



Volts & Views

... from the inside

**SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST
AND DATES TO ADD TO YOUR
2025 & 2026 CALENDARS!**

- December 5, 2025
Board of Directors Meeting
JW Marriott
Minneapolis, MN
- February 2-4, 2026
2026 Women in NECA (WIN)
Leadership Conference
Dallas, TX
- March 10-13, 2026
2026 Midwestern Region
Conference
The Hilton Waikoloa Village
Waikoloa, HI
- July 23-26, 2026
2026 Dakotas Chapter NECA
Annual Membership Meeting
Alexandria, MN
- October 4-7, 2026
NECA 2026 Convention and
Trade Show
Las Vegas, NV

Staff Directory:

NECA Phone: 701-293-1300
JATC Phone: 701-297-5934
Office Fax: 701-293-1301

Executive Director
Ed Christian
director@dakotasneca.org
Cell: 701-371-7314

NECA Executive Assistant
Darla Dybwad
admin@dakotasneca.org

Accounting Manager
Sharlene Larson
dakneca@dakotasneca.org

Dakotas NECA Receiving
Darla Dybwad
crf@dakotasneca.org
Phone: 701-293-1300

JATC Director of Education
Adam Kidwell
director@dakotasjatc.org
Phone: 701-297-5934

JATC Coordinator
Amber Tougas
ambert@dakotasjatc.org

IN THE NEWS...

Millennials Most Likely to Embrace Energy Efficiency Technology

By Rick Laezman, for Electrical Contractor Magazine

While the popularity of energy efficiency technology has increased recently, not all demographics feel the same about it.

According to a recent study by the Smart Energy Consumer Collaborative, a nonprofit that focuses on the needs of consumers in the smart energy landscape, consumers under the age of 55 with a college degree and children are the "most favorable" to technology and efficiency when it comes to energy use in their homes.

The study, which was conducted this spring, surveyed 2,000 Americans who make household energy decisions. The results were released in August 2025. Notable findings include a segmentation of consumers into four distinct

groups. Consumers labeled as "informed and engaged" are described as the "ideal customers in the modern electricity ecosystem." They represent about 34% of the total population, and with 70% under the age of 55, they overlap with the millennial generation. They are also most likely to have children in the household, and 60% have a college degree.

Other segments include the "curious and capable consumers," the youngest segment and most likely to live in multifamily housing. They are joined by the "tech-cautious saver consumers," who are primarily older women with lower incomes and no children in the house. Finally, "turnkey comfort consumers" are well-educated, well-off retirees.

Of the four groups, the "informed and engaged" consumers are the most likely to respond that "they do whatever they can to reduce their electricity bill" and that they "use technology whenever they can to be more energy efficient."

The survey also revealed some significant findings about energy consumers overall. For example, the use of smart appliances is on the rise. Just under half of the respondents (47%) own a smart thermostat, and 43% own at least one smart appliance, such as smart lights (41%) and smart plugs (38%).

On the other hand, there is a large information gap about resources available to consumers to help them become more efficient and save money on their bills. Less than 20% of consumers know about programs such as energy-efficient HVAC rebates, money-saving rate plan options or offers for energy audits.



DIRECTOR'S CORNER

With Ed Christian, Executive Director, Dakotas Chapter NECA

Hello all,

We would like to wish you and your family a wonderful Thanksgiving and Christmas Holiday season! As many may recall, snow will arrive soon so get out and enjoy what is left of this fabulous fall season. With as busy as it has been for all of you, make sure you take the time and enjoy the five weekends remaining until 2026 is here.

The National Convention held in Chicago, September 12th - 15th showcased the electrical industry like no other convention can and we appreciate those members who took time out of their busy schedules to attend. The venues for the opening and closing celebrations were awesome and attendees enjoyed all the Windy City had to offer. Thank you to Border States Electric for hosting us on Sunday evening at MJ's, for our chapter dinner, it was a great venue with fabulous food.

On Friday morning September 12th, the Board of Governors meeting was held, and a new format was used starting with the Business Meeting, which had the NECA Members and National and Chapter Staff only in attendance, and included the Election of Vice-Presidents and the voting on the Ordinary Proposals of which there were five. It then concluded with the Industry Meeting which recognized the industry partners and included the officers' reports. We just completed our Fall Division meetings with Bismarck-Mandan/Minot-Williston Divisions on Tuesday, Fargo-Moorhead/Grand Forks Divisions was held on November 12th, and Sioux Falls Division was held on November 13th. All the Divisions have a positive outlook moving forward into 2026.

Looking forward, we will have negotiations with Local Union 1426 as the contract expires May 31, 2026, and with Local Union 714 as the contract expires June 28, 2026.

We hope you enjoy time with family and friends this holiday season and safe travels to all.

On behalf of the Dakotas Chapter Staff,

Ed Christian



2901 1st Avenue North
Fargo, North Dakota 58102-3001
Phone: 701-293-1300
Fax: 701-293-1301
E-mail: admin@dakotasneca.org



Our office will be closed on:
Thanksgiving: November 27 & 28
Christmas: December 25 & 26
New Year's: January 1
Enjoy the holiday season!

2025 NECA National Convention Chicago, IL

Dakotas Chapter NECA members represented our chapter at this year's 2025 NECA National Convention in Chicago, IL. Individuals attending from the Dakotas Chapter this year included:

Electric Supply Company:

Bob and Brenda Jarding / Bannon and Lanae Larson

Hunt Electric: Keith and Raelynn Colvard

Rick Electric Inc.: Greg and Stacy Rick

Rickard Electric: Darrin & Kelli Dietrich

Thompson Solutions Group: Brian Spader / Mike Anderson

Dakotas Chapter NECA: Ed and Lisa Christian



Mike Anderson, Thompson Solutions Group, Sioux Falls, SD, was one of two lucky winners who won a signed guitar by the Temptations. This was presented by ABB Group. Congratulations Mike!



The convention attendees were able to enjoy the music of the Motown Showdown featuring The Temptations and The Four Tops at the Navy Pier.

