

Connections

South Central Electric
 A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

ES&E
 South Central Electric Association
 A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

February 2026

2026 ANNUAL MEETING

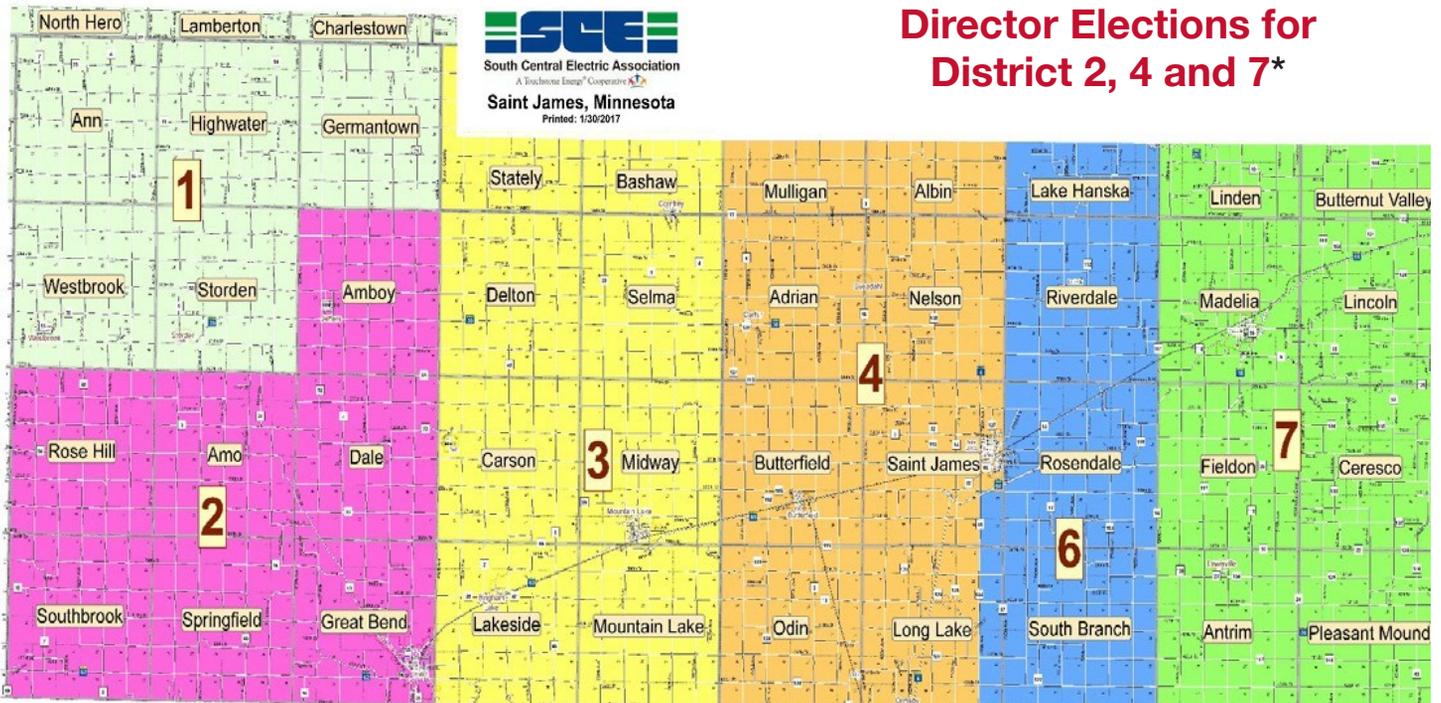
Tuesday, March 31, 2026

Windom Community Center
 1750 Cottonwood Lake Dr., Windom

Dinner **5:30pm**
 Official Meeting **6:15pm**

Join us for South Central Electric Association's annual meeting on Tuesday, March 31, 2026. Director elections will be held via mail-in ballot with results announced during the annual meeting. Members will receive ballots and official meeting notice in the mail the beginning of March.

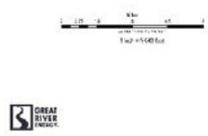
Door Prize & Prize Drawings for Meeting Attendees



Director Elections for District 2, 4 and 7*

District - Director

- DISTRICT 1 - STEVE SELL
- DISTRICT 2 - RON JORGENSON*
- DISTRICT 3 - MATT PETERS
- DISTRICT 4 - MIKE MIEST*
- DISTRICT 5 - MARK SANDBERG
- DISTRICT 6 - BRAD ASENDORF
- DISTRICT 7 - BILL KUNZ*





2026 REBATE PROGRAMS

The recipient must be a South Central Electric member. Any checks or credits will be made in the name or account of the member. The program will end when funds are exhausted; additional rebates may be added at a later date. The completed applications will be processed on a first come first served basis as they are received in our office. Rebate applications can be requested by calling the St. James office or available online at www.southcentralelectric.com.

REBATES:

Please see rebate applications for details.



Must be an Energy Star® appliance to qualify.

- Dehumidifier** **\$20** Credit applied to the energy bill
 - Air Source Heat Pumps (ducted)** **\$300**
 - HSPF rating over 9.5 or HSPF2 rating over 8.07 **\$500**
 - Ductless/Mini-Split Heat Pump**..... **\$350**
 - Ground Source Heat Pump**..... **\$300/ton** (*Limit 10 tons*)
 - Air Conditioner/Heat Pump Tune Up**..... **\$30**
 - LED Yard Light**..... **\$25/ea.** limit 3
 - Managed Electric Heat**..... **\$20/kW**
- Radio controlled, qualifies for a discount of **\$.031/kWh** on system usage.
 Stored or dual fuel heat. Heat pumps are not eligible for this program.

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL REBATES:

Rebates are available on a custom basis. Rebates will be based on kW reduction on retrofit projects. To be eligible for a rebate the project must have a minimum savings of 1kW. We do not have rebate programs for new construction. Call SCEA for information on these rebates.

SCEA WATER HEATER PROGRAM

SCEA's peak shave water heater program provides members with a Marathon water heater at a discounted price for participating in the load management program.

The cost for water heaters is **\$750**. This is a great value for members. SCEA pays the cost of the electrician to wire the water heater and radio control. The member would pay any costs incurred by a plumber.



Attention Students and Parents!

Sophomores and Juniors Win a FREE Trip to Washington D.C.

Area sophomores and juniors have an opportunity to win an all-expenses paid trip to Washington D.C. Students will travel with others from around Minnesota and the country as they visit the sites in and around our nation's capital. Over 1,500 delegates from electric cooperatives around the country visited Washington D.C. in 2025. The students visited with their congressional representatives, toured famous museums and made memories and friends that will last a lifetime.

Don't miss this opportunity to make lifetime memories.

1. To enter the contest the student must live within the South Central Electric service area or attend one of the following schools: Butterfield/Odin, Comfrey, Madelia, Martin County West, Mt. Lake Public or Christian, Red Rock Central, St. James, Truman, Windom Area or Westbrook.
2. Each contestant must submit a contest application form and an essay on the following topic: *"How do you and your family benefit from electricity?"*
3. Applications are due at our St. James office by February 23, 2026 and the applicant must complete a personal interview on March 4, 2026. Interview times are between 3:30pm and 5:00pm.



Prizes

1st All-expense paid trip to Washington D.C. June 15-20, 2026

(No substitute prize if unable to make the trip.)

2nd \$150 cash award and will serve as first alternate.

3rd \$100 cash award and will serve as second alternate.

Contest rules and application forms are available at our St. James office, on our website (www.southcentralelectric.com) or by calling 507-375-3164.

Learn more at the national Youth Tour website: youthtour.coop or check out the Minnesota Youth Tour Facebook page *Minnesota Rural Electric Association Washington D.C. Youth Tour*.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Seniors and College Students
(2) \$1,250 Scholarships Available
to SCEA Member Dependents

APPLICATION DEADLINE

FEBRUARY 13, 2026

South Central Electric is honored to partner with Basin Electric to award a \$1,250 scholarship to two dependents of South Central Electric members. The scholarship is available to high school seniors and college students enrolled full-time in an accredited two or four year college, university or vocational/technical school working on an undergraduate or master's degree. **These applicants are also eligible for scholarships through South Central Electric's Operation Round Up® program.**

The scholarship deadline is February 13, 2026. Applications can be obtained at our St. James office, on our website (www.southcentralelectric.com) or by calling 507-375-3164.



Operations Department Year-End Report

Luke Malmgren, Operations Manager



The Operations Department experienced a very busy and productive year. The year began with the retirement of Jeff Benson. Jeff left South Central Electric in a strong position, having helped guide the cooperative in the right direction, and his contributions are greatly appreciated.

On the Jeffers side, significant system improvements were completed. Crews replaced approximately 7½ miles of three-phase overhead power line with underground power line, running east from Westbrook. In addition, a substation was removed, along with a transmission power line that extended from Westbrook to Walnut Grove. Crews also replaced aging poles and repaired or replaced faulted underground lines to improve system reliability.

The St. James crew completed several major projects as well. They installed approximately three miles of three-phase underground line and ten miles of single-phase power lines. These installations helped strengthen service capacity and reliability in the area.

Both crews dedicated substantial time and effort to integrating the SMEC lines acquired during the takeover of Alliant Energy's system. In many areas, there were duplicate power lines on both sides of the road. Crews worked to transfer all members to a single line and remove the older, unnecessary line, improving efficiency, reducing maintenance costs, and enhancing overall system safety.

South Central Electric currently maintains approximately 1,280 miles of underground power lines and 854 miles of overhead power lines. Crews remain busy throughout the year performing regular maintenance on poles, cabinets, and other system components to ensure reliable and consistent electric service for our members.

Safety remained a top priority throughout the year. We experienced a safe year with only minor injuries, a direct result of our employees' professionalism, attention to detail, and commitment to monthly safety meetings. Their focus on safety helped ensure work was completed efficiently while protecting both employees and members.



Official monthly newsletter

South Central Electric

71176 Tiell Dr., PO Box 150
St. James, MN 56081-0150
(507) 375-3164

Outages: (888) 805-7232

E-mail address:

sce@southcentralelectric.com

Web:

www.southcentralelectric.com

Office hours:

7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Jim Haler, General Manager

Board of Directors

President, Ron Jorgenson

Vice President, Michael Miest

Secretary, Brad Asendorf

Treasurer, Matt Peters

Mark Sandberg, Director

Steve Sell, Director

Bill Kunz, Director

The Board meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at South Central Electric's building at 71176 Tiell Dr., St. James, MN.

Please see our website for a summary of the board meetings.

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, found online at http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, or at any USDA office, or call (866) 632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter to us by mail at U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410, by fax (202) 690-7442 or email at program.intake@usda.gov.

ONLINE PAYMENT & BILLING WITH SMARTHUB



Pay your bills on-line with South Central Electric's on-line bill payment system, SmartHub. Download the SmartHub app for your mobile device or tablet from the APP Store or Google Play.

To get started visit our web site southcentralelectric.com and click on the SmartHub logo. Once you are at the SmartHub site you'll have to sign up as a first time user by clicking the "New User" link and follow the prompts.