

MARCH 2008

## FEBRUARY MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The Electrical Contractors' Association of City of Chicago (ECA) held its most recent Membership Meeting on February 13, 2008 at the Itasca Country Club, Itasca, Illinois. The featured speaker for the session was Dr. John Donahue, Executive Director of the IBEW-NECA Technical Institute (INTECH). Dr. Donahue spoke of the many activities and educational opportunities available at INTECH.

Highlights of his presentation include the following: INTECH will continue working with the City Colleges of Chicago, INTECH is also adjusting their Low-Voltage, Industrial Control Systems, Electrical Power Systems, as well as Instrumentation programming. He commended the efforts of Ron Webb and Frank O'Boyle - both affiliated with Continental Electrical Construction Company and Norb Slowikowski, Slowikowski & Associates with their assistance with the EJATT Apprentice 4th and 5th Year coursework. Dr. Donahue reported that the INTECH physical training portion of the overall training was continuing. He reminded contractors that they can



Pictured from left to right are:

James McGlynn, EJATT Mgmt. Chairman, McWilliams Electric Company, Inc.; Kevin Lynch, INTECH Instructor; Brad Weir, ECA President, Kelso-Burnett Co.; Steve Diamond, ECA Governor, Malko Electric Company; Dr. John Donahue, INTECH Director; Anthony Jacob, INTECH Comptroller and Patrick Gill, INTECH Instructor

also utilize the educational training programs at INTECH. He further discussed the orientation procedures for new applicants. The Question and Answer session included discussions of the following topics: utilization of apprentices, the allowing of high school seniors to apply to the program, outreach effort for program, journeylevel training. The audience members thanked Dr. Donahue for his informative update by giving him a round of applause. The Association also thanks Dr. Donahue and his staff, as well as the volunteer contractor Trustees serving on the Electrical Joint Apprenticeship and Training Trust (EJATT) for their tireless efforts to maintain the unique, premier educational programming.

## GREEN BUILDING UPDATE

The Electrical Contractors' Association of City of Chicago (ECA) is pursuing a number of avenues to educate the membership in regard to "green building" activities. Two concurrent events were held on February 14, 2008 at the Chicago Center for Green Technology (CCGT). The ECA Research and Education Committee sponsored a seminar called, "Elements of Green Building" and the other event was

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## GREEN BUILDING UPDATE

called the "Climate Action Summit" which was sponsored by the Chicago and Cook County Building and Construction Trades Council (CBTC) in conjunction with the City of Chicago Department of



Pictured above from left to right are:  
Thomas Villanova, President, CBTC;  
Suzanne Malec-McKenna, Commissioner, Chicago Dept. of  
Environment; Mark Nemshick, Exec. VP, ECA;  
Mayor Richard Daley

Environment, Department of Buildings, among other City Departments, Trade Associations, IBEW-NECA Technical Institute (INTECH) and other industry representatives. Both events provided updates to the industry concerning many aspects of "green building" that would affect the electrical contractor.

Highlights of the "Elements of Green Building" seminar included the following: the City of Chicago's efforts concerning green building, an overview of USGBC/LEED Certification requirements, a brief discussion of variable costs, lighting requirements with the City of Chicago Energy Code, the challenges of being involved with green technology, Energy Efficiency, overview of market forces, Commissioning, among many other

areas. The attendees were also visited by Chicago Mayor Richard Daley who was speaking at the "Climate Action Summit." Mayor Daley spoke briefly on the efforts the City of Chicago is taking to remain ahead of the 'green curve' in regards to municipal buildings throughout Chicago. He also complimented the efforts of the Building Trades Council, the member trades and tradesmen members, as well as all of the union electrical contractors that continue to pursue education in 'green technology' that will not only benefit the City in the short run but enhance future development in Chicago.

Thomas Villanova, President of the Building Trades Council was the moderator amid a host of guest speakers and panelists for the "Climate Action Summit." Topics for that event included the following: Findings of the joint committee studying climate change and its effect in Chicago, Chicago's Climate Action Plan and economic development potential in the area, experience of trend leaders in Chicago, opportunities for unions and union contractors, reflections from a national perspective as a driver of 'Green jobs,' and the overall opportunities and challenges involved with green technology and green building for the future of the City. The Association wishes to thank the Building Trades Council and the City of Chicago for its foresight in coordinating the "Climate Action Summit". The Association looks forward to participating with the Council in future endeavors.



Pictured above from left to right are the coordinators of the "Elements of Green Building" Seminar:  
Peter Hardt, Hardt Electric, Inc.;  
Helen Kessler, HJ Kessler Associates;  
George Tuhowski, Leopardo Construction;  
Michael Meyer, Hardt Electric, Inc.

Also, due to the overwhelming response to the "Elements of Green Building" Seminar, the ECA Research and Education Committee will be sponsoring the re-running of the seminar which is to be held on April 18, 2008. It will again be a half-day program which will also include a tour of the CCGT facility. As of this writing, this program has SOLD OUT. However, the ECA is to continue to work with the USGBC on future activities.

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## **NECA 2008 LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE**

The success of your business can depend heavily on the decisions made by your representatives in Washington, D.C. National NECA is holding its own Legislative Conference. The NECA 2008 Legislative Conference is scheduled for April 29 - May 1, 2008 and is to be held at the Marriott at Metro Center in Washington, D.C. This is an opportunity for you to lead the industry forward as you discuss key policy issues with your representatives in Congress and/or their staff. NECA is compiling a number of priority issues that can be addressed during these sessions with your legislators. You have the power to guide legislative change that will positively affect the electrical contracting industry. The Electrical Contractors' Association of City of Chicago (ECA) Executive Committee has approved up to six scholarships up to a maximum of \$1,000.00 each to cover Registration, hotel and air fare expenses. This offer is extended to Chicago and Cook County Chapter, NECA members only. The deadline is fast approaching for the conference, as well as for securing hotel reservations. NECA Legislative Position Papers can be found at: [www.necanet.org/government/pos](http://www.necanet.org/government/pos). Please visit the ECA website at: [www.ecachicago.com](http://www.ecachicago.com) for a link to the NECA 2008 Legislative Conference website for registration information.

## **IIT IPRO**

Through the urging of the Electrical Contractors' Association of City of Chicago (ECA) Executive Committee, the Association is sponsoring an Interprofessional Program or IPRO at the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT). Each student at IIT must complete an IPRO to graduate. About a dozen students from various disciplines or majors are joined together to solve a particular problem. Several of the majors involved with ECA's IPRO include: Electrical Engineering, Architectural Engineering, Industrial Technology, Aerospace/Mechanical Engineering, and Bio-Chemical. The particular problem or scenario the Association has chosen concerns "Green Building" and its overall effect on electrical contracting. The overall ECA IIT IPRO project scope is to include a template for a website that would include a matrix for electrical contractors to utilize as they research LEED specifications, products, Return on Investment, gathering of other information regarding "green" technologies, etc. The students are to break off into groups focusing on different aspects of a job. As they dissect a job, they will better understand what an electrical contractor would face when encountering a "green" project. Students are currently reviewing various job scopes to better understand the elements involved in a "green" building. The program comes to fruition in late April/early May when the Semester concludes. This particular IPRO may continue into the Fall Semester depending on the complexity of a matrix template, among other aspects of the IPRO. The Association will keep you posted on the student's progress.

## **ECA ANNUAL SPRING CONFERENCE**

The Electrical Contractors' Association 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. As a reminder, in order to ensure room availability, please return your Registration Form no later than April 25, 2008. Because there is no fee to be paid for the golf outing or the accommodations at The American Club, 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. Please contact the Association if you have questions at: (708) 531-0022.



**UPCOMING EVENTS**

March 6, 2008  
 O'Hare Modernization Program (OMP)  
 Contractor Open House  
 Fountain Blue Banquets Des Plaines, IL

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

March 24 - April 28, 2008  
 ECA Research and Education Committee's  
 Electrical Project Supervision Level I Program  
 (Six Modules) Holiday Inn Oak Brook Hotel

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.

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

**DECEMBER EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS**

	2006	2007	Cumulative Hourly Totals
NUMBER OF CONTRACTORS	975	921	2006 16,651,162
JOURNEYPERSONS & APPRENTICES EMPLOYED	11,392	11,627	2007
HOURS WORKED	1,385,443	1,436,291	17,035,881