

Board of Electricity
Agenda
Tuesday, October 25, 2016 – 9:00 a.m.
Minnesota Room – Department of Labor and Industry
443 Lafayette Road North, St. Paul, MN 55155

- I. Call to Order – Chair Karow**
 - a. Call Roll – Secretary Novotny
 - b. Announcements

- II. Approval of Meeting Agenda**

- III. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes**
 - a. July 12, 2016

- IV. Regular Business**
 - a. Expense Approval
 - 1. Approve per diem and expenses
 - b. Enforcement
 - c. E-Licensing – Update

- V. Special Business**
 - a. 2016 NERA annual meeting update – Sam Sampson (Attachment A)
 - b. 2017 NEC Adoption

- VI. Committee Reports**

- VII. Complaints**

- VIII. Open Forum**

- IX. Board Discussion**

- X. Announcements**

Next regularly scheduled meetings will be held at 9:00 a.m. in the Minnesota Room at DLI

 - a. January 10, 2017
 - b. April 11, 2017
 - c. July 11, 2017
 - d. October 10, 2017

- XI. Adjournment**

Some members may participate by telephone. If so, members of the public may also monitor the meeting electronically by telephone. Please contact Lori Herzog at lori.herzog@state.mn.us or 651-284-5336.

**NERA 2016 Annual Meeting
The Inn on Lake Superior
Duluth, MN**

August 9-10, 2016

August 9, 2016

2016 Chair - Sam Sampson called the meeting to order at 7:45 a.m.

The following states were present and represented by:

Name	State	Name	State
Ron Baker	Arkansas	Ed Bergstraesser	Nebraska
Charles Covington	Arkansas	Dean Sotirakopoulos	New Hampshire
Robert Brandt	Colorado	J. Kelly Hunt	New Mexico
Heather Carr	Idaho	James Schmidt	North Dakota
Brian Young	Iowa	Ashley Windhorst	North Dakota
Brian McDougal	Maine	Joe Hutmacher	Oklahoma
Steve Dudley	Minnesota	J.J. Linn	South Dakota
Sam Sampson	Minnesota	Jerry Daniel	Texas
John Williamson	Minnesota	Larry Reichle	Texas
John Gordon	Montana	Bradley Stevens	Utah
Jason Steffins	Montana	Rob Forister	Wyoming
Kevin Booker	Nebraska	Jon Vosters	Wyoming

Guests present:

Name	Representing	Name	Representing
Jeff Sargent	NFPA	Gary Thaden	NECA
Joy Staab	Wisconsin	Sophie Thaden	NECA
Jeff Keljik	MEA		

Recognition of 2016 annual meeting sponsors: Minnesota Electrical Association; National Electrical Contractors Association; Minnesota Department of Labor & Industry; IBEW; and Minnesota Chapter IAEI.

The 2015 annual meeting minutes were reviewed. Motioned by Jerry Daniel and seconded by Kelly Hunt to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

The 2016 teleconference meeting minutes were reviewed. Motioned by Jason Steffins and seconded by J.J. Linn to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

Jeff Sargent, NFPA Regional Electrical Code Specialist gave a report from NFPA. The three (3) year revision cycle of the National Electrical Code has been in place since the early 1950's. The remaining

2017 NEC revision schedule has been set. August 24, 2016 it will be effective and ready for adoption. Revision information can be found at www.nfpa.org/70. The following are the five (5) new articles in the 2017 NEC:

- Article 425 – Fixed Resistance and Electrode Industrial Process Heating Equipment
- Article 691 – Large-Scale Photovoltaic (PV) Electric Power Production Facility
- Article 706 – Energy Storage Systems
- Article 710 – Stand-Alone Systems
- Article 712 – Direct Current Microgrids

Additional change highlights were reviewed. Visit www.electricalcodecoalition.org to view a map of which NEC is in effect per state.

Jerry Daniel led a discussion on a National Exam Development Committee. After much discussion it was determined by the group that perhaps a National Question Bank vs. a National Exam would be the first step to take.

At 9:30 a.m., the group recessed for a short break.

At 9:50 a.m., the group reconvened.

The group discussed who currently administers each state's exams, the results are as follows:

State	Exam Administer	State	Exam Administer
Montana	PSI	Nebraska	Nebraska
South Dakota	Pearson (ICC Bank)	New Mexico	PSI (PSI Bank)
Texas	PSI	Maine	PROV (PROV Bank)
Colorado	Pearson	Iowa	PSI (PSI Bank)
Utah	PSI	North Dakota	North Dakota
Oklahoma	PSI	Wyoming	Pearson (ICC Bank)
New Hampshire	Pearson (ICC Bank)	Minnesota	Minnesota
Arkansas	PROV (PROV Bank)	Idaho	Idaho

Further discussion was had about a National Question Bank vs. a National Exam.

At: 11:45 a.m., the group recessed for lunch.

At 1:15 p.m., the group reconvened.

Sam Sampson introduced presenter Ed Lethert who did a presentation on Electrical Shock Drowning.

Jerry Daniel continued discussion about a National Journeyman Exam. JJ Linn will work on a plan for compiling question banks to create a NERA database of exam questions.

At 2:45 p.m., the group recessed for a short break.

At 3:00 p.m., the group reconvened.

Kelly Hunt and Brad Stevens discussed administering exams prior to the minimum 8,000 hour requirement is met. In New Mexico, an apprentice can test in their 4th year with 7,000 hours, they are given a letter that they passed; however, they won't get their Journeyman Certificate until they complete the 8,000 hours requirement. Montana is the same as New Mexico; they can test but don't get their Journeyman License until the 8,000 hours are complete. In Utah, after they complete their 4th year of apprenticeship they can test, license is issued after 8,000 hours are completed.

Kevin Booker and Jon Vosters discussed ethical use of the reciprocal licensing system and use of the reciprocal verification system to confirm acceptable work experience credit. The group discussed letting individuals re-reciprocate licenses vs. having to take an exam if they want a license again. The group discussed using the online verification system vs. completing paper forms for applicants. Nebraska is going to start putting in the remarks field what experience the individual had to qualify for their license. Discussion was had on whether or not states issue the same license number when a license is reinstated or reissued.

Member states legislation and rule updates:

Arkansas – As of last July the ratio is now 3:1. They've had trouble with LED lighting retrofits being completed at night by unlicensed individuals. They're also experiencing budget shortfalls which may lead them to being down to zero inspectors.

Colorado – The PDU's and competency exams are no longer being used. They are now requiring 24 CEU hours every 3 years. They're looking for input from other states on how courses/classes are monitored and approved. Experiencing issues with "tiny homes"; looking for input on how others classify them, etc. The Board is also asking for the reciprocal agreements to be redone/updated.

Idaho – Effective July 2016, residential only ratio is now 3:1 and the 3rd apprentice must be a 3rd or 4th year apprentice. CE Broker is used for monitoring CEUs. Providers and licensees need to register and login to input/upload courses.

Iowa – Currently working with Vertiva and Salesforce for new software that will allow them to have one system for licensing and permitting/inspecting. It was proposed in legislation that apprentices be allowed to work on the job unsupervised. Plastic ID cards have been used for licensing for the last 8 years they will now be paper self-laminated cards. Iowa requires 18 hours CEUs every 3 years.

Maine – Currently seeing an increase in reciprocity licensing. Donna Fairfield is the new Board Clerk. A request for legislation was submitted for better language in statutes and rules. Maine is now using PROV for exams. They are down to 3 exceptions to the code and are hoping to be at zero in the future. Currently for online renewals there's a checkbox for having completed 15 CEU hours. Random audits are conducted requiring the licensee to send in proof of CEUs. The random audit will be done at the time of renewal next year, about 5% are audited. The licenses are now sent by email and renewal reminders are no longer sent. The ratio is on 2:1 if enrolled or have completed an apprenticeship program, if not then the ratio of 1:1 stands.

Minnesota – There are two legislative sessions. Minnesota Mining Industry has resisted licensing and inspections claiming MSHA exemption; however, now they are trying to get legislation to grant their time for licensing. All CEU courses are reviewed prior to approval; providers have 14 days to enter

attendees into the state's system after the course. Registered unlicensed individuals need 2 CEU hours each year. If individuals are audited and haven't completed CEUs there's a \$1,000 fine. The Board of Electricity is in the process of adopting the 2017 NEC with a July 1 2017 effective date.

Motioned by Jason Steffins and seconded by Sam Sampson to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

August 10, 2016

2016 Chair - Sam Sampson called the meeting to order at 7:50 a.m.

The group discussed letting someone reciprocate a Master license down to a Journeyman even if they let their prior reciprocal Master license expire.

Member states legislation and rule updates (continued):

Montana – The Building Codes and Building Codes Council adopt the codes, the Electrical Board has no say if they choose to skip a code. "Active Supervision" is in legislation for the Montana Boards.

Nebraska – They currently have 12,661 active electricians. Discussed state inspectors assisting in city and local jurisdictions as needed. They will be conducting random audits on permits/certificates in the local jurisdictions.

New Hampshire – They are now part of the "Technical Division" with 18 other Boards. They have a second amendment to the NEC for AFCI protection on medical. As of January 1, 2017 licensees will need 15 CEU hours completed within 1 year (by December 31, 2017). Currently working on a new software program, it will allow the licensee to upload a photo at license renewal which will print on the IDs. 2017 NEC will be adopted January 1, 2018.

New Mexico – July 1, 2017 projected code adoption date. Every code cycle the new code has been adopted on time. The Electrical Bureau certifies electrical inspectors. Low Voltage up to 5kv must have a Journeyman or Master. Ratio 1:1 on publicly funded projects; commercial 2:1; and Residential 3:1.

North Dakota – In the process of reorganizing the Laws, Rules, and Wiring Standards, also working on low-voltage licensing, and a new software program for licensing, permits, and inspections. All CEU providers and instructors need approval. The licensees are required to provide CEU completion certificates prior to renewing. Currently have 14 state inspectors and 4 city inspectors who meet every other month. Currently working on cleaning up work which was left behind by contractors from work done during the oil boom. Projected code adoption date September 1, 2017.

Oklahoma – Adopted the 2014 NEC on November 1, 2015. As of right now the committee is talking about skipping the 2017 NEC code and waiting for the 2020. Require 6 CEU hours for renewal and all CEU courses need approval. Ratio of 2:1, been a push at various times to move to 3:1, so far that hasn't happened. IBEW has 1:1 ratio.

South Dakota – Adopting 2017 code with amendment – removing the word “machinery” from equipment definition. Send out “no rough-in” letters if rough-ins are not completed. Discussion on how states handle military experience. They send packets to home inspectors letting them know what the inspection stickers mean, etc. Home inspectors are licensed thru Home Builders Association.

At: 9:45 a.m., the group recessed for a short break and group photo.

At 10:05 a.m., the group reconvened.

Texas – The electrical program is in no danger of being cut. Municipalities have inspectors, most major cities having inspections, but about 20% of Texas has nothing. They can charge up to \$5,000 per day per violation. State currently does not regulate ratios; however, the cities have individual ratios ranging from 1:1 to 1:5 etc. Passing exam score was lowered to 70 from 75. They do not regulate who presents CEU courses; licensees need 4 hours. They will adopt the 2017 NEC September 1, 2017.

Utah – ICC or IAEI certifies the electrical inspectors. They have an investigation division that checks ratios, licensing, etc. Currently have 3:1 ratio in residential and 1:1 ratio for commercial and industrial. The exam is three (3) parts which includes, code, theory and a practical exam; need a 75% to pass. Reciprocal applicants will now need to take the practical exam prior to licensure. 2014 NEC was adopted July 1, 2016. Hope to adopt the 2017 NEC July 2017.

Wyoming – The Electrical Safety Division is under the State Fire Marshall. State inspectors need to be a Master Electrician and also certified by IAEI or ICC. Adopt the new code July 1, every three (3) years by rule. Military experience is handled on a case by case basis. Require 16 hours of CEUs every three (3) years.

Motioned by Jerry Daniel and seconded by Brad Stevens to accept Wisconsin into the NERA group. Motion carried.

State of New Hampshire will host the 2017 meeting.

State of Idaho will host the 2018 meeting.

State of Utah will host 2019 meeting.

State of Texas will host 2020 meeting.

Sam Sampson asked for nominations for Secretary. The group decided to continue with North Dakota as the NERA secretary.

Motioned by Brian McDougal and seconded by Dean Sotirakopoulos to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

At 11:40 a.m., the meeting adjourned.