



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, sans-serif font. Below this, the word "CONNECTION" is written in a large, bold, white, sans-serif font. The background of the logo area is a dark blue gradient with a complex network of glowing blue lines and dots, resembling a circuit board or a digital network.

NECA North Florida Chapter CONNECTION

Board of Directors

President: Brent Zimmerman

Director: Chandler Crews

Vice President: Kevin Flanigan

Director: Scott Sullivan

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Director: Brad Giles

Treasurer: Chad Walker

Director: Pat Eliason

Save The Date: Upcoming Education Sessions

July 29, 2026, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Understanding the Davis-Bacon Act

Instructor: Benjamin Briggs, Partner, Adams & Reese Law

August 11th, 2026, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Project Manager AI Training

Instructor: Chris Carr, President & CEO, Farotech

September 23–25, 2026, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm

Advanced Estimating of Electrical Construction

Instructor: Matt Firestone

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

Understanding the Davis-Bacon Act (Virtual-Only)

Instructor: Benjamin Briggs, Partner, Adams & Reese Law

November 2026 (Date TBD)

Understanding the National and Local VDV Agreement

Instructor: Katie Enkiri

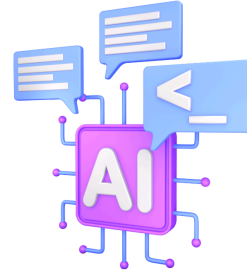
December 2026 (Date TBD)

Understanding Your CBA for Project Managers

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.

The North Florida Chapter NECA is excited to announce that we are planning a Small Contractors Business Development Summit focused on supporting the growth and long-term success of smaller NECA contractors. The intent of this summit is to create a collaborative environment where small-shop contractors can gain practical insights, share challenges, and explore strategies for scaling operations, improving profitability, and strengthening their competitive position in the industry.

The program is being designed to include targeted discussions around key topics such as business development, workforce challenges, financial management, and operational efficiencies—specifically tailored to the needs of smaller firms. In addition to educational content, the summit will provide valuable peer networking opportunities with other contractors facing similar challenges.

If you are a small contractor interested in participating in this summit, please reach out to our office and we would love to collaborate to make this event as beneficial for our members as possible.

We are aiming to hold this summit in mid-to-late August, 2026. Keep an eye out for more information on this summit in the near future!

2026 NECA Convention and Trade Show

Registration Opens NEXT WEEK!

Registration for the 2026 National Electrical Contractors Association Convention & Trade Show officially opens on **June 8th!** Mark your calendar and get ready to secure your spot at one of the electrical construction industry's premier events. 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.



If you would like assistance with registration, please contact the our office.

Registration is Now Open!

2026 NECA Southern Region Conference

Registration is now open for the 2026 NECA Southern Region Conference! Join fellow NECA members June 26–29, 2026, at the Everline Resort & Spa in Lake Tahoe (Olympic Valley, CA) for an unforgettable experience combining education, networking, and inspiration in a stunning mountain setting. The conference will feature engaging general sessions with speakers including Olympic gold medalist Jonny Moseley, AI business strategist Chris Carr, and ELECTRI International Executive Director Josh Bone.



Attendees will have the opportunity to connect with industry leaders, gain forward-looking insights, and enjoy all that Lake Tahoe has to offer. Full registration is \$815, with guest and child options available. Hotel accommodations can be booked directly through the registration process at exclusive conference rates. Don't miss this chance to build stronger connections and return home energized.

[Click here to register](#), or feel free to contact our office if you would like assistance with registration!

NECA Workforce Development Report

The NECA Workforce Development Committee's December 2025 meeting highlighted continued progress across several key workforce initiatives heading into 2026. Efforts to update Outside Time-Based and Telecom standards remain underway, while a new Inside Hybrid (competency-based) standards

subcommittee is set to launch in January with representation from NECA staff, chapters, and contractors. Ongoing programs like VEEP and the upcoming VIPER veteran-focused job board continue to evolve, reinforcing NECA's commitment to strengthening workforce pipelines and supporting industry recruitment. Additionally, the Emerging Technologies subcommittee is actively developing recommendations to enhance training and recruitment in areas such as VDV and limited energy systems, with updates expected by the March 2026 annual meeting.

The committee also addressed broader workforce challenges, including apprentice-to-journeyman ratios, which remain capped at 1:1 under current USDOL guidance, with continued discussions planned. Investment in training remains a priority, with partnerships—including those with organizations like Google—helping support JATC growth to meet industry demand. Key industry topics such as apprentice utilization, rotation practices, and jobsite culture were also discussed, alongside ongoing work to refine language around apprentices working independently. Overall, the committee's work reflects a strong focus on modernizing training standards, expanding opportunities, and ensuring the electrical workforce is well-positioned for future growth.

Legislative Update: Budget Wins & Political Developments in Florida

Florida lawmakers recently concluded a contentious special session to finalize the state's \$114.5 billion budget for Fiscal Year 2026–27. Despite significant disagreement among legislative leaders and the Governor, the session delivered key wins for the electrical contracting industry. Most notably, proposed “deregulation” legislation (HB 607/SB 1666) was successfully defeated. This measure would have eliminated the Electrical Contractors' Licensing Board (ECLB), shifting oversight to the Department of Business and Professional Regulation and reducing education requirements for licensed professionals—raising serious public safety concerns. Its defeat preserves critical industry standards and oversight.

In addition to this victory, workforce and apprenticeship funding remained strong despite an otherwise tight budget year. State investments in apprenticeship and workforce programs continue to support talent development pipelines, with several Local Education Agencies (LEAs) receiving substantial funding. Hillsborough County, for example, was among the top recipients statewide, reinforcing the state's ongoing commitment to workforce development and skilled trades training.

On the political front, the 2026 election cycle is beginning to take shape. The Florida AFL-CIO has announced its first major endorsement, backing José Javier Rodríguez for Attorney General. A former state legislator and current labor official, Rodríguez is positioning his campaign around issues impacting working families, including utility costs, insurance reform, and wage protections. He will face incumbent Attorney General James Uthmeier, setting up what is expected to be a closely watched and competitive race heading into the August primary and November general election.

As the Governor prepares to convene another special session focused on property tax reform, legislative activity—and likely continued debate—remains on the horizon.

Safety Talk

Climb the Safety Ladder: Proper selection, inspection and use keep workers safe on the job

Electricians can spend a lot of time working at heights. [Ladders](#) are used for many types of work, from trimming out lighting and installing conduit to troubleshooting panels and running low-voltage cabling. Because ladder use is so routine, hazards are often underestimated, and statistics continue to show that [ladder-related incidents](#) remain a significant cause of injuries.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, falls from ladders result in thousands of injuries each year. While these incidents can result in fractures, head trauma and even death, ladder risks often receive less attention and training than other hazards.

Electrical workers must also consider the electrical hazards associated with ladder use. A study conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health found that 91% of ladder-related electrocution deaths happened because portable metal ladders contacted overhead power lines.



Correct ladder selection

To mitigate the risk of falls and shock, correct ladder selection is critical. Fiberglass or nonconductive ladders are almost always required when there is risk of electrical exposure, since aluminum ladders can become a conductive hazard when working on or near energized components or overhead service conductors.

Additionally, extension, step, platform and articulated ladders all serve a specific purpose. Using the wrong ladder may cause overreaching, unstable positioning or climbing beyond the manufacturer's recommended limits. For these reasons, OSHA requires ladders to be used only for their intended purpose.

Additionally, OSHA emphasizes that ladders must be able to support all intended loads, including the worker and their tools. Overloading is an extremely common factor in most ladder mishaps.

Safety tips

Tools and ladders take abuse on job sites and during transport. They get dragged across rough terrain and exposed to moisture, and they are often improperly used as scaffolding or planks. This all compromises their integrity.

As time progresses, rungs loosen, rails crack, feet wear down and locking mechanisms break down or deteriorate. Therefore, OSHA requires ladders to be inspected prior to each use. Any ladder with visible structural defects must be tagged and removed from service until it can be repaired or thrown away. This inspection should become routine and include a check of side rails for cracks or splits, rungs for bending or looseness, feet for wear or missing slip-resistant pads, and spreaders and locks for proper function.

An improperly set up ladder is one of the most common causes for falls. For every 4 feet of vertical rise, the base should be 1 foot away from the structure. This is known as the 4-to-1 rule, and it especially applies to extension ladders. Stepladders must be fully opened with spreaders in the locked position. Ladders should never be used when folded or leaned against surfaces unless specifically designed to do so.

Electrical work frequently presents unique positioning challenges. Workers often place ladders in front of panels, inside mechanical rooms or near energized equipment. Whenever possible, circuits should be de-energized prior to beginning work. Falls combined with electrical contact to energized components can be catastrophic.

The Electrical Safety Foundation International also acknowledges the reverse. Falls can be a common secondary outcome following electrical contact. A shock often leads to a loss of balance and a subsequent fall. As a result, stable footing is always critical. Ladders should never be placed on boxes, pallets or uneven surfaces to gain additional height. If the task requires extended reach, a lift or scaffold should be used instead.

Workers should always maintain three points of contact while on a ladder. This means that either two hands and one foot, or two feet and one hand, always remain in contact with the ladder. Electrical workers often carry tools, testers or materials while climbing. Tool belts, hoists or hand lines should be used to raise materials instead.

Workers should also avoid overreaching. If a worker's center of gravity moves outside the ladder's side rails, it can tip. Climbing down to reposition may seem inconvenient, but it would be a far greater inconvenience to fall and become injured or worse.

Ladder safety cannot be separated from electrical safety. Prior to any work being done, workers must consider if the equipment is de-energized, whether there are exposed energized conductors nearby, the potential for arc flash, and whether the ladder is positioned within a minimum approach distance to overhead lines. Lockout/tagout procedures should always be employed when possible.

Employers must provide adequate training on safe ladder use and job site hazards to keep everyone safe.

[Article by Tim O'Connor on Electrical Contractor Magazine.com](#)

In Case You Missed It...

- [CAG Alert - Workforce & Apprenticeship Funding Programs](#)

- [CAG Alert - Florida AFL-CIO endorses 'principled' José Javier Rodríguez for Attorney General](#)

JATC Apprenticeship Reports

Jacksonville JATC

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

On Friday May 29th the Electrical Training Alliance of Jacksonville participated in the Jacksonville General Apprenticeship Association's **75th Graduation Anniversary** at the Hyatt Downtown. Friday night saw us graduate 76 Journeyman Wireman and 2 VDV from our combined apprenticeship program. Congratulations to all of those who graduated and to the sponsors who helped make this event the success it was.

Currently we are undergoing interviews for the Fall class. Since November we have broken all previous records for applications. Currently we stand at 915 applications for the Inside Program and 122 for the VDV Program. The Trustees will be conducting interviews through the end of July.

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 Resources for Small Contractors

Supporting small contractors with practical tools and insights is critical to long-term success. Through ELECTRI International, members have access to a growing library of resources designed to strengthen business operations, improve efficiency, and keep contractors ahead of industry trends.

On-Demand Learning Opportunities

Explore expert-led discussions and industry insights through recorded sessions:

- [ConTech & IT Coffee Session Recordings](#) – Stay current on construction technology and IT advancements shaping the electrical industry.
- [ELECTRI Council Room Sessions](#) – Gain insights from peer discussions and industry leaders on key business challenges and solutions.

Business Coaching for Growth

The [ELECTRI Business Coaching Network](#) connects contractors with experienced coaches who provide tailored guidance on leadership, financial performance, and strategic planning—helping small businesses scale effectively.

AI Tools for Contractors

As technology continues to evolve, contractors can leverage curated AI solutions to streamline operations and improve productivity. Explore the latest tools here:

- [ELECTRI AI Tool List](#)

These resources are designed to be practical, accessible, and immediately applicable; helping small contractors stay competitive and build stronger, more resilient businesses.

Looking Forward

- **June 26 - 29:** *NECA Southern Region Conference*
 - **July 29th, 2026:** *Understanding the Davis-Bacon Act Class*
 - **August 11th, 2026:** *AI Training for Project Managers*
 - **August 26th, 2026:** *Membership Meeting*
 - **September 23rd - 24th, 2026:** *Advanced Estimating of Electrical Construction Class*
 - **October 22nd, 2026:** *Understanding the Davis-Bacon Act Class (Virtual Only)*
 - **December 4th, 2026:** *Membership Meeting & Holiday Party*
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