



NREDA News Brief | March 2024

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President's Message



Wow, it's hard to believe that it is already Spring! We had a very mild winter in Iowa with only about a month of bitterly cold temperatures and snow, so winter seemed to fly by. I enjoyed the short winter but others in my house were disappointed with the lack of ice fishing, ice skating and sledding. Spring resembles reawakening, being inspired and starting fresh. I love to see the increased activity, people out and about and excitement in our communities this time of year; as well as our environment coming back to life with planting season, green grass and flowers blooming.

Speaking of Spring and new ideas, your NREDA board is ready to spring into action and grow the organization following our strategic planning session that was held last month. Carrie Barnes with Georgia EMC was a rock star for facilitating our group and keeping us on task. We can't thank her and the Georgia EMC group enough for dedicating the time to our organization. We will see the full plan in the next few weeks, but some of the items that were covered included: expanding and diversifying membership, exploring our brand, adding more tools for our membership, enhancing our mentorship program and broadening our alliance partnerships. Most of these goals will be assigned to the committees so, join a committee if you haven't done so to get involved in the future of NREDA.

Make sure to renew your membership if you haven't done so yet, you don't want to miss out on lots of exciting webinars and upcoming meetings. Of course, we hope you have the dates saved for NREDA's 2024 Annual Conference to be held November 13-15 in Omaha, NE. And, NREDA's Regional Workshop is being held April 30 and May 1 in Republic, MO. See more information in the newsletter and on the website. It looks to be an awesome event and agenda, so be sure to register by

the April 18th deadline! Remember to grow yourself by getting involved in NREDA. We are the only rural economic development organization committed to help you and your organization blossom through our learning opportunities and network.

Brittany Dickey, 2024 NREDA President

Redefining Rural Workshop

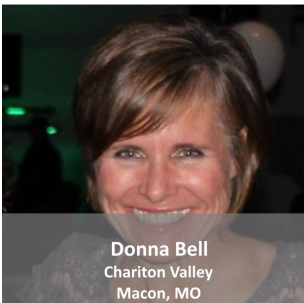
Register Today!

“Redefining Rural” April 30-May 1, 2024 Republic, Missouri

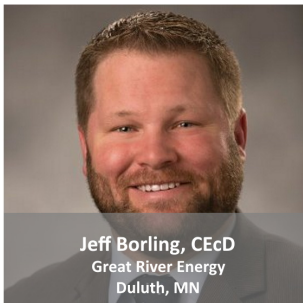
Registration is now open for “Redefining Rural”, a 2-day workshop, presented by the **National Rural Economic Developers Association (NREDA)**! This two-day workshop will focus on empowering rural communities with strategic preparedness to ensure that they keep pace with the dynamic nature of modern business.

[CLICK HERE](#) for more information and to register today! *(Please be sure to reserve your hotel room by **April 3rd** and register for the event by **April 18th!**)*

New Member Spotlight



Donna Bell
Chariton Valley
Macon, MO



Jeff Borling, CEcD
Great River Energy
Duluth, MN



Matt Brunner
Rushmore Electric Power Cooperative
Rapid City, SD



Dawson Brunswick
Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce
Columbus, NE



Not Pictured
Darrel Steven Carlyle
Wright County Economic Development
Carion, IA



Dr. Carolyn Chrisman
Chrisman Consulting
Kirksville, MO



Stephanie Cooper
Douglass Community Services, Inc.
Hannibal, MO



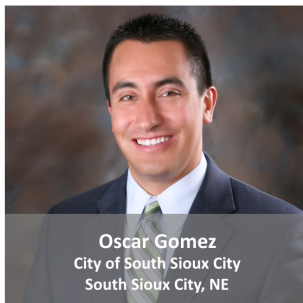
Dorian Dickinson
FundingHope LLC
Wheaton, IL



Daren Dowell
Chariton Valley
Macon, MO



James Flint
North Central Electric Cooperative
Tiffin, OH



Oscar Gomez
City of South Sioux City
South Sioux City, NE

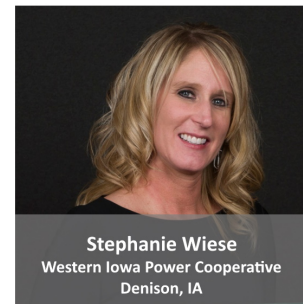
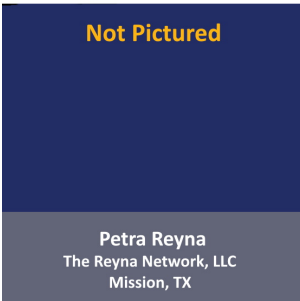
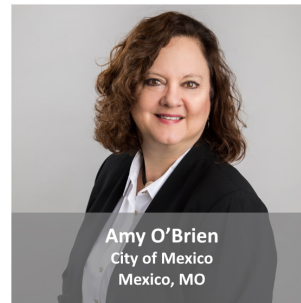
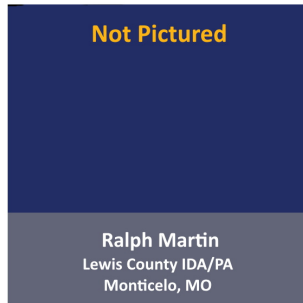
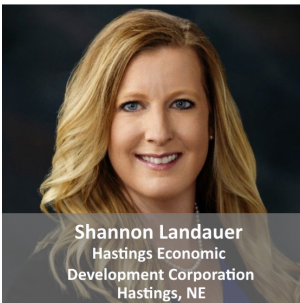
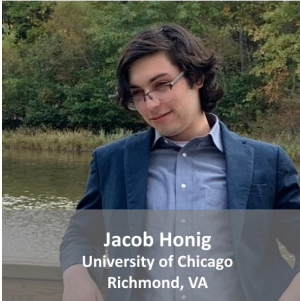


Sue Goulder
Tri-State Development
Canton, MO

Welcome New



Members!



Look for more information this summer!

Upcoming Webinars

NREDA Workforce Housing Webinar!

Wednesday, March 27, 2024

2:00-3:00 p.m. EDT

Join us for this informational webinar
Free for current (2024) NREDA members! (\$25 for non-members).

Workforce or 'market rate' housing is in short supply everywhere and businesses are struggling to find help. Housing is a major player in addressing these issues but finance and construction obstacles are a driving force in the struggles that communities face. Learn how to identify, analyze and implement strategies to solve these issues, as well as hear about unique strategies happening in Nebraska, Iowa and Missouri.

Presenters/Panelists:

- Steve Benne, Iowa Area Development Group
- Lisa Hurley, York County Development Corp.
- Derek Weber, Northeast Missouri Regional Planning Commission

[CLICK HERE](#) to register by March 26th!

Save the dates and look for more information to be released soon for our upcoming webinars! Webinars are FREE to current NREDA members so be sure to join/renew for the 2024 calendar year soon!

June 26, 2024 - 2:00 p.m. ET

ED Rural Issues

August 21, 2024 - 2:00 p.m. ET

Economic Development Essentials for New and Seasoned Professionals

October 2024 (date TBA)

Deciding Your Next Steps for Professional Growth & Development

Save the Date!

NREDA Annual Conference

November 13-15, 2024

Marriott Omaha Downtown Capitol District
Omaha, Nebraska



Look for more information this summer!

Call for Presentations

Call for Presentations for a Future Member Webinar!

We want to hear from you! NREDA encourages you to submit your proposed session topics/presentations to be considered for a future Member Webinar. The deadline for presentations for the 2024 Annual Conference has passed. Sessions should be educational and a benefit to NREDA members. In-person sessions that are interactive are always well-received, and webinar and in-person panels that offer various perspectives are desirable!

Please note:

- Proposals for webinars will be considered on an ongoing basis. Webinars will be hosted via NREDA's zoom software platform.
- Your submission will be shared with the Professional Development and/or Conference Committee, and you will be contacted if the topic is selected for further discussion.

Proposed Session Format for in-person conference sessions:

- Sessions may be between 45-90 minutes, depending on the specific format/content.
- Session timeline should allow for a brief Q&A period.

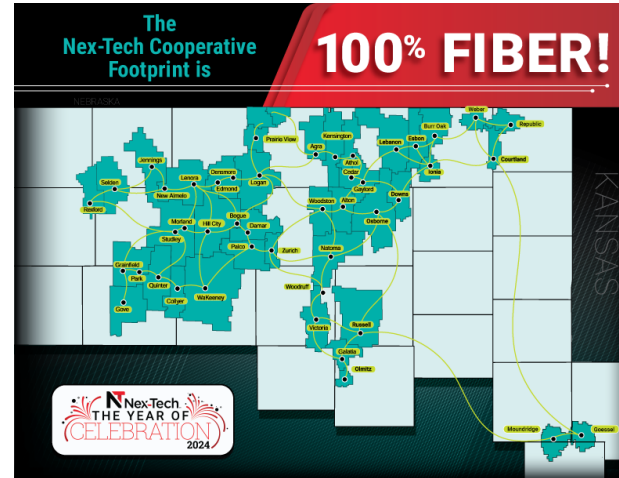
- Panels should not exceed 5 panelists.

[Submit Your Topics](#)

Nex-Tech

Why Nex-Tech Connected 100% of Cooperative Communities to 100% Fiber

We recently [connected all towns](#) within our cooperative footprint to fiber technology. Indeed, we have come a long way since 1996 when we deployed the first fiber-to-the-home (FTTH) network in [Hill City \(KS\)](#) becoming the first in the nation to do so. Today, we currently serve scores of communities with FTTH spread over 6,000 square miles – that's about half the size of the nation of Belgium!



For many years, we have worked intentionally on reaching this milestone. Our efforts were aided by funds we were awarded from amongst others, the Enhanced Alternative Connect America Cost Model ([Enhanced ACAM](#)). Today the project is complete and residents from Hill City to WaKeeney, Norton to Philipsburg, Quinter to Oberlin, Hoxie to Stockton, Russell to Moundridge and more across northwest Kansas can access the very best of high-speed broadband via fiber to the home.

[Read More...](#)

Job Postings

NREDA provides current members space to post a position on the NREDA website, plus inclusion in the NREDA News Brief, at **no charge**.

Director of Economic Development

Sherman County Community Development Corporation

[Click Here](#) for more Information



President

Brittany Dickey
Vice President, Business Development
Corn Belt Power Cooperative
Brittany.Dickey@cbpower.coop



1st Vice President

Chairperson - 2024 Annual Conference
Lisa Hurley
Executive Director
York County Development Corporation
lhurley@yorkdevco.com



2nd Vice President

Chairperson - Membership
Karla Organist
Senior Program Manager
University of Northern Iowa - Institute for Decision Making
karla.organist@uni.edu



Secretary-Treasurer

Kris Williams
Director of Energy Services
Ozarks Electric Cooperative Corp.
kwilliams@ozarksecc.com



Past President

David Cleveland
Managing Director, Business Development &
Governmental Affairs
Jackson EMC
dcleveland@jacksonemc.com

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#NREDA Don't forget when posting on social media to use the hashtag #NREDA when sharing your stories! This way we can spread it to all of our members!

News Brief Guidelines

NREDA would love to share your unique stories, industry trends, best practices, white papers, and - of course - your successes in our bi-monthly e-newsletter!

Guidelines:

- You must be a current NREDA member to submit an article.
- E-newsletter distribution dates are the end of the month – 2024 distribution months are January, March, May, July, September, and November.
- Please email your article to Tracey Hogan at tracey@assnoffices.com by the 15th of each e-newsletter month. Please include the subject line **NREDA Newsletter**

Article Submission

- Please submit your article in an editable format (Microsoft Word or text in the body of an email preferred).
- Feel free to include a photo with your article.
- Please send information, educational, and/or newsworthy items.
- Please no ads or sales/marketing articles.
- NREDA reserves the right to exclude submitted articles as deemed necessary by the leadership.



Contact Info:

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