



# CREDENTIALED 2026 COOPERATIVE DIRECTOR (CCD) CERTIFICATE

**IN ORDER FOR THIS WORKSHOP TO BE FEASIBLE, WE WILL NEED TO HAVE AT LEAST 12 DIRECTORS ATTENDING EACH COURSE. THE CUT-OFF DATE TO REGISTER WILL BE MARCH 13. IF WE DO NOT HAVE 12 DIRECTORS REGISTERED BY THAT DATE, THE CCD WORKSHOP WILL BE CANCELLED. IF YOU DO NOT CANCEL PRIOR TO MARCH 13, YOUR COOPERATIVE WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE TRAINING FEE. ONLY EXEMPTIONS PERTAINING TO MEDICAL AND FAMILY EMERGENCIES WILL BE CONSIDERED.**

**Instructor:** Ken Gajdos - Ken Gajdos is president of BASK Energies, Inc. and serves as a business development consultant for Fullmark Energy, a utility-scale battery energy storage developer.

Ken is a former Vice President and Senior Relationship Manager in CoBank's Electric Distribution Banking Group, where he was responsible for managing relationships with electric distribution cooperatives and their subsidiaries in Texas, Louisiana, and Missouri for over eleven years. A trusted advisor, Mr. Gajdos has advised and assisted many electric cooperatives in both developing solutions for new financing and in refinancing their debt portfolio to achieve significant savings for their members. He also served on CoBank's Beacon Team, which facilitates discussions that allows board and management participants to fully engage in consensus-based decision-making.

Prior to joining CoBank in January 2012, Mr. Gajdos had a successful 29-year career serving rural energy consumers as an independent propane marketer. He is a former director of Nueces Electric Cooperative in Corpus Christi, Texas, and he has attained NRECA's Credentialed Cooperative Director (CCD) certificate, the Board Leadership Certificate (BLC), and the Director Gold (DG) certification; his NRECA course attendance history shows a total of 23 course credits along the progression of these certifications. Since 2023, Ken has served as an Instructor for NRECA teaching electric co-op director education courses focusing on director duties and liabilities, board operations and process, strategic planning, and ethics and governance.

Mr. Gajdos earned a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Management from Corpus Christi State University, and resides in Austin, Texas. His areas of expertise include governance, risk management and strategic planning.

## Monday, March 30: NRECA Course 2600 – “Director Duties and Liabilities”

**Course Description:** Boards are responsible for directing the affairs of the corporation. This course discusses and explains the duties of loyalty, obedience, and due care, and the need for directors to acquire the minimum knowledge and skills necessary to fulfill their responsibilities within the cooperative context.

### Key Topics Include:

- An overview of today's multi-billion dollar electric utility business
- The concepts and values that govern cooperatively owned businesses and related types of organizations
- Legal and regulatory concepts affecting public utilities
- Key Legal documents such as articles of incorporation and bylaws
- The role of management and guidelines for maintaining and effective relationship with the CEO

## Tuesday, March 31: NRECA Course 2610 – “Understanding the Electric Business”

**Course Description:** The electric utility industry is an evolving high-tech system that must be designed and engineered to meet regulatory and consumer standards for reliability, quality, and safety. This requires an appropriate investment on a planned and ongoing basis. This course provides directors with an understanding of the key components of the electric utility industry.

### Key Topics Include:

- The basic functions and cost components of generation, transmission and distribution
- Current and emerging technologies that are impacting utility operations and policies
- Issues related to distributed generation that the board may need to address
- How environmental issues and national policies impact the cooperative
- The board's role to ensure a safe working environment

**Who Should Attend:** All cooperative directors who wish to become a CCD Director.

**Dates & Times:** March 30-31, 2026, in Gallery DE at Ramkota Hotel and Conference Center, 920 W. Sioux Ave., Pierre, SD. The courses will run from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (CST), with registration starting at 8 a.m.

**Registration:** [Online](#) by March 13.

**Room Reservations:** Contact the Ramkota Hotel at 605-224-6877 (room rate \$98) or the Clubhouse Hotel at 605-494-2582 (room rate \$139 plus tax) and ask for the SDREA CCD Workshop room block. Cut off date is **February 27**. If possible, we ask that attendees utilize the Ramkota Hotel room block as a primary option. Thank you.