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A Message From the Executive Director:



Spring has finally sprung in North Dakota and thank goodness - that was a long winter for us all.

We at the NDSEB have been busy all winter with the proposed Administrative Rule changes and adopting the 2014 NEC. As the articles in this issue of our newsletter indicate, the Board, inspectors, and staff spend a lot of time reviewing and discussing these items before the Board finally adopts them.

We take our mission of ensuring public safety seriously and appreciate all of the suggestions and input we receive from electricians and the general public throughout the process.

With the explosion of growth in our state recently, we have also been looking closely at our processes and trying to be

more efficient. One of the things we are investigating is a replacement Reporting System, which is our main database of tracking wiring certificates, electricians, correction reports, etc. This will also tie into a new website and functionality of the e-Cert system, online license renewals, etc. There will be more information about this topic in our next issue.

We encourage everyone to use our website as much as possible - we try to keep our website updated with the most current information. In particular, we want everyone to start registering for their CEU classes online. It's easy to do and lessens the workload for our staff.

Our staff has also been very busy wrapping up Master and Class B license renewals, which expired on April 30, 2014. A contracting Master or

Class B electrician needs to meet certain requirements in order to officially renew his/her license, which includes submission of individuals working under their supervision, making sure those individuals are renewed and having an updated Certificate of Liability Insurance filed with this office. This office is currently working on streamlining this process for next license renewal year in order to eliminate confusion and make it more efficient.

As always, please keep us informed about your most current address as well as e-mail address. Communication with our office is important and if we get things returned as "undeliverable" it doesn't help us stay in contact with you!

Be safe out there,
James Schmidt



Ensuring Public Safety Since 1917

Connections

Issue 243
May 2014

Two North Dakota Electricians Make NEC Panels

While North Dakota and other states begin the implementation and enforcement of the 2014 National Electric Code, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has already started work on the 2017 edition and two North Dakota electricians will be a part of the process.

Bill Brunner, CEO of Main Holmes Electric in Minot, and Mitch Feininger, ND State Electrical Board District 3 Inspector, have both been selected to serve on code-making panels for the 2017 edition of the NEC.

Brunner will be serving on Code-Making Panel #3 - Wiring Methods, and as a representative of NECA (National Electrical Contractors Association). This is the seventh code-making panel on which he has served.

Feininger will be serving for the first time and will be on Code-Making Panel #14 - Hazardous Locations. As the electrical inspector for McKenzie County - the heart of the

oil boom - he will be on the panel as a representative of the IAEI (International Association of Electrical Inspectors).

Feininger states: "I don't want people to nitpick the code and pull it apart. I want to make it better and usable. I don't like parts that are open to interpretation - it should be clear."

Each panel has representatives from a wide range of industries in the electrical field including electricians, inspectors, manufacturers, and contractors. Each industry looks at the issue from a slightly different point of view.

"Electricians on the panel are mostly concerned with safety," says Brunner. "When you are there representing contractors and business owners you look at potential changes as both a safety and an economic issue."

The process starts with the general public offering suggested changes or



Above: Mitch Feininger makes a point about the 2014 NEC during the ND Inspectors meeting in April. Feininger will be serving on the 2017 NEC panel regarding Hazardous Locations.

additions to the code. Representatives of the panel review all the suggestions and do an initial determination of which ones should be considered for inclusion in the code and which ones to reject.

The suggested changes, along with the panel's comments are released in a book. The public is given a chance to respond or provide more information if they disagree with the panel's initial recommendation. A final vote of the recommended changes to the code takes place at the NFPA general meeting. The panels' do most of their work electronically but there are two face-to-face meetings during the cycle.

Although it seems like a simple process, there is a lot of work involved. Brunner estimates that each code-making panel will get about 200 suggested changes to review and they take their job seriously.

"I remember my first panel . . . we argued for almost two hours about whether to use the word "and" or "but" in one part of the code. It's like writing a dictionary - you have to be explicit as to what you mean. It can get very involved and heated." ☺

Inside This Issue . . .

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2014 National Electrical Code Discussed by NDSEB

The 2014 National Electrical Code (NEC) is anticipated to go into effect in North Dakota on September 1, 2014 after extensive review and discussion by the NDSEB. This allows the 2014 NEC to coincide with the effective date of new North Dakota Administrative Rule changes.

Board members discussed items in the 2014 NEC in detail over the course of several Board meetings. The Board approved adopting the 2014 NEC code with the exception of Article 210.12 regarding adding location requirements for AFCI/GFCI at their February 22, 2014 meeting.



District Inspectors Doug Grinde (District 13), Josh Wilson (District 1), Richard Krause (District 2), Mike Lund (District 7), and Jerry Brackin (District 14) participate in a discussion about the 2014 NEC at their meeting on April 10th in Mandan.

NDSEB inspectors have also been reviewing the code changes and discussing their enforcement at their recent meetings in February and April.

"There are sometimes intense discussions about how to interpret the code," says Lyle Wergeland, Director of Inspections. *"Our guys have specific examples from the field that they bring to our meetings so we can all discuss how the code would apply."*

The Inspector meetings help ensure that the National Electrical Code and North Dakota Laws, Rules & Wiring Standards are enforced consistently and uniformly across the state.

ADDITIONAL DISCUSSION TOPIC:

Discussion took place concerning "frequent" corrections issued to contracting Master/Class B electricians by inspectors, which include:

- * Intersystem Bonding Connections-250.94.
- * Available Fault Current Labeling—110.24.
- * Pouring Sealoffs—501.15(C) & 502.15.
- * Bonding Around Concentric & Eccentric Knockouts over 250v—250.97.
- * Labeling Where Subpanels are Fed From—408.04(B).
- * Labeling Disconnects as to What They Serve—110.22(A).



District 8 Inspector Rich Wolfe makes a point during a discussion of AFCI locations during the April Inspectors' meeting.

- * Burnishing Paint Under Grounding Lugs – 250.12.
- * Labeling of Different Voltage Systems on Premise, Phase-Coloring Schemes—210.5(C)
- * Use of Box Extenders—314.20.
- * Sealing of Raceways Exposed to Different Temperatures—300.7 & 230.8:

SAFETY TOPIC: We were amazed to hear that some electricians were being found back feeding the electric utility with generators. A reminder that back feeding on to the utility's conductors can kill anyone working on the system who thinks it is turned off. The only safe way to connect a generator for a customer is to use a transfer switch. ☺

2014 NDSEB Continuing Education Class Schedule

The 2014 NDSEB CEU class schedule is up and open for registration! Due to the smaller classes, classes fill up quickly so plan ahead. Registration deadline closes approximately one week before each class or sooner if the class is full, so again don't wait until the last second!

ONLY online registrations will be accepted! Go to www.ndseb.com, under "Continuing Education" tab and click "NDSEB CEU Classes and Registration" for more information and to register.

If you need assistance with the online registration process, please call the NDSEB office at 701-328-9522.

2014 CEU Schedule of Classes:

Williston - June 12, 2014
Dickinson - June 13, 2014

Minot - July 10, 2014
Bismarck - July 11, 2014

Devils Lake - August 7, 2014
Jamestown - August 8, 2014

Grand Forks - September 11, 2014
Fargo - September 12, 2014

Minot - October 9, 2014
Bismarck - October 10, 2014

Williston - November 13, 2014
Dickinson - November 14, 2014

Grand Forks - December 11, 2014
Fargo - December 12, 2014

Class curriculum covers the 2014 NEC Analysis of Changes. The class is approved for eight (8) code hours of CEU credit. There is also an option to purchase the 2014 NEC Code Book with your online registration at a reduced price while supplies last. ☺

Administrative Rules Procedures & Process

Many administrative rule proposals were submitted in the last year to the NDSEB, however, fifteen (15) of them moved on and were presented at a public hearing on November 14, 2013 to receive oral and/or written comments on the proposals.

At its meeting on January 22, 2014, the Board discussed in detail the various recommended changes. The Board voted to reject two of the proposed changes, accept 12 of them, and tabled one relating to adoption of the 2014 NEC code.

At a special meeting on February 12, 2014 the Board discussed again the adoption of the 2014 NEC and approved its adoption with one exception.



NDSEB member Kyle Miller and NDSEB Director of Inspections Lyle Wergeland listen to testimony at the public hearing on November 14, 2013.

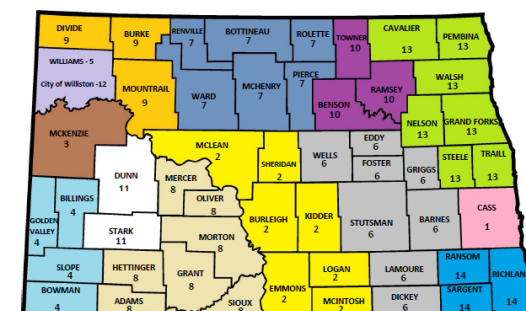
The proposed administrative rule changes were sent to the Attorney General's office, which were approved on May 1, 2014. The rule changes have now been submitted to the North Dakota Legislative Council for review and administrative rule committee meeting process.

One of the changes removed the District Map from the NDSEB Laws,

Rules & Wiring Standards booklet and referenced its inclusion on the NDSEB website.

"There have been so many changes to our district map in the last several years that it's better to have only an online version that we can keep up-to-date," explained James Schmidt, NDSEB Executive Director.

Schmidt noted that the last NDSEB booklet effective on September 1, 2011 contained a District Map with 8 districts. There are now 14.



Making A Connection: Administrative Assistant, Ashley Windhorst

Originally from Berthold, North Dakota, Ashley Windhorst started working for the NDSEB in June of 2006 as an Administrative Assistant. A graduate of Bismarck State College she previously worked in Human Resources at the North Dakota Department of Transportation. Her primary duty at the NDSEB is processing licensing applications and issuing licenses and registrations.

Ashley and her husband Dusty have a 29 month old little girl named Addison and are expecting another baby in September.

What is your favorite part of your job? *Providing the best customer service I can to expedite applications and helping applicants with their livelihood by becoming a ND licensed electrician.*

What are your hobbies? *In my*

spare time I enjoy spending time with family & friends. I also enjoy fishing and hunting.



What's your favorite TV show? *Grey's Anatomy*

What's your favorite book? *I enjoy Jodi Picoult and Harlan Coben books - that is, when I find time to read which seems like never anymore!*



What would be your dream vacation? *I'd love to go to Germany and also tour Europe someday.* ☺

The NDSEB set a proposed effective date for the 2014 NEC and North Dakota Laws, Rules & Wiring Standards for September 1, 2014, (dependent upon final reviews and processes).

The next code cycle process starts in 2016. ☺

Congratulations

Congratulations to the following NDSEB employees who celebrate milestone anniversaries this year! Receiving 2014 Service Awards are:

- ◇ **Paula Glass - 15 Years**
- ◇ **Richard Wolfe - 15 Years**
- ◇ **Janel Redinger - 5 Years**