

For Members Only



A Word from the President Business Training

by Karen Maine
President, MEA Board of Directors



Power into
the future!

MEA ALERT



MEA strives to bring quality education to the industry not only on the technical side but on the business side as well. These are being provided for us to attend and learn or send the appropriate person on our staff to get this valuable information.

Wednesday, February 6 – Online

Top Five Items for Contractors to Audit in 2019

Presenter: Thomas Revnew, Attorney at Law
Start out the new year right by proactively auditing a number of items to protect your business. While each of these topics could be day-long training sessions, this session will discuss on a high level, important steps construction contractors should consider taking to protect their business in 2019.

Wednesday, February 20 – Online

Project Management – Guaranteed to help you complete your projects on time and on budget!

Presenter: Jim Crabbe, Customer Relations Manager
Key Takeaways! Discover the 5 key "Project Indicators" and why most contractors aren't using them. Change Orders - The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly! Allocate your resources wisely and avoid wasting time or money at any stage of the project. Learn the two key skills to help you anticipate problems before they become difficult to solve. Communicate the progress of your project with team members.

Wednesday, March 20 – Online

Prefabrication Solutions for the Electrical Industry

Presenter: John Fowler, Electrotech

Friday, April 12 – Water Street Inn, Stillwater

When Generations Connect – Communicating with Four Generations of Employees

Presenter: Bridgeworks – Farah Habad
Key Takeaways! Explain who the generations are in today's workforce. Identify the stereotypes that keep us from understanding other generations. Present solutions for engagement, team synergy, and motivation for all generations. Help you develop approaches for communicating across generational divides. Identify key trends of the future of the workplace.

Wednesday, September 18 – Online

Mechanic Lien Overview

Presenter: Thomas Revnew, Attorney at Law
When used properly, mechanics' liens can protect contractors' rights to recover payment for work. This webinar will focus on the key factors to remember when attempting to enforce a mechanics' lien, including, but not limited to; giving pre-lien notices; Timeline to file a mechanics lien and the deadline to foreclose the lien.

Coming Soon! **Opioids in the Workplace**

Presenters from the MN Department of Health
This webinar will cover: What opioids are; Safe use, storage, and disposal; Trends in opioid overdose death in MN; Race rate disparity in drug overdose death; Signs and symptoms of an opioid use disorder; Tools and resources for employers to address the opioid epidemic.



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Clara DeRosier
Executive Director

From the Executive Director

Changes in Minnesota Electrical License Exams

As we all know, the MN licensing exam is one of the toughest. It is harder than most other states electrical exams as well as other licensed trades. The MN Department of Labor’s statistics prove this. The pass rate for the Journeyworker electrical exam averages at 32% over the past 5 years (40% for the master exam). Compare this to plumbing with an average Journeyworker pass rate of 77% (79% for the master exam) or elevator at 65% (100% for the master exam) over the past 5 years. The MN DLI works hard with the industry to make these tests fair and a true test of the knowledge an individual possesses. As a MN resident, it makes me confident that those who hold a Journeyworker and/or Master Electrician license are extremely qualified.

As you all know, with the large amounts of work and construction projects, an increase in Journeyworkers to supervise apprentices is also needed. The Board of Electricity has been listening and evaluating the exam to determine if there is anything they can do to help. One of the biggest issues that test takers have is the amount of time given to answer the 100 questions. They may not have a lack of knowledge in some of these scenarios, just a lack of time to fully understand the entire question and answer correctly.

In hopes to assist these test takers, the electrical exam for **Journeyworker** electricians has changed from 100 questions to 80 questions. This change went into effect early January 2019. The degree of difficulty is between 1.5 to 2.5, with 1 being the easiest and 5 being the hardest to answer.

The **Master** electrician exam is currently undergoing change as well, so it too will be reworked to 80 questions and is expected to go into effect in April of 2019. The degree of difficulty for the questions are between 2.5 – 3.5. The test for **Maintenance** electrician’s licenses have 70 questions.

All license examinations are a maximum of 5.5 hours and a passing score for all exams is 70% correct.

By viewing the Electrical License Examination Guide at Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry web site, you may get more information on the test. This guide has been recently revised: www.dli.mn.gov/workers/electrician-or-electrical-installer/licensing-personal-electrical-license

The test is still considered a comprehensive test that incorporates all aspects of the current National Electrical Code (NEC). The test is designed to assess the electrician’s competence in utilizing the code. The State wants to be sure the licensed electrician can practice within the scope of their license without harm to the public.

The current question format has been in effect since 2017. Multiple-choice answers will have only one correct answer. There are some questions in the negative response category such as: “Which of the following does NOT apply”. See sample questions in the DLI website.

The first Journeyworker exam at 80 questions had 12 takers and 7 passed the exam (58%). We will see what type of new statistics this format unveils. MEA’s Director of Education (Jeff Keljik) works closely with the MN Department of Labor and Board of Electricity to ensure best practices for the industry. If any of your electricians have feedback on the exam, please let Jeff know. We compile all of this information and relay it appropriately.

The creators of the Minnesota exam have reviewed the curriculum in the MEA Exam Prep Workbook and agreed that if a student can complete this workbook, they should be able to pass the exam. Our class will get you up to speed in areas of the code you may not work with on a daily basis. See MEA’s website for all current offering options.

www.electricalassociation.com/examprep

Also Available—	
Exam Prep Pre-Test	Self-Paced Exam Prep Course
55 Questions test your knowledge: Are you ready to take the JourneyWorker Exam? Do you need MEA’s Prep class?	280 Questions give you the opportunity to check your answers and get explanations with NEC and MN Laws & Rules.

You Need to Know

COMPLIANCE

Master electrician licenses expire Feb 28... Renew online at <https://secure.doli.state.mn.us/license/Default.aspx>. The fee is \$73 (reduced from \$88 in 2016 and \$118.40 in 2014). Renewing without completing continuing education may result in license suspension and a fine of \$1000. Of the required 16 hrs, at least 12 must pertain to the NEC. No more than 4 hrs may pertain to technical topics related to electrical installations and equipment, or the MN statutes governing electrical work. More info: www.dli.mn.gov/workers/electrician-or-electrical-installer/continuing-education-electrical. Questions? dli.license@state.mn.us or (651) 284-5031.

CONSTRUCTION TRENDS

Construction Input Prices Continue to Fall in December... Construction input prices declined 1.7% in December on a month-over-month basis yet are 3.5% higher than the same time last year, according to an Associated Builders and Contractors analysis of US BLS data released today. In December, nonresidential construction prices fell 1.6% but are up 4.1% compared to one year ago. Among 11 subcategories monitored in the data, 6 declined in price last month, with the crude petroleum category registering the largest decrease at 3.7% and 11.1% year-over-year. The decline in input prices occurred despite a massive run-up in natural gas prices of 64.3%. (www.abc.org)

ENERGY

Minnesota could economically reach 70% renewable electricity... The MN Dept of Commerce, clean energy advocates, and all the state's major utilities over the past three years developed the Solar Potential Analysis Report (published in November) concludes that MN could get 70% of its electricity from wind and solar by 2050 at no additional cost compared to natural gas. Instead of batteries to balance the variable generation, it suggests that overbuilding wind and solar capacity would be more economical. The model calls for reaching up to 22 gigawatts capacity each for wind and solar power. (www.mncee.org)

LABOR & MANAGEMENT

(US) 5 Million New Jobs... The U.S. economy exceeded expectations with 312,000 jobs added in Dec and an additional 58,000 in upward revisions from Oct and Nov – bringing the total to 5 million jobs added since the 2016 election. Significant job gains were widespread, including in construction, manufacturing, retail trade, education and health services, leisure/hospitality sectors. (www.dol.gov)

(US) Unemployment... Rose to 3.9% on a seasonally adjusted basis in December. (www.deed.mn.gov)

(MN) Unemployment... unemployment rate held steady for the fourth consecutive month at 2.8% in December on a seasonally adjusted basis. The state added 500 jobs in Dec 2018, helping it keep its seasonally adjusted unemployment rate below the national level of 3.9% for the month. MN's all time low is 2.5%, recorded in Jan and Feb of 1999. For the year, MN added 31,441 jobs, a 1.1% increase, according to the state DEED report. That is below the 1.8% growth seen nationally. (www.twincities.com)

NORTH DAKOTA

Power Limited Licensing... North Dakota Board supports legislative bill for power limited technician licensing and is looking for interested parties to come & testify. If you are a company presently doing power limited work, you really need to come out and testify. Because of the increased creation of various power limited systems for homes and businesses, the board has been contemplating a power limited technician license or another class of electricians. The board feels this is a necessary license, similar to the electrical license, to ensure individuals have the understanding and are trained in installing power limited systems and are educated in the requirements of the NEC and the ND Wiring Standards articles that are associated with power limited work. We will be posting the legislative committee meeting dates (www.ndseb.com), so if you are interested you would have an opportunity to testify.

Deadline to submit: **March 1** **WAGE & BENEFIT SURVEYS**

If you have not already received a survey, return the one we've enclosed here

or complete online at:

www.SurveyMonkey.com/r/CWFSDL9

Respondents receive a FREE 2019 Report.

The image shows a survey report from the Minnesota Electrical Association. The report is titled "2017 Wage & Benefit Report" and is sponsored by Seaton | Peters | Review. It includes a table with columns for "MN Location", "Employees", "Low", "High", "Avg", "Type of Firm", "No. Contributing Firms", "Profit Margin", "Vacancies", "OSHA Safety", and "Turnover". The table lists various locations such as Co. A, Co. B, Co. C, Co. D, Co. E, Co. F, Co. G, Co. H, Co. I, Co. J, Co. K, Co. L, Co. M, Co. N, Co. O, Co. P, Co. Q, Co. R, Co. S, Co. T, Co. U, Co. V, Co. W, Co. X, Co. Y, Co. Z, Co. AA, Co. AB, Co. AC, Co. AD, Co. AE, Co. AF, Co. AG, Co. AH, Co. AI, Co. AJ, Co. AK, Co. AL, Co. AM, Co. AN, Co. AO, Co. AP, Co. AQ, Co. AR, Co. AS, Co. AT, Co. AU, Co. AV, Co. AW, Co. AX, Co. AY, Co. AZ, Co. BA, Co. BB, Co. BC, Co. BD, Co. BE, Co. BF, Co. BG, Co. BH, Co. BI, Co. BJ, Co. BK, Co. BL, Co. BM, Co. BN, Co. BO, Co. BP, Co. BQ, Co. BR, Co. BS, Co. BT, Co. BU, Co. BV, Co. BW, Co. BX, Co. BY, Co. 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WHO..... Electricians who have a beginner's interest in PLCs—Learn how PLCs work and how to start programming the instructions that provide the control circuits.

WHAT You will program the PLC (pictured below). It is yours to keep to continue practicing on, or set it up as a demonstration for others.



Rockwell –Allen Bradley Micro 850

Bit instructions, logic functions • Program documentation, timer functions and applications • Addressing rules, Counter instruction block • Scan cycle, RPI, data communications • Math instructions, Integers, real numbers • Compare instructions, Data type conversions • Boolean mapping, system status bits • Data manipulation instructions • Hardware modules, applications, program flow

WHEN..... 10 wks on Thursdays starting Feb 28 (6:30-9:30pm CST)

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2019 EDUCATION CALENDAR

CODE TRAINING

Based on the 2017 NEC®

Masters! Last chance to get your 16 CEs before February 28!

Classroom 16 Cont Ed Credits—Approved by MN, WI, SD, ND, NE, IA, WY, MT. (2 days; 8am-5pm)

- Feb 7-8** **Worthington** 2017 NEC Grounding & Bonding;
Motor Installation & Overcurrent Protection. Joe Gatewood, Trainer.
- Feb 7-8** **La Crosse, WI at Werner Electric Supply** NEC 2017 Code Update;
Residential Installation; Power Limited. Jeff Keljik, Trainer.
- Feb 8-9** **Mankato** 2017 NEC Grounding & Bonding;
Motor Installation & Overcurrent Protection. Jeff Kunkel, Trainer.
- Feb 14-15** **Plymouth at JH Larson** 2017 NEC Grounding & Bonding;
Motor Installation & Overcurrent Protection. Jeff Kunkel, Trainer.
- Feb 21-22** **Prior Lake** 2017 NEC Grounding & Bonding;
Motor Installation & Overcurrent Protection. Mike Miller, Trainer.
- Mar 7-8** **Minneapolis at Crescent Electric Supply** 2017 NEC Grounding & Bonding;
Motor Installation & Overcurrent Protection. Jeff Kunkel, Trainer.

Worthington Sponsored by



La Crosse Sponsored by



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EXAM PREP COURSE

- Feb 16-17** **Edina** at Federated Insurance. Chad Kurdi, Trainer.
Apr 14-15 **Edina** at Federated Insurance. Chad Kurdi, Trainer.

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MEA SPRING CONFERENCE (APRIL 11-13)

- Lunch presentation—**learn about communicating with all generations in today's workplace**
- **Tour of the St Croix bridge with MN DOT**—Todd Clarkowski & John Pederson will walk us through aesthetics, traffic signals, interior box beam lighting, and electrical systems
- **Annual Awards Dinner**—a wonderful night to recognize those who have gone above and beyond

WATCH YOUR EMAIL & CHECK BACK: WWW.ELECTRICALASSOCIATION.COM/CONFERENCES