



May 2026

Annual Meeting

South Central Electric held its annual meeting at the Windom Community Center on March 31, 2026. Board President Ron Jorgenson led the meeting, which was attended by 138 members with a total of 220 attendees.

Director Michael Miest announced the two Basin Electric scholarship and youth tour winners. Lizabeth Bramstedt of Heron Lake and Londyn Bowers of Lewisville won the \$1250 each for the Basin Electric scholarship. The Washington D.C. Youth Tour Essay contest winner is Ava Lepp of Butterfield. Last year's Youth Tour winner Peter Nickel of Bingham Lake spoke about his experience going on the trip and what it meant to him.

South Central Electric Attorney Mike Edman announced the results of the Director elections. Ron Jorgenson was re-elected to serve as the District 2 Director. Michael Miest was re-elected to serve as the District 4 Director, and Bill Kunz was re-elected to serve as the District 7 Director. The cooperative received a total of 745 ballots. The 2025 minutes and financials were both approved by the membership.

continued on page 2

ELECTION RESULTS

Approve minutes of 2025 annual meeting

Yes 720 ✓ No 2

Approve 2025 financial report

Yes 717 ✓ No 2

Approve the unanimous election of Ron Jorgenson (D2), Michael Miest (D4), and Bill Kunz (D7). YES

Yes 735 ✓ No 6



138 members with a total of 220 attendees attended this year's annual meeting.

★ ★ ★
**WE WILL BE
 CLOSED**
 FOR
MEMORIAL DAY
 MONDAY, MAY 25TH
 ★ ★ ★





Lizabeth Bramstedt (left) and **Londyn Bowers** (right) were announced as the winners of two \$1250 Basin Electric scholarships. Lizabeth plans on attending North Dakota State University, majoring in Microbiology. Londyn plans on attending Gustavus Adolphus College, majoring in public health.



Ava Lepp of Butterfield was announced as the winner for the Youth Tour to Washington D.C.



Peter Nickel spoke about his trip to Washington D.C.



May is recognized as Electrical Safety Month—a great time to remind ourselves how to stay safe around electricity at home, on the farm, and on the job. Electricity powers our daily lives, but it can also pose serious risks if not handled properly.

Simple precautions can make a big difference. Always keep electrical equipment away from water, avoid overloading outlets, and replace damaged cords right away. If you're working outdoors, be mindful of overhead power lines and always maintain a safe distance, especially when using ladders, machinery, or large equipment.

For farmers and those working in rural areas, take extra care during planting and harvest seasons when moving tall equipment. Look up and plan ahead to prevent accidental contact with power lines.

Electrical safety starts with awareness. By taking a few extra steps, we can all help prevent accidents and keep our families and communities safe.

South Central Electric will be distributing \$411,000 to members with patronage from the remainder of 2004. Those who earned capital credits and have active accounts will see the capital credits posted to their March electric usage bill. This is the bill members received with this newsletter at the end of April. Members with capital credits exceeding \$600 or without active accounts will be mailed a check.

**SCE TO
DISTRIBUTE \$411,000
IN CAPITAL CREDITS
TO MEMBERS**



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.



Must be an Energy Star® appliance to qualify.



REBATES: Please see rebate applications for details.

- 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.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY TIP OF THE MONTH

As temperatures start to rise, many homeowners focus on staying cool. Don't forget about the small gaps around windows and doors. While air sealing is often associated with keeping cold air out during winter, it's just as important during summer. Tiny cracks and worn weatherstripping allow cool, conditioned air to escape and hot, humid air to seep indoors. This forces your air conditioner to work harder than necessary and increases energy costs. Take a few minutes to check for drafts, replace weatherstripping and seal leaks. A tighter home keeps you more comfortable and helps manage energy use.

Source: energy.gov



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.





Business Spotlight

Small Town Storage

Small Town Storage in Storden is a great example of how local entrepreneurs are identifying needs in their communities and stepping up to meet them. Owners David Schneider and Garrett Amundson began their business journey together by investing in rental properties across the area, including single-family homes and apartments in Westbrook, Storden, Jeffers, and Slayton. Their primary rental business operates under the name Small Town Rentals.

After gaining experience in property management, David and Garrett recognized a growing need for storage options in Storden. In 2022, they purchased property and constructed their first storage building. Seeing continued demand, they expanded in 2023 with a second building, which also includes a shop space to support their rental business operations.

What sets Small Town Storage apart is their approach to design. Rather than building traditional mini storage units, they opted for stick-framed buildings with larger doors and spacious layouts. This allows them to accommodate a wide range of storage needs—from household items to larger equipment such as vehicles, boats, pontoons, fish houses, and ATVs.

The first building measures 108 feet by 40 feet with a height of 12 feet, while the second building is 144 feet by 40 feet, also with a 12-foot height. Storage bays range in size from 12' x 10' up to 12' x 40', with the 12' x 40' full drive-through units being

SELF-STORAGE CARS, BOATS, PONTOONS & MORE!

- Multiple Size Options
- 12'-Wide Bays
- 12' Ceilings
- Cold Storage



- Concrete Floors
- 24-Hour Access
- Security Cameras

Dave: 507.227.4937 Garrett: 507.327.5561

the most popular among customers. Each unit is fully enclosed with its own walls and ceiling, providing added security and privacy, along with convenient 24/7 access.

Small Town Storage offers flexible, month-to-month lease options with no long-term commitment required. However, many customers choose to stay long-term after experiencing the convenience and versatility of the space.

The demand for storage has been strong. This past winter, both buildings reached full capacity, highlighting the importance of the service they provide to the community.

Small Town Storage is located at 505 Anderson Street in Storden, conveniently situated across from the Meadowland elevator. Through thoughtful planning and a commitment to meeting local needs, David and Garrett have created a valuable resource for the Storden area and beyond.

Interested in renting a storage unit? Contact Dave at 507-227-4937 or Garrett at 507-327-5561 for availability and more information.



South Central Electric Association

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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.

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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.