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A Message From the Executive Director:



Hello, everyone!

I hope everyone is doing well as our mild winter comes to an end.

The administrative rules process is taking longer than anticipated, but we're still hoping for a July 1st adoption of our ND Laws Rules and Wiring Standards which includes the adoption of the 2023 NEC. There will be more to come in the next newsletter on this progress. Like I said last newsletter, the exams are still on the 2020 NEC, and we'll announce when the exams change to be on the 2023 NEC, which will most likely be late summer of 2024.

Our education committee has been busy reviewing applications from related training providers seeking board approval. To date, no new ones have been approved but you can review the approved ones on our website.

Visiting with contractors, it appears like there be another busy construction season and I hear that contractors are

looking for electricians! There are lots of opportunities out there!

We are doing our part by getting applications processed/reviewed each week. Also, the board modified the re-examination policy. The passing score is still 70 percent but if you score between 60-69, now there is no waiting period so you can reapply right away. A score between 50 - 59 is a 3-month waiting period, and a score below 50 has a 6-month waiting period. We hope the no wait period for some will help with getting journeyman licenses issued.

A note to applicants that take a pre-exam course: obviously, any studying has positive outcomes, but you still need to get in the code (NEC) and the ND Wiring Standards. I see a lot of applicants struggling on the exams with theory and just not being familiar with finding the NEC code articles. There are also basic drawings and a few calculations you need to study for.

It's registration and licensing renewal time, so contractors remember when you renew your licenses you are also verifying all your employees are either

registered or licensed as well. Check with them to make sure.

I also want to mention again to be sure your apprentices either have a 2-year degree or you have them enrolled in one of the NDSEB approved apprenticeship programs. That list can be found on our website at <https://www.ndseb.com/apprentice-education/approved-apprenticeship-related-training-programs-and-colleges/>.

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

I hope you had a good winter and let's all look forward to a great upcoming year!!

I wish you enough,

- James Schmidt

Continuing Education!

Spring is here according to the calendar, although Mother Nature seems to have other ideas in store for us (like the recent snow storm).

Spring also brings us to license renewal time:

- Journeyman license renewal deadline was March 31st.
- Master, Class B, and Power Limited Electrician licenses must be renewed by April 30th each year.

You must have eight (8) hours of continuing education credits on file with our office to renew your license, so be sure you have taken your continuing education credits *well before* the renewal deadline to avoid late fees and scrambling to find a class. If you take a CEU class on April 29, 2024, and your deadline to renew is April 30, 2024, you may be late in renewal because we need to receive the attendance roster from the provider and still get the information entered, so please be aware of this.

There are many different continuing education providers out there, but make sure that you take a continuing education course that is approved by our Board and listed on our website at

<https://www.ndseb.com/continuing-education/continuing-education-requirements/>.

You can look for a class that fits your schedule and is a topic of interest to you.

Our 2024 NDSEB continuing education classes will start for the year in late May and will run through January 2025 at various locations across North Dakota. Registration can only be done online on our website under 2024 NDSEB CEU Classes and Registration: <https://www.ndseb.com/continuing-education/ndseb-ceu-classes-registration/>.

Remember that classes held earlier in the year typically have lower attendance if you prefer a smaller class size. Registration is now open, so you can sign up for any of the classes to ensure you have the date and location you prefer.

Be sure when you sign up to save a copy of your registration receipt and bring with you to class.

Continuing education is something we all have to do each year, and it is your responsibility to schedule it to keep your license current.

Continuing Education Classes 2024-2025 "Registration Open"

May 2024

May 30: Bismarck
May 31: Fargo

July 2024

July 11: Williston
July 12: Dickinson

August 2024

Aug. 8: Devils Lake
Aug. 9: Jamestown

September 2024

Sept. 5: Minot
Sept. 6: Bismarck

October 2024

Oct. 3: Grand Forks
Oct. 4: Fargo

November 2024

Nov. 14: Dickinson
Nov. 15: Williston

December 2024

Dec. 5: Bismarck
Dec. 6: Minot

January 2025

Jan. 9: Fargo
Jan. 10: Grand Forks

- Lunch is provided and included in cost of the class.
- Please bring 2023 NEC book, calculator and pencil. (Code books will not be available for sale).

Inside This Issue . . .

Continuing Education!

Exam Success

News & Notes from NDSEB

Rough-In Inspections

Making a Connection: Kevin Huber, District 8 Inspector

A Message from the Executive Director

Exam Success

Preparing for an exam is a process. It takes patience, discipline, and the will to sit down and take the necessary steps to give yourself the best chance for success.

Regardless of your work experience or your field within the trade, the exams are based on all aspects of the NEC. Whether you primarily work on residential, commercial, industrial, or agricultural projects you will need to know where to look in the NEC regarding any particular subject matter.

If we ask about motors, which article are you going to refer to? How about switches or panelboards?

If your process just consists of taking a few nights and randomly going through the code book, it will most likely not be enough for a successful exam. Are you familiar with how the NEC is organized? Are you reading the entire section that deals with a certain subject?

We've all been guilty of reading code to think we found the answer only later to realize the correct answer was found in an exemption. It will take an investment of your time to fully prepare and give yourself the best chance to succeed.

There are resources out there to help you prepare yourself for an exam, and are great tools available to you.

There are other ways that may help as well. Maybe have family or friends quiz you. How about performing a service load calculation on the next home you wire, or calculate pipe fill next time you're pushing conductors in some EMT. Creative ways to learn are sometimes the best way forward!

News & Notes from NDSEB

UNSUPERVISED APPRENTICES

We still are finding jobsites where apprentices are 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 have left with having their license placed on 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 verify-

ing licenses on jobsites more frequently now.

FUNDS SUBMITTED TO THE NDSEB:

Our office receives many checks or money orders for a variety of reasons: e-Cert deposit accounts additional inspection fees to be applied to a certificate, invoice payments, new license fees, etc. When these checks or money orders come into our office, we ask that you provide a brief description in the memo of the check or money order so we know where to apply the funds and can do so in a timely manner.

By providing this information, it prevents us from having to return your check or money order for further information thus delaying the funds from being appropriately applied.

Rough-In Inspections

As we are moving into the busy part of the 2024 construction season, rough-in inspections will also increase.

We are striving to perform rough-in inspections on ALL new dwellings, including new commercial and industrial installations. With open communication and coordination between the electrical contractors and the electrical inspectors, we feel we can all benefit from scheduled rough-in inspections prior to any insulation or wall coverings being installed.

It is far easier for both the contractors and the inspectors to walk thru a project during the electrical installation and identify any potential hazards.

Questions or concerns can be addressed at that time about the project

that the inspector, the electrical contractor, or the builder may have, including, but not limited to, whether it's about proper wiring methods, placement of fire alarm devices or VAV boxes installed without the required working clearance.

In 2023, NDSEB received nearly 15,400 new wiring certificates and our 14 state inspectors completed close to 25,500 total inspections including rough-ins, finals and re-inspections.

Of the 15,400 new wiring certificates received in 2023, 1,250 were for new family dwellings. Through proactive planning and communication, rough-in inspections can be performed during installation and final inspections can be scheduled and completed prior to owner occupancy.

“Electricity is the lifeblood of modern living, and electricians are the guardians of its flow.”

Keep in mind that we have a deposit slip available on our website, www.ndseb.com, Certificates (E-Certs), General Information, that can be used when submitting funds to be deposited into your e-Cert account. If you ever have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact our office via phone or email.

CERTIFICATE OF LIABILITY INSURANCE

Every month we send out a memo if we haven't received an updated copy of your certificate of liability insurance. The memo is emailed to the contractor, so please make sure to check your emails. A copy of the updated insurance can be mailed into the office or emailed to electric@nd.gov.

The North Dakota State Electrical Board and the North Dakota Secretary of State

are two separate agencies. Both of us need to have a copy of your liability insurance every year. We ask that you have your insurance company put the ND State Electrical Board as a certificate holder so we will automatically receive the latest insurance information.

LICENSE RENEWALS & VERIFICATION OF INDIVIDUALS WORKING UNDER SUPERVISION OF CONTRACTING MASTER/CLASS B /PLE ELECTRICIAN

We made it through the Apprentice registration and Journeyman electrician license renewals and are now approaching the deadline for the Master, Class B and PLE license renewals (due April 30, 2024). The N.D. State Electrical Board has discovered that some contractors are pre-maturely

renewing their license without verifying any individual working under their supervision doing electrical or power limited work in North Dakota maintains a current/renewed registration or license. The contractor acknowledges this statement during the license renewal process.

This process is imperative to assure that all individuals are properly licensed or registered. It will also ensure that the apprentices working under your supervision do not lose any hours to take the Journeyman exam.

Please be a good mentor and set up a system to assure that the apprentices are properly registered. Apprentice registration renewal takes place from November through January. You can either obtain a copy of their renewed registration card or check the status of their renewal on our website. If their information does not appear, they are not currently registered. This is the same process for licensed individuals. When hiring new employees, also check to see if they are currently registered or licensed. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Making A Connection:

Kevin Huber, District 8 Inspector

Originally from Minot, Kevin Huber graduated from Minot High School and spent two years at the ND State College of Science in their electrical program. He has worked in the electrical industry in Minot and surrounding communities for 28 years before starting at NDSEB a year and a half ago.

Kevin has been married to his wife Michaela for 25 years. They have two sons: Benson is a lineman in Williston with MWEC and Sadler is a taxidermist in East Grand Forks, MN, working for Sportsman's Taxidermy.

What projects are you currently working on? *Minot High North High School, the New Surgical Center, The Maverick and numerous other projects in my district.*

What is your favorite part of your job? *Meeting and working with other electricians*

What are your hobbies? *Anything outdoors, especially hunting and fishing.*

The best thing about North Dakota is . . . ? *All the outdoor opportunities*

If you couldn't do your current job, what would you want to do instead?

Alaskan hunting guide

What's your favorite TV show? *Hunting shows and sports*

What do you like on your pizza? *All meat.*

Who's your favorite superhero? *Hulk*

What would be your dream vacation? *Yukon moose hunt and halibut fishing in Alaska 🍷*

