

APRIL 2008

## MARCH MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The Electrical Contractors' Association of City of Chicago (ECA) held its March Membership Meeting on Wednesday, March 12, 2008 at Gibsons Restaurant, Rosemont, Illinois. The meeting was highlighted by presentations made by Mr. William Divane, Electrical Insurance Trustees (EIT) Management Chairman, Divane Bros. Electric Company and Mr. Sean Madix, EIT Administrator. Mr. Divane gave a brief background of the funds at this time. Plans II and 5 are both over \$1 billion dollars. The Insurance Fund is stable with a healthy reserve. The SUB Fund has \$26 million available and the ASB has \$21 million available. He cited other statistical data regarding the funds including the following: In 2001 - 2002, the average cost for Health and Welfare (H & W) per eligible participant was \$7,081 and in 2007 that average cost was \$10,014. In 2001 - 2002, the number of eligible participants was 12,728 and in 2007 it was 11,638.

The "C" Agreement statistics for H & W per eligible participant in 2001 - 2002 was \$5,565

and in 2007 it was: \$8,703. In 2001 - 2002, the number of eligible participants in the "C" Program was 2,117 and in 2007 it was 1,825. The HRA is at \$20 million. He then briefly discussed other topics such as "owner-in-fact" language and bond issues.

Mr. Madix emphasized that the EIT Trustees were working diligently to reduce the overall H & W costs. He reported that the "Take Charge" initiative was working well in its efforts to create "wellness" awareness among the eligible participants. The Smoking Cessation Program was positive, as well the participation with recent surveys and focus groups aimed to assist in promoting the overall awareness. He announced that future goals of the "Take Charge" program include the following: increased health screenings, more participation in weight management programs, among other areas. The Q & A session focused on "owner-in-fact" issues and disability payment issues. Upon completion of the Q & A session, the speakers were met with applause for their presentation.



Pictured from left to right are:  
William Divane, EIT Management Chairman, Divane Bros. Electric Company;  
Brad Weir, ECA President, Kelso-Burnett Co. and  
Sean Madix, EIT Administrator

**Electrical Contractors' Association of Chicago and Cook County**



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## MEMBER RECEIVES AWARD

The Electrical Contractors' Association has been affiliated with the venerable St. Paddy's Luncheon for many years. The luncheon has become a unique institution in the Chicagoland electrical construction industry. The 54th Annual Paddy's Day Luncheon of the Electrical Industry of Chicago was held on Friday, March 14th at the Chicago Hilton & Towers in the International Ballroom.

During the event, ECA member, Kevin O'Shea, Shamrock Electric Company, Inc. was awarded the Francis P. Cummins Award. Mr. O'Shea was previously recognized with another award as a "Big Shillelagh" at the 2001 luncheon.

Kevin is now a part of a unique group as his late father William O'Shea and himself are the only father and son that have ever been recognized to receive both awards. Congratulations, Kevin.



Pictured above is Kevin O'Shea, Shamrock Electric Company, Inc. as he received the "2008 Francis P. Cummins Award" at the 54th Annual St. Paddy's Day Luncheon

## CISCO PREVAILING WAGE CONFERENCE

The Construction Industry Service Corporation (CISCO) has scheduled their 3rd Annual Midwest Prevailing Wage Conference for May 13 - 16, 2008 at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, Rosemont, Illinois. The conference provides the opportunity for compliance organizations, labor and management representatives, attorneys, architects, engineers and public body officials to exchange ideas and network with each other. The 2008 conference will kick off with a moderated panel discussion entitled, "The Prevailing Wage Puzzle: Fitting the Pieces Together" featuring participants from the U.S. Department of Labor as well as the Illinois Department of Labor, Attorney General's Office, Comptroller's Office and others. In addition, the conference will feature sixteen workshops over three days, addressing the many aspects of prevailing wage laws in Illinois, the Midwest and the United States. Please contact CISCO at: (630) 472-9411 for full registration details.

## ECA ANNUAL SPRING CONFERENCE

As you are aware, the Electrical Contractors' Association of City of Chicago (ECA) 37th Annual Spring Conference will be held on June 4 - 5, 2008 at The American Club in Kohler, Wisconsin. The American Club is one of the premier resort hotels in the country. It is the only AAA Five Diamond Resort in the Midwest. We're sure that this is reason enough to attend this Conference. Please complete the Registration Form (that was sent to all ECA members) and return it to the Association before the registration closes on April 25, 2008. We remind you that this Conference is intended for the accredited representatives of all Association members. We appreciate your understanding in this matter. We look forward to seeing you at the Electrical Contractors' Association 37th Annual Spring Conference.

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## **2008 NECA CONVENTION**

The 2008 NECA Convention is to be held in Chicago, October 4th through the 7th. The Trade Show will be held at McCormick Place Lakeside Center; however, several events will be off-site. The Opening Reception is being dubbed, "Party at the Pier" as it will be held on Saturday, October 4th at Chicago's Navy Pier. The Opening General Session is scheduled for Sunday, October 5th and will feature members of Chicago's Second City comedy troupe. The Closing General Session is scheduled for Tuesday, October 7th and will have Bob Costas, broadcaster as the presenter. The Closing Celebration is arranged for the evening of Tuesday, October 7th and will have Ricky Skaggs and Bruce Hornsby performing at the Arie Crown Theater. We do hope that you will participate with this year's NECA Convention. Registration information will soon be made available.

## **ECA POST CONVENTION TRIP**

As you are aware, the Association has announced that a Post-Convention Trip has been scheduled at the Greenbrier Resort, White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia. The ECA has a block of twelve (12) rooms which has been reserved at this luxury facility for arrival on Sunday, October 12, 2008 and departure on Thursday, October 16, 2008. Please fill out and return the recently forwarded Registration Form, as soon as possible.

The Greenbrier Resort is spread out over 6,500 beautiful acres with the Allegheny Mountains as a truly scenic backdrop. The Greenbrier is celebrating its 230th year of operation. The resort includes many activities for the guest to enjoy including, but not limited to the following: three championship golf courses, the Greenbrier Spa, Fitness Center, falconry, award winning cuisine, gourmet cooking classes, horseback riding, hunting, off-road driving school, hiking, fishing, tennis, trap, skeet and sporting clays, whitewater rafting, 33 boutique shops, wine-tasting, lawn games, Alpine Tower (climbing), and the list goes on.

*Did you know?...*

*The Greenbrier also has a unique bunker created during the Cold War built under the Greenbrier's West Virginia Wing. The 112,000 square foot facility could accommodate 1,100 people and was built for Congress in the event of a national emergency. Though it was never used, it was in a constant state of readiness for 30 years and until 1992, its true purpose was a national secret.*

Also, a unique opportunity for those who wish to travel to the Greenbrier via rail. Amtrak has an evening train excursion available Saturday evenings to the Greenbrier and return train trip on Thursdays, as well. Currently, Amtrak has a train scheduled to leave Union Station in Chicago on Saturday, October 11th at 5:45 pm with arrival at Greenbrier at 11:25 am on Sunday, October 12th. Costs are One-Way but can average between \$422 per couple to \$579 per couple depending on type of rooming scenario chosen. (Roomettes and Deluxe Rooms include dinner and breakfast in Dining Car; however, Coach fare - approximately \$124 per couple does not include food or room.) If interested in this form of travel, please contact Amtrak at: (800) USA-RAIL..

For additional information regarding the resort, please visit the Greenbrier website at: [www.greenbrier.com](http://www.greenbrier.com) or by calling the hotel direct at: (800) 624-6070. We do hope that you will be able to attend this "Members Only" conference. You may contact the Association with any questions at: (708) 531-0022.



**UPCOMING EVENTS**

April 2, 2008  
 ECA Regular Membership Meeting  
 Harry Caray's Restaurant Chicago, IL

April 6 - 9, 2008  
 NECA District 4 & 7 Midwest Regional Conference  
 The Ocean Reef Club Key Largo, Florida

April 18, 2008  
 Elements of Green Building Seminar  
 Chicago Center for Green Technology (CCGT)

NECA 2008 Legislative Conference  
 April 29 – May 1, 2008  
 Marriott at Metro Center Washington, D.C.

May 14, 2008  
 ECA Regular Membership Meeting  
 Wyndham Drake Oak Brook Hotel Oak Brook, IL

June 4 - 5, 2008  
 ECA 37th Annual Spring Conference  
 The American Club Kohler, Wisconsin

Please contact the Association office for further information on any of these events.

*LiveWire* is a publication of the Electrical Contractors' Association of Chicago, Inc., Five Westbrook Corporate Center, Suite 940, Westchester, IL 60154.

Members are encouraged to submit articles and ideas for stories to the Association office.

**EQUIPMENT & MATERIAL EXCHANGE**

Available in the On-Line Resources section of the ECA Website is the Equipment & Material Member Exchange.

Members have the opportunity to post equipment and materials available for sale. Please check periodically for various types of materials and equipment availability. Contact information is provided on the website. If anyone is interested in a particular item, they can work with that individual company. You can access the Equipment & Material Exchange at [www.ecachicago.com/resources/exchange/](http://www.ecachicago.com/resources/exchange/).

Types of equipment and material available could include the following types and /or categories: benders, conduit and raceway tools, conduit and raceways, connection and splicing tools, electrical hardware, instruments and test equipment, ladders and scaffolding, motorized equipment, office equipment, portable power tools, safety equipment, shop tools, tool storage, wire, wire and cable installation types, among other areas. Please visit the ECA website at: [www.ecachicago.com](http://www.ecachicago.com) for this service, as well as for industry updates.

***Please note: The totals below for '07 & '08 include all electricians working under the Principal, Communication and Residential Agreements.***

**JANUARY EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS**

	2007	2008	Cumulative Hourly Totals
NUMBER OF CONTRACTORS	971	921	2007 1,323,668
JOURNEYPERSONS & APPRENTICES EMPLOYED	10,653	11,266	2008
HOURS WORKED	1,323,668	1,379,523	1,379,523