

## **Special Offer for Marco Island Legal Seminar Attendees!**

This year, the August NRECA Legal Seminar 66 (LS66) is co-located with the Tax, Finance and Accounting Conference for Cooperatives (TFACC) in Marco Island, Florida.

LS66 attendees may participate in select TFACC pre-conference and post-conference workshops and can take advantage of a special offer to attend select TFACC sessions at a discounted price. Specials are only available to in-person Marco Island LS66 attendees.

TFACC is designed for professionals with tax, finance, and accounting responsibilities at electric co-ops and community-based broadband providers.

Pricing details are below, and session descriptions and schedule information are on the following pages.

### **Fees:**

- Pre-conference Workshops: \$250 (per workshop)
  - Fundamentals of Electric Cooperative Accounting (Co-op 101)
  - Broadband Fundamentals: Infrastructure, Economics, and Strategic Decision-Making
  - Trust Is a Leadership Discipline — Not a Personality Trait
  
- TFACC Special for LS66 Attendees: \$350
  - Includes August 11 afternoon General Session, breakfast on August 12, and choice of breakout sessions on August 12
  
- Post-Conference Workshop: \$300 (includes lunch)
  - Ethical Decision-Making in Cooperative Accounting & Finance

### **How to Register:**

You must register for TFACC session when completing your LS66 registration online. If you have already registered for LS66 and would like to add TFACC sessions, modify your registration on [Cooperative.com](https://www.cooperative.com) by navigating to “[My Registrations](#).”

### **CLE:**

TFACC sessions are not preapproved for continuing legal education (CLE) credit, however participants may self-submit information to individual state bar associations to request credit. The sessions will be eligible for continuing professional education (CPE) credit.

### **Questions?**

If you do not have access to [Cooperative.com](https://www.cooperative.com) to register or have questions, contact Melissa DePuy at [melissa.depuy@nreca.coop](mailto:melissa.depuy@nreca.coop).

**SUNDAY 08/09**

8:00am - 12:00pm

**PRE CONFERENCE WORKSHOP**

Fundamentals of Electric Cooperative Accounting (Co-op 101)

*Adam Bailey, Partner, Bolinger, Segars, Gilbert & Moss, L.L.P.*

The preconference session will give participants a general understanding of the overall accounting process and the cooperative business model. Topics covered include USOA, Work Order Accounting, Patronage Capital, Revenue and Tariffs. Also included will be a discussion of the Form 7 and its relationship to and dependence on the USOA.

*Learning Objectives:*

1. Identify the core elements of the electric co-op accounting framework, including the co-op business model, the RUS Uniform System of Accounts (USOA), and key concepts such as work order accounting, patronage capital, revenues and tariffs.
2. Apply fundamental co-op accounting principles to common transactions by linking work order accounting, revenue recognition, and patronage capital processes to the appropriate USOA classifications.
3. Evaluate the role of Form 7 in co-op financial reporting by understanding its relationship to the USOA and how accurate accounting data supports reliable regulatory and financial reporting.

***Fee \$250. Registration is required.***

**(Note: This workshop is eligible for 4.5 CPE credits)**

**SUNDAY 08/09**

9:00am - 12:00pm

**PRE CONFERENCE WORKSHOP****Trust Is a Leadership Discipline — Not a Personality Trait***Julie Dalton, Executive Coach & Founder, Executive Insight Consulting*

Trust is often described as a relational skill — built through empathy, warmth and good intentions. But those qualities alone rarely determine how teams actually function when expectations are high, complexity increases and leaders are under constant pressure to deliver results.

Drawing on behavioral science and real-world leadership dynamics, this workshop explores what actually builds — and erodes — trust over time, why well-intended leaders can sometimes unintentionally destabilize their teams, and how small shifts in leadership behavior can dramatically improve execution, decision quality and overall team performance — especially when stakes are high.

This is not your standard trust workshop. Participants will leave with a practical strategy to build trust within their teams, a tactical lens for diagnosing trust breakdowns, a clearer understanding of their own tendencies when under pressure, and concrete language they can use to strengthen trust without lowering standards — enabling teams to perform with greater consistency and less direct oversight.

**Learning Objectives:**

1. Reframe trust from a personality trait to a disciplined leadership practice that directly impacts execution, decision quality and team performance.
2. Diagnose how leadership tendencies under pressure unintentionally create friction, rework and trust breakdowns on teams.
3. Apply practical leadership strategies to strengthen trust without lowering standards, enabling teams to perform with less direct oversight.

**Fee \$250. Registration is required.****(Note: This workshop is eligible for 3.5 CPE credits)**

**SUNDAY 08/09**

9:00am - 12:00pm

**PRE CONFERENCE WORKSHOP****Broadband Fundamentals: Infrastructure, Economics, and Strategic Decision-Making***Fayyaz Patwa, VP, Sales Engineering, Nokia*

This in-depth preconference workshop will provide a clear understanding of broadband networks and their financial implications. Participants will move beyond basic terminology to explore how networks are designed, built, and maintained—and how those decisions translate into capital requirements, operating costs and long-term financial performance. This session will connect technical concepts to financial outcomes, covering key cost drivers, investment trade-offs, funding considerations, and factors that influence service quality, scalability and return on investment. Attendees will leave better equipped to evaluate broadband strategies, engage in informed discussions with technical teams and make sound financial decisions in an increasingly complex connectivity landscape.

*Learning Objectives:*

1. Interpret core broadband infrastructure concepts and translate technical network design elements into their financial implications, including capital investment, operating costs and lifecycle management.
2. Evaluate key cost drivers and investment trade-offs associated with broadband deployment and maintenance, including technology choices, scalability and funding strategies.
3. Apply financial and strategic framework to assess broadband initiatives, enabling more informed decision-making, risk evaluation and collaboration with technical leadership.

***Fee \$250. Registration is required.******(Note: This workshop is eligible for 3.5 CPE credits)***

## TFACC Special Registration for LS66 Attendees

- Fee: \$350. Advanced registration required.
- Includes:
  - August 11: Afternoon General Session
  - August 12:
    - Breakfast
    - Choice of breakout sessions

### TUESDAY 08/11

4:00pm - 5:15pm

#### GENERAL SESSION

General Session: How to Stay Inspired When You are so Darn Tired

In a world that often feels upside down, staying energized and positive can feel like a challenge. In this engaging and uplifting keynote, Christine Cashen helps attendees take back their power by focusing on what they can control — their perspective, energy, and mindset.

Through humor, relatable stories, and practical tools, Christine introduces strategies to "Compose and Dispose" of worry, identify personal energy gainers and drainers, and intentionally choose your emotional state. Attendees will learn how to leverage levity, shift their outlook, and lead by example — even during demanding or uncertain times.

You'll leave feeling recharged, inspired, and better equipped to bring your best self to both your professional and personal life. Expect to laugh, reflect, and walk away with simple, actionable ideas to help you get your mojo back and feel ready to take on whatever comes next.

#### *Learning Objectives:*

1. Identify practical strategies to manage personal energy, mindset, and perspective by recognizing common sources of stress, worry, and emotional drain during demanding or uncertain times.
2. Apply tools such as "Compose and Dispose," identifying energy gainers and drainers, and the use of levity to intentionally shift outlook, regulate emotional responses, and maintain personal effectiveness.
3. Evaluate how intentional mindset choices and leading by example can positively influence individual wellbeing, professional performance, and workplace culture in both professional and personal settings.

#### Featured Speakers



**Christine Cashen**

## WEDNESDAY 08/12

8:00am - 9:15am

### BREAKOUT

Looking Beyond the Build: A Strategic Financial Outlook for Rural Broadband Providers

*Todd Thorson, Partner, FORVIS MAZARS*

This session explores financial strategies for diversification, competitive positioning and steady-state operations. Learn how to evaluate new revenue opportunities and build a resilient financial outlook.

*Learning Objectives:*

1. Evaluate financial strategies that support diversification, competitive positioning and sustainable steady-state operations.
2. Analyze potential new revenue opportunities to determine their feasibility and strategic fit.
3. Develop approaches to build and maintain a resilient financial outlook in a changing market environment.

**Track: All Levels**

Appropriate for all experience levels, from emerging professionals to senior leaders.

8:00am - 9:15am

### BREAKOUT

Debt Portfolio Management

*Trevor Barnett, Regional Vice President, CFC*

Feeling overwhelmed by debt? Learn how to master the art of debt portfolio management. This session will explore how electric cooperatives strategically structure, balance and optimize their borrowing. You will learn practical tools to navigate risky interest rate environments, lender relations and capital planning with confidence. Elevate your cooperative's financial resilience by turning intimidating debt decisions into your strategic advantage.

*Learning Objectives:*

1. Identify the key components of an electric cooperative's debt portfolio, including debt structure, interest rate exposure, lender relationships and capital planning considerations.
2. Apply practical tools and strategies to manage interest rate risk, balance fixed and variable debt, and navigate volatile borrowing environments with confidence.
3. Evaluate debt management decisions to optimize financial flexibility, strengthen lender relationships and improve longterm financial resilience for the cooperative.

**Track: Experienced / Senior Professionals**

Designed with senior-level perspectives in mind while remaining open to all participants.

8:00am - 9:15am

## BREAKOUT

### Deferred Compensation Plan Decision Making: Plan Benefits, Types, Vesting and Reporting

*Tamika Bishop, Senior Consultant, Deferred Compensation Products and Registered Representative, Homestead Financial Services Corp.*

*Bill Miller, Tax Partner, Bolinger, Segars, Gilbert & Moss, LLP*

Nonqualified deferred compensation plans offer tax advantages by delaying income tax for plan participants to a later date, aids in retirement planning and encourages employee retention. However, there are choices that have to be made, which govern the type of plan offered and the overall benefit offered. This session will explore when a cooperative may want to adopt a deferred compensation plan, the differences between Section 457(b) and 457(f) plans, how to structure a plan that meets the goals of the cooperative and applicable income tax reporting. Plan compliance and pitfalls will also be discussed.

#### *Learning Objectives:*

1. Identify the key features, benefits, and compliance requirements of nonqualified deferred compensation plans, including when a cooperative may consider adopting a plan to support retirement planning and employee retention.
2. Apply an understanding of the differences between Section 457(b) and Section 457(f) plans to determine appropriate plan structures, vesting provisions and benefit designs that align with cooperative objectives.
3. Evaluate deferred compensation plan decisions by assessing income tax reporting requirements, compliance considerations and common pitfalls that may impact both the cooperative and plan participants.

#### **Track: Experienced / Senior Professionals**

Designed with seniorlevel perspectives in mind while remaining open to all participants.

8:00am - 9:15am

## BREAKOUT

### Purchase Order to Plant – A Practical Walkthrough for Co-op Accountants

*Tyler Canady, Audit Partner, Bolinger, Segars, Gilbert & Moss, LLP*

*Preston Elkins, Accounting and Finance Manager, Roosevelt County Electric Cooperative, Inc.*

Take the guesswork out of the plant accounting process. In this interactive breakout session, we'll follow a project from the very first purchase order all the way through to its final placement in plant. Along the way, we'll connect the dots between key modules, highlight common pitfalls, and share practical tips to keep your records accurate and audit-ready. Whether you're new to plant accounting or looking to strengthen your workflow, this session will give you a clear, end-to-end view of how everything fits together. Join us to build confidence, streamline your process and take your co-op's accounting to the next level.

#### *Learning Objectives:*

1. Identify the key steps in the plant accounting process, from initial purchase order through final placement in plant and how each stage connects across accounting modules.
2. Apply practical techniques to avoid common plant accounting pitfalls and maintain accurate, auditready records throughout the project lifecycle.
3. Evaluate opportunities to strengthen workflows, improve documentation, and increase confidence in endtoend plant accounting practices at your cooperative.

#### **Track: Early Career / Emerging Professionals**

Designed to support developing professionals, with takeaways applicable across experience levels.

9:15am - 9:30am

### NETWORKING BREAK

Break

9:30am - 10:20am

### BREAKOUT

85/15 Member Income Test

*Pat Cooper, Tax Director, Bolinger, Segars, Gilbert & Moss, LLP*

This course provides a technical deep dive into the 85/15 member income test, a compliance benchmark for 501(c)(12) cooperatives. Participants will learn the mechanics of the 85/15 test. This includes learning to categorize income streams, such as government grants, pole attachments and interest. The session will also cover strategic structural options, including the use of taxable subsidiaries to help the parent cooperative maintain tax-exempt status.

*Learning Objectives:*

1. Identify the requirements and technical mechanics of the 85/15 member income test for 501(c)(12) cooperatives, including the proper classification of common income streams such as government grants, pole attachments and interest income.
2. Apply the 85/15 test to realworld cooperative income scenarios by categorizing revenue sources and calculating compliance outcomes based on current IRS guidance.
3. Evaluate strategic structural options—including the use of taxable subsidiaries—to manage nonmember income and support the cooperative's ability to maintain taxexempt status under Section 501(c)(12).

**Track: All Levels**

Appropriate for all experience levels, from emerging professionals to senior leaders.

9:30am - 10:20am

### BREAKOUT

Learning to Lead: From Entry-Level Accountant to CFO

*Amanda Burnett, CFO, SEMO Electric Cooperative*

*Robin Rivers, Lead Training and Education Specialist, CFC*

Join an engaging conversation with Amanda Burnett, a finance professional who rose from entry-level accountant to CFO, gaining leadership skills through pivotal moments, mindset shifts and hard earned lessons along the way. This session offers practical guidance to grow your influence, build confidence and prepare for management.

*Learning Objectives:*

1. Identify key leadership skills, mindset shifts, and career decisions that support progression from an entrylevel finance role into management and executive leadership.
2. Apply practical strategies to build influence, confidence, and credibility when stepping into supervisory or leadership responsibilities.
3. Evaluate realworld lessons learned from a CFO's career journey to inform personal leadership development and readiness for future management roles.

**Track: Early Career / Emerging Professionals**

Designed to support developing professionals, with takeaways applicable across experience levels.

9:30am - 10:20am

## BREAKOUT

### Cybersecurity Essentials: Protecting Your Bottom Line

*Christian Hansen, Principal, Baker Tilly*

Tailored for rural broadband providers, this session shows how to assess cybersecurity risks, understand the financial impact of breaches and develop a cost-effective security strategy to safeguard your organization's bottom line.

#### *Learning Objectives:*

1. Assess key cybersecurity risks facing rural broadband providers and their potential vulnerabilities.
2. Analyze the financial implications of cybersecurity breaches, including direct and indirect costs.
3. Develop a cost-effective cybersecurity strategy to mitigate risks and protect organizational financial performance.

#### **Track: All Levels**

Appropriate for all experience levels, from emerging professionals to senior leaders.

9:30am - 11:25am

## BREAKOUT

### AI Masterclass: Data Analysis with Excel & CoPilot

*Neil Malek, President, Knack Training*

Analyzing data is one of the core promises of artificial intelligence - and this session will show you all the tips and tricks to do it effectively. CoPilot has multiple ways to integrate and interact with Excel, including providing suggestions, building new workbooks from scratch and leveraging Python to deep-dive into your data. This session is ideal for professionals who want to modernize their approach to data analysis, and make smarter decisions with less manual effort. Topics include:

- Learning to implement core Excel tools more effectively with AI suggestions.
- Generating charts, PivotTables, and summaries from AI prompts.
- Automating repetitive tasks with macros and Office Scripts.
- Identifying trends and patterns with Python scripts.
- Leveraging AI agents for complex data analysis and dashboard creation

#### *Learning Objectives:*

1. Identify ways to use Microsoft 365 CoPilot with Excel to improve analysis workflows, including prompting for suggestions, creating new workbooks and generating summaries.
2. Apply AI prompts to generate charts, PivotTables, and insights, and automate repetitive Excel tasks using macros and Office Scripts to reduce manual effort.
3. Evaluate trends and patterns in datasets by leveraging Python-enabled analysis approaches and AI-assisted techniques to support more confident, data-driven decisions.

#### **Track: All Levels**

Appropriate for all experience levels, from emerging professionals to senior leaders.

10:20am - 10:45am

## NETWORKING BREAK

Break

10:45am - 11:35am

## BREAKOUT

### Smart Spending for Stronger Networks: Operational and Cost Management

This session discusses the key cost drivers shaping today's rural broadband operations—from network builds to labor shortages to equipment delays. You will gain strategies to benchmark performance, anticipate pressures and optimize spending in an unpredictable operating environment.

#### *Learning Objectives:*

1. Identify the primary cost drivers impacting rural broadband operations, including network construction, labor constraints and supply chain challenges.
2. Analyze operational performance using benchmarking strategies to compare costs and efficiency against industry standards.
3. Develop strategies to anticipate financial pressures and optimize spending in a volatile and unpredictable operating environment.

10:45am - 11:45am

## BREAKOUT

### Federal Policy in Real Time: Tax, Tariffs and Advocacy Impacting Cooperatives

*Paul Gutierrez, Legislative Affairs Director, NRECA*

Electric cooperative tax and finance policies are shaped long before guidance is issued or regulations are finalized. In this timely session, Paul Gutierrez offers a behindthescenes look at how advocacy on Capitol Hill directly influences the financial and tax issues facing electric cooperatives.

Participants will learn how Paul and the NRECA team engage with members of Congress, federal agencies, and the current administration to advocate for cooperative priorities—including tax credits, tariffs and other evolving regulatory matters. Paul will walk through the advocacy process, explain the types of support NRECA needs from cooperatives and share realtime insights into current tax and trade issues impacting the industry.

With ongoing policy changes and an evolving federal landscape, this session will provide an uptodate regulatory briefing while helping attendees better understand how cooperative voices shape outcomes—and how they can play a role in that process.

#### *Learning Objectives:*

1. Identify the role of NRECA's tax and finance advocacy efforts on Capitol Hill, including how federal tax, tariff and regulatory policies affecting electric cooperatives are developed.
2. Apply an understanding of the advocacy and regulatory process to better interpret current and emerging tax and finance issues impacting cooperative operations and financial planning.
3. Evaluate how cooperative engagement and support contribute to effective advocacy outcomes by assessing opportunities for cooperatives to provide input, data and realworld examples that inform policy decisions.

#### **Track: All Levels**

Appropriate for all experience levels, from emerging professionals to senior leaders.

10:45am - 11:45am

## BREAKOUT

### FASB Update

*Michael Cheng, Partner, Frazier & Deeter*

Join us for an insightful presentation on the latest updates from the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) and the Private Company Council (PCC). We will dive into key updates and discuss their impact on financial reporting under US GAAP.

#### *Learning Objectives:*

1. Identify recent and upcoming updates issued by FASB and the PCC that affect financial reporting under U.S. GAAP.
2. Apply key FASB and PCC updates to cooperative financial reporting scenarios to understand potential changes to accounting treatment, disclosures and implementation considerations.
3. Evaluate the anticipated impact of current and proposed accounting standard updates on co-op financial statements, policies and future reporting decisions.

#### **Track: All Levels**

Appropriate for all experience levels, from emerging professionals to senior leaders.

## WEDNESDAY 08/12

12:30pm - 3:30pm

## POST CONFERENCE WORKSHOP

### Ethical Decision-Making in Cooperative Accounting and Finance

This session equips accounting and finance professionals with the ethical mindset and practical tools needed to safeguard member-owned resources and uphold trust in cooperative environments. Participants will explore their responsibilities as stewards of financial integrity, including adherence to professional standards, strong internal controls, and transparent reporting, while addressing risks such as conflicts of interest, fraud and data privacy. Through practical frameworks and case studies, attendees will build confidence in navigating ethical gray areas and applying consistent, accountable decision-making in their day-to-day roles.

#### Learning Objectives:

1. Apply ethical principles and professional standards to ensure accurate financial reporting, strong internal controls and protection of member assets.
2. Identify and mitigate risks related to conflicts of interest, fraud and data confidentiality within cooperative finance operations.
3. Use practical decision-making frameworks to navigate ethical dilemmas, raise concerns appropriately, and support a culture of accountability and transparency.

**Fee \$300. Lunch included. Registration is required.**

**(Note: This workshop is eligible for 3.5 CPE credits)**