitalizing on opportunities and successfully managing risks.</p> |
| <p>September 24, 8-11 am Virtual - Live</p> | <p>INNOVATION AND CHANGE Capable of recognizing opportunities, encouraging new ideas and innovations, and developing or improving products or services in response to change.</p> |
| <p>Day 1: October 8, 9:30-12:30 pm Day 2: October 8, 1-2 pm In Person</p> | <p>INFLUENCING AND NEGOTIATING Able to effectively persuade others, build consensus and gain cooperation to accomplish mutual goals.</p> <p>DISCUSSION AND FINAL ASSESSMENT</p> |

“The growth
& development
of people
is the
highest calling
of leadership.”

— Harvey S. Firestone



2026 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

| DATE | EVENT | AUDIENCE | LOCATION | MEMBER PRICING |
|----------------------|---|--|--|------------------------|
| Jan. 7-8 | Member services & communications winter conference & trade show | Member services managers, marketing/communications and energy management staff | Embassy Suites by Hilton 7901 34th Ave. S., Bloomington | \$473 |
| Jan. 9 | District 1 meeting | Directors, CEOs and employees | Beltrami Electric Cooperative 4111 Technology Dr. NW, Bemidji | \$85 |
| Jan. 13-15 | BLC Summit (details on p. 2) 947.1 Providing feedback to your CEO 976.1 Power supply decision making 928.1 AI and the electric cooperative | Directors | Holiday Inn Arbor Lakes 1180 Fountains Way, Maple Grove | \$673 each |
| Jan. 14-16 | Lineworkers conference & trade show | Lineworkers | Holiday Inn & Suites 75 37th Ave. S., St. Cloud | \$550 |
| Jan. 26-28 | Winter DC Legislative Visit | Directors, CEOs | Washington, DC | \$0 |
| Jan. 28-30 | Line superintendents winter conference & trade show | Line superintendents | Holiday Inn & Suites 75 37 th Ave. S., St. Cloud | \$550 |
| Feb. 3-4 Feb. 4-6 | MREA/MMUA meter school pre-conference & conference | All levels of personnel who install and wire meters | MMUA Training Center 1004 Michigan Rd., Marshall | TBD |
| Feb. 5 | Vegetation management roundtable | Forestry service personnel and co-op employees responsible for vegetation management | Border States 9450 Zachary Ln. N. #100, Maple Grove | \$241 |
| Feb. 25-27 | Foreman conference & trade show | Lineworkers, operations, admin, current and future mid-level cooperative leaders | Holiday Inn & Suites 75 37 th Ave. S., St. Cloud | \$550 |
| Mar. 10-12 | MREA/MMUA substation school | Substation technicians and lineworkers | TBD | TBD |
| Mar. 16 | Annual meeting pre-conference: NRECA BLC: 926.1 Navigating in the era of uncertainty (details on p. 2) | Directors | InterContinental Hotel 11 E. Kellogg Blvd., St. Paul | \$723 |
| Mar. 17-18 | MREA annual meeting & trade show | CEOs, directors, co-op staff | InterContinental Hotel 11 E. Kellogg Blvd., St. Paul | \$696 |
| Mar. 19 | RESAP observer training - south | Line superintendents, operation managers, fleet, safety, anyone else willing to be an observer for RESAP | McLeod Cooperative Power Assn. 3515 11th St. E., Glenco | \$0 |
| Mar. 24-25 | Work order procedures | Co-op employees at all levels | MREA, 11640 73rd Ave. N. Maple Grove | \$673 |
| Mar. 26 | RESAP observer training - north | Line superintendents, operation managers, fleet, safety, anyone else willing to be an observer for RESAP | Wild Rice Electric Co-op Inc. 502 N. Main St., Mahanomen | \$0 |
| Apr. 1-2 | CEOs spring conference | CEOs | Park Event Center 500 Division Street, Waite Park | \$473 |
| Apr.-Oct. | MREA leadership essentials, Cohort 9A (details on p. 6) | Non-supervisors or supervisors who have not attended previous leadership development series through MREA | MREA, 11640 73rd Ave. N. Maple Grove | \$2,900 program fee |
| Apr.-Oct. | Leading for organizational success Cohort 9B (details on p. 7) | Supervisors who have attended previous leadership development series through MREA | MREA, 11640 73rd Ave. N. Maple Grove | \$2,900 program fee |
| Apr. 15-17 | Hot line school - Wadena | Lineworkers, operations personnel | MN State Community & Technical College, 13497 CR 101, Wadena | \$550 |
| Apr. 15 | FM pre-conference HR Network | HR/office managers and benefit administrators | Embassy Suites by Hilton 7901 34th Ave. S., Bloomington | \$344 |
| Apr. 16-17 | Finance managers spring conference | HR/office managers, accountants and benefit administrators | Embassy Suites by Hilton 7901 34th Ave. S., Bloomington | \$473 |
| Apr. 26-29 | NRECA legislative conference | CEOs, board directors, legislative personnel | Washington, D.C. | |
| Apr. 29- May 1 | Hot line school - Jackson | Lineworkers, operations personnel | MN West Community & Tech College 401 West St., Jackson | \$550 |
| May 5-8 | MREA/MMUA underground school | Lineworkers of all levels | MMUA Training Center 1004 Michigan Rd., Marshall | TBD |

2026 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

| DATE | EVENT | AUDIENCE | LOCATION | MEMBER PRICING |
|-----------------------|--|--|--|--------------------------------------|
| May 6 | Executive assistant summit | Executive administrative assistants | MREA, 11640 73rd Ave. N. Maple Grove | \$286 |
| May 6-7 | Office support professionals conference | Administrative assistants, receptionists, customer service representatives, accounting clerks, operations assistants | MREA, 11640 73rd Ave. N. Maple Grove | \$419 |
| May 20-21 | Designated Employee Representative (DER) and Reasonable Suspicion Training | Human resources, safety directors, managers and supervisors | MREA, 11640 73rd Ave. N. Maple Grove | \$144 DER \$124 RS \$268 Both |
| June 3-5 | Member services & communications summer conference | Member services managers, marketing/communications and energy management staff | Chase on the Lake 502 Cleveland Blvd. W., Walker | \$473 |
| June 4 | IT users group | Information technology managers, those with similar responsibilities | MREA, 11640 73rd Ave. N. Maple Grove | \$236 |
| June 10-11 | Collections & disconnects conference | Utility employees with credit and collection responsibilities, member service representatives | MREA, 11640 73rd Ave. N. Maple Grove | \$419 |
| June 15-20 | MREA/NRECA Youth Tour | High school juniors and seniors of member co-ops | Washington, D.C. | |
| July 9 | District 3 meeting | Directors, CEOs and employees | TBD | \$85 |
| July 10 | District 2 meeting | Directors, CEOs and employees | Lake Country Power 26039 Bear Ridge Drive, Cohasset | \$85 |
| July 14 | District 6 meeting | Directors, CEOs and employees | BENCO Electric Cooperative 20946 549th Ave, Mankato | \$85 |
| July 15 | District 5 meeting | Directors, CEOs and employees | Sleepy Eye Convention Center 110 12th Ave. NE, Sleepy Eye | \$85 |
| July 24 | 21st annual MREA burn center golf benefit | Open to all | Pebble Creek Golf Club 14000 Clubhouse Lane, Becker | \$700 team |
| Aug. 3-4 | EIS pre-conference New director orientation | New directors | DoubleTree Hotel 7800 Normandale Blvd., Bloomington | \$571 |
| Aug. 4 | EIS pre-conference Board chair roundtable | New directors | DoubleTree Hotel 7800 Normandale Blvd., Bloomington | \$365 |
| Aug. 4 | EIS pre-conference NRECA BLC 925.1 Co-op bylaws: Guiding principles & current issues (details on p. 2) | Directors | DoubleTree Hotel 7800 Normandale Blvd., Bloomington | \$723 |
| Aug. 5-6 | Energy Issues Summit & trade show | Directors, CEOs and employees | DoubleTree Hotel 7800 Normandale Blvd., Bloomington | \$696 both days |
| Aug. 19-21 | Finance managers summer conference | HR/office managers and benefit administrators from MN and WI | Inn on Lake Superior 350 Canal Park Drive, Duluth | \$473 |
| Sept. 2-4 | Line superintendents fall conference & trade show | Line superintendents | Breezy Point Resort 9252 Breezy Point Rd., Breezy Point | \$550 |
| Sept. 8 Sept. 8-11 | MN Public Power rodeo & MREA/MMUA overhead school | Lineworkers at all levels, line superintendents | MMUA Training Center 1004 Michigan Rd., Marshall | TBD TBD |
| Sept. 16-18 | CEOs fall conference & networking events | CEOs | Sugar Lake Lodge 37584 Otis Ln., Cohasset | \$473 |
| Sept. 28-30 | Fall DC legislative visit | Directors and CEOs | Washington, D.C. | \$0 |
| Sept. 23-25 | Engineers and operations conference & trade show | Engineers, operation personnel | Garden Event Center 425 S. Lake Ave., Duluth | \$473 |
| Oct. 7-8 | NRECA retirement planning seminar | Employees within 5 years of retirement | MREA, 11640 73rd Ave. N. Maple Grove | \$330 member \$230 spouse & admin |
| Nov. 18-20 | NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) Fast Track: (details on p. 4) 2600 Director duties and liabilities 2610 Understanding the electric business 2620 Board operations & process | Co-op directors | MREA, 11640 73rd Ave. N. Maple Grove | \$673 per class |
| Dec. 2-3 | NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) Fast Track: (details on p. 4) 2630 Strategic planning 2640 Financial decision making | Co-op directors | MREA, 11640 73rd Ave. N. Maple Grove | \$673 per class |

2026 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

| DATE | EVENT | AUDIENCE | LOCATION | MEMBER PRICING |
|------------|--|---|---|----------------|
| Dec. 2-4 | Safety and loss control conference | Line superintendents, safety committee members, operation managers, crew leaders/lead lineworkers, any employee | MREA, 11640 73rd Ave. N. Maple Grove | \$550 |
| Dec. 14-17 | MREA transformer school & pre-conference | Apprentice lineworkers, journey lineworkers, crew leads | MMUA Training Center 1004 Michigan Road, Marshall | TBD |

MREA CANCELLATION/SUBSTITUTION POLICY FOR IN-PERSON & ONLINE EVENTS

Cancellations up to 4 business days prior to start of program may:

- Immediately transfer their registration to another employee
- Receive a refund, less a \$50 cancellation fee

Cancellations less than 4 business days prior to start of program may:

- Immediately transfer their registration to another employee
- Receive a 50% refund of the registration fee

Cancellations not made prior to the first day of the program will be charged the full registration fee. A substitute may be sent to the first day of the meeting in place of the original attendee. Please note, this applies to in-person and online events. Member technical issues do not warrant a refund.

MREA will notify attendees if an event is cancelled due to inclement weather. In the event MREA does cancel an event due to weather, refunds will be sent for pre-paid attendees. If an attendee cancels due to weather and MREA continues to hold the event, the above cancellation policy will apply.

MREA EVENT CODE OF CONDUCT

MREA is committed to providing a safe, productive and welcoming environment for all participants and staff in MREA meetings, conferences, training programs, and events both online and in-person. All event participants including but not limited to attendees, speakers, exhibitors, staff, students, guests and vendors, are expected to abide by this MREA event code of conduct, and this code applies to all spaces and situations in which MREA meeting-related activities are being conducted, including virtual meetings and those sponsored by organizations other than MREA but held in conjunction with MREA events. Participation constitutes agreement to comply with the code of conduct as a condition of attendance. Our full event code of conduct can be found at <https://minnesotaruralelectricassociationmrea.growthzoneapp.com/ap/CloudFile/Download/pMAj81bp>.

VENDOR MEMBER OPPORTUNITIES

2026 EVENTS, TRADE SHOWS, RECEPTIONS, GOLF OUTINGS & SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

| DATE | TRADE SHOW / EVENT | LOCATION |
|-------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| Jan. 7-8 | Member services winter conference (sponsorship only) | Embassy Suites by Hilton, Bloomington |
| Jan. 15 | Lineworker trade show | Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites, St. Cloud |
| Jan. 29 | Line superintendents winter trade show | Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites, St. Cloud |
| Feb. 26 | Foreman conference trade show | Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites, St. Cloud |
| Mar. 17 | MREA annual meeting, reception and trade show | InterContinental Hotel, St. Paul |
| Apr. 1 | CEO spring conference reception & dinner Platinum and gold vendors members only | Park Event Center, Waite Park |
| Apr. 15-17 | Finance managers spring conference (sponsorship only) | Embassy Suites by Hilton, Bloomington |
| May 6-7 | Office support professionals conference (sponsorship only) | MREA, Maple Grove |
| June 3-5 | Member services conference (vendor networking) | Chase on the Lake, Walker |
| June 15-20 | NRECA/MREA youth tour (sponsorship only) | Washington, D.C. |
| July 24 | MREA burn center golf benefit | Pebble Creek Golf Club, Becker |
| Aug. 5 | MREA Energy Issues Summit & reception | DoubleTree, Bloomington |
| Aug. 19-21 | Finance managers summer conference (vendor networking) | Inn on Lake Superior, Duluth |
| Sept. 2-3 | Line superintendent fall outdoor trade & equipment show, networking | Breezy Point Resort, Breezy Point |
| Sept. 16-17 | CEO fall conference, golf, reception and networking | Sugar Lake Lodge, Cohasset |
| Sept. 24 | Engineers and operations conference & trade show | Garden Event Center, Duluth |
| Dec. 3 | Safety and loss control conference Sponsors are invited to attend/display all day Thursday. | MREA, Maple Grove |

VENDOR REGISTRATION GUIDELINES

Registrations made less than 7 business days prior to event will incur a \$25 late fee.

Cancellations less than 7 business days prior to event will be charged a \$50 cancellation fee.

Cancellations up to 4 business days prior to start of program may

a. Immediately transfer their registration to another employee

b. Receive a refund, less a \$45 cancellation fee

Cancellations less than 4 business days prior to start of program may:

a. Immediately transfer their registration to another employee

b. No refunds will be issued.

AS A VENDOR MEMBER, THERE ARE ADDITIONAL SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

MREA has several sponsorship opportunities in 2026. Your company or cooperative will stand out above the crowd. Sponsors will be featured in event agendas, on sponsorship signs and your branded logo will be projected on large screens before an audience of your members and/or prospective customers. There are sponsorship opportunities at large events, the lineworker conference, annual meeting, the annual burn center benefit golf tournament and Energy Issues Summit. Smaller targeted opportunities include the IT user group, hotline schools, office support professionals conference and others.

Members can renew and sign up for sponsorships online. If you have questions or are a first-time sponsor, please contact Karen Miller at karen@mrea.org.





Minnesota Rural Electric Association



www.mrea.org | 763.424.1020