

# Watts CURRENT

## 2004 Person of the Year

Robert "Bob" Rademacher has been employed by Dakota Energy Cooperative, Inc., Huron, formerly Beadle Electric Cooperative, since 1972. He has served as CEO since 1983. He also was employed by Rosebud Electric, Gregory and the South Dakota Rural Electric Association, Pierre.

He was a licensed electrician for many years and run the wiring department at Beadle Electric. He was a certified electric heat installer and estimator and a certified energy conversion specialist.

He has served as a board member of the South Dakota Electric Council and was co-chairman of several South Dakota Electric Councils annual conventions.

He has served as a president of South Dakota Rural Electric's Member Services Association and the South Dakota Rural Electric's Manager's Association.

He has served as chairman of the East River Electric Power Cooperative Managers for three years and served on the Basin Electric Power Cooperative Manager's advisor committee for three years. He presently serves on the board of the Rural Electric Economic Development, Inc. and the Cooperative Service Alliance both headquartered in Madison, South Dakota.

Nationally, Rademacher has served on various rural electric committees and as a board member of Federated Rural Electric Insurance, Inc.

Locally he has served as a board member of the Huron School Board, the Community Council Board, the Norwest Bank Community Board, the Habitat for Humanity Board,



the Huron Safety Council, the Huron Historic Area and the Huron Chamber of Commerce. In many of these he served as the chairman.

He presently serves on the board of the Center of Independence and its foundation board. He also serves on the board of the Greater Huron Economic Development Corporation.

He is a member of the American Lutheran Church, Huron, the Huron Masonic Lodge and the El Raid Shriners.

Rademacher and his wife, Jean, have a daughter, Rhonda that lives near Letcher, South Dakota, and a son, Ryan that lives in Zurich, Switzerland. They have two grandchildren.

## 2005 Person of the Year Requirements See Page 3

### PRESIDENT'S NOTES

#### Mike Sprang

As all our chapters are getting into the swing of meetings again, I hope you have taken the time to mark your calendar with all the meeting dates. Remember, your membership entitles you to attend meetings at any chapter. Dates, times, and locations are available on the SDEC Website. Please take advantage of this meeting option if you are travelling, or cannot make a meeting at your home chapter.

Our chapters work hard to provide quality education for members. If you have something that you would like to see for continuing education, or know someone who would be able to give approved training for our chapters, please contact your local chapter or the state office with the information.

Challenges continue in our industry, as the cost of materials continues to escalate. Keep your pricing database current so you don't get caught short. Chapter meetings are a great place to talk to others in our industry about changes and challenges that we all face day to day. Let SDEC be your resource for industry information. If there is additional information that we can provide, please let us know.

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## Thank you for your service to the board

Francis Holter

Jim Foy

Linda Wittrock

Ted Massey

Layne Richter

### Welcome To The Board

Carl Maas — Huron Chapter  
Representative

*Do you have an article  
that the SDEC's members  
would be interested in*

*Send articles to:*

*[sdec@iw.net](mailto:sdec@iw.net)*

#### SDEC Advertising Rate Sheet

The "Watts Current" is a semi-annual (8 1/2 x 11) publication that is mailed to our membership, and advertisers. The current mailing list exceeds 800 people. We mail the publication in March and September. Ads and articles are due to our office by the 15th of the month prior to publication.

#### Advertising Rates

Full Page .....	\$325.00/year
Approximately 7 1/2 x 9 1/2 .....	\$200/issue
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Approximately 3 1/2 x 9 1/2 .....	\$50/issue
Eighth Page .....	\$50/year
Approximately 3 1/2 x 2 1/4 .....	\$35/issue

#### For more information contact:

SDEC • Kelli Fuhrmann, Council Administrator  
PO Box 388 • Fort Pierre, SD 57532 • (888) 299-1675 or (605) 945-1675  
[sdec@iw.net](mailto:sdec@iw.net)  
[www.sdec.org](http://www.sdec.org)

*"Every man owes a part of his time and money to the business or industry in which he is engaged. No man has the moral right to withhold his support from an organization that is striving to improve conditions within his sphere."*

*-Theodore Roosevelt*

**2005 Annual  
Conference**  
**Hosted by the  
Sioux Chapter**  
**April 15-16, 2005**  
**Ramkota Hotel  
Sioux Falls**

### Board of Directors

Mike Sprang ..... President  
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### Board Members

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SUPPORT IN THE PAST  
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**South Dakota  
Electrical Council**

[www.sdec.org](http://www.sdec.org)

## SOUTH DAKOTA ELECTRICAL COUNCIL 2005 Person of the Year Requirements

The person must have been active in the electric industry for a period of at least fifteen (15) years.

The person must be recognized as an authority in his segment of the electric industry in South Dakota.

The person must be recognized for his/her sincerity, willingness, tactfulness, sobriety in connection with his/her approach to the advancement of the electric industry, and for having devoted time and energy above and beyond that of the normal course of his/her work.

He/She must have made contributions to the practice of electric education, safety, generation transmission or utilization within the State of South Dakota.

He/She must be recognized as one who over the years has also made significant contributions outside of those within the industry and one who has been active in the general public interest.

One other consideration should be to someone with fewer years in the electrical business but who has done outstanding work in promoting electricity. (Amended – December 16, 1966)

An effort shall be made to award this achievement to the person in the proximity of the annual conclave. (Amended – December 7, 1987)

The president of the SDEC shall present an award, to the achievement winner along with a lifetime membership to the SDEC. (Amended – April 7, 1987)

Nomination form is available @ [www.sdec.org](http://www.sdec.org).

Send 2005 nominations to: Mike Sprang, 3008 Greenwood Avenue, Sioux Falls, SD 57106.

## SAVE THE DATE

*2005 Annual Conference*

*April 15-16, 2005*

*Ramkota Hotel - Sioux Falls*

### Thank you to our

#### **Break Sponsors**

**West Plains Engineering, South Municipal Electric Association, South Dakota Rural Electric Association, JH Larson Company, John W. Hoy and Company, Dakota Supply Group, Butler Machinery Group.**

#### **Ads**

**JH Larson Company, Butler Company, JESCO, American Midwest Power, Interstate Power Systems, Dakota Supply Group, Crescent Electric, South Dakota Rural Electric Association.**

#### **Speakers**

**Larry Smith, J. Philip Simmons, Mike Miller, Bryan B. Morlock, PE, John Puetz, Steve Wegman, Dan Hatch, and Warren Lotsberg.**

### **Special Thanks To:**

*Huron Chapter for  
a successful annual  
conference:*

*Dave Eide, Carl*

*Maas, Tom*

*Sandvee, Brenda*

*Dryer, Dennis*

*Drake, Ray Kub,*

*Russ Dramstad,*

*Greg Hepper, and*

*Jay Morris.*

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**Continuing Education is your best investment  
 in YOUR future!**

The Instructor: **Steve Arne** is an experienced Electrician, Licensed Inspector and Certified Technical Educator with over 20 years of electrical teaching experience. Steve has joined the Mike Holt team and is now the Technical Editorial Director for Mike Holt Enterprises.

## 2005 Code Classes

I have been working with the Mike Holt Team on 2005 code changes, as well as updating all of the text books for the 2005 Code. The 2005 Code Changes classes will be offered beginning about March, so check our website or call toll free at 1-888-603-5050 to find out more and start learning about the 2005 NEC.

16 hour Code Changes class cost is expected to be \$159, schedules will be developed early in 2005.

## You Can Pass Your Electrical Exam!

### 2002 NEC Electrical Code Calculations for Exam Prep

(The state will continue to test on the 2002 NEC until July at least)

Complete your continuing education requirements while you study for a licensing exam!

Approved for 16 hours of code in SD & WY also accepted in NE, ND, MN, MT and more

Rapid City, SD	Holiday Inn Express (Disk Drive)	Nov. 12 - 13, 2004	Exam Prep
Cheyenne, WY	Holiday Inn	Dec. 2 -3, 2004	Exam Prep
Rapid City, SD	tentative	Feb 4 - 5, 2005	Exam Prep
Sioux Falls, SD	Best Western Ramkota	March 11 - 12, 2005	Exam Prep
Gillette, WY	tentative	March 31- Apr , 2005	Exam Prep

**Hours:** 7:40 AM registration, 8 AM class: **PLEASE REGISTER ONLINE OR PHONE 888-603-5050**

**Cost:** Including class workbook: **\$230.00 16 hours** Including Mike Holt Exam Prep book: **\$285**

**Exam Prep Guarantee:** "I am so sure that this class will help you prepare for your exam, that if you do not pass your electrical exam after taking this class, I will allow you to retake it for half price!"

**Check our website for additional dates and locations and register for email updates**

All classes are subject to enrollment limits and enrollment minimums.

(We may not be able to conduct a class if there is not sufficient pre-enrollment)

(all prices and information are current Oct. 9, 2004 and are subject to change)

**Visa- Master Card- Discover/ Novus- American Express Accepted.**

**Visit our Web site at: <http://www.education4electricians.com>**



## SkillsUSA Championship

James Johnson, Sioux Falls, a second-year Electrical Construction and Maintenance student at Mitchell Technical Institute, placed first in the nation, receiving a gold medal in Residential Wiring at the SkillsUSA Championships held in June in

Kansas City, Missouri. Jill Eggers, Corsica, placed third in Job Skills Demonstration, receiving a bronze medal. Eggers is a second-year student in Medical Laboratory Technology.

Johnson and Eggers had previously won the state competitions for the right to compete at the national event.

More than 4200 students from across the country competed in 77 contests held June 21-25 at Kemper Arena.

Johnson said he was "pretty nervous and excited" at the start of the competition. He and 75 other competitors had to complete a written knowledge test and be interviewed by a panel of three judges. The morning of the contest, each contestant was given a set of blueprints, raw materials, products, and an hour to prepare. Johnson said there was no second chance; if a competitor was missing something from his or her kit, there would be no opportunity to retrieve it later and points would be deducted. Johnson was employed for the summer by GF Electric of Tea, SD, so he was familiar with the process of organizing and preparing for a full day's project.

Johnson completed his wiring assignment in about five hours. He had to install outlets, both regular and GFCI, switches, both regular and three-way, a door chime, a panel with four circuits, and other items on two 4x4 sheets of plywood. At the end of the day, contestants left the area and the projects were judged after they left.

On Friday night, more than 14,000 attended the awards ceremony. Johnson said he was hoping for second or third place, but when his name was not read for third and then gain not for second, he was totally unprepared when his name was called as the winner of the Residential Wiring competition. He said, "There was total silence, then all of the South Dakota students started cheering and patting me on the back." Johnson made his way to the stage where he was presented with his gold medal.

He also received a large tote filled with tools and electrician's gear, a custom Carhart jacket, and tickets to a NASCAR event. A bonus prize, he later found out, was a \$1000 gift card from Home Depot awarded to the Electrical Construction & Maintenance department at MTI. The funds were used to purchase some much-needed power tools for the program.

Johnson says of his experience, "I think SkillsUSA is a great opportunity for everyone. These are things we are learning anyway and its great to work toward a goal of winning something like this."

While in Kansas City, Johnson was also part of a massive volunteer project. More than 250 students at the contest worked in one day to refurbish an exercise trail and baseball diamond at a shelter for battered children. The annual volunteer event is sponsored by many SkillsUSA partners and supporters.

The SkillsUSA Championships is the national-level competition for public high school and postsecondary college and technical students enrolled in trade, technical, and skilled service profession instructional programs including allied health occupations. SkillsUSA organizes this event as the single greatest day of industry volunteerism in America every year at an estimated cost of \$25 million.

A total of eight students from MTI traveled to the annual event. They were accompanied by MTI instructor Tom Nelson.

For more information, contact Julie Brookbank at 995-3026.

## 2005 MEMBERSHIP DUES WILL BE INVOICED IN NOVEMBER

### Membership Benefits

- Local chapter meetings: Hub (Aberdeen), Black Hills (Rapid City), Brookings/Watertown, Huron, Oahe (Pierre), and Sioux Falls.
- Semi-annual newsletter "Watts Current"
- Annual conference. This year is scheduled for April 15-16, 2005 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota at the Ramkota Hotel hosted by the SDEC Sioux Chapter.
- Video library, reference materials and more.
- Code and Non-code continuing education classes offered by Local Chapters and at the Annual Conference.
- [www.sdec.org](http://www.sdec.org)

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Strength for the Future"**



## Calendar of Events

**January 1, 2005**

Dues year begins

**January 20, 2005**

Board Meeting, Ramkota, Sioux Falls

**April 15-16, 2005**

Annual Conference

Hosted by the Sioux Chapter  
Ramkota Hotel, Sioux Falls

**"Support in the Past,  
Strength for the Future"**

[www.sdec.org](http://www.sdec.org)

## Support Your Local Chapter of SDEC

### Black Hills Chapter

Contact — Rich Larsen — 605-348-5104

### Brookings/Watertown Area Chapter

Contact — Mike Miller — 605-886-8638

### Hub Area Chapter

Contact — Treasurer Bonny Carlson — 605-225-7100

### Huron Area Chapter

Contact — President Carl Maas — 605-352-8411

The Huron Chapter meets the third Tuesday of the month at Northwestern Energy Operation Center 600 Market Street. Pizza and refreshments at 6:00 pm and meetings start at 6:30 pm. The meetings are usually two hours of code.

### Oahe Chapter

Contact — President Shawn Williams — 605-280-6085  
Second Monday @ Pierre Chamber of Commerce  
800 East Dakota Avenue — Meetings start @ 7:00 pm

### Sioux Chapter

Contact — President Lowell Behrens — 605-428-6087

Log on to [www.sdec.org](http://www.sdec.org) for the latest chapter news

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