



**NECA North Florida Chapter
CONNECTION**

2020 Board of Directors

President: Henry Brown

Director: Stan Brandies

Vice President: Byron Overstreet

Director: Brent Zimmerman

Governor: Edward Witt Jr.

Director: Scott Sullivan

Treasurer: Kevin Flanigan

Director: Brad Giles

Upcoming Course Offerings

December 9th, 9 a.m - 12 p.m

Building the Case to Win- Claims and Change Orders (Change Orders Level II)

In this session, the group will discuss contract risk management and preservation of rights in order to increase the chances of financial recovery during project execution. Since the most valued information for contract conflict resolution come from those closest to the work, the basics of preparing that documentation and effectively translating the information will be discussed. The group will gain understanding and review examples of risky contract clauses, the process of claims management, the legalities of change order control, and preparation for lawsuits.

Register now with this link! <https://attendee.gototraining.com/r/5739105859988977666>

NECA 2020 Live On-Demand



Worried you missed something at NECA2020LIVE? We've got you covered. All content is available for registrants through November 15. Just head back to the platform and play the sessions. And if you haven't registered yet, you can access the sessions by registering now at <https://hubs.ly/H0xPDHK0>

Feeding North East Florida Food Drive



North Florida Chapter NECA is now collecting food items through November 13th. Please drop off your donations at the North Florida Chapter NECA office, located at 4951 Richard St. Jacksonville, FL 32207.

Feeding North East Florida helps local children and families, seniors and active and retired military members who struggle to put food on the table. Working with local grocery stores, manufacturers, and farms they rescue high-quality food that would normally be wasted and transform it into meals for those in need.

We have already collected 40 pounds of food for Feeding Northeast Florida and that we are happy to pick up items from the contractors shops for this community event.

Please contact the North FL NECA office for more information. 904-636-0663

Regulators Eye Workers' Comp Rate Cut

Florida insurance regulators Tuesday dug into the details of a proposal that calls for reducing workers' compensation insurance rates next year by an average of 5.7 percent.

The state Office of Insurance Regulation held a public hearing on the proposal by the National Council on Compensation Insurance, or NCCI, which makes rate filings for the workers' compensation insurance industry. While state and NCCI actuaries discussed details of the filing during the hour-long online hearing, no members of the public made comments. The proposal would be the fourth straight year of premium decreases for employers.

Average rates dropped 7.5 percent this year, after reductions of 13.8 percent in 2019 and 9.5 percent in 2018. Jay Rosen, a senior actuary for NCCI, said the filing does not take into account potential effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on workers' compensation insurance.

The filing was based on data as of the end of 2019, before the pandemic hit the state. A closely watched issue in the industry involves a 2016 Florida Supreme Court ruling, in a case known as Castellanos v. Next Door Company, that invalidated a law that placed strict limits on fees that could be paid to attorneys for injured workers. Business groups have long argued that the ruling would drive up costs in the workers' compensation system. Rosen said expenses such as attorney fees have increased but that other "favorable" cost-related trends in the system have offset the increases stemming from the court decision.

Regulators are expected to decide in the coming weeks whether to approve, reject or

Dr. Jeffrey Sharkey
CEO/President
Capitol Alliance Group, Inc

End of Temporary Fee Moratorium

All permits submitted on and after October 29, 2020 will be subject to the standard permit and other fees.

For information on these and other City fees, please visit the City of Jacksonville's fee page at <https://www.coj.net/departments/finance/city-fees>.

Business Start Up

Apprentices are participating in a Business Start Up Challenge presented by *ELECTRI*. In this challenge, they are tasked to look beyond the cost of labor and introduced to broader concepts of business, marketing, and finance. This challenge gives the participant a more well-rounded idea of what it takes to bid and win projects. It gives insight into the effort involved in sustaining a business as well as the timeline of growing a business and the profits needed to create more jobs.

In this 30 day assignment they are learning about insurance, bonding, safety, and more.



Product Update From Our Partners at 3M



For decades, 3M has been a preferred global partner in delivering efficient, reliable and sustainable energy, bringing to the world of vinyl electrical tape over 75 years of 3M science and field-tested performance. Backed by more than 75 years of 3M Science and field-test performance we are proud to introduce a new consolidated line-up of General Use Tapes: 3M™ Temflex™ Vinyl Electrical Tape.

3M is investing in new manufacturing and supply chain processes:

*Factories of the Future
Improved global services
More efficient supply chains and faster response times*

- A new simplified offering of 11 General Use Electrical Tapes to meet all of your needs
- 3M™ Temflex™ Vinyl Electrical Tape utilizes a 100% solvent-free manufacturing process with lower emissions.
- 3M™ Temflex™ Vinyl Electrical Tape is a more sustainable, high-quality GU vinyl electrical tape with no VOCs. (Volatile Organic Compounds)

THE electrical tape since 1946

Watch their new commercial, highlighting their everyday use tapes here.

Reminders on Hand and Power Tool Safety

Hand and power tools are so common that workers may begin to ignore the hazards of different tools, and follow the necessary safety precautions. Five basic safety rules can help prevent injuries:

1. Keep all tools in good condition with regular maintenance.
2. Use the right tool for the job.
3. Examine each tool for damage before use, and do not use damaged tools.
4. Operate tools according to the manufacturers instructions
5. Provide and use the right personal protective equipment

Employees and employers should work together to establish safe working procedures. If a problem arises, workers should immediately bring it to the attention of an appropriate person.

Damaged tools cause injuries

If the right tool isn't immediately available, workers might grab the nearest tool that seems suitable, or might use a damaged tool. Improper use and poor maintenance are major hazards. Some examples include the following:

- If a chisel is used as a screwdriver, the tip of the chisel may break and fly off, hitting the user or other employees.
- If a wooden handle on a hammer is loose, splintered, or cracked, the head of the tool may fly off and strike the user or other employees/
- If impact tools such as chisels or wedges have mushroomed heads, the heads might shatter, sending sharp fragments flying towards the user or other employees.

OSHA has established that the employer is responsible for the safe condition of tools and equipment used by employees. However, the workers who use those tools are in the best position to notice problems. They should be trained in proper use and handling. Workers should also report any problems with tools, even if this causes delays in workflow while the tool is repaired or replaced.

In addition, OSHA has mandated that employees who use hand and power toolsmust be provided with the appropriate personal protective equipment. Safety goggles and gloves must be worn to protect against hazards that may be encountered while using hand tools.

JATC Apprenticeship Reports

Jacksonville JATC

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

The Electrical Training Alliance of Jacksonville just added a new Pre-Apprenticeship class to the 2020-2021 school year. This cohort currently has an enrollment of 20 students and started class on November 3rd. This cohort will be divided up into a Class A and Class B of 10 students each to limit exposure. Each class will attend school one night a week and are given work assignments covering the remainder of related class time. The Pre-Apprenticeship students have been provided free books and tools courtesy of the Pathways Grant to Career Opportunities.

By keeping with the CDC guidelines and increasing the amount of cleaning to a daily schedule, we have had no outbreaks of Covid-19 to date. Students who have tested positive from exposure outside of the school were assigned online course work, encouraged to remain in quarantine and provided opportunity to make up their class hours once they received a negative test result. Instructors have been monitoring each student's progress by keeping weekly contact via email or telephone with their students.

The Training Alliance is continuing to provide professional development training to Journeyman Wireman. We recently held classes based on NFPA 70E and EPS Training for those who were interested. Professional development classes are scheduled based on subject matter and interest. If you know of anyone who desires to better themselves in the trade, please have them contact the office for discussion of how we may serve their needs.

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 McEarchern
Assistant Training Director*

Looking Forward

- December 9th, 2020: **Building the Case to Win- Claims and Change Orders (Change Orders Level II)** Virtual

phone: 904-636-0663

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram



[Visit our website](#)