

ND State Electrical Board
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Find us at
www.ndseb.com

A Message From the Executive Director:



Greetings and welcome back! It's been a busy summer as the work load for the inspectors and office staff has increased and about the time they think they're getting caught up more wiring certs and license applications come flooding in. We did have internet troubles during the month of August which caused havoc with our website and in turn created trouble when contractors were trying to file e-certs or renew licenses. We do apologize for the inconvenience to all of you who had to patiently wait, but we finally got it resolved.

We've been scheduling an average of 50 persons per month for the master, class B or journeyman electrician exams. Some months we've had to open a second testing date to accommodate the demand. There have been times when not all the persons

signed up to test actually show up so if you know you cannot take your exam on the scheduled date, please let us know so we can let someone else sit in your chair as there is a long line of examinees waiting to test. Due to the ND Legislature beginning their session in January, the Board will explore other locations outside of the Capitol Grounds to hold the testing.

We've had numerous reports of unlicensed persons engaging to do electrical work for homeowners and businesses, so we felt it necessary to send out a press release titled "State Electrical Board Urges Consumers to Verify Credentials of Electrical Contractors". The news release gives tips on what a consumer should look for to help ensure they have hired a reputable contractor. We do still ask for the public's help in spotting these unlicensed persons doing electrical work illegally so if you know of any give us a call.

To update the administrative rule change to article 24-02-01-02 para 3 on page 22 of the ND State Wiring Standards, it was accepted "as is" at the Board's September 12th meeting. From there it was sent to the Attorney General's Office for review and from there to the ND Legislative Council. If all is accepted and approved, it will become an administrative rule as per the dates allowable by state statute.

The staff and I are available for questions or information you may seek, so give us a call or send an email so we can assist you. Remember to check our website at NDSEB.com for updates and notices. Let us know how we are doing as we welcome feedback at anytime!

Thank you,
James Schmidt



Connections

A Newsletter of the North Dakota State Electrical Board

Issue 238
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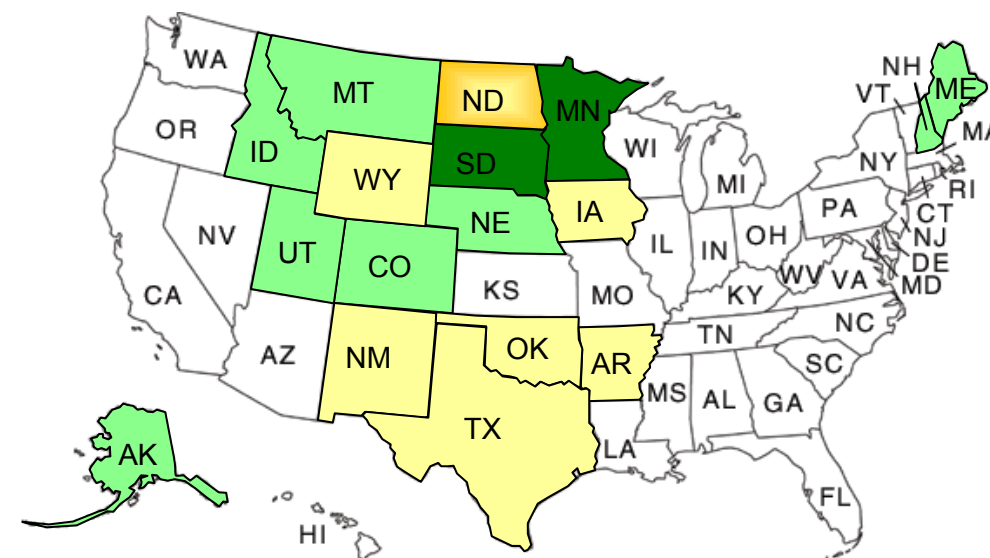
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Reciprocal License Agreements Ease Workload

The large influx of electricians seeking work in North Dakota has created additional work for the staff at the North Dakota State Electrical Board to test and license all applicants. An easy solution is when an applicant comes from a state that has a reciprocal license agreement with North Dakota.

NERA stands for the National Electrical Reciprocal Alliance, which is a group of states that have agreements with each other to allow master and journeyman electricians to reciprocate their license without taking an examination. North Dakota is a member of NERA and reciprocates license agreements with several other members (see map).

NDSEB Executive Director James Schmidt and Administrative Assistant Ashley Windhorst recently attended a two-day NERA meeting in Lincoln, Nebraska. The meetings are informative, according to Schmidt, but also useful in that states can share ideas on not only licensing but also



The 17 states that are a part of the National Electrical Reciprocal Alliance (NERA) are shown in color above. North Dakota currently reciprocates Master Licenses and Journeyman Electrician Licenses with both South Dakota and Minnesota (dark green). It reciprocates only Journeyman Electrician Licenses with those states shown in light green. It has no reciprocal agreements with the NERA member states in yellow. Wisconsin attended the most recent NERA meeting and is requesting to join the group.

continuing education and other aspects of their industry. North Dakota hosted the event in 2010.

"Because there is so much electrical work presently going on in North Dakota, there were other states at the meeting that were very anxious to sign an agreement with us," Schmidt notes. "However, we only reciprocate with those that have similar licenses and rules."

Wyoming, for example, is interested in entering into an agreement with North Dakota, but because they do not currently inspect oil-field related construction (i.e. lact units & drilling or extracting equipment), North Dakota has not pursued an agreement with them.

Wyoming is in the process of hiring an inspector to handle that workload so the NDSEB may reconsider in the future.

There is a standard form that NERA states use to enter into an agreement with each other regarding reciprocal licenses. The State Board would have to agree to the arrangement and sign off on it. The most recent agreements were signed in August of 2010. ☺

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Upcoming Educational Events:

The ND Chapter of the IAEI will hold its 12 hour CEU Class November 1st & 2nd at the Seven Seas Inn, Mandan, ND. If you are interested, you can register online at <http://iaeind.org>.

The annual ND State Electrical Board 2013 state-sponsored 8 hour electrical code CEU classes will be in the following communities as listed below. The topics this year will be 1 & 2 Family Dwellings, Common Code Violations, and Oil Field problems.

Registration is available either by completing the postcard that will be sent by mail the week of November 26, 2012 or through online registration at <https://www.ndseb.com>, under Continuing Education, NDSEB "CEU" Classes & Registration. Registration begins November 28, 2012 with a deadline of December 23rd. The instructions will be listed on the postcard and on our website. Exact costs to attend are still being calculated, but will be listed on the postcard and online as soon as they are known.

Be sure to register right away if you are interested in attending! Registrations will not be accepted at the door, by phone or email. Any registrations received after the posted deadline of December 23, 2012, will not be accepted.

Please arrive so you can check-in between 7:15am and 7:45am. Classes will begin at 8:00am sharp and conclude at 5:00pm.

- January 3, 2013 – Ramkota Hotel, Bismarck
- January 4, 2013 – Ramada Grand Dakota Lodge Dickinson
- January 10, 2013 – Quality Inn, Jamestown
- January 17, 2013 – Ramada Inn, Grand Forks
- January 18, 2013 – Ramada Plaza Suites, Fargo
- January 24, 2013 – Airport International Inn, Williston
- January 25, 2013 – Holiday Inn, Minot ☺



In late September the IAEI Western Section annual convention was held in Fort Smith, AR. ND Director of Inspectors Lyle Wergeland, Inspectors Mitch Feininger and David Paul attended the 3 day event. Mitch (fourth from right) is shown being inducted onto the Board of Directors as the ND Representative to the IAEI Western Section. Congratulations Mitch!

Inspectors' Meeting Highlights

ND City and State Electrical Inspectors met in Bismarck on August 29th – 31st to discuss code topics and situations that they are seeing in the field. From these meetings, there were some points that they wanted to bring to the attention of all electricians for their information.

- An **intersystem bonding termination** is required at all new service installation locations and additional buildings or structures according to NEC 250.94 - this applies to all locations, not just dwelling units.
- NEC 314.20 states that **box extensions** are required for walls or ceilings of combustible material when the box is not flush with the surface. Good examples of this are when wood wainscoting is installed on walls or a

receptacle is installed inside a cabinet for plugging in a microwave.

- **Concrete encased electrodes** are still a problem in some areas. If the concrete contractor does not have one available when you get the job, please contact your inspector with their name so we can address this with them.
- To clarify where **vapor tight boxes** are required for dwelling units - they are required for all exterior walls and ceilings of the house, and on the house side of the wall between the house and garage of an attached garage. They are not required in garages, although some cities may have more stringent requirements regarding this.

- When wiring a class 1 division 1 or 2 location, to use PVC or RTRC conduit for the underground raceway, it must be encased in 2" of concrete and provided with not less than 24" of cover measured from the top of the conduit to grade per NEC 501.10(A) and (B). Also, the requirement to install a boundary seal remains unless the conduit passes through the classified location with no fittings or couplings for at least 12" beyond the boundary (up the wall at least 30") and each end is terminated in an unclassified location. Keep this in mind when wiring locations such as commercial garages and shop buildings. ☺

Wanted: Safety/Training Manager

Requires a highly motivated individual committed to teamwork and service excellence. Licensed North Dakota Journeyman and the qualifications to obtain a North Dakota Master license within 90 days of employment required. Electrical trade school degree preferred, high school graduation required. Ability to conduct, present and develop continuing education classes, monitor apprentice training programs, proctor electrician exams, and maintain required safety programs. Strong interpersonal written & oral skills and problem solving experience. Working knowledge of computer systems, trace circuitry, schematics and blueprints. Flexible scheduling & overnight travel may be required. Requires a valid ND driver's license, ability to lift 50 pounds, climb ladders and scaffolds.

Interested applicants are required to submit an [Application for Employment State Form 10950](#) to N.D. Job Service Office in Bismarck, ND, along with resume and cover letter. North Dakota residents claiming veterans preference requires a completed Form DD214 and a disabled veterans' preference requires a current statement of disabled status from the Veteran's Affairs Office.

Application deadline is Thursday, November 15, 2012. For a detailed job description please visit NDSEB Employment Opportunities @ <https://www.ndseb.com/?id=129>. ☺

Apprentice Registration Renewals Coming Soon!

Apprentice electricians must renew their registration every year and the time is approaching for the next renewal. Your apprentice registration will expire on January 31, 2013 (unless you originally registered after November 1, 2012).

Forms will be mailed out to all registered apprentices on December 3, 2012. You can complete the form and mail it in or renew your registration online. ☺

Making A Connection:

District 9 Inspector Al Schrader

Originally from Esmond, North Dakota, Al Schrader graduated from NDSCS with degrees in Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Technology as well as from the Electrical Technology program. Prior to joining the NDSEB, Al did electrical work in the Twin Cities, Seattle, Washington, and Billings, Montana, as well as worked for various contractors, power plants and gasification plants near Minot.

Al has been married to his wife Pam for 40 years and has three grown daughters and two grandchildren

What is your favorite part of your job? *Meeting the contractors and home owners.*

What projects are you currently working on or have recently inspected? *There are always a variety of projects to do, but the bulk of the inspections are oil related.*

Do you have a favorite memory or experience while working for the Board? *Working the Grand Forks*

Flood. As we drove down the streets, people came out with their wiring certificates and signs that said "Turn me on!"



Did you or do you have a mentor or person that inspired you? *When I was working as an apprentice, my mentors were the licensed guys that helped me.*

What are your hobbies? *With my job being most of the time in the country, I enjoy looking at the animals, birds, etc.*

The best thing about North Dakota is . . . ? *The friendly people.*

The best movie of all time is . . . ? *It's a Wonderful Life with James Stewart.*

What would be your dream vacation? *To return to the country of Greece. I was stationed there for one year while serving in the US Army as a Company Clerk. ☺*

Governor Appoints Kyle Miller, Board Elections Held

Here are a few updates from the State Electrical Board:

- Governor Jack Dalrymple appointed Kyle Miller to a 5 year term on the State Electrical Board beginning July 1, 2012. Miller works for Wesco Distribution as an Account Representative and has been a Journeyman Electrician since 1993. He is filling the journeyman electrician position on the board. Miller lives in Bismarck with his wife and two children. Welcome to the Board, Kyle!
- The Board also held elections at their July 11 meeting. The new board positions are as follows:
 - President Earl Scherer
 - Vice-President Rodney Mayer
 - Secretary Karen Karls
 - Treasurer Ben Koppelman
- The Board's next meeting is scheduled for November 14, 2012. ☺