

**ND State Electrical Board**  
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**Find us at**  
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## A Message From the Executive Director:



**Hello, everyone!**

Included in this issue of Connections is a special insert with a map of our Inspection Districts and contact information along with

the NDSEB CEU class schedule for 2016. Scott Halle will be presenting the classes and there will again be 16 class locations. Note the location changes, so plan ahead and sign up early as some of the classes are actually filling up fast.

The administrative rule process, which I mentioned in the last issue, continues with the main goal of this year's rule process being the reorganization of the ND Laws Rules and Wiring Standards. We had a short meeting with staff from the legislative council and discussed different ways to achieve this. The goal is to organize the administrative rule portion into categories of similar information and

eliminate any redundant code articles that already appear in the NEC. They were very helpful and I am confident the process will go smoothly and end up with a document that is organized and will correlate with the NEC.

I would like to review a situation that recently happened to an apprentice in North Dakota: Everyone knows the rule that education is required if your apprenticeship takes place in ND. This individual has approximately 7,500 working hours in ND and called asking if he needed to meet the education requirement. I responded, yes and asked more questions. It turns out he thought his license from a state that does not regulate similar rules to ND's would count as education. Sadly enough, it does not count. My advice to all apprentices is make sure you know your career path by having your education plan in place when you start

your apprenticeship. A note to Master and Journeyman electricians: mentor the apprentices and make them aware of all situations so they eventually can get licensed in North Dakota. We do our best to inform but do not have access to all like you do working side by side. Should you know of any apprentice that has a question or concern about education, be sure to tell them to give me a call.

We also like to hear from you so send me questions and I'll do my best to answer them. As always, we want your comments too. To keep your information in our files accurate, please keep us informed about your most current address.

I hope you are having a great spring that will continue into a great summer!

Be safe out there,  
 James Schmidt



Ensuring Public Safety Since 1917

# Connections

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## Safety Tips for National Electrical Safety Month

**May** is National Electrical Safety Month according to the Electrical Safety Foundation International and with that in mind we felt this was a good opportunity to remind everyone to be aware and take responsibility for your own safety and the safety of those around you.

According to published reports several hundred people are killed, and thousands are injured each year in electrical accidents in the United States, and for each person injured there are family members, coworkers, and friends also affected. With those numbers in mind, let's look at some ways we can protect ourselves and the people around us from injury.

- GFCI protection is a proven method of shock prevention that has a long track record of proven safety in many locations where electrical equipment is used, such as outdoors and on construction sites. Make sure to test GFCI devices so you know they are functioning properly and have portable devices available for those circumstances when a permanent GFCI receptacle may

not be available.

- Check flexible cords to be sure that the cord isn't damaged by cuts or abrasions to the jacket or conductors, the cord ends are securely attached and connections are tight. Make sure the ground prongs aren't broken off or missing and the blades are secure in the cord cap, and select the proper size and rating of cord for the job you are performing.
- Never assume circuits are turned off or de-energized. Always test for power with a meter or voltage tester that has been checked for proper operation before contacting any parts, and treat all circuits as live until you test them.

- Always use proper Lockout/Tagout procedures when working with equipment to prevent accidental re-energization of equipment, and wear proper PPE and use the correct tools to help prevent injury.
- Be aware of power lines when working in the vicinity of them. Keep a distance of 10 feet minimum away from them and always be conscious of overhead lines when moving ladders or other tall items.

These are just a few suggestions on how to keep safe. Please remember safety is everyone's business - we all deserve to go home safe each day! ⚡



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### NDSEB Mission Statement:

Ensure safety and protect life, health, and property in the daily use of electricity.

## Position Changes at NDSEB

There have been a few changes at the NDSEB in recent months.

Lyle Wergeland (previous Director of Inspections) took the position of Public Information Representative with the Board in January, 2016. With all the activity in the state, the Board felt a person with great communication skills along with inspector experience would be beneficial to the electrical industry.

Lyle was a self-employed electrical contractor for 20 years before starting work with the NDSEB in May, 2008 as an Electrical Inspector. He took the position of Director of Inspections in August, 2011. Lyle will be out and about across the state calling on persons/entities related to the electrical industry in ND. Anyone interested in speaking with him about the NDSEB or the electrical industry in North Dakota, should contact him at 701-328-9522.



Doug Grinde, the new Director of Inspections

With Lyle taking on the role of Public Information Representative, there was a vacancy in the office for the Director of Inspections. The Board advertised within and Doug Grinde was offered the position. He started in March, 2016.

Originally from Park River, N.D., Doug has been an electrician for over 25 years. He started Advance Electric in Grand Forks in 2002 and was co-owner until starting as the District 13 Inspector for NDSEB in July, 2013.

Doug leaving as the District 13 Inspector created yet another vacancy. Tom Crawford, who has been previously employed with the NDSEB and City of Minot, was recently re-hired as a "roaming" inspector in January of 2015. He will now be serving as our District 13 Inspector and the "roaming" inspector position will not be filled for the time being, as the activity in the state is leveling off.



Tom Crawford, the new District 13 Inspector

Our thanks to these individuals for taking on new positions at NDSEB to better serve our customers and the public!

## A Message from the District Inspectors

**Another** new year is well underway, and amid the bidding and contracting process, which at this time of year is a very busy time, we, the inspectors, would like to take time to remind you of a few things.

- Since different utilities have different requirements when it comes to temporary power for the project and permanent power, we want to let you know when filing your wiring certificates to include the temporary power on the project certificate. Make sure you include on the certificate the township, range, section, and the real owner's name, not the general contractors.
- A few friendly reminders: call us for final inspections when completed with the project. Concerning rough-in inspections even though they are not required, we need to have you call the inspector if you want an RI inspection done within a reasonable amount of time.

- Take the time to check and make sure the products that are being installed are listed to U/L standards. This past year we saw some products installed that were not listed and of course the correction cited was, to have the item field evaluated or replaced.
- Finally, with many new people making North Dakota their home, they may not be aware that inspections are required for electrical installations. We ask that you let them know electrical work requires inspection and that they should expect the inspector to call upon them.

From all of us NDSEB inspectors, please have a safe year!

District Inspectors



Josh Wilson, the District 1 Inspector covering Cass County in North Dakota, gestures to make a point during a discussion at the quarterly inspectors meeting in Bismarck.

## News & Notes from NDSEB

- **License renewal for Masters and Class Bs deadline has passed.**

For those of you that have not taken care of your outstanding issues and your license is not renewed yet, a Cease and Desist Order is being developed for you. Our inspectors are going to continue reviewing records and you may get called by them from time to time reminding you to clean up your past due corrections. This is meant to assist you so when it comes time to renew your license next year, you have already taken care of your issues - allowing you to renew. So please keep on top of your corrections and if you have questions, be sure to either call the inspector or our office for assistance.

- Callers have been reporting in about persons ignoring state law:

**"NDCC 46-09-18 Apprentice to master electrician.** Any person may serve as an apprentice under a licensed master electrician but a master electrician may not allow an apprentice to work on any installation without personal supervision of a licensed electrician."

We all know what this means and if you continue to practice this situation, it will earn you a visit with the Board where they will discuss the future of your license. So please do not allow this situation to happen as you are breaking state law.

- Inspectors are finding and reporting projects/electrical work that is not reported (late certificate violation):

**"NDCC 43-09-19. Report of work done by Licensee.** Every person licensed under the provisions of this chapter and doing electrical work shall report the same to the secretary of the board upon blanks furnished by the board for that purpose."

Again we all know what this is referring to. Page 50 of the Laws, Rules and Wring Standards of ND 24-02-01-19 explains the rules when a wiring certificate needs to be filed.

- Re-inspections are periodically being performed by the inspectors in their districts and are finding **contractors claiming corrections are made, but in fact they are not.** This practice will earn you an administrative charge, a phone call from the inspector and the office, plus could result in a visit with the Board to discuss the future of your license. Please do not certify corrections are made when in fact they are not. If it's a matter of needing more time before it goes past due, call the inspector and give him your reasons why you are not able to make the corrections and he'll most likely give you a time extension.
- We still have a few 2014 NEC books for sale. Just give us a call and we'll get one shipped out. ☺

## Making A Connection:

### NDSEB Board Member Kyle Miller

**Originally** from a farm near Alfred, North Dakota, Kyle Miller has served on the ND State Electrical Board for three years. Currently employed with Wesco Distribution, Inc., a national electric wholesale company, he has previously worked as a Journeyman electrician.

Kyle and his wife Sarah have been married for 23 years and have two children - Tyrell, who is 22 and is soon to be a Journeyman electrician, and Jenna, who is 20 and will be attending Moorhead State. They also have two energetic and hilarious Chocolate labs.

**Why did you want to serve on the Board?** *Being a Journeyman and a wholesaler gives me the opportunity to visit with many different people, products and aspects of our industry. I am involved with issues and challenges as they present themselves. I was hoping this could help bring that firsthand experience to the Board.*

**Did you or do you have a mentor or a person that inspired you?** *Mostly my dad as he taught me a good work*

*ethic and also not to delay anything that can be done today. The journeyman I worked with during my apprenticeship (you know who you are), their patience and knowledge they shared has been very much appreciated, and all of the contractors and electricians that make things happen every day.*



**What are your hobbies?** *Fishing, camping, hunting.*

**Do you serve on any other Boards or volunteer in other capacities?** *I'm the President of a local sportsmen's club for 6 years. Also organized and chaired many events for the same club.*

**Do you have any advice for new electricians in the state?** *Apprentices, obtain your license as soon as you're able and hold onto it forever. That card opens so many more doors even beyond the electrical field. Journeyman and Masters, never stop learning and never stop teaching! ☺*

