

The logo features the NECA logo on the left, which includes a stylized wave and three stars above the letters 'NECA'. To the right of this is the text 'North Florida Chapter' in a white serif font, and below that, the word 'CONNECTION' in a large, bold, white sans-serif font. The background of the logo 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

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 the year.

Membership Meetings

- **April 21st**
- **August 18th**

January 13th Meeting Recap:

Our latest Membership Meeting, held January 13th, 2020 at the Electrical Training Alliance building in Jacksonville, FL held a lot of important information and discussion from Jeffery Sharkey with the Capitol Alliance Group in Tallahassee, FL; along with Jessica Cardenas, the Executive Director of Government Affairs for NECA National in Washington, DC.

Jeff Sharkey discussed the important topics to remember about the 2020 Legislative Session that started last month; mostly regarding how newly introduced bills are going to affect the future of NECA. He also discussed Governor DeSantis' strong staff, great outreach efforts, and support of education. Consistently, the governor and the legislator have financial interest in workforce development. We should predict an uncontentious session.

Jessica Cardenas discussed her team regularly meeting with members of congress as educational campaigns. The team is looking at Apprenticeship at the federal level. They are currently working to push more funding for military projects. The 2020 outlook for the Government Affairs team includes composite plans, infrastructure investments, refining tax reform, prompt payment on change orders, and preventing misclassifications.

We thank Jeffery Sharkey and Jessica Cardenas who took the time to come speak with us and inform our membership on what to look forward to for the 2020 year.

NECAPAC

The National Electrical Contractors Association legislative team is a widely recognized group on Capitol Hill. NECA is non-partisan and focuses on developing relationships with representatives on both sides of

the aisle to help achieve the interests of the membership at large. Major areas of focus in 2019 have been supporting comprehensive tax reform, a \$1 Trillion infrastructure investment, pension reform, opening 529 Education plans to incorporate ancillary apprenticeship costs, and repealing the 40% excise tax on “Cadillac” health plans. Appeals to congressional leaders on apprenticeship issues were largely successful and the repeal of the Cadillac tax has strong bi-partisan support. Our Chapter reached our 2019 goal of 50% Chapter participation for NECA PAC and we have raised over \$15,000. Ed Witt Jr is the National PLC Representative for the Chapter. If you would like to know more about this or would like to contribute to NECA PAC contact the NECA Chapter office.

2020 Board of Directors

President: Henry Brown

Vice President: Byron Overstreet

Governor: Edward Witt Jr.

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Director: Stan Brandies

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JMEA Installation Banquet



At the Jacksonville Master Electricians Association’s annual installation banquet dinner, Don Smith posthumously won the Man of the Year Award. Don Smith was born in 1935. He was initiated into the IBEW in 1957. He served as an instructor for our apprenticeship program for over 40 years. He passed away in April of 2019. Accepting the award on his behalf was his son, Raymond Smith. Congratulations to Don and the Smith family for being awarded Man of the Year.

The Future of Workforce

Tim Hinson spoke at 2030: The Future of Workforce, an event created by CareerSource Florida, on Apprenticeship. Our speakers took the guests on a deep dive into “disruption” and how these changes will affect our workforce in the coming years. The participants in this event included interested stakeholders including high school and college educators, employers, employee support organizations and State of Florida Workforce officials. Besides the keynote speaker, two panel discussions were presented



on “Innovation in Education “ and “Transforming Apprenticeship programs”.

ELECTRI International Winter Meeting

January 22nd- 24th Henry Brown, James MacDonald, and Katie Enkiri attended the ELECTRI International meeting in St. Petersburg, FL. As members of the ELECTRI council, they have the responsibility of allocating funds to projects that most directly impact the electrical industry. Council Members heard nine research proposals from PHD students and industry professionals for grant consideration. Projects that will receive grant money include:

VR Electricians: Immersive Storytelling for Attracting Students to the Electrical Trades Masoud Gheisari, University of Florida

Industrialization of Construction: Signal or Noise? Threat or Promise? Heather Moore, MCA, Inc.

Issues Preventing Small Union Business Growth, Michael McLin, Maxim Consulting

Robots in Construction—Current Use in Electrical Line Work and Inside Construction, and Outlook for the Future, Lonny Simonian, California Polytechnic State University

Mr. Gheisari will work with the North Florida Chapter members on job sites for data collection. Tim Hinson, on our workforce development team, and the Chapter Executive will serve on his task force. We believe this will reinforce the successes we have had with recruiting to this point. His virtual reality game will allow children who do not have direct ties to the electrical industry to experience the feel of a job site at an earlier age.

James MacDonald will serve on the task force for Mr. McLin’s research project, helping guide the direction of the study. As, NECA members are mostly small to medium sized contractors, we believe this study will identify some of the hurdles our members are faced with so we can provide services to help contractors achieve their goals.

Attendees had the opportunity to hear from Josh Bone, who will be the speaker at our August membership meeting, on recent innovations affecting the industry.

NECA App

The North Florida Chapter of NECA has an app available for members. This app includes current wage rate and contract information, as well as access to our educational schedule and other Chapter events.

Currently, each designated rep has access to the app. Each company may add as many users as desired. To do this, please send an email to the NECA office (nfneca@gmail.com) with the user information to be added.

North Florida Offering Continuing Education 2020

The Board of Directors identified education as a primary goal for 2020. With that direction in mind, the following courses have been added to the 2020 docket:

- **March 19th-** *Effective Client Communication*
- **April 7th-** *Build the Ultimate Brand: How to Communicate and Sell*
- **May 22nd-** *Look In The Mirror: An Executive's Role in Business Development*
- **June-** *Project Planning*
- **July-** TBA
- **August-** *Mentorship, Quit Talking About It and Do It*
- **September-** *Human Performance - Its Role in Electrical Operations and Safety Excellence*
- **October 15th-** *Hiring Talent*
- **November-** TBA
- **December-** TBA

For more information on these courses contact the NECA office. More information on each course will also be provided via email.

Apprenticeship Director Reports

Jacksonville Electrical JATC

The New Year has started with lots of excitement at the ETA of Jacksonville. Our 1st year advanced apprentices have finished their school year and will be returning in the fall with the other 2nd year apprentices. All apprentices are working and CW calls are being filled within days. The number of students we now have at the facility exceed what we had in the mid-2000's. In addition to our "Inside" program, we also have 9 "Voice, Data, Video" apprentices whose primary job is to work on structured cabling systems. Our second Pre-Apprenticeship class started in January. This gives us 38 registered pre-apprentices attending school. Away from the school, recruiting fairs are heating up. The ETA of Jacksonville attends as many of these as possible. We also talk to individual classes when requested to do so. We will have our first of several interview sessions in February. We will also be interviewing applicants for our vacant Assistant Director position.

Visit <http://www.jaxaet.org/> for more information.

Gainesville Electrical JATC

We are happy to report that our industry is strong right now and our contractors are taking full advantage of all the work that is available in our jurisdiction. Our apprenticeship is growing and we have more registered apprentices in our program now than we have had in the past several years. 2019 was a great year and we are looking forward to all the wonderful things ahead for 2020!

Visit <http://www.gainesvillejatc.org/> for more information.

Electrical Training Alliance of Daytona Beach

Hello from Electrical Training Alliance of Daytona Beach, In January we attended three job fairs and two Chamber of commerce meet and greets. We placed 12 CW's as well as 3 apprentices to work and had 8 applicants take the aptitude test that resulted in the committee interviewing 5 of the applicants. We will be attending apprenticeship day in Tallahassee Feb 12-13 as well as the Electrical Training Alliance Regional Seminar in Clearwater Feb 26 - Feb 28, 2020.

Visit <https://etadb.org/> for more information

Codes and Standards Report

Electrical Rooms Likely to Grow Larger

New 2020 NEC egress requirements around large equipment will require more space.

When designing future projects to meet the requirements of the 2020 Edition of the National Electrical Code (NEC), chances are your electrical rooms, power distribution centers, and substations will grow a bit larger. Why? There was one simple sentence added to Sec. 110.26(C)(2), which states: "...Open equipment doors shall not impede the entry to or egress from the working space...". The electrical equipment being referred to in this Section specifically includes any piece of electrical equipment containing "overcurrent devices, switching devices, or control devices" if the equipment is either: (1) rated 1,200A or more and over 1.8 m (6 ft) wide, or (2) the service disconnecting means installed in accordance

with Sec. 230.71 where the combined ampere rating is 1,200A or more and over 1.8 m (6 ft) wide. Even though this requirement was added to Sec. 110.26 (1,000V or less) by way of Sec. 110.30, this change will apply to ALL large electrical equipment meeting the above-mentioned criteria, regardless of the voltage level. This change will most likely result in a substantial increase in the size of most rooms containing large motor control centers or switchgear.

For many years, most Authorities Having Jurisdiction (AHJs) have categorized most cases where there are two pieces of opposing equipment fronts to be a “Condition 3” situation [either NEC Table 110.26(A) (1) or Table 110.34(A)]. It will be interesting to see if AHJs will now require the requisite 24 in. egress space where opposing equipment doors can be fully opened simultaneously. This condition could occur either where the open doors are directly across from one another or at opposite ends of the working space. If the new requirement gets applied in this manner, the electrical room size could increase even more. This rule change is new to the 2020 NEC, but it’s just a matter of time before it is incorporated into OSHA 29 CFR Part 1910, Subpart S. However, in the United States and its territories, OSHA inspectors already actively enforce the NEC as part of worker safety required by the General Duty Clause 5(a)(1), which requires employers to provide safe working environments and conditions. So, the inevitable inclusion as part of 29 CFR Part 1910 is somewhat irrelevant.

Source - EC&M Magazine - By Eddie Guidry - Senior fellow with Fluor Enterprises, Inc. December 16, 2019

Electri Research Reports

Factors Affecting Labor Productivity for Electrical Contractors

When estimating project costs, contractors plan for historically achievable productivity under ideal labor/job conditions. Both owners and the legal system throughout North America recognize contractors have the right to an adjustment in contract prices due to changing conditions and their impact on labor productivity. Contractors need a logical and fair approach in order to estimate factors affecting labor productivity.

For more information on this article, visit: [Electri International](#)

Looking Forward

- February 10-12th, 2020: **Business Development Conference** Scottsdale, AZ
- February 26-28, 2020: **AEI** Chicago, IL
- March 17-19th, 2020: **Future Leaders Conference** Tampa, FL
- April 27-29th, 2020: **NECA Legislative Conference** Washington, DC
- May 12-17th, 2020: **Electri International Innovation Summit** Paris, France
- May 15-17, 2020: **National Safety Professionals Conference** Scottsdale, AZ
- June 26-29th, 2020: **Southern Region Convention** Alberta, Canada
- October 3-6, 2020: **NECA Convention and Trade Show** Chicago, IL

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