



Ensuring Public Safety Since 1917

# Connections

## NDSEB 2026 CONTINUING EDUCATION CLASSES

Registration for all our NDSEB continuing education classes is open on our website and if you want to reserve a seat you can sign up now before the classes fill up. Our class this year is titled “Analysis of Changes – 2026 NEC” where we will discuss the changes to the 2026 edition of the NEC. The 2026 NEC will be adopted in ND on July 1, 2026, so it’s important to learn what’s changing. 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 “2026 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 to find the one closest to you that fits with your schedule. We have been following the same rotation of classes for several years, starting in May and holding two classes each month through January. The first classes of the year 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, so register early to ensure your seat.

There are many other opportunities available throughout the year to attend continuing education classes through other providers, both traditional classroom style events and 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 pre-approved by the NDSEB for the hours to count toward ND license renewal. A list is available on our website showing 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”. It is your responsibility to be sure you have enough continuing education credits to renew your license, so 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 verification in another jurisdiction. If you are required to submit your certificate to another state be sure to make a copy and keep the original.

## A Message From the Executive Director:



**Hello, everyone!**

I hope everyone is doing well!

The NDSEB wants to welcome our newest employee, Wolfe Clark. Wolfe was hired as the newly created Director of Elevator Inspections. He has been a master elevator mechanic for years and we want to welcome him aboard! Having Wolfe on board, we are developing the information and the process for our office to conduct conveyance inspections and the licensing of elevator mechanics/companies.

As I said in the past newsletters, our office has been working to hire an elevator expert for the board staff as during the last legislative session the passage of Senate Bill 2336 for the electrical board to start inspecting the operation of passenger conveyance equipment which includes passenger elevators, dumb waiters, escalators, freight elevators and other equipment of this nature. These inspections will begin August 1, 2026. There will be more to come as we move forward with this statutory requirement for our office.

On June 11<sup>th</sup>, I testified to the

Legislative Administrative Rules Committee to review our proposed administrative rules proposals. The committee approved our proposals as submitted and became law July 1, 2026. This means our ND Laws Rules and Wiring Standards are being updated (copies will be mailed out to license holders) which includes the adoption of the 2026 National Electrical Code. We are working on updating the exams to include 2026 NEC code questions and will be implementing the new tests early this fall.

Also, for you electricians, the board has been approved through state procurement and NDITD to purchase a new program solution to replace our existing “Reporting System” which is the program that tracks licensees, inspections and wiring certificates. This solution is developed by Intuitive Municipal Solutions (IMS). This is the same system Minnesota uses. There will be a lot of changes happening in our office with more to come through our newsletter and postings on our website.

The education committee has been working on reviewing and auditing the apprenticeship providers’ programs. Bismarck State College has been

approved by the board for their 2-year electrical AAS degree program. Now the board office recognizes two electrical degree programs for ND based colleges; ND State College of Science and Bismarck State College.

Again, if you have questions about any of these new happenings with our office, give me a call or send an email.

Website: [www.ndseb.com](http://www.ndseb.com)  
Email: [electric@nd.gov](mailto:electric@nd.gov)  
Mail to: ND State Electrical Board  
PO BOX 7335  
Bismarck, ND 58507-7335

I hope you are looking forward to a great summer! 😊

I wish you enough,  
James Schmidt

## **WIRING IN HAZARDOUS LOCATIONS**

Hazardous locations is an important subject that deserves more time for research to classify the area of work prior to installing and completing a project.

One technique is explosion-proofing with pressurized enclosures; simply put, the enclosure is designed to stop all external air and gases from entering the enclosure by maintaining a protective gas in the enclosure at a pressure above the external atmosphere but here are the 2 more common options.

### **Intrinsically safe and explosion-proof equipment**

The difference between intrinsically safe and explosion-proof is as easy as this; PREVENTION VERSUS CONTAINMENT. Both methods have more to do with what is inside the device or equipment rather than the area outside of the equipment.

**Intrinsically safe devices** are often encapsulated in resin, and they are designed to be incapable of generating the heat or sparks necessary to set off an explosion. This usually allows you to install your devices in a hazardous location without requiring explosion proof boxes.

**Explosion-proof equipment** is designed to contain sparks and explosions within the device or enclosure. All connections must be made in explosion-proof junction boxes and conduit systems, and all devices and equipment need to be listed for the area. NEC 500.7 is a good place to start before your next project.

It's about safety no matter what wiring method you choose.

## **NDSEB LAUNCHES ELEVATOR INSPECTION PROGRAM**

North Dakota is taking an important step forward in public safety with the implementation of a statewide elevator inspection program. The program will provide consistent oversight of elevators, escalators, wheelchair lifts, and other conveyance systems throughout the state. Leading the program is Wolfe Clark, Director of Elevator Inspections, who will oversee inspection activities, compliance efforts, and coordination with building owners and industry professionals.

The inspection program will utilize the latest adopted safety standards, including ASME A17.1-2019, Safety Code for Elevators and Escalators, and ASME A18.1-2023, Safety Standard for Platform Lifts and Stairway Chairlifts. These codes establish updated requirements for installation, maintenance, testing, and operation to help ensure safe and reliable equipment for the public.

As the program begins August 1<sup>st</sup>, contractors are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the new requirements for registering as a contractor, permitting process and registration for mechanics and apprentices and are encouraged to work closely with inspectors to maintain compliance and promote safe conveyance systems across North Dakota.

## **NEWS & NOTES FROM NDSEB**

### **Applications/Forms**

All applications or forms posted on our website have recently been updated. Please visit our website, [www.ndseb.com](http://www.ndseb.com), Forms to verify you have the most recent version of the document you are submitting to our office.

All applications/forms posted on our website are form fillable. The information provided on any document submitted to our office is input into our system and using the form fillable feature ensures that we have legible and accurate information. Make certain you are either digitally or physically signing the form and not just typing your name when a signature is required. We also ask that you take the time to proofread any application/form to verify all required fields are completed. Submitting an incomplete document to our office will only delay the process.

If you have any questions while filling out a form from our website, please email us at [electric@nd.gov](mailto:electric@nd.gov) or call our office.

### **Felonies**

When filling out an apprentice registration application, reciprocal application, or exam application, please make sure to fill out the felony question completely and list all felonies. Providing as much information about the felony will make the application process go smoother.

Here is some of the information we are looking for. What is the felony and what led to the conviction of the felony? When did the conviction happen? If you had to serve time and for how long? Are you on probation and for how long? Court documents can also be provided.

## **CHARLES SCHANTZ, DISTRICT 13 INSPECTOR**



I'm originally from Hebron, ND where I grew up on a farm with 6 brothers and sisters. After graduating from High School, I went to college at NDSCS and took classes in electrical technology. This is where I met my wife who I have been with for 20 years and we are raising three boys. Before becoming an Electrical Inspector, I was working for Denny's Electric Inc. where I spent a great deal of my time out in the oilfield troubleshooting and hooking up equipment.

**What is your favorite part of your job?** Being able to always accomplish, learn, and experience new things. When the job gets boring, there is always something else that can make it new again if you're willing to work for it.

**What projects are you currently working on?** Remodeling the back entryway of our house.

**What are your hobbies?** I enjoy spending time fishing and golfing.

**The best thing about North Dakota is...?** This is where my family and friends are, I love the rolling hills and open plains, and even though there are a lot of cool places I've been to, I always love coming right back home to ND.

**What would be a dream vacation?** Right now, I would settle for a whole day of doing absolutely nothing.

**What do you like on your pizza?** Pepperoni, Canadian Bacon, Sausage, and Jalapeno.

**ND STATE ELECTRICAL BOARD  
PO BOX 7335, BISMARCK, ND 58507  
701-328-9522 ELECTRIC@ND.GOV**