2022 NERA Meeting

The National Electrical Reciprocal Alliance (NERA) meeting was held in person for the first time in three years. The meeting was hosted by Texas and held in Bandera Texas on September 27 and 28, with Jerry Daniels as the Chair. NERA consists of 17 member States with a mission to encourage similar regulations, without lessening the regulations of each member State, but trying to maintain some level of consistency in order to promote reciprocal agreements with States that have similar requirements.

10 States were represented at this meeting:

1. Alaska
2. Arkansas
3. Iowa
4. Minnesota
5. Montana
6. Nebraska
7. North Dakota
8. Texas
9. Wisconsin
10. Wyoming

Topics discussed consisted of:

- NERA exam bank of questions and the difficulties with maintaining it for all States. This was discussion only, there are no plans to implement this any time soon.
  - Not all States adopt the same edition of the NEC at the same time
  - Many States have amendments to the NEC which could pose difficulties with creating questions that would pertain to all member States without compromising the integrity of the exam
  - Who would maintain ownership of the questions, possibly a professional proctor, and who would it be? This could be an issue with States that proctor their own exams.
  - How to make sure the exams are not compromised in any member state
- The average age of an electrician in the US is now approximately 58 yrs. with only 13% under the age of 35. Some States are entertaining more outreach to High Schools, and possibly working with schools to start a course that could be recognized as some of the education requirements for States that have the education component as a requirement to examine for a license.
- All attending States have a 70% pass rate for the journeyworkers exam, except Nebraska which is 75%
- 5 of the 10 States require the successful completion of an approved 2-year electrical course, or 576 hours of education along with the 8000 hours of experience to qualify to examine for the journeyworkers license
- Red Tape Relief update. Certain States are entertaining licensing compacts (Minnesota has been looking into a Nursing compact with other States) for open reciprocity with many, or all other States. One way some States are pushing this is through the Red Tape Relief Initiative. From the States involved, they are required by legislation to go through all Laws, Statutes, Rules and
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compare them with other States. They must be able to justify them, or they must be removed. According to those involved with this, or have gone through this, by removing more restrictive regulations makes it easier to justify reciprocity with any State license.

- NERA is working on bringing more States into the alliance that comply with the NERA bylaws in order to strengthen the alliance and help prevent open reciprocity with anyone, or national licensing which could eliminate States from independently regulating their States according to the needs of those who live and work in there. By bringing in more States into NERA does not mean we need to reciprocate with them. Reciprocity is completely in the hands of the Board. (See map for States NERA is looking to reach out to)

Once again it was my pleasure to proudly represent Minnesota at this year’s NERA meeting.