



A Word from the Chair

Politics in 2020/2021

by Clayton Schenck
Chair, Board of Directors

We all know how important this year is for our country and our state. All MN House and Senate seats will be up for election or re-election on November 3. This means that donating to the Electrical Association PAC is more important than ever so our lobbying team can attend fundraisers and develop relationships for a 2021 session that will be distanced, at least in part. This will allow them to maintain current relationships as well as meet legislators coming in. Minnesota is currently the only state with a divided legislator in the House and Senate. This most likely won't remain the same anymore come November, Republicans are losing ground. **Your vote makes a difference.**

Donate to the Association's PAC

***** Our Voices are Stronger Together! *****

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Bonding was supposed to happen this year. It has been a victim of what is happening politically and socially. Minnesota entered 2020 with a \$1.5 billion surplus. The pandemic hit and that flipped to a \$2 billion deficit. The Senate asked for a financial forecast in August for planning purposes and it was not provided. We may be looking at an \$8 to \$10 billion deficit that the legislature will need to correct in 2021.

It is unlikely that a legislator will come to your door this fall. If one does call you, perhaps you can ask

them how they would handle a \$10 billion deficit. That will be the largest task at hand in 2021.

Initially legislators felt that a large bonding proposal wasn't necessary because construction was so strong. Everyone was struggling with a workforce shortage. Then the pandemic hit and massive unemployment occurred. The employment numbers are slowly looking better, but the Building Trades estimates a reduction of hours by 10-22% for 2020. In that case, bonding would be a perfect tool to create work. Interest rates are very low.

Enter material shortages into the mix and that provides bonding another challenge. The \$1.35 billion bonding bill that was tentatively agreed upon earlier this year needs to be reworked. Construction materials are in short supply and their prices have escalated because of that. A two by four that would normally cost \$2.50, now costs \$9.00 according to the MN Lumber Association. Project estimates need to be scratched and adjusted. A bonding bill is a mixture of proposed projects. Some of those projects may need to be eliminated from the bill, or the amount of bonding may have to increase dramatically.

The Electrical Association lobbying team will continue to work for you on issues of interest and concern. Survey results are in from membership.

(Chair - cont. on pg 3)

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From the Executive Director

A Few Industry and Association Updates

by Clara Albert, CAE
Executive Director

Minnesota 2020 NEC Adoption

The adoption process is ongoing. A hearing was held on August 19 regarding the adoption of the 2020 NEC since organizations contested the adoption and the process used to vet the changes. The administrative law judge hired to evaluate, permitted a 20-day comment period following the hearing and a 5-day rebuttal period, which ended on September 15. The administrative law judge has 30 days from the end of the rebuttal period to issue a report, which will have to be reviewed by the Board of Electricity. There are then several procedural steps that the Board of Electricity must follow as well. At this point in the process, we cannot predict an effective date for the 2020 NEC but wanted to share the progress of the adoption with you. We will keep you informed as more information evolves. Until then, the 2017 code remains in effect and the JW and Master exams continue to be based on 2017 as well.

Apprentice Training

Apprenticeship Training has begun! However, there is still time to sign up and get caught up. All lessons are recorded so apprentices can start from the beginning. Providing this training opportunity shows employees how much you value their future with your company.

Reminders

1. All apprentices in the Electrical Association program will have the opportunity to earn 2 hours of CE credit during the program (no additional charge) to fulfill their registered unlicensed requirement.
2. All apprentices need to be registered with the MN DOL in order for their hours to count towards sitting for their Journeyworker exam.

***** Mention this article to get the apprentice registration late fee waived! *****

Also, if you are interested in Prevailing Wage work or are currently performing it, we have a Minnesota-State-approved registered apprenticeship program that you can enroll your company in. The 144 Related Technical Instruction (RTI) required for the program would be fulfilled through enrollment in the Apprenticeship Training.

Electrical Association in South Dakota

With bringing Mike Miller into the Association last year as our new Director of Education, we have been in many conversations regarding Mike Miller Instructional Services (MMIS). This is a business that Mike and his wife Marilyn ran for many years in South Dakota conducting code training for electricians throughout their state. Association leadership recently approved the decision to take Mike & Marilyn's MMIS company into the Electrical Association. A huge Thank You to Mike Miller for this opportunity as we continue to serve our mission with educating a wider audience of electricians. We will also be adding a few Mike Miller special classes into our library including "You Be the Inspector."

2021 Education Classes

Stay tuned for our 2021 schedule as we are in final stages of completion. We will have a wide variety of in-person, online and self-paced classes to choose from. All in-person classes are abiding by current MN state rules and regulations to keep our customers and trainers safe.

Reminders

1. All MN Master licenses are up for renewal at the end of February. Make sure you get your 16 hours of continuing education in soon. We will have plenty of opportunities to help you accomplish this goal from now until end of February.
2. Take our new and MN-approved online, self-paced courses to fulfill your CE needs. We continue to add more classes to our library and are shooting for 16 hours to be available by the end of the year.

So much is happening and changing at a rapid pace, and I don't see it slowing down any time soon. With kids back in school (in some format) and an upcoming election, a lot is unknown. Watch for our email updates and look at our COVID resource page for the latest info. Also, we continue to hold business webinars on hot topics and are sharing other organizations' webinar information that might be valuable to you as well:

COVID Resources:

www.electricalassociation.com/covid19

Business Webinars:

www.electricalassociation.com/webinars

Education Calendar:

www.electricalassociation.com/education

(Chair - cont. from pg 1)

Here is the list of priorities for 2021:

- #1 Duty to Defend
- #2 CIP Improvements / ECO
- #3 Residential rooftop solar
- #4 16- and 17-year-olds on construction sites, and
- #5 Load Management replacement receiver's inspection & permitting.

The staff will keep us informed as the 2020 session continues, elections happen and the 2021 session begins.

Who's On Your Ballot?

—Learn about the candidates in your area!
<https://myballotmn.sos.state.mn.us/>

Register to Vote:

www.sos.state.mn.us/elections-voting/register-to-vote



You Need to Know

Unemployment Rates... 7.4% —down from 7.7% in July (MN August 2020); 8.4% (US August 2020)

2020 Upper Midwest Electrical Expo... The 2020 expo has been postponed until Dec 8-9, 2021, due to COVID-19 safety concerns. It will continue to be held at the Minneapolis Convention Center. (NCEL.org)



MN Business Services Firms Expect Mostly Contracting Conditions Next Year...

- Highlights from the study include the following:
- 52% expect a decline in corporate profits for MN economy, while 28% expect them to remain the same and 20% anticipate an increase
 - 64% expect their own business productivity to either stay the same (48%) or increase (16%)
 - 81% expect their labor availability to either stay the same (67%) or increase (14%)
 - 75% anticipate their employment level to remain unchanged (65%) or increase (10%)
 - 49% expect inflation to stay the same, while 46% expect it to go up

(Survey released by the MN DEED and Fed Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. Sept 2020)



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2020 Education Calendar

CODE TRAINING Based on the 2020 NEC®

16 Continuing Ed. Credits

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

Oct 9-10	Duluth 2020 NEC® Code changes. Mike Miller, Trainer.
Nov 12-13	Rochester 2020 NEC® Ground & Bond, Motor Install Reqt's, Overcurrent Protection. Jeff Kunkel.
Dec 10-11	Maple Grove 2020 NEC® Code changes. Chad Kurdi, Trainer.
Dec 11-12	Roseville 2020 NEC® Ground & Bond, Motor Install Reqt's, Overcurrent Protection. Mike Miller.

2 Continuing Ed Credits

Online—Multi-State Approval; check our website.

Oct 7	(6:30PM-8:30PM)	2020 NEC® Overcurrent Protection, Pt 2. Chad Kurdi, Trainer.
Oct 21	(8:00AM-10:00AM)	2020 NEC® Branch Circuit, Feeder, Service Calculations. Tim Zinniel, Trainer.
Nov 5	(6:30PM-8:30PM)	2020 NEC® Motor Installation Requirements, Part 1. Jeff Kunkel, Trainer.
Nov 18	(6:30PM-8:30PM)	2020 NEC® Overcurrent Protection, Part 1. Tim Zinniel, Trainer.
Dec 3	(8:00AM-10:00AM)	2020 NEC® Motors, Controls, & GFCI Requirements. Tim Zinniel, Trainer.
Dec 16	(6:30PM-8:30PM)	2020 NEC® Motors & Transformers. Chad Kurdi, Trainer.

Self-Paced Online—MN-State Approval

2020 NEC® Grounding & Bonding • Overcurrent Protection—More Topics to Follow!

EXAM PREP COURSES Based on the 2020 NEC®

Oct 3-4 **Edina** at Federated Insurance. 2020 NEC®. Chad Kurdi, Trainer.

PLUS Online Options at www.electricalassociation.com/examprep

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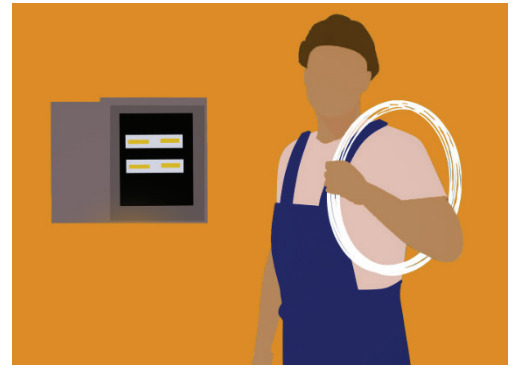
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Classes Have Started BUT We're Still Taking Registrations!

The Apprenticeship Training Course (Years 1-4)

- 4-year course with contractor-driven curriculum
- Developed and delivered by industry experts
- Live, online one night per week
- Classes started September 22, but you can watch the recorded sessions and easily catch up!



PLUS....Extended Apprentice Training Course

- Perfect for graduates of our 4-Year program!
- Live, online one night per week
- Motor Controls: PLC, VFD, HMI; Solar Photovoltaic; and MN Exam Prep
- Classes began September 24 but you can still catch up!



When..... September 2020 - May 2021 (one night/week)

Where Online—anywhere you have a solid internet connection.



Learn More

www.electricalassociation.com/apprentice

Register

612-827-6117 (Avoid the late fee by mentioning this ad!)

Please note that class transfer/cancellation requests will only be considered up to 48 hours prior to the start of class. If you wish to cancel or transfer from a classroom class, you will be charged a \$25 fee. If you do not attend the session as scheduled, there is no refund of the class fee. The Electrical Association reserves the right to make trainer substitutions/price changes without notice. Class dates and locations are subject to change.