

PUBLIC HEARING AGENDA
The Prince George's County
Board of Registration for Master Electricians, Electrical
Contractors, and Subcontractors

**PUBLIC BODY: BOARD OF REGISTRATION FOR MASTER ELECTRICIANS,
ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS, AND SUBCONTRACTORS**

DATE: Tuesday, November 21, 2023

TIME: 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

LOCATION: Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88370471864>

Meeting ID: 883 7047 1864

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD AND STAFF:

Steven W. Johnson, Chair
Alvin Biagas, Vice Chair
Joseph Armstrong, Member
James Reid, Member
Lisa Dixon, Member
Michelle Lyons, Administrator

AGENDA

New Business

➤ **MEULEC Virtual Meeting**

- Discussion – Contents of the MUELEC Virtual meetings.

- Attached Meeting Minutes from MUELEC meeting held on May 17, 2023
- Attached Agenda for MUELEC meeting that will take place on November 15, 2023

➤ **Master Limited Testing**

➤ **Board Membership**

Adjournment

MARYLAND UNIFORM ELECTRICAL LICENSING EXAMINATION COMMITTEE, INC.

MEMBERSHIP:

ONE MEMBER FROM EACH ELECTRICAL LICENSING BOARD IN THE STATE OF MARYLAND

MUELEC



ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, May 17, 2023 - 10:00 a.m.

Virtual Meeting with Link Provided Prior to Meeting

Twenty-eight regular jurisdictional members, other leaders, and supporters were in attendance.

The meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m., with Martin Lotz of Deerfield Electric assisting those in attendance with logistics. Martin was thanked for setting up this meeting.

Executive Secretary Gil Thompson welcomed everyone and thanked them for their attendance today.

Gil Thompson indicated that MUELEC Chairman, Paul Noyes, has been ill and regrettably could not attend today's meeting. Gil shared that our organization needed to take care of some house keeping tasks to bring MUELEC into good standing as a corporation. One of these items of business was to declare this meeting as "official" as one of two that our organization holds annually and to accept a Slate of Officers for the coming year. *A motion was made and seconded to declare this as an "official" meeting to receive the new Slate of Officers as follows:*

Chairman: Paul Noyes (a retired Carroll Co. business owner), who will attend in the future and preside at future meetings

Vice Chairman: Marty Schumacher, MS Electrical Training Instructor

Executive Secretary: Gil Thompson (Retired) and Milford Badders (Chief Electr. Inspect. of Harford Co.) - a shared position

Treasurer: Martin Lotz (a retired Electrician and Electrical Co. Owner and Officer of several area electrical and contracting associations)

Advisory Panel: Tom Yingling and Darrell Zepp of Carroll County and Rick Gaver of Washington Co. Brett Calloway of Wicomico County – (all to advise and bring issues of concern to the attention of our membership)

A motion was made and seconded to elect this Slate for this coming year.

MUELEC's Treasurer's Report: Treasurer, Rob Smith had to resign in February due to business obligations. As a result, he closed our bank account in Easton. Martin Lotz has offered to help MUELEC reorganize and meet State tax obligations. A final report will be shared at a later date.

MUELEC funds were used over the summer and into the fall to update our 2020 NEC exam questions, as we paid someone to put the text questions into format and used supplies to do so.

We invoiced each jurisdiction \$100 in January 2023 and received \$ 1,300 that was deposited into our account. Your support is greatly appreciated, and those who have not yet renewed their yearly membership are encouraged to do so.

Gil asked all to review the Minutes from the November 16, 2022 MUELEC Meeting, which were E-mailed to all members. No one had any discrepancies and the Minutes were accepted as sent.

Gil Thompson reviewed legislative Bills of concern to the electrical industry and what to expect as a result. He thanked Senators McCray and Mautz and Delegate Hornberger for their help with these Bills.

House Bill 149 sponsored by Delegate Hornberger along, with Senator McCray's (Senate Bill 44), passed this last legislative session and was signed by the Governor.

- ✓ The Bill will change the classification of an *inactive* state license holder to *uninsured* state license holder.
- ✓ Persons holding the uninsured license will be allowed to work as a Journeyman in the workplace without paying the insurance cost required of an active Master Electrician. However, they will not be allowed to take out electrical permits, advertise a business, sign contracts for electrical installations and they must work under Masters or companies that carry the required State Insurance. They will, however, be able to regain an active Master's License after they have met the required continuing education and insurance regulations and pay the necessary licensing fees.
- ✓ The Bill also officially clarifies what entities will be authorized to certify Journeymen who have successfully completed recognized apprenticeship programs (State and Federally approved). Those programs require 586 classroom hours and 8,000 hours of work experience so they can apply for the State Journeyman License without taking the State examination.

Senate Bill 444. Because of controversy and the many questions asked concerning the type of work allowed and other specifics such as voltage and systems not written in the Bill, the sponsor to establish a State Low Voltage License withdrew. In regards to this Bill, there is still a lot of work to do, but I think establishing 70 Volt limit and work allowed under the Low Voltage Sections of the NEC, with the provision to have a minimum insurance coverage Statewide and using the passport or reciprocity law in existence, would be the easiest way to solve it.

House Bill 414 to change Washington County's electrical regulations did not pass; in fact, it did not make it out of the committee hearing. It was returned to the sponsors to be reconsidered and reworked.

Senate Bill 477 concerning rules and regulations for residential electrical vehicle charging did not pass but was sent to the Energy Department to be worked on. More to come next year.

REVIEW OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS THIS PAST YEAR

Updated Test Questions to the State: Gil Thompson reminded all that a notebook containing updated test questions was delivered to John Bull, along with a password protected flash drive with these questions on it, on November 1, 2022. FYI - the following people provided updated test questions to Milford Badders and Gil Thompson in the summer and fall of 2022: Wayne Robinson, Marty Schumacher, Rob Smith, Don Haskins, Rick Stumpf, and Rob Roby. Sue Thompson was tasked with formatting these updated questions and removing all duplicate questions that contained "All of the Above" or "None of the Above" from prior text formats, with help from Pam Badders. Upon review by Gil and Milford, the questions were put into a notebook, a flash drive was made, and the material given to the State Department. **PLEASE NOTE: These test questions were based on the 2020 NEC.**

The above test questions will only be used by PSI developers when formulating the Master's Exam, using the guidelines of fifty 1-point questions, ten 2-point questions, and six 5-point questions. MUELEC suggested the use of a Journeyman's test made up from the regular exam questions with values of 2 points each or 35 at 2 points, ten 2-point theory questions, 2 calculations, using the simpler calculation for a home or a store, for example.

Please note that the recently revised test questions that went to the State were based on the 2020 Code; some local jurisdictions are using the same questions for their testing of limited/restricted applicants.

We learned at today's meeting that the State Electrical Board has reviewed and authorized the use of the new 2020 Code Exam Questions we submitted in early November 2022 and will draw from the bank of questions we submitted in the near future (perhaps by July 1, 2023, as per Mr. Bull.)

Be aware that the MUELEC Code Committee, without any financial help from PSI or the State Electrical Board, worked hard to revise the State's Electrical Exam. The new Electrical Exam with its references would help Maryland comply with the current electrical law (Senate Bill 762) requiring that within 18 months of NFPA's adoption of the NEC, that the latest edition become the official electrical code of Maryland, both for testing and enforcement, locally and State-wide.

Discussion of Above Issue

The issue in the above paragraph continues to plague us all – the confusion over the State following the 18-month adoption of the most recent NEC vs. the local jurisdiction doing it. It appears that the way the Annotated Law is being interpreted, the State is required to, but not necessarily, the Counties. It appears that some jurisdictions are still following the 2017 and the 2020 NEC when inspecting and testing. This also comes into play concerning the issue of asking people who are attempting to pass the State Master's Exam to prepare based on NEC 2020 vs. NEC 2017. You can imagine the challenge of this if you are a Continuing Education provider who is trying to prepare people for an exam or who is trying to help the average electrician do the right kind of work, based on the most recent electrical code requirements.

Please remember that the local jurisdiction must take the lead in ensuring that local electricians and low voltage personnel are complying with the Law for the sake of the public. The State does not enforce; it only regulates, and we depend on local leaders to abide by the Law. It appears that the Law might need to be changed in order to get everyone (the State and local entities) to abide by the same principle. Those with knowledge and experience (Gil, Marty, John Bull, and many attendees) were of the opinion that the language of the present Bill needs to be changed to better direct local jurisdictions and the State.

As a result, before we dismissed, a motion was made and seconded that: *MUELEC take the lead in requesting that the wording of the State Electrical Law be changed.* At this time, it seems there is no incentive or penalty for Counties not to follow the most recent NEC nor for the State to be in compliance with its testing procedures.

Test Integrity (PSI Administered Exams)

Marty Schumacher and other instructors continue to hear from test takers attempting to take the State Master's Licensing Exam that the structure of the test has been changed or is confusing. This puts undue stress on test takers. Mr. Bull indicated that before the test begins, test takers are given the option of being tested on the 2017 NEC or the 2020 NEC. (We think this is correct, as the 2020 Exam Questions were only recently given to the State to be passed on to PSI).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- John Bull indicated that Greg Morgan is no longer with the agency, and John C. Dove is now Commissioner of the Division of Occupational and Professional Licensing.
- According to a consensus of those present, by July 2024, all local jurisdictions must be inspecting on the 2023 NEC.
- If an Uninsured (formerly called Inactive) electrician wishes to be able to pull permits and do electrical work, he/she must complete ten (10) hours of Continuing Education. Proof of this CE must be presented to the DLR.
- As reported by Mr. Bull, approximately 6,500 applications for grandfathered journeymen are pending. His office was sorely understaffed to handle the influx of applications at the end of last year. Some in our group indicated that they had electricians in their jurisdiction still waiting to hear back from the State. Mr. Bull indicated that these licenses had been processed;

1,861 Active	1,216 Inactive
2,831 Qualified Agents	43 Master Inspectors
2,650 Journeypersons	2,213 Apprentices

 This fall and winter, Mr. Bull had two staff members resign and had to hire additional help to continue the task of processing applications.
- Please submit the names and e-mails of anyone in your jurisdiction who wishes to be on the MUELEC e-mail list. We wish to update our roster. Send this information to: susanjeanne@verizon.net
- It is recommended that local jurisdictions check at <https://www.dllr.state.md.us/license/min/elecmin.shtml> for updates on testing and procedures (Dept. of Labor and Licensing; Board Meetings/Minutes). By checking the Department of Labor and Licensing website, you can obtain the latest news.

MUELEC knows this is a challenging time, and we feel we are a bridge to making the electrical industry strong and full of integrity. We hope we can work together to move the electrical industry forward in the months ahead, especially strengthening our relationship with the DLLR. We appreciated State Board Executive Director, John Bull’s attendance at our meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gilbert L. Thompson, Executive Secretary
MUELEC Organization

Cc: Senators Cory McCray and Johnny Mautz
Delegate Kevin Hornberger
Mr. John Bull

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MUELEC



TO: All MUELEC Members and Supporters:

DATE: October 25, 2023

Please mark your calendars and set aside the time to attend a special ZOOM meeting of MUELEC on **Wednesday, November 15th at 10 a.m.** We have decided to schedule a virtual meeting to allow ALL Electrical Administrative Boards to be represented. While not optimal in terms of spending quality time together, it does do away with a long travel distance for many of us. (Sorry, you'll have to provide your own coffee and donuts at home or your office!)

We apologize that several e-mails have bounced back, and we may not be reaching the correct people for this meeting. Please pass this on to the appropriate member of your organization if you are no longer on the Board or representing MUELEC.

You will receive a link for our Zoom Meeting in the near future. (Michael Lotz of Deerfield Electric will be our host.)

MUELEC needs at least ONE representative to attend and participate, as important issues will be discussed as listed on our Agenda Items below and on the next page:

- Attached you will find the May 17, 2023 Minutes of MUELEC. Please review this material and be ready to accept or change anything in the Minutes. The Minutes will not be read, and we will expect a motion after your review to accept them as sent out.
- There will be a Treasurer's Report from Martin Lotz and an update on our standing with Maryland as a corporation (we are currently in good standing with the State of Maryland).
- There will be an update from Marty Schumacher on PSI Testing procedures and how any issues are being resolved.
- There will be an update from John Bull (or a Maryland State Electrical Board Member) on the number of electricians (apprentices, journeypersons, master's, etc.) In addition, there should be a discussion as to the State Electrical Board's decision on which year of the Code is being used for the test and what they are implementing in the way of continuing education.
- There will be time for questions and updates on any industry concerns regarding equipment, its listing, its use, and some termination problems. (FYI - there is a resurgence of metal clad and aluminum conductors being used once again, and you know the problems we had in the past with terminations of that product).

- There is also a trend to grant code regulators and compliance personnel to accept self-certification or certain third-party approvals for large installations. Because local subdivisions or authorities having jurisdiction are having difficulty in filling electrical inspection positions, it reinforces the necessity of having educated, skilled workers who are knowledgeable in the latest code and regulations before doing any electrical installations. (See the Electric League of Maryland website for some interesting code regulations.) We should all be concerned about continuing education requirements and having adequate testing before allowing licensed electricians regulated by local authorities.



- As noted in the last discussion, work should have been started on wording to update legislation to stop confusion about the passage of Senate Bill 762. Since I have heard nothing from any jurisdiction or personnel, I am going to suggest the following:

In Section 6205 Section A(3), after the word “enforce,” insert the word “state-wide” and in Section B(1), after the words “based on” insert “the latest edition.” In Section 6-301, start with the words “Each County and authority having jurisdiction will enforce state-wide the latest edition of the National Electrical Code within 18 months of its adoption as a national standard” (this will coincide with the State Fire Marshal laws that the latest National Electrical Code will be enforced State-wide within 18 months).

And, please review the Minutes when we discussed low voltage regulations, as that issue still has not been resolved.

If you can read the attached information and be ready to comment on it, it will help us have a productive meeting. We are interested in hearing how things are going since the passage of Senate Bill 762.

I look forward to seeing you virtually on Wednesday, November 15, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. and thank you for your service to the electrical industry in Maryland.

Sincerely,

Gilbert L. Thompson, *Executive Secretary*
MUELEC Organization

Supported By

Mr. Paul Noyes, Chairperson

Marty Schumacher, Vice Chairperson

Martin Lotz, Treasurer

Milford Badders, Member. Ex Officio