



ELECTRICAL ASSOCIATION News

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Joel Gatewood
President of MEA's
Board of Directors

Educational Opportunities Expanding

Now that the holidays are over, our lives completely slow down, right? Wouldn't that be a dream? We just continue to fill our hours, days and weeks with work, family and hopefully a bit of fun. That is why the Electrical Association continuously strives to be

the go-to place for resources that make the business side of my life easier. One of our strategic initiatives included on-demand continuing education so electricians can learn the necessary code changes while fulfilling their CE requirement. The Association's online-live education has been a popular product over the years and has been approved in many states as a way for electricians to get their CE without traveling to a (sometimes far) destination. We are finally in a place where we can take this one step further and bring the education to you and your electrician's living room any time at your very own convenience.

In order to meet requirements set through statute with the MN DLI, a third-party accreditation is required for curriculum approval. The Association has been exploring this path and ultimately chose IACET as the accrediting body. In researching options, it was clear that the IACET accreditation for the Association's Education Department would set us up for continued success and growth as education continues to be a top priority for the Electrical Association.

About Accreditation: The ANSI/IACET Standard for Continuing Education and Training is a universal model for learning process excellence. It defines a proven model for developing effective and valuable continuing education and training (CE/T) programs by measuring a CE/T provider's training program from procedure to process to result. Because the ANSI/IACET Standard focuses on how continuing education and training programs are

developed, not what they cover, it provides a certifiable framework of researched and proven best practices that can be applied across disciplines and industries. The ANSI/IACET Standard measures all aspects of a CE/T provider's program development across ten nationally recognized categories. This has allowed for the ANSI/IACET Standard to be recognized as the official standard for CE/T in the world.

The Electrical Association team began the application process in May and spent hundreds of hours completing all of the necessary details for approval. The Association has been providing training to electricians for decades and this approval was all about getting things documented and in processes that are ensuring continued success: How are we auditing the department? How are we looking at resources available? How are we communicating successes to the Board? Are we a reputable organization with the right resources to handle the demand?...and more. The Education team pulled all of the processes and supporting evidence together into a 400-page application that went through 3 rounds of reviews at IACET.

I am happy to share that as of December 17, 2019, the Electrical Association is officially approved as an IACET accredited provider! On December 16, 2019, a reviewer from Washington DC flew out to the Electrical Association headquarters for one last audit of the program. Shortly after, the notice was received that the Electrical Association now holds the status of IACET Accredited provider. We will be working hard in 2020 to develop on-demand courses that meet the other needs the MN Department of Labor sets forth to ensure on-demand continuing education maintains all integrity and learning requirements set forth for electricians training needs. Stay tuned as new offerings are right around the corner!

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Clara Albert, CAE, Executive Director

Power into the Future

Happy New Year!

Last January, the Association was deep into strategic planning thinking about where the Association aspires to be in the next three years. With one of those years now under our belt, we reflected back and made plans for the upcoming year. You will begin to see changes with 'MEA' as we continue work with a branding and marketing firm. My article in the December Alert gave a longer overview on the reasoning but we will be saying *goodbye* to the *Minnesota* in our name as we move forward with more and more business in additional states. This comes with a new logo, new style sheet, colors, etc. The full reveal will be taking place at the North Central Electrical League Expo where you can visit us at booth 210 or attend any of the training that we will be putting on.

The website will be getting a complete overhaul and facelift as well. We have conducted workshops to think through the user experience for functionality and ease of use. The products and services offered by the Association will be clear and easily accessible on the new site.

Additional initiatives the Association will focus on throughout 2020 include:

- Increased business training for contractors and their office staff
- On-demand training for continuing education
- Growth in all educational offerings (apprenticeship program, private and public training)
- Strong voice at the capitol working on issues that affect the electricians in Minnesota
- Publications reimaged
- Increased technology/video marketing
- Increased Association staff training to retain the best and brightest team
- Diversify revenue streams
- Additional value and opportunities for sponsors and advertisers

2020 is going to be a great year! Stay tuned and watch for changes as we continue to enhance our offerings to better serve the Electrical Industry!



If you have any comments, questions, or concerns, please call me.

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Auto crashes continue to wreak havoc on our nation's roads, and as a result on businesses that rely on vehicles to move people or products. The devastation is apparent in employees and their families, who must cope with tragic consequences, and in courtrooms, where businesses are held responsible for the behavior of employees driving for company purposes.

Court decisions designed to punish businesses are becoming more and more common. Your best chance to avoid a ruling that could reach into the tens of millions is to proactively address the common issues that arise in auto crash claims. Do your driving policies address the right factors, such as substance use and mobile device distraction? Are you doing your homework on your drivers? Can you demonstrate that you did everything you could to help prevent a crash?

Understanding your drivers' driving history is key to strong hiring practices. Do they have a record of crashes or driving-related arrests? Is it worth the risk to put them behind the wheel of a company vehicle?

Consider a monitoring service that automatically orders motor vehicle records (MVRs) periodically. It will reduce the likelihood that you will miss a change in an employee's driving record, potentially.

An Eye on Your Fleet... Technology can help you monitor your vehicles. Telematics systems give you a set of eyes in the cabs of your vehicles and on the road ahead of them. The data they collect helps you discover risky behaviors, optimize productivity, reduce fuel costs, and increase uptime, among other benefits. Drivers might be nervous about this constant surveillance at first, but the point of the systems is not to babysit your employees. Rather, they help you coach your drivers to be at their best. They also help you and investigating authorities understand crashes, which could exonerate innocent drivers and reduce claims...



Scan to learn more about driver screening and monitoring tools, a sample driving policy, and the potential for costly crash-related litigation.

Sample Driving Policy



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Government

2020 Session— Lots of unfinished business and what to expect

Bill Strusinski,
EA Government
Affairs Representative

The 2020 session will be gavelled to order on February 11, 2020. With the \$1.3 newly projected budget surplus the fights will be gigantic as the Governor and legislators put forth ways to spend it. Some want to fund new programs and others will want to cut taxes. Sound familiar? Also big fights on climate change, transportation, tax reduction, legalize marijuana and human services reform. It will be hectic but I predict the legislature will adjourn on time in May.

During 2019, the first year of the biennial session, 2921 bills were introduced in the House and 2,925 bills were introduced in the Senate. That's a lot of legislation, making 2019 one of the busiest sessions in State history. I did not say it was one of the most productive sessions because only 78 bills were passed and signed into law by the Governor. I do believe this is a product of a divided legislature with the House controlled by the DFL and the Senate controlled by the Republicans. Regardless of political party, the bottom line is a lot more work needs to be done in the second half of the biennial session in 2020.

The typical focus of the first year of the session (2019) is to pass bills that funds state government operations. That was accomplished. The second year of the session is usually reserved for processing a Capital Investment (bonding) bill and focus on public policy statutory changes. With no budget bills to process, legislative committees will have time to dive more deeply into the major issues before them.

Both the House and Senate are up for election this fall. This political fact will assure this session will be filled with a lot of spirited partisan debate. Each side will put forth several controversial bills in an attempt to make political statements that will serve as a "call to action" and motivate their political base to get out and vote.

I believe there are or will be several bills debated that will affect members of EA. Some of the ideas that will be put forth include:

- A proposal to increase the statewide minimum wage.
- A proposal to mandate an increase in sick and paid time off for employees.
- A proposal to increase the gas tax by as much as 20 cents per gallon.
- A proposal to prohibit general contractors from requiring subcontractors to pay for the general's defense in a lawsuit.
- A proposal to modify the Conservation Improvement Program (CIP) by expanding their use to make grants for energy retrofits for fuel switching.
- A proposal to allow 16-year-olds to work construction sites. (preview into trade)
- A proposal to change the staffing ratio for solar installations
- A proposal by the Dept of Labor and Industry to make electrical contractors who do residential solar installation work get a "Residential Remodeler Contractor License".
- A capital investment (bonding bill) in the range of \$1B to 1.5B.

Legislative Update - Cont on page 6



Compliance

Year-End Employment Law Reminders

Tom Revnew
Attorney, PRK&A

Tom Revnew is a shareholder with Peters, Revnew, Kappenman & Anderson, P.A., "The Lawyers For Employers." The firm's lawyers have been members of the association for many years and dedicate their practice to advising and representing employers in handling every type of labor, employment, human resources and regulatory law issue, problem, planning need, audit, dispute, complaint, charge or lawsuit.

Sick & Safe Time Leave

- Duluth's sick and safe time (SST) ordinance takes effect on January 1, 2020, and applies to employers with at least five employees.
- An employee based in or that spends half of their working hours in Duluth must accrue one hour of paid SST leave for every 50 hrs worked.

Minneapolis Wage Theft Prevention Ordinance

- Takes effect January 1, and applies to employers in Minneapolis or who have employees who work at least 80 hrs per year in Minneapolis.
- Employers must provide all employees with a detailed notice, including references to Minneapolis' SST ordinance. Minneapolis released an example employee notice that also complies with state law.

Minimum Wage

- Minnesota: January 1, 2020, minimum wage for large employers (\$500,000 annual gross revenue or more) will increase to \$10, and to \$8.15 for all other employers.
- St. Paul: minimum wage for very large employers (10,000 or more employees) will increase to \$12.50 January 1, 2020, with raises for other employers coming later in the year.

DOL Proposes Changes to "Fluctuating Workweek"

The DOL proposed changes regarding non-exempt employees who work a "fluctuating workweek" under the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), a method most commonly used in seasonal businesses. FLSA "fluctuating workweek", employees can be paid half-time on overtime hours, but **only if**:

1. The employee's salary compensates him/her at least minimum wage, regardless of how many hours worked.

2. The employee receives a fixed salary.
3. The employee's hours fluctuate above and below 40 hrs per week.
4. The employer and employee have a *clear mutual understanding* that the employee will be paid a salary, plus overtime pay equal to at least half his/her regular rate of pay for all hours worked over 40 hrs, regardless of how many hours worked.

The DOL's proposal clarifies that bonus/premium payments are allowed, as long as they are included in the employee's regular rate for purposes of calculating overtime. Employers are cautioned that the fluctuating workweek method is complicated with a number of potential pitfalls. Best practice requires a carefully detailed but easy-to-understand written agreement with the employee.



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HR Compliance

Pen & Company Ink

Kate Bischoff, Attorney
tHRive Law & Consulting

Recently, I gave a presentation on sexual harassment to a group of compliance professionals from some of the largest organizations in the Midwest. At one point, an audience member called me a Sexual McCarthyist because I said CEOs shouldn't have relationships—even consensual ones—with anyone in the company. Given the news out of Chicago recently, let's go over why.

When a CEO engages in sexual harassment, the organization is vicariously liable for the conduct. Citing U.S. Supreme Court case *Faragher v. City of Boca Raton*, 118 S. Ct. 2275, 2284 (1998), here's what the EEOC's Guidance says:

An employer is liable for unlawful harassment whenever the harasser is of a sufficiently high rank to fall "within that class . . . who may be treated as the organization's proxy."

The Guidance goes further and lists individuals who could be considered an organization's proxy, including president, owner, partner, and corporate officer—like a CEO. *Vicarious liability* means the organization has no defense to a harassment claim and is automatically liable if the conduct was indeed harassment.

So, was the conduct harassment? Well, let me take all of your hopeless romantic hearts and crush them. Relationships fail at a remarkable

rate. Think of all the people you have to date before you find "the one" and then "the one" has a better-than-fair chance of ending in divorce.

Now, imagine you're a CEO. You have a significant amount of authority over everyone in your organization. You start flirting with an employee. The employee may feel that they don't have the option to say no to a couple of dates. Things start to heat up, but something is not right. The employee feels they can't break up for fear of losing their job or ending their career (like blacklisting, etc.). So, even though they may have liked the attention at the start, they can't stop when it turns ugly. Now, the relationship is no longer consensual. This is harassment.

Or, what if the break-up is consensual but now the CEO has to rate the employee's performance? The employee is afraid that the CEO will be vindictive or will treat them unfairly because of the break-up. This could be retaliation.

The best thing an organization can do is prohibit CEOs (and other C-suite individuals) from having relationships at work. Period. Institute a policy. Talk with the board and leadership. Explain you will enforce this. Then, if it happens, take action. This is what happened at McDonald's and Intel.

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You Need to Know

COMPLIANCE

NATIONAL

Upcoming US DOT Regulation... the US DOT's Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) established a national drug and alcohol clearinghouse electronic database (Clearinghouse) for commercial motor vehicle (CMV) drivers. The Clearinghouse was established pursuant to federal regulations that attempt to prevent CMV drivers from concealing drug and alcohol violations merely by moving from job to job or to a new jurisdiction. The Clearinghouse regulations take effect on January 6, 2020. The FMCSA website includes details about registration: <https://clearinghouse.fmcsa.dot.gov/>. (Peters Revnew Kappenman Anderson article: <http://tiny.cc/9bgqhz>)

Aerial Work Platforms... New requirements for Mobile Elevated Work Platforms (MEWPs) went into effect Dec 10, 2019. Employers, owners and operators will be required to comply with ANSI's new A92 standards for MEWP. ANSI/SAIA A92.22-2018 (addresses the design of new aerial lift equipment) and ANSI-SAIA A92.24-2018 (provides an overview of required training for operators, supervisors and maintenance personnel). (OSHA.gov)

MINNESOTA

New minimum-wage rates as of Jan. 1, 2020... MN's minimum-wage rates will be adjusted for inflation beginning Jan. 1, 2020, to \$10 an hour for large employers and \$8.15 an hour for other state minimum wages. These rates will not apply to work performed in the cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, which have higher minimum-wage rates. New this year, **EMPLOYEE NOTICE** updates may be required. Learn more at www.dli.mn.gov/business/employment-practices/employee-notice. MN law

requires employers to display some state-mandated **POSTERS** in a location where employees can easily see them. The posters are available at no cost and need to be updated only when Minnesota law changes: www.dli.mn.gov/about-department/workplace-posters. More information about the minimum-wage rates is available at www.dli.mn.gov/business/employment-practices/minimum-wage-minnesota.

DLI Certifies Prevailing-Wage Rates... The commissioner has certified prevailing-wage rates for commercial construction projects in all 87 Minnesota counties, effective Dec. 16, 2019. These rates were identified by annual voluntary survey of commercial construction projects in Minnesota collected by DLI. Learn more at www.dli.mn.gov.

Vacancies on the Board of Electricity... The MN Board of Electricity needs to fill the following seats: Electrical Supplier in Rural Area; Journeyworker Electrician; Master Electrician-Contractor; Power Limited Tech/Tech Sys Contractor; Public Member. There is also a seat open on the Apprenticeship Advisory Council and on the Workers Comp Advisory Council. If you are interested, please contact Michelle at the Electrical Association (612-827-6117).

FAQ: MN Wage & Overtime... Does my employer have to pay me time-and-a-half for holidays? When does my employer have to pay me overtime? What is wage theft? Answers to these and other FAQs are available online from DLI's Labor Standards unit: <http://tiny.cc/swfqhz>. Questions can also be asked and answered via email at dli.laborstandards@state.mn.us or phone at 651-284-50710.

CONSTRUCTION TRENDS

NATIONAL

Construction Starts to Slip in 2020... Dodge Outlook Report predicts 4% economic slowdown to have broad based impact on total construction growth. After increasing 3% in 2018, construction starts dipped an estimated 1% in 2019, and will fall 4% in 2020. Construction starts will decline but the level of activity will remain close to recent highs.

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PARTNER & PROFIT EVENT!



Andrew Javens (Laketown Electric, Mankato) & Nick Bischoff (Design Electric, St Cloud) were good sports and played along when they were dragged up on stage!



We hope our Guest of Honor, Jeff Keljik, enjoyed the night. Everyone was happy & honored to shine a little love on him!

We wish him & Susan a happy retirement!



We invited our distributor top advertisers to introduce themselves, show us some new products and services, and hopefully make some new contacts.



THANK YOU
to all who attended the Partner & Profit event in December. We had a great turnout! There were many great questions and engaging discussions.

We are inviting these presenters to conduct online webinars so they can share more of their valuable information!



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Legislative Update - Cont from page 3

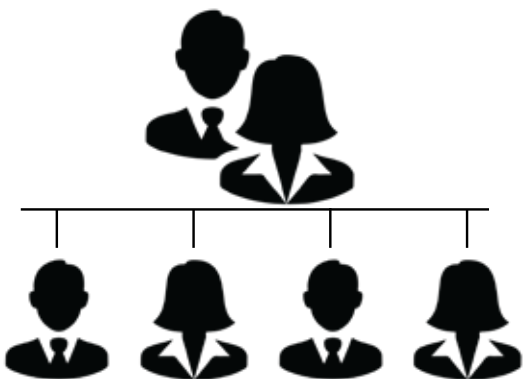
- A proposal to eliminate the requirement for load control receivers permits by electrical generation facilities
- A proposal to eliminate the state's current sub-contractor's posting policy.
- A proposal to change the prevailing wage calculation standard.
- Code revisions and standards.

All members are encouraged to participate in the legislative process when called upon. The EA office will send out alerts when calls and emails to legislators are needed. Please take the time to do your part to advance the industry, protect the profession and oppose proposals that are a deterrent to good management and business practices. You are encouraged to stay vigilant for state policy changes you hear about in the field. If you hear something, say something. Share your observations with Michelle in the EA office (612-827-6117).

Finally, you are requested to fully participate in the political process by supporting EA's PAC. These funds will be used to support legislators who support legislative solutions important to member's business interests.

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Michelle Dreier
Member Engagemt/
Gov't Affairs

Workforce Development

Chronic Stress—How Do You Help Your Workers Cope?

After the hustle and bustle of the holidays, this article is going to seem like a downer but serious issues need addressing. The construction industry experiences the second most suicides of any business sector. Suicide is also the second leading cause of death among young adults aged 18-34, the prime employment age for those entering the construction field. Another depressing statistic, the suicide rate for working-age adults has increased by 34% since 2012.

Life is a stressor. Holidays are a stressor. Balancing life and work and everyday responsibilities, they are all stressors. If you add the complications of over-abundance of work, interrupted by periods of lack of work, job security and smaller than normal paychecks can all burden an individual's mental well-being.

Large employers often have Employee Assistance Programs to help direct their workers to help anonymously to work through these life pressures. How do you help your staff when things get too much?

Risk Factors include:

- A family history of suicide or a history of trauma
- Suffering from a serious physical illness
- Having attempted suicide
- Financial or relationship pressures
- Lack of support networks
- Cultural stigma over mental health

Indicators of mental stress:

- Weight and appetite changes
- Chronic Headaches
- A tight chest
- Anxiety and indecision
- Loss of motivation
- Increased sensitivity

- Low self-esteem
- Increased smoking and drinking
- Withdrawal or aggression
- Reckless behaviors
- Difficulty concentrating

Construction employers must create a supportive, open environment where it is okay to acknowledge that life is too much but there are coping skills that can help to work through the problem. It really isn't just a matter of "sucking it up."

Start by providing information of signs of stress, observable symptoms of depression, and suicide awareness. This is not about diagnosing, but identifying a concern and reaching out to your coworker for guidance. Be the support system for your workers, and guide them to a mental health professional if you discover a need.

Solar Fraud & the Contractor Recovery Fund

Submitted by Michelle Dreier
Member Engagemt/Gov't Affairs

In 2014 through 2018, Able Energy defrauded about 80 customers. A state court judge ordered the company to repay \$1.5 million. Most of those homeowners never retrieved the money they put down on the solar systems. The judge determined that Able Energy "diverted payments received from customers for unintended purposes and unrelated projects."



Legislators, interest groups, and the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry responded in 2019 with a plan to include solar installers in the definition of *Residential Contractors* thus allowing homeowners the protection of the Contractor Recovery Fund.



The Electrical Association opposed this legislation because of multiple concerns with the language. A few of these concerns include the following:

- Each company must designate one individual to serve as a qualifying person. A larger business could hire a qualifying person. Many of our smaller businesses would require the owner to be a Master Electrician, Electrical Contractor, and Residential Contractor. This is very time intensive.
- The Contractor Recovery Fund replaces bonding requirements; does this mean covered electrical contractors no longer need to obtain a bond?
- Paying into the Contractor Recovery Fund is based on annual revenue. Will individuals being added to coverage under this legislation be required to pay in based on their total revenue or the revenue generated through residential solar? Has there been fiscal analysis regarding how adding this population will affect the fund?
- Residential Building Codes are not enforced by MN DLI and are not equally enforced in all areas of the state, as enforcement often resides with municipalities and localities. Will this legislation guarantee equal and even enforcement?

- Electrical contractors are skilled in their trade, but may not engage in remodeling such as foundation work etc. Knowing the specifics of everything necessary to build a home is burdensome.

This week a final order was issued against Altaray LLC for some very similar behavior. The difference between Able Energy and Altaray?

Altaray was a licensed residential contractor. Altaray had a qualified responsible licensed individual for purposes of their Electrical Contractor License and a qualifying person for purposes of their Residential Contractor License. Neither were actively engaged in performing work on behalf of the contractor.

In Wisconsin, Altaray installed many solar panels, but never hooked them up to the grid. This left customers with loan payments, but no benefit. Projects were not properly permitted and installed. The utility company will not allow panels to be connected to the grid until they pass inspection.

In Minnesota, Altaray has 90 open requests for electrical inspection. They have shut their doors.

MN Department of Labor & Industry will be notifying these homeowners of their ability to file a claim with the Contractor Recovery Fund. While this affords the victims some protection, shouldn't there be regulations that afford more protection to prevent fraud from occurring more proactively? Legislators and MN DLI are looking for solutions.

The Electrical Association is for the betterment of the electrical industry. If you have ideas regarding how to stop this abuse of our current electrical permitting system, we are all ears! Please contact me with your feedback (612-827-6117).

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Education Calendar

JANUARY							FEBRUARY							MARCH						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	29	30	31				

Continuing Education: Classroom (16 CE)

Multi-State Approval (check our website for specific approval details)

Jan 17-18 (8am-5pm)	2020 NEC® Updates - Mankato
Jan 23-24 (8am-5pm)	2020 NEC® Updates - Rogers
Jan 30-31 (8am-5pm)	2020 NEC® Updates - Cottage Grove at WERNER
Feb 5-6 (8am-5pm)	2020 NEC® Updates - Worthington
Feb 13-14 (8am-5pm)	2020 NEC® Updates - St Cloud
Feb 21-22 (8am-5pm)	2020 NEC® Updates - Baxter/Brainerd
Feb 27-28 (8am-5pm)	2020 NEC® Updates - Marshall
Feb 27-28 (8am-5pm)	2020 NEC® Grounding & Bonding - Plymouth
Mar 13-14 (8am-5pm)	2020 NEC® Updates - Prior Lake
Mar 26-27 (8am-5pm)	2020 NEC® Grounding & Bonding - Owatonna

- » Both Days—Non-Members: \$325 / Member: \$299
- » One Day—Non-Members: \$190 / Member: \$160

Thank you to our 2020 Class Host & Sponsors:



Continuing Education: Online (2 CE)

Multi-State Approval (check our website for specific approval details)

Jan 8 (8am-10am)	2020 NEC® Updates - Pt D
Jan 16 (6:30pm-8:30pm)	2020 NEC® Updates - Pt E
Jan 22 (6:30pm-8:30pm)	2020 NEC® Updates - Pt F
Jan 29 (8am-10am)	2020 NEC® Updates - Pt G
Feb 6 (6:30pm-8:30pm)	2020 NEC® Updates - Pt H
Feb 12 (8am-10am)	2020 NEC® NEC Motors & Transformers
Feb 20 (6:30pm-8:30pm)	2020 NEC® Grounding & Bonding for Unlicensed
Feb 26 (6:30pm-8:30pm)	2020 NEC® Overcurrent Protection Pt 1
Mar 11 (6:30pm-8:30pm)	2020 NEC® Overcurrent Protection Pt 2
Mar 25 (8am-10am)	2020 NEC® Grounding & Bonding Pt 1

- » Two hours—Non-Members Price: \$49 / Member: \$44

Exam Prep Training: Classroom

Feb 15-16 (8am-5pm)	Edina, Federated Insurance
Apr 25-26 (8am-5pm)	Edina, Federated Insurance

- » Non-Members Price: \$570, Member: \$460

Thank you to our Class Host & Sponsor:



Exam Prep Training: Live, Online—NEW!

Jan 30 - April 9 (6:30-9:30 CST) 9 Weeks! Live, Online Thursdays with Jeff Keljik

- » Non-Members Price: \$599, Member: \$499

EXAM SUCCESS!! "After holding a Journeyman's license for 20 years, my employer asked me if I would consider getting my Masters License. I decided to go for it with a little help from an exam prep course through MEA. After dedicating time to go through the workbook from cover to cover, I was able to pass my examination on my first try. The prep class was a valuable tool in my preparation for my exam." —Dave Malecha, Collins Aerospace 4/2019



'The International Association for Continuing Education & Training (IACET) developed the original Continuing Education Unit (CEU) and today ensures that providers of continuing education and training can prove they provide high-quality instruction by following the ANSI/IACET Standard for Continuing Education and Training through a rigorous accreditation process.'



Register! www.electricalassociation.com
800-829-6117 • 612-827-6117

CE Requirements

This is your guide to staying in compliance.

These are the states where MEA's courses are typically approved based on that state's standards. **DOUBLE CHECK** our class website for exact details for the course you are registering for.



Minnesota

Master A, B.....	16 biennially (12 Code/4 Non-Code*)
Journeyman A, B.....	16 biennially (12 Code/4 Non-Code*)
Maintenance	16 biennially (12 Code/4 Non-Code*)
Installer A, B	16 biennially (12 Code/4 Non-Code*)
Power limited tech	16 biennially (4 Code/12 Non-Code*)
Satellite installer	4 biennially (4 Code*)
Unlicensed	2 annually (2 Code*)

www.dli.mn.gov *can take all Code



Iowa

Master A, B.....	18* every 3-year Code Cycle
Residential Master	18* every 3-year Code Cycle
Residential Electrician.....	18* every 3-year Code Cycle
Inactive Master.....	18* every 3-year Code Cycle
Journeyman A, B.....	18* every 3-year Code Cycle

<https://iowaelectrical.gov/> *6 on the most recent Code



Montana

Residential Electrician	16* per 2-year cycle
Journeyman Electrician	16* per 2-year cycle
Master Electrician.....	16* per 2-year cycle

<http://boards.bsd.dli.mt.gov/ele> *8 Code Update



Nebraska

Electrical Contractor.....	12 each even-numbered yr
Journeyman Electrician.....	12 each even-numbered yr
Resid. Journeyman Wireman	12 each even-numbered yr
Fire Alarm Installer	12 each even-numbered yr

www.electrical.nebraska.gov *6 Code; or all Code



North Dakota

Master Electrician.....	8* annually
Journeyman Electrician.....	8* annually
Class B Electrician	8* annually

www.ndseb.com *4 must be Code



South Dakota

Electrical Inspector	16* even-numbered years
Electrical Contractor	16* even-numbered years
Journeyman Electrician.....	16* even-numbered years
Class B Electrician.....	16* even-numbered years
Apprentice Electrician.....	16* even-numbered years

<http://dlr.sd.gov/> *8 must be Code



Wisconsin

Master Electrician	24 every 4 years
Residential Master Electrician.....	18 every 4 years
Journeyman Electrician.....	24 every 4 years
Industrial Journeyman Elect.....	18 every 4 years
Residential Journeyman Elect	18 every 4 years
Registered Electrician.....	24 annually

<https://dsps.wi.gov>



Wyoming

Journeyman.....	16 every 3 yrs
Master	16 every 3 yrs

<http://wsfm.wyo.gov> *8 must be Code

Note: We are making a good-faith effort to publish the correct requirements for each state. For your protection, please check your state's website listed above.

Quiz on the Code

2020 NEC® Updates



- When NFPA makes changes in content for the NEC after publishing, they are categorized as _____.
 - TIA
 - EPA
 - FEB
 - CYA
- The UL listings for products were found in the White book. They are now found _____.
 - in the Green book
 - at NRTL references
 - online
 - at NFPA.org
- The NEC does not cover _____.
 - power transfers from EVs to premises wiring
 - wellways beneath moving sidewalks
 - boatyards
 - wiring on piers for ocean-going ships
- Chapter 8 is considered _____.
 - a separate code for enforcement
 - not enforced by the AHJ
 - not subject to the requirements of Chapters 1-7 unless noted
 - is a stand-alone chapter only for network wiring
- Short circuits _____ as ground faults.
 - have the same path
 - always have the same current
 - cause high currents
 - is the same as SCCR but not equivalent
- Reconditioned equipment is _____.
 - removed from the premises and rebuilt for other parts
 - cleaned and tested within a facility
 - only approved by a NRTL
 - allowed on GFCI but not AFCI

Answers: 1. (a) Ref: NFPA format; 2. (c) Ref: https://productq.ul.com; 3. (d) Ref: Art 90.2; 4. (c) Ref: Art 90.3; 5. (c) Ref: Art 100 Short Circuit IN; 6. (a) Ref: Definitions

Toolbox Talks

Winter Driving



Winter creates the most difficult driving season for us in the Midwest. Snow and ice can create dangerous situations during even your most routine drives. Prepare yourself and your vehicle for the winter. Conditions can change rapidly from clear-and-sunny to treacherous-with-zero-visibility. The key to survival is to be prepared!

- Slow down—drive the conditions, not the speed limit
- Do not use cruise control
- Reduce speed over bridges—they often freeze before the roads do
- Increase following distance
- If your vehicle is not equipped with ABS, pump your breaks when stopping

Vehicle Checks

- Check coolant level
- Check condition & power of batteries
- Test heater, defroster and fans. Inspect windshield for cracks; they will expand when glass is heated from inside
- Replace worn windshield wiper blades
- Have a full tank of gas
- Tires— Inspect tires for wear and proper inflation. The rubber used to make snow tires is specially designed for cold conditions. It's softer, which allows the tires to maintain better contact with the road. And the treads are designed to grip the road better. All-season tires are not the same as winter or snow tires.

Emergency Preparedness

- Warm clothing hat, gloves, coat and boots should be worn or kept in car
- Cell phone
- Flashlight with new batteries
- First-aid kit
- Small shovel and sand/kitty litter
- Emergency food and bottled water
- Candles & blanket
- Jumper cables & tow ropes
- Stock up on extra fluids—windshield fluid, oil, de-icer, etc....

“Minnesota 511” App
MnDOT’s official resource to track real-time road conditions

On the Road

- Know condition of road surface, touch brakes to test effectiveness
- Clear your windows, lights, mirrors completely of snow and ice

*The complete topic can be found at www.electricalassociation.com under Membership > Members Only



Courtesy of MEA’s Partner in Safety, Federated Insurance...



Electrical Contractor Members of MEA Receive:
FREE set of Electrical Toolbox Talks
FREE Safety AWAIR Program

www.electricalassociation.com
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PRINT and POST in your breakroom!

Find this poster and more at:

www.electricalassociation.com >
Resources > MEA News



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Look for your reps below and **THANK THEM** for sponsoring our education program—

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- Access product information
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- Save lists of common items
- Manage your account

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Dakota Supply Group



Who's running for the Minnesota Legislature in 2020?

From MINNPOST: The race is already on for the 134 seats in the Minnesota House and 67 seats in the Minnesota Senate up for election in 2020. MinnPost is compiling a running list of who's running for the Legislature. Candidates qualify for the list if there is a public campaign announcement, if the candidate filed with the Campaign Finance Board, or if party campaign operatives informed MinnPost. Incumbents are assumed to be running unless we hear otherwise.

Find MinnPost's list at <http://tiny.cc/mufshz>

Source: MN Chamber of Commerce



BRIDGEPORT – E-Z Lock Connectors

For optimal speed, use E-Z LOCK® Connectors to snap into your knockout. When a traditional installation is desired, use the 590 series, which comes with Bridgeport's, serrated & double-sided, locknut. Both utilize a steel, 4 tabbed, inner locking device that make it easier to push conductors through without damaging conductor insulation. (www.Rouzer.com)



EPCO Unveils New LED CordLight

Single 100-foot energy efficient LED CordLight replaces 250 feet of incandescent lamp-based string lighting, reduces energy consumption by 80 percent. For more information, contact Engineered Products Company at www.engproducts.com or call 800-336.1976.



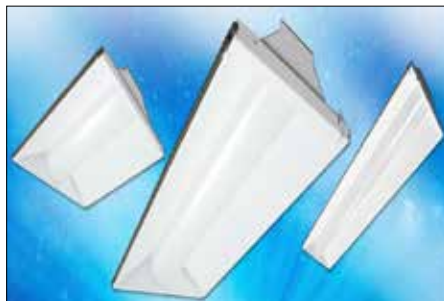
RAB – NEW Sign Tubes

RAB's double-ended sign tubes are ideal replacements for traditional T12HO and T8HO fluorescent tubes used in sign applications. They fit in all existing sign fixture sockets...simply bypass the ballast and you're good to go! (www.Rouzer.com)



ESPEN Center Basket Retrofit Kits

Espen Technology has expanded its LED centerbasket troffer retrofit kits, with field-adjustable output. New 1'x4' models have been launched, in addition to the existing 2'x2' and 2'x4' models. ADVANTAGES: Espen's center-basket retrofit kits have compelling advantages over installing new fixtures, including: Lower labor cost to install than new fixtures; Faster and easier installation; Gives a new fixture look without disturbing the ceiling. (www.atekdistribution.com)



Roof Tech Solar PV Mounting Systems

Solar PV mounting systems for every roof! Now Roof Tech brings you the most innovative, watertight mounting systems ever developed for solar photovoltaic systems. Designed and manufactured exclusively for us by Japan's longtime leader in roofing technologies, Roof Tech products are 100% code-compliant and offer fast, simple installation and huge savings on shipping costs due to their compact, rail-less design. Learn more about our full line of versatile PV mounting solutions now available for residential installations. (www.atekdistribution.com)



BRK – Dual + Tri-Band WIFI Mesh Solutions

These innovative Wi-Fi Mesh solutions deliver faster, stronger, more reliable Wi-Fi throughout the home or residence and feature a private network to help detect & prevent cyber-threats. With the Onelink Home App, you can pause the internet, filter content or set rules such as time limits and bedtimes for younger users. (www.Rouzer.com)



ChargePoint EV Charging

ChargePoint Home Flex is our WiFi-enabled, single-family home charger that is ideal for personal garages or driveways. Charge any EV up to 9X faster than a wall outlet, adding up to 37 miles of Range Per Hour. Pick the charging speed that's right for you and your home. Set reminders, schedule charging and track energy use with the ChargePoint app. Flex is UL listed for safety, ENERGY STAR certified for efficiency, weatherproof for outdoor installation and backed by a 3-year warranty. (www.atekdistribution.com)



WWW.ELECTRICASSOCIATION.COM/NEWPRODUCTS



Alex Hyatt
National Sales Mgr

Member Benefits

Together We Can Make Great Things Happen

The following is a presentation Jay Lewis, Chairman of the Membership Committee, gave us at the Partner & Profit Event in December. The Association is lucky to have him as a leader.

Hi! My name is Jay Lewis, and I and my wife, Kari, own Lewis Electrical Contracting in Cottage Grove. I am the current chair of the Membership Committee and I asked for a few minutes to talk about all the incredible things that this organization has done over the past 90+ years and the benefits that you, as a contractor member have available to you.

I proudly wear my work shirt today as many of you do. We are a unique breed in this world. People who risk their time and treasure every day rather than depend on a steady paycheck for our livelihood. For this reason our company chooses not only to be members of the association, but also to participate actively. The Electrical Association has done some phenomenal things over the years and these are some that stood out for me:

1. Government Action—We have kept many regulations and issues from coming to fruition that were not good for us, but it also gives a seat at the table when it comes time for many bills to be written and adopted, to at least get our side of the story to the pertinent legislators and staff.
2. Electrical Training Network—We have developed an apprentice training program covering all 4 years of apprenticeship and recognized in several states. We currently have about 80 companies with 340 apprentices being trained on a weekly basis, and some of those students are from Texas, Colorado, North Dakota.
3. Code Book Sales—We are in the top 3 sellers in the nation.
4. Networking—I have met some of the best and smartest electricians and contractors in the state of Minnesota and have been privileged to know many for 20 years or more.

And really, for me, networking is the most important benefit of this organization. We are all independent companies and individuals who can have a small impact on our state, community, and business. But when we band **together**, all of that influence becomes exponential.

Together, we can afford to have 2 paid lobbyists at our disposal to guide us through those issues and to send Action alerts to members, so when we contact our local legislators we are informed and in congruence with each other in the industry.

Together we are able to have a compliance expert on staff to assist members with Registered Apprenticeship and Prevailing Wage Compliance.

Together we can all enjoy classes to better our businesses on a day like today—all in one place and with fantastic presenters.

Together we are able to create Toolbox Safety Talks, compliance alerts, and resources to write an OSHA AWAIR safety program that is industry specific and much easier to tailor to our own businesses.

Together we are able to produce and provide instructors for our Electrical Training Network as well as code, customized training specifically for your business, and continuing ed. (which, if you didn't

know, you receive 8 hours of continuing ed for each contractor member's business for you or a key employee to utilize).

Together we are in the top 3 companies in National Electrical Code book sales. Our competition is Amazon and the IBEW. Our gross sales will top \$3 million this year alone! Pretty amazing!

Together we can take the electrical industry in Minnesota and the upper Midwest into the future and keep it healthy, profitable, and fair for all. We are all stewards of this industry. I am an electrical contractor today because my stepdad George Ewer was one and I proudly invoke his name and wisdom every chance I get.

But even the way we learn this trade is precluded on the wisdom of the current occupants training the next wave through apprenticeship and ongoing on-the-job oversight and training. We have a responsibility to pass along the best version possible to the coming generations and TOGETHER we will.

So, GET PLUGGED IN to the Electrical Association today. How can you do that?

1. If you are not a member, please speak to someone about membership and take that step today. WHY? First of all it is the best deal in town! And, as an electrical professional, it is the place to go for everything!
2. If you are a member, commit yourself to being as involved as possible in the Association and the industry in general. There are many opportunities to serve here. Become a steward that is passing a better industry along to the future. Ask staff where you can serve.
3. Invite people to join the Association and be involved... TOGETHER is better than going it alone. We all know that in the eb and flow of business there will be times of great success and times of great challenge. Make an opportunity to share both with your friends and colleagues here. Together we can all learn from and help solve each other's problems.

NFPA 70E Private Training

- 1 Recognize what you can and can't work on and why
- 2 Understand why it's critical to follow company safety rules
- 3 See what can happen if protocols are not followed


Call us today to get on our 2020 calendar!

Online Options Also!
612-827-6117




Throwback Corner

We found a treasure trove of photos from "Back in the Day" and hope they bring back good memories!



These generous individuals have helped build our Association!
Stay tuned as we recognize others...



Compliance

Tax Planning Guide for Businesses

Tim Pass,
Accountant,
Smith Schafer CPAs

Are you confident you are doing everything you can to minimize taxes for your business?

If not, it may be time to review your current situation. Planning

is the key to successfully and legally reducing tax liability. Smith Schafer's **Tax Planning Guide** can help you!

Find lots of great information including the following:

- tips to help minimize your tax liability
- the most popular business tax credits
- summaries of complex tax regulations
- common business tax deductions
- 2020 deadlines... and more!

QUESTIONS?

Smith Schafer is a recognized leader in providing accounting, auditing and consulting services to the construction industry. From large construction companies to specialty contractors, we have the experience to bring you innovative solutions. Call us to schedule a free 30-minute consultation. Mpls 952-952-1455; Rochester 507-288-3277

Electrical Association Members—

Generally this piece is only sent to clients of Smith Schafer; however, they are sharing their guide with us in January!

To download the guide:

- Visit www.electricalassociation.com
- Select Resources > MEA News
- Open the "Business Advantage" article by Tim Pass.



Smith Schafer has been named a **2020 Top Recommended Tax Firm** by Forbes!

The list identifies 227 firms, across the U.S., who are most recommended for their tax services. Smith Schafer is one of only five Minnesota-based firms recognized!



You Need to Know - Cont from page 4

By major construction sector, the dollar value of starts for residential buildings will be down 6%, while starts for both nonresidential buildings and non-building construction will drop 3%. Copies of the report with additional details by building sector can be ordered by calling (800) 591-4462. (2020 Dodge Construction Outlook. www.asaonline.com)

Nonresidential Construction Employment Rises in November...

The construction industry added 1,000 net new jobs in November, according to an Associated Builders and Contractors analysis of data released today by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. On a year-over-year basis, industry employment has expanded by 146,000 jobs, an increase of 2.0%. (National ABC)

ECONOMY

NATIONAL

Consumer Price Index... The Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers rose 0.3% in November on a seasonally adjusted basis, after rising 0.4% in October. Over the last 12 months, the all items index increased 2.1% before seasonal adjustment. (US BLS. Dec 2019)

MINNESOTA

Interest Rates... On Dec 16, according to Bankrate's latest survey of the nation's largest mortgage lenders, the benchmark 30-yr fixed mortgage rate is 3.72% with an APR of 3.84%. The average 15-yr fixed mortgage rate is 3.18% with an APR of 3.38%. The 5/1 adjustable-rate mortgage (ARM) rate is 4% with an APR of 7.11%. (bankrate.com)

MN income tax brackets, standard deduction and dependent exemption amounts for 2020...

For tax year 2020, MN's individual income tax brackets will change by 1.657% from tax year 2019. This annual adjustment will prevent taxpayers from paying taxes at a higher rate solely because of inflationary changes in their income. The adjustment does not change the Minnesota tax rate that applies to each income bracket. The brackets apply to tax year 2020. (www.revenue.state.mn.us)

ENERGY

CEE Statement on Xcel Energy Resource Plan, 2020-2034...

In this plan, Xcel is committing to retire all of its coal units by 2030, add 4,000 MW of solar generation, replace 1,200 MW of wind generation that is set to retire over the course of the resource plan, prioritize the creation of high-quality construction jobs and apprenticeship opportunities, and make the largest commitment to energy efficiency of any utility in state history. CEE is actively engaged with Xcel Energy and other stakeholders working to further strengthen the plan over the next few months. The MN PUC will make a final determination to approve, change, or reject Xcel's resource plan after fielding input from stakeholders, government agencies, and the public. (MN CEE Nov 2019)

Xcel customers will see no rate increase in 2020... MN utility regulators voted to postpone by one year a rate request sought by Xcel. The biggest impact was targeted for 2020, the plan's first year. But Xcel at the same time also proposed that the MN PUC extend components of its current rate plan through 2020; the utility would then file a new rate case next November. (Star Tribune. Dec 2019)

LABOR & MANAGEMENT

NATIONAL

US Unemployment Rate... The unemployment rate was little changed at 3.5%. Notable job gains occurred in health care and in professional and

technical services. Employment rose in manufacturing, reflecting the return of workers from a strike. (US BLS. Dec 2019)

MINNESOTA

MN Unemployment Rate... Rate remained stable at 3.2% in Oct on a seasonally adjusted basis. The labor force participation rose to 70.3% as did the employment-to-population ratio, at 68%. (MN DEED)

Grants for Apprenticeship Programs... The Minnesota Apprenticeship Initiative (MAI) offers grants to assist employers with costs associated with developing apprenticeship programs. Receive up to \$5000 per apprentice to help cover costs: supplies, materials, instruction and infrastructure. The goal is to help more than 100 employers develop apprenticeship programs to recruit, train and retrain 1000 new apprentices in the industries of advanced manufacturing, agriculture, health care services, information technology, and transportation. Learn more: <http://tiny.cc/ozfqhz> (MN DLI)

SAFETY

Aerial Work Platforms... New requirements for Mobile Elevated Work Platforms (MEWPs) went into effect Dec 10, 2019. See the article by Dave Ferkul, Workplace Safety Consultation, on page 14.

RECALL NOTICES

Yamaha Recalls Portable Generators... Recalled Yamaha EF2000iS portable generator. **Name of product:** 2018 and 2019 Yamaha EF2000iS portable generators; **Hazard:** The portable generator's fuel tank can leak gasoline, posing fire and burn hazards; **Remedy:** Repair; **Recall date:** November 26, 2019; **Units:** 10,100. (www.cpsc.gov)



NORTH DAKOTA

Apprentice Registration Renewals Coming Soon... Apprentice electricians must renew their registration every year and the time is approaching for the next renewal. Your apprentice registration will expire on Jan 31, 2020 (unless you originally registered after Nov 1, 2019). (www.ndseb.com)



Wire Pulls Have Never Been This Easy!

Graybar SmartReel™

A portable payout system that makes it simple and safe for one person to move reels up to 5,000 lbs. when and where you need them. To learn more, visit graybar.com/smartreel

*Subject to jobsite variances. For use on flat surfaces.

Community news

Welcome New Members

Gopher Resource Inc Eagan

Miner Electric Hayfield

Clete Zinniel Retired Member, Morgan

Congratulations

Dylan & Morgan Jackson, Jackson Electric...

Congratulations to Dylan Jackson and his new bride, Morgan. They were married on 11/23/2019. Dylan is the youngest son of Dale Jackson (Jackson Electric, Winthrop) and has been an electrician for their company since graduating high school in 2010, and Morgan has been their marketing coordinator and project manager for our PdM division since 2018. After a warm honeymoon in Thailand, they are back to working in cold Minnesota!



DSG Names Troy Olsen Branch Manager in Rochester... DSG has hired Troy Olsen as Branch Manager of its Rochester and Austin locations. He will be responsible for providing direct leadership to DSG's branch teams, as well as overseeing all day-to-day branch operations in both locations.

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Thank you to our 2020 All-Education & Events Sponsors!



Thank you to our Partner & Profit Event Sponsors!



Education & Meetings

Upper Midwest Electrical Expo... April 14-16, 2020. Minneapolis Convention Center. The Association has partnered again with the NCEL to provide the continuing education. See Mr Keljik's article on page 14 for more details.

the Classifieds

Boom Truck

- 2000 Freightliner FL70, TEREX TELELECT
 - Bucket Boom Service Truck Diesel Auto
 - HIGHT RANGER HRM SERIES, 55' high
 - \$11,980
- For details, call Javad at (612) 221-9612.



Case 460 w/Trencher, Backhoe, Backfill Blade

- 746 hours
 - Asking \$15,500
- Contact bwobschall@retrofitcompanies.com or (507) 414-5155.



Bobcat Backhoe Attachment...

- Asking \$3500.
- Call Gerry Maine at (320) 290-2329.



Water Discharge Pumps...

- 5.5 HP
 - 2" intake/discharge ports
 - Asking \$200 each
- Call Gerry Maine at (320) 290-2329.



Wood Poles...

- 40-45' wood poles
 - Asking \$200 each
- Call Gerry Maine at (320) 290-2329.



FREE 3M Crimp-On Terminals...

A large quantity of 3M crimp-on terminals has been donated to MEA. If you can use these terminals, we will give them to the first interested party who can stop by the office to pick them up. Call EA to arrange a pick up and to learn if we still have any left! (612) 827-6117



Bucket Truck for Sale...

2001 Chevy C7500 Bucket Truck. 179,000 miles Excellent condition. Always maintained. Clear title.

- Air conditioning, cruise control
- Caterpillar 3126 6cyl Turbo Diesel engine 210 h.p. w/Allison automatic transmission
- Full air brakes, trailer air supply
- Electric brake controller
- Altec AO442-MH Aerial device 47'w.h. -11'4" travel height
- 1,500 lb material handling jib
- Boom & truck are same age
- Fully insulated boom w/insulated bucket liner & bucket cover
- Nice service body w/curbside entrance
- Hydraulic tool outlets to run a pole or chain saw
- Pistol grip upper controls for smooth operation
- Upper & lower controls
- 4 Hydraulic outriggers for stability
- Rear end differential lock; Receiver hitch
- 22.5" tires in good condition

\$13,495 obo. Call (507) 285-9658

Seeking to Acquire...

Are you a business owner seeking an exit strategy that is best for you, your team and clients? We are a local electrical contractor seeking to acquire commercial/light industrial electrical contracting businesses. Email inquires to Rennell at MEA: rbrunclik@electricalassociation.com

Inventory Sale...

Tom Decker, Shoreview, a 20+-year member of EA has retired! Equipment and inventory are being sold including tools, wire, switch boxes, plates, etc. If interested, please contact his daughter Liz Decker email at taz-deck@hotmail.com or call 612-377-5191.

Postings are a free benefit of EA membership. Members should email your listing to Rennell at (rbrunclik@electricalassociation.com). Find the posts online at www.electricalassociation.com/classifieds.



Dave Ferkul, CIH, CSP
Supervisor, Workplace
Safety Consultation

Safety Compliance

Aerial Work Platforms



Use of manlifts can be a great way to accomplish the work at hand. But with accidents continuing to occur, it would be advantageous to periodically re-evaluate the use of articulating aerial lifts, scissor lifts, and other elevating work platforms that are utilized. OSHA accident investigation data, for 2018 to August-2019, summarizes 69 accidents involving aerial work platforms. Most resulted in fatalities.

The main causes: falls (28), electrical contact (13), tip-overs (9), and trapped-against (12).

Falls from aerial work platforms included being ejected from the lift platform – due to another vehicle striking the lift or striking an adjacent object/structure, with the lift platform. Lack of required fall protection was a common theme, though in two cases fall protection was used, resulting in less severe injury, by preventing a fall to the ground. One fall was due to high winds causing the platform to tip excessively.

Accidents due to electrical contact were the result of energized electrical lines not being identified and de-energized or otherwise insulated. Bodily contact and contact by a conductive object being held by a worker resulted in electrical shock/electrocution injuries.

Tip-overs resulted from lifts being struck by vehicles and work platforms being struck by objects or against an adjacent structure.

Trapped-against accidents resulted when the lift platform was moved into an overhead or adjacent structure. Not staying within the confines of the platform guard rails was a common contributor to the accidents.

Prevent accidents:

- Utilize appropriate fall protection - personal fall restraint/arrest attached to an appropriate anchor point is required for articulating lifts
- Inspect and maintain lifts
- Stabilize the lift – use brakes, outriggers, and wheel chocks
- Do not operate outside the design limitations

- Be aware of the surroundings – maintain safe distance or eliminate hazards
- Install and maintain necessary traffic controls
- Only allow use by trained operators, who have demonstrated proper use
- Intervene when inappropriate operation is observed
- Follow manufacturer instructions... (i.e. use the operator's manual)

Recent up-dates have been made to the ANSI aerial work platform standard (ANSI/SAIA A92) that provide guidance, on safe design and use of aerial work platforms, as well as operator training.

.....
Dave has held multiple positions in various consultant and supervisory roles, within Workplace Safety Consultation (WSC). He is a certified industrial hygienist and safety professional, who has had opportunities to work with a wide range of public and private sector employers, in general industry and construction, providing technical assistance in industrial hygiene, safety, and ergonomics, while gaining insights and guiding employers on more effective management of workplace safety & health. He provides overall program support for WSC, overseeing the Safety Grants and Alliance programs, and current focus on temporary worker safety.



Jeff Keljik
Director of Education

Word on the Street

2020 NCEL Expo & Training—April 14-16, 2020

Your Electrical Association (EA) is collaborating with the North Central Electrical League (NCEL) again in 2020. The 2020 Electrical Expo will be held on

April 14-16, 2020, at the Minneapolis Convention Center in Minneapolis.

Your Electrical Association provided all of the training classes at the last Expo in 2018. We worked out some new approaches to the large event to help facilitate code training that was acceptable to many states for electrical licensure and for engineering Professional Development Hours (PDHs). Both the EA and NCEL were so pleased with the coordination and the results of the collaborative effort, that we signed an agreement to again be the educational provider for the event—one of the premier events of this kind in the US.

Tuesday, April 14. Even though the show floor will not be open yet, the classrooms will be open for participants to attend one of two tracks for options. Either track will yield 8 credit hours of classes.

- Track 1 will have two 4-hour classes concentrating on the 2020 NEC® code changes and updates. These 4-hour classes are approved for credit in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Iowa, and Nebraska. All of these states accept 4-hour classes for 4 code hours of continuing education credits to re-licensure. We are working on securing approval in more states, but these are all just pending approval at this writing.
- Track 2 will have four 2-hour classes covering more in depth reviews of the requirements for Grounding and Bonding. These 2-hour classes are approved in Minnesota, South Dakota, Iowa, and Nebraska for both licensed and unlicensed code renewal credits. Again, we are pursuing other states for approval.

Wednesday, April 15. (The show floor is open from 10:00AM to 6:00PM.) We will have two tracks for electrical personnel from which to choose. Either track will yield 8 hours of code credits.

- Track 1 will continue the next two 4-hour classes on the 2020 NEC® code updates and changes. All the states listed for track 1 above, will accept the code credits for these classes as well.
- Track 2 will have two 2-hour morning classes on motor installation requirements based on the 2020 NEC®. Afternoon classes provide two 2-hour classes covering overcurrent protection based on the 2020 NEC®. Again, the same states that accept 2-hour classes will accept these classes.

Both days, the hours for class are 8:00AM–4:50PM. Lunch breaks and rest breaks are provided but food is not provided during the classes.

Thursday, April 16. The Expo is open for less time (10:00AM – 4:00PM). There will be one 3-hour educational class offered on Thursday, 10:15AM–1:15pm with only rest breaks provided.

- NFPA 70E is the topic of presentation for those students wishing to receive required training on Electrical Safe Work Practices. A test is provided at the end of the class for proof of learning, and a certificate of attendance is provided for your records. There are no Code credits provided for this class in Minnesota.

Your Electrical Association will have booklets with the end-of-course quizzes ready for participants at the classes. People can either download the presentations for which they are registered ahead of time, or can download the materials to their computers at the event. We suggest downloading them ahead of time. This not required for credit.

We think this a great opportunity to catch up on your required Continuing Education (CE) credits and then take in the show to see the new products and talk to the vendors. The Expo presents a breakfast on Thursday for the electrical industry. It will feature speaker PJ Fleck, from the Minnesota Gophers football team. Tickets and registration for all events will be through the NCEL website. There is no cost to attend the show floor.

A trip to Minneapolis could be time very well spent to enhance your capabilities during the April 2020 Electrical Expo.

We hope to see you there!



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EA has Partnered with NCEL—

to provide all of the Continuing Education at the Upcoming Expo!



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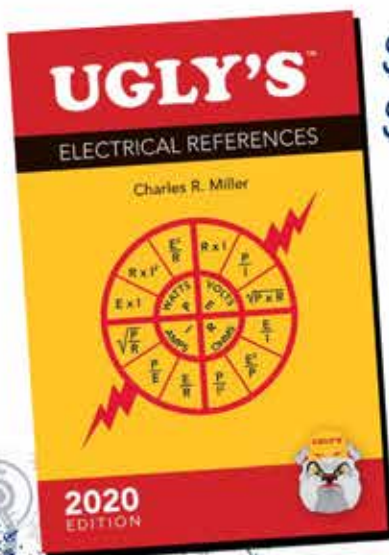
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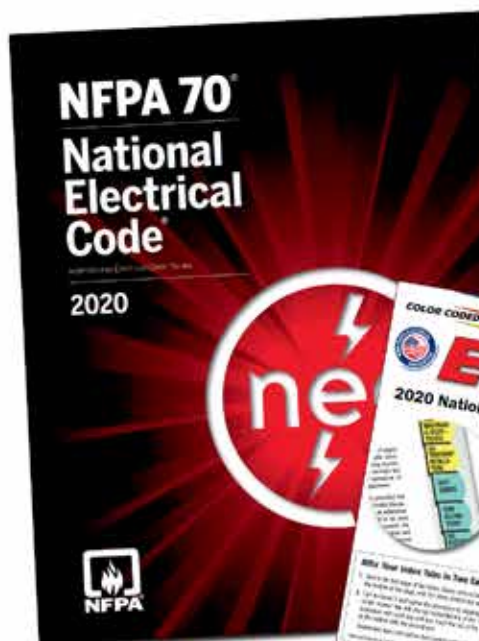
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We look forward to seeing you again!

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