

JUNE 2008

## MAY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The Electrical Contractors' Association of City of Chicago (ECA) held its May Membership Meeting on Wednesday, May 14, 2008 at the Wyndham Drake Oak Brook Hotel, Oak Brook, Illinois. The session



Pictured above from left to right are:  
Brad Weir, ECA President, Kelso-Burnett Co.,  
Daniel Allen, City of Chicago Chief Electrical Inspector and  
Mark Nemshick, ECA Executive Vice President

was open to all signatory Local Union #134 contractors. The audience was treated to an informative presentation by Mr. Daniel Allen, Chief Electrical Inspector of the City of Chicago. Chief Electrical Inspector Allen discussed many areas of the Chicago Department of Buildings (DOB) that affect the electrical contractor.

Chief Inspector Allen updated the membership on various areas including the following: Certificate of Occupancy requirement changes, General Contractor's due diligence with permit issues, E-permitting - modified for ease of use, parameters in place to better monitor projects/permit filings, new permit fee structure is to be fully implemented June 1, 2008; seminars are available that will discuss Permit fee structure revision and efforts are being

made to reinstate the Electrical Commission. He also announced that there's a new Acting DOB Commissioner, Richard Monocchio and reported that an Electrical Inspector was recently hired with four more to be hired in the very near future to aid with permit work. After the Question and Answer session, Chief Inspector Allen was met with a round of applause for his continued efforts to enforce the Chicago Electrical Code and for his presentation at the Membership Meeting. We thank Chief Inspector Allen for his update on DOB procedures.

## PERMIT FEE CHANGES

As you are aware, the City of Chicago Department of Buildings will begin utilizing a new Permit Fee calculation method which will come into effect on June 1, 2008. The goals of the recent revision include the following: simplify the fee process, create a user-friendly formula, remain revenue neutral, recoup costs by collecting fees and Code compliance vs. verifying costs. Permit Fees cover the following costs: Permit issuance through the Department of Buildings, Construction Inspectors through the Department of Buildings, other City departments review areas - MOPD, DOE, CDOT, etc. and Support Departments - Fire, HR, Water Mgmt., etc. The Permit fee calculations are derived through various construction factors and special tables. The overall Permit Fee formula is as follows: Construction Factor x Scope of Review x Project Area = Permit Fee. The City of Chicago Department of Buildings recently conducted two informational seminars regarding the Permit Fee changes. For those unable to attend the programs, the DOB has on their website a "Permit Fee Calculator" area to assist contractors with this new process. The web address to the DOB is [www.cityofchicago.org/buildings](http://www.cityofchicago.org/buildings). The DOB has also set up a special area on their website for any questions contractors may have regarding the new process. The DOB Customer Service e-mail is [Permitfees@cityofchicago.org](mailto:Permitfees@cityofchicago.org).

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

## NECA LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

The inaugural National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) Legislative Conference was held April 29 - May 1, 2008 at the Marriott Metro Center, Washington, D.C. NECA has held a joint legislative outing with other contractor groups in the past; however, this year the legislative visits were concentrated on issues primarily affecting the electrical industry, as well as subcontracting/business issues. The overall impact was strengthened as the Congressmen and Senators were visited by a single group whose issues were focused and concise.



Pictured above from left to right are: David Suarez, Suarez Electric Company, Noreen Ferentz, Wright Electric Company, Inc., Congressman Peter Roskam, Joseph McGlynn, McWilliams Electric Company, Inc., James McGlynn, Sr., ECA Legislative Committee Chairperson, McWilliams Electric Company, Inc. and Daniel Durkin, Sr., Durkin Electric Company, Inc.

A number of representatives from the Electrical Contractors' Association of City of Chicago Legislative Committee, as well as at-large members from the Chicago and Cook County

Chapter, NECA and the Northeastern Illinois Chapter, NECA were on hand to visit the Congressmen's and Senator's offices. We wish to thank Daniel Durkin, Durkin Electric Company, Inc., Noreen Ferentz, Wright Electric Company, Inc., Louis Matson, Active Enterprises, Inc., David Suarez, Suarez Electric Company, Joseph McGlynn, McWilliams Electric Company, Inc. and ECA Legislative Committee Chairman, James McGlynn, Sr., McWilliams Electric Company, Inc. for taking time out of their already hectic schedules to participate with this event.

The ECA representatives met with either the legislators or their staff. The offices visited include the following: Senator Richard Durbin, Senator Barack Obama, Bobby Rush, (D-1st); Rahn Emanuel (D-5th); Peter Roskam (R-6th); Danny Davis (D-7th); Janice Shakowsky (D-9th); Mark Kirk (R-10th); Judy Biggert (R-13th). The issues discussed with the legislators included, but was not limited to the following: Repeal of the 3% Government Withholding Tax, Support of Renewable Energy Tax Incentives, Unfair Utility Competition (Cross-Subsidization), Repeal of the Alternative Minimum Tax, Federal Construction/Contracting Reform and Immigration Reform.



Pictured above from left to right are: James McGlynn, Sr., McWilliams Electric Company, Inc. as he poses a question to Illinois Representative William Foster (center) and Illinois Senator Richard Durbin (far right).

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*Continued from adjoining page*

## NECA LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

The Conference, itself consisted of discussions and presentations regarding renewable energy concerns, House Small Business Committee activities, Senate Small Business and Entrepreneurship Committee activities, healthcare, pension, retirement and tax issues, current economic analysis. NECA's Executive Director, John Grau also gave an update on current NECA endeavors.



Pictured above from left to right are:  
Congressman Peter Roskam and  
Louis Matson, Active Enterprises, Inc.

Again, we wish to thank those who participated with the 2008 NECA Legislative Conference. We invite all members and all contractors to participate, legislatively. It is in your best interest to be active. The elected officials must be consistently made aware of issues affecting the electrical contracting industry. Your assistance is needed whether it is monetarily, through the ECPAC or ECAPAC or through written or electronic correspondence or through the actual visits. All contractors, as well as the entire industry can benefit, positively from your participation.



Pictured above from left to right are:  
Daniel Durkin, Sr., Durkin Electric Company, Inc.,  
Noreen Ferentz, Wright Electric Company, Inc.,  
Congressman Mark Kirk,  
Mark Nemshick, ECA Executive Vice President,  
James McGlynn, ECA Legislative Committee Chairman, McWilliams Electric Company, Inc. and  
Joseph McGlynn, McWilliams Electric Company, Inc.

## RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

The Electrical Contractors' Association of City of Chicago (ECA) Research and Education Committee has been working to provide quality educational program on a consistent basis. This Spring Season is no exception. The following highlights a number of programs recently offered by the Committee for the membership.

### **Basic Electrical Estimating Workshop**

This well-attended program was held May 12 - 15, 2008 at McDonald's Hamburger University, Oak Brook, Illinois. The course is designed for those individuals with little or no estimating skills, or for those seasoned estimators who would like to hone their estimating skills. The materials used for this popular program include the NECA Manual of Labor Units, reference books, sample drawings and specification work sheets for each student. Mr. Robert Mooty, NECA Management Education Institute was the instructor for this workshop.



Pictured above is Robert Mooty (center) as he assists a student doing a problem during the Basic Electrical Estimating Workshop.

### **“Fundamentals of Construction Law”**

This program was held at the Wyndham Drake Oak Brook Hotel, Oak Brook, Illinois just prior to the May 14th ECA Membership Meeting. Over 40 individuals registered for this program. The program was presented by two attorneys from the law firm of Seyfarth Shaw LLP. Jerome F. Buch and John H. Anderson discussed numerous topics, trends, statutes and regulatory and legislative developments pertinent to electrical construction in Illinois. Their review and analysis of several areas included, but was not limited to the following: Basic language in a Subcontract Agreement, terms used in construction contracts, change orders, warranties, damage limitations, Illinois Mechanic Lien Act changes, Substance Abuse Prevention Act and the proposed Structural Work Act. The Association thanks these gentlemen for their attention to detail as they facilitated this program.



Pictured from left to right are the seminar presenters: John H. Anderson and Jerome Buch - both representing Seyfarth Shaw LLP.

### **Electrical Project Supervision Level II (EPS II)**

As you are aware, the ECA Research and Education Committee has offered the Electrical Project Supervision (EPS) programs on a continual basis. The EPS II Program began on May 19th at the Holiday Inn Oak Brook for six sessions and will conclude by mid-Summer. The EPS II is designed to strengthen the abilities of project supervisors who have previous supervision experience. Participants will gain a new knowledge of the total “supervision” model with an understanding in traditional practices as well as develop new skills in emerging areas. Mr. Norb Slowikowski, Slowikowski & Associates is the instructor for the EPS II Program.



Pictured above is Norb Slowikowski as he began the EPS II Program.

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## 2008 NECA CONVENTION

As you are aware, 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 be made available in early June.

## CISCO 20 YEARS

The Construction Industry Service Corporation (CISCO) recently celebrated its 20th Anniversary with a special luncheon event that was held at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare in Rosemont, Illinois. The Electrical Contractors' Association of City of Chicago (ECA) is a member of this Labor-Management organization which is comprised of dozens of unions and trade organizations throughout the Northeastern Illinois area. CISCO has developed a number of programs that have promoted and strengthened the union construction industry including the following: a Drug and Alcohol Policy program that was used as a model template for many years, outreach to schools, mentoring programs, scholarships, creation of the Midwest Employee Benefit Fund Coalition, Fair Contracting Committee efforts, among many other areas. The Association thanks our representatives who have served and are currently serving on the CISCO Board. The ECA congratulates CISCO on reaching this milestone and wishes much continued success.

## SAFETY DIRECTORS' FORUM

The Electrical Contractors' Association of City of Chicago (ECA) Safety Committee held a Safety Directors' Forum on Wednesday, May 21, 2008. The event was held at the Chicagoland Construction Safety Council (CCSC) in Hillside, Illinois. As with past programs, the attendees were given a special presentation from a CCSC representative regarding a particular Construction Safety topic before the open forum. This meeting's presentation concerned the parameters of the new OSHA rules regarding Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). The presenter was Paul Satti, CCSC Instructor. He highlighted many areas of the PPE Final Rule including, but not limited to the following: Life-saving equipment, Occupational



Pictured above is Paul Satti, Chicagoland Construction Safety Council Instructor as he addressed the attendees at the ECA Safety Directors' Forum.

foot protection, head protection, hearing protection, eye and ear protection, safeguards for personal protection, safety-related maintenance requirements, safety requirements for specific equipment, protective clothing, varied aspects of NFPA 70E, employee-owned PPE, employer-owned PPE, dealing with damage to PPE clothing, disciplinary problems regarding improper PPE, parameters of enforcement time-frame. The lively forum consisted of mutual topics of interest regarding safety on the jobsite and were discussed among the many Safety peers present. We hope that you will be able to participate with upcoming Safety Directors' Forums.



**UPCOMING EVENTS**

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

June 10, 2008  
 O'Hare Modernization Program (OMP) Designer Open House  
 Fountain Blue Banquets and Conference Center Des Plaines, IL  
 9:00 am - 11:00 am

**BLUE BOOK**

"The Blue Book of Building and Construction" lists a classified and an alphabetical list of: general contractors, subcontractors, architects, engineers, manufacturers, equipment, materials, products, suppliers, services. It has been doing so since 1913. For contractors, it has targeted print and online exposure, enhanced bid network accessibility, and targeted public and private project leads. Blue Book also has a Messaging System regarding their bid network. The Blue Book of Building and Construction is available by calling: (847) 297-0400 or by visiting the Blue Book website at [www.thebluebook.com](http://www.thebluebook.com).

*(This article was presented per a reciprocal agreement with BLUE BOOK.)*

*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.

**CHECK OUT THE ECA WEBSITE**

The Association urges all members to utilize the many resources that are available on-line at the ECA website. We hope that the information provided will help you better run your business, by helping you become aware of what's new in the marketplace not only in the Chicagoland area, but nationwide.

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

Visit the "Member's Only" section and unlock all the features provided to ECA members.

The Events area of the site is constantly being updated. Please view the calendar for upcoming educational programming, as this dynamic is ever-changing.

We hope that you will take advantage of the on-line surveys, polls, etc. Your participation will assist in the development of future programs offered by the Association.

We look forward to your visit to: [www.ecachicago.com](http://www.ecachicago.com).

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

**MARCH EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS**

	2007	2008	Cumulative Hourly Totals
NUMBER OF CONTRACTORS	942	919	2007 3,952,128
JOURNEYPERSONS & APPRENTICES EMPLOYED	11,284	11,091	2008
HOURS WORKED	1,366,232	1,405,730	4,100,086