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P.O. Box 2085
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THE WIRE

January 2026

The Presidents' Letter

I hope everyone had a great Christmas and New Years. The first four months of general membership meetings saw an uptick in attendance. We averaged around 35 members over this period. Dennis Steier covered the presentation for our December meeting. As always Dennis did a great job. He went over a detailed explanation of Article 110. We had 40 members in attendance. Rick Ruckriegel 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 January 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. If you have any suggestions or ideas on the future of the ECHL, please attend the January 12, 2026 general membership meeting to share your ideas.

Dennis Steier will be doing the January 12th presentation. In addition, we will continue the discussion on the 2026 Code. Please plan on attending and 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.

We have added a help request form to the ECHL website. Several of our members have experienced problems getting answers to various issues. Questions regarding licensing, electrical inspections, utility concerns, or electrical code are just a few examples that we have heard about. Take a look at the site and see what you think.
The Department of Housing, Building, and Construction has transitioned to the new data base.

January 12, 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 Dennis Steier. Dennis is a long time board member 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 January 2026 Wire.

Stay Alert! Work Smart & Stay Informed!

News from Frankfort

The Kentucky General Assembly goes into session on Tuesday January 6, 2026. We are going to actively monitor legislation that has an impact on the electrical industry. Any identified legislation will be mentioned in this segment of the ***WIRE.***

The Housing, Building, and Construction Advisory Committee met on Tuesday December 16, 2025. A motion was made by Ed Devine, Business Manager of IBEW Local Union 369, to begin the process of adopting the 2026 National Electrical Code. The Department will set up a task force to review the 2026 code and make a recommendation to the Advisory Committee.

The Kentucky Electrical Coalition will be sponsoring a virtual meeting tentatively scheduled for the week of January 19th. Part of the agenda will be suggestions on how to effectively monitor legislation impacting the electrical industry.

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

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January 2026 Code Questions

1. A number 12/5 Type G 75c Flexible Cord is feeding a machine that requires 480 volts 3 phase with a neutral, what is the maximum ampacity of this flexible cord?

   A. 29.6
   B. 31
   C. 24.8
   D. 28

2023 NEC Code Section? _____

2. If you were looking for information in the NEC regarding Feeders which Chapter would it be under?

   A. 3
   B. 2
   C. Annex A
   D. None of above

2023 NEC Code Section? _____

3. What size overcurrent device would be required to protect number 18 AWG Copper?

   A. 10
   B. 6
   C. 8
   D. None of above)

2023 NEC Code Section? _____

4. You have an indoor application that requires you to install an enclosure that would be exposed to Corrosive agents, what NEMA type enclosure would be required?

   A. 4X
   B. 3X
   C. 6P -
   D. 4

2023 NEC Code Section? _____

5. You have a service drop that is passing by a window that is designed to open, what clearance is needed from the window?

   A. 4’
   B. 6’
   C. 3’
   D. 900mm

2023 NEC Code Section? _____

6. You are tapping a 20 amp branch circuit conductor for fixture wiring which would require you to install a 60 foot run, what size AWG conductor would be required?

   A. 14
   B. 18
   C. 16
   D. 12

2023 NEC Code Section? _____

Code Corner

Article 250
Grounding and Bonding

Article 250 is the largest Article in the National Electrical Code and is one of the most dreaded by even those who have dealt with the code for years. I am not going to cover every section of Article 250, but concentrate on what you may most commonly use in this Article.

One of the first things most inspectors are going to look at when performing an inspection on a service is it properly grounded. If it is not grounded properly then you are going to fail that inspection. That is why it is important to know what is in Article 250 to properly ground and the importance of be done in a proper manner.

There are two definitions to consider in order understanding the principles of grounding.

Effective Grounded-Fault Current Path: which is an intentionally constructed, low impedance electrically conductive path designed and intended to carry current under ground-fault from the point of a ground fault on a wiring system to the electrical supply source and that facilitates the operation of the overcurrent protective device or ground-fault detectors on high impedance grounded systems.

Ground-Fault Current Path: An electrically conductive path from the point of a ground fault system through normally on-current-carrying conductors, equipment, or the earth to the electrical source.

Part III of Article 250 *Grounding Electrode System and Grounding Electrode Conductor;* This is a good starting point when using this Article in help understanding what is needed for a good connection is made to earth. There are eight different types of electrodes listed in this section. The most common are the Concrete-encased electrode on new construction and the ground rod on existing where you do not have access to a concrete encased electrode.

The preferable electrode for new construction is the Concrete encased electrode, due to the fact the concrete continues to extract moisture from the surrounding soil and has great contact to the earth simply because of it weight.

Article Submitted By Dennis Steier

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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)

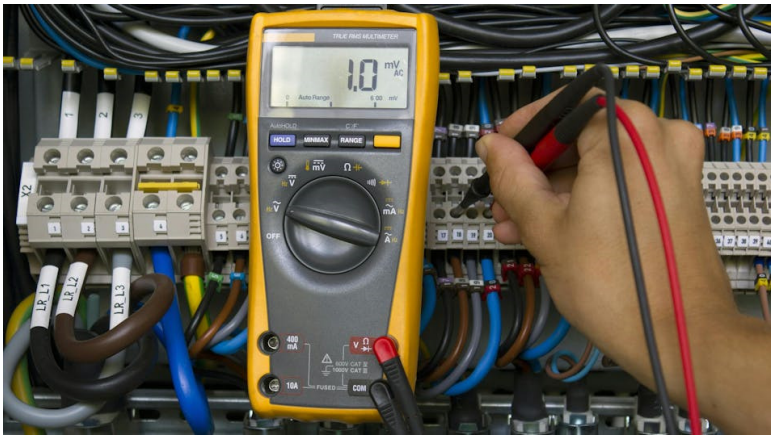
Board Members
Industrial: Jerry Curry (Ford - KTP / Retired)

Contractor: Kurt R. Wagner (Amteck Electric)

Contractor: Mark Yates (Yates Electric)

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

LG&E Utility: Joel McCauley



Safety Best Practices When Using Electrical Testing Equipment-Part 1

- Always use test equipment appropriate for the specific measurement task and environment to ensure safety and accuracy.
- Regularly inspect test leads, equipment, and connections for damage before use to prevent accidents.
- Qualified personnel should receive proper training and demonstrate competence before operating test equipment, especially in high-voltage environments.
- Use PPE such as insulated gloves, arc flash suits, and rubber blankets, especially when working near energized systems or performing arc flash prevention measures.
- Maintain a routine calibration schedule for test equipment to minimize measurement errors and ensure safety standards are met.

Because electricity is inherently dangerous, there is no way to make test equipment inherently safe. But using test equipment that's appropriate for the test and the environment while following established test equipment safety practices will close the gap almost completely. Consider a modern CAT IV digital multimeter (DMM). It has a long list of safety features to protect the user.

TO BE CONTINUED NEXT MONTH

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Top Three Code Violations Louisville Metro Inspections January 2026

These violations are costing you time and money.

1. NEC Article # 230.28(B) Attachment

   Service-drop or overhead service conductors shall not be attached to a service mast between a weatherhead or the end of the conduit and a coupling, where the coupling is located above the last point of securement to the building or other structurer.

2. NEC Article # 210.52(E)(1) One-Family and Two-Family Dwellings.

   For a one-family dwelling and each unit of a two-family dwelling that is at grade level, at least one receptacle outlet readily accessible from grade and not more than 2.0 meters, (6 1/2 ft.) above grade level shall be installed at the front and back of the dwelling.

3. NEC Article # 110.3(B) Installation and Use

   Listed or labeled equipment shall be installed and used in accordance with any instructions included in the listing or labeling.

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

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, 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 January 12, 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

USING LESS ENERGY MEANS MORE MONEY IN YOUR POCKET THIS WINTER

It's simple math: Using less energy saves money. And with the temperatures falling, finding easy ways to save energy while staying comfortable is key. Here are just a few ways you can save energy and money this winter:

1. Open all shades, blinds and curtains to let the warm sunlight in during the day.
2. Turn down the thermostat just a degree or two and install a programmable thermostat if you haven't already.
3. Identify any doors and windows that might be leaking in cold air. Adding weather stripping or caulking is an easy way to keep the warm air in and the cold air out.
4. Check areas like attics, the basement or exterior walls and crawl spaces to ensure they're properly insulated.
5. Be sure your furnace filter gets replaced regularly and per the manufacturer's instructions. This will ensure your heating system is operating at peak performance to heat your home

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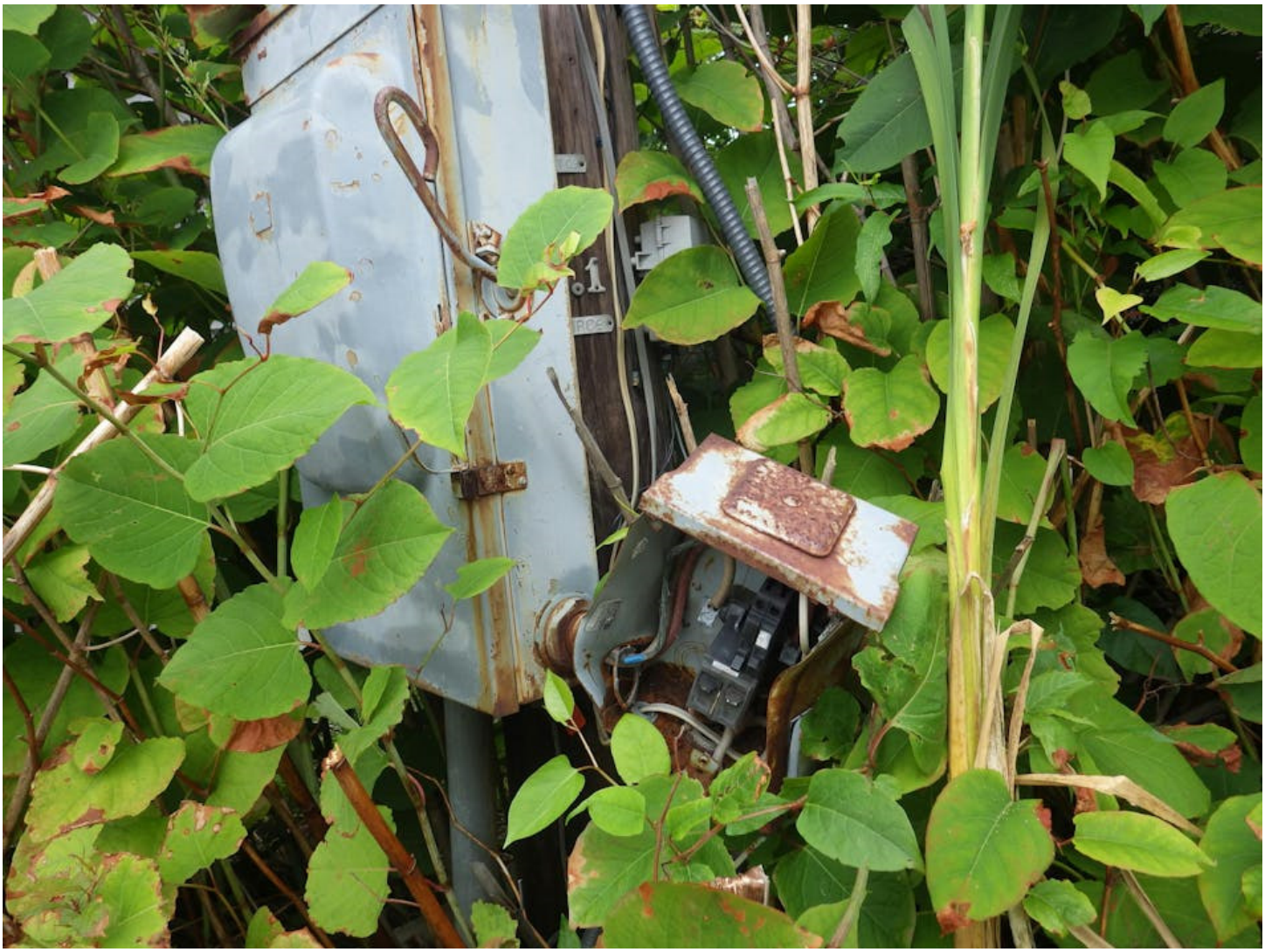

This dangerous situation was spotted in the far corner of a parking lot in a beachside community. I'm surmising this equipment was accidentally hit and damaged by a vehicle, since there are no protective bollards or guardrails installed to prevent this very type of damage. Where electrical equipment is installed in areas likely to be exposed to physical damage, Sec. 110.27(B) requires enclosures or guards to be "arranged and of such strength as to prevent such damage." That Code requirement was apparently overlooked for this parking lot installation, and the photo shows the results of what can happen when Code rules are ignored. A 4,000-lb vehicle bumping into a panelboard enclosure or other electrical enclosure can easily cause catastrophic damage to the electrical equipment. With the cover missing off the smaller disconnect, the energized parts are now exposed, posing a severe shock hazard while creating a violation of Sec. 110.27.

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ELECTRICAL CLEARING HOUSE OF LOUISVILLE, INC.

info@echlky.com

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:
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