



## A Word from the Chair A Workforce Solution

by Jeff Kunkel, Chair, Board of Directors

**Wanted: Journey-level electrician. Paying top dollar with great benefits. Plenty of work. Sign-on bonus. We would like you to begin immediately.**

Cree-ee, cree-ee. (Crickets chirping) Sound familiar?

We all know that this scenario is, and has been, playing out in our shops. We also know that the problem of finding skilled help is not unique to our trade. We have talked extensively about why this problem exists, and we have decided that there is plenty of blame to go around:

- Our high schools are still steering too many students toward overpriced four-year degrees.
- Our society seemingly has a lack of respect for the dignity of work.
- Trade schools are limiting the number of openings in their programs.

And on top of all that, an aging workforce is moving into retirement.

**But today's message is positive!** There is a great alternative and supplement to the trade school route: Apprenticeship.

The Electrical Association has been facilitating a successful apprenticeship program for 25+ years. Apprentices attend weekly lectures in an online format with a live instructor they can talk to and ask questions of in real time.

The online format allows great flexibility for the students. Some have even attended lectures

while traveling home from job sites. (I hope they were a passenger!) These lectures are recorded, so if something pops up (be it work or personal), the lecture can be viewed later. The information learned in lecture is re-enforced by homework assignments, reading assignments from textbooks, and study directly from the NEC. The key part of this learning method is that the student-apprentices are on our job sites performing work and earning pay as they learn.

Some of you know that I have had the privilege of being an instructor in the EA's program for a long time. What I see from the "inside" is a great group of experienced instructors that care about student success. I see a staff at the EA that offer support to the students and to the contractors who send students to us. What I am most proud of seeing are the former students. They are now productive members of our workforce, many having become leaders in our companies.



If you haven't tried EA's apprenticeship program, I invite you to do so this year. The dollars invested in tuition and textbooks will pay you back manyfold. Classes begin Sept 27 and run through May 2, 2023. Until we see each other again: Work hard, but work safe.

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## From the Executive Director Board of Electricity Update

by Clara Albert, CAE, Executive Director

*The MN Board of Electricity met on July 12, 2022. Michelle Dreier, Member Engagement & Government Affairs Manager, attended the meeting and I asked her to summarize the highlights for you below.*

**IMPORTANT NOTICE!** There is a potential for you to be appointed to the Board of Electricity at the end of the year. Potential positions include public member, Rep of Electrical Suppliers in Rural area, Master Electrician, Power Limited Technician, and Journey-worker electrician. If you have interest in sitting on the Board please contact Michelle ([mdreier@electricalassociation.com](mailto:mdreier@electricalassociation.com)).

### Board of Electricity Highlights

This was the first in-person meeting of the Board of Electricity since the pandemic. It was great seeing familiar faces in person. You can still attend the public meetings via phone.

The Board discussed customary agenda items such as Electrical Permit and Inspection History and recent Enforcement Actions. A board member mentioned concern regarding the number

of stayed penalties provided to offenders, in particular previous offenders. Out-of-state solar contractors were mentioned as an example of companies that perhaps should not get this forgiveness.

The Electrical Permit and Inspection history was reviewed.

- 2021 was cited as a big year for activity.
- 2022 is shaping up to be more like 2020 in its activity.
- Residential solar activity is strong with 1400 permits being pulled year-to-date.

The Board elected officers: **Duane Hendricks**, Chair; **Peter Lindahl**, Vice Chair; **Desiree Weigel**, Secretary.



**Would you like to be on the Board of Electricity?** There may be open positions at the end of the year. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact me. I would be happy to help you with the process!

Director—cont. on pg 3



## Have you been listening to our podcasts?

Spark'n Conversations has seven episodes live and available for listening. Find our show wherever you listen to podcasts!

Episodes are released on a monthly basis. Future topics include **Dean Hunter** discussing the 2023 Code; and past Executive Director **Judi Rubin** giving insight to the history that shaped the Association and the Construction Economy.

Please let us know if there are topics that you want to hear about, and we will find an expert to answer your questions.

### Episode 1: Material Shortages

Jeff Anderson, ATEK Distribution

### Episode 2: Retirement Plans

Dan Gardner, FSC Securities Corp.

### Episode 3: Design Lighting Consortium

Mike Verhulst, CEE

### Episode 4: Prevailing Wage

Michelle Dreier, Electrical Association

### Episode 5: Electrical Apprenticeship

Jeff Kunkel, Kunkel Electric Inc.

### Episode 6: Association Health Plan

Gary Helm, North Risk Partners

### Episode 7: PLAs and Davis-Bacon

Tom Revnew, PRK&A Law

Director—cont. from pg 2

Dean Hunter provided a 2023 NEC update. Dean recently attended the annual conference in Boston. Notice to Amend Motions are moving through technical committees currently. The Standards Council Meeting is in mid-August where appeals will be discussed and finalized language will be moved to final adoption.

We can expect to see an electronic version of NEC 2023 by late-August/early-September. The print version should be available late-September/early-October.

Regarding MN adoption, the first meeting of the subcommittee here will meet after the electronic version is released. Dean Hunter will present the major changes, which he estimates to be 60-70 of the 3,000 changes in the 2023 NEC. The first meeting will be mainly a presentation with the ability to pose questions to Dean for feedback at a national level.

A second meeting of the subcommittee will facilitate dissemination of any responses to the subcommittee's questions. Both subcommittee meetings are public and can be attended by anyone. Members of the subcommittee must also be members of the Board of Electricity. Housing First sent a letter to the BOE recommending changes to improve the NEC adoption process. Housing First continues to be concerned regarding regulatory processes that increase the cost of home building. Nick Erickson explained the complexities causing MN homes to cost more compared to surrounding states. Because about 3 dozen regulatory authorities take responsibility only for their own role, we'll see 60,000 people priced out of the new-home market. Small price increases in each regulatory area are compounded, resulting in significant surge in construction costs. They asked the BOE to consider this when reviewing code adoption.

Next BOE meeting will occur on November 1.

## Time to renew your health plan?

One thing we LOVE about the Association's health plan is that you can keep your own broker/agent! Just tell them to include our program in the options they present to you.

No broken relationships! Work with the people you already trust.

### Contact Charlie Seivert to get started!

charlie.seivert@northriskpartners.com  
(651) 379-7855



## Important Dates

- 8/9 MN Election Day Primaries
- 8/25 MN State Fair begins
- 9/5 Labor Day
- 9/27 Apprentice first night of class



## To Do

- 8/15 MN monthly filers: July return due
- 8/15 MN homeowners & renters: Property Tax due
- 8/22 MN monthly filers: Sales & Use Tax is due for July (even if you report \$0)
- 8/22 MN monthly filers: Sales & Use Tax is due for Accelerated Filers
- 9/15 MN monthly filers: August return due
- 9/15 S Corp & Partnerships: MN quarterly tax payment due
- 9/20 MN monthly filers: Sales & Use Tax is due for August (even if you report \$0)



**COME GOLF  
WITH US.**

### Project Build's 3rd Annual Golf Tournament Fundraiser

The Links at Northfork, Ramsey, MN  
August 2 (12:30PM)

Register: <http://bit.ly/pbm-golf>

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## 2022 Education Calendar

### CODE TRAINING Based on the 2020 NEC®

#### 16 Continuing Ed Credits

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

- Aug 11-12** **St Cloud** Code Highlights; Motor Installation Requirements; NFPA 70E Safety. Mike Miller, Trainer
- Sept 15-16** **St Louis Park** (at ROUZER\*) Code Highlights; You Be the Inspector Chad Kurdi, Trainer
- Oct 6-7** **Duluth** Grounding & Bonding, Motor Installation; Overcurrent Protection Chad Kurdi, Trainer

*\*Thank you to our Class Host:*



#### 2 Continuing Ed Credits

**Live, Online**—Multi-State Approval; check our website

- August 16** (6:30-8:30PM) 2020 NEC® Motors & Transformers. Chad Kurdi, Trainer
- Sept 8** (6:30-8:30PM) 2020 NEC® Overcurrent Protection. Tim Zinnel, Trainer
- Oct 19** (6:30-8:30PM) 2020 NEC® Motors, Controls, and GFCI. Mike Lindberg, Trainer

#### 2 & 4 Continuing Ed Credits

**Self-Paced Online Anytime, Anywhere**—MN-State Approval (more state approvals coming soon)

- Grounding & Bonding • Motors & Transformers • You Be the Inspector • Code Highlights
- Overcurrent Protection • Motors, Controls & GFCI • 2021 NFPA 70E Safety Training • Power Limited



[www.electricalassociation.com/selfpaced](http://www.electricalassociation.com/selfpaced)

### EXAM PREP COURSES Based on the 2020 NEC®

- Aug 6-7** **Bloomington** Best Western Plus. Chad Kurdi, Trainer
- Sept 27** **11-week, live online course.** Tuesday nights (Sept 27 - Dec 20). Jeff Keljik, Trainer



PLUS online, self-paced options at [www.electricalassociation.com/examprep](http://www.electricalassociation.com/examprep)

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## Customized Safety Training for Your Employees— NFPA 70E Safety Training

### Who Will Benefit:

Anyone concerned with electrical safety including safety managers, electrical engineers, plant managers, facility maintenance personnel, electricians, electrical contractors, electrical inspectors, risk managers, and project managers.

The safety of your employees and customers is of the utmost importance to your company!

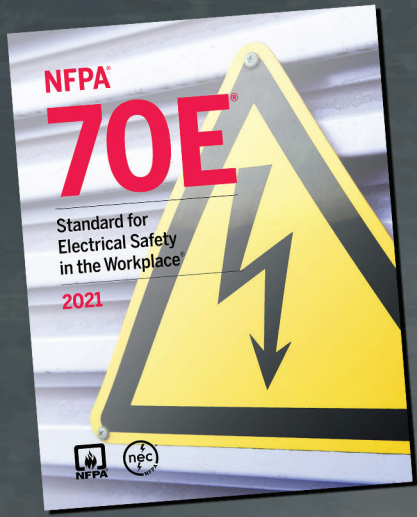
- Save Lives & Increase Employee Loyalty
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