



# 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

**September 27th, 2019**

**President Henry Brown** discussed the educational focus NECA North Florida has taken. He opened the floor to discussion from members for feedback on the experiences of those who attended the 6 courses offered in 2019. There were many positive remarks provided, especially regarding instructors. Further discussion was held on the relevancy of course topics. President Brown noted that the Chapter planned to provide more CEU courses and invited members to suggest courses that would provide value to their workforce.

**Training Director Danny VanSickle** discussed updates at the Jacksonville Training Alliance. James Nolan, the former Training Coordinator retired in August of this year. NFPA70E is being offered monthly to Journeymen and, as the training requirement due date approaches, courses will likely be offered twice per month. Additional Journeyman courses are available through the school, such as cable splicing. Implementation of the 7<sup>th</sup> district Foremanship series has begun. This will replace EPS courses in graduating Apprentices. It is believed that this course is more relevant to our current structure and will provide a more well-rounded Foreman upon completion of the course. The training director reported signing a school in Duval County for a pre-apprenticeship on 9/27/19. This will bring the total number of counties teaching the Jacksonville Electrical Training Alliance curriculum up to five. Discussion from the members included outreach to River City Academy, noting that they are a STEM school making it a good place to target for

recruitment. Recruitment efforts are paying off and applications have increased by 30%. A higher number of applicants are passing the entry exam. These point to higher quality applicants seeking out our programs. The ETA of Jacksonville currently hosts the largest number of students for any of the Florida based ETA programs.

**Governor Ed Witt Jr.** shared discussions surrounding the idea of unifying Labor and Management on common goals. Noting that, although we are at odds at times, there are many items on which we can work together to drive our industry forward and grow our market share. For events and goals in which we share common ideas, we have embraced the Powering America brand. Powering America has existed within NECA for over 10 years. We are utilizing Powering America North Florida across all three divisions. Current uses of the brand include recruitment events, job-sites, apprenticeship, and marketing efforts. Through apprenticeship and on job-sites we want to reinforce the idea that Labor and Management have common goals that we are working toward. Through recruitment and marketing, we are beginning to let the community know who we are and how we differ from the non-union competition. An upcoming marketing event, for which members are encouraged to attend, is The Mark Brunell Show at Sneakers in Jacksonville Beach on December 9<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.

**Director Katie Enkiri** discussed the Chapter's involvement on an ELECTRI task force throughout 2019. The study, led by Hashim Said, is focused on analyzing market-share trends across the United States. The study put Chapters of similar market-shares into groupings. These groupings were asked to conduct a SWOT analysis of their area. By looking at the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats of low, mid-tier, and high market share areas the researcher hopes to share information that can be of across all markets. Recognizing that the research needed to provide outcomes that both NECA Chapters and the IBEW could buy into, the business managers were invited to take part in these studies. In the North Florida area, the business managers and the apprenticeship directors, as well as contractors helped participate and guide this study. The outcomes of the research project were provided to members present as a hard-copy and a sign-up sheet was provided to members at the meeting for a digital copy. The next step for the researcher will be to analyze areas that have seen sustained growth in their markets over a designated period of time.

Discussion was held on the extreme prevalence of suicide in the construction industry and the potential role a company can play. Enkiri encouraged members not to take on the role of a professional counselor but have information available should a worker need access. She went on to discuss the mental health benefits available to employees that are covered by Family Medical Care Plan. The Chapter can help member companies make available magnets (for toolboxes or other job-site equipment) with phone numbers to dedicated helplines.

Director Katie Enkiri discussed the NECA Service Network which is a dedicated area new to NECA for those member companies who are providing service work to clients. This is available at an additional cost to members through NECA National, but it is encouraged for members who are interested, to reach out and let the Chapter know. This provides an educational resource, many of which are through podcasts, for companies looking to further their employees' knowledge.

Members were informed that the Chapter Director is a newly appointed Board member for STEM2HUB. The joining of this board will reinforce our recruitment efforts. Career Technical Education bills were passed early in 2019 encouraging schools to participate in career tech classes. These bills targeted high schools, not only adding, but being held accountable for technical training within their walls. STEM2HUB works to bring STEM education into schools elementary and middle schools. With pre-apprenticeship available in our high schools, STEM2HUB will help target feeder schools and assist in curriculum development that drives kids toward high school and career pathways in science, technology, engineering, and math. Joining this organization is a joint effort with the IBEW and is branded under the Powering America North Florida brand.

Open discussion was held on the Jacksonville Master Electricians Association. Members were informed that Board was recommending the Jacksonville Master Electricians Association no longer being managed by the Chapter office. With dwindling support of JMEA over the years, the recommendation is to redirect focus and resources to our Chapter to serve a greater number of our members. Discussion was held from the floor on JMEA wanting to move away from NECA years ago and that this may be a welcome piece of information for their organization. With no members against the recommendation, the motion to cease operation of JMEA come December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019 passes.



## NECA Capitol Report



*Provided by:*  
Capitol Alliance Group  
106 E. College Ave, Suite 640  
Tallahassee, FL 32301

### I. CAPITOL NEWS

The legislature convened in Tallahassee for one week during the month of September, where numerous committees were briefed on “Legislative Budget Requests” from agency and department heads. House Speaker-Designate Chris Sprowls (R-Tampa) held his designation ceremony in the House chamber, where members of the CAG team were in attendance.

This week, Governor DeSantis announced his proposal to increase the minimum salary for teachers across the state. The Governor's proposed 2020 budget recommendation will include a pay raise for more than 101,000 teachers in Florida by raising the minimum salary to \$47,500.

Approximately 476 bills have been filed to date. By the time Session kicks off, over 3k bills will have been filed. Less than ten percent pass.

The **CAG** team is honored to represent our electrical contractors and champion for the betterment of the industry at-large. We are closely monitoring legislation affecting the industry.

### **Interim Committee Meeting Schedule**

In preparation for the 2020 Legislative Session, please be advised of the schedule for remaining fall interim committee meetings:

Tuesday, November 12 – Friday, November 15, 2019

Monday, December 9 – Friday, December 13, 2019

The 2020 Legislative Session will convene on Tuesday, January 14, 2020.

## **II. NEWS FROM AROUND THE STATE**

### **Florida Sees Growth Ahead of Nation, Unemployment Rate Holds Steady**

The Florida Department of Economic Opportunity has released unemployment and new job creation numbers for the month of August.

Across the state, unemployment held steady at **3.3 percent**. Florida is still below the national average of 3.7 percent.

The Sunshine State saw the addition of **22,500** jobs created, equal to .02 percent, in August. Over the last year, Florida has seen a **2.5 percent** increase in job growth, which is above the national average of 1.4 percent. The industries that gained the most jobs were education and health care. The only industry to lose jobs was the information industry, which saw a 2.3 percent decrease.

### **Jobs Numbers Up**

Florida keeps adding jobs and posting better employment numbers than the national average.

According to new jobs numbers, Sunshine State businesses have added 213,000 jobs since August 2018, and the state's labor force has grown by 140,000 over the same stretch. That makes for a private-sector job growth rate of 2.8 percent, outpacing the national average of 1.6 percent

The unemployment rate has held steady at 3.3 percent, four-tenths of a point lower than the US at large.

### **Workforce Development Month**

In celebration of "Workforce Development Month," **Governor DeSantis** joined **Department of Economic Opportunity Director Ken Lawson** and **Education Commissioner Richard Corcoran** to highlight the programs and organizations helping

Floridians get to work. To support workforce development, the state of Florida administers 18 workforce training programs aimed at developing the state's growing labor force into a highly skilled one.

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## Apprenticeship

**Jacksonville:** This has been another exciting year for The Electrical Training Alliance of Jacksonville. This year, we have successfully had one of the largest enrollment of Registered Apprentices in our history. In addition, we have also implemented several Continuing Education classes for our Journeyman Wiremen and our Construction Electrician classifications. Our Continuing Education classes consist of Medium Voltage Cable Splicing, Motor Controls and NFPA 70E Training. This year we have progressed toward partnering with 54 high school seniors and 14 college students, all of which are completing our 1<sup>st</sup> year curriculum, giving them the wonderful opportunity of possibly advance-placing into their 2<sup>nd</sup> year of Apprenticeship should they be academically accepted. We're looking forward to many more great accomplishments this upcoming school year including the graduation and completion of 40 Apprentices this upcoming June 2020.

**Gainesville:** The Gainesville Electrical JATC is happy to announce that recently we purchased an 11,000 sq. foot warehouse that is located 2 buildings away from our existing training center. With the increase in construction within our jurisdiction and the number of apprentices that we have been able to indenture over the past few years, the need for additional training space is critical to our future and the electrical industry. This is an exciting time for our JATC, with the renovations that will need to be completed to expand our training center, this will increase our training opportunities not only for our apprentices but for continuing education with Journeymen as well. We are looking forward to what the future holds.

**Daytona Beach:** Daytona Beach has started including an online aptitude test and in September alone we had twelve people complete it. We have been visiting Volusia County high schools. In September, we sent two of our two top apprentices to the 2019 NECA Convention.

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## LMCC

For the third year in a row, Labor and Management have partnered together to support children in our local communities.

At Hunger Fight, we worked together creating meals. Members of the team assembled single serve bags of brown sugar oatmeal, beans and



rice or mac and cheese. In the two hours allotted, our team worked to create over 1500 meals for the children in our communities with little to no access to food each month. Over the course of a day, individuals came together to create over 1,000,000 meals.

Beginning as an orphanage, Children's Home Society now serves varying demographics of children across the state of Florida. The North Florida Chapter and each local union we work with partnered to create full Thanksgiving meals for 85 families this holiday season.



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## Annual Christmas Party



Join us Friday, the 13th of December 3:oopm to 6:oopm

## **Topgolf Jacksonville**

*10531 Brightman Blvd., Jacksonville, FL 32246*

Featuring food, drinks and Topgolf bays, our event will be held in the Chairman's Suite.

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### **Join Us at The Mark Brunell Show**

**Powering America North Florida** on The Mark Brunell Show

**Date:** December 9th, 2019

**Time:** 6:00pm

**Location:**

Sneakers Sports Grille, 111 Beach Boulevard, Jacksonville Beach

*Those attending are welcome to bring a guest.*



### **Recruitment**

Fifty-two schools were visited in the 2018-2019 school year. There has been an increase in application each year the workforce development team has been visiting schools. We have seen an increase in qualifying scores on the aptitude test and interview scores. As of the fall commencement for high schools, the recruitment team have already visited more than twenty locations recruiting individuals into the electrical apprenticeship.

In Jacksonville, our group was recognized earlier this month at FSCJ's Apprenticeship Week. The articulation agreement we have in place to allow students college credit and, ultimately, a path for a degree free of cost to the student, as well as our pre-apprenticeship models has put our Apprenticeship program ahead of others.





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## 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 ([RebeccaK@nflneca.org](mailto:RebeccaK@nflneca.org)) with the user information to be added.

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## Codes & Standards

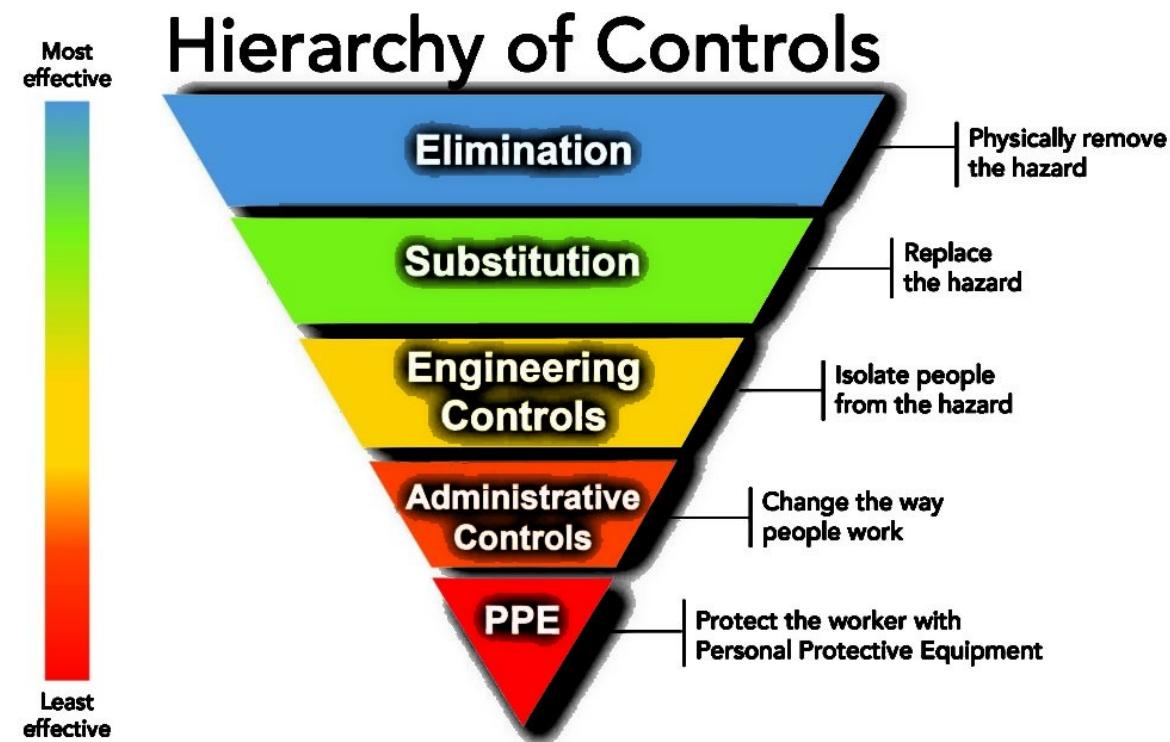
### Hierarchy of Controls - Know Your Options When It Comes To Safety

Much of our current safety training efforts involve the utilization of the **NFPA 70E Hierarchy of Controls**. The five levels shown in the pyramid [elimination, substitution, engineering controls, administrative controls, and PPE] provide users with important guidance on how best to protect their workers and themselves. Everyone is trying to

mitigate risks and increase safety. Now that NFPA 70E has introduced the Hierarchy of Control pyramid, it is all about getting to the top of the pyramid and removing the hazard.

So the next time a task comes up that has a risk associated with it, try to use the most effective level possible to protect your employees.

Source - IAEI News - Electrical Safety in the 21st Century by Senee Seale - June 19, 2019



## Education



Stephane McShane

This year the North Florida Chapter held 6 classes for members. Examples of courses offered include "Cracking The 'WIP' - Driving Predictable Cost Projections" presented by Stephane McShane and "Advanced Tools for Surviving in Today's Construction Environment" taught by Dan Stuart.

Alex Willis joined our group in Daytona Beach discussing the topic of stress. Participants noted the enthusiasm Alex brings to the table and the relatability of the topic.



Alex Willis

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## National Meetings



### Larry Beltramo Elected President of National Electrical Contractors Association

During a meeting of the NECA Board of Governors on Saturday, September 14, [Larry Beltramo](#), President Rosendin Electric, was elected as NECA President for a three-year term commencing January 1, 2020. Five industry leaders were also elected during the meeting of the NECA Board of Governors to serve as District Vice Presidents for two-year terms commencing January 2020.

### 2019 NECA Convention



This years' national convention was held in Las Vegas, NV. Sixteen individuals were

installed into the Academy of Electrical Contracting on Sunday, September 15, during the General Session of the NECA 2019 Las Vegas Convention and Trade Show.

Fellowship in the Academy of Electrical Contracting is one of the highest honors bestowed upon an individual in the industry. The Academy honors outstanding leaders in the electrical contracting industry, as it preserves and utilizes their wealth of experience and knowledge for the benefit of the industry.

These individuals have rendered exceptional service to the industry and the National Electrical Contractors Association. Their service is continued and enhanced through their fellowship in the Academy. This is accomplished through the Academy's Working Group, special papers presented by Fellows, participation in the Annual Meeting and the general camaraderie among Fellows.

Kevin Tighe, who was a Chapter Manager in North Florida for 27 years, was part of the 2019 inductees.

**[VIEW LISTING OF 2019 INDUCTEES.](#)**

Catch up on all things NECA 2019 Las Vegas in this video recap of Day 1. See highlights from our Opening General Session speaker, Tony Hsieh, NECA President Larry Beltramo's pledge to contractors, puppies on the Show Floor and so much more:





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## Labor Relations Update

Labor and Management are putting forth joint efforts toward workforce development. We recognize the needs of our contractors to attract skilled employees. Across the Chapter and each local union we have embraced the **Powering America** brand. Powering America is a nationally recognized NECA and IBEW brand. If your company would like hard hat stickers, car magnets, window decals, or t-shirts you may reach out to the NECA office. They are also available at any class or membership meeting.



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## Looking Forward

- January 22-24, 2020: **ELECTRI Council Meeting** St. Petersburg, FL
- February 26-28, 2020: **AEI** Chicago, IL
- March 17-19, 2020: **WIN/Future Leaders Conference** Tampa, FL
- April 27-29, 2020: **Legislative Conference** Washington, DC
- May 12-17, 2020: **ELECTRI Innovation Meeting** Paris, France
- May 15-17, 2020: **National Safety Professionals Conference** Scottsdale, AZ
- October 3-6, 2020: **NECA Convention and Trade Show** Chicago, IL

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