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## A Message From the Executive Director:



**Hello, everyone!**

It's been a chilly/wet spring and I am sure all of us are ready for the perfect summer!

We want to give a warm welcome to our newest board member James Brandenburg, appointed by Governor Burgum, to the five-year board position representing the ND Journeyman Electricians starting July 1st. Welcome aboard Jim - we're looking forward to working with you!

We also want to thank out-going board member, Mark Christopher for his years of service as the Journeyman Electrician representative on the board. Mark truly did a good job of representing the journeyman of North Dakota.

District 8 Inspector, Rich Wolfe, retired from the NDSEB June 3, 2022, after 23 years of continuous service. Rich started out as director of inspections and then transferred to be the district 8 inspector. We'll miss Rich and his experience he provided at the inspector's meetings.

Rich did comment maybe the inspector meetings will go quicker now that he's not there to debate every issue!! Good luck, Rich, and we wish you the best in your retirement!

We interviewed 6 applicants for an inspector position. Justin Smestad accepted the job offer and will be in Dunn and Mercer counties.

The same as last year, let me know if you've seen the MIDCO public service announcement for this season on the importance of hiring licensed electricians. A whopping 5,009 ads will run for the next few months across ND. Midco did this announcement again free of charge this year, so we want to give them a huge thank you!

We finished up with attending high school job fairs and the Market Place for Kids events across the state for this school year. Our NDSEB team touched the lives of 263 school age kids ranging from 5th, 6th and some 7th graders. Hopefully this will pay off and "spark" some interest in finding replacements for

the aging personnel in our trade.

As you may know we relaxed the HVAC equipment (for only mini-splits & HVAC equipment with speed control) GFCI requirement of article 210.8 (f) since September 2021, until January 1, 2023. If you know of any single speed HVAC equipment causing the same nuisance tripping, please let our office know so we can pass this information on to the NFPA task force group who is dealing with this situation.

Be sure to understand the exemptions and rule changes for ND and if you have more ideas on areas we can improve. We encourage your input on electrical happenings in ND. If you have questions or comments, please send an email, or give me a call as I'd like to visit with you!

Hope you had a great spring and can get out and enjoy the summer!!

I wish you enough,

- James Schmidt

## NDSEB State-Sponsored Continuing Education Classes

Registration for our NDSEB continuing education classes is open on our website and if you want to be sure to have a seat you can sign up now before the classes fill up. Our class this year is titled "2020 NEC Code Requirements" and contains material about the overcurrent protection requirements of Article 240, also Chapter 5 Special Occupancies focusing on Articles 517 through 590, and a review of wiring methods from Chapter 3. Registration for our classes is only available online through our website at [www.ndseb.com](http://www.ndseb.com). To sign up for a class go to the continuing education tab and click on the subfolder titled "2022 NDSEB CEU Classes & Registration" to find the list of available classes.

We will be conducting a total of 16 classes at 8 locations across North Dakota, with classes in Bismarck, Devils Lake, Dickinson, Fargo, Grand Forks, Jamestown, Minot, and Williston. Be sure to look at the dates and locations that are listed on the web page (and at the right) to find the one closest to you that fits with your schedule.

We have been following the same rotation for several years with the classes starting in June and holding two classes each month through January. The first classes usually have a smaller number of people

attending, but as we draw closer to the end of the schedule classes do tend to fill up. Register early to ensure a seat.

There are many other opportunities available throughout the year to attend continuing education classes with other providers; both traditional classroom style events or online classes which can be accessed anytime.

Remember when choosing continuing education courses to renew your North Dakota license, the courses you choose must be approved by the NDSEB for the hours to count toward license renewal. A spreadsheet is available on our website listing all classes that have been approved. You can access it under the continuing education tab by clicking on the subfolder titled "Continuing Education Approved Courses & Requirements".

It is your responsibility to be sure you have enough continuing education credits to renew your license. Don't wait until the last minute to find a class as it can sometimes be difficult to find an opening. Also be sure to keep all your original certificates in case you are required to provide a copy to another state.

- **Scott Halle**  
Training & Compliance Administrator

### 2022 CEU CLASS SCHEDULE

#### August 2022

August 11: Devils Lake  
August 12: Jamestown

#### September 2022

September 1: Minot  
September 2: Bismarck

#### October 2022

October 6: Grand Forks  
October 7: Fargo

#### November 2022

November 17: Williston  
November 18: Dickinson

#### December 2022

December 8: Bismarck  
December 9: Minot

#### January 2023

January 5: Fargo  
January 6: Grand Forks

- Online only pre-registration is required. No walk-ins.
- Please visit our website, [www.ndseb.com](http://www.ndseb.com), under the Continuing Education tab and click on 2022 NDSEB CEU Classes and Registration for more information and to register.
- Registration closes approximately one week before each class or sooner if the class is full.

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## Smoke & Carbon Monoxide Alarms

Greetings everyone,

The NEC does not stipulate the requirements for smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. These codes are adopted in the Wiring Standards of North Dakota using the State Building Code requirements which adopts the International Residential Code by reference. The IRC has two sections that deal with smoke and carbon monoxide alarms which are 314 and 315 respectively.

One interesting section might be news for some of you: 314.3 (4) states "smoke alarms shall be installed not less than 3 feet (914 mm) horizontally from the door or opening of a bathroom that contains a bathtub or shower unless this would prevent placement of a smoke alarm required by this section." The reason for this is to prevent false alarms coming from the steam of the shower or tub as well as trying to prevent moisture from damaging the alarm.

Additionally, 110.3 (b) in the NEC does state that we need to adhere to the manufacturer's instructions which most alarm installation instructions do state that the alarm should be placed 3' away from a bathroom door. Although this requirement may be easily achieved in most homes some smaller homes may need a second look when roughing in.

In addition, a proposal has been submitted to align with the building code to require a CO2 alarm in a bedroom that has a fuel fired appliance located in the bedroom or its attached bathroom. More on this later!

Respectfully,

**Jon Saylor**  
Insurance/Inspection Compliance  
Administrator

## Where do electricians get their supplies?

The Ohm Depot!



## News & Notes from NDSEB

### SERVICE AWARDS

The North Dakota State Electrical Board would like to thank the following employees for their years of service:

#### 10 Years

- James Schmidt, Executive Director
- Zachary Paetz, Electrical Inspector
- David Jaeger, Electrical Inspector

#### 15 Years

- Richard Krause, Electrical Inspector

### INDIVIDUALS WORKING UNDER SUPERVISION OF CONTRACTING MASTER/CLASS B/PLE ELECTRICIAN

Since February 1, 2022, there have been 320 apprentices that allowed their registration to expire on January 31, 2022 and have had to reinstate. By not renewing on time and staying registered, those apprentices have lost work experience hours towards taking a Journeyman exam. The electrical contractor is responsible for verifying individuals doing electrical work under their supervision are currently registered or licensed. The electrical contractor is also certifying this at the time of his/her renewal.

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 from them 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. As a reminder, when hiring new employees, also check to see if they are currently registered or licensed. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

### ELECTRICAL CORRECTION REPORTS

If there is a correction item on your job to "submit your final paperwork with the appropriate inspection fee," please DO NOT submit your report until this has been done first. It is a two-step process.

First step: Go to "View Start-up (Goldenrod)", click on e-Cert number/job; enter job cost; and pay.  
Next step: Go to "View Correction Reports," click on e-Cert number/job; and certify/submit report.

If you have additional code violations in addition to the paperwork/inspection fees, make sure ALL items are completed before you certify and submit. If you need additional time than allowed, please contact either the inspector or the Board's office for a reasonable extension to perform the corrections. This will avoid having to return the correction report back to you and assessment of late administrative fees.



### Scholarships Update

The ND State Electrical Board created a scholarship policy a few years ago to expend funds to promote the electrical industry. The intention was to encourage individuals to consider this career path and help them with related costs to make it easier to enter the field.

Since the fall semester of 2020, the board has awarded a total thus far of **990 scholarships (\$500 each) totaling \$495,000 to North Dakota apprentices** who are enrolled either in a related training program or in a college degree program! Congrats to these students!



Photo courtesy of ndscs.edu

## A Word from the Director of Inspections

Summer is officially upon us, and I hope you are all enjoying it while it's here!!

I would like to talk a little bit about some of the calls we receive in our office and explain how we try and approach them. When we receive a call about unlicensed activity on a job site, or unsupervised apprentices or out of ratio issues, we take these calls very seriously. However, everyone needs to understand that if we do not have a wiring certificate for that site, or the caller is not willing to tell us where this activity is going on, there is not much we can do about it.

When we get this information and we have a certificate or the caller will tell us where this is going on, we try and get an inspector out there to investigate as soon as possible.

If you as contractors are out there and you see activity like this, or flyers and advertisements for handyman doing electrical work, please send us the information and we will look into it as soon as possible.

Please remember to get your wiring certificates submitted BEFORE work commences and make sure you always have direct supervision for your apprentices at a maximum of 3

apprentices to 1 journeyman. When we have to write these violations to a contractor, we do not enjoy writing them or making these phone calls but we are only doing our job. Fortunately for us, you all do a great job at submitting certs and training your apprentices and we do appreciate that.

Please feel free to call us any time with questions or concerns you may have or to just touch base with us or your local inspector.

Stay safe and have a great summer!!

- Doug Grinde

## Making A Connection:

### District 13 Inspector Justin Lill

An inspector with the NDSEB for three years, Justin Lill grew up on a small farm southwest of Langdon, ND. He attended NDSCS in Wahpeton for two years, worked



in Fargo for several years for different contractors, and worked at his hometown utility company - Cavalier Rural Electric Cooperative - for eight years.

Justin and his wife Anna have been married for 15 years and share five children together - three sons and two daughters.

**What projects are you currently working on?** I am currently doing inspections all along the northern part of ND from Divide County in the West over to Pembina and Walsh County in the East.

**What is your favorite part of your job?** I love to have the opportunity to interact with various electrical contractors and electricians. I like speaking especially with the rural electricians - some of which are also farmers or on their local boards and volunteer fire departments. They are helping to keep these few remaining small communities up and running.

**Do you have a favorite memory or experience while working for the NDSEB?** My favorite memories with the NDSEB are usually relegated to the bi-monthly meetings we have. I enjoy hearing the stories some of the other inspectors have. My colleagues will laugh when they read this, but my favorite stories are Greg's "bear wrestling" story and Tom's "pool party" story.

**Did you or do you have a mentor or a person that inspired you?** My dad, Tom, was one of my main mentors and inspired me to work hard and never be afraid to step up and try a job I've never done before. He also taught me good Christian values and what a good husband and father should aspire to be.

**What are your hobbies?** I enjoy target shooting and the occasional fishing/camping trip with the family, but the things I enjoy the most are doing carpentry and volunteering at my church.

**What would be your dream vacation?** I would like to someday take the family to Washington D.C. My family and I went there when I was a teenager and I've always wanted to go back and see all the history that our country's capital contains.

**If you could meet anyone in the world, who would it be and why?**

Elon Musk, I would love to get a chance to sit and talk with him to see how his brain works and how he comes up with so many different ideas that will hopefully in the end benefit this country that I love so much.

**The best movie of all time is . . . ?** "A Christmas Story" of course.

**Anything else you want to share?** I would just like to say that this group of people at the NDSEB are some of the nicest and most down to earth people I've ever had the pleasure of working with. Although sometimes we may be a pain in people's necks, I think we all truly believe in serving the good people of ND. To keep them as safe as we can from electrical harm. ☺

