

JANUARY 2006

## HOLIDAY PARTY HIGHLIGHTS

The Electrical Contractors' Association of City of Chicago's (ECA's) Presidential Ball and Holiday Party was held on Friday, December 2, 2005 at the Wyndham Drake Oak Brook Hotel, Oak Brook, Illinois. Over 190 guests were able to attend.



Pictured above from left to right are: Steve Diamond, ECA President, Malko Electric Company and Mark Nemshick, ECA Executive Vice President as they share a light moment during their presentations.

The evening's festivities were highlighted by several special events. Mark Nemshick, ECA Executive Vice President introduced current ECA President, Steve Diamond, Malko Electric Company. President Diamond spoke about the positive promise of the coming year and the close of a challenging year in the Chicagoland electrical construction industry. He also thanked all of the volunteer members who take the time to share their knowledge and talents throughout the year to make the ECA a stronger association which truly enhances the entire industry.

The guests enjoyed a wonderful dinner and a dynamic performance by the "Nightshift Orchestra," as well as a number of other surprises that kept the evening entertaining.

Finally, Mr. Nemshick thanked all who were able to participate with the annual event. We hope that even more members will be able to attend next year's program.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AWARDS

During the final ECA Executive Committee meeting held on December 7, 2005, four Executive Committee members were recognized for their participation with the Committee.

The Association wishes to thank the following as they have completed their years of service on the ECA Executive Committee: William Bonaparte, Jr., Bonaparte Corporation; Charles Guest, Hyre Electric Company; Keith Klausner, Contractors Power & Light Company (deceased); and Francis X. O'Boyle, Continental Electrical Construction Company.

The ECA appreciates their contributions and efforts made to enhancing not only the Executive Committee but the Association, as well.



Pictured from left to right are: Charles Guest, Hyre Electric Company and Francis X. O'Boyle, Continental Electrical Construction Company as they each received their "Gavel Plaque" Recognition Award.

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

JANUARY 2006

## **NEW COMMISSIONER OF BUILDINGS**

The City of Chicago Department of Buildings has a new Commissioner. John E. Knight was recently appointed by Mayor Richard Daley and was confirmed as Commissioner during the November 30, 2005 Chicago City Council Meeting. Mr. Knight replaced Mr. Stan Kaderbek, who resigned August 17, 2005 and is now responsible for national infrastructure initiatives for The Walsh Group.

When interviewed regarding his appointment of Mr. Knight, the Mayor responded by saying, "His technical expertise will be important, since the Department deals with highly technical issues in enforcing city ordinances to ensure that all 450,000 buildings in the city are built correctly and to ensure the life, health, and safety of our residents. But his management expertise will be just as important. John knows how to run an organization, increase productivity and fulfill its mission."

Commissioner Knight commented after his confirmation by saying, "I plan to redouble the City's efforts against bad buildings -- with the help of our new Slum Nuisance Ordinance -- so we can make our neighborhoods safer and improve their quality of life. I will also work toward increasing customer service levels and enhancing our technology to improve our record of building safety."

Commissioner Knight has spent some 25 years in management positions for a variety of technology companies, specializing in strategic marketing, customer relationship management and creative turn-around strategies for various businesses.

Most recently, he had been consulting with businesses in industrial research, life sciences and government markets, and has been a student in Moody Bible Institute, working towards a Master's of Divinity degree.

From 2001 to 2004, he was a Vice President, General Manager and Business Manager for various divisions of Thermo Electron Corporation, the world leader in analytical, measurement and control instruments and software.

He also was the Marketing Systems Director for the Photonics Technologies Sector of Corning, Inc.; President of the Energy Services Division of Sitel, a leading global provider of outsourced customer interaction services; and Vice President and General Manager of the Communications and Energy Services Group of Trans Union. He also has held a number of management positions with Ameritech, IBM and a NASA contractor.

Commissioner Knight has a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics and Physics from Southern Oregon State College in Ashland; a Master of Science degree in Applied Mathematics from the University of Houston at Clear Lake City; and a Master of Business Administration degree in Market Management from Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis.

The ECA welcomes the new Commissioner and looks forward to working with him in the future.

*(Portions of this article were excerpted from the City of Chicago website, "Daley Names New Heads of Public Health, Buildings, Graphics," "Biography of John E. Knight, Commissioner of Buildings" and "John E. Knight Confirmed as Commissioner of Buildings.")*



JANUARY 2006

## **NECA DISTRICT 4 & 7 SPRING CONFERENCE**

The NECA District IV and VII Midwest Spring Conference is scheduled for March 26 - 29, 2006 at the Amelia Island Plantation. (There are meetings for the NECA Vice Presidents scheduled starting the 25th; however, the conference begins on the 26th.) Amelia Island Plantation is located at 6800 First Coast Highway, Amelia Island, Florida 32034. Amelia Island is in northeast Florida, overlooking the Atlantic Ocean, 29 miles from the Jacksonville International Airport.

The Amelia Island Plantation offers 1,350 acres of natural splendor, miles of uncrowded beach, 54 holes of championship golf (rated by Golf Digest as "One of the top 75 Golf Resorts in America"), golf & tennis schools, 23 Har-tru-clay courts, teaching professionals (play tennis in their Racquet Park complex which has been host to many tennis greats, including: Davenport, Seles, Graf, Connors, Agassi), luxury spa, fitness center, shopping village, age specific youth programs, bike trails through forests of ancient oaks, relaxed dining (7 restaurants), award winning service and resort villas or hotel rooms.

### **Tentative Schedule of Events**

#### March 25

A joint Vice Presidents reception for the District IV & VII Council members will be held on Saturday, March 25th from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM. on the Eight Flags Patio.

#### March 26

District IV Council members will meet on Sunday, March 26th beginning at 7:30 AM with a continental breakfast. The conference will open with a cocktail reception Sunday, March 26, 2006 from 6:30 PM to 8:30 P.M. at the Beach Club Upper & Lower Decks.

#### March 27

The opening General Membership Meeting will be held on Monday, March 27th from 8:00 A.M. until 12:00 PM. in the Amelia Ballroom. A Spouses' Brunch and program is also scheduled for Monday, March 27th at 9:30 AM in Cumberland A/B. In addition, the Association's cocktail reception and buffet dinner is tentatively scheduled for Monday, March 27, 2006. Details on this event will follow soon.

#### March 28

Breakout sessions will be held Tuesday, March 28th from 8:00 A.M. until 11:00 AM. A golf outing has also been arranged for 1:30 PM, Tuesday, March 28th, at the Ocean Links Course.

#### March 29

The Closing General Membership Meeting will be held Wednesday, March 29th from 9:00 AM until 12:00 PM. Also, on Wednesday, March 29th, the Conference will close with a cocktail reception at 6:30 P.M. on the Eight Flags Patio. Dinner will follow at 7:30 P.M. in the Amelia Ballroom, followed by awards presentations and entertainment.

Further details on hotel amenities, as well as room descriptions and pictures can be reached at the resort's website at: [www.aipfl.com/NECA/Welcome\\_Page.htm](http://www.aipfl.com/NECA/Welcome_Page.htm).

We do hope that you will be able to participate with this special event. If you have any questions regarding registration, please contact the Chapter office at: (708) 531-0022.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

January 11, 2006  
 ECA Regular Membership Meeting  
 Wyndham Drake Hotel Oak Brook, IL

February 2, 2006  
 "Project Awareness" Program  
 Chicago State University Chicago, IL

February 8, 2006  
 ECA Regular Membership Meeting  
 Four Seasons Hotel Chicago, IL

February 22 - 24, 2006  
 CISCO Midwest Prevailing Wage Conference  
 Crowne Plaza Chicago O'Hare Rosemont, IL

March 1, 2006  
 ECA Regular Membership Meeting  
 Maggiano's Banquets Oak Brook, IL

March 26 - 29, 2006  
 NECA District 4 & 7  
 Midwest Regional Conference  
 Amelia Island Plantation Amelia Island, Florida

Please contact the Association office for further information on any of these events, as well as visiting the ECA website at: [www.ecachicago.com](http://www.ecachicago.com) for the 2004 Calendar of Events.

**"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 11th 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. The program is scheduled for Thursday, February 2, 2006 at Chicago State University, 9501 S. Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, Chicago, Illinois from 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM. You may contact the ECA for registration information at: (708) 531-0022.

*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.

***Please note: The totals below for '04 & '05 include all electricians working under the Principal, Communication and Residential Agreements.***

**OCTOBER EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS**

	2004	2005	Cumulative Hourly Totals
NUMBER OF CONTRACTORS	1,068	983	2004 13,582,880
JOURNEYPERSONS & APPRENTICES EMPLOYED	11,615	10,769	2005
HOURS WORKED	1,411,430	1,377,762	12,727,459