

For Members Only



A Word from the President 2017 Annual Report

by Jason Seanger
President, MEA Board of Directors



It has been my honor to serve as Chair of the MEA Board of Directors this past year. I want to thank the officers, directors, committees, members and staff for making 2017 such an excellent year. Karen Maine of Karen's Electric will do a great job for you as incoming Chair. It has been a busy year and we have accomplished a number of things.

Workforce Development – the shortage of electricians is real and we are all facing the harsh reality of finding good talent. The work that we are doing at MEA will help the industry for years to come. The Electrical Industry recruitment video was finalized this past year and is available for all to use. Partnerships with community-based organizations have been established, and plans are in the works, resources/information/documents have been made available on the MEA website for members to use and industry prospects to view. The statistics for that future job force outlook can be alarming, but spreading our passion for the industry can tap into undiscovered talent.

Government Action – the 2017 legislative session was quick. Some successes for electrical contractors that MEA supported include (1) building permit fees and surcharges have been reduced by as much as 20%; (2) business property tax on commercial structures was reduced; (3) electrical license fees were lowered; and (4) a \$998 billion capital improvement (bonding) bill did pass, which should mean more opportunities to bid on state and local government electrical work.

The Pathway to Licensure bill did not get heard in the 2017 session. August of 2017, MEA staff underwent a restructure of job roles and reporting lines, which has allowed Michelle Dreier to take on the role as Government

Action liaison. Michelle has been working side by side with MEA lobbyist Bill Strusinski for the past few months doing a lot of legwork to gain support on this bill. It will be heard this session by the Senate and the House prior to Committee deadline.

Website Enhancements – by merging the MEA website with our database back in 2016, the MEA staff has been able to efficiently give us, as members, the information that we need. Using these website enhancements has been beneficial for membership in numerous ways: created the ability to sign up for auto draft for annual dues payments; automated the process of dues billings; organized marketing campaigns and order confirmations. More will be automated in the coming year and engagement tracking will be implemented.

Education Enhancements – the development of curriculum improvements from our Director of Education, Jeff Keljik, has been a high priority. All training was updated to reflect the 2017 Code changes as well as a lot of customized training developed to meet our customers' needs.

These are just a few of the many highlights from the year. One of the biggest accomplishments of the association in 2017 was the financial stability. MEA as a whole ended the year with a significant profit, which was \$36,900 over budgeted projections. This allowed us to move \$60,000 into reserves for financial security and the ability to continue to serve the Electrical Industry for years to come. I want to thank you all for the help and support I have received as your Chair of the MEA Board. See you at the Spring Conference on April 20!

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Clara DeRosier
Executive Director

From the Executive Director What's New at MEA?

The first quarter at MEA has been packed with activities that bring us closer to meeting the initiatives you have set for us!

- The legislative session has begun and is in full swing. Please thank your fearless president, Jason Seanger, for attending numerous meetings with the Department of Labor & Industry and with the Minnesota House and Senate and also for testifying on the Pathway to Licensure Bill. We have an enormous hill to climb on this bill but the support and dedication from members is very helpful—**call your representatives and tell them your stories on how this bill will positively impact your business!** Keep an eye out for the weekly legislative reports to get real-time status updates on this bill and many others that affect your business.
- MEA staff celebrated Women in Construction week (March 4-10) by attending events around the metro put on by regulatory agencies, tech schools and contractors.
- In the beginning of March, MEA went live with a new phone provider, so we can be more accessible through our desk phones and cell phones, as well as, working more efficiently internally. We now have an online app where we can collaborate in group chats or shared screens.

- Please join us for Building Committee Day on Saturday, May 5 (9:00am–1:00pm – lunch included). We have a long list of projects this year that we would like to accomplish, so the more help, the better! Painting the wood on the front of the building, new street numbers, new MEA sign, touching up paint on the inside of the office, mulch for the front area along with some of the regular maintenance jobs to name a few. If you have never been to the MEA office, now is a great time to get a tour and see where all of the magic happens.

We will be distributing the full Annual Report at the Board Meeting on Saturday, April 21. This includes a full timeline of 2018 initiatives to move us closer to all goals established in MEA's strategic plan. Tim Pass from Smith Schafer will be presenting the 2017 Year-End financials for MEA and ETN. We will also be passing the gavel from Jason Seanger, Melrose Electric, to Karen Maine, Karen's Electric. Jason's dedication and support as president has been phenomenal. I look forward to working closely with Karen throughout 2018 as we *Power MEA into the Future*. I hope to see you all soon!



You Need to Know

COMPLIANCE

Affordable Care Act Mandate 2018 Deadlines... Similar to notices issued in prior years, the IRS has issued a notice granting an extension for providing employees a copy of Form 1095-C. In Notice 2018-06, the IRS extended the deadline for giving Form 1095-C to employees from Jan 31, 2018, to Mar 2, 2018. The ACA mandates that all applicable "Large Employers" fill out Form 1095-C for all employees who work full-time hours (130 hours) in at least one calendar month. Employers must distribute Form 1095-C to employees and file the form with the IRS, along with the Form 1094-C. Both the Form 1095-C and 1094-C provide information to the IRS about the health coverage

the employer offered to employees. This extension does not apply to filing the forms with the IRS. Employers have until Feb 28 (if filing by paper) or Apr 2 (if filing online) to submit Forms 1094-C and 1095-C to the IRS. Employers may request a 30-day extension with Form 8809. (www.seatonlaw.com)

CONSTRUCTION TRENDS

US Residential Construction... Building Permits The US Census Bureau and the US HUD jointly announced the following new residential construction statistics for February 2018: Privately-owned housing units authorized by building permits in February were at a seasonally

(YNTK - cont. from pg 3)

adjusted annual rate 5.7% below the revised January rate, but is 6.5% above the February 2017 rate. Single-family authorizations in February were at a rate 0.6% below the revised January figure. (www.census.gov/construction/nrc)

LABOR & MANAGEMENT

Monthly Economic Snapshot... (MN DEED)

Category	Metric	MN rate	MN rank (1=Best)
Business Climate	5-yr Business Survival Rate (2012-2017)	57.4%	1
	Bus. Taxes % of GDP	4.5%	23
Labor Market (Jan 2018)	1-yr Growth Employment	0.7%	35
	Labor Force Participation	70.1%	2
	Total State Employment	2,946,200	18
	Unemployment Rate	3.3%	12

Battle over Pre-emption is Back at the MN Capitol...

Pre-emption became a top priority in 2017 for Republican legislative majorities in Minnesota and in other states across the nation. On the first day of the 2018 legislative session in Minnesota, lawmakers reinstated a committee, which included members of both the House and Senate, to discuss House File No. 600. In doing so, the most contentious debate of the last session was quietly

renewed: whether to pre-empt local governments from setting their own wage and labor rules and other policies. (www.mnchamber.com)

RECALL NOTICES

Southwire Recalls Wi-Fi Switches Due to Fire

Hazard... *Name of product:* WiOn Indoor In-wall Wi-Fi Switches; *Hazard:* Switches can overheat, posing a fire hazard. *Remedy:* Refund/Replace. *Recall date:* 3/15/18. *Units:* About 24,000 (In addition, 6000 sold in Canada). *Consumer Contact:* Southwire 888-770-7156 or online at www.wionproducts.com or www.southwire.com and click on "Product Recall" for more information. (www.cpsc.gov)

MISCELLANEOUS

Workers Rank Health Care as the Most Critical Issue in the US...

The survey also finds that a majority of workers describe the health care system as poor or fair, though workers' satisfaction in their own health plans remains high. Rising health care costs have implications for financial wellbeing among workers. Of the workers reporting cost increases, 26% state they have decreased their contributions to retirement plans, and 43% have decreased their contributions to other savings (www.ebri.org)

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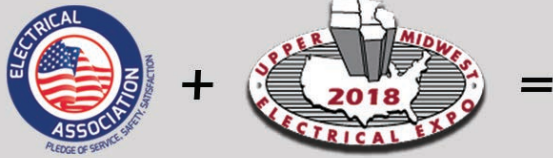
THE ULTIMATE TIME-SAVING TOOL



The advertisement features a blue and tan toolbox filled with various tools like wrenches, pliers, and a tape measure. Next to it is a smartphone displaying the CESCO.COM mobile app interface. To the right is a tablet displaying the CESCO.COM website, which includes a search bar, navigation menu, and promotional banners for Hubbell and Crescent Electric. The Crescent Electric Supply Company logo is prominently displayed in the bottom right corner, along with the website URL cesco.com and social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, LinkedIn, RSS, and Pinterest.

MEA has Partnered with NCEL—

To provide all of the Continuing Education Components at the Upcoming Expo!



OPPORTUNITIES TO...

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