

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 circuit board pattern of glowing blue lines and dots.

NECA North Florida Chapter CONNECTION

Board of Directors

President: Brent Zimmerman

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Save The Date: Upcoming Education Sessions

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

Understanding the National 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.

2026 NECA Convention Las Vegas!

Housing Closes Soon!

Registration is 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.

Housing is limited, so we encourage members to register as soon as possible. For assistance with registration and housing, please feel free to reach out to our office directly. We are happy to assist with the registration process and secure your housing accommodations.

NECA + Google: Free AI Training for Members



NECA is excited to announce we have partnered with Grow with Google to offer small member contractors (fewer than 500 employees) **FREE** access to the [Google AI Professional Certificate](#).

- It's real training built by Google subject matter experts that gives your entire team practical AI skills, from planning and writing to data analysis and building simple apps, no coding required.

Why this matters: Most of our members don't have the time or budget to build AI training in-house and the advantages of having an AI-fluent workforce is staggering. The Google AI Professional Certificate includes 7 courses, with 20+ activities.

Details to know:

- Open to any U.S.-based business with 500 or fewer employees.
- Participants have until December 31, 2026 to claim this offer and then until December 31, 2027 to complete the course.

How to access training:

1- [Click here](#) to begin the process to Access Training.

- **IMPORTANT:** The first person from an organization to sign up will **automatically become the administrator** of the organization's account. If the administrator needs to be changed after the fact, contact [Brooke Salmon](#).
 - Once a business is verified, the administrator will receive a link to distribute to their employees to enroll.

2- When completing the application form, for the "Which partner referred you to this program?" field, select "National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA)" to ensure expedited account approval.

- Approval is typically granted within 7 business days, but we've already sent NECA Chapter domains to Coursera/Google for prior verification to expedite the process.

3- Once the business is verified, the administrator will receive a link to distribute to their employees to enroll.

Stay updated: Since this is an ongoing initiative with moving parts, we have launched a [resources and updates page](#) within on NECANet.org to keep you all informed.

- [FAQs »](#)

- [Admin Guide »](#)
- [Learner's Guide »](#)

Reach out to Brooke.Salmon@necanet.org for any specific questions!

Give Back with NECA: Help Fight Childhood Hunger

We're excited to give back this November! The North Florida Chapter NECA is proud to sponsor and participate in **Hunger Fight's 14th Annual Thanksgiving Community Outreach Event**, and we're inviting our members to join us for a fun and rewarding morning of service.

Saturday, November 14 | 9:00–11:00 AM
Hunger Fight Warehouse
2222 Harper St., Jacksonville, FL 32204



Together, our NECA volunteers will roll up their sleeves and help pack nutritious meals for children in underserved communities. Hunger Fight provides weekend meals to more than **16,000 children** through its Feed the Backpacks program, making this a great opportunity to spend just a couple of hours making a meaningful impact for local children and families.

NECA has sponsored this event to provide a select number of our members with the opportunity to volunteer, and we would love to have you join us! Whether you come on your own or bring a member of your team, this is a great chance to connect with fellow NECA members while giving back to the community we serve. Volunteer spots are limited, so please reach out to the North Florida Chapter NECA office and let us know if you would like to participate!

New Resource for NECA Members!

ELECTRI Council Hub: Resources at Your Fingertips

ELECTRI INTERNATIONAL

As a North Florida Chapter NECA member, you have access to a growing collection of industry knowledge, tools, and best practices through **ELECTRI International**. One resource we want to make sure our members know about is the **ELECTRI Council Hub**.

What is the ELECTRI Council Hub?

The ELECTRI Council Hub is a centralized online resource created specifically for ELECTRI Council members. It brings together exclusive webinars, archived recordings, supporting materials, technology resources, and practical tools designed to help electrical contractors stay informed and apply new ideas within their businesses.

Topics available through the Hub cover areas that directly impact today's electrical contractors, including **research, construction technology, business best practices, offsite construction, service, artificial intelligence, and emerging industry trends**.

Current resources include:

- **Council Room Sessions and other Council-only webinar recordings**
- **Best Practices in Offsite Construction**
- **IT/ConTech & Coffee Series**
- **Service & 70Brew**
- **An AI Prompt Library**
- **An AI Tool List**
- **Supporting materials and additional resources from ELECTRI programs and discussions**

What Does This Mean for North Florida NECA Members?

Because the **North Florida Chapter is an ELECTRI Council member**, our chapter members can benefit from the information and resources being shared through the Council Hub. Rather than viewing ELECTRI solely as an industry research organization, we encourage our contractors to think of it as another source of practical business tools that can help you improve operations, explore new technology, develop your team, and learn from what other electrical contractors around the country are doing.

Whether you're looking for ideas to improve productivity, trying to understand how AI can be used in your business, exploring construction technology, or simply looking for proven practices from others in the electrical construction industry, the Council Hub is a great place to start.

Start Exploring

We encourage our North Florida NECA members to take advantage of the chapter's ELECTRI Council participation and explore the resources available in the Hub.

[Visit the ELECTRI Council Resource Hub](#)

And stay tuned! In future newsletters, we'll use this section to highlight individual tools, webinars, recordings, and resources available through the ELECTRI Council Hub so you can quickly identify the information that may be most valuable to your business.

Employer Resources for Employees with a Criminal History

Did you know? If you employ someone with a criminal history, there are programs available that may provide valuable protection and financial benefits for your company.

The Federal Bonding Program provides free fidelity bond coverage for eligible employees who face barriers to employment, including those with a criminal history. For newly hired employees, the bond provides coverage during the first six months of employment, with coverage amounts ranging from **\$5,000 to \$25,000**. The bond protects the employer against certain losses related to employee dishonesty, including theft of money or property, forgery, larceny, and embezzlement—all at no cost to the contractor or employee.

Contractors should also be aware of the **Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC)**. Employers who hire individuals from certain qualifying groups—including qualified ex-felons—may be eligible for a federal tax credit. Depending on the qualified employee, the credit can reduce an employer's federal income tax liability by **up to \$9,600 over two years**.

For electrical contractors, these programs can provide an added layer of financial protection while also helping offset employment costs for eligible workers. If you have an employee who may qualify, consider exploring these resources through **FloridaCommerce** at FloridaJobs.org or by calling **1-866-352-2345**.

NECA Compliance Corner

Florida's Minimum Wage Increases to \$15.00 Per Hour – Is Your Business Ready?



Beginning **September 30, 2026**, Florida's minimum wage will increase from **\$14.00 to \$15.00 per hour**, completing the voter-approved phased increase established by Amendment 2 in 2020. Beginning in 2027, Florida's minimum wage will be adjusted annually based on inflation rather than fixed \$1.00 increases, with the rate recalculated each year using the applicable consumer price index.

While many electrical contractors already pay well above minimum wage, this increase can still have a meaningful impact on payroll costs, employee wage structures, and project pricing. Apprentices, warehouse personnel, administrative staff, shop assistants, and other entry-level employees may be directly affected, and contractors should also consider whether pay adjustments are needed for employees earning just above the new minimum to maintain appropriate wage differentials.

Why It Matters

For contractors bidding work months in advance, labor costs established today can directly impact future profitability. Existing contracts may not fully account for increased wage expenses, making it important to review contractual pricing and escalation provisions, estimates, labor rates, and future proposals before the new wage takes effect. Employers should also verify that payroll systems, employee handbooks, and required workplace labor law posters are updated to reflect the new minimum wage.

Take Action

1. Review your current pay rates to identify employees who will require wage adjustments.
2. Evaluate compression between entry-level employees and experienced personnel to determine whether additional wage adjustments are appropriate.
3. Update estimating labor rates and overhead calculations for projects extending beyond September 30.
4. Confirm payroll software and timekeeping systems are prepared for the new wage rate.
5. Ensure required Florida minimum wage notices and labor law posters are updated before the effective date.

NECA Tip

Use this wage increase as an opportunity to review your overall compensation strategy, not just compliance. A proactive review of wages, benefits, career progression, and apprenticeship pay scales can help improve employee retention while ensuring your business remains competitive and compliant.

ELECTRI Research Report

HR Onboarding Guide for an Electrical Contracting Company

This checklist is designed to be adaptable across companies of varying sizes, organizational structures, and departments. It captures core onboarding and career development fundamentals; not all items will apply to every organization, and additional items may be required to meet specific operational or departmental needs. HR staff, officer managers, or direct supervisors should review this checklist prior to the employee's start date and designate each item as applicable, recommended, or not applicable based on the company size, structure, and role requirements. Some items in this checklist apply differently depending on whether the new hire is office-based or field-based. Some field-based items are provided separately.

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

In Case You Missed It...

- [NECA Regulatory Alert - Overhaul & Expansion of SBA for Electrical Contractors](#)
- [NECA Regulatory Alert - New Tariffs on Foreign Produced Drones](#)

Looking Forward

- **October 21st, 2026:** *Understanding the National 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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