

NORTH DAKOTA - SOUTH DAKOTA Office Managers and Accountants Association Conference

Sept. 22-24, 2026

NDAREC headquarters, 3201 Nygren Drive NW, Mandan, N.D.



TUESDAY, SEPT. 22

All times listed are Central Time.

4:30 p.m. **Registration**

5:30 p.m. **Welcome Reception**

6 p.m. **Dinner**



WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 23

7:30 a.m. **Hot Breakfast Buffet**

8 a.m. **Welcome and Opening Remarks**
Tami Aljets, president, North Dakota Office Managers and Accountants Association, and Eric Hasart, vice president, South Dakota Office Managers and Accountants Association

8:15 a.m. **AI Integration: Gain Advantage with Control**
David Klynsma, chief information officer for Liv Hospitality, and president, LinkTech

Artificial intelligence is quickly becoming part of everyday work, but many organizations are still figuring out where it belongs and how to use it responsibly. This session explores practical ways rural electric cooperatives can leverage AI to improve productivity, communication, reporting and information management while maintaining control, accountability and trust. Attendees will leave with realistic use cases, governance considerations and a practical roadmap for adoption.

9:45 a.m. **Refreshment Break**

10 a.m. **National Information Solutions Cooperative Support and Product Update**
Gail Domres, member success support manager, and John Weber, financials product manager, National Information Solutions Cooperative (NISC)

Stay informed on what's new at NISC. This session will highlight recent product updates, advanced functionality and upcoming training opportunities. Gail and John will also share insights into industry trends and emerging technologies designed to enhance your workflows and help you get the most from your NISC solutions.

11 a.m.

CFC Economic Update

John Suter, vice president of capital markets research and analysis, National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC)

Learn about the latest economic trends including unemployment, GDP growth and interest rates, offered by one of CFC's chief economists.

12 p.m.

Lunch

1 p.m.

Today's Cybersecurity Threats and Mitigations

Jim Edman, cybersecurity coordinator, South Dakota Integrated Operations Division - Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), and Joshua Jenkins, North Dakota cybersecurity state coordinator, CISA

This cybersecurity presentation is designed to provide a clear, engaging and practical overview of the evolving landscape of cyber threats and the risks they pose to individuals, organizations and society at large. The session highlights the scale and urgency of the issue — using recent statistics on cybercrime growth, high-profile breaches, and the financial and reputational damage they cause.

2:30 p.m.

Refreshment Break

2:45 p.m.

Concurrent State Business Meetings

Tami Aljets, president of the N.D. Office Managers and Accountants Association, and Eric Hasart, vice president of the South Dakota Office Managers and Accountants Association – presiding officers

Join your home state's business meeting to conduct business for your employee association. Separate breakout rooms will be provided.

3:15 p.m.

From Peers to Partners!

This time on the agenda is dedicated to creating a collaborative space for knowledge exchange, problem solving with your peers, and building relationships that outlast the conference. The roundtable discussion is a great opportunity to "admire and acquire" ideas and best practices!

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In advance of the conference, we'll reach out to you for topics for the roundtable discussion. We also welcome hearing from you if you'd like to share something your cooperative is doing, and others would love to "admire and acquire."

4:30 p.m. **Adjournment for the day**

5:30 p.m. **Dinner and Murder-Mystery Team Building Event**
Sixteen03 E. Main Ave., Bismarck

The setting is a vintage warehouse that is fun, funky and rustic. You will be invited to "step into a story" where you become part of the action and fun in solving the murder-mystery. The theme? We want to keep you in suspense until the fun begins!

THURSDAY, SEPT. 24

8 a.m. **Hot Breakfast Buffet**

8:30 a.m. **NRECA Benefits: What's New, What's Coming and What You May Not Know**
Kit Gleason, senior field services representative for North Dakota and South Dakota, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA)

The employee benefits landscape is one of constant, accelerating change. NRECA moves with it to help our co-ops maintain their status as employers of choice in their communities. Learn what's new, what we're working on, and a few things which, while not new, you may not have encountered yet in administering your co-op's benefits.

9:30 a.m. **Refreshment Break**

9:45 a.m. **Office Operations Escape Challenge**
Jealeana "Lena" Morris, founder and chief executive officer, Authentic Encounters, LLC

This interactive session will focus on teams working through a series of interconnected workplace puzzles involving invoices, scheduling conflicts, policy questions, vendor issues, internal communication and financial clues.

Each solved challenge unlocks the next phase of the experience. Participants must divide responsibilities, share information, identify errors, and work across different thinking and communication styles. The activity reinforces accuracy, attention to detail, teamwork, process improvement and the importance of avoiding departmental silos.

12:15 p.m. **Conference Adjournment and Grab N' Go Lunch**

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Registration Information

The registration deadline is Sept. 4. Online registration is available at www.ndarec.com/ndarec-education-programs.

Hotel Accommodations at the Comfort Inn & Suites and Days Inn by Wyndham

For your convenience, we've reserved a block of sleeping rooms for Sept. 22 and 23 at the following hotels.

Hotel accommodations in Mandan

Below are the two hotels where we have reserved blocks of sleeping rooms for you to make your reservation.

Comfort Inn

1516 27th Street NW, Mandan
Reservation Under: ND-SD Office Managers & Accountants
Date: September 22 & 23
Rate/Night: 109.00 plus tax per night
Release Date: 9/7/2026
Online Link:
[Comfort Inn Room Block Booking Link](#)

Days Inn by Wyndham

2630 Old Red Trail, Mandan
Reservation Under: ND-SD Office Managers & Accountants
Date: September 22 & 23
Rate/Night: \$109/night per room
Release Date: Sept.14
Booking Link: [Days Inn Room Block Booking Link](#)

Special Dietary Needs & Other Accommodations

Please notify Pamela Clark-Stein at pstein@ndarec.com of any dietary restrictions such as food allergies, gluten-free options and other special accommodations needed. A minimum of 72 hours' advance notice is required.

Billings & Cancellations

If you need to cancel your registration, please notify Pamela Clark-Stein at pstein@ndarec.com 7 days in advance. There will be a \$70 cancellation fee for registrations not canceled 7 days in advance. Substitutions are welcome.

North Dakota – South Dakota Planning Committee

Tami Aljets, president, Northern Plains Electric Cooperative
Wendy Kinn, vice president, McLean Electric Cooperative
Amber Francis, secretary, Verendrye Electric Cooperative
Cody Larson, president, Lacreek Electric Association
Eric Hasart, vice president, Dakota Energy Cooperative
Jill Rankin, secretary/treasurer, West Central Electric Cooperative
Travis Harford, District 1, Rosebud Electric Cooperative
Bridget Anderson, District 2, Whetstone Valley Electric Cooperative
Jen Weber, District 3, Southeaster Electric Cooperative
Pamela Clark-Stein, N.D. Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives
Tavi Zacher-Leier, N.D. Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives
Carly Handcock, S.D. Rural Electric Association
Kristie Hauck, S.D. Rural Electric Association

Meet the Guest Presenters



David Klynmsma is the Chief Information Officer for Liv Hospitality and President of LinkTech, where he leads technology strategy across hospitality, gaming and several managed service clients.

Rising from humble beginnings to the executive team, he built the centralized IT organization that powers Liv Hospitality today. He founded LinkTech in 2014, growing it into one of the Black Hills'

leading IT service providers. David is known for turning complex technology into practical business results, helping organizations leverage AI and modern workplace tools to drive performance and elevate customer experience.



Gail Domres has 33 years of experience in the energy and communications industry and serving NISC members. She serves as Member Success Support Manager, leading NISC's financials support team to provide help desk and critical accounting software support to nearly 900 member-owners using the software across the U.S. and abroad.

Gail received her accounting degree with a computer information system and business administration minor from the University of Mary. A native of Linton, she currently lives in Bismarck with her husband, Todd.



John Weber joined NISC in 1997 as a software developer and has served as the lead designer on NISC's financial software. As Financials Product Manager, he currently leads product planning, prioritization and execution from concept to launch. Passionate about creating value through technology, he works closely with members to align product vision with organizational goals and to ensure seamless user experience.



John Suter serves as vice president, capital markets research and analysis, for CFC.

He joined CFC in 1984 as an operations analyst and has performed a variety of roles over the decades. As vice president of capital markets research and analysis, he is primarily responsible for providing capital markets and general economic research and knowledge to the membership and

internal staff. John also works to understand CFC members' business needs and helps develop appropriate products to meet those needs. He holds a master's degree in economics from Bowling Green State University and an MBA in finance and investments from George Washington University. He also is a Chartered Financial Analyst.



Jim Edman is the Cybersecurity Coordinator for the Department of Homeland Security's Cyber and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) in South Dakota. As cybersecurity coordinator, Jim works with critical industry sectors across the state on cyber risk management and improved cybersecurity hygiene.

Prior to joining CISA in 2021, Jim worked with South Dakota state government in the Bureau of Information and Telecommunications with experience in applications development and networking technologies for state government, K-12 and Higher Education. Jim served as Chief Information Security Officer for the last 13 years establishing operational, strategic and collaborative platforms to successfully safeguard constituent and government data. He also served as the Broadband Manager for the ConnectSD project to bring high-speed broadband to every South Dakotan.

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Joshua Jenkins serves as the North Dakota Cybersecurity State Coordinator to secure the citizens of North Dakota through CISA's mission to help partners and stakeholders understand, manage and reduce risk to their cyber and physical infrastructure. Prior to joining CISA, Joshua worked as a cybersecurity professional at North Dakota Information Technology as a member of the analysis

and response team and the governance, risk and compliance team.

His experience provides a unique perspective on the critical infrastructure challenges within North Dakota and its rural areas. He holds a Master of Science degree in cybersecurity and numerous professional certifications including Certified Information System Security Professional, GIAC Defending Advanced Threats, and GIAC Certified Forensics Analyst.



Kit Gleason is the senior field representative for members in North Dakota and South Dakota with the Insurance & Financial Services Department of NRECA. In her role, Kit presents NRECA's group insurance and pension plans to association members and assists them with plan design, implementation, administration and employee education regarding the co-op's employee benefit programs.

She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in business administration (accounting emphasis), from Black Hills State University. Additionally, Kit is an Accredited Investment Fiduciary® and Certified Retirement Plan Professional®.



Jealeania "Lena" Morris is the founder and chief executive officer of Authentic Encounters, LLC. She brings more than 15 years of experience to the classroom. Her training and facilitation skills impact and help transform organizations, communities and partnerships across generations.

Lena's areas of expertise include communications and public relations, people skills and interpersonal relationships, performance management and coaching, supervisory and leadership. She is a graduate of Kentucky State University and has earned several certifications in her field.