

THE WIRE

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February 2026

The Presidents' Letter

President's Letter

Our January 2026 general membership meeting was well attended with 44 members. Dennis Steier and I oversaw a good discussion regarding challenges with electrical code compliance when installing AFCIs and GFCIs. It was made very clear that electrical contractors doing residential work are negatively impacted when appliances and equipment are not compatible with this type of protection. This has been an ongoing issue for some time now with no apparent solution in sight. David Schell won the 50/50 pot.

If you have not renewed your membership yet, please help us out and renew as soon as possible. In order to have better accounting, only the names of paid members will be on the sign-in sheet for the February 2026 meeting. If you plan on attending this meeting and have not had a chance to renew your membership you can simply add your name to the sheet.

Dennis Steier and I will be doing the February 9th presentation. We are planning to do code questions, so please bring your code book. If you know someone who might be interested in becoming a member bring them with you. They can attend the meeting at **no charge!**

There is a new addition to the Wire entitled "News from Frankfort". In this section, there will be up to date information regarding Department of Housing, Building, and Construction, legislation, and other governmental topics that impact the electrical industry. Let us know if you have any ideas on material to be included.

The Department of Housing, Building, and Construction has transitioned to the new data base. Please do not be surprised if you have issues with your next license renewal. If you do experience any issues, please contact one of the Board members for assistance or call Housing,

February 9, 2026 Code Program

Sign-in 6:30 P.M. - Program at 7:00 P.M.
ELKS LODGE # 8 - 2824 KLONDIKE LN -

The program for January will be a presentation by Steve Willinghurst & Dennis Steier. Steve & Dennis are both a long time board members of the ECHL and always delivers an excellent presentation.

Our General Membership meetings are held at the Elks Lodge located at 2824 Klondike Lane. The meeting starts at 7:00 pm with sign-ins beginning at 6:30 pm.

Bring a friend and enjoy the program.

Dennis Steier will go over the Code Questions from the February 2026 Wire.

Stay Alert! Work Smart & Stay Informed!

News from Frankfort

The Kentucky General Assembly went into session on Tuesday January 6, 2026. An unprecedented number of bills have been introduced. So far, we have not seen any bill impacting electrical licensing. However, I expect some legislation to be introduced before the filing deadline.

The Department of Housing, Building, and Construction has begun the process of setting up a task force to review the 2026 code and make a recommendation to the Advisory Committee. This task force will have representation across the electrical industry.

The Kentucky Electrical Coalition held a virtual meeting on January 20th. It was very well attended. The discussion included the task force, adoption of the 2026 National Electrical Code, and some training programs that are questionable. Another meeting is planned for the middle of February.

The 6 hour Contractor's Class will be February 14, 2026 at 4315 Preston Hi-Way; Suite 102; Louisville, KY 40213; 2nd Floor Training Room.

Applications are on the echlky.com website.
And on the last page of this newsletter

February 2026 Code Questions

1. Can fuses be installed on the line side of a panel-board service switch? Where would you find this answer in the 2023 NEC?

- A. YES
- B. NO

2023 NEC Code Section? _____

2. Can a 480/277 panelboard have the overcurrent protection on the primary side of the transformer? Where would you find this answer in the 2023 NEC?

- A. YES
- B. NO

2023 NEC Code Section? _____

3. Is overcurrent protection required on all motor control circuit transformers? Where would you find this answer in the 2023 NEC?

- A. YES
- B. NO

2023 NEC Code Section? _____

4. Per the 2023 NEC can a branch circuit feeding 2kw 120v space heater be fed with a 20amp breaker and #12 THHN and be in compliance with the code?

- A. YES
- B. NO

2023 NEC Code Section? _____

5. Can locknuts be used as the bonding method on a service with an enclosure with eccentric knockouts? Where would you find this answer in the 2023 NEC?

- A. YES
- B. NO

2023 NEC Code Section? _____

6. What percentage of full load current for short circuit protection for a wound rotor motor protected by non-delay fuse? Where would you find this answer in the 2023 NEC?

- A. 300
- B. 150
- C. 175
- D. 800

2023 NEC Code Section? _____

Code Corner

Dwelling Calculations Article 220

The definition for a Dwelling Units: A single unit, providing complete and independent living facilities for one or more persons, including permanent provisions for living, sleeping, cooking, and sanitation.

Section 230.82 (A) states that for a one family dwelling the disconnecting means shall have a rating not less than 100 amps. This does not mean you can use this on ever dwelling unit the square footage of the dwelling could require a larger disconnecting means.

Section 220.41 Dwelling Units, Minimum Unit Loads. In one-family, two-family and multifamily dwellings the minimum unit load shall be not less than 33 volt-amperes /m² (3 volt-amperes/ft²)

Table 220.45 Lighting Load Demand Factors, The first 3,000 sq. ft. is calculated at 100%, 3,001 to 120,000 calculated at 35%, and remainder over 120,000 at 25%

There are several other mandatory requirements that have to be added to the calculation and they are covered under the following Section in Article 220:

220.51 Fixed Electric Space Heating. Calculated at 100% of total connected load.

220.52 Small-Appliance and Laundry Loads - Dwelling Units.

220.52(A) This is calculated at 1,500va for each small appliance branch circuit, under **210.11(C)** (1) requires 2 small appliance circuits, so times 2 or 3,000va

220.52 (B) Laundry Circuit Load. Adds another 1,500va and 210.11(C)(2) requires 1 additional 20 amp branch circuit.

220.53 Appliance Load -Dwelling Unit(s) Calculated at 75% of Nameplate rating does not include Household electric cooking equipment, Clothes dryers, Space heating equipment, Air-conditioning equipment, and Electric vehicle equipment.

220.55 Electric Cooking Appliances in Dwelling Units. Rated higher than 1 3/4 KW shall be calculated in accordance with **Table 220.54**

220.57 Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment. Require you to add an additional 7,200va to the calculation. This was a new addition in the 2023 NEC.

These are the rules that shall be followed when doing a load calculation on a dwelling unit.

Article Submitted By Dennis Steier

2026 Election of Officers

The election of officers for 2026 will take place at the General Membership Meeting in February. The slate of Officers and Board Members below are currently serving in the same capacity as noted and have consented to continue in the same role. If any of the current ECHL members wish to join the Board of Directors, please let one of the existing Officers know. Before the election at the General Membership Meeting in February, there will be a request for nominations from the membership and a second for the nomination will be needed. The vote will be taken at the February meeting.

2026 ECHL Officers

President: Steve Willinghurst (Louisville JATC / IBEW / Retired)

1st V Pres / Scribe: David True (NECA / Henderson Services / Retired)

2nd V Pres: Bruce Stansbury (B&H Electric / ABC)

Executive Asst.: Denise Arnold (CED Construction Group)

Treasurer: Alan Akin (Arrow Electric / Retired)

Board Members

Industrial: Jerry Curry (Ford - KTP / Retired)

Contractor: Kurt R. Wagner (Amteck Electric)

Contractor: Mark Yates (Yates Electric)

Manufacturer: Dennis Steier (Manf. Rep / Consultant / KY Chapter IAEL Rep)

LG&E Utility: Joel McCauley



Safety Best Practices When Using Electrical Testing Equipment-Part 2

Digital multimeter best practices

Here are some tips for using a DMM correctly:

- Know what measurements you need to take, what measurement points are best, and how to set the meter for those measurements.
- Set the meter for the intended measurement before connecting it.
- Don't take measurements you don't need to take.
- Never use a DMM to directly take current measurements in a power distribution system. Use a current clamp with a DMM or use a meter designed for that purpose.
- Know the expected voltage range rather than let Autorange find it for you.
- While Autorange is perfectly safe in itself; there is an operational and safety need for you to know what voltage to expect before you connect the DMM.
- Don't use cheap imports. The name brands are built to rigorous safety standards, while cheap knockoffs are built to no safety standards

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TO BE CONTINUED NEXT MONTH

**Top Three Code Violations
Louisville Metro Inspections
February 2026**

**These violations are costing you time
and money.**

1. NEC Article # 230.8 Raceway Seal

Where a service raceway enters a building or structure from an underground distribution system, it shall be sealed in accordance with 300.5 (G), Spare or unused raceways shall be also be sealed. Sealants shall be identified for use with cable insulation, shield, or other components.

2. NEC Article # 110.25 Lockable Disconnecting Means.

If a disconnecting means is required to be lockable open elsewhere in this *CODE*, it shall be capable of being locked in the open position. The provisions for locking shall remain in place with or without the lock installed.

3. NEC Article # 110.22 Identification of Disconnecting Means

Each disconnecting means shall be legibly marked to indicate its purpose unless located and arranged so the purpose is evident. The making shall be of sufficient durability to withstand the environment involved.

Each of these articles listed above are associated with a violation. Please review the articles for compliance and keep in mind to follow through with the current approved NEC.

You lose money when you are turned down on a project. It also costs you time, when you have to return to the job site to make the necessary changes to correct the violation, and that too, costs you money.

Presidents Letter - Cont'd

Building, and Construction at (502) 782-6700. The Sponsorship Form is on the website. If you know of any company that may be interested in becoming a sponsor, please print off the form and give it out to any prospective sponsor. The cost for a company or organization to become a sponsor is \$100.

As mentioned, our next general membership meeting is scheduled for Monday February 9, 2026 at the Elks Lodge located at 2824 Klondike Lane. The meeting starts at 7:00 pm with sign-ins beginning at 6:30 pm. Hope to see you there.

As Always Stay Safe and Work Safe

Steve Willinghurst

LG&E NEWS

WHEN THE WORST OF WINTER HITS, WILL YOU BE READY?

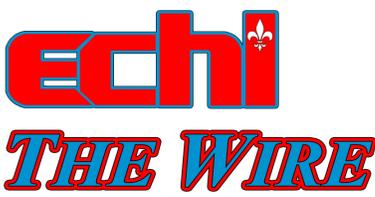
As the worst of the winter season approaches, snow and ice storms can lead to potential power outages. Are you prepared? Here's a quick checklist that will keep you ready should your home lose power this season.

- **Emergency kit:** Keeping items like basic first-aid supplies, flashlights, a battery operated lantern and radio, and extra batteries ready to go in an emergency kit is a must. Also remember to include any prescription medication in your kit.
- **Nonperishable foods:** Have a supply of nonperishable foods, including items like canned goods (plus a can opener), shelf-stable pantry goods (peanut butter, granola bars, etc.) and bagged snacks stored and ready. You can also help preserve perishable foods by keeping refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible.
- **Cell phone charger:** Keeping a portable cell phone charger charged up and ready for use can help ensure you stay informed and in communication with family and friends during power outages.

What's Wrong Here?



Section 760.121(B)(5) permits the fire alarm branch-circuit disconnecting means to be secured in the “on” position; however, Sec. 240.24(A) requires circuit breakers to be readily accessible, and “circuit breaker locks” that require the use of a screwdriver to remove do not provide for a circuit breaker that will meet the Art. 100 definition of “readily accessible.” The red paint used to mark the fire alarm circuit breakers creates a violation of Sec. 240.83(A) because the ampere rating of the circuit breakers is completely obscured by the paint. Section 760.121(B)(4) requires the branch circuits for fire alarm equipment to have red identification; however, that red identification must not obscure any manufacturer’s markings. The red paint used on those three circuit breakers is not Code-compliant.



February 2026

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ECHL
ELECTRICAL CLEARING HOUSE OF LOUISVILLE, INC.
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Contractor Class Registration Form
6 Hours CEU

Saturday February 14, 2026
Registration 7:30 AM
(502) 491-5010

IBEW Training Room - 2nd Floor
4315 Preston Hwy., Suite 102
Louisville, KY 40213

Date: ____ / ____ / ____

____ / ____ / ____
First Name M.I. Last Name Birth Date: Month / Day / Year

Home Address City State Zip Code

Contact Phone # Email Address

License Number: EE: ____ ME: ____ CE: ____

Member: \$80.00 Non-Member: \$100.00 Pay at Door \$130.00

Make Checks Payable to: Electrical Clearing House of Louisville (ECHL)

Mail to: Denise Arnold
CED CONSTRUCTION GROUP
2710 Holloway Road - Suite #8
Louisville, KY 40299

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