

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, 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

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Upcoming Education Opportunities

August- Understanding and Negotiating Subcontracts

Next month, we will be welcoming Chip Bachara, the Founding and Managing Partner of the Bachara Construction Law Group, to speak at our office on the topic of **Subcontracting**.

Chip Bachara grew up in the construction industry first working as a laborer on his father's residential construction projects. He obtained a degree in Building Construction from the University of Florida and after working for two of the area's largest design/build contractors, obtained his law degree from Mercer University. He returned to Jacksonville in 1987 to specialize in construction law, going on to represent owners, governmental entities and nearly every type of trade contractor in all manner of construction disputes. Currently serving on the Board of The American Subcontractors Association, Chip has been named to Best Lawyers in America every year since 2009 and has been recognized by his peers as the Construction Lawyer of the Year for Jacksonville numerous times, including gaining that recognition for 2025. In 2007, Chip founded Bachara Construction Law Group along with Brent Zimmerman, NECA Board Member and General Counsel for Miller Electric. Bachara Construction Law Group is based in Jacksonville with an office in St. Pete, which serves Florida's west coast.

Chip will be here to educate and inform subcontractors on the importance of understanding what they are signing, negotiating a fair subcontract, and understanding their lien and collections rights while reviewing REAL subcontracts submitted by our members.

[RSVP Here!](#)

This class will immediately follow a North Florida NECA Membership Meeting at 12:00 p.m.

Tuesday, August 6th, 2024.

1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Will be held at the North Florida Chapter NECA office

North Florida NECA Membership Meeting

North Florida Chapter NECA will be holding a Membership Meeting on **Tuesday, August 6th, 2024 at 12:00 p.m.** Immediately following this meeting, a class will be held on *Understanding and Negotiating Subcontracts*. Please see the section above for more details on this class.

2024 NECA Convention and Trade Show: San Diego

It's that time again, folks!



Registration and housing is open for the *2024 NECA Convention in San Diego!* Early registration pricing ends on August 1st, so be sure to register soon to get the best deals and best rooms for your stay in San Diego.

[Click here to register.](#) or feel free to reach out to our office and we would be happy to assist you in the registration process. We are excited to see you all in San Diego!

North Florida NECA Cocktail Reception at the Prohibition Lounge

This year in San Diego, North Florida Chapter NECA will be holding a cocktail hour at the [Prohibition Lounge!](#) We invite our members to stop by and bring your colleagues, business partners, and spouses to the Prohibition Lounge on **Monday, September 30th, 2024**. This will be a flow-thru reception beginning at 6:00 p.m.



Prohibition Lounge: 548 Fifth Ave. San Diego, CA 92101

Tool Time Tax Holiday Reminder

We would like to remind our members that Florida's one-week **'tool time' sales tax holiday** will take place from September 1st-7th. Here's what will be included:

- Hand tools with a sales price of \$50 or less per item
- Power tools with a sales price of \$300 or less per item
- Power tool batteries with a sales price of \$150 or less per item
- Work gloves with a sales price of \$25 or less per pair Safety glasses with a sales price of



- \$50 or less per pair or the equivalent if sold in sets of more than one pair
- Protective coveralls with a sales price of \$50 or less per item
- Work boots with a sales price of \$175 or less per pair
- Tool belts with a sales price of \$100 or less per item
- Duffle bags or tote bags with a sales price of \$50 or less per item
- Toolboxes with a sales price of \$75 or less per item Toolboxes for vehicles with a sales price of \$300 or less per item
- Industry textbooks and code books with a sales price of \$125 or less per item
- Electrical voltage and testing equipment with a sales price of \$100 or less per item LED flashlights with a sales price of \$50 or less per item
- Shop lights with a sales price of \$100 or less per item
- Handheld pipe cutters, drain opening tools and plumbing inspection equipment with a sales price of \$150 or less per item
- Shovels with a sales price of \$50 or less
- Hard hats and other head protection with a sales price of \$100 or less
- Hearing protection items with a sales price of \$75 or less
- Ladders with a sales price of \$250 or less
- High visibility safety vests with a sales price of \$30 or less

Out With the Old: Identifying Hazards and Updating Aging Electrical Systems

Outdated electrical panels and wiring can be hazardous. Although routine maintenance and inspections should be conducted on all electrical systems, aging infrastructure must often be updated or replaced. Completing work of this nature can pose additional risk factors not encountered in standard electrical jobs. Safety protocols and best practices should be put in place to protect people and property.

Potential hazards

First, let's look at the hazards created by outdated electrical panels and wiring. Older panels, wiring and components are often not capable of handling the electrical load necessary to power modern appliances and technology. As a result, there is a higher risk of overheating and electrical fires. Deteriorating and aging wires also can become exposed over time, elevating the risk of fire and electrical shock.

Additionally, as electrical codes are regularly updated, older systems are no longer in compliance. Modern electrical systems may require different gauges, color-coded wiring or grounding requirements. If an incident occurs with noncompliant electrical components, there could be legal ramifications, not to mention the potential loss of life or property.

So, what are some indicators that a system is outdated? It's probably time for an update if:

- A breaker or breakers continually trip
- There are fuses but not breakers
- The electric panel is warm or has a burning smell
- Lights flicker when powering on appliances
- There are not enough outlets to power electronics

As a rule of thumb, if the electrical system is more than 25 years old, consider a replacement.

Where to start

Tackling an update or replacement of an outdated electrical system requires a thorough assessment and careful planning. Electrical contractors should start by examining the existing panels and wiring to determine where updates are needed. It is critical to reference the National Electrical Code (NEC) and local building codes to make sure every component is in compliance with the latest safety regulations. Once necessary improvements have been identified, a detailed plan for the scope of the project can be created.

Prior to starting any work, it is imperative to ensure that the power supply to the electrical panel is disconnected. All the appropriate lockout/tagout (LOTO) procedures referenced in NFPA 70E, Standard for Electrical Safety in the Workplace, should be followed to prevent accidental re-energization.

And it should go without saying, but this type of work should only be performed by electricians and qualified electrical workers.

Replacing equipment

Several sources, including the Electrical Safety Foundation, NEC, NECA, NFPA, and OSHA, offer resources on identifying and updating electrical systems. When replacing an outdated panel, the new one should meet all safety and compliance requirements and be capable of handling the maximum electrical load requirements necessary. Ensure that installation is done in accordance with all manufacturer instructions and specifications and that proper grounding and bonding protocols are taken.

If wiring needs to be replaced, it should be done with new and properly insulated wires. The NEC and local regulations will dictate the appropriate wire sizes for the job. Reference NFPA 70E for proper wiring techniques to ensure that all connections are safe and secure.

Once all panels or wiring are installed, the system should be inspected and tested for safety and functionality. A final walk-through inspection will ensure that the entire system is safe and compliant.

Electricians and electrical workers should take additional safety precautions when updating panels and wiring. They should use the appropriate insulated tools for the job and the correct personal protective equipment, such as rubber gloves, protective eyewear and arc-resistant clothing, to help minimize the risk of injury or incident. Insulated tools will reduce the risk of shock and electrocution.

Article by Tom O'Connor on [Electrical Contractor Magazine](#)

JATC Apprenticeship Reports

Jacksonville JATC

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

The Trustees concluded it interviews for the Fall 2024 class. The new school year will see 100 new apprentices start their career in the electrical industry. The new deadline for applications is November 7th so if you know anyone interested in our program please send them to our website at www.etajax.org.

We currently have a journeyman level instrumentation class going on. This class has 14 students and will conclude in August. We also have an adult pre-apprenticeship class that will carry throughout the summer. Please check our website for more upcoming classes to be scheduled in the near future.

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

Looking Forward

- July 15th-17th, 2024: *ELECTRI Council July Meeting in Boston, MA*
 - July 17th-19th, 2024: *Labor Relations Conference in Boston, MA*
 - August 6th, 2024: *Membership Meeting in Jacksonville, FL*
 - September 28th-October 1st, 2024: *NECA Convention and Trade Show in San Diego, CA*
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