



Connections

A Newsletter of the North Dakota State Electrical Board

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Ensuring Public Safety Since 1917

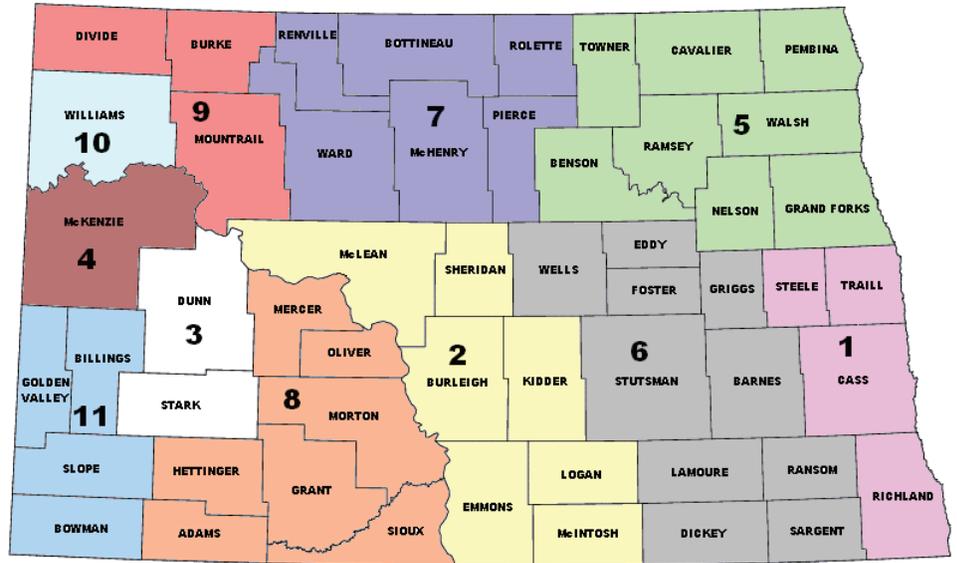
Oil Country Activity Requires More Districts

Starting June 1, 2012, the North Dakota State Electrical Board has a new District map, complete with three new districts, two of which only comprise one county each. The changes are a result of significantly increasing activity in oil country.

"I basically wanted to solve our Williston area problem, and that meant someone taking Williams County and another McKenzie County," explains Lyle Wergeland, Director of Inspections.

Wergeland had been informally updating the State Electrical Board of the increasing amount of electrical work occurring in the state, but officially requested two new positions be approved in January. The Board reviewed the numbers and instead, approved three new inspector positions.

David Jaeger (District 4), Steven Ciuffini (District 10), and Zachary Paetz (District 11) were hired in the spring of 2012 to serve as the inspectors for the new districts. Other



The new North Dakota State Electrical Board District Map is shown above and includes three new districts to help keep a handle on all the activity in the western part of the state.

recent changes included Wergeland moving from an Electrical Inspector position to the Director of Inspections in June of 2011, Board President James Schmidt being named the new Executive Director in March of 2012, and the recent retirement of Electrical

Inspector Vernon Hertz.

This may not be the end of changes, either.

" Fargo is starting to see a boom again," noted Wergeland. *" We'll have to watch that activity so it doesn't get away from us."*

An informational sheet with the new District map and contact information for all the Electrical Inspectors and management team is provided as an insert in this newsletter and is also available on the NDSEB website at www.ndseb.com.

" It was a little complicated creating the appropriate districts and moving the inspectors to the right areas," says Wergeland, *" but this should greatly improve our ability to monitor what's going on out there."* ☺

Inside This Issue . . .

- Number of ND Licenses Steadily Increasing
- Inspectors Hold Quarterly Meeting
- Board Makes Rule Change at Special Meeting
- Making a Connection: Richard Wolfe, Dist. 8
- Goodbye to Vern Hertz!
- A Message from the New Executive Director

Number of ND Licenses Steadily Increasing

The number of electrical licenses in the North Dakota state system has been steadily increasing for the last several years and there appears to be no end in sight.

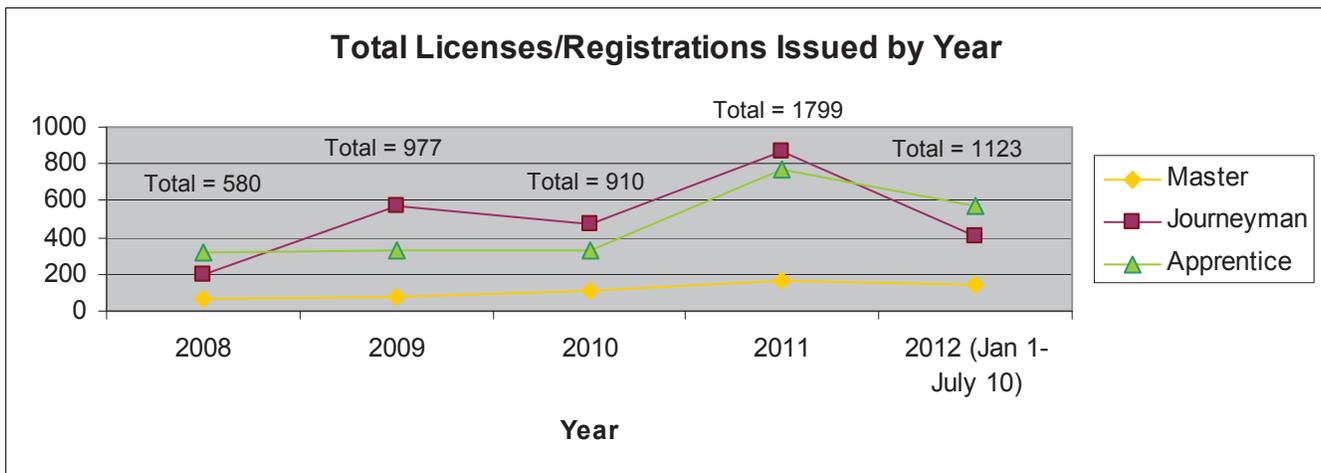
The graph below shows the total number of licenses/registrations issued each year from 2008 through July 10 of 2012. The increase from 2008 to 2011 is mind-boggling, with the number of

Master Electrician licenses issued during that time increasing by 140%, Journeyman Licenses increasing 341%, and Apprentice registrations increasing by 143%! 2012 is shaping up to be an even bigger year.

The higher numbers mean quite a bit of additional work, not only for inspectors, but also for administrative staff.

"This year was just about unbelievable during license renewal time," comments Glass.

In addition, approximately 50-100 people are tested every month for new licenses in the state, in addition to several reciprocal licenses being issued. Glass estimates that about 60% of applicants are from out of state. ☺



Inspectors Hold Quarterly Meeting

North Dakota State Electrical Inspectors held their quarterly meeting on June 27-29, 2012 in Bismarck.

"Our primary goal at these meetings is to get all the State and City inspectors on the same page regarding various issues," explains Lyle Wergeland, the Director of Inspections.

Inspectors use their time together to discuss concerns and share experiences or problems they are seeing in the field. Wergeland collects five questions from each inspector prior to the meeting and uses those to help put together the agenda.

Among the topics discussed at the June meeting were:

- How to handle separate services at grain bins,

- The IBC's perspective on exit lights and emergency lights,
- Garage door openers in commercial garages, and
- Wiring methods in mancamps.

The inspectors gather five times a year - once in January for the NDSEB annual meeting, and four other times for their inspector meetings - in February/ March, June, August, and October.

The next meeting for the group will be August 29-31, 2012. ☺



NDSEB Inspectors discuss a variety of topics at their quarterly meeting in June.

Just a Reminder . . . The N.D. Chapter IAEI Annual Meeting is scheduled for November 1 and 2, 2012 at the Seven Seas in Mandan. Further details will follow at a later date.

Board Proposes Rule Change at Special Meeting

On June 5th, 2012, the ND State Electrical Board held a special meeting by request from contractors to do an emergency administrative rule change. The rule proposed will add language to ND Wiring Standards, article 24-02-01-02 paragraph 3 on page 22 to help define the role of the Master and Class B electricians.

"Some Electrical Contractors are 'renting' out their license to others so the board thought it best to try curtailing that activity with tightening up the rule," explains NDSEB Executive Director James Schmidt.

Schmidt reminds all contractors that when they rent out their license, they are liable for the work of others under their contractor's license. Contractors may want to check with their insurance company to see if this practice is allowed under their policy.

A formal public hearing on the rule change was held at 1:15 pm on July 19, 2012, in the Red River Room of the North Dakota State Capitol building, where the public was welcome to attend and comment on the matter.

Based on comments at the public hearing and any written or oral

comments received by July 29, 2012, the Board may revisit the issue or may forward the matter to the legislative council and Attorney General's office for their review.

The rule will become effective on either October 1, 2012 or January 1, 2013, depending on when it is officially filed.

A Memorandum was mailed to all Master and Journeyman electricians addressing this rule change. For more information, please refer to the Important Bulletin on the NDSEB website or contact the NDSEB office at 701-328-9522. ☺

Making A Connection:

District 8 Inspector Richard Wolfe

Born in Rugby, ND, Richard Wolfe grew up in Minot, graduated from Minot High School, and received his Associate of Applied Science Degree in Electrical Technology from NDSCS. He's worked for several contractors, power plants, and was a maintenance electrician for Cenex Harvest States before employment with the NDSEB in June, 1999. He is currently the District 8 Electrical Inspector.

Rich has been married to his wife Laurie for 26 years and has two children - daughter Katie is 24, married to Rob and living in Great Falls, MT. His son Rylan is 22, single, and will be attending graduate school at Georgia Tech for his PHD in Chemistry. Rich also has a grandson, and a granddaughter on-the-way.

What is your favorite part of your job? *The different places and people you meet everyday. Also, the variety of electrical projects a person sees on a daily basis.*

Did you or do you have a mentor or person that inspired you? *I've had several mentors, especially*

those when starting out as an apprentice that took the time to show you how to do things and explained why. Today, working with instructors and contractors I believe we all learn from each other. Our industry is always changing so being able to interact with all aspects of the trade is the only way to stay on top of things.



What are your hobbies? *I like to camp, hunt, fish, golf, and work in the yard.*

If you could meet anyone in the world, who would it be and why? *Teddy Roosevelt. It would be interesting to visit how life was at the turn of the century before a lot of modern conveniences. He was a leader in setting aside land for conservation, national parks, and monuments for all to enjoy.*

What would be your dream vacation? *Summer in Alaska, or exploring the countryside of Germany.* ☺

Goodbye Vern!

Electrical

Inspector Vernon Hertz retired after 21 years of service to the NDSEB. Office staff organized a potluck and going-away party for Vern on June 28, 2012, where he was presented with, among other things, a camouflage walker with deer antlers!



Vern is planning a retirement filled with hunting, fishing, and spending more time with his grandkids.

Thanks for your dedicated service, Vern, and enjoy your well-deserved time off!



ND State Electrical Board
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A Message From the Executive Director:

A Season of Change



Greetings and welcome to the new North Dakota State Electrical Board newsletter! Although we have been publishing an informational

newsletter for many years, this issue represents a new beginning - not only for our newsletter but for our organization as well.

To begin, I will go into a brief history and give some background information on myself. I am a current ND Master & Journeyman electrician and was a ND State Electrical Board Journeyman Representative Member for the past 10 years. I grew up in the Petersburg / Michigan, ND, area. I have been married to my wife Annette for 31 years and have three grown children, Chelsey, Kayne and Roman Quin. In 1976 I attended NDSCS and graduated with an Associate Bachelor of Science

degree in Electrical Technology along with taking some business classes. In June of 1979, I started as an apprentice electrician and worked my way through the ranks of the electrical trade varying my duties from digging trenches to managing multi-million dollar projects over the past 33 years.

As your new Executive Director, I want to bring good change to better serve the electricians and the electrical industry in ND. I am excited to get out and meet the electricians across the state in which we serve.

The new format for this Newsletter is only one of the changes we've seen recently. We have also added three new inspector positions. Steven, Zachary and David bring many years of skill and knowledge in the electrical field. With all the work activity in ND, creating these new districts in the western part of the state will help this office assist electricians better in providing inspections in a timely manner.

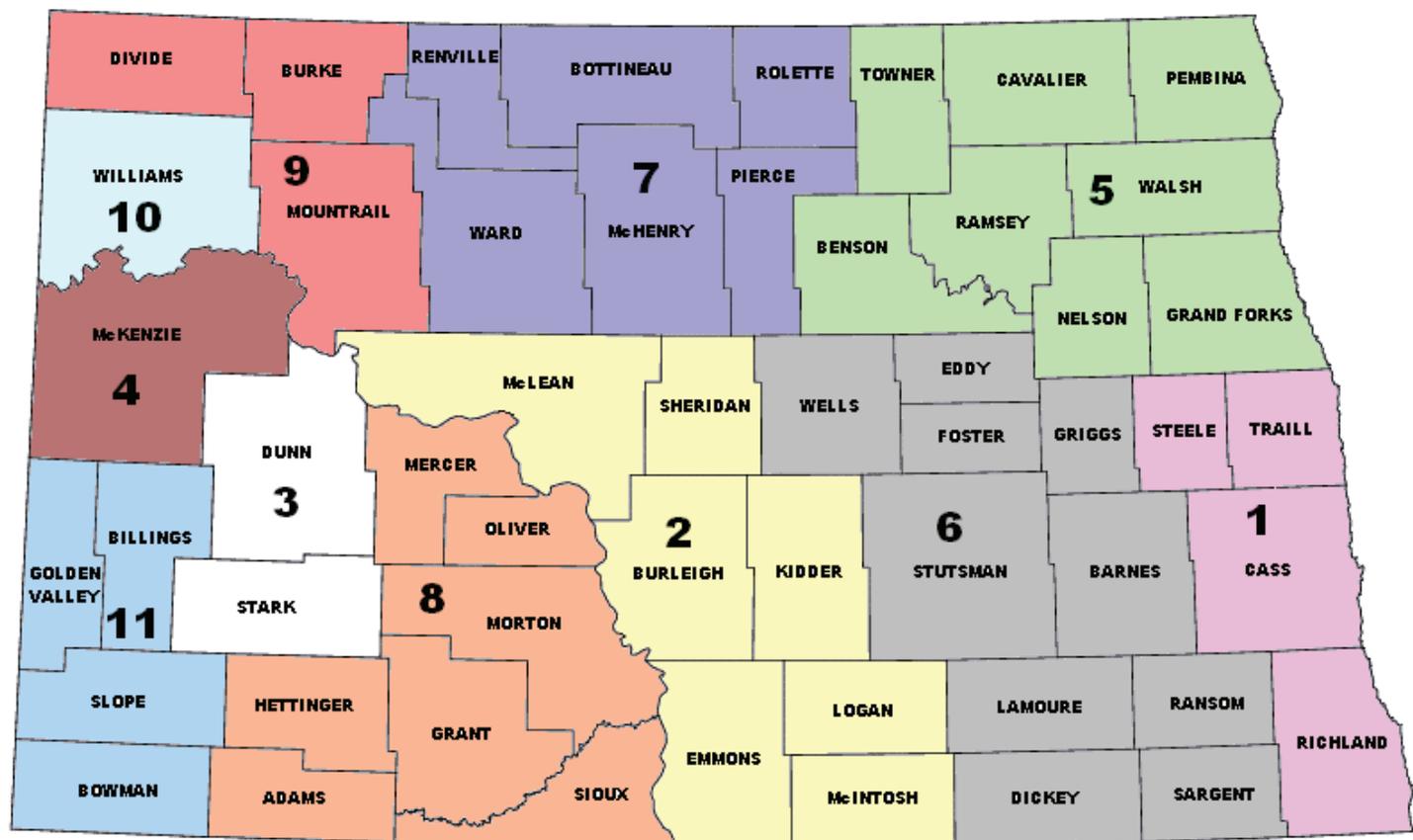
We do also want to acknowledge one of our outstanding senior inspectors - Vernon Hertz - who started with NDSEB back in 1992 as an Electrical Inspector in the Bismarck area. Vern is retiring after 21 years of dedicated service. I keep bugging Vern that he needs to stay working as it took three guys to replace him, but he says he's going to be too busy filling his boat with walleyes. Thanks Vern as you will be truly missed!

I want to remind you that the staff at the NDSEB is available for any questions you may have so please contact anyone of us to assist you. We will continue sending out quarterly newsletters and remember to check our website at www.ndseb.com for updates and notices. We welcome feedback and in closing, I feel privileged to have the opportunity to serve as your Executive Director.

Thank you,
James Schmidt



North Dakota State Electrical Board District Map & Contact Info



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| <p>District 11
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 City of Bismarck: (701) 355-1465
 City of Fargo: (701) 241-1565
 City of Grand Forks: (701) 746-2637
 City of Minot: (701) 857-4106</p> | | <p>NDSEB Executive Director - James Schmidt
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