

The logo features the NECA logo on the left, which includes a stylized American flag with stars and stripes. To the right of the NECA logo, the text "North Florida Chapter" is written in a white serif font. Below this, the word "CONNECTION" is written in a large, bold, white sans-serif font. The entire logo is set against a dark blue background with a glowing circuit board pattern.

NECA North Florida Chapter CONNECTION

Board of Directors

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North Florida Chapter NECA Third Quarter Membership Meeting

We invite you to join us for our upcoming third quarter North Florida Chapter NECA Membership Meeting on **Wednesday, August 26th, 2026, from 11:30 am - 1:00 pm.**

This meeting will feature a special introduction of newly appointed Training Directors and Business Managers from across our IBEW jurisdictions. This is a unique opportunity to meet the leaders who will help shape the future of our workforce, hear about their vision and priorities, and ask questions in real time about training, workforce development, labor relations, and the future of our industry.

In addition, World Electric Supply will present an informative session on Digital Job Centers, showcasing how this innovative technology can streamline material management, improve jobsite efficiency, reduce downtime, and help contractors better manage inventory throughout the lifecycle of a project.

Lunch will be provided.

Date:

**Wednesday, Aug 26, 2026
11:30 am - 1:00 pm**

Location:

**North Florida Chapter NECA Office
4951-A Richard St. Jacksonville, FL 32207
Upstairs Training Room**

Save The Date: Upcoming Education Sessions

August 11th, 2026, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

AI for Project Managers 101: Practical Foundations

Instructor: Chris Carr, President & CEO, Farotech

[**RSVP Here!**](#)

October 21st, 2026, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Understanding the National and Local VDV Agreement

Instructor: Katie Enkiri

October 22, 2026, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Understanding the Davis-Bacon Act (Virtual-Only)

Instructor: Benjamin Briggs, Partner, Adams & Reese Law

November 12th, 2026, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Understanding Your CBA for Project Managers

Instructor: Katie Enkiri

NECA National & ELECTRI International Webinar Series

Seven Points of Clarity: An AI Blueprint for the Construction Industry Virtual Classroom Series

This seven-part NECA Education and ELECTRI virtual series helps construction leaders understand where AI fits and how to manage it responsibly. Each session focuses on what's working today, what's worth paying attention to, and how to apply AI in ways that actually support people, projects, and operations.



1. Construction AI Roundtable - February 5, 2026 | 3PM ET

This candid roundtable cuts through the hype surrounding AI in construction. Industry experts and early adopters share what's actually working today, where risks and liabilities need attention, and what's realistically ready for contractors to adopt.

Participants will leave with a grounded understanding of how AI can support their business now and how to avoid costly distractions.

2. Everyday AI: Practical Prompting for Real Work – March 5, 2026 | 3PM ET

AI delivers value only when people know how to use it well. This session equips contractors with practical prompting techniques they can apply immediately in both field and office settings. Learn how to get consistent, useful outputs from AI for emails, RFIs, submittals, SOPs, and other everyday workflows without purchasing new software.

3. How to Define and Manage AI Initiatives – April 2, 2026 | 3PM ET

Most AI efforts fail due to unclear goals and poor scoping. This session provides a simple, six-step framework for selecting the right AI initiatives, managing vendors, and defining success. Leaders will gain the tools to evaluate ROI, establish governance, and move forward with confidence instead of experimentation.

4. Boring AI: Automating Repetitive Tasks – May 7, 2026 | 3PM ET

Not all AI needs to be flashy to deliver results. This session focuses on practical, off-the-shelf automation that eliminates repetitive administrative work and delivers immediate labor savings. Through real-world examples, participants will learn how to pilot and scale “boring” AI solutions that quietly generate measurable ROI.

5. Confidence: From Vibe to Value – Coding Faster Than Copy/Paste – June 4th, 2026 | 3PM ET

AI-assisted development is changing how contractors build internal tools. This session explores how lightweight scripts, calculators, and jobsite utilities can be created quickly using AI often by non-developers. Learn when small, purpose-built tools outperform full platforms and how to keep them reliable and maintainable.

6. Data Models Demystified: Beyond the LLM Hype – August 6, 2026 | 3PM ET

AI cannot scale without structured data. This session breaks down data models, taxonomies, and structured information in plain contractor language. Participants will see how better data foundations improve estimating, prefab, QA/QC, and closeout and prevent costly fragmentation as AI adoption grows.

7. The Effort Equation: How Involved Should You Be? – September 10, 2026 | 3PM ET

AI success requires the right level of involvement—not burnout. This closing session offers a realistic look at the effort behind AI adoption, helping leaders decide what to own, what to delegate, and how to pace implementation. Participants will leave with clarity on how to adopt AI sustainably while aligning resources and expectations.

This series is being offered by NECA National through the NECA Learning Center. Each individual session is \$50 for NECA Members, or \$300 to register for the full series. [Click here](#) to register for this series.

Registration is Now Open!

NECA Small Contractors Business Development Summit & 2026 NECA Convention Las Vegas



Join the North Florida Chapter of NECA for a two-day summit designed specifically for small electrical contractors looking to strengthen their business operations, improve financial performance, and gain practical insights from industry experts. This interactive event combines education, peer networking, and real-world strategies you can immediately apply to your business.

Over the course of two days, attendees will participate in a series of focused sessions covering critical areas of business management and growth for electrical contractors. Topics include financial planning, banking and surety relationships, tax strategies, fraud prevention, job costing, and navigating today's regulatory environment.

Sessions are structured to be highly interactive, allowing contractors to share experiences, ask questions, and walk away with actionable solutions tailored to their business challenges.

*Did we mention that this summit is **FREE** for North Florida Chapter NECA Members?*

Event Details:

Dates: August 28 – 29, 2026



Registration is now open for the [2026 NECA Convention & Trade Show](#), taking place October 4–7, 2026, in Las Vegas, Nevada. As NECA celebrates its 125th Anniversary, this year's convention promises an exciting lineup of industry-leading education, a dynamic trade show floor featuring the latest products and technologies, and valuable networking opportunities with contractors and partners from across the country.

This annual gathering brings together contractors, industry leaders, and innovators from across the country for several days of high-impact education, networking, and access to cutting-edge products and technologies. Attendees can expect dynamic keynote speakers, tailored breakout sessions, and a bustling trade show floor showcasing the latest advancements shaping the future of the industry. Early registration ensures the best access to hotel accommodations, special events, and discounted rates, so don't miss your opportunity to be part of it.

Members are encouraged to register early to secure their spot and take full advantage of everything the event has to offer. For assistance with registration and housing, please feel free to reach out to our office directly. We are happy to assist

Location: Hyatt Regency Jacksonville
Riverfront, 225 E Coastline Dr,
Jacksonville, FL 32202

[Click here to register](#), or [visit our website](#)
[for more information.](#)

with the registration process and secure
your housing accommodations.

North Florida Chapter NECA Partners with Hunger Fight for the Annual Bed Race

The North Florida Chapter NECA is proud to partner with **Hunger Fight** as a sponsor of this year's **Hunger Fight Bed Race**, a fun-filled community event that raises awareness and support for childhood hunger and illiteracy. This exciting competition brings teams together to design, decorate, and race custom-built beds while raising funds for an incredible cause. In addition to the races, teams compete for awards including Fastest Bed, Best Decorated Bed/Costumes, and Most Money Raised, making it an unforgettable day of teamwork, creativity, and community spirit.



The event will take place on **Saturday, August 15**, rain or shine, at Alfred duPont Place, with the Bed Parade beginning at **8:00 a.m.** and races kicking off at **9:00 a.m.** Teams consist of eight members and are encouraged to choose a fun theme, decorate their race bed, and enjoy a day of friendly competition while supporting Hunger Fight's mission.

We encourage our members, partners, and industry friends to get involved by [sponsoring a team](#), entering a team of your own, or helping raise funds for Hunger Fight's mission. Whether you're racing for bragging rights or simply supporting a great cause, your participation helps make a meaningful impact in our community. For sponsorship opportunities or to register a team, contact Hunger Fight at deanp@hungerfight.org or (904) 923-3243.

Safety Talk

A.I. Enhances Efficiency and Safety on Construction Sites

As demonstrated at Conexpo-Con/Agg this year, [A.I. safety systems can prevent accidents](#) on construction sites when excavators and loaders use 360-degree cameras, radar and A.I. to detect workers entering the immediate danger zone, then automatically stopping the machine.

Camera systems, such as a smart around view monitor (SAVM) and a human detection system (HDS), use a network of six high-resolution cameras placed at the front, rear and sides of the equipment and radar sensors to provide a 360-degree view of the machine's surroundings capable of differentiating between obstacles and people.

"The most advanced systems use upgraded sensors and [artificial intelligence](#) to detect people on a job site," said Brian Kim, heavy excavator product manager at Develon, Suwanee, Ga. "Unlike traditional sensors that might trigger an alarm for a stationary object like a trench box or a concrete barrier, the HDS is designed to specifically identify human shapes and movement."

In addition to eliminating blind spots, systems such as Develon's can help operators "see through" the bucket on a wheel loader with a virtual transparent bucket. Forward-facing cameras mounted on the front axle and high on the cab deliver a view of what's directly in front of a raised bucket on the in-cab monitor.

Virtual walls add an extra layer of protection that can be critical in noisy or crowded environments. Operators can set digital boundaries for the machine's boom, arm and bucket. The E-Stop function can automatically stop swing and travel movement outside of those boundaries.

"By establishing these digital zones, operators can prevent the excavator from striking overhead power lines or encroaching on traffic lanes," said Kim. "These digital guardrails allow the operator to focus on the dig with higher accuracy and less strain, as the machine prevents the boom from swinging into restricted areas."

With construction projects becoming increasingly complex and generating skads of data, and with growing pressure to build faster, safer and with fewer resources, [visual intelligence](#) powered by spatial [A.I. can improve efficiency](#). These systems understand location, sequence and relationships between

building elements and can recognize materials, associate images with 3D building information models and floor plans, and track progress.

Further, they can create a visual history of the project, pinning each image to the correct location, comparing progress, and indicating where work is advancing, stalling, or deviating from the plan. On large, complex projects, teams are identifying productivity issues as early as 10% completion instead of 50%.

Machine intelligence already increases uptime, improves operator comfort and accuracy, and provides reminders for preventive maintenance that can reduce downtime and prolong machine life. Jay Patel, product manager at Develon, predicts the next frontier in site safety and efficiency will be smart attachments equipped with built-in sensors that can communicate directly with the machine to track usage and wear in real time and provide maintenance alerts.

[Article by Lori Lovely on Electrical Contractor Magazine.com](#)

JATC Apprenticeship Reports

Jacksonville JATC

To the members of the North Florida Chapter of N.E.C.A.

July wrapped up interviews for the Fall class that begins with an Orientation on September 9th at the Double Tree Downtown. We had a total on 916 Inside Applications, 122 VDV Applications for a total of 1,038 applications received. 349 of these applicants were interviewed. 110 were accepted into the Inside Program and 8 into the VDV Program.

ETA of Jacksonville sent nine instructors, one Trustee and Keith Bryan the 2026 Outstanding Apprentice to the National Training Institute in Ann Arbor, Michigan. We are proud to announce that Chris Medina graduated the National Training Institute's I Course last week. The I Course is a four year instructor training course that builds upon the previous years learning objectives in the development of skilled instructors. Courses such as Principles of Learning, Elements of Trade Teaching, Introduction to Instructional Technology, Discussion Methods, Designing Developing and Delivering Instruction and Creating an Active Training Environment are just a few of the courses our instructors receive during the four year course. There are many technical courses such as Fiber Optics, Rigging and Hoisting, Motor Controls and Fire Alarm available with the emphasis on classroom instruction. If you see Chris Medina please give him a congratulations for this tremendous accomplishment.

If you know anyone who may be interested in beginning a career in the electrical trade, please have them visit our website at www.etajax.org to begin the application process. Deadline for the January 2027 class is November 5th.

As always, I am here to answer any questions you may have. Feel free to contact me if I can help with anything. On behalf of the Trustees of the Apprenticeship Committee, thank you for your continuing support.

*Daniel Van Sickle
Apprenticeship and Training Director*

*Daniel McEachern
Training Coordinator*

*Joshua Spears
Assistant Training Director*

ELECTRI Research Report

Built to Sell: Building a More Valuable Electrical Contracting Company

This practical guidebook helps electrical contractors build stronger, more valuable companies that can grow beyond the owner. Based on interviews with business buyers, investment bankers, ESOP specialists, transaction advisors, and contractors who have successfully navigated ownership transitions, it reveals the proven practices that increase business value while improving everyday performance. Learn how to strengthen your financials, leadership, project controls, processes, customer base, recurring revenue, and company culture to create a more profitable, scalable, and resilient business.

Whether your goal is long-term ownership, succession, an ESOP, or an eventual sale, this guide provides the roadmap to build a company that gives you more options—and greater value.

[Click here to access the full report.](#)

In Case You Missed It...

- [AI for Project Managers 101 RSVP](#)
- [North Florida Chapter NECA Third Quarter Membership Meeting RSVP](#)
- [Wildfire Smoke Guidance for Employers](#)
- [NECA's Officer & Overhead Personnel Compensation Survey](#)
- [NECA Small Contractors Business Development Summit RSVP](#)

Looking Forward

- **August 11th, 2026:** *AI Training for Project Managers*
- **August 26th, 2026:** *Membership Meeting*
- **August 28 - 29, 2026:** *Small Contractors Business Development Summit*
- **October 21st, 2026:** *Understanding the National and Local VDV Agreement Class*
- **October 22nd, 2026:** *Understanding the Davis-Bacon Act Class (Virtual Only)*
- **November 12th, 2026:** *Understanding Your CBA for Project Managers Class*
- **December 4th, 2026:** *Membership Meeting & Holiday Party*

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