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A Message From the Executive Director:



Hello, everyone!

It's been a chilly winter so far, but the days are getting a little longer so before you know it spring will be here!

Not much going on with the education committee but we will try organizing a meeting coming up in February. See our website under "Apprentice Education" to review that list, and contractors make sure your apprentices have either a 2-year college degree in electrical or are attending approved related training apprentice classes throughout their apprenticeship. Please make sure your apprentices get their required electrical education before they're ready to write the Journeyman exam.

This fiscal year, since July 1, 2021 to present, the NDSEB has spent over \$136,000 on sponsorships & apprentice scholarships to promote the electrical industry in ND and there are still a couple of apprentice programs we're waiting on for their apprentice rosters. Last fiscal

year, NDSEB spent \$261,000 on just apprentice scholarships.

Scott Halle finished up our two different CEU classes. The first with a residential emphasis and the second having a commercial emphasis. We'd like to hear your opinions on that layout so we can make plans for future classes.

The board hired a new District 5 inspector, Brad Luck, who will be working in the Minot region. We want to welcome Brad aboard! Brad will start in the Ward County area and will expand his district in the near future.

District 6 inspector, David Paul, resigned and took another job in Montgomery, AL, so we wish David and his family well with their new adventure in a warmer climate! Check out our website if you're interested in the position.

District 4, Leo Floer, retired from the NDSEB December 31, 2021, but he agreed to stay on part-time until we find a replacement inspector. Best wishes, Leo, in your retirement!

Jon Saylor has been working with district inspectors on achieving timely inspections and evaluating district wiring certificate numbers as well as helping to promote the electrical industry in ND.

We've been continuing "promoting" the electrical industry by attending various career fairs and getting involved again this year across the state. Jon and Scott reported several high school age students showed interest in becoming an electrician.

A reminder that we're accepting proposals to make changes to the ND Laws, Rules, and Wiring Standards. The deadline for proposals is February 28, 2022. You can get the 2023 Administrative Rule Proposal Form on our website at <https://www.ndseb.com/laws-rules/>. So, if you have an idea for a proposal there is still some time to submit it.

I wish you enough,
James Schmidt

PLE Licensing Summary—HVAC

We are still getting questions on what electrical work HVAC companies can perform. Here's information from the ND Laws, Rules, and Wiring Standards followed by a summary.

Laws & Rules regarding the "control thereof". The following "summary" is meant to clarify who needs to be licensed to install HVAC controls.

NDCC 43-09-16. License not required. The following persons are not required to be licensed by and are not subject to regulation by the board under this chapter:

6. An individual who is installing a power limited system that is installed within a residential dwelling or is installed with a factory connector or cord powered by an existing electrical receptacle.

NDCC 43-09-01. Definitions. In this chapter, unless the context or subject matter otherwise requires:

7. "Nonelectrical system" means a system as defined by the articles contained in chapter 8 and other articles which contains class II or class III circuits and systems as defined by the national electrical code, as adopted by the board. Although the board may expand this definition, the board may not narrow this definition. The term does not include a circuit or system that is installed:

- Within an area of special occupancies, as defined under articles 500 through 517 of the national electrical code.
- For heat, light, or power.
- For the control of heat, light, or power, unless the circuit or system employs digital communication.

8. "Power limited electrician" means an individual who has the necessary qualifications, training, experience, and technical knowledge to plan, layout, and supervise the installation and repair of a power limited system.

9. "Power limited system" means a system as defined by the articles contained in chapter 8 and other articles which contains class II or class III circuits and systems as defined by the national electrical code, as adopted by the board. Although the board may expand this definition, the term does not include a nonelectrical system.

Admin Rule 24.1-02-01-02. General statement of policy and interpretative rules.

1. Purpose and scope. The purpose of these standards is the practical safeguarding of persons and of buildings and building contents from electrical hazards arising from the use or control of electricity for light, heat, power, and control thereof, fire detection systems, and power limited systems. It covers the electrical and power limited installations and associated equipment necessary for its safe operation.

Summary:

- HVAC people can do their own thermostats in residential dwelling without a license
- All locations of Class II & III circuits of NEC articles 500 – 517 requires minimum of PLE licensure.
- Areas other than residential – Class II and Class III circuits that control of heat, light, or power require a minimum of PLE licensure, unless the circuit employs digital communication.

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Inspection Correction Compliance Audits

The compliance audit process has begun, and unfortunately, we are seeing unfavorable results. A correction audit takes place randomly and throughout the state. The falsification rate has been hovering around the 30% mark. A correction falsification can be classified in three different ways:

1. Either the correction was not completed at all;
2. The correction was only partially completed; or
3. The correction was incorrectly performed.

Any of these three findings are marked as falsified. As I stated in the last article, if it is a matter of more time that you need in order to perform the correction, please contact your inspector before the due date to have a conversation about possibly extending your correction.

If the correction is not detailed enough or you need some guidance, please contact your inspector as well. Simply certifying the correction when the correction is not in fact fixed is not an option and could lead to a call from the Executive Director or an appearance before the Board. Let's not have it go this far. We are all on the same team to ensure proper code compliant installations.

Requesting a rough-in inspection could help alleviate a correction on your final by addressing any issues seen before any wall coverings are installed.

Another situation that may come up is if you are not sure about the requirements on a specific installation. For instance, if you normally do not install transformers, and you are not quite sure of the grounding and bonding requirements, contact your inspector for guidance or a thorough code research is putting yourself in a good position to not having a correction on your project.

As always, communication is key.

Jon Saylor

Information/Inspection Compliance
Administrator

News & Notes from NDSEB

CONTRACTING MASTER/CLASS B/ PLE ELECTRICIANS

If you are an active Master, Class B or PLE electrician, your license will expire on April 30, 2022 (unless you were first licensed or renewed after January 1, 2022).

Requirements to renew and the reasons a license may be placed on "hold" status from renewing:

- Must meet acceptable continuing education - eight hours.
- Certificate of Liability Insurance must be current and on file.
- Past due violations / invoices.
- No response to start-up audit letter.

As we have stated in the past, it appears we are always sending out several cease and desist letters after the April 30th expiration date, and it typically is just a matter of the contractor forgetting to renew. **We are strongly encouraging all contractors to not wait until the last minute and get your license renewed today!**

JOB / WIRING CERTIFICATE REMINDER

During our recent wiring certificate audit for jobs over one year old, there were a lot of wiring certificates being submitted and paid as done. We thank you for responding to our audit; however, you can avoid receiving an audit letter by following:

24.1-05-01-01(b). Electrical certificates

Within fifteen days of completion, use, or occupancy, whichever is first, the final paperwork must be submitted to the office of the state electrical board, along with the proper fee.

By doing so, this informs our office and our inspectors that the job is done and ready for a final inspection. By not submitting your final paperwork on time, this could delay this process.

Also, when calculating job costs, make sure you include any allowances for electrical work that may be provided by the general contractor such as a lighting allowance or owner-supplied materials.

VOIDING A WIRING CERTIFICATE

We are all humans and mistakes happen, so if you end up duplicating a wiring certificate; or the customer cancelled the job; or someone else took over the project; please DO NOT enter remarks in either the comments section or the job description area of your wiring certificate. We are requesting that you either call us or send us an e-mail to rectify the situation. Our inspectors don't always see the comments until they are at the job site only to find out that they didn't need to be there due to one of the reasons stated above.

Please be as specific as possible on why you are voiding a certificate. Also, please make sure you did not do any work. For example, if you set the temporary, but didn't wire the house because another contractor is doing it, we CANNOT void the wiring certificate. We take voiding certificates very seriously and may conduct some research in case the inspector and/or power company also question it.

ATTENTION APPRENTICES

If you haven't renewed your registration for 2022, be sure to go online to www.ndseb.com ASAP to complete the renewal process.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Any work experience obtained "in North Dakota" while unregistered will not count towards a Journeyman license. For example, if your registration expires January 31, 2022, any work experience obtained in North Dakota from February 1, 2022 until the date you are properly registered will not count towards experience needed to take the Journeyman exam.

ANNUAL LICENSE RENEWALS

Licensed electricians must renew their license every year and online renewal begins January 1, 2022 on our website, under Licensing, Electrician's License Renewal. ND Laws, Rules & Wiring Standards 24.1- 03-01-01(5) states: Effective November 1, 2020, annual renewals must be submitted electronically through the board's website. Journeyman licenses will expire on March 31, 2022. Master, Class B and Power Limited Electrician licenses will expire on April 30, 2022.

A Word from the Director of Inspections

Happy New Year! I hope everyone is doing well after the holiday season.

I was looking thru some old correction reports and noticed we had quite a few corrections dealing with luminaires and many different installations. I thought this might be a good thing to talk about. When you look at NEC 410, there are several things to consider before you install a light fixture.

- Is the light fixture listed? According to ND Wiring Standards 24.1-06-01 -10 "All wiring material and equipment shall be listed by a nationally recognized testing laboratory to safeguard life and property." So the homemade antler light fixture the homeowner wants you to install probably cannot be installed. Also

look at NEC 410.7 for reconditioned equipment.

- Read NEC 410.2 to get the definition of a clothes closet, then go to NEC 410.16 and look at the requirements for luminaires in clothes closets. We have had a lot of discussion about this code and what is a completely enclosed light source so please read the product data sheets before you install a fixture you shouldn't.
- New in 2020 is NEC 410.10(D) = Bathtub and shower areas. Again, this has been a topic of discussion at our inspector meeting and until we actually see what is installed, it is hard to answer specific questions about a light fixture over the phone.
- NEC 410.12 is the requirement for luminaires over combustible material and my thought is if you have even a slight concern about where a fixture is installed, it is probably wrong. Please call your local inspector and have a conversation or request a rough-in inspection so it can be resolved before it is an issue.
- The last article in 410 I want to talk about is NEC 410.62: Cord-Connected Lampholders and Luminaires. Please read this before you install a bunch of lights with cord and end up with a messy correction. There are requirements that need to be in place before you can use cord so just because this is in the NEC, it does not mean it can be done for every installation.

Another code that comes up often when talking about luminaires installed in agricultural buildings is NEC 547.8. We have seen many installations in horse riding arenas and indoor stalls where a correction report could have been avoided by a phone call or a requested rough-in inspection.

These are just a few of the NEC articles that mention luminaires but these seem to come up most often. Again, please call us or your local inspector anytime and they can talk through your situation and avoid unwanted corrections.

Thanks, and have a great 2022.

Doug Grinde

A postcard reminder will be mailed out to all active Journeyman the first week of February, 2022 and active Master, Class B and Power Limited Electricians the first week of March, 2022.

In order to renew your license online, you must have eight hours (four of which must be code-related) of continuing education credits available. Please refer to the set of numbers in front of your name label on the postcard. These numbers represent code and non-code hours that the board has recorded as available. (Example: 4/4 = 4 code and 4 non-code). If you are in need of continuing education hours, visit our website under Continuing Education, Approved Courses for a list of courses that are approved by our board. ☺

Making A Connection: District 2 Inspector Rich Krause

An inspector with the NDSEB for 14 years, Rich Krause grew up in the southeastern part of North Dakota and attended high school in Verona. He worked for various electrical contractors in the Fargo area and also had his own business for a short time before starting at the NDSEB.

Rich and his wife Brandi recently celebrated their 20th anniversary. They have two children: a freshman in college and an 8th grader.

What projects are you currently working on? *A new nursing home in Napoleon.*

What is your favorite part of your job? *Meeting and working with the electricians in my district.*

Do you have a favorite memory or experience while working for the NDSEB? *My favorite part of working for the Board is the fellow employees. Getting together at our inspector meetings and sharing the stories.*

Did you or do you have a mentor or a person that inspired you? *My electronics instructor in high school, Norm Stahlecker. He was the person who really peaked my interest in electricity and how it worked.*

What are your hobbies? *Camping and fishing.*

The best thing about North Dakota is . . . ? *The people and the summers.*

What do you like on your pizza? *Everything.*

What's your favorite TV show? *The Boys on Amazon Prime.*

The best movie of all time is . . . ? *Saving Private Ryan ☺*

