

Meeting Minutes: Board of Electricity

Date: October 9, 2018
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Location: Minnesota Room, Department of Labor and Industry
443 Lafayette Road North, St. Paul, MN 55155

Members Present:

David Curtis
Alfreda Daniels
Cole Funseth
Derrick Givens
Duane Hendricks – Sec.
Chad Kurdi
Peter Lindahl
Scott Novotny – Vice Chair
Daniel Westberg – Chair
John Williamson
Weston Wilson

Members Absent:

Michael Hanson

DLI Staff & Visitors:

Jeff Lebowski (DLI)
Lyndy Logan (DLI)
John Williamson (DLI)
Dean Hunter (DLI)
Steve Dudley (DLI)
Neil Furman (DLI)
Todd Green (DLI)
Michelle Dreier (MEA)
Jamie Quenter (MEA)
Gary Thaden (NECA)
Andy Snope (IBEW)
Russ Ernst (MNESTA)
Adam Hanson (ABC)
Jack Klempke (Comm)

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chair Westberg. Roll call was taken by Secretary Hendricks and a quorum was declared with 10 of 12 voting members present.

2. Approval of Meeting Agenda

A motion was made by Lindahl, seconded by Givens, to approve the agenda as presented. The vote was unanimous with 10 votes in favor of the motion; the motion carried.

Alfreda Daniels joined the meeting resulting in 11 voting members present in person.

3. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

A motion was made by Wilson, seconded by Givens, to approve the July 10, 2018, meeting minutes as presented. The vote was unanimous with 11 votes in favor of the motion; the motion carried.

4. Regular Business

- a. **Expense Approval** – reviewed and approved the per diem and expenses.
- b. **Enforcement & licensing update** – no update

c. Inspections update

- Williamson said there are currently 76 contract inspectors across the state. Luke Nemeth started on July 25, 2018 in District 4. The Electrical area representative map can be found on the department’s website at: <https://www.dli.mn.gov/business/electrical-contractors/electrical-inspector-directories>
- Williamson said if the Board plans to adopt the 2020 NEC then the Board will need to adopt at the January 2019 meeting.
- Steve Dudley, contract electrical inspector for the department, summarized the annual NERA meeting he attended – **See Attachment A.**

5. Special Business

6. Committee Reports

- Construction Codes Advisory Council – has not met. No report.

7. Complaints

No complaints brought forth

8. Open Forum

None

9. Board Discussion

- Reciprocity – no information at this time.

10. Announcements

Next regularly scheduled meetings – 9:00 a.m. Minnesota Room, DLI

- a. January 8, 2019
- b. April 9, 2019
- c. July 9, 2019
- d. October 8, 2019

11. Adjournment

A motion was made by Lindahl, seconded by Givens, to adjourn the meeting. The vote was unanimous with 11 votes in favor of the motion; the motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Duane Hendricks

Duane Hendricks
Secretary

NERA 2018 Eagle Idaho

(National Electrical Reciprocal Alliance)

Meeting was called to order on August 14 at 8:00 am at the Water's Edge Event Center in Eagle Idaho with representatives from 16 of the 17 member states in attendance. Wisconsin has dropped out, and New Mexico was not represented. Warren Wing, Idaho Electrical Program Manager, was the chair for this meeting.

- Guest speakers were:
 - Jeff Sargent, National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)
 - STI Firestop
 - International Accreditation Services (IAS)
 - CE Broker
- Discussion on how NERA states have licensed individuals faster in emergency situations
 - Colorado is allowed to issue "emergency work permit"
 - Montana & North Dakota, once the Governor issues a state of emergency, they are allowed to examine without proof of experience
 - Idaho, utility workers were quickly educated and allowed to work both sides of the service point
- Interstate compact proposed by South Dakota Governor (Minnesota was not asked to participate). This compact was to allow licensed individuals from neighboring states to reciprocate for 90 days without obtaining a license in the reciprocal state. This was not just for tradespersons, it was for all licensees. This compact did not gain traction during the last session, but there is still interest in support of this. Colorado has already voted it down, and it went nowhere in Wyoming, however, Montana Governor has given Jason Steffins, Executive Officer Montana Labor and Industry, and NREA rep, the task of gathering licensing information for every state in the country in order to perform a comparison. South Dakota and Montana believe the compact will be proposed in the future, but they believe it will not impact the electrical licensing as hard as other licenses since both states have electrical reciprocity already.
- NERA Exam Bank of Questions. After the discussion on the NERA exam, it was agreed that an exam bank of questions may work for every state. It was decided that all member states would submit questions and there would be 1,500 questions that would be vetted by NERA representatives. A comity was formed with Jerry Daniel from Texas as the chair, and all members will be a part of the comity. Some issues to overcome:
 - Code adoption
 - Which version of the NEC has each state adopted
 - Amendments
 - How many banks will be needed
- **Alaska**
 - 4,000 Journeyworkers
 - 1:2 ratio
 - Huge downturn in construction
 - 10-15% drop in journeyworker exams and unlicensed individuals entering the field

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(National Electrical Reciprocal Alliance)

- Dropped the required apprenticeship course completion to qualify to examine
- Administer their own exams but are looking for a professional proctor in order to allow individuals to examine in other states for their license
- Down to 2 electrical inspectors for the state
- **Arkansas**
 - 3,307 Journeyworkers
 - 1:3 ratio
 - Exams are administered by Provexam
 - Unlicensed individuals are required to complete an apprenticeship course with a minimum of 576 hours, and 8,000 hours experience in order to examine for the Journeyworker license
 - 4 state inspectors with 50 certified licensed inspectors (master with 4 years' experience)
 - Legislative changes: fines for late fees, extended temporary license for military
 - Legislative proposals: reduction of licenses of all types
- **Colorado**
 - 4,600 Journeyworkers
 - 1:3 ratio state, municipalities can change to 1:1 ratio
 - Exams are administered by PearsonVUE
 - Construction is up, can't find enough electricians
 - Unlicensed individuals need 288 hours of related classroom training along with 8,000 hours experience to qualify to examine for the Journeyworker license
 - 29 state inspectors with 3 supervisors
 - Solar installers are not required to be licensed
 - A bill to eliminate licensing was stopped before it could reach congress
- **Idaho**
 - 5,011 Journeyworkers
 - 1:2 ratio or 1:3 under certain conditions
 - Exams are administered by the state
 - Unlicensed individuals are required to have 576 hours of education and 8,000 experience hours in order to examine for the Journeyworker license, or 16,000 experience hours without education
 - 36 state inspectors
 - Trying to create an electrical installers category
 - Trying to mandate unlicensed individual to register yearly along with CEU requirements for the ones not attending school. Current registration must be renewed every 5 years
- **Iowa**
 - 6,407 Journeyworkers
 - 1:3 ratio
 - Work has slowed, inspections are down
 - Exams are administered by PSI
 - Unlicensed individuals are required to have 576 hours of education and 8,000 experience hours in order to examine for the Journeyworker license, or 16,000 experience hours without education

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- 20 state inspectors
- No changes to licensing or inspections
- **Maine**
 - 2,007 Journeyworkers
 - 1:1 ratio for helpers. 1:2 if a helper obtains a Helper Education (HPE) license
 - Unlicensed individuals must have either an apprentice license or a helper license
 - Exams are administered by Provexam
 - Unlicensed individuals are required to have 576 hours of education and 8,000 experience hours in order to examine for the Journeyworker license. They are allowed to examine sooner, but don't receive a license until they complete the 8,000 hours
 - 5 state inspectors
 - No changes to licensing or inspections
- **Montana**
 - 2,469 Journeyworkers
 - 1:2 Ratio
 - Construction is up, many people moving into Montana and many large houses being constructed, one 500,000 square foot house
 - No license required for 90 volts or less, permit is still required
 - Exams are administered by PSI
 - 20 state inspectors
 - Unlicensed individuals are required to have 576 hours of education and 8,000 experience hours in order to examine for the Journeyworker license
 - An exemption was added allowing for an owner to perform their own electrical work on their own off grid solar arrays, but licensing is still required for solar arrays that are tied to the utility
- **Nebraska**
 - 3,553 Journeyworkers
 - 1:3 ratio
 - Costco is both in the planning stages and construction of 500 chicken barns
 - Master and contractor license are one in the same
 - Exams are administered by the state
 - 15 state inspectors
 - Unlicensed individuals are required to have 8,000 experience hours to examine for the Journeyworker license
 - There is a proposal to try to redefine agricultural buildings to exempt electrical inspection and to raise the ratio to 1:5
- **New Hampshire**
 - 3,603 Journeyworkers
 - 1:2 ratio for up to 6 licensed individuals on the job, after that its 1:1
 - 52% of all licensees are over 50 years old
 - Criminal background checks are required. They receive 10 – 15 individuals who have felonies on their record each month
 - Exams are administered by Provexam

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- 4 state inspectors. They conduct random inspections only. Inspectors must have a master license for at least 5 years
- Unlicensed individuals are required to have 600 hours of education and 8,000 experience hours in order to examine for the Journeyworker license
- Looking to implement Power limited technician (PLT) license
- **North Dakota**
 - 3,358 Journeyworkers
 - 1:3 ratio
 - Oil fields have ramped up construction somewhat
 - Exams are administered by the state
 - 11 state inspectors and 4 municipal inspectors
 - Unlicensed individuals are required to have 576 hours of education and 8,000 hours to examine for the Journeyworker license
 - Looking to implement PLT licensing
- **Oklahoma**
 - 5,621 Journeyworkers
 - 1:2 Ratio
 - Federal background checks are conducted for individuals who work on nurse call and security systems
 - Exams are administered by PSI
 - 6 state inspectors
 - Unlicensed individuals are required to have 8,000 experience hours to examine for the Journeyworker license
 - Possibly changing the ratio to 1:3
- **South Dakota**
 - 1,505 Journeyworkers
 - No ratio
 - Construction is up in the large cities, but is very slow in the rural areas
 - Exams are administered by ICC
 - 16 state inspectors
 - Unlicensed individuals are required to have 16 hours of education and 8,000 experience hours in order to examine for the Journeyworker license
 - Tried to implement a ratio but it was shot down by congress
- **Texas**
 - 39,198 Journeyworkers
 - No ratio for the state. Cities have a 1:3 or 1:5 ratio
 - Construction is up, they are very busy. Not enough electricians
 - Implementing electrical training in high schools and allowing them to start accumulating hours
 - Licensing requirements for everyone, including apprentices
 - Exams are administered by PSI but Texas owns the questions

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- Criminal background checks are conducted. Revoked 138 licenses. If an individual becomes incarcerated they lose their license. All convictions of a felony or misdemeanor must be reported within 10 days.
- Unlicensed individuals are required to have 8,000 experience hours to examine for the Journeyworker license
- 2 state inspectors. Conduct 30+ inspections per year.
- Industrial Journeyworker license was created
- Implemented a new 2 part exam (NEC and calculations) which dropped the pass rate for the master to 9%. The Journeyworker license stayed at 40%
- **Utah**
 - 4,197 Journeyworkers
 - 1:1 ratio on commercial work and 1:3 on residential
 - Exams are administered by PSI
 - Exams consist of: code, theory, and hands on/practical
 - 665 inspectors. Inspections are performed by local jurisdictions
 - Unlicensed individuals are required to have 576 hours of education and 8,000 hours to examine for the Journeyworker license. They are allowed to examine after 6,000 but are not able to receive a license until they complete 8,000 hours, or they can complete 16,000 hours of experience without school
 - There is a proposal to change the ratio for commercial work to 1:2. Utah is also looking to join South Dakota in the licensing compact.
- **Wyoming**
 - 3,800 Journeyworkers
 - 1:2 Ratio
 - Exams are administered by ICC and PearsonVue
 - 9 state inspectors
 - Unlicensed individuals are required to have 576 hours of education and 8,000 hours to examine for the Journeyworker license.
 - No changes to licensing and inspections
- The meeting closed with a discussion on why Wisconsin left NERA, it may be due to a personnel change. Iowa, who is reciprocal with Wisconsin, is going to reach out to them. We also discussed how to bring more states into NERA.
- Utah will host the 2019 meeting
- Texas will host the 2020 meeting
- Colorado will host the 2021 meeting (tentative)