



## THE ALABAMA ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS BOARD

# THE ELECTRICAL NEWS BRIEF

JANUARY 2016 EDITION

### AECB

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### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

by Keith E. Warren

The Board has been extremely busy with implementing the many changes that were approved in the legislation passed in 2010. The Board now has 2,471 Licensed Electrical Contractors, 771 Licensed Journeymen Electricians and 725 Licensed Provisional Electrical Contractors. With these changes, the Board established an inactive status and we have 655 Inactive Electrical Contractors, 246 Inactive Journeyman Electricians, and 281 Inactive Provisional Electrical Contractors. That is a total of 5,149 people who hold licenses from the Alabama Board of Electrical Contractors. In my tenure, I never thought I would see this large number but I'm certainly glad that we have reached such a milestone. The Board is discussing some future changes in the licensing of the electrical industry. This has been a learning experience in every aspect throughout the industry, the local jurisdictions and electrical/building departments as well as the professional organizations that represent and support this industry. We will continue to keep you updated on any proposed changes through this publication, our web site and on our future social media sites that will be implemented in the coming months.

We blinked and now 2016 has begun. A new continuing education period has begun and 14 CE hours are required in order to renew your 2017 Electrical Contractor or Provisional Electrical Contractor license. **Hopefully everyone is now aware that continuing education is not required for Journeyman Electrician licenses.** All approved continuing education providers are listed on the web site and many of them are online providers. Continuing Education Providers are required to submit an attendance roster and your completed hours directly to the Board and this information is recorded in the license database. You can search your electronic file from the web site and see if your CE hours are completed.

The Board has been very busy in the complaint process as indicated in the Disciplinary Action section of this publication. The Board does investigate all written complaints that are received in the office and takes this responsibility very seriously.

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[www.aecb.alabama.gov](http://www.aecb.alabama.gov)

#### BOARD MEETINGS

10:00 a.m. - Mondays  
Board Conference Room  
2777 Zelda Road  
Montgomery AL 36106

#### 2016 Meeting Schedule

JANUARY 11TH	MARCH 7TH
MAY 9TH	JULY 11TH
SEPTEMBER 12TH	NOVEMBER 7TH

Meeting dates and times are subject to change.  
Check the Board's web site calendar for any changes.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT, continued from Page 1**

Please do not hesitate to contact the office should you have any questions regarding complaints or assisting someone with a complaint.

The online renewal process has greatly increased and continues to be exceptionally beneficial to the license renewal process. This increases the security of funds for both the licensee and the Board. It also eliminates the step of obtaining a cashier's check or money order that is required of funds being submitted to the Board office. If you ever experience any problems with this process, please do not hesitate to contact the Board.

Should you need to contact us regarding any service we offer, our email addresses are listed in this publication as well as the office telephone number. I look forward to continuing to serve you and am always available to assist in any way that will simplify any process we have or to assist any citizen/consumer that has questions concerning regulations and requirements of electrical contractors. I hope you have a great 2016!!

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**COMMENTS FROM PAST CHAIR**  
**By Chuck Turner**

I have been asked several times, what is the purpose or function of the Electrical Contractors Board and how do those engaged in the electrical contracting business benefit from these rules and regulations. After serving as a board member and as board chairman, I feel I can better answer that question.

I have been an electrical contractor in the state of Alabama for more than 40 years. In the past, people could perform electrical work without any training or education. Anyone could represent themselves as an electrical contractor. In most cases all that was required was that they purchase a business license. During this time in the past, a person that styled hair was required to be trained and state licensed but not electrical contractors. Normally a person that gets a bad hair job will not die from the result but someone that gets a poor electrical installation can lose both life and property.

The public was at the mercy of unscrupulous individuals.

Another issue faced by contractors was local licensing laws. Some cities or municipalities developed their own separate rules and regulations. One location would have no examination, while another made up their own exam. Still another would give locals preferential treatment over outside companies. There were no standards and often unfair requirements.

The formation of the state board was to address these issues. When creating the law and regulations, the board was charged with protecting the safety and well-being of the public, at the same time providing a fair and professional environment for the electrical contractors.

<b>CURRENT LICENSEES (as of January 11, 2016)</b>	
Active Electrical Contractors: #2,471	Inactive Electrical Contractors: #655
Journeyman Electricians: #771	Inactive Journeyman Electricians: #246

**EC licenses are renewed annually and Electrical Contractors must obtain 14 CE hours before your license expires in 2017. Approved Continuing Education providers are listed on the Board's website at [www.aecb.state.al.us](http://www.aecb.state.al.us).**

**Prior to renewal your Electrical Contractors license, you are encouraged to search licensees on the Board's web site to verify if your CE hours have been reported.**

**COMPLAINT PROCESS**

As seen from the Disciplinary Action reported in this publication, the Board accepts complaints from individuals who report deficiencies they have encountered with either licensed or unlicensed electrical contractors. There is a consumer complaint form available on the Board’s web site to complete and submit to the Board’s office to review and investigate (no anonymous complaints). Once the investigation is complete, the Complaint Committee reviews the investigative report and decides whether or not the matter is within the Board’s jurisdiction and if further action is warranted. The Complaint Committee is comprised of the Executive Director, General Counsel, Investigator and a Board Member. If violations are found during the scope of the investigation, the Board has options to pursue regarding disciplinary action. The Board can, and has, utilize Consent/Settlement Agreements with the individual who has violated the Boards’ statute, rules or regulations. The Board can also initiate a disciplinary hearing before an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ), take testimony and allow the ALJ to make a recommendation regarding the facts and possible disciplinary action. The Board has the authority to suspend or revoke a license and may also assess an administrative fine of up to \$5,000 per violation. This is the same process that other regulatory and licensing Boards utilize in their disciplinary procedures.

The two largest violations the Board has seen or has initiated disciplinary action for are 1) unlicensed person(s) performing electrical contracting or advertising electrical contracting to the public, and 2) a licensed electrical contractor pulling permits for an unlicensed person or allowing an unlicensed person to use the license to evade the requirement to be licensed with this Board. These are two very serious infractions of the Board’s statute, rules and regulations.

Disciplinary action the Board has initiated and completed is public record and is listed in this publication. Current and future actions will be reported on the web site as well. All questions relating to filing a complaint should be directed to the Board office or to the web site at [www.aecb.alabama.gov](http://www.aecb.alabama.gov). \*\*\*

**INACTIVE STATUS CERTIFICATE**

Licenses for Electrical Contractors, Provisional Electrical Contractors and Journeyman Electricians are renewed annually to maintain an active status. However, a licensee may elect an INACTIVE STATUS. Administrative Rule 303-X-2-.04 Inactive Status Certification can be viewed on the Board’s web site under “*Law & Regulations*” icon, and provides more information about this process:

- Active licensees must notify the Board by submitting the required *form* 30 days prior to license expiration date;
- *Inactive Status Certification* form can be obtained on Board’s web site under “*Forms*”;
- The fee for Inactive status can be viewed on the Board’s web site under “*Fees*”;
- To reinstate an Inactive Certificate to an active license, the renewal fee for an active license must be submitted, along with evidence of having completed 7 hours of approved CE for each year of inactive status. \*\*\*

The *Law & Regulations* on the Board’s web site can provide additional information on the topics covered in this newsletter and compliance with licensing requirements of this Board. The Board’s staff is also available to answer any questions that you may have:

Keith E. Warren	Executive Director	<a href="mailto:keith@alstateboard.com">keith@alstateboard.com</a>
Renee’ Reames	Executive Secretary	<a href="mailto:renee@alstateboard.com">renee@alstateboard.com</a>
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Mike James	Investigator	<a href="mailto:mike@alstateboard.com">mike@alstateboard.com</a>
Jennifer Love	Legal Assistant/Consumer Complaints	<a href="mailto:jennifer@alstateboard.com">jennifer@alstateboard.com</a>
Jenna Lanier	Licensing Specialist Assistant	<a href="mailto:jenna@alstateboard.com">jenna@alstateboard.com</a>
Ashley Ainsworth	Receptionist/Application Specialists Assistant	<a href="mailto:ashley@alstateboard.com">ashley@alstateboard.com</a>

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**DISCIPLINARY ACTION, continued from Page 5****OUTSTANDING DISCIPLINARY FINES**

Name: Vincent Gaudio, \$15,000 fine pending  
 Last Known Address: 24 John Tyler Street, Russellville, AL 35653

Name: Frederick Acklin, \$5,000 fine pending  
 Last Known Address: 1807 Tradition Way, Phenix City, AL 36867

Name: Larry Pollard, \$2,500 fine pending  
 Last Known Address: 4531 Sunshine Drive, Montgomery, AL 36116

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**Services and forms available on the Board's website: [www.aecb.alabama.gov](http://www.aecb.alabama.gov)**

- Renew license and process licensing fee on-line.
- Print a Change of Address form (submit to ensure your license is mailed to correct address).
- Licensees can search to determine if CE credits have been submitted to the Board.
- Print a Change of Company Affiliation or Information form (submit to ensure license is properly affiliated)
- Print an Inactive Status Certification request form (submit request for inactive status)
- View a List of Approved Continuing Education Providers (obtain 14 CE hours every two years)
- Search and verify license of an individual —search by name and/or location
- View the states that have reciprocity with this Alabama Board (Reciprocity Licensing)
- Coming soon: Frequently Asked Questions

Please see Rules and Regulations regarding licensee information.

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**Continuing Education Requirements**

The Board has adopted Rule 303-X-5, "Continuing Education" that is a requirement for all licensed Electrical Contractors and Provisional Electrical Contractors. As a licensee, 14 continuing education hours are required **during a two-year period**. Evidence of completing these 14 hours must be submitted to the Board in order to renew Electrical Contractor license for the 2017 licensing period.

Continuing education hours must be obtained in subjects relating to electrical contracting. Because of differences in the electrical contracting industry and individual needs of licensees, each licensee must exercise judgment in choosing courses that will advance the individual's knowledge. Licensee may not count the same course more than once during a 2-year educational period and seven (7) of the 14 hours must be instruction in NEC/NFPA courses. An Electrical Contractor may accumulate additional CE hours beyond the 14 hours required in a 2-year period. These additional CE hours may be carried forward, not to exceed (6) additional hours, and applied to the next 2-year educational period.

Information pertaining to the *Approved Continuing Education Providers* can be found on the Board's website, [www.aecb.alabama.gov](http://www.aecb.alabama.gov), and the list of approved CE Providers are updated following each Board meeting. Licensees are encouraged to obtain CE hours well in advance of the month that their license will expire, e.g. complete CE hours by April, if license expires June 30, 2017. Further delays in obtaining and reporting CE hours may not provide adequate time to post the CE hours on the Board's website and would restrict the convenience of online renewal of license. Late fees will be assessed if the license is not renewed by the expiration date.

Prior to renewing an Electrical Contractors' license, licensees can verify if 14 CE hours have been reported to the Board by searching the online *Licensee Search* on the Board's website that indicates if the required 14 hours have been received.

To learn more about the continuing education requirements and reporting CE hours to the Board, please review Chapter 5 of the Board's Rules located on the Board's website under the link *Law and Regulations*.



**THE ALABAMA BOARD  
OF ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS**

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**ATTENTION: LICENSEE**

**VIA E-Mail Address**

**(Please keep us advised of your e-mail  
address to receive future newsletters)**

The *Electrical News Brief*  
is a publication of the  
Alabama Board of Electrical Contractors

**ONLINE RENEWALS**

Licenses may be renewed online on the Board's web site. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Board's office and one of our staff will be happy to assist you.

**The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be held on March 7, 2016 .**

The Board meetings are open to the public and held at the Board's offices located at  
2777 Zelda Road in Montgomery.

Please check the Board's web site for the most current information, as meeting dates and locations are subject to change. Meeting dates are also published on the Secretary of State's website in accordance with the Alabama Open Meeting Act.