



April 2023

Directors Achieve Credentials in Today's Electric Utility Competencies

South Central Electric Directors Matt Peters, Brad Asendorf and Bill Kunz recently received the Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate from the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA).

An ever-changing business environment has imposed new demands on electric cooperative directors, requiring increased knowledge of changes in the electric utility business, new governance skills and a solid knowledge of the cooperative principles and business model. South Central Electric has a commitment to work through NRECA to sharpen this body of knowledge for the benefit of their electric cooperative consumer-owners.

The NRECA Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) program requires attendance and demonstrated

understanding of the basic competencies contained in five core courses:

- Director Duties and Liabilities
- Understanding the Electric Business
- Board Operations and Process
- Strategic Planning
- Financial Decision Making



(From left to right) Directors Matt Peters, Brad Asendorf and Bill Kunz completed course work to achieve the Credentialed Cooperative Director Certificate (CCD). The Certificate acknowledges the completion of courses to improve knowledge across multiple disciplines.

Dig Smart. Dig Safe.

Before you dig, call 811 or visit call811.com to mark underground utility lines. 811 is a free service that helps keep our community safe.



April is National Safe Digging Month.

Sow Seeds of Safety

Planting season is a physically and mentally draining time for farmers, and in the rush to get the seed in the ground, focus on safety can fade to the background. Overhead power lines present a life-threatening risk for those working with large machinery. It is important to exercise caution and respect the power of electricity. Safe Electricity encourages farmers to sow seeds of safety this season and take recommended safety precautions.

Before beginning work in a field, take time to note the location of power lines and equipment. Before getting out of the cab, look up and double check the area around your machinery to make sure it is not in contact with overhead lines. Always be aware of how close tractors, loaders, antennas, extended arms, and other equipment are to electrical lines. Remember to lower extensions to the lowest setting when moving loads.

Even if using an auto-guidance system, stay focused on the location of the tractor and its equipment while in the field, and be ready to take action yourself if necessary. Do not simply rely on the estimations of a GPS system, but also consider using a spotter to alert you if you come close to making contact. A spotter can see sagging wires that would not be visible on a GPS and provide additional verification that you can pass safely.

Your machinery does not have to touch electrical lines for electrocution to occur, so keep at least 10 feet of space between machinery and overhead lines. Assume that all lines are energized, and if you come across a downed pole or wire, never attempt to move it yourself.



If your equipment does make contact with a power line, do not leave the cab. Immediately call 911 to have the utility notified. Warn others to stay away, and wait for the utility crew to cut the power. Never try to disentangle equipment on your own.

The only reason to exit equipment that has come into contact with overhead lines is if the equipment is on fire, which is very rare. However, if this is the case, jump off the equipment with your feet together and without touching the ground and vehicle at the same time. Then, still keeping your feet together, hop to safety as you leave the area.

For more information on electrical safety, go to SafeElectricity.org.

Protect your home and family with a Briggs & Stratton home standby generator



You can be confident that South Central Electric works hard every day to keep your lights on. For those times when mother nature strikes, we still have you covered with our generator program. You can purchase a whole home Briggs & Stratton Power Protect generator from South Central Electric. If you lose power, the generator automatically takes over. When power is restored, it automatically shuts down. Power when you need it without the hassles of portable or PTO generators.

Estimated Cost of \$8,000 to \$11,500 includes the following:

- Briggs & Stratton® Power Protect DX with industry leading 10-year warranty.
- Minnesota winter ready with battery warmer, oil heater & battery charger.
- Automatic transfer switch.
- **Electrician installation.**

Generators run on LP or Natural Gas. Estimate does not include costs of gas installation from your gas provider.

**Call our office to learn more at
(507) 375-3164**



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.



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 on line at www.southcentralelectric.com.

APPLIANCE REBATES:



Must be an Energy Star® appliance to qualify.

Please see rebate applications for details.

- Dehumidifier**\$20 Credit applied to the energy bill
- Air Source Heat Pumps**\$350 HSPF rating over 9.5 \$600
- Ductless Heat Pump**\$350 HSPF rating over 9.5 \$600
- Ground Source Heat Pump**\$350/ton (*Limit 10 tons*)
- Air Conditioner Tune Up**\$30
- Managed Electric Heat**\$20/kW
Radio controlled, qualifies for discount of \$.031/kWh on system usage. Stored or dual fuel heat. Heat pumps are not eligible for this program.
- LED Yard Light**.....\$25.00/ea. limit 3

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.

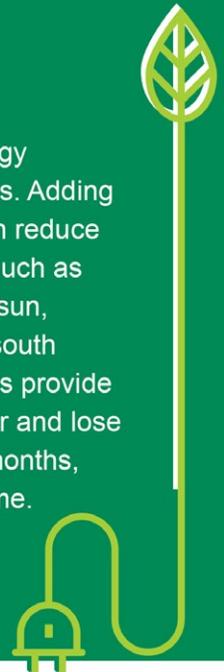
Contact SCE about service upgrades, additions, or rebuilds

Are you looking at changes to your electrical service this summer? The electric utility industry is not immune to the supply chain issues. If you need to upgrade or change your electrical service with South Central Electric contact us now. This will help us plan to have the materials and equipment we need to complete your project.

Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

This planting season, include energy efficiency in your landscaping plans. Adding shade trees around your home can reduce surrounding air temperatures as much as 6 degrees. To block heat from the sun, plant deciduous trees around the south side of your home. Deciduous trees provide excellent shade during the summer and lose their leaves in the fall and winter months, allowing sunlight to warm your home.

Source: energy.gov



Smart Management. Smart Life.

SmartHub

Life is fast, and it can be hectic, but it doesn't all have to be complicated. Paying your South Central Electric bill shouldn't be a complex task, and with our SmartHub web and mobile app, it won't be.



You may have heard about SmartHub, our innovative tool for account management, but what can it do for you? SmartHub can help you take control of your South Central Electric account like never before, giving you more time to focus on other responsibilities.

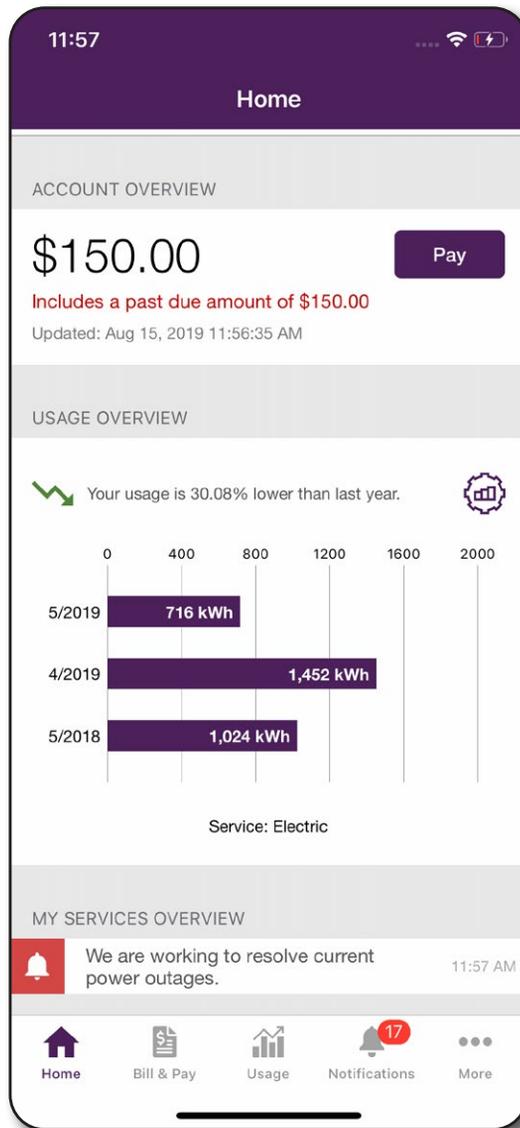
SmartHub has several features that make managing your account as easy as possible. Whether through the web, or your smartphone or tablet (Android or iOS), you'll be able to pay your bill and view your electric usage.

As soon as you log in, you'll be able to view your billing history and make a payment with just a couple of clicks...or taps, if you're using the app. You'll be able to see your current bill, along with bills from the previous month or even the previous summer, if you want to compare costs. Not only will you see your billing history, but you'll be able to view your actual use. You can see how your use is trending over time, which will allow you to take steps to lower your bill.

Making payments through SmartHub is fast and easy. The first time you make a payment either through the web or through your mobile device, you'll be able to securely store your payment information for future transactions. The next time you need to pay your bill, it will only take a couple of clicks.

Access SmartHub by visiting our South Central Electric website (www.southcentralelectric.com) or by downloading the app on your mobile device through the Apple App Store (iOS devices) or Google Play Marketplace (Android devices).

Plenty of things in life are complicated. Manage your South Central Electric account simply, quickly and easily with SmartHub.



Official monthly newsletter

South Central Electric

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Ron Horman, General Manager

Board of Directors

President, Ron Jorgenson
Vice President, Michael Miest
Secretary, Brad Asendorf
Treasurer, Matt Peters
Brent Imker, Director
Mark Sandberg, 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.

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OUR WEBSITE!**

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