



A Word from the President

2019 Highlights

by Joe Gatewood
President, Board of Directors



Electrical Association ALERT

Hello colleagues and friends! I hoped my last article for the *Alert* could have been on lighter terms. However, even though we are in a current state of chaos, 2019 has a lot that we should celebrate for the Electrical Association.

If the past is any indication on the future of this Association, I know that we have been through many hard times before and can do it again. We have been a strong Association of hardworking contractors for 90 years, not many Associations can say that. Being the President of the Electrical Association this year has been extraordinary. There have been many uncontrollable curveballs that were thrown at us (polar vortex during our strategic planning session, blizzard in April, and unexpected IACET accreditation) that seem like small bumps in the road in comparison to today's circumstances. However, we were able to accomplish a lot with a great board and committee leadership and the small, but mighty, team working at the Association day in and day out.

Here are a few highlights that come to mind when I recap 2019:

- 2019-2021 Strategic Plan created
- Brand discovery workshop with Mercury Group
- 2019 Electrical Industry Directory published
- 2019 Wage & Benefit Report created
- Organization policy manual developed
- 3000+ electricians trained

- First PLC Course – sold out
- 2 new trainers hired for education growth
- Retainage Prompt Payment Provision passed
- CIP and Residential Solar Provisions were defended
- Executive Director obtained CAE credentials
- Year 5 Extended Training created
- Record-breaking apprentices training enrollment
- First Annual Partner & Profit Event
- Website and communication audit
- Removal of *Minnesota* from the company name
- 3 Million+ in sales for business products
- 32 new members
- IACET accreditation granted

With all of this came an extremely solid financial year for the Association allowing more dollars to be allocated toward reserves. A complete audit of the current financial state of the Association will be given at the virtual Board of Directors meeting in April by the Association's third-party accountant, Tim Pass. I am very proud to have led the Association through 2019 with all its successes!

Big plans are in the works for 2020, I am eager to assist as Past-President while your new leader, Clayton Schenck (Magnum Electric) Fargo, ND takes the reigns. I have no doubt in my mind that Clayton will do a terrific job from here.

(President - cont. on pg 2)

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Clara Albert, CAE
Executive Director

From the Executive Director We Aren't Slowing Down!

It seems odd to write about anything other than Covid-19, but with things changing daily or even hourly, by the time this reaches you the information may no longer be relevant. So, that is why we have been working hard to get you up-to-date information on our

website including extremely informative webinars by commissioners, attorneys, tax professionals, legislation, etc.

Visit www.electricalassociation.com/covid19 for the latest details as things progress. We are here for you to help you navigate through these unprecedented times as best we can.

All of our public classroom CE classes for the month of April have been moved to online forums to comply with social distancing requirements.

The NCEL Expo has been postponed to a later date. The meetings that the Association had planned for committees and the board will be held online on Wednesday, April 15. Let me know if you are interested in attending any of the following meetings:

- 9:00 - 10:30am: Education Committee
- 9:00 - 10:30am: Membership Committee
- 11:00 - 1:00pm: Board of Directors

We have many projects that we are continuing with full speed ahead during this time of quarantine and lock-down. With our recent IACET approval, we are working hard to get online, self-paced CE up and

(President - cont. from pg 1)

I wanted to point out a few resources on the Covid-19 webpage that may be of interest to you:

www.electricalassociation.com/covid19

1. Building Jobs Coalition letter to Gov. Walz about future of construction and the Bonding Bill
2. ASAE (American Society of Association Executives) language to financially assist Associations through this hard time
3. Small Business Loans Details and how to apply
4. Daily messages from MN Governor Tim Walz as updated are communicated to the public

running and approved by multiple states to meet the needs of electricians throughout the United States.

We planned on launching the new brand, logo and colors for the Electrical Association at the Expo but that will no longer be the case. We are working with our marketing team on a new launch plan. Stay tuned for something virtual and a new-and-improved website!

We are working on legislative language with others in the construction industries to minimize the damage, which includes a large bonding bill so dollars are allocated toward construction. We are continuing to train our private and public cliental virtually and we are continuing to ship orders out to customers as needed. All curriculum for the apprenticeship program and exam preparation class will be updated for the 2020 changes. A lot of planning is occurring as we get creative for how to get through this and thrive on the other side.

None of these things would be possible to accomplish without the amazing staff in place and the amazing board leadership of this association. We have had a handful of extremely successful years that has allowed us to save and to be in a better spot financially than ever before. I am grateful for that and I am grateful for all of you continuing to support this association during these hard times. We need each other more than ever.

A Gallup poll showed that in these times of isolation, the top two areas that we crave are relationships and development. Continue to build relationships within your community in creative ways, and keep learning and developing. Lean on us—reach out as often as you need!

Also, the Association has been and will be sending out a bi-weekly survey from the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. They are collecting data to help gauge the effects of COVID-19 on the construction sector in MN. The survey will be an ongoing effort to get a better understanding of how this outbreak continuously effects the construction sector. Please help out and respond.

Thank you all for trusting me with this position over the past year. I am optimistic for the future and for all the things in the works that will continue to advance this profession that I am so passionate about.

You Need to Know

MN DLI License Exams are Suspended... All DLI license exams are suspended until further notice. Watch for updates at www.dli.mn.gov. (MN DLI. Mar 22, 2020)

Positions Open at MN Secretary of State... Electrical Inspector; Electrical Supplier in Rural Area; Journeyworker Electrician; Master Electrician Contractor. <https://commissionsandappointments.sos.state.mn.us/Position/>. (MN SOS. Mar 2020)

DEED Creating Emergency Loan Program for Minnesota Small Businesses... The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) is creating an emergency loan program to help Minnesota small business owners who need immediate assistance to meet their families' basic needs during COVID-19 closures. Small businesses should send questions about this emergency loan program to ELP@state.mn.us. (MN DEED)

Extensive Disaster Planning at Electric & Gas Utilities... Customers can be assured that the electric industry has been planning for threats like the recent pandemic for decades. For example, Reuters reports that

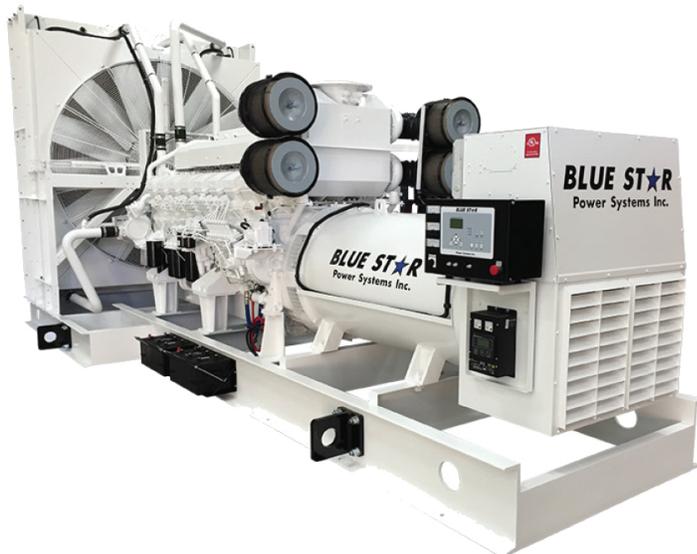
The Great River Energy Cooperative has a plan in place to run a skeleton crew and has enough cots, blankets, food, etc. to keep sequestered staff healthy. (<https://energy.einnews.com/>)

Apply for Unemployment Benefits... Apply online at www.uimn.org

New Video: The OSHA Inspection Process... See how OSHA conducts and inspection and the reasons for an inspection. <http://tiny.cc/dldulz> (OSHA.gov)

RECALLED Kichler Lighting Recalls Ceiling Fans Due to Injury Hazard... Name of product: Kichler 52-inch LED Indoor Ceiling fans; Hazard: The irons (arms) that hold the ceiling fan blades can detach during use, causing the blades to fall, posing an injury hazard; Remedy: Replace; Recall date: March 12, 2020; Units: 38,900. Consumer Contact: 866-558-5706 or online at www.kichler.com and click on "Safety Information." (www.cpssc.gov)

Wisconsin License Holders... Electrical Licenses Expire in June. Register for our 2017 NEC Code Training Class in La Crosse. www.electricalassociation.com/classroom.



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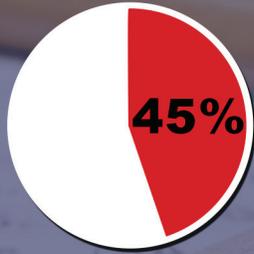


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2019 DLI Exam Pass Rates

Overall



Our Students!



Source: MN DLI

Exam Prep Classes

Based on 2017 NEC® —

IMPORTANT NOTICE:
April 25-26 Class Changed to ONLINE format!

Saturday and Sunday
Apr 25-26

www.electricalassociation.com/examprep



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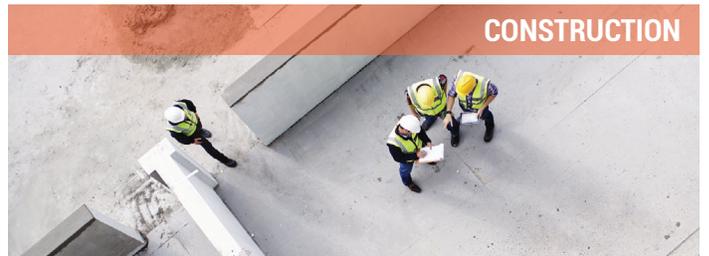
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2020 EDUCATION CALENDAR

CODE TRAINING

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NEW CLASS!

Online 16 Cont Ed Credits—Multi-State Approval; check our website. (2 days; 8am-5pm)

Apr 15-16 2020 NEC® Code Updates. Mike Miller & Jeff Keljik, Trainers.

Classroom 16 Cont Ed Credits—Multi-State Approval; check our website. (2 days; 8am-5pm)

June 11-12 **La Crosse WI** at Werner* 2017 NEC® Grounding & Bonding, Motor Installation Reqt's, Overcurrent Protection. Trainer, TBD.
*WI Masters and Journeyworkers continuing ed is due June 30!

Thank You for Sponsoring our Class!



WERNER ELECTRIC

Aug 14-15 **St Cloud** 2020 NEC® Grounding & Bonding, Motor Installation Reqt's, Overcurrent Protection. Mike Miller, Trainer.

Online 2 Cont Ed Credits—Multi-State Approval; check our website.

Apr 8 (6:30PM-8:30PM) 2020 NEC® Motors, Controls, GFCI Requirements. Chad Kurdi, Trainer.

Apr 22 (8:00AM-10:00AM) 2020 NEC® Grounding & Bonding - Part 2. Jeff Kunkel, Trainer.

May 6 (6:30PM-8:30PM) 2020 NEC® Motor Installations Requirements - Part 1. Chad Kurdi, Trainer.

May 28 (6:30PM-8:30PM) 2020 NEC® Motor Installations Requirements - Part 2. Chad Kurdi, Trainer.

EXAM PREP COURSE

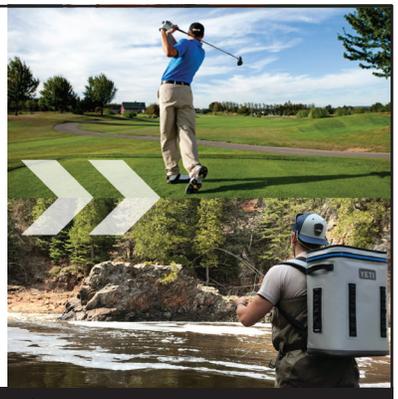
Apr 25-26 **CHANGED TO ONLINE!** 2017 NEC®. Chad Kurdi, Trainer.

June 6-7 **Edina** at Federated Insurance. 2017 NEC®. Chad Kurdi, Trainer.

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***NOTICE! The April 25-26 class has been changed to ONLINE format!**



www.electricalassociation.com/examprep