

training. Rural co-ops are regulated by the USDA, so there are different rules we have to go by. The lab will not actually have live electricity going through it. Discussion is on-going as to how to create curriculum, particularly since this is not the same type of career as a regular electrician.

Joseph has a new CNC router.

Janet talked about Affordable Solar, and their need for 60 new people for the Facebook project in Belen. They will do two two-week trainings for the new hires, in May. They need half electricians and half construction workers. Affordable has three more projects in the southern part of the state, and in other states, and plans to keep these workers on because of the high demand in the industry. Eric said the Union needs more apprentices for the Facebook project. CNM students who finish our electrical program make more money than the students who just get hired on as utility workers.

VI. Future Trends and Concerns: It is a fact that a lot of the older trades people are retiring and we need to get more young people involved. Max brought a sample of a panel created in a CNC machine. The sample is made on MDF which is routed out (in any kind of design), and then a vinyl walnut vacuum-pressed finish is attached over the top. The panel can go on walls or doors, and comes in different sizes and colors and species of wood. It is not enough to know how to operate the CNC machine, but also how to design. For some students who don't want to swing a hammer and just design, this is a great path. David Old in Santa Fe has expressed the need for CNC operators too.

Eric is planning to do another summer camp for young people in order to "plant seeds". It is apparent that we need to engage younger people and show them all the aspects of a career in the electrical trades. Kristine with APS is seeing a lot of students who are required to take a course at CNM as part of graduation requirements, but the students don't really know what classes to take. The problem is, students don't get an overview of what CNM is all about. She thought it would be great to have the film students make short movies about our AT programs and present the films to the HS students. Michael said this may not be an option with our film crew program, but an alternative to this would be to find stock footage of people welding and using machinery in order to create a film presentation. John mentioned CNM College Day, where 2,000 HS students come to campus in early February and take tours of all of our programs. He also noted the AT 1005 class which is an overview class of Applied Technology programs, and we are working on doing this class entirely on line. Students need to hear our message all the time, but getting the word out is a challenge.

The average age of a CNM student is 27 years old. CNM Applied Technologies does not typically have students fresh out of high school. A lot of young people are working menial jobs and at some point realize that there is something else they should be doing. Sometimes, all it takes is to be exposed to another career possibility, and many young people will come back to school. But there are all different reasons why our student body is older, and why HS students do not come here right away. One way to inspire new students is to let them know what they could expect salary-wise, and they have the opportunity to get health insurance and maybe a pension.

Jean at Unirac talked about her company. She is concerned that new hires are afraid of math and engineering. This is puzzling. Today's young people seem to be afraid of using their brains and prefer to find an app on their cell phones that will give them the answers.

VII. Date and time of next meeting: To be decided

VIII. The member feedback survey was given to the new member.

IX. Adjournment: 7:20 pm