

The logo features the NECA logo on the left, which includes a stylized wave and three stars above the letters. 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 complex, glowing circuit board pattern in a lighter blue color.

NECA North Florida Chapter CONNECTION

Board of Directors

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Membership Meeting

North Florida Chapter NECA's second quarter membership meeting will take place on **Tuesday, April 15th, at 11:30 a.m.** at the North Florida NECA office, in the upstairs training room.

This meeting will include an interactive panel of a few of our vendors to discuss current supply chain issues with our members, followed by a legislative update by Capitol Alliance Group.

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

Upcoming Education Courses

Introduction to AI in the Electrical Contracting Industry

This class is all about helping electrical contractors get comfortable with using AI in their day-to-day work. We'll focus on practical ways to make business operations smoother, improve communication, and boost efficiency. Contractors will learn the basics of working with large language models (LLMs) to tackle challenges specific to our industry, find better solutions, and get real results. With hands-on activities and real-world examples, contractors should leave this workshop with clear, actionable ideas to start using AI in their business right away.

This class is intended for ALL roles within your company! We encourage our members to bring their admins, PMs, and anyone else who feel they would benefit from learning about how to get comfortable integrating AI into their work.

[RSVP Here!](#)

Tuesday, April 22nd, 2025

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

North Florida NECA Office: 4951 Richard St. Jacksonville, FL 32207

Upstairs Training Room

Governor DeSantis Appoints Six to the Electrical Contractors Licensing Board

August 16 2024

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.— Today, Governor Ron DeSantis announced the appointment of Douglas Bassett, Rafael Echarri, Robert Lombardo, Kevin McElroy, Donald Smith Jr., and Clarence Tibbs to the Electrical Contractors Licensing Board.

Douglas Bassett

Bassett is the Executive Director and Head of Licensing and Compliance at Comcast Xfinity Home. He currently serves as a National Company Director for the Electronic Security Association and serves on their Government Relations Committee, Bylaws Committee, and Fire Life Safety Committee. Bassett earned his Firefighter and Emergency Medical Technician Certification from Seminole State College of Florida.

Rafael Echarri

Echarri is the President of R & D Electric, Inc. He previously served as a member of the Engineering Contractor's Association. With over 20 years of experience in the electrical contracting industry, Echarri earned his bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from Florida International University.

Robert Lombardo

Lombardo is the President of Lombardo Brokerage Services. Active in his community, he currently serves as President of the Rotary Club of Bonita Springs and is a member of the Bonita Springs Planning Commission. A veteran of the United States Navy, Lombardo earned his bachelor's degree from Central Connecticut State College.

Kevin D. McElroy III

McElroy is the President and Lead Electrician of Performance One Electrical Services. He has over 28 years of experience as an electrician and an electrical contractor. McElroy is a graduate of the Florida Electrical Apprenticeship and Training Program at Mid Florida Technical College.

Donald Smith Jr.

Smith is the Chief Commercial Officer of Miller Electric Company. Active in his community, he is a member of the American Heart Association Heart Ball Executive Committee, the River Club of Jacksonville Board of Directors, the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce Board of Trustees, and the Florida Chamber of Commerce Board of Governors. Smith attended Florida State College at Jacksonville.

Clarence Tibbs

Tibbs is the President of S.T.E. Electrical Systems, Inc and Contractor for HW Automation. Previously, he served as a member of the Lake County Home Builders Association. Tibbs has over 50 years of experience in the electrical field and 35 years of experience as an electrical contractor.

These appointments are subject to confirmation by the Florida Senate.

North Florida Chapter NECA would like to send a huge congratulations to **Donnie Smith of Miller Electric Company** for being appointed to the ECLB! We are excited to see a member of the North Florida Chapter NECA sitting on the ECLB.

Codes and Standards Report

Electrical Room Basics - Over 1,000 Volts

How the National Electrical Code (NEC) addresses the differences.

There is a misconception that all electrical rooms are covered in 110.26 of [NFPA 70®, National Electrical Code® \(NEC®\)](#).

Now, what about an electrical room and equipment over 1,000 volts, nominal? Does 110.26 still apply to that working space within the electrical room? The answer would be no, because 110.26 is in Part II of Article 110, which covers installations under 1,000 volts, nominal.

The applicable part of 110 is Part III: Over 1,000 Volts, Nominal. Specifically, 110.32, Work Space about Equipment; 110.33, Entrance to Enclosures and Access to Working Space; and 110.34, Work Space and Guarding. Coincidentally, these sections have some similarities to 110.26, such as requiring:

- Height for working space of 6.5 feet, measured from floor or platform
- Working space not to be used for storage
- 90-degree opening of equipment doors or hinged panels
- Equipment doors not to impede entrance to and egress from the working space
- Grade, floor, or platform to be as level as practical for the entirety of the working space
- 24-inch wide by 6.5-foot high entrance to and egress from the working space

As you can see, the NEC correlates sections with one another when it makes sense. There are, however, a few differences among these sections, one of which is the width of the working space.

Section 110.26(A)(2) allows a minimum width of 30 inches for working space, while 110.32 allows a minimum width of 36 inches for that same space. Another difference is the depth of the working space. Table 110.26(A) has varying depths from 3 to 5 feet, while Table 110.34(A) has depths ranging from 3 to 12 feet. All these distances are dependent on the specific condition and nominal voltage to ground.

So, for example, for a high-voltage switchgear operating at 13,200 volts to ground, with grounded parts on the opposite side, the depth of working space would be 6 feet, measured from the front of the enclosure or exposed live parts. You will notice that higher voltages and higher hazard conditions require a greater depth of working space for worker safety.

Section 110.27 covers the guarding of live parts under 1,000 volts, which could be considered a locked electrical room. For voltages over 1,000 volts, nominal, 110.31, Enclosures for Electrical Installations, would address the electrical room or enclosure for those installations. Some methods of enclosure could be:

- An electrical vault
- Electrical room or closet
- A specific area surrounded by a wall, screen, or fence

These methods are designed and constructed according to the nature and degree of hazard associated with the installation. Additional protective measures are required for installations involving walls, screens, or fences that are used to deter access by unqualified persons. These measures may include additional height or barbed wire. These requirements are different from those found in 110.26 and 110.27.

Typically, the electrical room or vault access doors are locked to prevent access by unqualified persons, or those doors must be under continuous observation. The doors to these areas are required to open in the direction of egress and be equipped with panic hardware or listed fire exit hardware that opens upon simple pressure. For installations over 1,000 volts, nominal, these locked or monitored rooms, enclosures, or vaults must have a warning sign on the door reading, "DANGER – HIGH VOLTAGE – KEEP OUT."



This sign must also comply with the provisions outlined in 110.21(B) around their durability to withstand exposure to the environment and specific marking requirements. Section 110.27(C) also requires a

warning sign for installations of 1,000 volts or less, where there are exposed live parts. It must be placed on the door but is only required to be marked to forbid unqualified persons to enter the electrical room or other guarded area. The wording for the warning sign outside of spaces with over 1,000 volts is much stronger because of the potential exposure to high-voltage electrical hazards.

Any exposed live parts adjacent to the electrical room, vault, or enclosure entrance must be suitably guarded. Other exposed parts may require additional means to prevent inadvertent contact with exposed live parts, such as screens, partitions, or fences within the electrical room.

Any exposed live parts above the working space are required to be elevated at the distances found in Table 110.34(E) and have permanent ladders for access according to 110.33(B). These codes around working space and electrical rooms are for the protection of qualified persons who may be working on or in this equipment.

Taken from an article by Dean Austin 21-Dec-2022 on the NFPA website

JATC Apprenticeship Reports

Jacksonville JATC

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

April 2025 has us at the Electrical Training Alliance of Jacksonville busier than ever! Our 4th Year apprentices are continuing the 5th Year curriculum and are looking forward to completing by the Spring.

Our Medium Voltage Splicing class for Journeyman Wireman which began on February 10th wrapped up early with 12 completion certifications for all of those who attended. A Foremanship Development Class will begin on April 7th and run to April 16th. This is a two week class and will take place Monday and Wednesday evenings. We currently have 15 people signed up for this class so if you know a JW or a CE needing this class, please have them go to our website to enroll.

As a reminder, we take applications year round and 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.

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
Assistant Training Director

ELECTRI Research Report

Megaprojects Impact on Labor Markets

In 2024, during an unprecedented era of megaprojects, ELECTRI International funded a research initiative to explore the impacts of large-scale megaprojects on labor markets. Guided by an ELECTRI Council twelve-member Task Force, Dr. Anthony Perrenoud conducted comprehensive interviews with twenty NECA electrical contractors. The objective was to assess the effects of megaprojects on local labor markets and to identify effective strategies for project stakeholders to address the associated challenges.

The study is divided into three main sections:

Section 1—Full Report: This detailed section is intended for the audience interested in learning from the entire study. The report begins with a case study of a problematic megaproject, highlighting numerous lessons learned from its challenges. It then presents the ELECTRI International study and its methodology, followed by detailed findings. These findings provide a comprehensive overview of megaprojects' effects on labor markets. The section concludes with tailored recommendations for NECA contractors, owners, and the IBEW.

Section 2—Executive Summary for NECA Contractors: This section is intended to be distributed to NECA Contractors who are planning to or currently working on megaprojects. It offers an executive-level summary of the full study, including the eight key findings and recommendations for NECA contractors. These recommendations are structured according to the eight major findings.

Section 3—Executive Summary for Owners: This section is intended to be distributed to megaproject owners. It offers a concise overview of the eight key findings from the study relevant to them. In addition to the electrical contractors interviewed in the study's first phase, the researcher interviewed several large general contractors for this section to provide additional recommendations for owners. These recommendations are structured according to the eight significant findings.

[Click here to read the full report and access the Executive Summaries for NECA Contractors and Owners.](#)

Looking Forward

- **April 7-9th, 2025:** *NECA Now in Hollywood, FL*
 - **April 15th, 2025:** *Membership Meeting*
 - **April 22nd, 2025:** *Intro to AI Class*
 - **April 28-30th, 2025:** *Legislative Conference in Washington DC*
 - **June 24th - 26th:** *Basic Estimating of Electrical Construction Class*
 - **July 14-16th, 2025:** *ELECTRI Summer Council Meeting in Toronto, Canada*
 - **August 6th, 2025:** *Davis-Bacon Act Class*
 - **August 26th, 2025:** *Membership Meeting*
 - **September 12-15th, 2025:** *NECA Convention & Trade Show in Chicago, IL*
 - **September 24th, 2025:** *Lien & Bond Claims Class*
 - **December 5th, 2025:** *Membership Meeting & Holiday Party*
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