



A Word from the Chair

Construction Continues to Build — This is Our Moment

by Clayton Schenck
Chair, Board of Directors

Colleges and Universities are having to make extremely difficult decisions on what school will look like for their students in the fall. Many will not attend live classes and will isolate in their single dormitory bedroom while taking their courses online. Despite this, the schools will most likely continue to charge its students at regular tuition prices for the year. Many colleges and universities across the country are struggling to determine their plans.

The value around higher education has been happening for years across the US and Minnesota. With COVID-19 and all the challenges it brings, have we arrived at that moment when public opinion with regard to the trades changes demonstrably? Today, a career as an electrician, plumber, carpenter, painter, job supervisor, or lumberyard manager looks very attractive. I think society was already undergoing this shift toward greater appreciation of the opportunities skilled labor provides, and COVID-19 has accelerated that movement.

That suggests to me that now is the moment to loudly tell the construction industry's story. While workforce development initiatives look different right now since we aren't having the usual career fairs and classroom visits, there is plenty we can do as an industry. This is the time to be aggressive in

the marketplace communicating via social media and digital marketing to students, their parents, guidance counselors, and other influencers that the construction industry – an essential service – continues to build.

Labor shortage has been the common theme amongst contractors in the construction industry over the past few years. We want to be prepared with quality, trained electricians once the construction economy is back in full swing again. We all know it takes quality time to train and develop experienced employees.

Resource: the Electrical Association's newly revamped career center has talking points, career video, ways to post a job or find individuals who are ready to start work today!



Advertisement for Federated Insurance featuring the Electrical Association logo, a 55th anniversary logo, and the text 'It's Our Business to Protect Yours' followed by 'FEDERATED INSURANCE' and a list of services: Commercial Insurance, Property & Casualty, Life & Disability Income, Workers Compensation, Business Succession and Estate Planning, and Bonding.



From the Executive Director

Executive Order: COVID-19 Preparedness Plans

by Clara Albert, CAE
Executive Director

The Governor's Office is now in effect! It requires that all construction firms complete a **COVID-19 Preparedness**

Plan. As a critical sector, these were previously not required, but it has now been ordered that all businesses, including construction firms, must have a completed plan in place.

If you need guidance on creating your plan, head to our website for the sample template and helpful forms that have been gathered as you make decisions to keep your employees safe and your business in compliance.

Training is going to be a major part of these plans to ensure they are being executed correctly. Job site supervisors are going to be in charge of ensuring all employees are following the guidelines that you as the employer and the state put in place. We have created a COVID-19 Toolbox Talk that you can update to fit with your plan and then use as you train your team.

You will find docs that will help you answer these questions:

- What are the rules on training to conduct our safety meetings?
- When can a symptomatic or COVID 19 positive employee return to work?
- When can an employee discontinue isolation?
- What are the next steps if employees test positive for COVID-19
- Are you a high-risk individual for severe illness?
- What type of pay do I have to continue to pay if an employee needs to isolate or quarantine?

Plus, tools available for you to download:

- Sample Sign-In Sheet for Safety Training
- Employee or Customer Screening Checklist
- Free Downloadable Signage on Distancing, Hand Washing and Covering Your Cough
- EPA-Approved List of Cleaners

We know that there are still questions that exist, we still have questions too! We are doing our best to reach out to the right people that can help us get things clarified. If you have any questions on the preparedness plans specific to construction, please let us know and we will help. As we find out information, we will continuously update our webpage so you have accurate information.

www.electricalassociation.com/covid19

Email: info@electricalassociation.com

Association Reminders!

- Grounding and Bonding for 2 MN CE credits is available on our new self-paced platform – more courses to come very soon!
- Apprenticeship Program begins on September 22, get your crew registered now!
- 10-Week PLC Course begins September 4, spots will fill and sell out!
- Committees & Board will meet the week of August 3rd-7th
- Virtual Zoom Happy Hour on Friday, August 7 (3pm-4pm) Join us for great conversation and Rolle Bolle Trivia.
- Partner & Profit Event will be in conjunction with the NCEL Expo in December. Business Training and Social Gatherings – details to follow.

GOVERNMENT ACTION – WE NEED YOUR INPUT!

Members-Only! Help Guide the 2021 Legislative Initiatives for the Association!

We are beginning to gather your input so we can help your business.

Take this 3-minute survey to give us your thoughts:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/W2W5QPY

Action Item!

You Need to Know

COMPLIANCE

Licensing Exams... CCLD license exams resumed June 29 for all license types. (www.dli.mn.gov/)

2020 NEC Adoption... The 2017 NEC will remain in effect until the adoption process is complete; hearing is scheduled for Aug 19. All permits, installations and inspections will continue to be issued or performed under the 2017 NEC. All electrical license exams will continue to cover material from the 2017 NEC. Continuing ed courses will be reviewed and approved under the 2017 NEC or 2020 NEC. (www.dli.mn.gov/)

DOL Clarifies Paid Time Off Due to COVID-19 Related Child Summer Program Closures... On June 26, the US DOL issued Field Assistance Bulletin No. 2020-4, addressing employee paid leave under the Family First Coronavirus Response Act (“FFCRA”) to care for a child whose summer camp, enrichment or other program is closed due to COVID-19. The FFCRA allows an employee paid leave (Expanded Family and Medical Leave - EFMLA) to care for a child whose place of care is closed due to COVID-19 related reasons. In short, the DOL instructs that the question is: “whether a specific summer camp

or program would have been the place of care of an employee’s child had it not closed for COVID-19 related reasons, which must be established by a preponderance of evidence in any enforcement action, i.e., more likely than not. The DOL recognizes a multitude of possible circumstances regarding summer camp registration prevents a one-size-fits-all rule, but offers some general examples. Current/past enrollment, making a deposit, submitting an application and being accepted is generally sufficient proof. Mere interest in a camp or ineligibility is insufficient proof. (PRKALaw.com)

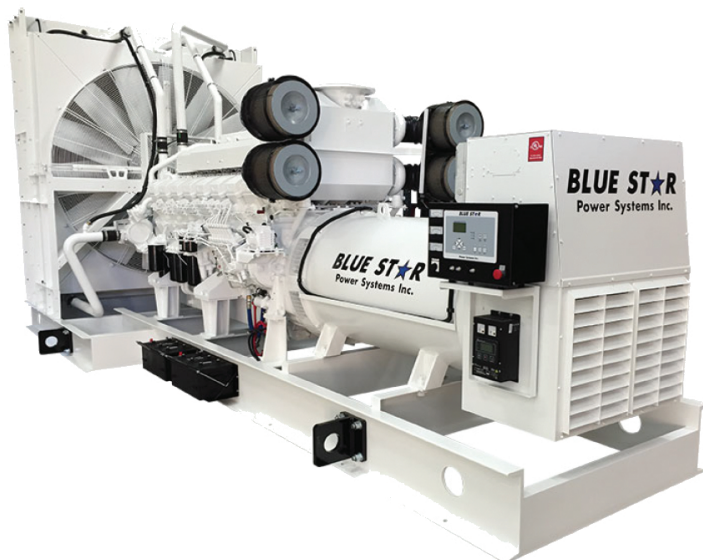
LABOR & MANAGEMENT

US Unemployment Rate... 11.1% in June 2020 (BLS)

MN Unemployment Rate... 9.9% in May 2020 (BLS)

ENERGY

Minnesota Solar Resources Available... FAQs about solar photovoltaic systems and energy storage systems were recently updated. View the updated document at www.dli.mn.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/solarFAQ.pdf. Additional solar resources including licensing and permit requirements, research and codes and standards are also available.



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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)

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

Sept 17-18 Plymouth at J.H. Larson 2020 NEC® Grounding & Bonding, Motor Installation Requirements, Overcurrent Protection. Chad Kurdi, Trainer.

Thank You for Hosting Class!



2 Continuing Ed Credits

Online—Multi-State Approval; check our website.

- Aug 11** (6:30PM-8:30PM) 2020 NEC® Motors & Transformers. Tim Zinniel, Trainer.
- Aug 25** (6:30PM-8:30PM) 2020 NEC® Overcurrent Protection. Tim Zinniel, Trainer.
- Sept 10** (8:00AM-10:00AM) 2020 NEC® Motors, Controls, GFCI Requirements. Tim Zinniel, Trainer.
- Sept 24** (8:00AM-10:00AM) 2020 NEC® Overcurrent Protection, Part 1. Tim Zinniel, Trainer.

Self-Paced Online—MN-State Approval

2020 NEC® Grounding & Bonding for Unlicensed Personnel —More Topics to Follow!



EXAM PREP COURSES Based on the 2020 NEC®

Oct 4-5 Edina at Federated Insurance. 2020 NEC®. Chad Kurdi, Trainer.

PLUS Online Options at www.electricalassociation.com/examprep

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LIMITED to 20 students! Registration closes Aug 13!

WHO..... Electricians who have a beginner's interest in PLCs—Learn how PLCs work and how to start programming the instructions that provide the control circuits.

WHAT..... You will program the PLC (pictured below). It is yours to keep to continue practicing on, or set it up as a demonstration for others.



Rockwell –Allen Bradley Micro 850

- Bit instructions, logic functions
- Program documentation, timer functions and applications
- Addressing rules, Counter instruction block
- Scan cycle, RPI, data communications
- Math instructions, Integers, real numbers
- Compare instructions, Data type conversions
- Boolean mapping, system status bits
- Data manipulation instructions
- Hardware modules, applications, program flow

WHEN..... 10 weeks on Thursdays starting Sept 24 (6:30-9:30pm CST)

WHERE..... Online—Using a PLC (provided) at your location, learn from an experienced teacher using live online explanations and guidance.

PRICE..... Members: \$949 / Nonmembers: \$999 **Not available for CE credits!

REGISTER... www.ElectricalAssociation.com • 612-827-6117

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.