

FEBRUARY 2008

## JANUARY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The Electrical Contractors' Association of City of Chicago (ECA) held its first Membership Meeting of the year on January 9, 2008 at Maggiano's Banquets in Oak Brook, Illinois. Mr. Brad Weir, ECA President



Pictured from left to right are:  
James Gallagher, ECA Vice President, Grand-Kahn Electric;  
Katie Canino, ECA Executive Committee, Canino Electric Company;  
Brad Weir, ECA President, Kelso-Burnett Co.;  
Steve Diamond, NECA Chapter Governor; and  
Daniel Fitzgibbons, ECA Executive Committee,  
Gibson Electric & Technology Solutions

introduced to the membership the recently elected ECA Officers for 2008: Brad Weir, President; James Gallagher, Vice President and Treasurer; Mark Nemshick, Executive Vice President/CEO and Secretary. He also acknowledged all of the appointments for Trustees and Committee Chairmen for 2008. President Weir recognized Mr. David Hardt for his years of service as NECA Governor for the Chicago and Cook County Chapter, NECA. Mr. Steve Diamond, Malko Electric Company has been appointed the new Governor.

Mr. David Ward, NECA Midwest Regional Field Representative gave a brief presentation. He previewed a number of labor relations programming to be generated by NECA. Program titles include the following: Contract Negotiations, Labor Law, Handling Grievances and Selecting the Bargaining Team. He overviewed the program, "Contract Negotiations." Highlights of this new program

include discussions regarding many topics including the following: mandatory subjects of bargaining, bad faith bargaining, Category I language, Management's rights, evaluation of proposals - use of requests for information, bargaining session strategies, focus of Union and Management, strengths of NECA Chapter, caucus use, total wage package analysis, among other areas. We thank Dave for his informative update of NECA educational programs.

## APPRENTICE GRADUATION CEREMONY

The IBEW-NECA Technical Institute (INTECH) held its Apprentice Graduation Ceremony on Saturday, January 12, 2008 at the Grand Ballroom of Navy Pier, Chicago, Illinois. Over 150 apprentices advanced to journeylevel status. Several speakers were on hand to address the graduates, as well as a number of award presentations were made.

Continued on Page Two



FEBRUARY 2008

Continued from Page One

## APPRENTICE GRADUATION CEREMONY

The following are highlights of the speaker's portion of the event.

**Timothy Foley**, Business Manager, Local Union #134, IBEW welcomed and congratulated all the graduates. He acknowledged the instructors and administrators of INTECH, as well as Westside Tech. and the families of the graduates. He thanked all those that provided support to the graduates throughout their apprentice training. He emphasized that success works because of teamwork. The unique training program is provided by the efforts of the NECA and the IBEW. He concluded by complimenting the graduates for completing a most rigorous training program.

**Ron Webb**, Electrical Joint Apprenticeship and Training Trustee (EJATT), Continental Electrical Construction Company said that he was fortunate to be affiliated with this industry. The foundation of the industry is based on the hard work of those apprentices that came before us and now it is up to the new graduates to keep the tradition ongoing. As electricians, they must continue with education. He hoped that they would continue to affect positively, the future of this industry. He urged them to be prepared to step up and take the lead.

**Thomas Villanova**, President, Chicago & Cook County Building & Construction Trades Council congratulated the graduates on behalf of the 24 affiliated unions and the 100,000 members of those trades. He also emphasized that education is crucial to the industry. He also thanked the teachers for their dedication. He closed by reminding and encouraging the graduates to "make no small plans" as they continue on in their careers.

Two special awards were given to Frank O'Boyle, EJATT Associate Trustee, Continental Electrical Construction Company and to Ron Webb for their dedication and their years of service to the EJATT and the electrical construction industry. Congratulations, Frank, Ron and all of the graduates!



Pictured above from left to right are:  
Frank O'Boyle, EJATT Associate Trustee and  
Ron Webb, EJATT Trustee. Both gentlemen represent  
Continental Electrical Construction Company.

FEBRUARY 2008

## **EISP AVAILABILITY**

The applications for the 2008 Electrical Industry Scholarships are now available. A total of two scholarships will be awarded in the amount of \$5,000.00 per year for up to four years for the individual's undergraduate degree. To be eligible, applicants must be children of Local Union #134 members who are in good standing and working under the Principal, Communication or Residential Agreements. Children of deceased members may also be eligible to apply. Applicants must be high school graduates who are registered in a college or university field of study directly related to the electrical industry. An independent Selection Committee comprised of members of academia will make the award selections. If you're interested in participating in the Electrical Industry Scholarship Program (EISP), please send a letter requesting an EISP application form to: EISP, c/o Timothy Foley, Business Manager, Local Union #134, IBEW, 600 W. Washington Blvd., Chicago, Illinois 60661. Upon verification of your eligibility, the EISP Administrator will send an EISP application form to you. Applications along with all other required documents must be postmarked by March 31, 2008 to be considered for the Fall 2008/Spring 2009 Electrical Industry Scholarships.

## **CISCO SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE**

Applications for the Construction Industry Service Corporation (CISCO) Scholarship Program are now available. Four scholarships are available distributed between the "Joseph Sullivan Memorial Scholarships" and the "John E. Kenny Scholarship." They are for \$2,000 per year, renewable three times, provided that the student maintains a 2.75 grade point average on a four-point scale. The eligible applicants must be: high school seniors at the time of application and who are children of members of CISCO-affiliated unions or employees of CISCO-affiliated contractors; provisionally accepted as a full-time student into an undergraduate degree program at a four-year accredited college or university; and a United States citizen. There are two Continuing Education Scholarships available valued at \$1,000 per year and can be renewed once, provided that the student maintains a 2.75 grade point average on a four-point scale. The eligible applicants must be: a member in good standing of a building trade union that is a CISCO member and/or employed by a contractor that is a CISCO member; enrolled in an undergraduate degree program at a community college or a four-year accredited college or university; and a United States citizen. Scholarship applications and information are available on CISCO's website at [www.cisco.org/schol.htm](http://www.cisco.org/schol.htm) or by calling (630) 472-9411. The submission deadline for all applications is February 15, 2008.

*Portions of this article were excerpted from the CISCO website and the CISCO Communicator – January 2008 edition.*

## **NECA NATIONAL ISSUES CONFERENCE**

The NECA National Issues Conference has been scheduled for April 29 - May 1, 2008 at the Marriott Metro Center in Washington, D.C. This will be a NECA-only event. Details are to come soon from NECA.

FEBRUARY 2008

## **3% WITHHOLDING TAX UPDATE**

Eliminating the law that otherwise will require that 3% be withheld from payments to contractors and vendors from government entities at all levels - federal, state, county, or city - remains the top legislative priority for NECA and allies. Repeal measures have already been introduced in the House (HR 1023) and Senate (S 777), but there is a new bill that goes one step further by addressing the reported rationale behind the 3% rule. In addition to rescinding the withholding requirement, S 2394, introduced by Sen. Norm Coleman (R-MN), would amend the National Tax Lien Filing System to create a tax conviction database to be used by government contracting officers to verify the good standing (and, therefore, the eligibility) of their prospective contractors. Such a searchable tax lien registry would also go a long way in closing the tax gap and thereby offset any costs associated with the repeal of the 3% withholding. NECA urges its members to alert their senators that the 3% withholding tax is unjust and would impose significant, unwarranted administrative costs on their businesses and to ask the senators to co-sponsor S 2394.

Here are three ways to communicate with lawmakers: 1) E-mail your senators by visiting [www.necanet.org/writetocongress](http://www.necanet.org/writetocongress). Click on "Action Alerts" and then click on "S 2394;" 2) Call your senators. Then let NECA know you made the calls by e-mailing them at: [jkohmstedt@necanet.org](mailto:jkohmstedt@necanet.org); or 3) Fax your senators your letter. Please copy NECA on any fax you send. NECA's fax is: (301) 215-4500.

*Portions of this article were excerpted from NECA NEWS, January 9, 2008 edition.*

## **NECA TOOL & EQUIPMENT RENTAL SCHEDULE**

The new NECA Tool and Equipment Rental Schedule is now available. It has been revised for 2007 - 2008. The rental rates in the schedule are based upon average initial purchase price, ownership expenses and use periods. The experience records and schedules of individual electrical contractors as well as schedule and practices of equipment rental dealers were recently reviewed. The new version contains an exhaustive list of rates for instruments and testing equipment. The average rental rates contained in the book are useful as a guide for internal estimating and cost accounting. The schedule is available in either paper or CD format. The NECA member price is \$25.00. You may contact the ECA at: (708) 531-0022 for a copy of the Tool & Equipment Rental Schedule - Index #5065-08 Order Form.

## **"PROJECT AWARENESS" PROGRAM**

The Electrical Contractors' Association of City of Chicago (ECA) has been an active participant with the Cosmopolitan Chamber of Commerce's (CCC's) "Project Awareness" Conference. The ECA is a member of the CCC's Technical Assistance (TA) Committee, which consists of numerous governmental agencies, private construction firms and construction trade associations. The CCC TA Committee is coordinating their 13th Annual "Project Awareness" Conference. The event brings together dozens of public and private entities in regard to forthcoming bidding opportunities in the Chicago Metropolitan Area.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The program has been re-scheduled for Wednesday, February 27, 2008 at the South Shore Cultural Center, Chicago, Illinois from 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM. You may contact the ECA for registration information at: (708) 531-0022.



**UPCOMING EVENTS**

February 12 - 14, 2008  
 Chicagoland Construction Safety Council (CCSC) & the  
 Center to Protect Workers' Rights (CPWR) present the  
 Construction Safety and Health by Design Expo.  
 Donald E. Stephens Convention Center Rosemont, IL

February 21, 2008  
 CCC "Project Awareness" Program  
 South Shore Cultural Center Chicago, Illinois

March 12, 2008  
 ECA Regular Membership Meeting  
 Gibsons Steakhouse Rosemont, IL

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

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

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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 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 '06 & '07 include all electricians working under the Principal, Communication and Residential Agreements.***

**NOVEMBER EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS**

	2006	2007	Cumulative Hourly Totals
NUMBER OF CONTRACTORS	973	921	2006 15,265,719
JOURNEYPERSONS & APPRENTICES EMPLOYED	11,988	11,690	2007
HOURS WORKED	1,392,616	1,389,221	15,599,590