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## Monthly Newsletter

National Rural Economic Developers Association

# NREDA

### President's Message

I recently had the privilege of attending the [National Association of Development Organizations \(NADO\) Washington, D.C. Policy Conference](#) alongside the Southeast Nebraska Economic Development District. As we prepare for future advocacy opportunities, and consistently put you, our members at the heart of our actions, I wanted to share proven strategies for ensuring your message resonates—locally and nationally.



**LISA HURLEY**  
PRESIDENT

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### Professional Development

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Join us for a jam-packed webinar session on **April 24**, where **Representative Louis Riggs**, Missouri, will outline practical, tactical and strategic steps you can learn and apply to punch above your weight in your State Capitol and in Washington, D.C.

[Register Now](#)


**Center  
on Rural  
Innovation**

## Resource Partner

The Center on Rural Innovation (CORI), empowers rural America by connecting communities to the tech economy. Join the Center on **May 7 at 1 p.m. ET/2 p.m. CT** for a free webinar. Drawing from their experience with over 75 rural communities, CORI will walk through their data-driven assessment process and highlight the importance of assessments in paving the way for strategic planning and sustainable economic growth.

[Register Today](#)


## Member Spotlight

Shalimar Mazetis with Advance Southwest Iowa Corporation shares what she loves about NREDA.

Hint: "... everything NREDA was doing were things in my size of town ... ". Shalimar is an active board member and her organization partners with Western Iowa Development Association, the Council Bluffs

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for area economic development needs.

[Watch Now](#)

## Sponsor Spotlight

[Dairyland Power Cooperative](#), a Touchstone Energy Cooperative, headquartered in La Crosse, Wisconsin, is a generation and transmission (G&T) cooperative serving a four-state region. The company recently joined the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI) in the Open Power AI Consortium to accelerate AI adoption in the power sector.

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## NREDA Annual Conference

**Save the Date** and join us in **Nashville, Tennessee November 5 - 7, 2025!**

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collaboration, innovation, and actionable strategies to address the unique challenges and opportunities of rural economic development.

The committee is deep in planning engaging keynote sessions, expert-led panels, and interactive workshops. Explore critical topics such as workforce development, infrastructure investment, entrepreneurship support, and more.

[Learn More](#)

## White Papers

NREDA remains committed to advancing efforts that tackle both the challenges and opportunities in economic development. Not-for-profit utilities, including those focused on grid reliability, broadband, and water/wastewater modernization, play a key role in fostering rural economic growth. Sustained investment in these essential services is critical to supporting businesses, schools, hospitals, and public institutions, ultimately contributing to the prosperity of rural America.

As a contingent of association representatives prepare to head to Washington, D.C. in May, read our available white papers and look for more updates to come, [read more](#)



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