

NECA North Florida Chapter CONNECTION

In an effort to keep Members up to date with what is happening at the local and National levels, the North Florida Chapter of NECA will be periodically issuing a newsletter throughout 2018. In anticipation of future editions, here is a brief look back on 2017 and some of the things you may have missed.

National Recognitions

Miller Electric Receives NECA Project Excellence Award

NECA has recently finished developing the "Project Excellence Award." This new award recognizes Electrical Contractors who display outstanding commitment, professionalism, and ingenuity in electrical work across eleven distinct categories. This year, a North Florida NECA member was recognized in the category of Healthcare under \$1 million. Congratulations to Brian Seay of Miller Electric for his division's work on Baptist Emergency at Town Center.



Daniel Brown accepts the award

Ron Cogburn Inducted Into The Academy of Electrical Contractors

October 7th at the NECA National Convention's Opening Session, Ron Cogburn was inducted into the Academy of Electrical Contractors. Established October of 1968, fellows of the Academy are individuals whose services to the electrical contracting industry are so exceptional

as to be deserving of the highest honor and recognition. The purpose of the Academy is to honor outstanding leaders in the electrical contracting field and to preserve the wealth of experience and ability they have developed through their years of dedicated effort and utilize it for the benefit of the construction industry.

Fellows of the Academy must have rendered exceptional service to their industry, and that service is continued and enhanced through membership in the Academy. An important responsibility for members of the Academy is participation in long-range studies to ascertain future requirements for the electrical contracting industry. Congratulations, Ron, on this prestigious recognition.



2017 Academy Inductees

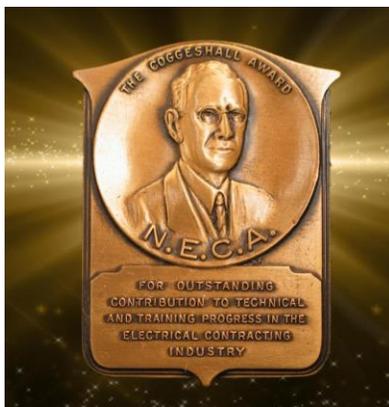
Ron Cogburn Wins Coggeshall Award



Ron Cogburn and President Hardt

Established in 1956 as a result of a bequest to the Association by Allan Coggeshall, this award honors a member of the Association who is adjudged to have made an outstanding contribution to the progress of the industry in the Technical and Training Service field. The following excerpt was featured in the August 2017 edition of EC Mag:

"Ron Cogburn was selected for his innovative approach and outstanding dedication to the industry. As owner and CEO of Cogburn Bros. Electric, Cogburn has been at the forefront of helping mold the next generation of journeymen and apprentices. Under his leadership, the company has supported apprenticeship through its commitment to the JATC for over 20 years. His emphasis on developing a firm and thorough knowledge base in the National Electrical Code throughout his entire company has helped it become one of the largest and most profitable electrical contractors in the area.



The Coggeshall Award

Known for being a forward thinker when it comes to business, Cogburn developed a unique vision that inspired him to invest extra time on the front end of tasks and stay ahead of the curve by learning new methods and technologies. Through his influence on local boards and committees and regular attendance at NECA meetings, he led his colleagues to pursue the latest updates to code, turning the area's electricians and companies into an elite group of professionals.

Cogburn's considerable reach has continued to grow over the years. He consistently inspires his employees to develop a passion of their own for training, and that culture has moved many of them to pursue decision making roles in future editions of the code while imparting their knowledge to future generations of the industry."

Membership Meetings

Quarter 1: Flexible Overhead - Jake Smithwick

Jake Smithwick, PhD, MPA, is an Assistant Professor in the School of Civil Engineering Technology and Construction Management at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Mr. Smithwick is a 2016 Early Career Award Winner for ELECTRI.

Early Career Award applications must focus on an issue of significance to the electrical construction industry such as:

- pilot studies on key issues facing the electrical construction industry
- development of electrical construction course materials
- innovative activities designed to advance the electrical construction industry

In January, the North Florida Chapter hosted Mr. Smithwick who provided members with information from his most recent research supported by ELECTRI International: "Flexible Overhead: Agile Strategies that Increase Electrical Contractor Profitability."

Quarter 2: 2017 NEC Code Updates - Danny Van Sickle

The Training Director of the Jacksonville Training Alliance, Daniel Van Sickle, provided our Members with a first look at the updates to the newly released 2017 NEC Code.

Safety - Wes Wheeler

Wes Wheeler, Safety Director with NECA National, joined the North Florida Chapter to offer updates to the Membership on new initiatives NECA National has been working on to enhance the Member experience, as well as directives the Organization has taken on safety protocol, code updates, and providing resources for those in charge of safety in the field.

Quarter 3: Labor Updates

In our Fall meeting, Business Managers Alan Jones (Jacksonville), Matt Meadows (Gainesville) and Dan Hunt (Daytona) joined us at the Halifax Plantation to give us their insights on manpower in their respective areas. In anticipation of increased work in the area, the Daytona Union Hall has added a full-time organizer to their staff and is working with the IBEW on implementing a new Organizing Program.

Quarter 4: Annual Christmas Gathering at Autobahn Raceway

This year's Annual Christmas Membership Meeting was held at Autobahn Raceway. North Florida Members from each local came together to attend the event. Everyone enjoyed some great food, many races were held, and things got competitive, but everyone walked out a winner. Thank you again to Milwaukee Tools, Graybar, and Southwire for sponsoring a fantastic event!



Flying down the speedway at Autobahn!

Community Outreach

Dreams Come True

This year the North Florida Chapter of NECA worked with Dreams Come True and NECA National as well as Congressman John Rutherford to help fulfill a child's dream to bowl in the White House. NECA helped set up tours of the White House and Pentagon as well as a meet and greet with a three-star General.



Hunger Fight

Members of the North Florida Chapter of NECA support the idea that a strong business leader displays a deep commitment not only to the Industry in which they involve themselves with, but also to the community in which they operate. For the second year in a row, we have worked in conjunction with the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and RENEW to provide meals to those in need in the North Florida area through participation in Hunger Fight. This year, our team helped provide 2,000 meals for 500 families. The event produced 469,728 meals in total for families in Northeast Florida.



Preparing meals for Florida families in need

Children's Home Society of Florida

As Industry Partners, we paired with IBEW Locals 177, 756, and 1205 and Electrical Training Alliances in our area to provide full Thanksgiving meals to nearly 100 families in North Florida, almost doubling our initial goal. Thank you to all the members who helped support this program. This initiative benefited the Children's Home Society of Florida.



Thanksgiving dinners packed up and ready to go!

Legislative Update

North Florida NECA members from companies such as Mardant Electrical and Cogburn Bros., joined by members of the local Jacksonville Master's Electricians Association, met with Senator Aubrey Gibson in Jacksonville to discuss licensing in the State of Florida. North Florida Director, Katie Enkiri, carried those conversations through to Tallahassee and met with additional members of the House and Senate on several issues.

North Florida Governor, Ed Witt Jr., visited with Congressmen Rutherford, Congresswoman Ros-Lehtinen, Office of Senator Rubio, Senator Nelson, Congressman Mast, and Congressman Lawson in Washington, DC during the 2017 Legislative Conference to discuss industry issues such as bi-partisan support on infrastructure investment, the passing of a \$1 Trillion Investment Initiative, to repeal the 40% excise tax on "Cadillac" health plans, and to oppose limitations on the use of project labor agreements.

Capital Alliance Group

The North Florida Chapter's lobbyist team, Capital Alliance Group, has been tracking many bills this year, including:

- SB 160 Relating to Minimum Wage: Revising the formula for the adjusted state minimum wage, etc.
- SB 190/HB 241 Relating to Low-voltage Electric Fences: Providing requirements for a low-voltage electric fence to be permitted as a low-voltage alarm system project, etc.
- SB/1372 HB 227 Relating to Electrical and Alarm System Contracting: Specifies that provisions regulating electrical & alarm system contractors do not prevent such contractors from acting as prime contractor or from subcontracting work to other licensed contractors under certain circumstances.
- SB 276/HB 2715 Relating to State Work Opportunity Tax Credit: Providing an additional credit against the corporate income tax, beginning on a specified date and under certain circumstances, for businesses hiring certain persons convicted of a felony, etc.
- SB 1582 Relating to Workers' Compensation Insurance: Requiring carriers to authorize or decline, rather than respond to, certain requests for authorization within a specified time; revising conditions under which the Office of the Judges of Compensation Claims must dismiss petitions for benefits; adding prospective loss costs to a list of reviewable matters in certain proceedings by appellate courts; requiring copies of prospective loss costs to be filed with the Office of Insurance Regulation, etc.
- SB 410/HB 0319 Relating to Discrimination in Labor and Employment: Creates "Helen Gordon Davis Fair Pay Protection Act"; revises provisions prohibiting discrimination on basis of sex to include discrimination on basis of gender identity; prohibits employer from providing less favorable employment opportunities to employee based on sex or gender identity; provides exceptions; specifies civil penalties; revises applicability; prohibits employer from taking certain employment actions against employees; prohibits employer from engaging in certain activities relating to employee wages & benefits or requiring employee to sign certain waivers.
- HB 0389 Relating to Building Safety: Revising provisions requiring installation of carbon monoxide detectors in certain buildings.
- SB 7000 Relating to Florida Building Commission: Requiring the commission to use the most recent published edition of the Florida Building Code as the foundation code; requiring the commission to review, rather than update, the Florida Building Code every years; deleting a provision that specifies how long amendments or modifications to the foundation code remain effective, etc.
- SB 1292/HB 11 Relating to Labor Organizations: Revises required information to be included in application for renewal of registration of employee organization; provides for revocation of certification under certain conditions; requires certain employee organizations to re-certify as certified bargaining agents; provides non-applicability with respect to employee organizations that represent or seek to represent certain employees.
- SB 534/HB 599 Relating to Public Works Projects: Prohibiting the state and political subdivisions that contract for public works projects from imposing restrictive conditions on certain contractors, subcontractors, or material suppliers or carriers; prohibiting the state and political subdivisions from restricting qualified bidders from submitting bids or being awarded contracts, etc.
- SB 836/HB 561 Relating to Preference in Hiring Veterans: Authorizes corporate income tax credit for private employers hiring certain veterans/spouses of veterans; provides limitation; requires DOR to adopt rules & establish requirements.
- SB 860/HB 909 Relating to Building Code Administrators and Inspectors: Creating an internship path to certification as an inspector or plans examiner; requiring the board to authorize specified candidates for certification as building code inspectors or plans examiners to perform duties during a specified period after initial application, to apply for a 1-year provisional certificate under certain circumstances, and to apply for standard certification within a certain time before completing the internship period, etc.
- HB 2713 Relating to Building Code Enforcement Training Program: Provides an appropriation for the Building Code Enforcement Training Program.
- HB 2717 Relating to Construction Industry Workforce Task Force: Provides an appropriation for the Construction Industry Workforce Task Force
- HB 711 Relating to Pre-apprenticeship and Apprenticeship Programs

- HB 299 Relating to Florida Building Commission

NECAPAC

In 2016 the Chapter set a goal of raising \$6,000 and having 50% participation in NECAPAC for the 2017 Legislative year. PLC Chairman and North Florida Chapter's Governor, Ed Witt Jr., is proud to announce that we have met our participation goal and raised \$27,000 to support our efforts in Washington. We hope to continue these efforts in 2018!

What's New From National

Introducing NECA Network

Recognizing the value of networking and providing educational opportunities to its membership, the National Electrical Contractors Association has launched NECA Network, a new online tool that allows users to engage with each other and share critical industry information and best practices in real time. This new tool is a powerful resource for the more than 15,000 individuals affiliated with NECA's approximately 4,500 member companies around the country. NECA Network automatically enrolls all NECA members today.

"Peer-to-peer networking is something our membership has been asking for, and I am excited we could deliver that to them," NECA CEO John M. Grau said. "NECA is opening up another way for electrical contractors to communicate and, as a result, make the industry even stronger."

In addition to talking with their peers, NECA members are able to participate in discussions with subject matter experts, access a library of resources, and post images, videos and documents to share with others. NECA Network access is tied to NECA membership. Members can join communities, update individual profiles, and manage the frequency of community notifications. Visit network.necanet.org to learn more and take part in the conversation.

Introducing NECA Learning Center

The NECA Learning Center is an educational portal aimed at making access to professional development more convenient for companies. The Learning Center provides a new way for companies to manage training and offers easy access to employees training records.

The initial launch focused on Project Management. Project Management is broken into 10 sections, including Leadership and Communication, Technical Skills, Cost Control, and Productivity. Each of these categories are further broken up into subcategories, creating a total of over 50 courses that will be available to NECA Members.

At the 2017 Convention and Trade Show, the first 3 classes in the series were released and "The Role of the Project Manager," "Introduction to Change Orders," and "Introduction to Preplanning" are now available free to all Members. Since then, 7 additional classes have been put into development and are set to be released to the Membership before year's end. These courses can be completed at: necanet.org/professional-development. We encourage all members to check back in the first quarter of 2018 to find additional courses.

Education

Local Electrical Training Alliance Updates

Gainesville: The Gainesville Electrical Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee has had a wonderful 2017. All of our registered apprentices are currently employed as well as a great number of our applicants, who are currently employed as construction wiremen/construction electricians, gaining the experience and expertise required to become the best of the best electricians in our industry.

Our annual graduation ceremony took place on Saturday, May 13, 2017 at our IBEW LOCAL 1205 union hall. We celebrated the accomplishments of our 8 graduating apprentices that are now some of the finest journeymen wiremen in the electrical industry. Our graduation ceremony this year was dedicated to Mr. Larry Cogburn, President of Cogburn Bros Electric. Inc. and we were extremely pleased to have Mrs. Katie Enkiri, Executive Director of the North Florida Chapter of NECA, as our guest speaker.

In 2017 we accepted a total of thirty 1st year apprentices with a lot of recruitment emphasis on our local high school career fairs and local community outreach programs.

On September 21, 2017 we hosted the Ideal National Championship Event qualifying round that all of our apprentices were able to compete in for their chance to advance to the Championship Weekend event on November 10-11, 2017 in Lake Buena Vista, FL.

Our Instructors and Administrative Staff are looking forward to another great year for continued success and growth in 2018.

Daytona: The Electrical Training Alliance of Daytona Beach has had a successful 2017 and we are looking forward to an even more successful 2018. Our Graduates walked across the Graduation stage on May 15, 2017 with other Graduates at Daytona State College. We are very proud of our Graduates and celebrated with their Families and Friends at a Celebratory Luncheon hosted by Giles Electric Company at the Ocean Center in Daytona Beach prior to the Ceremony.

An Ideal Championship Qualifying event has held at IBEW Local 756 Union Hall on August 16, 2017 with many apprentices participating. The best time posted for the completion was recorded by Jesse Manis, a 4th Year Apprentice. We are very proud of Jesse and all of our participants and are looking forward to next year's competition.

In August of 2017, the Electrical Training Alliance of Daytona Beach Indentured 30 apprentices with over 90 Applicants to choose from. There were some very hard choices made by our Committee. The Electrical Training Alliance of Daytona Beach is confident the 2018 will continue to elevate our program to new heights.

Jacksonville: Our annual graduation ceremony took place on Saturday, May 19, 2017 at the Prime Osborn Convention Center, located in downtown Jacksonville, Florida. We celebrated the many accomplishments of our 21 graduating apprentices that are now some of the finest journeymen wiremen in the electrical industry.

In 2017, we accepted a total of 60 first year apprentices into our program, 15 of which are in the Hybrid Program. We have put a tremendous emphasis on recruitment this year and as such have participated in several local high school career fairs and local community outreach programs to highlight the many benefits of our program.

We have also launched a Pre-Apprenticeship program at Baker County High School. This program is the first of its kind in our area and gives students an opportunity to advance into the 2nd year of Apprenticeship upon graduation from high school and successful completion of the Pre-Apprenticeship program.

In July 2017, James Nolan assumed the role of Apprenticeship Coordinator and Daniel Van Sickle assumed the role of Apprenticeship Director.

North Florida to Offer Continuing Education

The North Florida Chapter of NECA's Board of Directors recognizes the need for continuing education for Electrical Contracting Licenses. Beginning in mid-2018, the North Florida Chapter will begin holding educational sessions. The following courses will be available:

- OSHA 10/30
- FASA/BASA
- Workers' Compensation
- Workplace Safety
- Florida Laws and Rules
- Business Practice: Grievance Handling
- False Alarm Protection
- Changes to NFPA 70, NEC 2011

- National Electrical Installation Standards

- NEC Article 100

National Meetings

Labor Relations

President Scott Sullivan attended the 2017 Labor Relations Conference in Minneapolis where he heard strategies from Keynote speakers Alex Willis on Innovative Leadership Strategies, and Negotiations expert Ed Brodow. Other speakers included Larry Bradley with the Family Medical Care Plan, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers President Lonnie Stephens, and Geary Higgins and Chuck Kelly with updates on the field of Labor Relations.

NECA Now

Several Member companies were in attendance at NECA Now. NECA Now is an Executive Leadership Institute with presentations by top business experts. Sessions cover a variety of current topics, including business development, operations, financing, and personal development. Members are able to network with Electrical Contracting Professionals from across the country in similar positions facing similar industry issues. Speakers included James Benham and Jonah Berger on personal and professional development, John Cruickshank and Santiago Jaramillo on workforce development, Steven Horst and Laramie Sandquist on utilizing changing technologies, and many more!

NTI

Apprenticeship Committee Chairmen Tim Hinson and Chad Walker attended the 2017 National Electrical Training Institute where Ross Mullins of the Jacksonville Electrical Training Alliance was named Apprentice of the Year.

The National Training Institute hosts VOLT Academy, an exclusive year-long leadership training for seminar. Completing training throughout 2016 and 2017 in multiple cities, Robbie Thomas and David Byrd graduated VOLT Academy at NTI. Beginning their work, Zach Edwards and Randy Hardin began training at the conference.

NECA Convention

NECA hosts the largest and strongest annual electrical construction event in North America. The three day trade show is supported by the industry's most comprehensive education program, including pre-convention workshops, management education, and technical workshops. Close to 300 manufacturers and distributors participate each year to showcase thousands of products and offer solutions for challenging issues faced by electrical contractors. This past year, the National Convention was held in Seattle, Washington.

Labor Relations Update

Farewell, Russell Harper

In July, the Business Manager of Local 177 in Jacksonville, Russell Harper, retired after 15 years of service in this position. Several members of the Chapter attended in support of the many years of service he dedicated to the Local and to the partnership between NECA and the IBEW. IBEW President, Lonnie Stephens, and AFL-CIO President, Mike Williams, were just a few of the speakers who paid tribute to Mr. Harper's career. Mr. Harper is succeeded by new Business Manager Alan Jones.



David Long Attended IBEW 5th District Progress Meeting

Vice President David Long attended the IBEW 5th District Progress Meeting. He spoke to the IBEW membership on the changing market place and the support Electrical Contracting companies need to flourish and gain market in this growing economy, thus enabling the contractor to provide more job opportunities for IBEW brothers and sisters.

Congratulations, David Long!

Since 2014, David Long has served as the District Vice President of District 3. After countless hours of additional travel and meeting with scores of Contractors across our district to push forward initiatives that our area needs to flourish, he has completed his term. The North Florida Chapter would like to thank Mr. Long for his 4 years of tireless service.



Mr. Long speaking at the Closing Ceremony of the 2017 NECA Convention in Seattle



President Hardt and President-Elect Long at the Closing Ceremony

Now, Mr. Long will not be stepping back, but rather continuing to propel forward. In October, it was announced that he had been voted in as the new President of the National Electrical Contractors Association. The North Florida Chapter is proud to have one of its own Members representing the needs of the Industry. Congratulations, David, and we look forward to the incredible things you are sure to accomplish in your tenure as President.

Looking Forward to 2018

The North Florida Chapter of NECA has elected Henry Brown of Miller Electric Company, a former Director on the Board, as Chapter President. President Scott Sullivan will remain on the Board of Directors. We sincerely thank him for his time serving as President of the North Florida Chapter of NECA. Other changes to the Board of Directors include the addition of Brent Zimmerman of Miller Electric Company as a new Director to the Board. He will be replacing David Long of Miller Electric Company who has completed his term as the District Vice President and has accepted the role of President of the National Electrical Contractors Association. Congratulations to Mr. Long on this prestigious opportunity. We look forward to more exciting news in 2018!



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