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A Message From the Executive Director:



Hello, everyone!

Winter is still hanging on! Lots of snow and everyone seems to be keeping busy!

Like I said last issue, we've started

the process of adopting new administrative laws and rules, which also includes working on the adoption of the 2023 NEC. It now looks like it will be closer to January 1, 2024, for the rules to go into effect. Currently, the exams are still on the 2020 NEC - we'll announce when the exams change to be on the 2023 NEC.

I am happy to report that the Board continues to award the \$500 scholarships per semester to apprentices enrolled in approved related training program and students in the electrical programs at the ND State College of Science. **Since the fall of 2020 through the 2022 fall semester, 1,280 scholarships have been paid out totaling approximately \$639,000!!** That's great news for

apprentices and NDSCS students and hopefully it helps keep them in the electrical trade.

Scott's busy working on upcoming continuing education classes for this next season which will start in June again. I hope you've written down ideas for subject matter for our classes on the comment cards from recent classes as we always look for input. The schedule will be like the previous years with the Board providing 16 classes at 8 locations across the state. The earlier classes usually have low attendance so if you want to get some one-on-nearly-one training with Scott, that would be the class to attend!

From the different conversations I've had with industry across the state, it appears like another busy construction season for all of us. So, I wanted to remind you to be sure to contact the inspector in the appropriate district before work is concealed or covered up and they will give you direction to move forward.

Like always, we encourage your input on electrical happenings in ND. So, if you have questions or comments, please

send an email, or give me a call as I'd like to visit with you! And remember, apprentices need direct supervision on projects! 😊

Check out our website often for new information:

www.ndseb.com
Email at: electric@nd.gov or
Mail to: ND State Electrical Board
PO Box 7335
Bismarck, ND 58507-7335

Hope you're enjoying the record amounts of snow this winter and hopefully spring will come soon!!

I wish you enough,
- James Schmidt



Ensuring Public Safety Since 1917

Connections

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April 2023

NDSEB Statistics and Renewal Reminder

As of 3/22/23, our records show "active" North Dakota registrations and licenses:

- 1,945 Apprentice Registrations;
- 1 Power Limited Apprentice Registration;
- 3,445 Journeyman Licenses;
- 1,704 Master Licenses;
- 6 Power Limited Electrician Licenses; and
- 16 Class B Electrician Licenses.

There were 676 apprentices that did not renew as of the 1/31/23 deadline. So far, there have been 225 that have reinstated.

In reiteration, those apprentices that do not continue to be registered may lose their work experience hours and Board

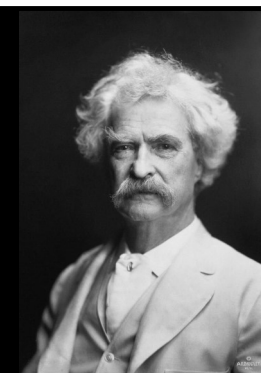
scholarships for those days/months not registered.

This may not seem pertinent at the time, until it's time to apply for the Journeyman license - only to find out that their unregistered time does not count, and they are then short of the 8,000 hour requirement. To help avoid this, it is also the electrical contractor's responsibility to verify that all of their employees currently working are properly renewed for the next season.

Reminder: Journeyman license renewal deadline is March 31, 2023. As of the drafting of this article, there were 1,198 Journeyman that have not yet renewed. The deadline for the Master, Class Bs and PLEs license renewals is April 30, 2023.

"Never put off till tomorrow what may be done day after tomorrow just as well."

— Mark Twain



"...Unless it's your license renewal. Do that right away."

— NDSEB Staff

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A Message from the Executive Director

NDSEB State-Sponsored CEU Classes

It appears that time of year is rapidly approaching in preparation for our State-Sponsored CEU classes. **This year, classes will be on the 2023 NEC Analysis of Changes.** We are currently finalizing contracts and further information, including online registration, will be posted on our website very soon. Here are the dates and locations:

June 2023

- June 1: Bismarck
- June 2: Fargo

July 2023

- July 6: Dickinson
- July 7: Williston

August 2023

- August 10: Jamestown
- August 11: Devils Lake

September 2023

- Sept. 7: Bismarck
- Sept. 8: Minot

October 2023

- October 5: Fargo
- October 6: Grand Forks

November 2023

- Nov. 16: Williston
- Nov. 17: Dickinson

December 2023

- Dec. 7: Minot
- Dec. 8: Bismarck

January 2024

- January 4: Grand Forks
- January 5: Fargo

Certificate Audits

Greetings everyone,

While performing certificate audits, we have been seeing some common issues that may need clarifying. If you receive a correction report for fees, you still need to approve the correction on your e-Cert system. The correction will remain, and possibly a past due letter sent, even though you may have paid the fees until you certify it. Please keep this in mind.

Another situation is certificates over a year old. Wiring certificates with a job cost of twenty thousand dollars or less are valid twelve months from the original filing date. If your project goes beyond this threshold, you will need to input your job cost to that point and a new certificate will need to be filed for the remaining work.

Please double check your customer information data while filing a certificate. Correct names, addresses and phone numbers are all extremely important to our inspectors, and it saves everyone time. We highly recommend you use the contractor remarks box to give the inspectors any additional information that may be helpful. We would appreciate it!

When it comes to correction reports, please stay on top of them and complete the listed corrections as soon as possible. This is to ensure a safe and compliant installation as well as avoid any potential administrative fees if they are not corrected in the time allowed. Our allotted time is 30 days to complete the correction. If you have a valid reason to request the correction to be extended, please contact your inspector before the correction goes past due.

Respectfully,

Jon Sayler, MCP, CBO
Inspection/Information Compliance
Administrator

News & Notes from NDSEB

UNSUPERVISED APPRENTICES

There have been several jobsites recently where our inspectors have found apprentices working alone. **This is a violation of state law and several contracting masters, along with their business agents, have had to appear before the Board and had their license placed on a probation based on each circumstance.** Along with this, the apprentice is sent a cease and desist which is prosecutable if turned over to the local state's attorney.

We want to rectify this situation. **It is not permissible to leave apprentices alone on a jobsite unsupervised.** All contractors, licensed electricians and apprentices know the rules so let's stop doing this as inspectors will be verifying licenses on jobsites more frequently now. See below the three excerpts from the ND Century Code.

43-09-01. Definitions. In this chapter, unless the context or subject matter otherwise requires:

1. "Apprentice electrician" means an individual who is learning the trade under the personal supervision of a state-licensed electrician.

43-09-13.1. Apprentice electrician registration. An apprentice electrician shall register with the state electrical Board within the first six months of employment and shall pay an annual registration fee in an amount set by the Board. An apprentice electrician may work on installations only under the personal supervision of a licensed electrician as provided in section 43-09-18.

43-09-18. Apprentice. An individual may serve as an apprentice under a licensed master electrician or power limited electrician, but a master electrician or power limited electrician may not allow an apprentice to work on any installation without personal supervision of a licensed electrician.

23-24 LEGISLATION UPDATES

There are several House and Senate bills which we are monitoring that affects how the Board operates within the state. Some bills would have

transferred the Board's authorities to other state agencies. Other bills would have ordered the Board to issue state licenses to persons coming to the state no matter how their out-of-state license was obtained by either examination, reciprocity or just simply purchased it from the jurisdiction they came from.

- House Bill 1180 was withdrawn which would have taken authority on code correction interpretations away from the state where cities had their own inspections.
- House Bill 1383 was amended to include the North Dakota State Electrical Board (NDCC 43-09) as another entity to recognize a taxpayer who employs apprentices and is entitled to a tax credit against their income tax liability for up to 10% of 5 apprentices income not to exceed \$3,000.

SUBMITTING LEGIBLE FORMS

All forms available on our website are downloadable and form fillable. Lately many of the forms that are submitted to our office (apprentice registration applications, exam applications, reciprocal applications, etc.) have come in very hard to read and/or illegible. Keep in mind that the information you provide on your application is input into our system and needs to be accurate when issuing a registration or license.

Please consider going to our website to obtain your form and using the form fillable feature. If a handwritten form is submitted, make sure all fields are legible. Otherwise, the form will be returned to you which will only delay the process of issuing a registration, license or approval for the exam.

BEING RESPECTFUL AND ETHICAL

Recent complaints about electricians include being unethical and being disrespectful while working at a few customer residences. We want to assure the consumers of North Dakota are working with licensed electricians that are professional and respectful to the customer while working at their properties. While it's not the Board's job to oversee this sort of thing, we do receive the calls/complaints from consumers. We tell the callers we're

only in the business of inspections and licensure and have no oversight on what goes on with electricians on a day-to-day basis. However, unethical and disrespectful behavior is not only bad for your business, it also reflects poorly on our entire industry. To follow is a partial writing from the NDSEB code of ethics policy. Let's all set forth good work ethics and provide professionalism to the consumers of North Dakota.

"North Dakota State Electrical Board (NDSEB) Members (NDCC 43-09-02)

Making A Connection: Andy Schwab, District 6 Inspector

Originally

from the Verona/Englevale area, Andy Schwab graduated from Valley City High School and started working for Grotberg Electric, primarily at the Bobcat factory in Gwinner. He spent seven years working for different construction companies and then started ASAP Electric with his cousin, focusing on residential wiring. Andy started as the District 6 Inspector at NDSEB in March of 2022.



Andy and his wife were high school sweethearts and have two girls, one attending Valley City State University and one in Valley City High School.

What projects are you currently working on? *There is a steady flow of house remodels, and large agricultural and commercial projects throughout the district.*

What is your favorite part of your job? *Meeting with electricians.*

Do you have a favorite memory or experience while working for the NDSEB? *There is one story about an appointment I had with a homeowner for an electrical inspection. I pull onto the property and I'm about ready to get out of the pickup to go knock on the door when I look up and the homeowner is naked, mowing the lawn with a push mower. He started walking toward the pickup and I was wondering if I should make a break for it or just go*

have an obligation to provide services and conduct business within the guidelines that prohibit actual or potential conflicts of interest in accordance with NDCC Chapter 43-09, Electricians and Article 24.1-01. NDSEB members shall direct any questions and/or requests for further clarification on any issues relating to NDSEB acceptable standards of operation with Board members during Board meetings....." ☺

on with the inspection. Anyway, I completed the inspection and then suggested he put on some steel toe boots while mowing - safety first!

Did you or do you have a mentor or a person that inspired you? *I would say my parents. My dad taught me that no one will give you anything: if you want something, you work for it. My mom has the best work ethic I have ever seen.*

What are your hobbies? *I jetski on Lake Ashtabula during the summer evenings when the lake looks like glass. I try to get out there 3 times a week.*

The best thing about North Dakota is . . . ? *The people are hands down the best and always willing to lend a helping hand.*

The best movie of all time is . . . ? *Casino is best but close second is Old School*

What do you like on your pizza? *Pizza Corner In Valley City--- Manhandler with extra sauce and green olives*

What's your favorite TV show? *Seinfeld/ BreakingBad*

Who's your favorite superhero? *Deadpool ☺*



Spring Safety Tips

As I am writing this, it seems like we're stuck in the winter that will never end, but hopefully by the time you are reading this the snow will finally be melting and today's subzero temperature will just be an unpleasant memory. When the weather warms up, people will be spending more and more time outside, so now is a good time to remind everyone about springtime safety tips, since we have a lot more potential for mixing up water and electricity this time of year. Check your extension cords and tool cords for damage and frayed sections, removing any damaged cords and tools from service until repaired if possible or else replace them. Be sure that you are plugging into GFCI protected circuits, especially when working with portable tools outdoors, test all GFCI devices to verify they are functioning properly, and replace any that are not working correctly.

Melting snow means flooding, so exercise caution when driving because water can rise quickly and cover roads. Also gravel roads can rapidly deteriorate from frost boils or just from thawing and softening. It is difficult sometimes to know how deep the water is on a flooded road, and depending on how fast the water is moving your vehicle could be swept away, or the road below it may be washed out and unstable. Flooded electrical equipment and wiring can create a significant hazard to people and property either by shock or fire, and typically must be replaced because floodwater is often contaminated with fuel oil, sewage, or other types of corrosive elements and sediments. Refer to our North Dakota Laws, Rules, and Wiring Standards for more information: Section 24.1-06-01-20 is titled Water Damaged Electrical Equipment and it contains the rules for dealing with flooded wiring and equipment. Another resource can be found from the National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA) titled Evaluating Water Damaged Electrical Equipment and can be downloaded for free at www.nema.org by setting up a log in and using the search bar function.

While we are all looking forward to summer's warm sunny days and our favorite outdoor activities, be sure to be safe and mindful of the hazards that spring brings our way as the warmup begins.

- Scott Halle

