

2025 NERA Meeting - Idaho

The National Electrical Reciprocal Alliance (NERA) meeting was hosted by Idaho and held in Boise this year. The meeting was on August 26 - 28, with Amy Lorenzo of Idaho as the Chair. NERA consists of 19 member States with a mission to encourage similar regulations, without lessening the regulations of each member state, but trying to maintain some level of consistency to promote reciprocal agreements with states that have similar requirements.

The states that attended this meeting were:

- Arkansas – Lindsay Moore
- Idaho – Amy Lorenzo
- Iowa - Brian Young
- Minnesota – Steve Dudley
- Montana – Kelly Welsh
- Nebraska – Kim Farnstrom (Proxy for Craig Thelen)
- New Mexico – Mike Padilla
- North Carolina – Tim Norman
- North Dakota – James Schmidt
- South Dakota – Pam Overweg
- Wisconsin – Garry Krause
- Wyoming – Rich Michon

Topics of discussion:

- Virtual inspection presentation and with the assistance of Jason Ekholm, we conducted a mock virtual inspection
- Tim McClintock provided an NFPA update
 - Code making process
 - When the 2026 NEC will roll out with it being available through Link in September
 - Briefly touched on the restructuring of the 2029 NEC
- Roundtable discussion on legislative changes in each state
 - Minnesota**
 - Fee increase
 - Language cleanup
 - Other states**
 - ID brought up “universal licensing” Idaho terminology
 - Some state will issue a reciprocal license without a reciprocity agreement as long as the issuing state deems they are equivalent.
 - Board approval may not be needed in certain states.
 - Some states that are utilizing “open reciprocity” are looking to join together to have one license that will work between other states that agree to this in order to eliminate the need for reciprocity
 - Removal of restrictive language
 - Consolidation of Boards
 - License reduction. Reduce the number of license types issued.

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- Arkansas had a special interest inspection group that was trying to eliminate electrical licensing all together, this was shot down
- At the time of the meeting, most states reported to be extremely busy and are in need of more licensed individuals
- Exams and professional proctors
- Ratio's. Some states have different ratios depending on the occupancy type. MN is right in line with the majority.
- Qualifications to examine
 - Alaska and North Dakota do not recognize our master license if they qualified to examine with only a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering 326B.33 Subd. 1 & defined in 3800.3500 Subp. 5. Granted, we do not have reciprocity with Alaska with our master license, however, they will not reciprocate to a lesser license if they obtained our master license this way. North Dakota will reciprocate with our master if they obtained it through on the job training.
- South Dakota had approximately a 30% fee increase
- Lack of inspectors
- Most states are looking into implementing some type of virtual inspections
- Changes to the NERA website <https://www.nerastates.org/>
- After approximately 5 years we were able to all agree on the bylaw updates. There are no major changes that would affect reciprocity agreements, but updates to the antiquated language, along with the removal of what NERA was formerly known as (Multi-state Reciprocal Electrical Licensing Group) and removed the requirement of having the meetings from August to October and changed it to at least 6 months from our previous meeting.
- How being a member of NERA has been beneficial
 - Has helped maintain the ability for some states to prevent open reciprocity
 - CE requirements, and stopped the elimination of CE requirements
 - Networking with other states
 - Updated documentation from all other NERA states that is readily available