



ELECTRICAL ASSOCIATION News

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Industry Report



Clayton Schenck
Chair of the
Board of Directors

Staying Safe

Happy May everyone! I am Clayton Schenck and I am the Vice President of Magnum Electric out of West Fargo, ND. We've been in business for over 30 years, employ 180 electricians and mainly perform New Commercial, Hospitality, Multifamily housing, Ag and Industrial of work. Many may know

my predecessor at Magnum (Tom Heng) as he was the Chair of the Electrical Association board in 2012/2013. I am honored to be taking this role and following my friend, Joe Gatewood, as he passed the virtual gavel to me on April 15.

May is safety month, and 2020 is the year that safety precautions have been taken to a new level! I am beyond grateful that construction was deemed an essential job. Throughout the pandemic, we have added numerous safety provisions to our procedures to keep our team, our clients and ourselves safe. That is our Number 1 priority.

The following are the basics that everyone on our job sites are required to do throughout their shifts and encouraged to do at home and off duty as well.

- **Hand Washing** – Adequate hand washing throughout the day for 20 seconds with soap and water when able, or with 60% alcohol-based hand sanitizer when soap and water is not available, is preferred.
- **Respiratory Etiquette** – Cover your cough or sneeze, avoid touching your face (especially mouths). The crew is advised to use a tissue and discard it immediately.
- **Social or Physical Distancing** – As I mentioned above, I am grateful for the opportunity to continue working. Others have not had that choice. One of the beauties of the jobsite is that physical distancing is usually easy. As the weather gets warmer and more outdoor projects arise, staying 6 feet away is easier and easier to enforce.

- **Housekeeping** – Housekeeping activities are being implemented regularly including routine cleaning and disinfecting of work surfaces, equipment, tools and machinery and areas in the work environment, including restrooms, break and lunch rooms and meeting rooms. Frequent cleaning and disinfecting will take place in high-touch areas.
- **Communication and Training** – Signs are placed on jobsites, and meetings are held regularly to go over what each jobsite will have available for the crew. Everyone is at a different level of comfort, concern, fear, etc. of the virus, so the biggest tools are communication and listening. Helping the crew understand, listening to their concerns and addressing them appropriately will help us keep the great team we have been building throughout the years.

These are very basic and simple, but constant reminders may help all of us as we work with new regulations and new invisible threats. Implementing these practices and communicating that you are doing so with your customers will also help them feel comfortable with you continuing to go into their buildings or even homes.

The Electrical Association has created a Tool Box Talk on COVID 19. Members can find this topic and more at www.electricalassociation.com/toolboxtalks.

Another resource that is not required yet in Minnesota is a letter stating that you are an essential employee if you were to get pulled over or questioned while on your way to work or out and about. The Association has created a template for you to use 'just in case.' Find it at: www.electricalassociation.com/news

Stay safe everyone, and I hope to see you all at an upcoming Association conference or event soon!

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We Haven't Slowed Down!

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- (2 hrs) May 6: 2020 NEC Motor Installation Rqmts - Pt 1
- (2 hrs) May 28: 2020 NEC Motor Installation Rqmts - Pt 2
- (2 hrs) June 18: 2020 NEC Branch Circ, Feeder & Svc Calcs
- (2 hrs) July 14: 2020 NEC Grounding & Bonding

Wisconsin License Holders—
(16 hrs) June 11-12 2017 NEC coming to La Crosse—
(We'll let you know if this changes to online format.)

www.electricalassociation.com



Clara Albert, CAE, Executive Director

Power into the Future

We Are Still Here for You!

The Electrical Association is honored to be serving an essential industry during this pandemic. We know that our role is more important than ever to continue to provide you with tools and resources that you need to be healthy and successful through this. That is why we are constantly reading, learning and searching for solutions to help you out. Continue to look at our COVID resource page on our website and don't hesitate to pick up the phone to call us for whatever you might need. If we don't know the answer right then, we will find it with you. We are your partner through this and an organization that you can rely on.



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

I am here to help you.

(612) 827-6117 • (800) 829-6117
calbert@electricalassociation.com

Things have just been looking a bit different for us lately as they do in all of your businesses. We conducted our very first virtual annual board of directors meeting on Wednesday, April 15. A few things to note:

- **Jay Lewis** (Lewis Electrical Contracting & Consulting Services Inc) appointed as the new Secretary of the Board of Directors
- **Jayson Oswald** (Landmark Electric Inc) appointed as a Director on the Board of Directors
- **Dale Jackson** (Jackson Electric Inc) appointed as a Director on the Board of Directors

We are so grateful to have these individuals giving guidance and support through their leadership.

Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of the Association were amended, restated and approved. These have been sent out to membership as a whole to get approval of adoption.

Our plan to launch the Association's new logo and brand at the NCEL Expo was unable to happen a couple of weeks ago. So please, keep your eyes open in mid-May for our virtual launch and brand new website. We are excited to share our new tagline, dynamic logo, bold color palette, and energized design sensibility. Our refreshed brand better reflects the connectedness of our membership and our commitment to helping members more easily navigate an ever-changing business landscape. We will continue to launch new items that support and empower contractors.

For over 90 years, Electrical Association has been supporting electrical contractors in Minnesota and beyond. Offering access to what electrical contractors need to succeed and thrive in today's marketplace, Electrical Association serves as a conduit to information, education, connections, and protection.

Again, please let us know how we can help you.

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Federated Insurance

The Blended Approach to Life Insurance

As a business owner you may have multiple people who depend on you. In the event of your death, life insurance proceeds can help ease the burden left on your business and family. The death benefit can be used to cover business loans or the mortgage on your family's home. Having the proper amount of coverage can provide financial stability to those who rely on you.

Choosing the appropriate type of life insurance depends on an individual's resources and the length of time that the protection is needed. This timeframe can be influenced by a business loan, the age of your children, or a home mortgage, as well as future goals such as cash flow needs for business growth, college expenses, retirement needs.

Term life insurance provides protection for a limited period of time — or the "term" of the policy, e.g., 10 or 20 years. The death benefit is paid if the insured dies within that specific time period. If the insured outlives the term, the policy ends and no death benefit is paid. Most term insurance policies have a level premium that must be paid for the length of the term in order to keep the policy in force.

Universal life policies are permanent life insurance policies designed to last for your lifetime. They are often used for longer term personal estate planning and business succession planning. They can build cash value over time, which can be used for future planned and unplanned expenses. The cash value grows tax-deferred and can be accessible through loans and withdrawals during your lifetime.

Both types of life insurance pay out a death benefit that is generally income tax-free to the beneficiary of your choice. However, universal life policies have a higher premium than term coverage due to the cash value component and longevity they offer. Building a life insurance portfolio that includes term and permanent insurance can help you afford the amount of coverage you need now and provide you supplemental income later on.

Federated offers both types of policies. Your marketing representative can help you learn more about how they may fit into your long-term business and family goals.

This article is for general information and risk prevention recommendations only. It should not be considered legal, coverage, financial, tax or medical advice.



Government

2020 Session Update

Bill Strusinski,
Government Affairs
Representative

Well, we have been on an unprecedented wild ride for the past couple of months. In early March, activity at the State Capitol came to a crashing halt as the Covid-19 pandemic started working its way through the State. The Governor's Emergency Orders and shelter in place declarations have totally disrupted life as we know it. The economy has tanked and we are all suffering from what our futures will hold. Rest assured however that the EA and your lobbying team are still working hard to help your families safe and your business viable.

These are troubling times because we are traveling in uncharted waters. Let's hope we will be able to rid our state of this unseen nemesis in the near term and put new mechanisms in place to protect our health and our economy in the long run. For the most part, the legislature has followed the Governor's lead on emergency legislation that hope to protect the most vulnerable among us and figure a way to get the economy going again. They are only meeting on an as needed basis. The only bills passing and being signed into law deal with emergency funding designed to address our immediate needs as we know them.

The legislature is still in session and will not adjourn until the constitutionally required date of May 18. Since we have passed all committee deadlines, I predict the legislature will only be dealing with major issues that have been agreed upon by all parties meaning any controversial proposals will have to wait until next year. From a budget perspective, this pandemic has dramatically impacted the state's budget. One month ago, we had a \$1.5 billion budget surplus. Today, the surplus has vanished, and we are rapidly using up our budget reserves. Soon we will be running a budget deficit that will trigger budget un-allotments and cuts in services. The Governor is expected to release a new forecast in early May that will serve as the basis of how to move forward until the 2021 session. It will be bleak. From a state government perspective, the cash out-go is exceeding the cash income. What to do about it is the next major challenge. The current thinking appears to indicate that only emergency funding bills and a significant bonding bill will be passed this year before adjournment.

So now the state is turning attention to how best to safely kick-start the economy without compromising on the health and safety of the public. This challenge requires a lot of careful planning and political cooperation. It will be a slow process and the need to maintain social distancing will affect some businesses more than others. I trust by now you have all figured how best to protect your employees and customers while providing your needed and valuable services. Construction is an essential service and I hope the electrical industry will quickly rebound.

The federal government has provided \$2.2 billion in emergency aid to Minnesota through

Legislative Update - Cont on page 5



Compliance

Minnesota Wage Theft and Unemployment Updates

Tom is a Shareholder at Peters, Revnew, Kappenman & Anderson, P.A., a firm representing employers in a full range of employment law issues and litigation in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Tom Revnew
Attorney, PRK&A

Contributor: Caitlin M. Andersen, Attorney, PRK&A

Don't Forget About the Minnesota (and Minneapolis) Wage Theft Notice!

As everyone is focused on the new Families First Coronavirus Response Act ("FFCRA"), don't forget that the Minnesota Wage Theft Prevention Act requires employers to distribute written notices to new employees that contain specific information such as wage rates and information about paid time off. Minneapolis has a similar Wage Theft city ordinance that contains additional requirements. Under both laws, employers must inform employees, in writing, if any information in the notice changes. Employers in Minneapolis must obtain an employee's signature regarding any changes.

A change in an employee's rate of pay, such as a pay reduction, requires written notice to the employee before the change is implemented. Additionally, being newly eligible for paid time off, such as paid leave under the FFCRA's Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act and Emergency Family and Medical Leave Expansion Act, requires written notification. Under both circumstances, employers in Minneapolis must obtain an employee's signature regarding the changes. Employers outside of Minneapolis can comply with the paid time off notice requirements by e-mailing the DOL Paid Sick Leave poster to employees.

New Executive Order Requires Minnesota Employers To Inform Separated Employees About Unemployment Insurance

On April 6, 2020, Governor Walz issued Executive Order 20-29 requiring employers to, "notify separated employees that they can apply for unemployment insurance benefits." This requirement is effective immediately, and continues through December 31, 2020. Employers

should be sure to notify all employees that are laid off, terminated, furloughed, or otherwise separated from employment, that they can apply for unemployment insurance benefits at www.uimn.org or by phone at (651)296-3644.

Monitor Your Unemployment Insurance Account

Individuals in Minnesota are now eligible for an additional \$600 in unemployment benefits. This additional benefit is provided by the federal government through the Coronavirus...

Read the rest: www.prkalaw.com/labor-and-employment-law/2020/04/14/minnesota-wage-theft-and-unemployment-updates/



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HR Compliance

Checklists, Not Forms

Kate Bischoff, Attorney
tHRive Law & Consulting

You've met her. Her name is Darlene. She's in HR. She's a stickler for rules. She's definitely not the party-planner HR-type. Darlene denies requests that do not come on

forms completed perfectly. (She actually gets quite huffy about it.) In fact, lawyers have taught Darlene that her way is the best way. In the time of COVID-19, Darlene is about to experience an awakening. She's not gonna like it.

Under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA), employees can request paid sick leave and/or expanded FMLA in any way they can. In its regulations, the Department of Labor has explicitly said that an employee can request leave **orally**. Employees do not need to ask for a leave in writing. (The IRS has some things to say about this, but...)

So, do you need a form? No. Should you have a form? Not if you've got a Darlene working for you because she's going to deny the leave if she doesn't get the form filled out just the way she wants it. Here are the reasons to say no to forms:

- Not all employees have printers at home
- Not all employees have computers at home to complete forms
- Completing a form might be difficult for some employees
- Requiring a form creates a hoop that an employee has to jump through to get the leave and therefore could be considered interference with the leave
- If DOL says an oral request is sufficient, then you can't require a form (worth repeating)

I know what you're thinking, "But Kate, how am I going to have evidence if they ever sue me?" Don't wor-

ry. I didn't say you weren't going to have evidence. I said you shouldn't have a **form**. Instead, let's have a **checklist** that HR or whoever is responsible for HR stuff to go through to make sure they have everything they need, like healthcare provider names, kids' names and ages, and dates.

Having a conversation back and forth with an employee to get this information – whether it is over email or text message – is going to get you all the documentation you need.

You can even use your old faithful friend, Microsoft Excel, to track the information and document where the information is. Really. An email string or a text chain is going to be enough.

View additional resources on Kate's website—

<https://thrivelawconsulting.com>

From the home page, open "Blog."

Skim through her recent articles. If you want to read the rules for yourself, she has links to the FFCRA and the IRS regulations for paid sick leave.

Plus you can find webinars Kate has generously recorded for our reference!

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You Need to Know

COMPLIANCE

NATIONAL

Recording workplace exposures to COVID-19...

OSHA recordkeeping requirements at 29 CFR Part 1904 mandate covered employers record certain work-related injuries and illnesses on their OSHA 300 log. COVID-19 can be a recordable illness if a worker is infected as a result of performing their work-related duties. However, employers are only responsible for recording cases of COVID-19 if all of the following are true:

- The case is a confirmed case of COVID-19
- The case is work-related (as defined by 29 CFR 1904.5); and
- The case involves one or more of the general recording criteria set forth in 29 CFR 1904.7 (e.g., medical treatment beyond first aid, days away from work).

Employers should also consult OSHA's Enforcement Guidance for Recording Cases of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). <http://tiny.cc/g5j1mz> (www.osha.gov/recordkeeping/)

MINNESOTA

License exams suspended... All DLI license exams are suspended indefinitely. Rescheduling is not available at this time. Extra exams will be added once testing resumes. (MN DLI)

Continuing education deadlines extended 90 days for licensees... Submit your license renewal before the expiration date. Continuing education deadlines have been extended 90 days for licenses that expire in March, April and May 2020. License renewals must still be submitted prior to the current expiration date. Late fees will apply to renewals submitted after the expiration date. Questions: dli.license@state.mn.us. (MN DLI)

Minnesota State Board of Electricity Meetings...

The April 14 meeting was canceled. The next meeting is scheduled for July 14. (MN DLI)

OSHA Workplace Safety Consultation FREE...

May is safety month! DLI offers a free consultation service called MNOSHA Workplace Safety Consultation to help employers find out about potential hazards at their worksites, improve safety management systems and apply for grants to abate safety hazards. The program targets small, high-hazard businesses. It is separate from the OSHA Compliance inspection activities and no citations are issued as part of a consultation visit <http://workplace.doli.state.mn.us/consultation/> • Email: osha.consultation@state.mn.us • Call: 651-284-5060

Sales and Use Tax payment grace period extended to May 20, 2020...

MN Dept of Revenue is extending the Sales and Use Tax grace period on Sales and Use Tax payments for businesses identified in Executive Order 20-04. The department will not assess penalties or interest as follows:

- Identified businesses with a monthly Sales and Use Tax payment due March 20 will now have until May 20 to make that payment.
- Identified businesses with a monthly or quarterly Sales and Use Tax payment due April 20 will now have until May 20 to make that payment.

These businesses should still file their returns by the due dates but do not have to make payments until May 20, 2020. There is no grace period to make the Sales and Use Tax payment for April Sales and Use Tax—the payment and the return will remain due on May 20. www.revenue.state.mn.us.

Adoption of the 2020 National Electrical Code, Minnesota Rules, Part 1315.0200, Rescheduled...

The May 4 rules hearing governing the adoption of the 2020 National Electrical Code, Minnesota Rules, part 1315.0200, is being rescheduled due to the current health crisis. The rescheduled public hearing will take place starting at 9am on Wednesday, August 19, and continue until the hearing is completed, at the MN DLI. Questions? Contact us at dli.rules@state.mn.us.

Senate Hearing—Energy Conservation & Optimization Act of 2020

Our members were well-represented by Michelle Dreier at the Energy Conservation and Optimization Act of 2020 (ECO) Senate Hearing on April 23.

ECO or the Energy Conservation and Optimization Act of 2020 (SF4409/ HF4502) is a bipartisan energy efficiency bill.

The ECO Act would protect and extend Minnesota's excellent work on energy efficiency, while beginning to allow fuel-switching opportunities when those technologies save energy, save customers money, and reduce carbon emissions, as well as encouraging new demand response opportunities. ECO represents months of negotiations with representatives of utilities, regulators, clean energy, and consumer advocates. CEE and the coalition chose Michelle as one of three individuals to testify. We appreciate the extra effort and time she devoted to this issue.



A NEW LOOK Coming Soon! WATCH FOR IT ★★★★★★

Electrical Association Appreciation Awards

Due to the COVID-19 social distancing requirements, we didn't have a chance to properly thank **Joe Gatewood**, Gatewood Electric, for his exemplary work as President of the Board of Directors this past year, and his wife, Lynn, for sharing him with us and for her support at Association events.



Gatewood assisted the Association in big initiatives throughout 2019:

1. IACET Accreditation was reached on December 16, 2019. The Association will now be able to create and submit Online Self-Paced Training to the Department of Labor for CE credits to maintain licensure.
2. The first annual Partner & Profit Event was held in 2019 with high attendance numbers and great feedback. It is clear that this content is an industry need and will continue to be enhanced and offered yearly.
3. Strategic planning, brand discovery workshops, new logo, essential value and brand was all created throughout many workshops and meetings throughout the year. Setting the Association up for success as we roll into the new decade
4. Successfully trained over 3000 electricians throughout the year, advancing the electrical industry forward

The staff couldn't have done it without his great leadership and support. Thank you, Joe!

We would like to acknowledge the following individuals and companies who have been a member of the Association for 25 years and for 50 years.

50-YEAR GOLD ANNIVERSARY MEMBERS

Michael Dietz, Minnesota Valley Electric Cooperative..... Jordan, MN
 Robert Kilian, Bob Kilian Electric Company..... St Michael, MN
 Thomas Bahr, Bahr Electric Inc Byron, MN
 Randy Olinger, The Retrofit Companies Inc Owatonna, MN
 Steven Hoskins, Hoskins Electric Inc..... Houston, MN
 William Hoskins Jr, Hoskins Electric Inc..... Caledonia, MN
 Chad Chaffee, Tri-County Electric Cooperative Rushford, MN
 Kevin Dostal, Dostal Electric Dodge Center, MN
 Troy Ploog, Ploog Electric Madison Lake, MN
 Cliff Moen, Bergstrom Electric ICS Inc..... Grand Forks, ND
 Tim Pavek, Todd-Wadena Electric Cooperative Wadena, MN
 Charles Erickson, E & M Electric Benson, MN

25-YEAR SILVER ANNIVERSARY MEMBERS

Randy Gish, Gish Electric..... St Peter, MN
 Dan Klein, Klein Electric..... St Cloud, MN

Thank You for Your Support for So Many Years!

As our Apprenticeship school year comes to an end, we would like to thank all of the trainers who helped make it possible. This past year, we had more trainers than we have ever had in the past as we expanded the content and amount of students being trained. *(Tim Keefe not pictured)*



Tim Zinniel



Mike Miller



Chad Kurdi



Polly Friendshuh



Jim Schoon



Jeff Kunkel



Frank Claude

Legislative Update (cont. from page 3)

the initial \$2 trillion plus economic stimulus program. \$1.2 billion is going to the state, and \$900 million is going to local governments. These funds are restricted and may only be used to reimburse expenses associated with the pandemic. There is hope that the second federal Covid-19 economic stimulus package will soon pass and include billions of dollars to help the state backfill some of the general fund budget wholes that have been created due to loss of tax revenues. A quick solution to helping us all get back on our feet.

Both the federal government and the state have started to provide business assistance loans and grants to small businesses. While these programs have been beneficial for some small businesses, they ran out of money in just a couple of weeks. You are still encouraged however to process your payroll relieve grant applications with your local banks and the SBA

so you can stay in the que for the round-two funding, which is expected in the next few weeks. Both the federal and state governments have supplemented the unemployment payments to workers by an additional \$600 per week. The goal is to help working families pay bills, buy groceries and avoid financial ruin. The goal is to survive until people get back to work in a safe manner.

Despite the economic woe and health worries, we will soon be transitioning into the election season. Besides the Presidential election, all members of the Minnesota House and Senate will stand for re-election. I believe campaigning will be reformed because large gatherings will be prohibited. I remain confident, however, that political candidates will find alternative ways to get in front of constituents and raise money for their campaign.

As we embark upon a phased process to reopen Minnesota's economy, I believe the legislature will be called into a few special sessions throughout the summer. There will be a predictable need for additional emergency funds to assist the health care industry to continue the fight against Covid-19. Also, the state will continue to monitor its balance sheet and tax collections so they can make budget adjustments to keep the budget in balance. Uncertainty will be the new normal.

Finally, I want to commend the Electrical Association Executive Director Clara Albert and her staff for doing an excellent job in helping you weather this new storm by disseminating useful pandemic and business information to members. Your association team and your lobbying team remain fully committed to serving your needs. We are all in this together!

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<http://tiny.cc/ka8knz>

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...



Michelle Dreier
Member Engagemt/
Gov't Affairs

Workforce Development

Recent Unemployment Claims in Minnesota

In all of 2019, there were 75,000 claims for unemployment insurance.

In the past 30 days, there have been 450,000 claims for unemployment insurance.

That brings the total unemployment up to 485,000 for 2020 to date in Minnesota.

The pandemic has turned the world upside down, and provided many in situational unemployment where there once was a workforce shortage. Still, unemployment has become a strategy with federal supplements to battle the pandemic, not a symptom.

For our single-man shops with not enough work, you can now file for unemployment. You will initially be denied, but benefits will catch up to you in Minnesota's follow-up procedures.

For our members who laid individuals off with the intent to bring them back after the payroll protection program loans came through, early adopters have found additional nuances.

1. If you pay employees retroactively from first day of lay off, they will need to pay the State back.
2. Some employees may refuse to come back because of the lucrative unemployment benefits. They need to come back and go back to work as essential employees. If they don't, their benefits will be discontinued.

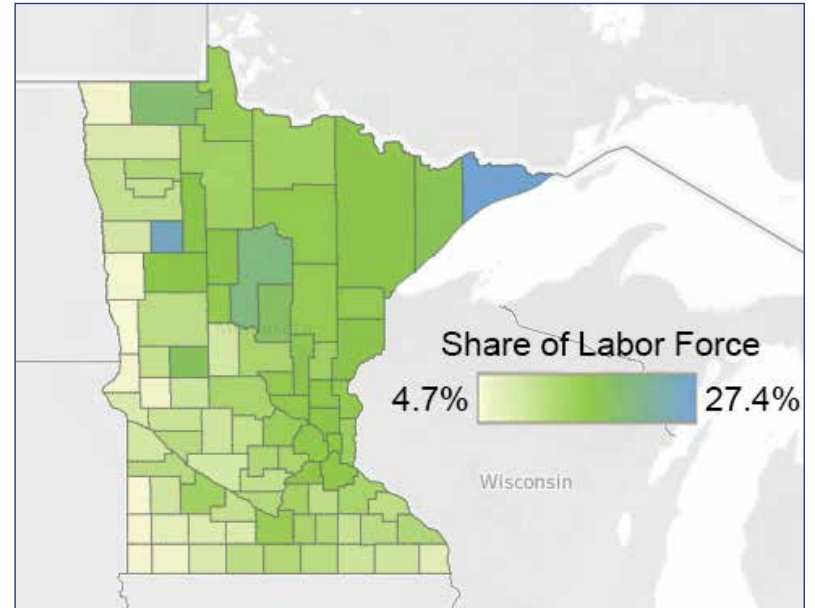
In the end, the extra \$600 per week of unemployment benefits is coming from the federal government. Typical unemployment funds are coming from the unemployment trust. At current levels, the trust has enough assets to pay the unemployed population through October.

State agencies are learning from critical businesses what going back to work looks like. Their plan will be based on fact & science and rooted in health.

The Walz administration understands that keeping the economy going is important. They want to make certain

that keeping COVID 19 contained to manageable levels supports the reentry of our workforce.

Please give the office a call if you have any questions or concerns going forward: 612-827-6117.



Cumulative Unemployment Insurance Applicants by County from March 16 to April 14, 2020, as a Share of 2019 Annual Labor Force

Apprentice Training Starting September 2020—

It's CRITICAL to keep your good talent during these difficult times. Providing training for them shows you value them and their future in this ESSENTIAL industry.

Our Apprentice Training Course is contractor-driven curriculum developed by industry experts. We have 20+ years of effective apprentice training. Approved as a Related Technical Instruction Provider by the US Dept of Labor.

- Convenient & Affordable
- Live, online - One night per week
- If you miss class, watch the recording anytime
- Free 2 hours of CE course included
- Membership discount



Registration
Opening Soon!

Congratulations

Congratulations to the great group of students who are graduating this year from our 4-year electrical apprentice program. They wrapped up their classes in April and are ready to take the Journeyworker Licensing exam!



We wish them all the best, and we know they will find success in this field!

NEW DATES for the 2020 Upper Midwest Electrical EXPO



December 9-10, 2020

Minneapolis Convention Center
Minneapolis, MN

Attendees, Sponsors, and Exhibitors can learn more at:

www.ncel.org/expo



Prevailing Wage Surveys Due June 5

How You Can Participate

You can submit your information electronically or by mailing a paper survey before June 5, 2020.

Visit <https://secure.doli.state.mn.us/pwratesurvey> and use the personal identification number (PIN) and key provided in the letter that was mailed to you to login or to download a paper survey.

Helpful Tips for Completing the Survey

- Report the employee's full legal name and not a nickname.
- Do not report owners, foreman, supervisors, apprentices or helpers because these skew the data.
- Reported employees must have worked at least eight hours on the project. Each employee may only be reported once for each project.
- "Project" means the erection, construction, remodeling or repairing of commercial, residential or public buildings, or any highway and heavy construction.
- Reported projects can include private and public work.

If you have questions or would like more info, contact the DLI at 651-284-5091 or email: dli.prevwage@state.mn.us.



For Prevailing Wage assistance,
call the Electrical Association

(612) 827-6117

Develop Your Career

Education Calendar

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

Continuing Education: Classroom (16 CE)

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

- June 11-12 (8am-5pm) 2017 NEC® Grounding & Bonding; Motor Installation; Overcurrent Protection **La Crosse WI**
- Aug 14-15 (8am-5pm) 2020 NEC® Grounding & Bonding; Motor Installation; Overcurrent Protection - **St Cloud**



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

Thank you to our La Crosse WI Class Host & Sponsor:



Continuing Education: Online (2 CE)

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

- May 6 (6:30pm-8:30pm) 2020 NEC® Motor Installation Requirements Pt 1
- May 28 (6:30pm-8:30pm) 2020 NEC® Motor Installation Requirements Pt 2
- June 18 (8am-10am) 2020 NEC® Branch Circuit, Feeder, Service Calcs
- July 14 (6:30pm-8:30pm) 2020 NEC® Grounding & Bonding for Unlicensed
- Aug 11 (6:30pm-8:30pm) 2020 NEC® Motors and Transformers
- Aug 25 (6:30pm-8:30pm) 2020 NEC® Overcurrent Protection for Unlicensed

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

Exam Prep Training: Classroom—2017 NEC®

Thank you to our Class Host & Sponsor:

- June 6-7 (8am-5pm) Edina, Federated Insurance

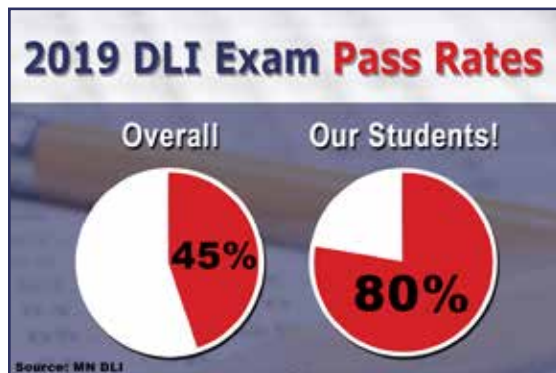


- » Non-Members Price: \$570, Member: \$460

LAST CHANCE to PREP for the 2017 NEC Licensing Exam!

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



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

APPRENTICESHIPS are the New Way to SUCCEED!

- Starts in September
- Online 1 night/week
- Affordable

- Early Birds save \$50 before 7/1
- Early Birds save \$25 before 8/1
- MEA membership discounts!

Registration Coming Soon



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.

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

Motors



- When considering type CC fuses, their values are based on the _____ column in Table 430.52.
 - nontime delay
 - time-delay
 - instantaneous trip
 - inverse time trip
- In Article 430.22, the purpose of adding 25% ampacity to for the conductors supplying a motor is for _____.
 - starting current of the motor
 - allowing wiring sales to increase
 - reducing the probability of a short circuit because of overheated wiring
 - continuous duty of the motor
- Which condition(s) allow for an OL device to be rated at 1.25% of the motor FLA?
 - service factor of 1.2
 - thermally protected motor
 - temperature rating of 35°C
 - Both answer (a) & (c).
- A wound rotor induction motor uses which component(s)?
 - resistor grid
 - brushes
 - commutator rings
 - All of the above.
- An “EP” motor is an _____ motor.
 - earth proven ground
 - electronically programmable
 - electronically protected
 - None of the above.
- For an adjustable speed drive the size of the incoming conductors must be based on _____.
 - 125% of the code book ampere rating of the motor
 - 125% of the input current rating of the adjustable speed drive system
 - 115% of the input current rating of the adjustable speed drive system
 - 125% of the output current rating of the adjustable speed drive system

Answers: 1) a; 2) d; 3) d; 4) d; 5) c; 6) b

Toolbox Talks

Ladder Safety



Most ladder accidents occur from improper selection or use which results in over-reaching, tipping, and falls. Here are some guidelines for preventing ladder accidents on the jobsite.

- Ladders must be used on stable and level surfaces unless secured to prevent accidental movement. Also, ladders must not be used on slippery surfaces unless secured or provided with slip-resistant feet to prevent accidental movement. Slip-resistant feet should not be used as a substitute for the care in placing, lashing, or holding a ladder upon slippery surfaces.
- Ladders should not be loaded beyond the manufacturer’s rated capacity. Look at the labeling on the ladder to identify its rated capacity.
- Ladders placed in areas such as passageways, doorways, or drive-ways, or where they can be displaced by workplace activities or traffic must be secured to prevent accidental movement, or a barricade must be used to keep traffic or activities away from the ladder.
- Ladders must not be moved, shifted (walked), or extended when being used by an employee.
- Use nonconductive side rails if a worker or the ladder could contact exposed energized electrical equipment. Stay 10 feet from power lines unless you’re qualified to be closer.
- When ascending or descending any ladder, you must face the ladder.
- You must use at least one hand to grasp the ladder when climbing. This rule

requires you to maintain three points of contact at all times when ascending or descending.

- A worker on a ladder must not carry any object or load that could cause him/her to lose balance and fall. Use a hand line to raise and lower loads.
- Portable ladders with structural defects such as broken or missing rungs, cleats or steps, or broken or split rails, corroded components, or other faulty or defective components must be taken out of service.

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



ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS!

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THEIR GENEROSITY MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE!

2020 ALL EDUCATION & EVENT SPONSORS!



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Courtesy of Our Partner in Safety, Federated Insurance...



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

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



PRINT and POST in your breakroom!

Find this poster and more at:

www.electricalassociation.com > Resources



Solutions for Your Customers

Industry Innovations for Our Health

Submitted by Charles Dix, Lighting Segment Manager, Werner Electric



Covid-19 has brought a laser focus to how vulnerable our health system is and how important it is for our way of life. That virus that is so small that you need an electron-microscope to see it could cause so much havoc and tragedy to our daily lives.

Every resource and technology that we have should be brought to bear on these foes that make us sick and threaten our health. The electrical industry has been no stranger to this fight to improve our health care and provide better care. Until the creation of incandescent lamps almost all surgery had to be conducted during the day but today we take for granted that the operating suite has the highest quality of light possible to aid the doctors to see properly. Electricity provides power to critical machines such as ventilators, heart pumps and many more wonderful devices down to HVAC. The electrical industry continues to launch new products and innovations that help our healthcare to improve.

Some of the newest products are **anti-microbial face plates, wall switches and receptacles**. As germs, bacteria and viruses continue to evolve and find ways to live longer and stronger it is a major threat to our arsenal of anti-bacteria drugs which may not be able to kill them. Eliminating them faster and not allowing a place for them to grow is critical. The industry now offers anti-microbial devices imbedded with silver ion particles that kill 99.9% of bacteria and germs.

Another germ fighter are **UV-A light fixtures** for hospitals and commercial applications. You can combine a regular style fixture you would see in any hospital or commercial office but it also emits UV-A lighting that kills over 99.8% of all pathogens and germs over an 8-hour period. Rather than use harsh chemicals you use the power of the sun and select bands of UV-A light that are harmless to humans but deadly to germs.

And lastly, the **use of lighting to mimic the color of the sun** to enhance our internal biorhythms and reinforce our own internal germ fighting capabilities. We have lived under artificial lighting for less than 0.01% of the total time man has walked on this earth. Our bodies have evolved to use nature and

the power of the sun to power our own immune systems so the closest we can get to that natural state in our lighting, the better we will be.

The industry and our manufacturing partners continue to research and design new products to help make our lives better and healthier.



WE WERNER ELECTRIC /CONSTRUCTION
We are wired to keep your projects on time and on budget with the right people and the right inventory.

DISCOVER MORE
WERNERMN.COM/CONSTRUCTION

ONLINE TRADE SHOW!

All the PPE you need!!

Gloves, Particulate Respirators, Surgical Face Masks, Face Shields, Sanitizer Gel, UV Sterilizer, and more!! View the full list of products and prices at the website below. (Atek Distribution • 612-454-0042)



NEW! SPF 30 Broad Spectrum Sunscreen—Great for Contractors, Events & Outdoor Activities

Tropical SPF 30 Broad Spectrum Sunscreen in a 1.5 oz. bottle with the best-selling SPF 15 Broad Spectrum Lip Balm. Safe, effective protection against the effects of UVA and UVB rays making it a practical set. Quantity discounts. Marketing & promotional solutions for your company! (Plum Tree Solutions • 952-431-7586)



NEW Eyewear, Hi-Viz vest + Lightweight Workshirt

Five new styles of vision protection are available this spring in our DEWALT®, Crossfire®, Radians, and IQuty brands. New apparel includes the RadWear SV75B color-blocked SE surveyor vest and the Neese AR/FR 7 oz. button-down work shirt. Work Hard, Stay Safe. (Rouzer 952-737-6320)



Diode LED—NEW STREAMLITE

Compact and diffused linear lighting. STREAMLITE delivers premium light quality from a solid stream of light. Perfect for areas with low clearance or reflective surfaces to eliminate spot-glare. (Rouzer • 952-737-6320)



Greenlee—NEW GRE-6

For the professionals that need to address all types of jobs, your most critical tasks can now be accomplished with one tool. No more time wasted going back and forth to search for multiple tools. The GRE-6 helps you maximize your productivity and efficiency on the jobsite. (Rouzer • 952-737-6320)



RAB—Comprehensive Contractor-Grade Downlights Portfolios

RAB launched one of the most comprehensive contractor-grade downlights portfolios to enter the market at one time. 7 main families including retrofit, new construction & remodeling applications, with a total of 258 SKUs. (Rouzer 952-737-6320)





Alex Hyatt
National Sales Mgr

Member Benefits

Electrical Toolbox Talks are Free for Members

The importance of creating a workplace culture built upon safe working practices is critical for the health and safety of your employees. The last thing we want to see is the death or injury of a loved one. If you are

not already holding routine safety meetings with your crew, now is the time to start.

Electrical Toolbox Talks are available to all members free of charge. The Toolbox Talks are a collaborative effort, approved and edited by the Electrical Association Safety Committee, Federated Insurance Associated Risk Management Services Team, and Minnesota OSHA Consultation. These Toolbox Talks help take the guesswork out of what to incorporate into your safety meetings and, a sign-in sheet is included for OSHA documentation purposes.

Electrical Toolbox Talks are a great refresher, and keep your employees abreast of changes in regulations, safety procedures, equipment, personal protective equipment (PPE), and job assignments and responsibilities.



...And Another Great Resource that's FREE for Members—AWAIR Safety Program

At the website below, members will find files for **9 sections required in an AWAIR Program** plus a 10th section filled with training topics and forms. Each section was created in a Microsoft Word file that you can **easily edit and save** to suit your company's needs.

www.electricalassociation.com/AWAIR

Topics include the following:

- **NEW—Viruses!** Safe Working Practices During the COVID-19 Epidemic
- Aerial Lifts
- Arc Blasts
- Asbestos
- Boom Trucks
- Carbon Monoxide
- Controlling Electrical Hazards
- Competent vs. Qualified Person
- Compressed Gas Safety
- Core Drilling
- Driving Safety
- Emergency Preparedness
- Excavations
- Extension Cords
- Eye and Face Safety
- Fall Protection
- Fire Extinguisher Safety
- Foot Protection
- Fork Lift Drivers
- Guardrail Requirements
- Hand Safety
- Head Protection
- Hearing Safety

- Heat Stress
- High-Visibility Vests
- Injuries & Emergency Situations
- Liquefied Petroleum Gas
- Lockout/Tagout
- PPE Assessment
- Scaffolding Safety
- Temporary Lighting
- Temporary Wiring Panels
- Trips, Slips, and Falls
- Winter Driving

Don't wait to start incorporating safety into your company culture.

If you have any other questions, please call our office or email info@electricalassociation.com.

Members can access this resource at:

www.electricalassociation.com/TOOLBOXTALKS



Member Spotlight:

Ahmad Kian & Ehssan Taghizadeh—Apadana, Golden Valley

The Electrical Association is pleased to welcome a relatively new member, Ahmad Kian and Apadana. About 15 years ago, Ahmad's little daughter asked him what he's done for the future of our planet. He immediately went into action, changing his focus from his successful Fortune 100 career into how he can become a successful steward of the environment.

Kian said that every day since then he's put his focus on the elimination of waste. When the LED-lights market stabilized and prices came down, Kian and his friend Ehssan Taghizadeh partnered to start a business: **Apadana**, a Golden Valley-based LED lighting company that focuses on providing sustainable energy solutions in 2013.

Apadana has experienced tremendous growth, outgrowing two previous locations and working with major clients around the Twin Cities.

Apadana offers LED installation, retrofits, control systems, and energy consultations. **Apadana Solar Technologies** was added when John Ehresmann joined the team in 2017, expanding their sustainability business into solar energy, energy storage, and electric vehicle chargers.

Apadana & Apadana Solar are foundational members of the **Go Green Technologies** consortium, founded by Kian that work together to help deliver sustainable solutions to facility management.

Another member of the Go Green group, **Clark Technology**, is a Minneapolis-based firm that's created a treatment mechanism that turns wastewater, including leachate, into reusable or even potable water. Leachate is water that is collected in landfills and acquires contaminant particles along the way. Most current treatments for it include transporting it to a wastewater treatment plant for limited contaminant treatment.

The bad news is that "forever chemicals" continue to be diluted and sent into ground water sources. The good news is that Clark Technology has developed a process that turns any organic waste into gas or electrical power.

Kian says Clark has an answer for converting and diverting 95% of municipal solid waste (plastics, carpets, tires) that is landfilled into useable products and energy (fuel oil or diesel). After he initially learned of **LeachBuster®** and **Waste Diversion**—two of Clark Technology's solutions—he gained a renewed perspective regarding the country's progress on eco-friendly alternatives.

"I feel for the first time that we are now moving from sustainability to 'thrivability,'" said Kian. "When we go after sustainability, we are cutting ourselves

short... Good enough is not good enough—we want to shoot for the moon."

Kian was born in Iran and came to the U of M to study engineering, as did Taghizadeh. The company's name refers to the Apadana Hall inside the palace at Persepolis, in ancient Persia, which faced the Silk Road, connecting east and west, and was viewed as a hallway to the future," said Kian. They used that name to symbolize a gateway to the future of sustainability, now even better: **thrivability.**"



Ehssan Taghizadeh (left of center) and Ahmad Kian (center)

Summarized by Ahmad Kian's interview with Sunrise Banks (April 2020).



Tim Pass,
Accountant,
Smith Schafer CPAs

Compliance

Payroll Tax Credits & PPP Loan Guidance

Amidst the current crisis, two major pieces of stimulus legislation were signed into law:

1. The Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA)
2. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES)

Both acts provide opportunities for businesses, but also require additional tracking for proper reporting. Our recommendations for tracking related to payroll tax credits and for tracking related to the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) Loan are below.

PAYROLL TAX CREDITS AVAILABLE

We recommend employers set up new pay codes for each credit listed below. The pay code should be set-up as regular taxable wages and subject to all tax types including:

- Federal and state income tax withholding
- Social security
- Medicare
- State and federal unemployment

Employee Retention Credit (CARES)

Refundable tax credit equal to 50% of qualified wages paid to employees after March 12, 2020, and before January 1, 2021, up to \$10,000 of qualified wages per employee. This credit is not available if the entity took out a PPP Loan.

Emergency Paid Sick Leave (FFCRA)

Refundable tax credit equal to regular pay of up to \$511 per day and up to 10 days for employees who are affected by COVID-19. The maximum credit is \$5,110 per employee.

Expanded Paid Family Medical Leave (FFCRA)

Refundable tax credit equal to 2/3 of regular pay up to \$200 per day and up to 10 weeks for employees who are caretakers for those affected by COVID-19. The maximum credit is \$10,000 per employee.

Additional details on each credit can be found on our COVID-19 Resource center page. Employers utilizing the PPP Loan cannot use the same wages for the credits under the FFCRA. In addition, employers claiming the employee retention credit cannot use the same wages for the sick leave and family medical leave credits.

CLAIMING CREDITS & APPLYING FOR REFUNDS

Employers have three options for utilizing the eligible credits and/or claiming refunds:

1. Claim the entire credit when filing the subsequent Form 941 (Employer's Quarterly Federal Tax Return). Second quarter 2020 is due July 31, 2020.
2. Short payroll tax deposits by the expected credit.
3. File Form 7200 (Advance Payment of Employer Credits Due to COVID-19).
 - Use the form when the expected credit exceeds payroll tax liability
 - Can be filed more than one time each quarter
 - Each form is cumulative for the quarter
 - Form(s) to be reconciled on your Qtrly Form 941
 - Keep a copy of all Form 7200s filed

For employers that have eligible credits, we recommend shorting your payroll tax deposits first, followed by using Form 7200 to the extent that additional refundable credit is available. This will provide the most timely return of expenditures. The IRS is currently updating forms and systems to accommodate the new credits. No changes are expected for the Form 941 for first quarter 2020, this return is due on or before April 30. The second quarter Form 941 is expected to have additional line(s) to reflect the advanced payments reported on Form 7200 and/or credit calculations.

Employment Tax Return Filed by a Third Party

Third parties preparing employment tax returns on behalf of others are not entitled to keep the credits. The employer is entitled to the credits for wages paid to employees.

Third-party filers such as ADP, Paychex, Paylocity, SmartHR and others are all working on solutions to reduce the tax liability amount remitted related to eligible credits. We recommend keeping in close contact with the third-party payroll provider.

PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM LOAN RECOMMENDATIONS

PPP Loans have very strict rules as to what the funds can be spent on, to help you stay in compliance with the rules we recommend the following:

Separate Bank Account: We recommend clients set up a separate (new) bank account for the PPP funds, so they can easily be traced to use for appropriate purposes. Ideally, you would pay the qualifying items out of this account. However, if this is not possible, we recommend continuing to pay those expenses from other accounts and keep a detailed record of what is reimbursed to other accounts for a clear tracing of these funds.

What Can the Funds be Used for: Generally, the funds can be used in the 8 weeks following the loan, for payroll costs, rent, utilities and interest (not principal) on loans.

Condensed. Read the complete article, view more resources, and subscribe to the COVID-19 email list:

www.smithschafer.com/covid-19-additional-reporting-recommendations/

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

You Need to Know - Cont from page 4

Prevailing Wage Surveys Due June 5... You can submit your information electronically or by mailing a paper survey before June 5. Read more on pg 7.

CONSTRUCTION TRENDS

US Building Permits... Privately-owned housing units authorized by building permits in March were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate 6.8% below

the revised February rate but is 5% above the March 2019 rate. Single-family authorizations in March were at a rate 12% below the revised February figure. (Census.gov)

New Residential Construction... Privately-owned housing starts in March 2020 were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate 22.3% below the revised February 2020 estimate. (Census.gov)

ECONOMY

Consumer Price Index... -0.4% in Mar 2020 (BLS.gov)

National Average Mortgage... 30-yr fixed mortgage: 3.57%; 15-yr fixed: 3.15% (bankrate.com)

Minnesota Average Mortgage... 30-yr fixed mortgage: 3.697%; 15-yr fixed: 3.106% (bankrate.com)

ENERGY

Solar installations and the 2020 Minnesota Residential Code... All new applications for solar PV installations submitted on and after March 31, 2020, must comply with the 2020 Minnesota Residential Code for residential applications. A new bulletin, Solar Photovoltaic Systems and the 2020 Minnesota Residential Code, that outlines requirements is available at www.dli.mn.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/fs_res_solar.pdf.

Free virtual home energy visits, new from Home Energy Squad... The Home Energy Squad has a new virtual home energy visit to help customers find their biggest energy savings. The visit is conducted online and costs nothing. Customers can use this new offering to discover low- and no-cost

energy-saving opportunities, or to help identify future projects to pursue when the time comes. Home Energy Squad is provided by CenterPoint Energy and Xcel Energy, supported by participating cities, and delivered by CEE. (MN CEE. April 2020)

LABOR & MANAGEMENT

US Unemployment Rate... Seasonally adjusted unemployment rate is 4.4% in March 2010 (3.7% in March 2019) www.bls.gov

MN Unemployment Rate... Seasonally adjusted unemployment rate is 3.1% in March 2020 (Same as February 2020). (MN DEED)

DEED implements 13-week extension of Unemployment Insurance... The agency has fully implemented the Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC), which provides a 13-week extension of unemployment benefits for eligible applications. (MN DEED)

NORTH DAKOTA

North Dakota Electrical Board... View the March 2020 Special Edition of the North Dakota State Electrical Board newsletter at www.ndseb.com/newsletter/ to read the administrative rule changes highlights.

WISCONSIN

Wisconsin License Holders... Get your 16 continuing education credits on June 11-12 in La Crosse. See Education Calendar on page 7 for more information.

SPEEDWAY MOVES INTO MINNESOTA
The Speedway Business Fleet Card Program

Visit our new Minnesota locations and start saving with the **Speedway Business Fleet Card Program**.

- SAVE MONEY**
Receive a rebate with every gallon fueled at Speedway
- SAVE TIME**
Forget receipts — we do the accounting for you
- INCREASED SECURITY**
Fight fraud with Driver IDs and Odometer reads required for every purchase
- BROAD ACCEPTANCE**
Accepted at all Speedway locations (plus available nationwide acceptance!)
- MOBILE MANAGEMENT**
The fastest way to manage fleet activity in real-time
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Never leave another driver stranded with 24/7 roadside assistance

Minnesota fleets save up to **5¢ per gallon*** with the Speedway Business Fleet Card.

FOR MORE INFORMATION or TO APPLY, CALL
Rob Schafer
612-212-7496
or email
Robert.Schafer@wexinc.com

Welcome New Members

Japs Olson Company St Louis Park
 New Century Systems Inc Corcoran
 RAB Lighting..... Lakeville
 Covenant Electric New Brighton
 Watts Electric..... Andover
 Minnesota State University..... Moorhead
 CLEAResult Consulting Excelsior
 Axis Electric & Technology Hudson WI
 Annie Vu Brooklyn Park
 A+ Communications Des Moines IA
 Sundial Energy Minneapolis

Membership Anniversaries

Thank you to the following companies who have been members of the Electrical Association and have been supporting the industry.

Benda Electric, Cory Benda 15 years
 Affordable Electric, Nick Davis 15 years
 Stafford Home Service, Kris Thompson ... 15 years
 Peerless Chain Co, Glenn Agrimson 10 years
 ISD #181 Brainerd, Earl Wolleat..... 5 years

Congratulations

Congratulations to Cedar Lake Electric... Cedar Lake Electric celebrated 45 years in business! Since 1975 they have served residents and businesses of the Twin Cities and southern Minnesota, and they are long-time members of the Electrical Association, since 1979!



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Werner Electric...

Thank you for hosting our upcoming 2017 NEC Code class in LaCrosse WI (June 11-12).

Miscellaneous

Dunwoody seeking Electrician Instructor...

Need to have an Associate's or Bachelor's Degree combined with a minimum amount of hours performing electrical work. You also have the option to further your credentials through Dunwoody's tuition reimbursement program. New to higher education? Through career & technical education courses included in your benefits package, you will learn how to develop curriculum, identify how your students learn best, how to keep your class engaged, and more! We expect you to have a passion for your industry that you can share with your students and a determination to provide the best educational experience to the next generation.

<https://main.hercjobs.org/jobs/13356381>



The Classifieds

Seeking a Contractor Electrical Inspector...

Must be good with the NEC and with people. Will cover the East Metro (Maplewood north to Hugo). Request an application at petetokle@gmail.com.

Brady BBP31 Label Printing System & Supplies

- 1 refurbished BBP31 label printer
- 2 unopened boxes of labels
- 1 unopened ribbon cartridge
- 6 various sizes labels; some unused
- \$1500 OBO

For details, call Jackson Electric (507) 647-5742.



Boom Truck

- 2000 Freightliner FL70, TEREX TELELECT
- Bucket Boom Service Truck Diesel Auto
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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
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 - 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 us. 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 us to arrange a pick up and to learn if we 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
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 - 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

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

NOT Business as Usual

The current pandemic crisis has certainly thrown the proverbial monkey wrench into business operations.

The pandemic has resulted in business shut-downs, unemployment, and added anxiety for a number of individuals who continue to work.

Through this I've spoken with personal friends and have taken calls from the general public expressing concerns that their employer isn't taking any measures to prevent exposure to the COVID virus. For them it's "business as usual".

The reality, it's impossible to state that it's business as usual. Even if a particular establishment hasn't yet taken infection control seriously, other customers and vendor businesses have. This in itself will affect how day-to-day business operations may be performed.

In the construction sector, work continues, but not without the need for some changes—

- Meetings via teleconference will need to be more the norm.
- In-person meetings will require smaller group sizes.
- Distancing on the worksite will need to be thought through and reinforced.

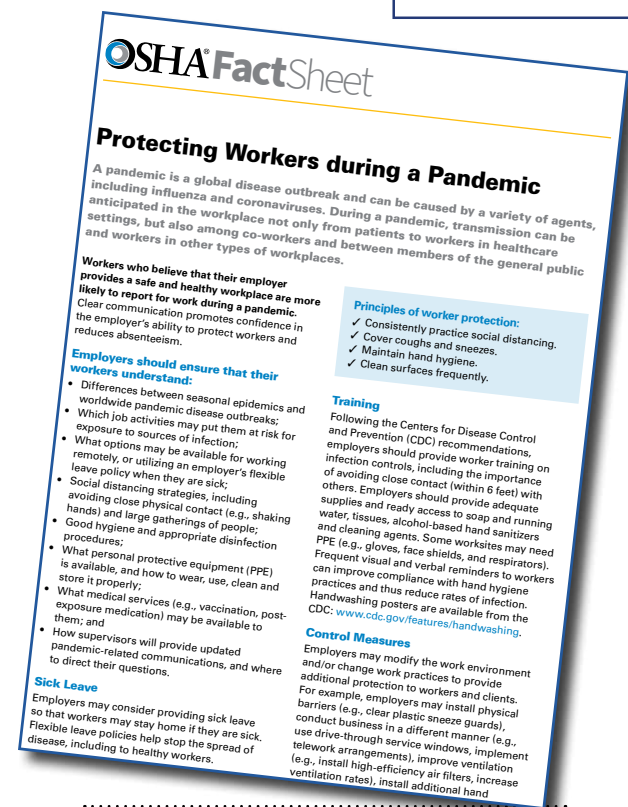
- Sharing of tools will need to be avoided, unless appropriate cleaning and sanitizing is done.
- Work scheduling that limits crew sizes may be necessary.
- Work break times will need to be staggered.
- Appropriate use of PPE will be critical.

Due to current shortages, added emphasis will need to be placed on engineering and work practice controls, to minimize reliance on respirators. This really shouldn't be anything that's not already emphasized—respirators should be the last line of defense against airborne hazards.

Even with this pandemic, reasonable attempts should first be made to implement engineering and work practice safeguards that follow current infection control guidance, before reliance on PPE. This will include distancing protocols, cleaning/sanitizing, barrier protections, and so on.

PPE effectiveness is only as good as how it is used. If not used correctly, it limits the intended effectiveness, and during this time, prudent use of PPE – respirators in particular, is critical.

This will be a long grind to get through, but it will, hopefully, make everyone that much more resilient and prepared, for the next challenge to "business as usual".



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.



Mike Miller
Director of Education

Word on the Street

Dynamic Class Concept—2020 NEC® Highlights

If you are out "on the street," be careful to maintain the social distance recommended by those who know. The Corona Virus pandemic has certainly made us all step back and look at life as we knew it. There are some significant

changes coming whether we want them or not, but we are all in the same boat and we will survive.

Some new things to look forward to with the Electrical Association include a lot of online classes, which will

continue to provide a high degree of health safety when it comes to large gatherings. We are equipped with some fabulous technology that enables you and your employees to participate in a great continuing educational class and have that **classwork tailored to your needs**.

Another concept to let you know about is dynamic class concepts. The Electrical Association has successfully provided focused classes on such subjects as motors, grounding and bonding, overcurrent protection, and special occupancies wiring to mention a few. We intend to continue.

However, to create some additional appeal in code training, we are kicking back and going casual with code training that is grouped together with a variety of interests that could include anything from industrial to home to farm wiring. This class is for you if you're the serviceman and see everything. It is a class led online (or in a classroom if conditions permit) that is NEC based taught by an expert trainer but also covers a multitude of wiring scenarios. We feel this class goes extremely fast and it's enjoyable because everyone gets their type of work spotlighted. Stay tuned as we role this class concept out soon.

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We Want to Know What APPS You're Using!

Business Fuel & Fleet Electrical Calculations Line Diagrams Lighting Formulas Safety...

Email your tips to
rbrunclik@electricalassociation.com
We'll print them in the next issue.

Rebates

Limited Time: Bonus Rebates on LED Upgrades

If you've been thinking about upgrading the lighting in your business to energy-saving LEDs, we've got great news for you. For a limited time, Xcel Energy's Minnesota commercial electric customers can earn higher rebate dollars on select LED lamps, tubes and fixtures. Don't miss your chance to earn more cash back.

Get double rebate amounts on qualified:

- LED linear tubes
- LED mogul screw-base lamps

Get 25% bonus rebates on qualified:

- LED direct linear ambient fixtures
- LED downlight fixtures
- LED high/low bay fixtures and retrofit kit
- LED parking garage fixtures
- LED refrigerated case lighting for 5- and 6-foot door
- LED stairwell fixtures
- LED troffer fixtures

How to earn bonus rebates:

- Qualifying equipment must be purchased between **March 1, 2020, through August 31, 2020**.
- Install your qualifying equipment and submit your rebate application no later than **December 15, 2020**.
- Include this promo code on your rebate application: **LED BOOST**

How to get started:

Download the *Lighting Retrofit Rebate Application* to view qualifying equipment details.

(The rebate application lists our standard rebate levels. Bonus amounts will be added to the rebate check for qualifying submissions.)

Eligibility and Details

- This promotion is only available to Xcel Energy's Minnesota commercial electric customers.
- Qualifying lamps, tubes and fixtures that are eligible for promotional rebates must be used in interior applications, with the exception of parking garage fixtures (which must also operate 24 per day).
- One-Stop Efficiency Shop, Lighting New Construction and Business LED Instant rebates are not eligible for this promotion.
- Turn-Key and Multi-Family projects are not eligible for multiple bonus offerings. The higher bonus will be applied.
- The promo code must be included on the rebate application to be eligible for bonus rebates.
- Bonus rebates will be capped at 75% of labor plus equipment cost. Certain restrictions may apply.

Contact your account manager or an energy advisor at 855-839-8862 with any questions.

Application & Details: <http://tiny.cc/796knz>



Steps to Take to Find Utility Rebates for Your Customers

1. Obtain generic information from the customer:
 - Utility account numbers, copy of utility bill, meter numbers, or physical address; or
 - Use the PUC utility boundary map

2. Contact the respected utility company in that area:

Center for Energy and Environment (CEE)
Cindy Kelly 612-244-2427, ckelly@mncee.org

Dakota Electric
651-463-6243, customerservice@dakotaelectric.com

Energy Insight
952-767-7455

Franklin Energy
800-598-4376, inquiries@franklinenergy.com

Great River Energy
763-445-5000

Otter Tail Power Company (MN ND SD)
800-493-3299, ideacenter@otpc.com

Minnesota Valley Electric
952-492-2313, info@mvec.net

Minnkota Power (MN ND)
701-795-4000, minnkota@minnkota.com

Missouri River Energy Services (MN ND SD IA)
605-338-4042, info@mrenergy.com

Xcel Energy
855-839-8862, energyefficiency@xcelenergy.com

3. Use the utility company's website to find rebate information OR DSIRE USA site for rebate information

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Association provides leadership in partnering between contractors, government employees and consumers to promote quality construction built safely, on time, on budget and at a fair price and profit.

We provide a strong commitment to quality in education, communication, government relations and ethics.

Important Notice: The information in this newsletter is intended to alert you to changes in laws, regulations, or trends that can affect your business. The information in this newsletter is NOT tax, accounting, or legal advice. Since each company has different needs, it is important that you get the appropriate professional advice if you think your company will be affected. Please be sure to call us if you have any questions.

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For more information or to see if your customers qualify contact:

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ckelly@mncee.org
612-244-2427



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