



**Why is membership in the National Rural Economic Developers Association (NREDA) important?** NREDA is a national organization focused on RURAL DEVELOPMENT for community and economic developers and key accounts managers, who work for electric and telephone cooperatives as well as local economic development organizations, consultants and government agencies related to rural development. NREDA provides education, advocacy, and networking opportunities to its members. **Join online** [http://www.nreda.org/web/2006/03/why\\_join\\_nreda.aspx](http://www.nreda.org/web/2006/03/why_join_nreda.aspx)

**Who should join NREDA?** Individuals who desire to improve their skills in community and economic development, key accounts, grant writing, and loan fund management.

#### **What are the benefits of NREDA membership?**

- **People** – NREDA’s approximately 320 individual members are a virtual *Who’s Who* of electric and telephone cooperative economic development professionals. **Networking:** Members take pride in their willingness to share expertise and information with peers.
- **Partnerships with Allied Organizations** – NREDA fosters formal relationships with NRECA, NTCA-the Broadband Association, CFC, NRTC, NADO, NACo, USDA Rural Development & others to keep economic development for rural America a focus; the NREDA Board travels to Washington DC every other year to enlist shared best practices and information gathering pertinent to rural development.
- **NREDA Annual Conference** – NREDA’s national conference offers insightful speakers, education sessions, access to federal officials, networking opportunities, and fun. (*NREDA Annual Conferences offer CEcD and CKAE approved credits.*) *Held at Sheraton Gunter Hotel, San Antonio, TX, November 1-2, 2017.*
- **NREDA Continuing Education** – Participate in webinars and other educational seminars providing you emerging and thought provoking ideas on rural economic development.
  - **NREDA is hosting a pre-education workshop on November 1, 2017, details on website after June 2017!**
- **Membership Directory** – Members utilize the online directory with listings of NREDA member contact information, cross-referenced by state, organization, and areas of expertise.
- **Publications – News Brief Newsletter & Website** – Announcements, secure Members Only Section with member search feature by members/state/expertise, current issues and events, links to industry-related web sites and articles, job postings, and archived copies of the *NREDA News Brief*, which is published monthly.
- **Group Rate for Dues** – Annual membership dues are only \$350, or an even better deal is the group discount membership for two or more individuals from the same organization for \$275/each.
  - **NREDA has a special rate for first time joiners** - \$200 thru 12/31/2016.
  - Special rates for qualified regional groups starting at \$500 for 2-4 organizations;
  - Rates for retirees/students of \$50
- **Rural Focus** – No other organization matches NREDA’s focus on rural economic development, needs examination, resources identification, and communication of what works.
  - **Basecamp** – join the discussion group – *coming in July 2017*
- **Personal and Professional Development** – Leadership, participation, and recognition opportunities on committees, at the Annual Meeting, and on the Board of Directors.
- **Membership Mentoring** – NREDA has a program called ED411 to match members with seasoned professionals in specific areas of expertise.
- **Scholarships** – *Starting July 2017*, NREDA offers professional development/certification scholarship opportunities; funding priority given to assist members whose development organizations cannot provide total funding.

These are a few of the highlights of NREDA membership. If you have any questions, please call our NREDA staff Lynn Harkin at (515) 284-1421 or [director@nreda.org](mailto:director@nreda.org).

**2017 NREDA Board of Directors:**

Jim Vermeer, President, Corn Belt Power Coop  
Bruce Nuzum, 1st VP, Iowa Area Development Group  
Rick Nelsen, 2<sup>nd</sup> VP, Nebraska Public Power District  
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Shawn Rennecker, Illinois Rural Electric Coop.

**Appointed:**

Josh Siedemann, NTCA-The Broadband Association  
Brandon McBride, National Rural Utilities CFC  
Chris Martin, NRTC  
Scott Bialick, Touchstone Energy  
Lynn Harkin, NREDA Executive Director